

FOR THE THINKING MIND

Did the Bible Predict the Year of Christ's Crucifixion

**600 YEARS BEFORE
HE WAS BORN?**

BY VALERIE ROSE

Did the
Bible
Predict...
?

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My thanks goes out to to my husband, who's really
"missed his wife" while I spent long hours
writing and researching!

And to the Creator of this Universe, who has given
me the awesome privilege
of knowing Him.

Note: Only read this FOREWORD if you're the brainy, analytical type!!

FOREWORD

How can we know real history? What can be trusted—WHO can be trusted? And does it matter anyway, that a man was crucified 2000 years ago in Jerusalem?

Jesus has aroused more controversy over the centuries than any man who has walked the face of this planet. Perhaps there is more to this than meets the eye.

In the "Da Vinci Code", one gets the impression that Christian history cannot be trusted... Yet the author perhaps contradicts himself, as he claims there are *some* historical documents regarding Jesus that *can* be trusted...

So IS there a way to know what happened 2000 years ago? After all, if we can't even trust what the TV says happened *yesterday*... With so much corruption and dishonesty in this world, how can we trust anyone? And yet...

We know there IS a truth about what happened yesterday. Just because there are many who would lie to us, does not mean there aren't also those who would speak the truth.

When we read of Abraham Lincoln in our history books—we might not be able to trust all the details given—but that he was a President of the United States at least seems concrete. Some things we **can** know are factual.

American history regarding the Indians was truly distorted in our textbooks for years... But how do we know *that*? Well, we know that because some of the historical documents even on OUR side remain, that attest to our unfair oppression, brutality, broken truces... *as well as* the Indians themselves who have testified of these things.

In a similar fashion, historians of multiple persuasions agree that *minimally*, Jesus lived in the first century, created controversy and was crucified. We know this because not *only* do Christian sources record this, but also the Roman record, the Jewish record, and even the Gnostic record (promoted by Dan Brown's "Da Vinci Code"). So that much, at least, can be KNOWN to be true. It wasn't just written by the "winners".

Dan Brown is right, by the way. Certainly at times, the "winners" have distorted the true historical record. Yet haven't there always *also* been those who have told the truth?^a

And so the detective work begins! In the case of this small book, one aspect is very easy. No one has to doubt that the Old Testament prophecies we'll discuss were written hundreds of years before Jesus was even born. How do we know that? Because all scholars—whether Jewish, Christian or atheist—agree. The historical & archeological record comes from SO MANY different sources, it simply is not disputed. Not even by atheists who would like to tear the Bible to shreds.

So come take a walk with me into the past. It will be most revealing!

^a In fact, even if there had NOT been a variety of historical records to support these basic facts of Jesus' life, that wouldn't mean the Christian record standing alone was a lie. It still could easily have been true—it still could have been written by honest people. If you're going to be a skeptic, fair enough. But keep in mind, that just as something might *not* be true, there's also the possibility that it *is* true!

Chapter One

Important Introduction

A few things about God...

He loves you. Incredibly beyond your imagining.
With a love that heals,
makes whole, comforts and instructs.

Having experienced His love, I can say that it is the
"Be all and End all" of all existence. Better than the
best drug. Better even than falling in love!

I say this at the beginning, because much of this book
is "head stuff"—an intellectual discussion. But where
God hits you when you encounter Him is in the **heart**.
Dramatically life changing.

Most people find this book to be fascinating. But if
parts of it seem "dry", it's simply because I'm
approaching it from an intellectual viewpoint...
This book is written for the skeptic.
It shows rationality for faith in God.

Experiencing God is far from dry...
It's the richest, most healing and profound experience
you could ever have.

As Jesus spoke with a Samaritan woman at a well,
He told her that if she'd known the gift of God, and
who it was she was speaking to...
She would have asked *Him* for water, and
He would have given her **living water...**

(From John 4:10-13 of the Bible)

Chapter One Begins...

I was raised in a home where education was very important. Both my parents had Master's degrees, and they moved to a rich, affluent suburb of Chicago—not for the prestige, but to provide the best possible schools for their kids.

So I was educated alongside several of the country's finest future doctors & lawyers, and I made Straight A's at America's #2 High School.¹

I suppose then I have a pretty good "head on my shoulders"... I might have been heading toward the Ivy League... if I hadn't chosen to buck convention (a fancy way to say, "I rebelled!"). My last years in high school I joined a special program called "The Center for Self-Directed Learning".

It's where all the burn-outs went 'cuz they didn't have to work very hard, AND a bunch of creative geniuses joined so they could study exactly what they wanted. We were a motley crew including mega-science geeks, future film stars, and a bunch of my "let's get high at lunch" buddies!

So does that mean you could slot me with the "burn-outs"? Only mildly so... I was never one of the daily stoners! The main reason I signed up was so that I could get credit for taking courses like Transcendental Meditation, and horseback riding instead of gym!

I have to confess it did help detour me from finishing my standard education—I had only one year of college (though still was straight A); and I surely missed some of high school! But there are some very important things the Center **did** teach me...

Rather than just blindly accepting what every school teacher presents, they taught me to think for myself, analyze things, and to ask questions. Questions like:

How do we know what we know? Or better put, how do we know what *we think* we know? Who said so? How did they come to that conclusion? What's your source or sources?²

Because I think in these terms, I personally tend to be a skeptic. (I probably go overboard!) And so I printed on this book: "For the Thinking Mind". I **surely** don't believe God expects us to check our brains at the door when it comes to religious things!

Yet continuing with the subject of critical thinking...

How much do we accept because, "Everyone knows that!"

What about our teachers? Do they teach it just because their instructors taught it to them? Think about *how much you* accept as true just because that's what you've been taught, and you assume the "experts know". Well, our educators did the same thing—simply accepted the curriculum—And now *they're* the experts!

It's true to a significant degree that this is necessary—how could we function in life if we mistrusted every teacher?³ But when wrong things are taught, few will notice.

OK then, enough talk about education! Isn't this book supposed to be about religious prophecies? And...

What does REASONING
have to do with religion, anyway?

A lot! I'm personally not interested in "blind" faith. If there are some who are happy with a religion because it makes them feel good—but regardless of whether it is *true or not*—that's their choice, but I think it's extremely dangerous. I'm only interested in God if He's **real**, please!

There was a time when I thought of Christianity as square, old-fashioned, and quite frankly, for the simple-minded. It took God Himself to convince me otherwise. He showed Himself to be so real to me, I couldn't have disbelieved if I tried!

Yet still, I'm into practical evidence. My sister once told me, "Your faith is just blind". Nothing could be further from the truth. In this book I'll show many *rational* evidences for God—And yet they'll be a small percent of those that could be shown.

A bit of wisdom from Proverbs 18:17: "The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him". The average young American has been *bombarded* with bias against Christianity. Through the media, through Hollywood; through constant attention upon hypocritical Christians (rather than the sincere ones)... And through our (supposedly neutral) schools. It is not popular to be a Christian in America. It costs.

If you're a religious skeptic, I simply ask you to examine the evidence. It's only fair that we examine *both sides* of a debate...

What if I CAN, indeed, show you Evidence?

In appendix #1, I will show many historic and rational evidences for faith in God. I will discredit popular myths such as: "Men in power made up Christianity as a way to "control the masses". And I will demonstrate how many very intelligent people in America have been brainwashed.

At this point, you may not think "logic and the Bible" are running teammates! I can certainly relate—the notion that the Bible could possibly be "inspired by God" I once equated with brain freeze! But again, can we consider ourselves to be educated if we haven't

examined the counter viewpoint? If there IS a God, then what we believe (or don't believe) surely must be important!...

A Reality Check

Humor me for a moment with a hypothetical question. If you were falling from the top of the Empire State Building, and all the way down, you said, "I don't believe in gravity... I don't believe in gravity!... I don't believe in gravity!!"—And you **believed** that with all your heart!—Would it make any difference as to whether you went SPLAT when you hit the bottom?

I surely hope you answered no!

No, obviously you would still go splat. I assert to you that God is the same. If there IS a God, then what you BELIEVE about Him isn't going to make a BIT of difference as to His reality. He is who He is, regardless of what you believe...

What if His reality will one day hit you like a lightning bolt? On that day, will He be your friend?

He WANTS to be your friend! I realize I'm getting a little heavy here—I hope you'll hang in with me!

This short introductory Chapter is drawing to a close. I greatly encourage you to read the appendixes at the end of this book for rational evidence for God that'll blow your mind!^a

But one final bit of reasoning before heading into the prophecies...

^a You might even want to read Appendix #1 first! See what you think of the rest of this chapter—for a "sampling" of the kind of stuff that's there... (Appendix #1 starts on page 97).

Could the Resurrection of Christ REALLY have happened?

Surely the resurrection of someone three days dead seems like a myth. And yet the real question is not whether resurrection is possible—But IS there really a God? Because if God is real—an intelligent God with power to create life—couldn't He also raise us from the dead?

What does the *evidence* show about Christ's resurrection? We shouldn't expect overwhelming evidence for an event that happened 2000 years ago. Yet the *historical* evidence is *exceptionally* strong. The only reason it's not accepted—based on its historical merit—is because people (naturally) consider it to be impossible. So the historical records are scrutinized *way beyond* normal standards with *intention* to discredit. In spite of this, let's look at just one piece of "pro" evidence...

The **martyrdom** of the closest followers of Jesus—His Apostles⁴ (10 out of 12 of them).⁵ Hmmm... At first glance, who cares? Haven't people been martyred throughout history for various religious beliefs? If martyrdom proved anything, then MANY religions must be right. So what's the point?

The point is as follows. True enough, martyrdom proves nothing—EXCEPT, the SINCERITY of the victims. With a few possible exceptions, you have to admit that if someone is willing to die for his faith, he BELIEVES that it's true. Few would be willing to die for something unless they *strongly* believed it to be true.

The radical Muslims*^b who flew those planes into the twin towers... I'm afraid they received a rude

*^bThese Muslims did not represent the whole of the Islamic religion—many Muslims disapprove of such violence; I'm simply using this as a recent, familiar example of martyrdom.

awakening... But they truly BELIEVED they'd go straight to heaven for dying in the service of Allah (and get 72 virgins, too!). So what makes the apostle's martyrdom different?

A Lot. Totally different.

First of all, **true** Christian martyrdom is: Refusing to compromise or deny your faith, even if faced with the penalty of death. It doesn't involve hurting others.^{6c}

But the real point I'm getting to is this. The apostles didn't die for something they were *taught growing up*. Matter of fact, it was AGAINST much of what they were taught growing up.

Second, they weren't dying for something they believed just because someone had TOLD them (other than Jesus himself, anyway!). And it was very disadvantageous for them to believe... They were ostracized and kicked out of the Temple (and synagogues). Rejected by their own people.

But here's the clincher. What they WERE willing to die for was something they said they saw WITH THEIR OWN EYES: Christ resurrected from the grave.

Not something they grew up believing. Not something someone merely told them. But something they saw with their OWN EYES. And they were willing to die, often **hideous deaths**, for that which they KNEW to be true. So were they all crazy?⁷ All 10 of them? Does that make sense?

^c Wars such as the Crusades* are not **true** Christian martyrdom. Acts of violence are against the teachings of Jesus. (Even a monster like Hitler can claim to be a "Christian"—but let's use our brains!) Also see Endnote #6.

*With the possible exception of self defense to Muslim slaughter.

Did they all lie? And then die for the lie? Would YOU die for something you knew you'd made up?!

Now, add to that the Prophecies...

Over and **over** again the Bible has predicted events centuries before their occurrence. I do not just assert this—I will provide you undeniable proof.

But before we dig in, let me ask you an important question. The pivotal question of this book:

If the Bible **did** in fact predict that Jesus would die for our sins... And yet live!... And furthermore predicted Jesus' **Year** of Crucifixion—
All indisputably prophesied *hundreds of years* before He was even born—
Wouldn't that be evidence of a supernatural plan?

Check your heart... How would you react if it WAS true? (I encourage you—for honesty's sake—to take a look at your heart about this for a few minutes, before reading further).

OK then, on to Chapter Two!

ABOUT ENDNOTES

I have intentionally put endnotes at the end of each chapter—rather than where typically placed, at the end of the book—so that they will be easy for you to reference. If you have a doubt or a question as you read, an endnote indeed might clarify!

And in fact, some of these are both interesting & thought provoking... I do encourage reading them *a//* upon a second reading of the book! (Not the first time through, though—it'll ruin the flow of your reading!)

Endnote 1: New Trier East in Winnetka, Illinois. #2 in media ranking in mid 1970's.

² Since I think in terms like this, I don't believe in **several aspects** of evolution—I've examined the facts for myself from both scientific points of view. **I do of course believe in "micro" evolution**—adaptation (mostly) within a species—such as penicillin resistant bacteria, Darwin's finches, etc.—often a result of natural selection. But evidence for macro-evolution is seriously lacking. "Macro" evolution (really a misnomer) is horribly lacking in fossil evidence, and there's little, if ANY examples of *information ADDING* DNA mutations, which would be *abundantly* necessary for "goo to you" evolution to be true.

It's a lie that all scientists believe in macro-evolution... But the bias in the scientific community is *intense*... What I mean by this is that *as a scientist* if you *challenge* the theory you'll be mocked and ostracized—often losing your job, tenure, reputation, prestige—there's a **huge cost** involved in disputing it. But most have been so *indoctrinated* into evolution (since childhood) that they don't even **think** to question it (and some "experts"—even when noticing the lack of evidence in their particular field—just assume there must be more evidence in *other areas* for "macro" evolution!)

³ And certainly, many accurate things are taught. We'd be most unwise if we didn't learn from the experience and research of others. Nonetheless...

⁴ The 12 Apostles were Jesus' closest disciples. Martyrdom usually means dying (or suffering) willingly for your faith. In the case of a (real) Christian, they would not "seek out" martyrdom—But rather, they would refuse to compromise their faith even when faced with death (for instance, refusing to worship an emperor, or refusing to renounce their faith even when tortured).

⁵ The Apostles were the special "inner group" of Christ's disciples, 10 of whom died for their faith (see endnote above). Of the two remaining, one was Judas, who betrayed Jesus while still alive, and John, who although imprisoned (and probably tortured) for his faith, lived to old age and wrote 5 of the books in the New Testament, including Revelation.

⁶ See endnotes 4&5. Also see endnote #120.

⁷ Did they **all** merely *imagine* they saw Him risen from the dead? They reported that they saw Him (several times), that they FELT His body (which felt like normal flesh), saw and felt the nail holes, ate food with Him (AND finally saw Him ascend into the clouds and disappear!). Furthermore, *before* they saw Him raised from the dead, they were totally chicken and *unwilling* to die for Jesus under pressure—even Peter denied Jesus 3 times to avoid death. But *afterwards*? Peter not only died willingly rather than deny his faith, but told them to crucify him upside down: He stated he didn't deserve the honor of dying how his Master did!

Chapter Two

Did the Bible Predict the Year of Christ's Crucifixion... Hundreds of Years before His Birth?

Yes, it did!... In the Book of Daniel. Written 600 years before Christ.^{e 8}

Sir Isaac Newton, the famous physicist & mathematician, said he could stake the whole truth of Christianity on this one prophecy alone!

But you of course must examine the evidence... It's generally not wise to believe something *just* because "someone said so"—Not even a famous physicist & math genius!

Nonetheless there are many brilliant theologians too who've been astounded by this prophecy... There are even *Jewish Rabbi's* who've become Christian from studying it!⁹

It is **very straightforward in most aspects**. It's clear that it's telling the "when" of Christ's (first) coming,¹⁰ and, **it gives specific numbers**. It was undisputedly written hundreds of years before Christ.

But no matter what the evidence, there's still the issue of the heart...

The Bible speaks of men who push away thoughts of God because of distaste towards the idea of *accountability* to God. (Sometimes there are *reasons* why us skeptics are so skeptical!)

I came across this question I really like: "Even if there's strong evidence, will it nonetheless be inadmissible in your court of prejudice?"¹¹

^e Even the *harshest atheistic scholars agree* this prophecy was written well over 100 years before Christ's birth! But see endnote #8 for details of the debate over its *exact* century of authorship.

Just food for thought! May not apply to you at all...

But to all I extend the following proposal. I simply invite you to say the following prayer:

(Even if in your mind there's only a *possibility* that a God actually exists!):

“God... Are you real? Do you require something from me? Please show me the truth about Yourself... I am willing to follow You, if You are real. Please lead me to You.”

If you have just said that prayer, I dare say you have launched out on life's greatest adventure!

If you consider the idea of a personal God as impossible or incomprehensible, this may not be for you. The idea of even praying may seem crazy! Yet... what would you have to lose?

I like to encourage people to look honestly at the attitudes of their hearts. If you're positively unwilling to say such a prayer, then perhaps no amount of evidence for God will convince you, because your heart may not **want** to be convinced. It's just something to look at—our own heart's *attitude* towards God—Because it *will effect* our perceptions!¹²

OK then! – Let's GO!

“Says the Lord: See, the former things have taken place and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”
(The Bible-Isaiah 42:9)

“Who told of this from the beginning, so we could know, or beforehand, so we could say, ‘He was right?’”
(Isaiah 43:9)

The Bible claims that God foretells us many things. **Did God indeed foretell** when the Messiah would come to die for our sins?

The 70 “Weeks” of Daniel

(Or more accurately: The 70 7’s of Daniel)
(From Daniel Chapter 9 of the Old Testament¹³)

This prediction is an astounding example of fulfilled prophecy!

To start, I will assume you have not read much of the Bible. This chapter is a little heavy if you’re not into history. If you get bogged down, you could skip to chapter three—which is MUCH more INTERESTING... but you’d miss the particulars of our prophecy. So let’s try out some background. Who was Daniel?

Daniel, the Prophet

Daniel, whose writings are in the Old Testament of the Bible, was a Jewish prophet who lived during the 6th century before Christ. It was a time when Jerusalem had been conquered by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. Untold thousands of Jews were slaughtered... And most of the survivors were taken into captivity in Babylon.

Among the survivors, however, certain “elite” Jewish boys, including Daniel, were taken to the palace to be educated in Babylonian ways, and then to serve the King. King Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel very special treatment, because Daniel miraculously interpreted the King’s dreams!

But Daniel always remained faithful to His God, and he always gave credit for his wisdom and “supernatural abilities” totally to God (the Jewish God, *Yahweh* or *Jehovah*¹⁴).

Well, **prior** to Babylon conquering Jerusalem an earlier prophet, Jeremiah, warned the Jews that they would be conquered if they did not repent of their sin and their infidelity to the Lord. Furthermore, Jeremiah prophesied their captivity would be to Babylon for 70 years, and recorded this.

Israel obviously did not repent, and as stated, they went into Babylonian captivity. Here Daniel did much of his growing up, and he continued to serve King Nebuchadnezzar far into his adult years.

One day, while Daniel was studying the book of Jeremiah, he realized the 70 years of captivity was almost over! So he fasted & prayed fervently to God, and repented for all of Israel's sin against God! According to the Bible, the angel Gabriel then visited him.

Now the 70 years in fact was right (they were freed after 70 years servitude to Babylon, and also specifically, they started rebuilding their Temple 70 years after its destruction!), but...

The Angel Gabriel gives further enlightenment!

Note: It doesn't matter if you believe in angels at this point, nor believe a *word* that the Bible says!

If you're a skeptic, I only ask you to keep in mind that even atheistic scholars agree: All this was *indisputably* written long before the birth of Jesus!

The Angel Gabriel came to give another 70 "year" prophecy. This next prophecy is the subject matter of this book. Although it ultimately predicts a physical freedom in God's Kingdom, it *first* predicted a *spiritual* freedom.¹⁵ And it predicted EXACTLY when the Messiah would come!

This prophecy of the Messiah's (first) coming¹⁶ is very straightforward. Understanding it only takes a simple explanation of history (and of the Hebrew language used). You don't have to be a Bible scholar.

So let's begin! From Daniel Chapter 9 of the Bible. Daniel's been praying and fasting, realizing the 70 years of captivity is almost over...

Starting with Daniel's prayer:

"NOW WHILE I WAS SPEAKING AND PRAYING, AND CONFESSING MY SIN AND THE SIN OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL... WHILE I WAS STILL SPEAKING IN PRAYER, THEN THE MAN GABRIEL¹⁷, WHOM I HAD SEEN IN THE VISION PREVIOUSLY, CAME TO ME ...

(Gabriel is later identified as an angel)

HE GAVE ME INSTRUCTION AND TALKED WITH ME AND SAID, "O DANIEL, I HAVE NOW COME FORTH TO GIVE YOU INSIGHT WITH UNDERSTANDING.

"AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR SUPPLICATIONS THE COMMAND WENT OUT, AND I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU, FOR YOU ARE HIGHLY ESTEEMED; SO GIVE HEED TO THE MESSAGE AND GAIN UNDERSTANDING OF THE VISION.

"70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW AND DISCERN THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM UNTIL MESSIAH^f THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL (or moat, i.e. defense wall), EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.

"THEN AFTER THE 62 SEVENS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF..."

(later in the prophecy the last (the 70th) "seven" is addressed).

I'll repeat the central part above more clearly:

**"70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW... THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.
"THEN AFTER THE 62 SEVENS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF ..."**

^f Messiah is the Hebrew word for Christ, which literally means "Anointed One".

OK. So a bunch of “sevens” have been decreed. I’ll bet this sounds like “Greek” so far! That’s to be expected—hang in there! We’ll thoroughly explain all this “7’s” business. But first, WHAT exactly is being predicted and discussed?

A bunch of “sevens” have been decreed:

For “your people and your holy city”. For the Jews and for Jerusalem.

In Daniel’s time, the city has been totally destroyed. Burnt and razed to the ground. Much of the population decimated.

This is a prophecy for a grieving people who have utterly lost their holy city, their country, and much of their population. (This is all part of history—you’ll find it in your encyclopedia, history books, etc).

And yet God says He will RESTORE Jerusalem! That God DID restore Jerusalem to the Jews (as He said) is in itself a miracle. But bigger yet... →He’s repeated this in history →The more notable being in RECENT history!

What were the odds that the Jews would get their country back—after almost *2000 YEARS!?* Utterly against the odds and unprecedented! We’ll talk about that later in this book. For now I will mention that *this also* was PREDICTED in the Bible!

But back to Daniel Chapter 9 and the “70 Sevens”. Here God has predicted that Jerusalem will be restored after its devastation. A decree will be issued to restore it. “From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem”. I’ll rewrite the prophecy again for your reference...

“70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW...THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.

“THEN AFTER THE 62 SEVENS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF ...”

So evidently some King or Emperor is going to issue a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. The prophecy also mentions that it will be built again, including plaza and wall, even in times of distress. (And this did occur specifically!). But the *timing* of the first coming of the Messiah is our focus.

Here’s what we know so far. 70 “sevens” (Greek to me!) have been decreed for the Jews and for Jerusalem. Their city has been utterly destroyed, their population decimated. But God says the city will be restored—it will be rebuilt, complete with plaza and defense wall! He says a DECREE will be issued to rebuild it. Although it doesn’t say specifically WHO will issue the decree, usually only a King or Emperor would have such authority.

I will continue to display the prophecy throughout this chapter for your reference:

“70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW...THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.

“THEN AFTER THE 62 SEVENS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF ...”

So next notice that **FROM** the time the decree is issued, **UNTIL** Messiah the Prince, will be a bunch of

“sevens”. These are time units. It’s a FROM→UNTIL kind of prophecy.

FROM the decree
UNTIL Messiah the Prince
will be a certain period of time. But what do all the sevens MEAN?

This is actually much more straightforward than it first appears to an American! Because for an *ancient Jew*, this was normal conversational Hebrew...

A short lesson in Hebrew, please!

The first thing to learn is that the number “7” was involved with many things in the Jewish Bible and Jewish life. Where...

WE

think in terms of “10’s”:

- Decades
- Centuries
- 10’s, Hundreds, 1000’s,
- 10,000’s, etc.
- And fractions of 10’s

—The Jews thought of many things, especially time periods, in terms of “sevens”:

God rested on the 7th day is the first Bible reference...

Every 7th Day was the Sabbath Day (for rest)

Every 7th Year was the Sabbath for the land...

They weren’t supposed to raise crops that year, but rather they were supposed to let the **land rest**.

Every 7x7 Years was to mark the year of Jubilee¹⁸—
(=49 years)*

That year everyone had to let Jewish slaves go free, write off debts owed, mortgaged land was returned—it was a Year of Freedom!! The Year of Jubilee!

*(They would “count off” 7x7 years; then came Jubilee year (the 50th year).

And many Jewish prophecies, lineages, and historical periods contained multiples of 7 (or 70) years.

So given the general importance of the number 7 to the Jewish people, there is a special word in Hebrew (“shabua”) that means a “group of seven”—It could be 7 days, 7 years, or even 7 strings on an instrument! But usually shabua meant 7 days or 7 years. (The word itself, though, literally meant a “group of seven”; you would have to figure out: “7 WHAT?” by reading the whole sentence or paragraph).

Since seven DAYS was Shabua’s most common usage (a week), in the Daniel 70 7’s prophecy you’ll often see it translated in the Bible as *weeks*→ The 70 “Weeks” of Daniel.

But the actual Hebrew word—Shabua—*didn’t mean week* necessarily—but rather: “group of 7” (either 7 days or 7 years or 7 *something*).¹⁹

To further teach you the meaning of “shabua”, let’s look at some examples. In our culture, we give 12 (a dozen) roses. It seems to me that in ancient Jewish culture, it would’ve been cool to give a SHABUA of roses (seven roses). In that case you would probably *identify* the Shabua—“I gave her a shabua of roses!”.

But what if I said, “I’ll see you next shabua!” That would mean²⁰, “I’ll see you next week!” The Israelite wouldn’t need to say:

“I’ll see you next ‘shabua of days!’ ”

“I’ll see you next shabua!” was good enough. Everyone knew what you meant, because a week (7 days) was Shabua’s most common usage.

The second most common usage was a group of 7 years. So let’s say you were teaching your child about the Sabbath Year. And you were explaining how every 7th year we don’t plant crops—we let the ground rest.²¹

Since the Jews thought in terms of this 7 year cycle, (7 year Blocks of time), one might say, “Next shabua we’ll

be planting again" (the start of the next 7 year cycle). Or, the parent explaining the Sabbath rest for the land might say, "After another shabua, we'll let the land rest again" i.e., after 7 more years. This is very similar to our English word, "decade" (only instead of 10 years, a "shabua" is 7 years).

In Summary...

"A shabua" literally meant a "group of 7". This *could* be 7 anything—even "A shabua of strings", "A shabua of roses" or "A shabua of apples"!

But most **commonly** it was used for time periods. It usually meant a week (7 days) or a "block of seven years". (Like our decade is a "block of ten years").

In our prophecy this intended usage is apparent—the shabuas are time units. So now Gabriel's words will start to make more sense:

"70 SEVENS ("SHABUAS") HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW...THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS (SHABUAS) AND 62 SEVENS (SHABUAS); IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS. "THEN AFTER THE 62 SEVENS (SHABUAS) THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF ..."

Let's look at all these "7's":

70 "groups of seven" (shabuas) **ARE DECREED**, made up of:

7 "groups of seven" (7 shabuas) plus
62 "groups of seven" (62 shabuas) plus the last
+1 "group of seven" (1 shabua) (addressed later in
the prophecy)
making a
TOTAL of
70 "groups of seven" (or 70 shabuas)

The 69 sevens (7+62) are what we're going to address. Because the prophecy states that:

“...FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS”.

Actual Hebrew: **“7 SHABUAS AND 62 SHABUAS”**

Very straightforward! Verifiable. **From** the decree **until** the Messiah. A certain period of time.

(It's obvious the prophecy is asserting a time period application of "shabua". This is the logical assumption for several reasons: 1) It's an "expansion" of a literal 70 year prophecy²² 2) Shabuas were most commonly applied to time units, rather than the counting of objects 3) If a shabua was to number objects, the shabua would normally be *identified* (i.e. "a shabua of strings"); if the shabua was applied to time units, it usually was not identified. 4) Shabuas of anything else *other than* time units doesn't seem to make any sense. 5) And finally, as time units, it works out to the time of Jesus!)

So let's say you lived at the time the decree was issued... [The Jews officially got freed from Babylonian captivity shortly after Daniel's prayer... But they had to wait quite some time before the decree was issued for them to rebuild their city—especially including the defense wall. Although King Cyrus (the next king after Nebuchadnezzar) was gracious enough to allow them to return to the ravaged Jerusalem if they wanted—the decree he issued only made provision for the rebuilding of their Temple].

In fact the Jews had to wait for decades—almost a century!—for the city's rebuilding. They were not without God's grace, and they worshipped in their Temple. But the city itself was still in shambles.

Then the awaited decree finally comes! It is specifically recorded in the Bible in the book of Nehemiah. We'll soon cover that! But first...

“70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW...THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS. “THEN AFTER THE 62 SEVENS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF ...”

Imagine you're a Jew living at the time of the decree. How exciting this would be! It means *not only* that your city will finally be restored, but ALSO that the Messiah might be coming soon! Because, as a Jew, you would realize that 7 shabuas plus 62 shabuas (69 shabuas altogether) MIGHT mean VERY LITTLE TIME before the Messiah shows up!

“What if this means only 69 literal weeks until the Messiah?!”

Remember—the most COMMON usage for “shabua” is a week—a group of seven DAYS. IF that's what was meant, then 69 x “Groups of Seven days” = 69 WEEKS = 483 days! Just a little over a year!

But if you were living at that time, the excitement would have soon come & went... The year would have passed, and then the next year... It would then become obvious that God did NOT mean shabuas of days (weeks). Oh well. As a Jew you would not be too surprised... For two reasons.

First, because many of God's prophecies were rather “long range”. And second, because you knew from the beginning that it might have meant YEARS just as easily as DAYS. ²³

So perhaps you would have yawned and said, "Oh well, God must have meant YEARS...I guess the Messiah's not coming in MY lifetime!"

"70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW...THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.

Note: If you're not into all this "math stuff", skip to the arrow on the next page!

Again, if you were a Jew living at the time of the decree, once you realized that literal WEEKS were not intended, the natural assumption would be that God meant YEARS. Let's proceed naturally and assume God meant Years.

Looking again at all those "7's":

70 "groups of seven" (shabuas) **ARE DECREED**, made up of:

7 "groups of seven" (7 shabuas) plus
62 "groups of seven" (62 shabuas) plus the last
+1 "group of seven" (1 shabua) (addressed later in the prophecy)

making a

TOTAL of

70 "groups of seven" (or 70 shabuas)

Assuming each "group of seven" means 7 years...

"7 sevens" is $7 \times 7 = 49$ years, and "62 sevens" is $62 \times 7 = 434$ years. A total of 483 years.

(By the way, there's a *reason* why the 7 Shabuas are separate from the 62 Shabuas).²⁴

Now let's focus in on the following: "FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM until MESSIAH THE PRINCE, there will be 7 "shabuas" and 62 "shabuas" (7+62 shabuas=69 shabuas). 69 shabuas means 69 x 7 years (a shabua=a block of 7 years), so 69 x 7 years = 483 Years.

483 years FROM THE "DECREE" until MESSIAH THE PRINCE! This is the part of the prophecy we'll be dealing with.²⁵

→ For the "math-a-phobic", resume reading here!

Again, using the logical assumption of years for the time units, we now have a very straightforward prophecy:

"FROM THE ISSUING OF THE DECREE"
until **"MESSIAH THE PRINCE"**

there will be 7+62 shabuas = 69 x 7 years = 483 years

Or in Plainest English:

"FROM THE ISSUING OF THE DECREE" until **"MESSIAH THE PRINCE"** there will be 483 years! Actually VERY straightforward for the ancient Jew.²⁶

The only information still needed to see if this "works out" to the time of Jesus, is the STARTING point. What decree and WHEN was it issued?

Note: The next chapter is AMAZING!

(And it's much MORE FUN!!)

CHAPTER TWO ENDNOTES

⁸ Even very antagonistic critics admit it was written at *least* 150 years before Christ's birth. There are other astounding fulfilled prophecies in Daniel as well... So many and so specific that "higher critics" hate the book... some claiming a later date of

authorship than the 6th century B.C., *despite strong evidence to the contrary*—Because they think it *impossible* to have pre-forecast all it did (the rise & fall of the Medo-Persian and Greek Empires, for instance).

Yet even the worst critics admit it had to have been written no later than 150BC—*So there's no question that this particular prophecy was given long before its fulfillment!*

But what about the kind of skepticism I've just described? **Is it impossible for God to have forecast the future through His prophet's writings?** Is it correct to ignore the normal evidence for when a historical document was written, only because "It's *impossible* for it to have predicted that?" For more on this subject, see the Jesus Seminar, in Appendix #3.

⁹ Including the famous Leopold Cohn, a Jewish Rabbi who became founder of a large Christian organization, the American Board of Missions to the Jews.

¹⁰ Jesus' "First Coming", foretold centuries before His birth... Theoretically, the prophecy could've pointed toward His **birth date**, the time of His **ministry**, or His **crucifixion** (that being His #1 purpose in coming). In reality, it's His crucifixion year (also see Chapter 6).

¹¹ Paraphrased from Testimonies of Jews who Believe in Jesus. Ruth Rosen, P. vi. Purple Pomegranate Productions, San Francisco, CA

¹² And it will affect God's *response* to us.

¹³ The Old Testament is the first large section of the Bible.* It covers the time span of creation through about 400 years before Christ was born (400 B.C.) The New Testament is the remaining smaller portion of the Bible, which covers the time from shortly before Jesus' birth, through about 90 A.D. (Both the Old & New Testaments include many prophecies about the future).

*(The Old Testament is also the "Hebrew Bible"—the Bible still used by Jews today—and is also called the "Tenakh")

¹⁴ Jehovah is a European translation of the Name.

¹⁵ Obviously God's people didn't become COMPLETELY freed by Christ's coming, and the Jewish nation as a whole didn't become free, period...So the whole prophecy includes Christ's 2nd coming as well as His first... But let's take it one step at a time...

¹⁶ Specifically, His year of crucifixion.

¹⁷ Angels often appeared as men, as Gabriel does to Daniel.

¹⁸ Leviticus 25:8-11. Note: They counted off 49 years... Then they sounded the trumpet to announce the start of the Year of Jubilee! (the 50th year).

¹⁹ Some Jews are only familiar with the **most** common translation of Shabua—a week. But Page 20's definition is accurate and more comprehensive... It is reflected in Stone's Judaic translation of the Hebrew Bible, where he translates Daniel 9:24 as: "70 septets have been decreed..." (Incidentally, the famous Jewish Rabbi Rashi interpreted the shabuas to be blocks of 7 years—or as some people phrase it, "weeks of years").

²⁰ (Most likely)

²¹ God would give a bumper crop in Year #6 to get them through the Sabbath Year!

²² In fact Daniel's prophecy from the angel Gabriel should be interpreted in light of Jeremiah's prediction of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, since that's what Daniel was praying about—it's the *context* of the prophecy. And Jeremiah's prophecy points towards the 7 year blocks of time application, because the 70 years

of captivity were a penalty to Israel not only for their general infidelity towards God, but *specifically* for not honoring God’s command about the Sabbath years. God essentially said that because Israel had not been allowing the land to rest as He commanded, He was removing them from the land—so that the land could enjoy the Sabbath rests it had missed! (Lev 26:34-5 & 2 Chronicles 36:20,21)

²³ In truth, shabuas of years was the more likely meaning from the start—See Endnote #22.

²⁴ Some claim that the first 7 shabuas, or 49 years, was the approximate time it took to rebuild the city; the remaining 62 shabuas was then the waiting time until the Messiah. But more significant, I think, is that after the 49 years the Old Testament Canon was closed (the writing of the Old Testament, or Jewish Tenakh); there was no further prophetic voice to Israel (Nehemiah & Malachi died in the last decade of the 5th Century B.C.) The remaining 434 years (reduced by up to 6 yrs? See Endnote #54) were the “silent years”: the waiting years for another prophet to bring God’s message to Israel. (Note: Virtually the same waiting period as the Jews had as strangers (aliens) in a foreign land and in slavery to Egypt until God sent Moses to deliver them...)

²⁵ The last single group of seven (7 years) comes later in the prophecy...Just the 69 sevens is plenty for us to cover to start! (But IF you’re already familiar with this prophecy, and are thinking ahead to that “70th Seven”—the Bible indicates that the 70th Seven is *separated* from the first 69 shabuas of the prophecy by an unspecified chasm of time. This may seem quite odd—but it corresponds with God dealing with the Nation of Israel *as His People*—Separated by the chasm of time between their rejection of their Messiah and the great tribulation which will turn them back to God (as Jesus references in Matthew 23:37-39, speaking to the Jews, “...you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!’”).

Jesus’ first *and second* comings—In Luke 4:17-20 Jesus also “points to” this separation by stopping in the *MIDDLE* of quoting Isaiah’s prophecy (Isaiah 61), saying, “**Today**, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (but only referring to the first half of the prophecy, which He had just had finished reading!) (This subject will be covered in detail in a future sequel to this book)

²⁶ This might have seemed complicated to you upon first reading, since the Hebrew word Shabua is a new concept to you. But not so to an ancient Jew.

Chapter Three

Well, as much as I hate to leave you in Suspense!...

I want to discuss a few other things before we reach our conclusion... Please forgive me! I will say, IT DOES WORK OUT!! But there are a few other things we need to cover... (Of course, if you'd "Just take my word for it", you wouldn't have to do all this reading!) (I'm joking, of course... Skeptics are my favorite readers!).

May I share a few other astounding prophecies with you?

Two of My Favorite Bible Prophecies!

These are two of my favorites, because they're so *unusual*. The first is about the city of Tyre.

Here are the highlights! The prophet Ezekiel predicted that the city of Tyre (a major ancient trade city and naval power) would be destroyed in a very unusual manner!²⁷

Ezekiel said Tyre would be "Leveled and scraped clean—like a bare rock" and would become "a place for the spreading of nets" (fishermen's nets). And the prophecy stated, "The city's stones, timber and soil would be cast into the sea". How bizarre! Why would anyone bother?! Scraped clean and cast into the sea?

Tyre was the Manhattan or Hong Kong of its day. Although an ancient city—and nowhere near our modern cities' size—at the time it was the strongest naval power in the Mediterranean. Considered impossible to conquer. Part of the city was on the mainland, but the major stronghold of the city was the island portion. ½ mile out to sea, superior land forces simply could not reach it!

To fulfill the whole prophecy, several nations attacked Tyre. But Alexander the Great fulfilled the most

interesting aspect. He conquered the mainland portion of Tyre easily enough... But his naval forces could not compete to attack the island. So what did he do?

His armies tore down EVERYTHING on the mainland, and literally *tossed the city into the sea, **creating a "LANDBRIDGE"*** to the island!! Now who could have forecast this hundreds of years ahead of the event? Why would a human even *think up* such a thing?!

And today, all that's left is a fishing town on the island!

Next Prophecy! Forecast by Jesus Himself...

The Temple in Jerusalem was extremely important to the Jewish people. It was the center of national life, and a sign that God was with them. But Jesus said it would be destroyed.

He told his disciples several times that the Temple would not only be destroyed, but that:

"Not one stone would be left upon another!"²⁸

Another **odd** statement! Why? Sometimes it would make sense for a military victor to *reuse* a mighty building. But if destruction was desired, who's going to bother toppling "every stone"?

Yet that's exactly what happened when the Emperor Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D. Rome's destruction of the Temple was so complete, in fact, that the precise location of the original is unknown!²⁹

Why such complete devastation? Many have described the tragedy the Romans wreaked upon Jerusalem...

In speaking of the great fire that was set upon the Temple, *it blazed so hot, that the intense heat caused the moisture in the limestone to expand, **EXPLODING the limestone*** "like popcorn"³⁰ and producing a chain

reaction of destruction. Nothing was left of the Temple but rubble.

On top of that, much of the Temple was overlaid in gold, so Romans ***pried apart the stones to collect the gold that had melted from the walls and ceiling above!***

Jesus' words about the temple, that "Not one stone will be left upon another", were indeed fulfilled in an extraordinary way!

Are there other Prophecies?

There are literally ***hundreds*** of examples of fulfilled prophecies in the Bible! No kidding. And *no other religion*³¹ *on the face of this planet* can make such claims! Matter of fact, *few religions even claim* to have ANY examples of specific fulfilled prophecy.

Although there are beautiful aspects to various religions, when it comes to prophecies, these are simply the facts:

The only prophecies Islam has are about the end of time. So unfortunately, if they're wrong, it's too late to decide your faith was misguided!

Mormonism *claims* to have fulfilled prophecy... But it's a major problem that their Holy book wasn't **written until the 1800's**.³² It obviously proves nothing to "forecast" something in the 1800's that happened centuries BEFORE. (Furthermore, they purport that long ago there was a whole advanced civilization in North & South America, with buildings, roads, etc. for which there's no archeological evidence).^{33g}

^g Please let me insert that there are many *wonderful, loving people* in Mormonism, and all the other religions I'm speaking of!! Please let me know if there's a "better way" in which I could present these facts...*To my Mormon friend, I know your church claims to have some relics—But no outside archeologist supports their authenticity, and there'd be *tons of evidence* if the widespread civilization really existed... God loves you! But He's different than what you've been taught... WE can never become Gods→ That's what Satan tempted Eve with...

Finally the Baha'i Faith claims that *their* prophet is the fulfillment of many Biblical prophecies—But their explanation of this is wholly inadequate and seriously lacks Biblical understanding. (Hinduism & Buddhism do not even claim to have specific, fulfilled prophecy).³⁴

The Bible is *truly unique* in this regard (as in many others!). God has left us *evidence* for His existence!

Further Evidence I'd like to Present...

The Jews! Israel! Jerusalem! They also are strong evidence for the Bible's Supernatural Inspiration. Even the *existence* of the Jews is a miracle!

For background, the Bible says the Jews are God's chosen people. Although the New Testament says that God's favor (in several respects) has been *removed* from them "until the fullness of the Gentiles (Non-Jews) has come in";³⁵ nonetheless the Bible states they are still God's chosen people.³⁶

And from their beginning, God has dealt with the Jews uniquely, both bestowing great favor upon them (when they've been obedient to Him), AND allowing great cursing upon them (when they've been disobedient).

There are **hundreds** of prophecies about the Israelites in the Bible. Both blessings (and the opposite).

Among them, His RECURRING warnings were: If you don't repent, I will allow you to be conquered, and I will SCATTER YOU THROUGHOUT ALL THE NATIONS. Repeatedly God warns them that He will **Scatter them throughout the Nations**,^{h*} where they will become a "byword" to the many nations (in other words, be shamed and ridiculed) and be **persecuted**.*

*^h *I will print many of the Jewish prophecies out in the last chapter.

He essentially said that if they left His protection, horrible things* would happen to them; yet He would **not allow them to be completely destroyed**^{*i} (in spite of the *irrational* hatred of the Jews by so *many* nations through history!).

And God said that even though He would scatter them for a long period of time, He would then **bring them back*** to their land!! Does this sound like Jewish history, or what?! And yet **all this was prophesied** before the temple was destroyed in 70 AD (MOST of it was prophesied many hundreds of years before that!).

I don't want to "skate by" the last one too fast... Did you get that? *AFTER 2000 years without a country, their country was RETURNED to them!!* What are the odds? HOW did that happen?!

The fact that they even survived with a national ethnic identity is a miracle! History shows that when a people are removed from their homeland, they lose their identity within 5 generations. **Within 5 generations** they are absorbed into the surrounding culture and lose their individual national identity.³⁷ But the Jews maintained their National ethnic identity even though scattered for almost **2000 years!**

And then got their land back?!! Again, what are the chances? But God said as far back as Abraham (about 2000 B.C.) that the land (of Israel) belongs to the Jews. And that in the end, it indeed would be theirs.^{*38}

And there's MORE!...

Even though God said they would be persecuted, He also said that:

He would **enable them to make wealth!...**
(Deut 8:18)

ⁱ * I will print many of the Jewish prophecies out in the last chapter.

In the End Times they would be a
 "Cup of Trembling"*
 to the nations all around

and that He'd make Jerusalem

"A burdensome stone for all peoples" *

(Israel includes less than 1/1000th of the world's population—And yet the United Nations spends over 30% of their time on Israel!)

And at the very end, God says the WHOLE WORLD³⁹ will be against Israel.

Now, get THIS!

The next amazing fact I'll point out is the birth date of Abraham. Abraham is considered to be the "Father" of the Jewish faith. He's the first person in the Bible to be called a Jew (a Hebrew)→ He's the **start** of the Jewish nationality. And he's the first person to whom the **land of Israel** is promised. In the Bible, the land of Israel was promised by God to Abraham *and to his descendants*.

The Jewish Calendar...Adam-Abraham

The Jewish calendar is totally different than the B.C./A.D. calendar we use today. It *begins* at the creation year of Adam. This makes perfect sense, as according to the book of Genesis, this was the first year of mankind's existence. But even if you're an ardent evolutionist,⁴⁰ this discussion is the same and will blow your mind!

Beginning with Adam as Year #1, family chronology is easy to follow (from the first book of the Bible: Genesis). It states how old Adam was when his son Seth was born, how old Seth was when his son Enosh was born, etc.⁴¹ on through to the birth of Abraham.

So guess what Abraham's year of birth was! According to Genesis and the Jewish calendar *still used today*, Abraham was born in year 1948!! (Jewish years). If you're not sure what significance that has...

*Israel also became a nation again in year 1948—
Christian Years (1948 AD).*

After 2000 years without a country.

The birth of the father of the Jewish people and the Jewish faith/The rebirth of Israel as a nation (in preparation, by the way, for God to fulfill His purposes and prophecies about His chosen people, and for this earth). 1948 Jewish years/1948 Christian years. The birth of Abraham/The rebirth of Israel! The land was promised to Abraham *and his descendants!*

Scoff if you'd like, but that's pretty mind boggling! It also ties Judaism to Christianity. (God's apparent acknowledgment of both the Jewish calendar AND the Christian calendar!)

Standing alone, perhaps you could write it off to coincidence. But to write ALL the prophecies off to coincidence is irrational. We've only just begun!

Also Regarding the Jewish People...

A prophecy⁴² that too few people are aware of: That the Jewish people **would reject their own Messiah!**

Even though this is in the **The Jewish Bible** (the Tenakh; what Christians call the Old Testament), Rabbi's are not encouraged to read this scripture in synagogues. Some Rabbi's have even proposed **taking it out!** of the Jewish Bible.

But it was written by the Prophet Isaiah, 700 years before the birth of Christ. Isaiah was a major prophet of Israel who prophesied much about the future Messiah.

Isaiah 53 is a remarkable chapter not ONLY because it clearly states that the Jews would hold their Messiah in "low esteem", but also because it gives such a **clear description** of what Jesus would do! Many modern day Jews have become Christian because of reading this scripture...

ISAIAH 53 (A Jewish prophet speaking to the Jewish people)

WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR MESSAGE? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED? ...

A message from Jews to the Jewish people, but who will believe it? (The first Christians were Jews, but MOST Jews did not accept Jesus because of the strong influence of their religious leaders who hated Jesus).

**...HE HAS NO STATELY FORM OR MAJESTY THAT WE SHOULD LOOK UPON HIM,
NOR APPEARANCE THAT WE SHOULD BE ATTRACTED TO HIM.** (There was nothing special about Jesus' physical appearance)

**HE WAS DESPISED AND FORSAKEN OF MEN,
A MAN OF SORROWS AND ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF;
AND LIKE ONE FROM WHOM MEN HIDE THEIR FACE HE WAS DESPISED, AND WE DID NOT ESTEEM HIM**
(It SAYS they would not esteem Him!)

**SURELY OUR GRIEFS HE HIMSELF BORE,
AND OUR SORROWS HE CARRIED;
YET WE OURSELVES ESTEEMED HIM STRICKEN,
SMITTEN OF GOD, AND AFFLICTED**
(They considered Him cursed of God because He was "hung on a tree"—according to the Bible, only those cursed of God died that way (but that was the point: He did it to take OUR CURSES *upon* HIMSELF)

**HE WAS DESPISED, AND WE DID NOT ESTEEM HIM.
SURELY OUR GRIEFS HE HIMSELF BORE,
AND OUR SORROWS HE CARRIED;
YET WE OURSELVES ESTEEMED HIM STRICKEN,
SMITTEN OF GOD, AND AFFLICTED.
BUT HE WAS PIERCED THROUGH FOR OUR
TRANSGRESSIONS,
HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES;
THE CHASTENING FOR OUR WELL-BEING
FELL UPON HIM,
AND BY HIS SCOURGING WE ARE HEALED.**

(Descriptions of the spikes ("Pierced through")
and of the whipping (scourging) →More Next page

**ALL OF US LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY,
EACH OF US HAS TURNED TO HIS OWN WAY;
BUT THE LORD HAS CAUSED THE INIQUITY OF US ALL
TO FALL UPON HIM**

(Iniquity is another word for sin)
(Who else could this be but Jesus?)

**HE WAS OPPRESSED AND HE WAS AFFLICTED,
YET HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH;
LIKE A LAMB THAT IS LED TO SLAUGHTER,
AND LIKE A SHEEP THAT IS SILENT BEFORE ITS
SHEARERS,
SO HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH**

(Jesus did not try to defend Himself when questioned by Pilate and the Jewish tribunal, but rather was silent, willingly laying down His life to pay for our sins)

**BY OPPRESSION AND JUDGMENT HE WAS TAKEN
AWAY;**

**AND AS FOR HIS GENERATION, WHO CONSIDERED
THAT HE WAS CUT OFF OUT OF THE LAND OF THE
LIVING**

**FOR THE TRANSGRESSION OF MY PEOPLE, TO WHOM
THE STROKE WAS DUE?**

(It so clearly states that Jesus would die for the sins of the people, but the Jews didn't understand this scripture)

**HIS GRAVE WAS ASSIGNED WITH WICKED MEN,
YET HE WAS WITH A RICH MAN IN HIS DEATH**

(As a "criminal" sentenced to crucifixion, he shouldn't have gotten any special burial; but a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea, asked for the body from Pilate, and put Jesus in his new tomb!...)

**BECAUSE HE HAD DONE NO VIOLENCE, NOR WAS
THERE ANY DECEIT IN HIS MOUTH.**

**BUT THE LORD WAS PLEASED TO CRUSH HIM,
PUTTING HIM TO GRIEF;**

**IF HE WOULD RENDER HIMSELF AS A GUILT
OFFERING... (Paying the price for *our* guilt; a sacrifice for
sin)...**

How much clearer could this be? Who could this be but Jesus?

Even if you know “only the basics” of Christianity, doesn’t Isaiah 53 sound familiar in describing what Jesus did for us?

Please also see Appendix #2
If you’d like a more thorough discussion of this prophecy!

And note again that it says in speaking to the Jews, “Who has believed our message?” and that they would “not esteem him” and would consider him “stricken & smitten” of God (even though his willing sacrifice was for their sins).⁴³

Plus see how clear it is that the Messiah spoken of in Isaiah 53 DIES for the sins of men. So why was this such a surprising idea to the Jew?⁴⁴

Especially because it ALSO states that the Messiah dies in Daniel Chapter 9!

Which brings us back around to the 70 7’s of Daniel...

(And in the last chapter, I’ll inform you of what the Bible says is still YET to happen! But for now...)

CHAPTER THREE ENDNOTES

²⁷ Ezekiel 26:1-14

²⁸ The Wailing Wall remaining in Jerusalem today wasn’t an actual wall of the Temple, but was a lower support wall to the foundation of the whole Temple Complex.

²⁹ See Endnote 28.

³⁰ Aish.com Crash Course in Jewish History Part 35 – Destruction of the Temple

³¹ I say that because I consider Christianity to be an EXTENSION of Judaism. If you treat them as separate religions, than (original) Judaism (much different than today’s common form) also has many proven fulfilled prophecies.

³² Plus the author’s integrity has been highly questioned.

³³ Please let me insert that there are many *wonderful, loving people* in Mormonism, and all the other religions I’m speaking of!! Please let me know if there’s a “better way” in which I could present these facts...*To my Mormon friend, I know your church claims to have some relics—But no outside archeologist supports their authenticity, and there’d be *tons of evidence* if the widespread civilization really

existed... God loves you! But He's different than what you've been taught... WE can never become Gods→ That's what Satan tempted Eve with...

In truth God wants to offer you His Grace; you can never be perfect enough to work your way to Him!

³⁴ Now I will admit Satanism and the occult have produced *some* (small %) accurate prophecies—furthermore fortune-tellers, (when they're not charlatans), can “know” many things about your past and present. This is because there are innumerable fallen angels on this planet, who know all kinds of things about your life... [And whom can also “predict” what *they* are planning to instigate! A remarkable example of this was from Aleister Crowley, the foremost Satanist of the 1900's, who in the **1920's** predicted the drug & sex revolution planned for America ... (And Timothy Leary said he was proud to be carrying on Crowley's work!)—We can recommend amazing videos on this subject...]

But Satan cannot tell the “end from the beginning”, and in fact has no control over the end. (And far more of even his short-term predictions fail than are materialized). Even the infamous Nostradamus has in truth failed miserably in his predictions, when examined objectively—Again, ask us for information on this subject, and see the last endnote of this book.

³⁵ In other words, until the full number of people from all nations has come into God's Kingdom (through Christ).

³⁶ And although many will first be killed, those Jews that remain alive at “the end”—ALL of them will be saved by God! (I will discuss this “yet to come” prophecy at the end of the book). The Jews were God's chosen people especially in this sense→they were a special people through whom God would reveal Himself.

* I will print many of the Jewish prophecies out in the last chapter. See also Deuteronomy Chapters 11, 27 & 28.

³⁷ Some claim the “Gypsies” have done a similar thing (although not for such a long period as the Israelites). This is true to an extent, but really “Gypsies” are a blending of nationalities. They've certainly not maintained their “roots” in the way Israel did—the Gypsies actually aren't sure where they're from! And they are the only other such example in history. At the very least, it's a **HIGHLY** Remarkable thing that the Israelites continued to exist!

³⁸ Genesis 15:18 & 17:18, among others.

³⁹ Perhaps you will see this prophecy fulfilled in *your* lifetime... (see the last chapter to read this prophecy)

⁴⁰For evolutionists: Although there certainly are Christians who believe in “macro”-evolution (usually believing that God *directed* evolution), this is usually because they've not studied the matter. Truly, *if you haven't read the counter evidence*—that's *scientific* counter evidence—from a reputable creation scientist's point of view, you've not yet heard much that will amaze you. Please ask us for free books! The secular textbooks radically *misrepresent* what creation scientists believe→Focusing on the weakest arguments of questionable creationists, and virtually *ignoring or misrepresenting* creation science's strongest arguments.

But you can find God, even if you do believe in evolution (some Christians who “blend” religion with popular science think that Adam & Eve were the first to have fully evolved into humans, and at that point God put a spirit into them).

⁴¹It gets a little confusing around the flood, then clarifies. If you do the adding yourself, you'll see that the flood came in Yr 1656 (when Noah was 600 years old-

Genesis 7:6). Then in Genesis 11:10 it clearly states Shem was 100 years old *2 years after* the flood, so he was born in Yr 1558. (If you're confused about Genesis 5:32, please write to us!).

Also, why doesn't everyone know about this? In fact, most Christian commentaries don't state this. Jewish Rabbi's agree—but they don't like it (because it seems to acknowledge Christian years, so it's not broadcast within Judaism).

But why do many Christian commentaries have a different date for Abraham's birth? Because in Acts 7:4 it states that Abraham left Haran after his father Terah died. Calculating from Genesis 11:32, Terah didn't die until Abraham was 135 years old. Yet Genesis 12:4 states that Abraham left Haran when he was 75 years old. The numbers don't compute, so Christian scholars determined Abraham must not have been the first born son, and only the 1st of the 3 brothers was born in 1948 (see note below*).

But Jewish history shows differently. Rashi's commentary (and other Jewish writings, including *The Book of Jashar* (referred to in Joshua 10:13 & 2 Sam 1:18) express that Abraham left Haran way before his father *physically* died. The Book of Jubilees—widely read by Jews around the time of Jesus—specifically states Abram *was* the firstborn and *also* that he left Haran while his father Terah was still alive. (The Seder Olam Rabbah also refers to 1948A.M. as Abram's birth year). I personally see no contradiction, with two possibilities. First, why couldn't Abraham have left Haran twice? Particularly, if he had heard that his father was ill or dying, it would have been natural for him to return to Haran to visit, only to leave **again** once his father had died.

However I think a second possibility is much more likely. If those Christian commentaries are right—And Abraham (at age 75) really did leave Haran only once—after his father had physically died—that means Abraham was born to Terah when Terah was **130 years old!** *If that was true—why did Abraham think it such a miracle for HIM to father Issac at age 100?* “Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, ‘Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old?’” (Genesis 17:17). Abraham was amazed such a thing could happen!

Several Bible translations state in Acts 7:4 that Abraham moved (from the city of Haran) after his father (Terah) had died. In both the Old King James and New King James Bible translations, Acts 7:4 states that Abraham moved *when his father was dead*. This very well may have referred to his father Terah being *spiritually dead* rather than physically.

Several points support this. First, the Bible often does speak of the living as being dead because of sin (Matthew 8:21-22; Luke 9:60 & 16:32; Rom 6:13; Col. 2:13; Eph. 2:1,5; 1Tim 5:6; 1 John 3:14; 1 Pet 4:6; Rev 3:1). And of course the very first mention of death given in the Bible was in Genesis 2:17, where God said Adam would certainly die **on the day** he would eat of the forbidden fruit; of course we know that Adam died *spiritually* on that day, not physically. In fact one primary meaning for death in the Bible means *separation* from God—not physical death (as Americans normally define the word).

Also, Bible Scholar John Gill noted that it was common among the Jews of those times to say "that a sinner is counted as dead", and that ungodly persons, even while they are alive, are "called dead" (*Exposition of the Bible*, at Matthew 8:22).

*Abraham's birthdate Scripture, Genesis 11:26, states: Terah lived 70 years, and begat Abram, Nahor and Haran. Either all 3 sons were born in 1948 (perhaps by more than one wife); or else only the *first* son was born in 1948 (the Hebrew for "begat" meaning "began to beget"). (Note: Scholars who maintain this state that even though Abram (Abraham) is listed first, this doesn't necessarily mean he was the first born—it can only mean he was the *predominant* son).

Joshua 24:2 does say that Terah worshipped other gods. Jewish tradition clearly states that yes, Abram (Abraham) left Haran as his father Terah was **spiritually** dead. If indeed that was the common understanding of those Jews *who were listening to Stephen's sermon in Acts 7*, then they would have known Stephen was referring to Terah's *spiritual* death (which makes the sermon even more meaningful, as so much of it was condemning the Jews for their idolatry and unfaithfulness to God!)

Furthermore, Abram was **twice** called to leave for the promised land. The first time both he & his father were called to leave from their home of Ur—God said “leave your country and your relatives” (Acts 7:3). But when God again called Abram to leave for Canaan**—God said, “leave your country, your relatives and *your father's house*” (Gen 12:1). Clearly, Terah could have still been physically alive, but spiritually dead when Abram left Haran to set out for the Promised Land.

It is very sad in fact that Christian scholars didn't look more closely at this possibility—especially since Jewish tradition has clearly stated this to be the case. (I hate to think that the anti-Semitism so prevalent in past centuries prevented them from considering the Jewish tradition.) It has robbed Christianity of a *very strong* proof of the Bible's Supernatural Inspiration! What a testimony that Abraham was born in Year 1948 Jewish years, and Israel was *reborn* as a nation in Year 1948 Christian Years! No one could have manipulated that but God!

(For the “ultimate skeptic” who might think Christians after World War 2 manipulated the year of Israel's “rebirth” to fulfill this “Abrahamic prophecy”—If you haven't gotten this yet!!—Please understand Christians didn't even *know about* Abraham's birthdate; it was commonly understood in Christian Seminaries that Abram was not the firstborn son, and hence not born until 60 years later! *Yet to this day* few Christians know about this!)

⁴² Actually there's more than one such prophecy—But this one's the clearest. See also Isaiah 49:5-7 & Psalm 118:22.

⁴³ In spite of this, a minority of Jews and even *many of the Jewish Priests* **did** believe—they rejected the orders of the most powerful Jewish religious leaders, who ***told them to reject*** Jesus. The original Christians were all Jewish (including Jesus, of course!)

⁴⁴ The Bible says that God has caused a *blinding* to come over the Jewish People... See John 12:37-43, all verses of Romans Chapter 11, Luke 8:10, Matthew 23:37-39 & Luke 4:18-21 & Luke 19:42. But the fact that God blinded them to seeing the Messiah *does not mean* that God didn't give them free will—Every person is still fully responsible for their own choices, and in fact for their own blinded condition. Note that God did not blind *all* Jews... Any whose hearts were humble towards Him and who were truly seeking God, God responded to and were *not* blinded.

**Even though God had called both Terah & Abram to leave for the Promised Land (Canaan) from their home of Ur, they only travelled as far as the city of Charan (Haran) and settled there. In doing some brief research, I came across two meanings for the name Charan: One, “parched or barren” and two, “crossroads”.

Interesting... It seems Terah disobeyed God and got “waylaid” in Haran... (God says the rebellious live in a parched and barren land). Abram was his son and seems to have at first followed Terah's lead to Haran. It makes sense that it was God's will too, as He wouldn't have wanted Terah entering the Promised Land as an idolater. Charan apparently was the crossroads where Terah fell back permanently into that sin. *But* it seems that even though Dad Terah had picked the wrong “road”, Abram subsequently *left* his human father to follow *God's* road...

Chapter Four

The 70 7's of Daniel!

**“70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... So YOU ARE TO KNOW...THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.
“THEN AFTER THE 62 SEVENS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF ...”**

Have you been wondering about the last line: **“AFTER THE 62 SEVENS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF...”**? What does it mean by “cut off”?

When applied to a person, the term “cut off” in Hebrew almost always meant execution. Admittedly it *could* also mean banishment, or less specifically, sudden death—but **most commonly** it meant Capitol punishment!

There are several other Jewish Bible references to the death of the Messiah—but these are the two clearest (Isaiah 53 and Daniel 9).

This obviously confused the Rabbi's—How could the Messiah die? Because he was ALSO supposed to reign *forever* and bring in **everlasting** righteousness; and bring peace and prosperity to Jerusalem!

But were they Ready for Everlasting Righteousness?

How could God do the final PHYSICAL restoration of his people, without changing their HEARTS first? God's forgiveness and *spiritual* Kingdom are available now, through the Messiah! (And through the Holy Spirit, who radically changes people on the *inside!*) But His physical Kingdom will come only after great tribulation (and then rescue by the Lord)—A *humbling* of the Jewish people, which will finally bring repentance.

At any rate the scriptures WERE confusing, because when the Old Testament spoke of the Messiah, in one

place it said he would die; in another it said he would reign forever!

It's *understandable* that the Jewish leaders were confused! Many rabbis conjectured that there must be TWO Messiah's!! How *close* they were... But instead of **two** Messiahs, there would be **two comings** of **one Messiah!**

What have we established so far?

We've established that the Bible **predicted:**

1. The Messiah would die for man's sins.
2. He would not try to defend Himself, but would willingly lay down his life.
3. The Jews would reject their Messiah.
4. There's strong evidence for Jesus' Resurrection. (I presented only one of many evidences—that the apostles died for what they said they *saw with their own eyes*).
5. Both Jewish Temples would be destroyed, and that in the case of the second, "Not one Stone would be left upon another".
6. The ancient city of Tyre would be destroyed in a unique way.
7. The Jewish people would be scattered across the world and suffer great persecution.
8. They would survive as a national people against all odds.
9. They would be returned to their land against all odds.
10. Abraham, the first Jew of history and the Father of the Jewish faith—to whom the land of Israel was promised!—was born in Jewish Year 1948... and then Israel was **reborn** as a Jewish nation in 1948 Christian years (1948 A.D.)
11. No other World Religion has *anything close* to this kind of "track record" with prophecies!
12. In the end Jerusalem will be a "cup of trembling" and a "burdensome stone" to all the nations.

Additionally, there are *dozens upon dozens* of other examples of prophecies I could have given that have been literally fulfilled!

So now, DID Daniel Prophecy the year of Christ's Crucifixion?

"70 SEVENS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY... SO YOU ARE TO KNOW... THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.

To refresh your memory, here's what we've covered:

70 "Sevens" have been decreed for Jerusalem and the Israeli people—But we're focusing on 69 of the 70 "Sevens".

7 Sevens + 62 Sevens = 69 Sevens. We're assuming these "Sevens" are sevens of years. If so, 69×7 years = 483 years.

So from the time a decree is issued to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, **UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE**, is 483 years. This was prophesied indisputably hundreds of years before His birth!

The missing piece of info is:

WHEN was the Decree issued?

WHAT decree and WHEN? The Bible is very specific about this decree! It's in Nehemiah Chapter Two of the Old Testament. This was almost 100 years after the angel Gabriel had visited Daniel, and even though the Jews had been allowed to return home and had rebuilt their Temple, the city was still in shambles.

At this time, Nehemiah was a Jewish cupbearer to the Persian King (King Artaxerxes, king of a large Empire). Even though Nehemiah's position was technically one of a slave, it was a very privileged position—He was very close to Artaxerxes.

He was the one who tasted every drink before the King drank... The idea being that if it was poisoned, HE would die rather than the King! Might not **sound** like such a great job!—But—Nehemiah had to be near the King for long hours. And he was *highly trusted* (otherwise the cupbearer could perhaps slip his OWN poison into the King's drink *after* "testing" it).

Men from Jerusalem came to visit Nehemiah, and told him of Jerusalem's sad condition. Nehemiah was indeed very distraught over Israel, and he prayed and fasted and repented for his nation as Daniel had. This is Nehemiah's account of what happened next...

NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 2 (starting at verse 1):

AND IT CAME ABOUT IN THE MONTH OF NISAN, IN THE TWENTIETH YEAR OF KING ARTAXERXES, THAT WINE WAS BEFORE HIM, AND I TOOK UP THE WINE AND GAVE IT TO THE KING. NOW I HAD NOT BEEN SAD IN HIS PRESENCE.

SO THE KING SAID TO ME, "WHY IS YOUR FACE SAD THOUGH YOU ARE NOT SICK? THIS IS NOTHING BUT SADNESS OF HEART" ...

I SAID TO THE KING, "LET THE KING LIVE FOREVER. WHY SHOULD MY FACE NOT BE SAD WHEN THE CITY, THE PLACE OF MY FATHERS' TOMBS, LIES DESOLATE AND ITS GATES HAVE BEEN CONSUMED BY FIRE?"

THEN THE KING SAID TO ME, "WHAT WOULD YOU REQUEST?" SO I PRAYED TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN.

I SAID TO THE KING, "IF IT PLEASE THE KING, AND IF YOUR SERVANT HAS FOUND FAVOR BEFORE YOU, **SEND ME TO JUDAH (Jerusalem is in Judah), **TO THE CITY OF MY FATHERS' TOMBS, THAT I MAY REBUILD IT.**"**

THEN THE KING SAID... "WHEN WILL YOU RETURN?" SO IT PLEASED THE KING TO SEND ME...

AND I SAID TO THE KING, "IF IT PLEASE THE KING, LET LETTERS BE GIVEN ME FOR THE GOVERNORS OF THE PROVINCES BEYOND THE RIVER, THAT THEY MAY ALLOW ME TO PASS THROUGH UNTIL I COME TO JUDAH. AND A LETTER TO ASAPH THE KEEPER OF THE KING'S FOREST, THAT HE MAY GIVE ME TIMBER TO MAKE BEAMS FOR THE GATES OF THE FORTRESS WHICH IS BY THE TEMPLE, FOR THE WALL OF THE CITY AND FOR THE HOUSE TO WHICH I WILL GO." AND THE KING GRANTED THEM TO ME BECAUSE THE GOOD HAND OF MY GOD WAS ON ME.

AND ...THE KING HAD SENT WITH ME OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND HORSEMEN... (Underlining mine)

Finally! A Decree to Rebuild the City—
Including Even the Walls!

What an amazing thing! The emperor even granted permission to rebuild the *defense walls of the city!* That's pretty crazy! Other emperors had allowed the Jews to return, and had even *provided materials* to rebuild and beautify the *Temple*. But why would a world emperor allow them to rebuild their defense walls? As Nehemiah said, "The good hand of my God was upon me!"

It's the only decree that fits the description of Daniel's: "**IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS**". And it WAS rebuilt successfully without any halt, in spite of much trouble and opposition! (see Neh 3&4).

If you noticed, the date is CLEARLY GIVEN at the start of Neh Chapter 2, "**AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THE MONTH OF NISAN, IN THE 20TH YEAR OF KING ARTAXERXES...**"⁴⁵ Secular history is confident about the date of King Artaxerxes' reign (Artaxerxes Longimanus), which started in 464/465 B.C... So **the 20th year was 445 B.C.** (possibly one year off—there's minor variance possible⁴⁶ matching calendars of differing nations). But it's certain within a year or so.

So with the decree date established, we're now almost ready to make simple math calculations! (If you were to briefly figure it at this point, you'd see that it comes CLOSE, but not EXACTLY to the year of Christ's crucifixion... So hang in there for the home stretch!).

Let's reread part of the prophecy:

"...SO YOU ARE TO KNOW AND DISCERN THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS (7+62=69 sevens... 69x7=483 years)... IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS."

What's missing?

Calendar information! I'll assume you're not an expert on ancient calendars. So a short education is needed!

Calendars have varied radically at different times, in different cultures...

Especially in ancient civilizations—it *seems* many didn't know the exact LENGTH of a real solar year! And often, nations had both a SOLAR calendar AND a LUNAR calendar (which varied approx. 11 days in length each year!). Some **additionally** had a Religious calendar (the Mayans and the Egyptians had at least 3 differing calendars going at the same time!).

Even **today**, many Muslim countries use a Lunar calendar ONLY, and hence their years are only 354⁺ days long. No kidding. And they make **no** adjustments for the discrepancy between the Solar and Lunar year... So their months gradually "shift" thru the seasons! One year their month of "April" (their months have different names) will be in the spring; years later "April" will fall in the summer, then the fall, then winter, and back to spring again. Seems crazy to me!

But even OUR holidays get pretty crazy for the same reason. Did you ever wonder why different Easters can be a month apart? (Same thing with Passover, and Mardi Gras in New Orleans—because it's based on Ash Wednesday). The reason is because these holidays are based (partly) on a "shifting" LUNAR calendar. (I personally would prefer everything to be much more organized!).

So what if you were an all-knowing God? Would you want this prophecy to "work out" by one nation's calendar calculations, but not for another's? I assert not—And I assert that's (one reason) **why** God didn't specifically IDENTIFY the "Sevens" in the prophecy. Remember how a "Shabua" can mean 7 of anything—but usually refers time periods? We've naturally assumed God meant years; but in the following pages, you'll see how the Bible gets even more *specific!*

The truth is, **very** ancient cultures had a 360-day calendar. Kind of weird really—Before 400-800 B.C., *most all* ancient cultures had exact 30 day months—12 months to a year; a 360 day year.⁴⁷

And in the book of Genesis (the beginning of the Bible), this was the case. If you study Genesis 7:11, 7:24 & 8:3-4, you'll see they had consistent, 30 day long months.

So it shouldn't surprise us too much that the "time unit" the Sevens refers to is in fact a "year", but it's a 360-day year (twelve 30-day months). If this sounds "far-fetched" to you, keep reading—not only for what the Bible presents—but for **beyond-words-AMAZING** logical (and historical) explanation!

First, the less interesting Biblical explanation...

Bible scholars are well familiar with this 360 day "year" which they call a "Prophetic Year". But the Bible *specifically does not* call it a "year". (I assert this is

because God *knows* it's not the "real" length of a year!).

Nonetheless, if anyone wants to know the exact numbers of the Daniel Prophecy—regardless of what calendar their particular nation uses!—they can find the answer in the Bible. The Bible often *defines the Bible*.⁴⁸ God didn't want persons in one nation to have the answer, and others not...

So he gave the answer IN THE BIBLE to any serious student of prophecy! The natural assumption in the Daniel Prophecy is to figure years. And for *some* cultures, this would've worked out! For others, not quite. (Truly, there've been lots of different calendars through history!)

But if you study the Bible, you'll find that the Book of Daniel *speaks of a "Mystery Unit of Time"*. As a scholar you then search for explanation. You can find the month length clue in Genesis—but studying Daniel will take a Bible student over to Revelation where you'll find the real key. (I think it's interesting that God gives clue and definition both in the **first** & **last** books of the Bible!).

Both Daniel & Revelation speak of a "mystery unit of time"—Simply called, "a time". You'll find this in Daniel 7:24-26 & Daniel 12:1,6-7 (Daniel 11:30-36, Daniel 9:26-27 & Revelation 11:2-3 & 13:4-7 also tie in)⁴⁹ and in Revelation 12:6 & 12:14.

Revelation 12:6 & 12:14 define this "time" unit specifically for us.

Revelation 12:6 states that the "Woman⁵⁰ is nourished in the wilderness **FOR 1260 DAYS**".

Revelation 12:14 states that the Woman is "nourished in the wilderness" for

A TIME, TIMES (2 times⁵¹), **AND HALF A TIME**. That equals 3½ “times”.

She’s nourished for 1260 days
She’s nourished for 3½ “**TIMES**”.

So doing the simple algebra: 1260 Days=3½ “**TIMES**”
360 Days= 1 “**TIME**”

The **other scriptures** mentioned also speak of “3½ Times” (and call the 3½ Times: **42 months** (as well as **1260 days!**) They tie into this and affirm that the 3½ times are 3½ Years (but 360 day years). All have to do with ONE HALF of the “7 year tribulation” that’s at the end of time—when the Antichrist comes into power. (See the endnote if you’re interested in details)⁵²

For now, what’s important to understand is that the Bible speaks of a mystery unit of “**TIME**” (God had full **KNOWLEDGE** this was not the “real length” of a year, and so He didn’t call it a year—even though it **was** the time unit called a “year” in many ancient cultures!) And in the 70 Sevens of Daniel prophecy it’s obvious it’s referring to “time units”— but it doesn’t specifically identify the *type* of time unit! But here Revelation does, as it defines a “mystery unit” of “Time”! (And again, the other scriptures *tie into* the 70 Sevens prophecy and give abundant support to show that 3½ “times”=42 months=1260 days).⁵³

There’s **STILL** more to this than meets the eye that I’ll shortly explain—Fascinating historical information from various cultures all over the globe!—

But let’s first do the calculating...

(Because this “time unit” definition is further confirmed by the fact that it **WORKS OUT** to Jesus’ Year of Crucifixion!!)

So, here we go...

Ready to Calculate!

7 + 62 "sevens" (69x7=483 years)

483 x 360 days to a Biblical prophetic year, divided by our 365.24 day year=476 YEARS

(Here's the longer math:

69 x 7 years= 483 "years" x 360 days@ = 173,880 days

173,880 days ÷ 365¼ Modern days/year = 476 years)

So starting with the decree year of 445 B.C., and keeping in mind that there's no Year ZERO—(it goes straight from 1 B.C. to 1 A.D.), you come to 32 AD!!!! AMAZING!!

(476-445=31yrs left for A.D. plus Add 1 Year for no Year#0)

Now, I do have a confession to make. The truth is, the proof is only within 3 years.

The starting year could be one year off, and we're not absolutely certain of the year of Christ's death—it's disputed within a 3 year range—Some say He was crucified in the year 30 A.D... Some say 32 A.D., some say 33 A.D. So I can only PROVE it to you within 3 years.⁵⁴

But WHO ELSE EVEN BEGAN TO PROCLAIM or display Himself as the Messiah during that 3-year span of time?!

And I'm not finished yet! Keep reading, if you're still skeptical...

I know a "360 day year" may seem far fetched—Even if it WAS the length of a year in very ancient cultures...

But just wait until you read Chapter Five!!

It's the most interesting in the book.

CHAPTER FOUR ENDNOTES

⁴⁵ Keep in mind this specific Nehemiah Scripture, like Daniel's, was indisputably written hundreds of years before Christ. Even the "worst critics" don't dispute this, because it's in the Jewish Bible (not just the Christian) and multiple proofs exist for its B.C. authorship.

⁴⁶ Mostly concerning regnal years of Kings.

⁴⁷ Some later added 5 days to "catch up" with the solar year

⁴⁸ You'll often hear people say, "The Bible can be interpreted a dozen different ways!" And it's true that many people "twist" the Bible all kinds of ways! But if you *let it interpret itself*, you'll find interpretation to be much more consistent.

⁴⁹ See endnote #52 for those who want more than just a citation of scripture!

⁵⁰ Defining the "Woman" and what happens to her is beyond the scope of this book—Our focus is on this passage *defining* the length of a "time".

⁵¹ In the original language, the "times" had the sense of "dual" (two, a pair).
(Chuck Missler, "The 70 Weeks of Daniel")

⁵² This is for "Bible geeks"—I'd need to write a whole other book to thoroughly explain all this end time stuff! (but I will go into more details in the last chapter).

In each of these scriptures it's clear that it's talking about the end times 7 year period when the Antichrist is in power—but specifically the **second half** when the Antichrist exercises his power in blasphemous ways against the Jewish/Christian God (and God's people). ALL THESE SCRIPTURES are clearly talking about *the same events during the same time period*—Again, the second half of the Antichrist's dominion. Daniel 7:24-26 states this period lasts **a time, times, and half a time**... Daniel 12:1,6-7 states the same... Daniel 11:30-36 gives more details of what happens during this time... Revelation 13:4-7 gives yet more details AND says this period lasts **42 months**... Daniel 9:27 talks of the Antichrist making a "covenant" with many for one shabua (7 "years") (many call this the "false peace treaty"), but in **the middle of the shabua** (about the 3 ½ year mark) he'll put a stop to sacrifices (being made in the Jewish temple) and he'll bring in "abominations"... Jesus refers to this in Matthew 24:15. (Plus of course add the "woman in the wilderness" Revelation scriptures on Pages 51-52!)

Revelation 11:2-3 speaks also of only **one half** of the 7 "year" period, saying that it's **42 months** long and **1260** days long... In summary:

A time, times, & half a time = 3 ½ "times" = 42 months = 1260 days = half way thru a shabua

(Also, 12 months/year x 30 day months = a 360 day year x 3.5 years = 42 months = 1260 days)

⁵³ See endnote 52.

⁵⁴ Incidentally, some would argue that in ancient Judaic thinking, that close is close enough—in other words, even if it was a couple years off, that would be acceptable given the way they thought about time. And **additionally** in this case, because a shabua of years represented the seven year "Sabbath" cycle... What if King Artaxerxes decree came in the middle of a 7 year block? (In reference to the Sabbath Year). Then in that case, the first shabua would be complete after only a few years, then the next Sabbath "block" of 7 years started...

I personally believe the prediction came true *exactly*, however... The only reason it can't be proven is because the year of crucifixion is debated over.

By the way, the debate over Jesus' crucifixion year can't be *proven* one way or another (30A.D. vs. 33A.D.) Although lately more scholars lean towards the 30 A.D. date (which you'll see in several study Bibles), this forces a *less likely* interpretation of Luke 3:1, which clearly states that John the Baptist started preaching in the *15th Year* of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Tiberius started his reign as Caesar in 14 A.D., making the 15th year 29 A.D... (Jesus started His 3½ year ministry shortly after John's, which results in a 32 or 33A.D. crucifixion year). But since Tiberius was co-regent with Augustus Caesar for the last 2 years of Augustus' Reign, those who hold to a 30 A.D. crucifixion state that Tiberius' Reign can be construed to have started 2 years prior to the time he "took the throne" as Caesar. If this subject interests you, please read Harold W. Hoehner's book: [Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ](#).

Chapter Five

I Myself Wondered about this 360 day "year" business...

I have to admit, that bothered me some. Why didn't God use the "proper" solar year? Granted, it wouldn't work for all cultures, granted He had the knowledge not to CALL IT a year ... But the skeptic within me asked, "If He's going to define it in the Bible anyway, why didn't He define the SOLAR year?"

After pondering this, prayer and research, here are some thoughts.

First of all, the lunar year was VERY important in many ancient cultures. Even more so than the solar! They depended on it for any nighttime activity, it was their familiar "monthly time table", and, many nations had intense astrological beliefs about the moon. Still TODAY several nations only have a lunar calendar!

So a **common sense** reason God may have had to use a 360 day year is that it's halfway BETWEEN the length of a solar year and the length of a lunar year!

Additionally, it was and is not uncommon to have an ecclesiastical calendar that is different from the "regular" calendar.

But May I Present Another Theory?

Digging into the past we find some fascinating history. No conclusion is needed here—The fact is, the Bible defines a "Time" as a 360 day "year". This is so even if we don't know all the REASONS for it!

But have we considered the idea of a cosmological shift? What if the world *once had* a 360 day solar year? This may seem crazy at first, but consider the following...

Evidence of an Orbital shift...

The universe obviously shows radical astronomical evidence of change. Our solar system shows evidence of catastrophic events; the earth shows evidence of huge climate change. Scientists DON'T KNOW **WHAT** caused the ice age! And *before* the ice age, there's fascinating evidence of a *much* more tropical climate than today.

The 2004 Tsunami/Earthquake even changed the Earth's rotation slightly—Why couldn't there have been a more MAJOR disruption of the Earth's orbit in past history?

What Does History Show?

Much history shows that man had 30 day months, and a 360 day year, *across the globe*.

The Assyrians, the Greeks, the Phoenicians, the Teutons, the Mayans⁵⁵, the Hindus, the Chinese, the Egyptians, the Hebrews, the Carthaginians, the Etruscans—ALL of them, at one time, had 30 day months, 360 day years!⁵⁶

WHY?

In fairly ancient history, they added 5 extra days (or a leap month!) to "catch up" with the solar calendar...

But where'd they come up with the idea of the 30 day month, 360 day year to begin with?

Scholars from Webexhibits.org/calendars state that ALL ANCIENT calendars were 360 day years (and most had 30 day months)—It wasn't until about 800 B.C. that nations *started* to correct their calendars. VERY INTERESTING!

A 30 day Lunar Month?

It doesn't make sense to think that a lunar oriented people would "round" their months to 30 days. If they had **ROUNDED** all months to 30, within only a few months the moon would no longer *line up* with the months! It would defeat the purpose. (The present day lunar month is 29.53 days long, so lunar months vacillate between 29 and 30 days in length).

So important was the lunar month length, that priests and astronomers would study the moon and **ANNOUNCE** when the new moon (and hence the new month) had begun! It was *essential* to these cultures that had no nighttime electricity (and often, heavy astrological beliefs). (A half-day rounding doesn't *seem* like much, but it's radical, because within only a few months the moon would no longer "line up" with the calendar! And within several months there'd be no point to the lunar calendar at all!)

"And Get This"

ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE there seems to be **SURPRISE** over a **change** in the length of the lunar month!⁵⁷

What Happened?

The fact is, many cultures *changed* from a 30 day lunar month to lunar months that vacillated between 29 & 30 days in length.

Here's what lunar cultures **CALLED** the 29-day months*:

The Hebrews called the 29 day months: Deficient
The Celts called the 29 day months: Unlucky
Babylon called the 29 day months: Defective
The Greeks called the 29 day months: Hollow
(The Mayans called the 5 Extra Days: Unlucky)
(The difference between a 360 day and a 365 day year)

Is that not odd?!

See endnotes for source information

What did the Romans say?...

The Romans had a myth to explain an apparent change in the year's length! Quoting from Plutarch:

"They say that the Sun, when he became aware of Rhea's intercourse with Cronus, invoked a curse upon her that she should not give birth to a child in any month or year; but Hermes, being enamoured of the goddess, consorted with her. Later, playing at draughts with the moon, he won from her the seventieth part of each of her periods of illumination, and from all the winnings he composed five days, and intercalated them as an addition to the 360 days."⁵⁸

(In other words, the Solar calendar got 5 of the Moon's days!)

→This is correct in explaining the possible cosmological shift I'm proposing!)

How interesting!

Quoting also from Plutarch, a Roman historian—the belief at the time of the founding of Rome was that the year length was 360 days: "...during the reign of Romulus...(they) held to this principle only, that the year should consist of three hundred and sixty days."⁵⁹

They did correct the calendar, by adding 5 days, but another researcher confirmed, "So completely were these five days considered by the Romans to be something extraneous, that the soldier appears to have received pay only for 360 days".⁶⁰

What about the Egyptians?

The Egyptians were the "astronomical experts" of their day. What did they have to say about all this?

They also had a 360 day year, and later added the 5 extra days. The Egyptians, too, had a myth to "explain" the extra days, "The myth of Nut"!

"...Nut, the sky goddess, had been unfaithful to her husband, Re, the sun god. In retribution, Re decreed that she should bear a child in no month of no year.' But Nut's lover Thoth played dice with the moon and won five days a year. Because these days were outside the calendar, Re's decree did not apply. "*61

Again in this myth, 5 days are "taken" from the moon!

In China...

In the 4th Century B.C., the Chinese CHANGED the division of their Zodiac circle from 360 degrees to 365 degrees 15 minutes.*62

The Indian (Hindu) Religious calendar was ALSO based on a 360 day, 30 day month calendar (no surprise). But here's what's especially interesting about it: The length of each lunar day is based on 12 degrees of longitudinal movement of the moon past the longitude of the sun.*63

In other words, it's based on what was apparently once OBSERVED IN THE SKY and MEASURED!

Hindus divided the 360 degrees in a circle by 12 degrees; this month had 30 "tithis" (lunar days). They ALSO divided the Solar month into 30 parts!*64 They even yet continue to use this "tithi framework"...

And in the ancient "cradle of civilization", Genesis also shows consistent, 30 day months.⁶⁵

Go to www.12x30.net to find more evidence for this possible CHANGE in the Earth's Calendar! Check out their "360 - A Trial" page.

In Conclusion...

Wow! There's no way to *prove* a 360 day solar year in history. And you can certainly explain away the myths as simply a "cover" for their miscomputing the year length to begin with.

But ancient cultures were much closer to nature than we are—they studied (and pondered upon) the night skies. They depended on the moon for nighttime hunting and labor.

It's a little hard to fathom them so seriously miscalculating the length of the year...

But what's *incomprehensible* is the idea of them miscalculating the length of the lunar MONTH. That proposition seems impossible.

How interesting that cultures *across the globe* call those 29-day months "deficient" "unlucky" "defective" & "hollow"!! Could it have originally been a 360 day year?

It's an interesting thing to consider!

And finally, on the more Spiritual Side...

a 360 degree circle/a 360 day year.
12 sectors of 30 Degrees/12 months of 30 days
The Solar and Lunar Cycles in the Mathematical
And Geometric Perfection of a Holy God⁶⁶

... the perfect holy solar system of God."⁶⁷

There would be no more leap days—Perfect 30 day months, 12 to a year; an even 360 day year (Certainly if God DID create the solar system, such organization is possible, and perhaps, preferential!*)

To a skeptic, however, I realize this seems pretty "out there!" And conjecturing what God's "perfect geometric solar system" may be proves nothing. However, you might ask WHERE did the 360 degree circle come from?

It came from ancient times and was USED for (and probably created for) astrology/astronomy circles! It was

*And it would make sense that he considers our current solar calendar to be a distortion of the original creation, so He continues to "count" in 360 day years when it comes to His prophecies!

BASED upon the heavens! 360 degrees for the 360 days!⁶⁸ And 30 degree sectors for the 30 day months. They STUDIED the heavens continually. Could they have been that far off?

And finally, in the 21st Century, Ion Scientist Guy Cramer gives mathematical/astronomical support for this theory⁶⁹ I've been presenting.

Discussing the possibility of Earth's orbit (around the sun) slowing down...

If Earth's ancient orbiting speed was slowed from 30.22379 km/s to our current 29.79 km/s, this would cause (the old) 360 day year to change to 365.24. What's interesting is that the *lunar month would automatically* change at the same time—From (the old) 30 days to (the current) 29½ days! (As the moon gets "drug along" while the earth is orbiting, the moon's orbiting gets automatically affected **in this ratio!**)⁷⁰

*(See <http://www.direct.ca/trinity/360vs365.html> for more details!)

In Conclusion...

If God **did** indeed originally create the Earth to have 360 days, I also assert that the Earth will be restored, once again, to a 360 day year!* And that would also explain why God includes the Definition of a "Time" in the book of **Revelation!** *(Some think it could revert during the time of the Tribulation).

Regardless of your thoughts

on a possible change in our orbit, the fact is that the Bible specifies a 360 day "prophetic year". Is this because God considers our present solar year to be a distortion of His original calendar? Is it simply that 360 days is *half way between* the length of the modern solar year and lunar year? Did the earth have once had a more "symmetrical" orbit? Eternity will tell!

And Now, back to the Point...

Let me once again, present the prophecy under discussion in this book:

“SO YOU ARE TO KNOW...THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM, UNTIL MESSIAH THE PRINCE, THERE WILL BE 7 SEVENS AND 62 SEVENS; IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS...

This is not a vague prophecy. For instance, it is not like most of Nostradamus' prophecies, which are so vague, cryptic and numerous they can be (uncritically) applied to almost any event in history!

(If Nostradamus interests you, or if you mistakenly believe he predicted 9-11 because of false media info, see the last endnote in this book).

It's straightforward. Specific. Specific numbers. Numerical terms that *made sense* to the people prophesied to—normal, everyday Hebrew.

Not just Biblical history, but secular history also supports its specifics. The King who issued the decree? You can find him in history books with the dates of his reign. The Messiah in question? Secular history also supports the approximate year of Jesus' crucifixion.

I did admit I could only prove it within 3 years. But again, who else even began to proclaim or display Himself as the Messiah during that 3-year span of time?! Who else changed history, changed our calendar, changed nations... Still so radically changes lives? Sure, many have made a bad name for Christianity—but *true* Christianity always changes lives for the *better*. And here you have strong evidence that Christ's sacrifice for us was pre-planned by God. If proof within 3 years isn't good enough, what would it take?⁷¹

Remember when I asked, "If the Bible did in fact predict that Jesus would die for our sins... And yet live!... And furthermore predicted Jesus' Year of Crucifixion... Would that not be evidence of a

supernatural plan? Check your heart... How would you react if it WAS true?"

That's a very good question. Because you know what? It's really about your HEART. He **has** given you sufficient evidence. (And I will provide MUCH MORE evidence than just these prophecies in the pages to come!).

But the question looms—Where is your heart at? Do you want to know your Creator?

God loves you radically. He came to pay the price for your sins against Him with His own blood.

If you're not sure if you've sinned against God, ask yourself a few questions. Have you ever told a lie? What does that make you? (Think about it a moment)^{72a}

The correct answer is a liar. OK. Have you ever stolen anything—no matter how small—change from your Mom's purse, a candy bar from the drugstore, time from your employer... anything? (Think about it). What does that make you? (A thief).

Next, have you ever taken the name of the Lord "in vain"—used His Name as a curse word; a way to express disgust? (Jesus! Jesus Christ!). God calls that blasphemy...and why would you do it? Why would you use His name (of all things) to express disgust?

Finally, Jesus said that if you look at a woman (or man) to lust for her, you've already committed adultery with them in your heart. Guilty?

That's just 4 out of 10 of the 10 Commandments. And already, by your own admission, are you not a lying thief with an adulteress heart who has blasphemed God?

This is not surprising, because God said mankind **together** would become corrupt. It's hard to think of

^a What would you call me if I told *you* a lie?

things as wrong when “everyone’s doing it”. But God doesn’t grade on a curve. One day you will stand before a holy God.

Yet He offers you His mercy, because no matter how you’ve sinned against Him, He still loves you. He offers you grace—His undeserved favor. Innocence in spite of your guilt because His Son paid your price. Furthermore you can know this God of mercy—He wants you to know Him, talk to Him—*Experience* Him. But there’s one catch.

*You can’t know Him, unless you’re willing to **submit** to Him.*

God is not a “good luck charm” or Someone there just to pray to for **things**. Nor is He there just so you can “get what you want out of life”.

He IS there to heal your heart (to deliver your heart from evil, to heal the pain and to fill the **hole**). He IS there to love you beyond your wildest imagination.

BUT...

He’s God. You don’t get to set the rules. You have to come to Him on His terms. *You are **Separated** from God until you come to Him on His terms.* (I’ll speak more on this in the first Appendix).

God says that even if men know the “factual truth” about Him, most still are not willing to give Him their lives.

In fact He says the heart of man is “desperately wicked” when it comes to their *attitude* towards God. People prefer to be their OWN Gods.

But Jesus can fix your heart. Are you willing to come to Him? He rose from the dead to show that He can raise You from the dead. Do you want to receive God’s forgiveness?

If today is your day to ask God into your life, then try saying the following prayer:

(Prayer is nothing but talking to God. I promise you, He hears you).

(If you're not ready for this, skip to the next Chapter—There's much more to come! & Don't miss the Appendixes!)

Dear God,

I know that I have sinned against You: That I've done things wrong in life—Some that I knew were wrong, some that I didn't—but they were still breaking your laws. God, please forgive me of every sin I've ever committed.

Wash me clean, and give me new life! You said that Jesus died for my sins, and that if I believe in Him, that He died for me and that He rose from the dead, that I will have eternal life. Please show me the truth about you and about all that Jesus has done for me. Please come into my heart, and change me into what You want me to be. I place my life before You, and I give you the honor due to you as God, My Creator. Please show me how real you are! And I thank you for saving me! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

If you have just said that prayer from a sincere heart, I promise you your life is going to be radically different. You will KNOW God—You'll have a real **relationship** with Him!

Keep pouring your heart out to Him, and start to read the Bible. Read either Mark or John to begin, and then the whole New Testament (plus Genesis and maybe "a Psalm a day"... Maybe also "a Proverb a day"...)

Ask God to lead you to the right church, too. A good church is often hard to find...But it's important to have friendship with other Christians. Yet always let the Bible and the Holy Spirit be your first Teachers! Many preachers—even well intentioned ones—have gone awry (especially many of the TV preachers!) So learn from God first. It will be an EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE!!!

And write to us to tell us about it! We'd LOVE to hear if you found God from reading this, and we'd love to answer any questions you might have. We can also send you some free materials! Our E-mail is michaelsrose1@juno.com Or just e-mail thru our website: www.soncatchers.com (Our very slow mailing address is: Son Catchers, 2505 N. Ringwood Rd, McHenry, IL 60050).

P.S. If you "winced a little" at calling God your Creator, because you don't know how evolution fits in to all of this, please request a free book on evolution from us!

CHAPTER FIVE ENDNOTES

⁵⁵ The Mayans only had the 360-day year—Not the 30 day months.

⁵⁶ Chuck Missler, Video: The 70 Weeks of Daniel, Khouse.org, plus see sources in endnotes the next few pages.

* ⁵⁷ The Following quotes on this and the next 3 pages are from www.12x30.net (with source citations given from many published books on calendars—See next few page's endnotes).

Plus other calendar sites refer to the "names" different cultures gave to the 29-day months, including Webexhibits.org/calendars (scholarly sources include Claus Tondering, author of Calendar FAQ (1997)) & Friesian.com/calendar.htm

⁵⁸ Plutarch. "Isis and Osiris". Section 12 (c. A.D. 80) Translated by Frank C. Babbit. Cited by www.12x30.net/360.html

I also find it **interesting** that this calculation requires a 70th in its arithmetic...

⁵⁹ Plutarch. (c. A.D. 75) Translated by Bernadotte Perrin. "Lives, the Life of Numa". Cited by www.12x30.net/360.html

⁶⁰ Key, Thomas Hewitt "Calendarium". Cited by www.12x30.net/360.html

⁶¹ Goudsmit, Samuel A. "Time". New York: Time Incorporated, 1966 P 69. Cited by www.12x30.net/360.html

⁶² Parise, Frank. Editor. "The Book of Calendars". New York: Facts On File, Inc. P. 126. Cited by www.12x30.net/360.html

⁶³ Doggett, L.E. "Calendars". Sausalito, California 94965: University Science Books. Cited by www.12x30.net/360.html

⁶⁴www.12x30.net/360.html "A Fictional Trial"

⁶⁵ The Bible, See Genesis 7:11, 7:24 & 8:3-4

* All starred items pp. 54-56 are from www.12x30.net

⁶⁶ endtimepilgrim.org/70wks4.htm

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ wonderquest.com/circle.htm (a weekly science column site)

⁶⁹ See <http://www.direct.ca/trinity/360vs365.html> for more details!

⁷⁰ In Isaiah 38:8 God told King Hezekiah He would bring the shadow on the sundial of Ahaz ten degrees (or steps) backwards. This happened at the start of the same time period when cultures started "correcting" their calendars! But I'm not sure if this is related, or rather a totally separate event... The cosmological change might have occurred much earlier in history (perhaps even as a result of the flood?)—But tradition is "hard to change" and they had such a nice, even numbered calendar.

They might have intercalated (added in extra months or days to “catch up” with the solar calendar) for a long time, rather than changing the actual calendar...

By the way... Even though there's evidence for great planetary disturbance in our solar system in the past, nonetheless, if **God** only slowed the Earth's orbiting speed, He *could* do it in a way that wouldn't cause disruption... see <http://www.direct.ca/trinity/orbital.html> (which also discusses the possibility of more than one change to our year's length in the Earth's history).

⁷¹ How explicit do you expect the proof to be of something that happened 2000 years ago? Is not the evidence strong?

⁷² What would you call me if I told you a lie?

Chapter Six

There's still more for me to share about the 70 7's of Daniel prophecy, and, about what's yet to come! But...

For the Still Skeptical:

If there are any particular doubts or questions you have about "all this Jesus stuff", we'd love to hear from you! Check out our addresses—in front of the book.

And,

Think about this. If there's even a 10% chance that the words Jesus spoke were true, and He really WAS the Messiah, and He really DID die for YOUR sins... Isn't it wisdom to at least CONSIDER the idea? ⁷³

Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?

Jesus claimed to be Lord.⁷⁴ Was He a Liar? Was He a Lunatic? If so, He's fooled a whole lot of people! He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" and "No one comes to the Father except through Me". What if His words mean *just what they seem to plainly say?*

-- See Appendix #1 to see how other religions fit in.

I Just Can't Believe it's Real...

If it just seems unreal to you, or you feel you CAN'T consider believing—perhaps because of evolution⁷⁵—or for whatever reason, please see this chapter's endnotes!

-- If you're not sure that Jesus really did speak the words recorded, see Appendix #1 & #3

Are we done with the 70 Seven's Prophecy?

This book would be "amiss" if I didn't share one other important detail about the 70 Sevens of Daniel.

Daniel's prophecy stated **when** the Messiah would come. This could've meant His **birth** date, it could have meant the time of His **ministry**, it could have meant His **crucifixion** date (that being His number one *purpose* in coming)...

But consider the following:

There's an Englishman, Sir Robert Anderson, who intensively studied this prophecy, including its detailed chronological aspects, for much of his life. He wrote a book on it called "The Coming Prince". He insisted he could prove not only the exact year, but in fact the exact DAY of the Messiah's coming (forecast in Daniel).

Sir Anderson asserted that he could prove the prophecy's fulfillment was several days BEFORE the day of crucifixion... On the day, the ONLY day, that Jerusalem publicly acknowledged Jesus as their King!

What Christians call "Christ's Triumphant Entry" to Jerusalem, now celebrated as Palm Sunday, was the *only time* Jesus was publicly acknowledged as the Messiah by much of the Jewish people. He came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey colt as the Jewish Scriptures prophesied (Zechariah 9:9).

The following is the account from Matt 21:7-9, Mark 11:7, Luke 19:40, & John 12:12:

"The disciples brought the colt to Jesus, and laid their coats on it; and He sat on it. Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road.

The crowd going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David;
Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord;
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David;
Hosanna in the highest!"

(And when certain religious leaders told Jesus to command the people to stop, Jesus said, "If these keep quiet, the stones will cry out!")

This happened a week before His crucifixion ...

Why am I bringing this up?

Daniel's prophecy only stated, "THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM until MESSIAH THE PRINCE" there would be a certain length of time (expressed in shabuas). Again, the fulfillment could have been His birth, the time of His ministry or His crucifixion date.

But note in the prophecy that it's for the Jewish people & Jerusalem: "**70 SHABUAS HAVE BEEN DECREED FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY...SO YOU ARE TO KNOW AND DISCERN THAT FROM THE ISSUING OF A DECREE...**"

This is especially important when you get to the last (End Time) "seven" of the prophecy—The 70th Seven. But even for Jesus' first coming—In that the prophecy is specifically for the Jews!—Isn't it especially appropriate that its fulfillment would be the day He was *publicly acknowledged* as the Messiah in Jerusalem?! (Although this was short lived... Many were quite fickle in their affections, and not all participated in honoring Him (certainly not many of the religious leaders!), and when He was crucified the hopes of many were dashed...)*

*Due to the lack of public knowledge of Isaiah 53 and other scriptures, that SAID He would die... And yet live!!→(Isaiah 53:10-11, Psalm 16:10)

But didn't the scriptures SAY He would be killed? Even present day Jewish rabbis (if pressed) will admit that in the past, Jewish scribes thought there would be 2 Messiahs; one, "the Suffering Servant",⁷⁶ and the other "the Conquering King" ...

If only they could have seen! But it was "not their time".⁷⁷

Many of the Religious Leaders...

By the time of Jesus, the religious leaders seemed to only be looking for a Kingdom that fit their desires, their preconceived ideas, or their political motives⁷⁸ ...

And after Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of Jerusalem, He wept over the city saying,

“JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, WHO KILLS THE PROPHETS AND STONES THOSE WHO ARE SENT TO HER! HOW OFTEN I WANTED TO GATHER YOUR CHILDREN TOGETHER, THE WAY A HEN GATHERS HER CHICKS UNDER HER WINGS, AND YOU WERE UNWILLING.

“BEHOLD, YOUR HOUSE IS BEING LEFT TO YOU DESOLATE!

“FOR I SAY TO YOU, FROM NOW ON YOU WILL NOT SEE ME UNTIL THE TIME COMES WHEN YOU SAY, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”

(Matt 23:37-39)

AND JESUS ALSO SAID TO JERUSALEM :

“IF THOU HAD KNOWN, EVEN THOU, AT LEAST IN THIS THY DAY, THE THINGS WHICH BELONG UNTO THY PEACE! BUT NOW THEY ARE HID FROM YOUR EYES... YOU DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE TIME OF YOUR VISITATION.”

(Luke 19:42-44)(Underlining mine).

In Conclusion...

Even though I’ve titled this book in reference to the year of crucifixion (which it is),⁷⁹ I believe the true **day** that Daniel 9 pointed to, rather, was Palm Sunday!⁸⁰

The rest of this Chapter is mostly for the “analytical and detail-minded” (or those with questions like: “What about Cyrus’ decree?). You can skip to the bottom of page 79 if you’d like!

Wrapping up the Daniel Prophecy, for now...

I should note, that the WHOLE prophecy of Daniel 9 (including the Last “Seven”, which is at the end of time) is much more difficult to understand than the part we’ve covered. There’s an unspecified gap of time between the 69 sevens and the 70th Seven (Jesus’ first coming and second coming).⁸¹

But for the part we covered—the specifics of Jesus’ first coming—the prophecy has been fairly straightforward, as you have seen. So why doesn’t “everyone know” about it? Many Christians aren’t even aware of it, let alone the general public! And didn’t God want the Jews who were counting to know when the Messiah would come?

Really, these are 2 separate questions. Let’s start with the first:

“Why doesn’t everyone know about it today?”

Part of the answer seems obvious... Although the prophecy is a straightforward, “From A until B” sort of prediction, the 70 Sevens are a little difficult to explain to an American! YOU understand it now—and can see that with some Hebrew education it’s simple—But that’s after reading a book on it!

(And then ADD the 360-day “year!” Obviously, this takes time to explain and an open ear...)

Which brings me to a famous quotation...

The French philosopher & physicist Blaise Pascal, who strongly believed in the Christian God, once spoke these words of wisdom:

“God has given sufficient evidence to those whose hearts are open, but (evidence) sufficiently vague so as *not* to compel those whose hearts are closed.”

The Bible also TELLS us that God *cloaks* knowledge of Himself to those who are not humbly seeking Him. (And if you **are** humbly seeking Him, and if you “Call upon the Name of the Lord”, He will answer you without you knowing about any of His prophecies!)

What about those who were "Counting"...

And who SAW His Miracles?

There were many in the days of Jesus who seemed to be looking for the Messiah! But the "average Joe" probably didn't even know the date of the decree, and many people (then, as today!) relied upon what the "leaders" told them.

The religious leaders were looking for a *political* King! And in many ways, Jesus didn't fit their pictures.

Jesus did remarkable miracles to authenticate Himself. But if your heart wasn't in the right place, even that wasn't enough...

In fact the religious leaders claimed some of His miracles were from Satan!⁸² And when Jesus did miraculous healings, instead of a change of heart, they exclaimed how WRONG it was that Jesus did the miracles on the Sabbath! Jesus threatened their positions, and He strongly rebuked them publicly. It's "kind of no wonder" they didn't like Him. But He only rebuked them BECAUSE He knew their hearts...

What about the Commonfolk?

Many followed Jesus! But many also fell away, when His expectations went beyond their desire or their understanding. Jesus said many followed Him only because of the miracles and the food. So He "upped the ante", and only His true disciples initially remained.

Even for the "common folk" miracles weren't enough. The fact is God's miracles, when He's chosen to display His Power, *have never consistently produced a faithful heart.*

Matter of fact, one day Jesus miraculously healed 10 lepers. Only ONE came back to thank Him. "He threw Himself at Jesus feet, giving thanks to Him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one

found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (Luke 17:16-18)

Isn't that amazing? But it's the **common** state, truthfully of man's heart. Do you thank Him for your food? For your life?

In the days of Egypt and the wandering in the desert, God had shown the Jews (His people) incredible miracles! Often DAILY miracles! But it didn't change their hearts. They still strayed from Him. They still lacked faith and faithfulness to God.

What is your heart's attitude towards Him? Do you think if you saw a miracle THAT would make the difference?... Then you might ask:

"Are you seeking God's *hand*, or are you seeking His *heart*?"⁸³

Were they expecting Jesus THEN because of Daniel Chapter 9?

I don't know the answer to that question. I do know that those who were following God the Father recognized Jesus the Son. (They didn't *need* to compute the 69 "Sevens"!).

But I also know there are some things that may have confused them regarding the prophecy.

Four Decrees Altogether

3 Decrees had gone forth before **THE DECREE** in Nehemiah. In the "over-excitement" to read too much into current events, some started counting at the wrong decrees.⁸⁴

Cyrus had issued a decree—but it was only for the Temple (and gave permission for Jews to return to Jerusalem to live if they desired); but it was not to restore the whole city nor for the defense walls. *And in spite of his decree, Jewish labor was stopped even on the Temple.*

Later Darius issued a decree of permission for them to resume the building—but again, only of the Temple.

King Artaxerxes (Longimanus) also issued a decree for *beautification of the Temple*, 13 years prior⁸⁵ to **THE** decree. Even though it was specifically for the Temple, since it encouraged more people to return to live in Israel, AGAIN people read “too much into it”*--thinking that was another way of decreeing a rebuilding of the city.*

I can “sort of see” that argument (which would have applied in Cyrus’ decree also). But the fact is, none of those 3 decrees were specifically to **RESTORE & REBUILD JERUSALEM** (including the **DEFENSE WALL**), but rather, were only for the Temple. Furthermore, in each case the city did NOT get rebuilt. The prophecy stated: **IT WILL BE BUILT AGAIN, WITH PLAZA AND WALL, EVEN IN TIMES OF DISTRESS.** Artaxerxes’ decree given to Nehemiah is the decree that FITS. It fulfilled the prophecy in SPECIFIC ways (that the others didn’t).

But it’s understandable, because of the three other decrees, that there’s been some confusion concerning this prophecy⁸⁶ over the centuries. And again—in the “over-excitement” to read too much into current events—some people started counting at the wrong decrees.

This kind of error of course has continued throughout history. It’s given biblical prophecy “a bad name” as many have set dates for the return of Jesus, which of course have failed. Clearly the Bible states we won’t know the exact day of Jesus’ return.⁸⁷

But God DOES say we’ll know the season—and it certainly SEEMS to be approaching. Do we have 10 years left? 20 or 30? Perhaps even hundreds? We don’t know for sure—but one thing’s certain. YOU will be entering eternity within less than 100 years. Will

you be ready to meet your Maker? If you're not certain, you CAN BE!!

Will God veil knowledge of Himself to you? At the end, when the Antichrist comes, God says most will not recognize him. Because the Antichrist will come with:

“POWER AND SIGNS AND FALSE WONDERS, AND WITH ALL THE DECEPTION OF WICKEDNESS FOR THOSE WHO PERISH, *BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH SO AS TO BE SAVED.*

FOR THIS REASON *GOD WILL SEND UPON THEM A DELUDING INFLUENCE SO THAT THEY WILL BELIEVE WHAT IS FALSE, IN ORDER THAT THEY ALL MAY BE JUDGED WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THE TRUTH BUT TOOK PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.*

(2Thessalonians 2:9-12) (Underlining mine).

There are other places, too, in Scripture where God says men *suppress* knowledge about Him because they enjoy their sin. Please don't be one of the many who will be deceived!

God does *not want* you to perish, but rather desires that you come to repentance. He **wants** to save you!

Repentance means turning with your life to God. Turning away from your life of sin→to a life of following God. If you do that, the Father of all Creation will run to meet you!

(Note: This does not mean you have to “get your act together” in order to come to Him. Quite the contrary... The Bible teaches that you really *can't* live a life that pleases God *without His help.*

Think of it this way. Do you wash your hands before you get into the shower? Not usually. Coming to God is just like that. You just “get in”. Jesus is the soap and He is the water!)

If you'd like to ask Him into your life, cry out from your heart to God! (There's a prayer on Page 68 that can help guide you).

CHAPTER SIX ENDNOTES

⁷³*You may not know this, but You have sinned against God every day of your life. You NEED His forgiveness. Without His forgiveness, when you stand before Him on Judgment Day, it will be a terrifying Day. You'll be standing before the God that you rejected.

He asks, "Why will you choose death? Why won't you choose life?" The Bible says He wishes that NOT ONE would perish, but that all would come to repentance. He loves you. But He gives you free will.

(*WHY would a loving God send people to hell? Please write to us for the answer to that difficult question. But it's NOT His desire that you go there.)

The idea of praying may seem crazy to you. But could you take the risk? Just imagine for a moment that there MIGHT be a God... Would you at least be willing to ask Him, "Are you real?" "Was Jesus really the Messiah?" "Do you love me and want me to repent?"

⁷⁴ If you're not sure that Jesus really did speak the words recorded, see Appendixes #1 & #3.

⁷⁵ To the EVOLUTIONIST: I assert that you've probably not read the scientific evidence against evolution. Can you consider yourself to be educated on the matter without at least READING the counter evidence? We'd be happy to send you free books!

→P.S. If you've only read about Creation Science from an evolutionist's or a secular textbook's point of view, please **Trust Me** that you have not heard the real arguments or evidence! (Especially if you've read "15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense"—→this is dishonest scholarship which *misrepresents* what Creation Scientists teach, and which *ignores* (or sidesteps) Creation Scientists' strongest arguments).

Nonetheless, you can find God, even if you do believe in evolution (some Christians who "blend" religion with popular science, think that God directed evolution, and that Adam & Eve were the first to have fully evolved into humans, and at that point God put a spirit into them. (God directing evolution certainly seems much more feasible than evolution happening by sheer *chance!*)

⁷⁶ Messiah Ben Joseph, the suffering Messiah & Messiah Ben David, the conquering King!

⁷⁷ But many nonetheless DID see—The original church, for a short period of time, was ALL Jewish! So the religious leaders threw people out of the Temple ("ex-communication") if they became a follower of Jesus. And they persecuted the new (Jewish) Christians... So many fled and "spread the gospel" elsewhere. Gradually, Christianity became a "Gentile" (non-Jewish) religion.

⁷⁸ In fact, Jewish history shows that during the 2nd Temple period, there was a serious problem with the priests! A few priests only served for lengthy periods*--Yochanan for 80 years, Shimon for 40, & Ishmael for 10*. The rest? In 290 years, there were 298 priests!* Priests kept dying in the "Holy of Holies!" * (This was where God's Presence was). It's recorded that they would tie a rope around the priest's ankle so

they could pull him out if God struck him dead, which apparently happened year after year! *(see Jewish site (promoting Judaism) that speaks of the Priesthood's Corruption- www.Aish.com See Part 25: The Second Temple Period of their "Crash Course in Jewish History").

⁷⁹ It is in reference to "today's" calendar—But in terms of the 360 day years, chronologist Harold Hoehner demonstrates that the triumphant entry finished off the 69th shabua—and the crucifixion occurred in the 1st week of the next year. [Note: Hoehner asserts, however, a one year difference from Sir Anderson's in the Decree Year (a possibility previously discussed in this book), ending with 33 A.D. as Christ's crucifixion year]. (See endnote #54 for info on Hoehner & his book).

⁸⁰ In that the *proof* is only within 3 years, I can't be dogmatic about this...

I have to also concede that the prophecy *might* have been pointing to the time of his ministry (the 3 years immediately preceding His crucifixion, or also possibly pointing to a 30AD Crucifixion Year). Reason? There's one more slant on all this to add:

Central to the concept of a shabua (7 years) was its *Sabbath* year. Think about the following. Suppose the decree of Artaxerxes given to Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem was given in, say, year 4 of that Shabua. In that case (as an example) *it could easily make sense* that one would count that as the first shabua—even though there was only 3 years left to complete it! This "buys" a few more years of flexibility... But read Sir Anderson's book! (and Hoehner's (mentioned in immediately preceding endnote).

Either way, the prophecy was fulfilled as predicted!

⁸¹ See endnote #25

⁸² Recorded repeatedly in the New Testament; but also in the Talmud: the Jewish leaders said He was a sorcerer (So they're admitting that His actions seemed supernatural! See footnote #118...)

⁸³ Also, check out file #Y126 @ <http://www.direct.ca/trinity/> (Very thought provoking article on miracles)

⁸⁴ In fact I read (as a result) that Rabbi's are instructed (In the Talmud?) NOT to study the Daniel 9 Prophecy (or prophecies about the TIME of the coming of the Messiah)—Because they might be disappointed... But nonetheless some Rabbi's have studied anyway—And found Jesus! Because they realized the Messiah must have *already* come!...

⁸⁵ This decree was also "leaned on" as THE (supposed) Decree and has been taught on by many Christian teachers! Why? It's obvious, when standing next to the decree to Nehemiah, that it's incomplete in its details. BUT there was a "way to argue" for it, as stated. And more importantly, perhaps, because it seemed to "work out!" Note it was only 13 years prior to Nehemiah's decree... Counting in regular SOLAR years—rather than 360-day years—it works out to the start of Jesus' ministry! So you can certainly see why people believed it was the one. Maybe God even *specifically arranged* for this decree to be in history, because many wouldn't have understood about the 360-day year...

⁸⁶ See 2 preceding endnotes.

⁸⁷ And for unbelievers His Return will come as "a thief in the night".

Chapter Seven

“Armageddon”

Finally, "The End of Time"...

Talk about the "End of Time" is popular today in our culture. Even among the non-religious, many enjoy a good "Armageddon" movie!

But what's REALLY to come? Has not the Bible proven its prophecies again & again? If so, then shouldn't we take seriously what it says is **yet** to come?

The world certainly is now *capable of* "self-destructing" (with nuclear weaponry). Never before in history was this true. Jesus made an interesting comment when He spoke of the last great tribulation on the earth—**"FOR THEN THERE WILL BE GREAT DISTRESS, UNEQUALED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD UNTIL NOW—AND NEVER TO BE EQUALED AGAIN. UNLESS THOSE DAYS HAD BEEN CUT SHORT, NO ONE WOULD SURVIVE, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE ELECT, THOSE DAYS WILL BE SHORTENED."** (My underlining) (Matthew 24:21-22)

This is the first time in history that such a war *could* take place—where there could actually be **zero survivors**.

And in Zechariah 14:12, is the Bible also making reference to a "future kind of warfare", unimaginable in its time? It says, **"THEIR FLESH SHALL DISSOLVE WHILE THEY STAND ON THEIR FEET, THEIR EYES SHALL DISSOLVE IN THEIR SOCKETS, AND THEIR TONGUES SHALL DISSOLVE IN THEIR MOUTHS."**

And Zechariah 12 says,

...I WILL MAKE THE CLANS OF JUDAH (the Jews) LIKE A FIREPOT AMONG PIECES OF WOOD AND A FLAMING TORCH AMONG SHEAVES, SO THEY WILL CONSUME ON THE RIGHT HAND AND ON THE LEFT ALL THE SURROUNDING PEOPLES, WHILE THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM AGAIN DWELL ON THEIR OWN SITES IN JERUSALEM...

Interesting language from those who fought with horses and chariots, and bows & arrows!

This is at the “Battle of Armageddon”—very possibly coming in your lifetime—when the world gathers to fight against Jerusalem. There will be great war and great tribulation leading into the “Great Day of the Lord”—tribulation unequalled from the beginning of the world. Will you be on God’s side?

From here, I will just give you a smattering of facts about the end. I’m not an end times expert, and will only include a few frames to the whole picture.

To begin, a very evil man will rise to political power, whom the Bible calls:

The “Antichrist”

Most people will have no idea that the Antichrist is wicked. In fact, many may THINK he is the Messiah!⁸⁸

It is surmised he’ll *at first appear* to be quite supportive of the Jews.⁸⁹ But in truth he’ll be the “Son of Perdition”—worse evil than Hitler himself. Even if he claims to be of Jewish ancestry... (Or even if he claims to be from the supposed lineage of *Jesus* and Mary Magdalene (see endnotes #95, 115, 98 & 102)...

His popularity will be based in deceit, and his reign will end in terror. In the Bible he is also called, “The Beast”.

You may have heard that he will make a treaty—what many Christians call the “False Seven Year Peace Treaty”.⁹⁰ In the MIDDLE of the treaty he will break it, and great slaughter (of Christians and Jews) will begin. This is *probably* correct.⁹¹

Switch Frame: Rebuilding of “THE” Jewish Temple

This unique Temple will be rebuilt⁹² even though it LOOKS utterly impossible today! The Temple has to be built **specifically** on the Temple Mount⁹³ in Jerusalem. The Temple Mount is a “hotbed” of religious conflict in

this world; any attempt by the Jews to build would be vehemently opposed by the Muslims.

Matter of fact, I have a close friend who works for the United Nations. She's not a Christian—In fact, she's an atheist who believes in evolution. But she looks at the Temple's rebuilding as such an impossible thing, that she once told me, (paraphrased), "If the Temple gets rebuilt, I may reconsider (the truth of) Christianity!"

Because it would take a MIRACLE to make it happen! (It would entail the Jewish Temple being built *right next to*^{94k} the Muslim "Dome of the Rock"!). But wasn't it ALSO a MIRACLE that Israel got her land back after 2000 years?! God is in the miracle business!

It's ultimately God who will cause this, as part of the "weaving" of end time events. But God says there can be no REAL peace outside of Jesus.⁹⁵ In fact, it may be the *Antichrist himself* who instigates a landmark peace treaty that will allow the rebuilding!

If so, no wonder the world will be deceived— It would seem like a "miracle of peace"— the Muslims finally getting along with the Jews! But remember, no matter what the specifics: The Antichrist will be **lying**; it will be a *false* peace. It won't be long before he shows his true colors... Jewish offerings being made in the Temple will be terminated... And great horror will begin.

His political/religious system will massacre many, specifically targeting Christians & Jews⁹⁶ (and there will be a false, **miracle working** prophet who works in collusion with him).

DANIEL 7:24-26

HE (the Antichrist) WILL SPEAK AGAINST THE MOST HIGH (God) AND OPPRESS HIS SAINTS AND WILL INTEND TO MAKE ALTERATIONS IN TIMES AND IN LAW. THE

^k Or possibly *in place of* The Dome of the Rock

SAINTS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO HIM FOR A TIME, TIMES AND HALF A TIME.” (3½ “YEARS)

REVELATION 13:7:

“HE WAS GIVEN POWER TO MAKE WAR AGAINST THE SAINTS & TO CONQUER THEM. AND HE WAS GIVEN AUTHORITY OVER EVERY TRIBE, PEOPLE, LANGUAGE & NATION.”

Note: All “Born again” believers are called “saints” in the Bible. (Not just famous saints like in the Catholic Church). (And Jewish believers were also called saints in the Old Testament).

What about the Mark of the Beast?

At some point the Antichrist will require all people, rich and poor, to take his MARK in order to be able to BUY OR SELL in the marketplace. In other words, you won’t be able to buy groceries unless you take his mark (either on your right hand or your forehead). But if you do, this means you’ll have aligned with him, and you’ll be damned forever.^{97 98}

All a Coincidence?...

In regards to the “mark”, there’s also a number associated with the beast: 666. Currently, on merchandise sold throughout much of the world, “666” outlines the standard bar code⁹⁹ (its borders and center being the same marks as used for the number six—but see endnote).¹⁰⁰ Also “www”, for the worldwide web, are the LETTERS that translate to the numbers 666 in Greek AND Hebrew!¹⁰¹

This is very interesting that central components of international commerce “utilize” the number 666. And since 666 and the “mark of the beast” WILL BE connected with the *ability to buy or sell in the marketplace*, many have “freaked out” at these features that already are present in our economy! (Curious that the “powers that be” seem to like that number 666!)¹⁰²

The Antichrist’s mark?

Some have speculated about the upcoming “chip implant”...¹⁰³ With identity theft being such a problem,

an (under the skin) implanted “identity chip” with which we buy and sell (that will function as debit card, etc.) does not seem far-fetched in the near future. With all the tattooing and piercings, the younger generation is fairly desensitized to such a thing, and may not mind an embedded “chip”.

But this conjecture could have more to do with *how the Antichrist will centrally control commerce* than the ACTUAL “mark of the beast”...

Could a Computer Chip Implant Really be “The Mark”?

We know that the Mark will be the *Antichrist’s* mark (and the number 666 will relate also to his name). It would seem the Antichrist would have to be in power when it’s made mandatory (at least in its final form).

Spiritually we all choose a side.¹⁰⁴ No one who is humble before God, has repented, and is trusting their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ is going to *accidentally* take the mark. But there’s no guarantee of **forewarning or recognition** to those who don’t belong to the real Jesus. In fact the Bible indicates that those not following Jesus will not only be deceived—they’ll even *worship* the Antichrist! Please also see endnotes 104 & 105.

We don’t **know** exactly what the Antichrist’s mark will be. (A chip implant could certainly be a part of it—but this is conjecture).¹⁰⁵

However one issue is very clear. The time will come when all will have to take the Antichrist’s mark to be able to buy groceries.

Will **you** sell your soul for a loaf of bread?¹⁰⁶

Revelation 13:16-18 and more

IT WAS GRANTED TO HIM (The Antichrist) TO MAKE WAR WITH THE SAINTS AND TO OVERCOME THEM... ALL WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH WILL WORSHIP HIM, WHOSE NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB...HE DECEIVES THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH... HE CAUSES ALL... TO RECEIVE A MARK ON THEIR RIGHT

HAND OR THEIR FOREHEADS, AND THAT NO ONE MAY BUY OR SELL EXCEPT ONE WHO HAS THE MARK, THE NAME OF THE BEAST OR THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME... 666.

...I SAW THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN BEHEADED BECAUSE OF THEIR TESTIMONY FOR JESUS... THEY HAD NOT WORSHIPPED THE BEAST...& HAD NOT RECEIVED HIS MARK ON THEIR FOREHEADS OR THEIR HANDS (REV 20:4)

There's far more to these years...

...Especially to the **last** 3½. Jesus said there will be tribulation such as the world has never seen. The book of Revelation speaks of God pouring out judgment on the earth. I'm not clear about the timing of His judgments, but 1/3 of the land and 1/3 of the sea will be devastated; and 1/3 of the sky will be darkened.¹⁰⁷ Far more will happen as well, including a tormenting (5 month duration) disease, and a war of 200 Million Soldiers that will wipe out a third of mankind. But most men will not **recognize** that this is a result of mankind's rebellion (and idolatry) against God... Most will still not repent.¹⁰⁸

What about "The Rapture"?

You may have heard that all real Christians will get "raptured" off the planet prior to the tribulation period... At which time many NEW people will be convinced of the truth of the Bible—since a whole Christian segment of the population will have just disappeared into thin air! (According to this scenario, these *new Christians* are the ones that will be massacred by the Antichrist's regime).

But such *timing* of the rapture is not clearly taught in the Bible.¹⁰⁹ We should all be ready *in case* that timing is incorrect.

What about Jerusalem?

The 70 7's of Daniel prophecy was given specifically to Israel. God, during these last years, will once again be dealing with Israel as His nation; His chosen people.¹¹⁰

Allow me to "recap" some of the Bible's prophecies about the Jews. The first several, of course, have already been fulfilled:

DEUT 28:64 ...THE LORD WILL SCATTER YOU AMONG ALL PEOPLES, FROM ONE END OF THE EARTH TO THE OTHER...AND THERE YOU SHALL SERVE OTHER GODS, WOOD AND STONE*...AMONG THOSE NATIONS YOU SHALL FIND NO REST...

*i.e., Materialism (or idolatry)

JEREMIAH 24:9 I WILL MAKE THEM (the Jews)...A REPROACH AND A PROVERB, A TAUNT AND A CURSE IN ALL PLACES WHERE I WILL SCATTER THEM...

HOSEA 9:17 ...GOD WILL CAST THEM AWAY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT LISTENED TO HIM; AND THEY WILL BE WANDERERS AMONG THE NATIONS...

Yet God would not utterly forsake His people...

JER 30:11 'FOR I AM WITH YOU,' DECLARES THE LORD, 'TO SAVE YOU; FOR I WILL DESTROY COMPLETELY ALL THE NATIONS WHERE I HAVE SCATTERED YOU... I WILL NOT DESTROY YOU COMPLETELY. BUT I WILL CHASTEN YOU JUSTLY...

Is 11:11 THEN IT WILL HAPPEN...THAT THE LORD WILL AGAIN RECOVER THE SECOND TIME WITH HIS HAND THE REMNANT OF HIS PEOPLE WHO WILL REMAIN... HE WILL LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE NATIONS AND ASSEMBLE THE BANISHED ONES OF ISRAEL AND WILL GATHER THE DISPERSED OF JUDAH FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE EARTH...

JER 31:7 BEHOLD, I WILL BRING THEM BACK FROM NORTHERN LANDS, AND GATHER THEM FROM THE ENDS OF THE WORLD...

HOSEA 3:4&5 FOR THE SONS OF ISRAEL WILL REMAIN FOR MANY DAYS WITHOUT KING OR PRINCE, WITHOUT SACRIFICE OR SACRED PILLAR... AFTERWARD THE SONS OF ISRAEL WILL RETURN AND SEEK THE LORD THEIR GOD AND DAVID THEIR KING; AND THEY WILL COME

TREMBLING TO THE LORD AND TO HIS GOODNESS IN THE LAST DAYS...

(I believe it will take devastating war for her to turn back to God... and that's indicated Biblically...) but nonetheless God will stand up for her:

ZECHARIAH 12

BEHOLD, I AM GOING TO MAKE JERUSALEM A CUP THAT CAUSES REELING (OR A "CUP OF TREMBLING") TO ALL THE PEOPLE AROUND... I WILL MAKE JERUSALEM A HEAVY STONE FOR ALL PEOPLES; *ALL WHO LIFT IT WILL BE SEVERELY INJURED. AND ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH WILL BE GATHERED AGAINST IT...* (Against Jerusalem. This will happen at the battle of "Armageddon")...

...I WILL MAKE THE CLANS OF JUDAH LIKE A FIREPOT AMONG PIECES OF WOOD AND A FLAMING TORCH AMONG SHEAVES, SO THEY WILL CONSUME ON THE RIGHT HAND AND ON THE LEFT ALL THE SURROUNDING PEOPLES, WHILE THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM AGAIN DWELL ON THEIR OWN SITES IN JERUSALEM...

Nonetheless, much of Israel will be destroyed before God intervenes... (The Bible says over half of all Jews will be killed... I'm not sure how much of this *preludes* the tribulation period, or is a *part* of it).¹¹¹

And in spite of the Jewish victory that seems to be indicated in Zechariah 12, it seems God will need to make a way of escape for Israel:

ZECHARIAH 14:4 THEN THE LORD WILL GO FORTH AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE NATIONS...

AND IN THAT DAY HIS FEET WILL STAND ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, WHICH FACES JERUSALEM ON THE EAST. AND THE MOUNT OF OLIVES SHALL BE SPLIT IN TWO FROM EAST TO WEST, MAKING A VERY LARGE VALLEY... THEN YOU SHALL FLEE THROUGH MY MOUNTAIN VALLEY...

And in the end, (what remains of) Israel will not only be saved physically, but they'll spiritually find their Savior! ...

ZECHARIAH 12:10,11*

AND I WILL POUR ON THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND ON THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM THE SPIRIT OF GRACE...THEN THEY WILL LOOK ON ME WHOM THEY PIERCED. YES THEY WILL MOURN FOR HIM AS ONE MOURNS FOR HIS ONLY SON, AND GRIEVE FOR HIM AS ONE GRIEVES FOR A FIRSTBORN...

Note: This is from the Jewish Bible!

In the end, Jesus Himself will save Israel and all Israel will be saved!

To Wrap Up...

The holocaust paved the way for the conscience of the world to restore Israel to the Jews... Soon coming escalation of war in the Middle East could pave the way for the Antichrist coming to power with a false peace treaty... (Perhaps what allows the Jews to rebuild their Temple...)

But soon after the Great Tribulation will arrive.

You will have to be willing to lay down your life if you want to save your soul. Only Jesus living inside you will give you that courage.¹¹²

And so back to the beginning:

ISAIAH 42:9 SAYS THE LORD: SEE, THE FORMER THINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND NEW THINGS I DECLARE; BEFORE THEY SPRING INTO BEING I ANNOUNCE THEM TO YOU...

ISAIAH 43:9 WHO TOLD OF THIS FROM THE BEGINNING, SO WE COULD KNOW, OR BEFOREHAND, SO WE COULD SAY, "HE WAS RIGHT"?

* Other VERY interesting Old Testament Scriptures include Psalm 2:6-12: "But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain... I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You'...Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry... How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!" and Isaiah 9:6 "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace..." And Proverbs 30:4 "Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? ...Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is His son's name, if you know?" (All these scripture quotes are from the Hebrew (Jewish) Bible).

And a last word of encouragement for you, as a Christian, to stand firm until the end:

MATTHEW 24

“THEN YOU WILL BE HANDED OVER TO BE PERSECUTED AND PUT TO DEATH, AND YOU WILL HATED BY ALL NATIONS BECAUSE OF ME. AT THAT TIME MANY WILL TURN AWAY FROM THE FAITH AND WILL BETRAY AND HATE EACH OTHER, AND MANY FALSE PROPHETS WILL APPEAR AND DECEIVE MANY PEOPLE. BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE OF WICKEDNESS, THE LOVE OF MOST WILL GROW COLD, BUT HE WHO STANDS FIRM TO THE END WILL BE SAVED...

“FOR THEN THERE WILL BE GREAT DISTRESS, UNEQUALED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD UNTIL NOW.... THOSE DAYS WILL BE SHORTENED. AT THAT TIME IF ANYONE SAYS TO YOU, ‘LOOK, HERE IS THE CHRIST!’, OR ‘THERE HE IS’, DO NOT BELIEVE IT. FOR FALSE CHRISTS AND FALSE PROPHETS WILL APPEAR AND PERFORM GREAT SIGNS AND MIRACLES TO DECEIVE EVEN THE ELECT—IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE. SEE I HAVE TOLD YOU AHEAD OF TIME.

“SO IF ANYONE TELLS YOU, ‘THERE HE IS, OUT IN THE DESERT’, ...OR ‘HERE HE IS IN THE INNER ROOMS’, DO NOT BELIEVE IT.

FOR AS LIGHTNING THAT COMES FROM THE EAST IS VISIBLE EVEN IN THE WEST, SO WILL BE THE COMING OF THE SON OF MAN.”

(Jesus is the “Son of man”)

MATTHEW 16:25

“FOR WHOEVER DESIRES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT. FOR WHAT PROFIT IS IT TO A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSES HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT WILL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL? FOR THE SON OF MAN WILL COME IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER WITH HIS ANGELS, AND THEN HE WILL REWARD EACH ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS”.

CHAPTER SEVEN ENDNOTES

⁸⁸ The word “Antichrist” in the original Greek meant either against Christ OR instead of Christ. In other words, he may claim to be the Messiah. Additionally, other scriptures say he’ll be worshipped by most of mankind.

⁸⁹ In fact the Antichrist may himself be Jewish (not a certainty, but some conjecture Jewish ancestry). (One possible scenario: The Antichrist will claim to be from the (mythological!) “ancestry” of Jesus & Mary Magdalene)

⁹⁰ Daniel 9:27 “...he will make a firm covenant with the many for one ‘seven’ (shabua)” This may be with many nations or possibly just with the Jews. But read also the next endnote.

⁹¹ It’s not crystal clear Biblically—there is some variance of interpretations. It’s possible a 7 year false peace treaty may not be part of the picture. (But there’s no question about the genocide, and the Antichrist *will* be a man of “alliances”).

⁹² Either before or *as a result of* the false 7 year peace treaty (assuming there is a 7 year peace treaty). When I say rebuild... This Temple is not “one of many” but unique—with specific instructions for its “blueprint” in the Bible (including its exact location). It’s been built twice in history, and was last destroyed in 70A.D.

⁹³ No other location is acceptable in the Jewish Religion.

⁹⁴ Or possibly *in place of* the “Dome of the Rock”

⁹⁵ Please note that Jesus would’ve never approved of many of the actions of “the church” in past history... There were many horrible acts in the Crusades (see endnote #154) and surely “The Inquisition” went radically against the teachings of the New Testament. But Satan likes to give Christianity a bad name—Even Hitler *claimed* to be a Christian! (Note: Roman Catholicism in *many ways* has not followed the teachings of Jesus nor the dictates of the Bible...)

⁹⁶ Beheading (evidently) will be one (of his favorite?) forms of execution, according to Rev 20:4.

⁹⁷ Rev 13:16-18, Rev 14:9-11, Rev 20:15.

⁹⁸ If you take the Antichrist’s mark, it will mean that you’ve decided (whether consciously or unconsciously) to align *with* the Antichrist and *against* the Real Jesus (notice I say the *Real* Jesus... There will be false messiahs, and false representations of Jesus (such as Brown’s imaginary Jesus in the Da Vinci Code, or the “Jesus” of “A Course in Miracles”).

⁹⁹ It’s not *exactly* true that the borders & center are the number 6...see <http://www.virtualsalt.com/barcode.htm> **BUT DON’T END THERE**--Then read <http://www.av1611.org/666/barcode.html>

¹⁰⁰ see preceding endnote

¹⁰¹ Greek & Hebrew are the primary languages the Bible was written in. Letters had numeric equivalents and riddles often incorporated the exchange of numbers for their letter equivalent. This was a very common practice in society in Biblical times...

¹⁰² By the way, moguls in industry have also had a huge influence on the education system in America—See endnote #137.

ALSO, Dan Brown uses the #666 in “The Da Vinci Code”—erroneously stating that the Louvre Museum Pyramid has 666 panes of glass (which in his fantasy novel

covered the bones of Mary Magdalene). First of all, this is just one example of many of Brown's very poor examples of research. All one has to do is check on the Louvre Museum's official website (search: pyramid 666) (or at GlassOnWeb (<http://www.glassonweb.com/articles/article/94/>) to find the correct number is NOT 666. But why would Brown want to use Satan's number anyway? Why would he want to cast any sort of "positive light" upon this number?

As a final note... To acknowledge at least one possible *truth* in "The Da Vinci Code"...

It may indeed be true that Brown's "holy grail" does lead one to the number 666!

¹⁰³ The "VeraChip" was FDA approved for human use in 2004.

¹⁰⁴ Although I personally believe some sort of formal allegiance to the Antichrist will be required to forfeit one's soul, the truth is when we choose NOT to follow God (whether consciously or unconsciously), we've already chosen Satan's side. God is not obligated to make the issue consciously clear for us, when we've already chosen Satan's side in our **hearts**; when we've already chosen a life of self-rule (or sin) over submitting to God.

¹⁰⁵ If a chip implant IS the mark, it's also possible that there's a chip implant that's a "predecessor" to the Antichrist's mark... If so perhaps an act of allegiance to the Antichrist (or his regime) will be required → for the chip to *continue to work*... and/or additional "features" will be added to the chip at that time. But again, this is conjecture...

Other comments about this section:

A) The Bible gives examples of many ancient rulers who demanded that the common people **worship** them (or a statue of them) or acknowledge them to be God. This could be an "act of allegiance" the "Anti-Christ" will require (which will damn your soul).

BUT NOTE: It's really about *your* heart towards God. If you're "right" with God, you won't be *deceived* by the Antichrist.* (Furthermore, Rev 13:16-18 also says you'll have to take his mark, the name of the beast or the # of his name → 666. So it looks like there's more than one "option" available to "the mark").

*Even so, it also seems God will be abundantly gracious by sending an actual ANGEL, who will fly across the sky WARNING people not to take the mark! (Rev 14:9)(But this may be **after** many people have *already* taken the mark!) There will be all kinds of supernatural happenings during this time period—2 witnesses in Jerusalem will do miracles on God's "side"; the false prophet will also do many miracles on Satan's side (including bringing fire down from the sky).

B) Even if the "chip" is not the **mark itself**, there are *many reasons* not to receive such a chip implant! And without Jesus as your Lord, you will be lost forever (even if you run off to the mountains and live off the land to avoid taking the mark of the beast!)

¹⁰⁶(Assuming you're alive at that time). Note: I do not personally believe God will allow you to starve to death if you refuse the mark (in obedience to God)—I base this on general Biblical promises and more (write me). But we have to be willing to lay down our lives for God... And martyrdom is a *strong possibility* during this time!

¹⁰⁷ Do note that God will give us a *new heavens and a new earth!*

¹⁰⁸ Many may be unwilling to repent because they believe the myth of Gnostic cosmology—"Sophia" and so on—write to us about this subject. There's reason to believe this may be a piece of the "end time picture", with miracles being done on *both sides*, and many "rooting for Sophia's side" (or the "Christ" Aeon's). In reality,

Gnosticism is *Satanism*—an incredible *inversion* of the Bible; it turns God into Satan and Satan into God—write to us! There’s a huge Hollywood agenda to indoctrinate the public into Gnosticism...

¹⁰⁹ I personally don’t believe that the rapture will occur before the tribulation—I think Christians will be going through it. (And if there IS a pre-trib rapture, it may only be those Christians who have “already passed God’s test of perseverance” (which would only be a small percent of those who call themselves Christian (see the “Church of Philadelphia” in Revelation; particularly: Rev 3:10. But God probably means here that He’ll keep them *safe through* the tribulation period—not necessarily that He’ll take them off the Earth!)

However God does say that real Christians are not appointed to His wrath—So Christians will be protected from the plagues that God pours out. (Think about the Israelites in Goshen when God poured out his plagues on Egypt—there are many similarities between those plagues and the plagues in Revelation. Yet *they did not affect* the Israelites—even though the Israelites were *still on the planet!*)

¹¹⁰ Although God calls Israel His chosen people, both the Jewish & Christian Bibles are crystal clear that you don’t get saved *just* because you’re Jewish...

¹¹¹ Read not just Revelation, but also the Old Testament Prophets for end-times education...

¹¹² If you’re not yet “Born Again” it’s impossible to describe the change that takes place inside you. God REALLY changes your heart and makes you holy... And you can’t help but fall in love with Him, as His love is the most beautiful thing in existence! As long as you stay “connected” to Him, you’re more than willing to live **and** die for Him! And He says He won’t put you through any more than you can bear... (It is true He tests our faith—But that, too, is actually for *our* benefit!)

For the Thinking Mind – APPENDIXES

The following appendixes are almost like a second book. They include many rational evidences and arguments for Christianity outside of the realm of prophecy. They answer questions like:

Why should I trust the Bible?

What about other religions?

What about reincarnation?

How do I know Jesus REALLY SAID any of those things?

Aren't all religions just different routes to God?

What about tolerance for all religions?

What about the "Jesus Seminar"?

When was the Bible *really* written?

What if Jesus was crazy and *purposely tried* to fulfill the prophecies about the Messiah?

What about the Gospel of Thomas and the Dead Sea Scrolls?

And the Fourth Appendix has one more remarkable fulfillment for prophecy buffs—especially if you're Jewish!

Appendixes #1-3 will be fairly analytical—although quite interesting! But if you choose to skip them — **Don't miss Appendix #4!** And #5 is a "blow mind" too! (More than *just* about reincarnation...)

Appendix #1: Reasons to Believe and other Religions

Appendix #2: More details on Isaiah 53

Appendix #3: The "Jesus Seminar" - How do I know Jesus really said what's recorded? When was the Bible really written? And more.

Appendix #4: Fascinating Foreshadowing from the Book of Genesis

Appendix #5: What about Reincarnation?

APPENDIX #1-Reasons to Believe/Other Religions

When I first wrote this book, I had most of this appendix in the first chapter. But since it's rather long, unrelated to the book's title — **and** somewhat controversial! — I've chosen to put it here in the back.

I opened Chapter One with some of my personal history. I'm not one who always blindly accepts the "opinion of experts". Especially when atheists step into the realm of expertise on religion...

What *about* Academia and Religion?

I hope you'll come along for a ride with me. Please forgive me if I intellectually "poke some fun at" intellectualism!

Because academia—While abounding in knowledge of many kinds—Knows little about spiritual things. When they "toss out" and explain away the spiritual, truthfully they're often not rational in their arguments (the very thing they pride themselves in!) Most would say there's "no such thing" as a personal God—but have they made a complete investigation?

If you're still a religious skeptic, there's tons more evidence coming your way in these appendixes!

Myths & Legends...

Academia largely considers the idea of a real, Creator God to be a myth.

Yet, let's talk about some real "myths" that tend to float around college campuses...¹¹³

Myth #1

Often you'll hear something like, "The Bible wasn't written until centuries after Christ—it's full of myths that developed over time". People often hear this and

just accept it as true. But the evidence (“legal/historical” evidence & manuscript evidence) disproves this.¹¹⁴ Listen, even “**tear up the Bible**”, **atheistic** scholars admit this isn’t true. (Nor is the “Da Vinci Con” rewrite of history—see endnote).¹¹⁵

Let’s Analyze Myth #1...

Even harsh critics concede that the Apostle Paul wrote his Epistles within 20-30 years of Christ’s crucifixion. These epistles are part of the Bible. They originally were letters Paul wrote to various churches. Most of the eyewitnesses of Jesus were still alive... Wouldn’t Paul have looked like a public fool if his writings were full of “myths” that were **brand new** stories about Jesus? Paul was a well known, public figure—being well respected by the church, the other apostles, etc. (AND was well respected within non-Christian Judaism as well, until he “defected”—Paul was a leading Jew who had been persecuting and *putting to death* Christians, until the day of his conversion to Christianity!).

So if he were just “making up” all kinds of new myths about Jesus, how could the Christians (who were eye witnesses of Jesus) have respected and accepted him? And wouldn’t the Anti-Christian Jewish leaders have POUNCED upon these obvious lies and created public controversy? Again, even the critics concede Paul wrote these letters within 20-30 years of the crucifixion. **They contain almost all of the major tenets of Christianity.** So how can you say Christianity is based on myths that developed over the course of many generations?

Besides Paul, what about Nero?

For more evidence of solid **first century** Christianity, consider the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Nero. Nero hideously tortured innumerable Christians—Christians willing to die for their faith

only 32 years after Christ's crucifixion—Again, many **eyewitnesses** of Jesus.¹¹⁶

Being fed to the lions was getting off easy! Those less fortunate got covered in tar and were used as **live human torches** in Nero's garden... The Roman historian Tacitus described these atrocities.

Tacitus was not a Christian; he had no religious "myth to promote". In fact, he was a "hostile" witness towards Christianity. Yet his records not only speak of Nero's persecution of Christians—but also make reference to the widespread "superstition" of Jesus' Resurrection!!¹¹⁷

This was in 64-67 A.D., not 300 years later!

(For MORE "outside" historical support for Christianity in the 1st century, see endnote).¹¹⁸

So onto a Second Myth...

In regards to another popular myth in our culture... May I ask... How were the "powers that be" using Christianity to "control the masses"? (This myth states that men in power made up Christianity as a way to control the populace). The Emperor Nero, rather, set out to *destroy* Christians; other first century Emperors were simply uninvolved. What possible benefit did Christianity have to the Romans? (This myth may have significant validity with **later** Roman Catholicism... But not with early Christianity).

Liken yourself to Sherlock Holmes...

In examining these issues, you have to be something of a detective—Or better yet, imagine yourself as a judge. Two sides are being presented... Atheistic academia acts as if Christians are the only ones with a bias! The truth is there's a strong **bias** on BOTH sides. So you need to sort through the "presentation" of what *looks* like fact as it's presented "by the experts", to see through to the *real* facts.

Just as an attorney presents **only** those facts that support his own client—even though he may be aware of evidence against his client’s case—So also atheistic academia presents their case against Christianity, and yet claims that it’s the Christians who have a bias and hence are not to be trusted!¹¹⁹

We **all** have biases shaped by our beliefs. Admittedly that includes me—but I will try to be objective with the facts, and I do feel I’ve given a long and thoughtful look at the counter evidence.

Just like at a trial, either Christianity’s case is truth, or it’s possibly full of lies... Each “attorney” ultimately is representing either the innocent or the guilty party. You are in the role of a juror—but remember that jurors, too, can have a strong bias! So examining your *own heart* is also a part of this process!

Wrapping up Myths #1 & #2...

In the last few pages, the “pro-Christian” evidence I’ve shown is only *a small part* of the evidence that could have been presented... Yet, the writings of Paul and the persecution of Nero **alone** logically shatter those 2 popular myths. Clearly, Christianity was well established soon after the death of Jesus—and was not particularly popular with the government!

So then, shifting gears...

To one of Christianity’s claims, the resurrection of Christ. Surely a myth. And yet...

Here I simply remind you of pages 7 & 8, where I spoke of the martyrdom of Christ’s original disciples.

Again, they weren’t dying for something they *grew up* believing. Nor did they die for something someone merely told them. Rather, they willingly died, *often hideous* deaths, for what they said they saw with their OWN EYES—Christ resurrected from the dead!

Simple logic shows this to be *strong evidence*!

What about CURRENT evidence?

I know there are a lot of “Christians” who’ve made a bad name for Christianity.¹²⁰ Some are fakes; some are hypocrites. Some are simply human and make mistakes. Some are irritating (including me at times!) But if you’ve known many *authentic* Christians, you’ve seen exceptional behavior, too!

Let’s say you saw several friends over the course of a year change. Dramatically. Often overnight. Say they said it was because they’d found Jesus. Would it be *against* common sense to say something *real* has happened to them?

Certainly you can “write it off” as mental suggestion—science even shows that what you believe/positive mental attitude can have an effect on physical healing. But what if the changes are way beyond statistics? For instance, one example of radical change in Christians’ lives is found in Drug rehab centers. In America, rehabs (generally speaking) have a very low success rate. Secular programs only produce about 10% lasting success. But Christian Drug Rehabs such as Teen Challenge? 85%. How do you explain this?

And besides, authentic Christians often seem to glow, and you can see a peace in them that simply wasn’t there before. Does it really make sense to dismiss it all to positive mental suggestion? Isn’t there at least a *possibility* that something real and life changing has happened that’s beyond common reason?

I personally know that I’m an authentic Christian who’s been radically changed by God. But as stated, for much of my life I thought of Christianity as square, old fashioned, and for the simple-minded. It was totally uncool for me to consider it as a way of life. Whether

it was true or not wasn't even the primary issue—it just wasn't cool!

So what changed my mind? Truly, God did. God changed my mind. He showed Himself to be so real to me, I couldn't have disbelieved if I tried.

There are many logical reasons for believing. Christianity is an extremely rational faith with far more concrete evidence to support it than any other religion on the face of this planet.

But I admit that's not what brought me to God; it's not the *reason* I believe. Very simply, I initially believed because God let me radically feel His Presence. He came into my life and brought me from complete despair to total elation. He *let me feel His love for me*, a love I'd never dreamed existed, a love that healed me on the inside.

It beat everything I'd ever experienced—even though I'd had the "American Dream". I'd been rich & not had to work... I had a loving marriage (and have a beautiful daughter!)... I achieved my childhood dream of singing professionally. None of it began to compare to experiencing GOD!

"Ok. So there seems to be *something* to Christianity that has radically affected yours and others lives. But maybe that's just not *my* path..."

I hear your argument, so let's keep talking...

The state of America

Our Nation was once a Christian nation, but obviously is no more.¹²¹ With the decline of Christianity, the removal of prayer from our schools, etc. there has been a corresponding decline in the *morality* in America. Obviously our mass media, especially TV & music, has had a huge influence as well. Whatever

your opinion on what is moral or immoral, here are some facts.

About 60 years ago in America, they had a list of the WORST seven problems in public schools.¹²² These included tardiness & running in the halls... The WORST problem was spit wads... And get this—included in the top 7—was *missing the wastepaper basket!* Wow. What a far cry from today!

What are our worst problems in American schools today? We have mass murders, rapes, chronic gang violence, firearms... Rampant drug use (so widespread I'd say it's fair to call it a hopeless situation). So. Does this show an evolving society? Does this show spiritual advancement?

I'm going off on a tangent... But in considering the evidence for or against God, it seems to me to have some relevance. As people are defining for themselves who (or what) God is¹²³—and defining for themselves what is right or wrong—families and morality have clearly taken a nosedive in America. Could there be a spiritual reason for this?

And speaking of Religion's affect on a nation...

Look for a moment at the condition of India. There's such romanticism in America about Eastern religion—and of course there are many beautiful things in Hinduism!—but let's look honestly at some things Hinduism has produced in India. A caste system where many are treated daily with disdain... Not worthy of even being spoken to—simply because of the caste they were born in.

Thousands upon thousands literally starving in the streets—while the cows walk around freely multiplying and eating the people's food—because they're thought of as being very evolved spiritually (almost reaching God union).

Furthermore, to HELP those starving in the streets, according to Hinduism, is really just interfering with their Karma. Although one might help (for the sake of) “doing a good deed”—possibly out of love, or to improve their *own* karma¹²⁴—To help a starving person (or one in pain) is actually (often) considered to be a disservice to them... They *deserve* their lot in life because they obviously brought it upon themselves through their actions in past lives. So to HELP them is just prolonging their karma anyway—If you save them, they’ll just have to come back in another life to experience what they deserve—pain, starvation, whatever.¹²⁵

...Too bad the person can’t REMEMBER what it was he *did* in that past life!...

And finally, while America romanticizes the notion of reincarnation, the true Hindu (who understands the religious implications) thinks of reincarnation as a *curse*—they’re trying to be FREE from it! Their goal is to completely lose their ego (their separate identity); becoming one with the cosmos or God.

Question: If you completely lost your separate identity, would there be any YOU left to experience the “nirvana”?¹²⁶ Wouldn’t YOU cease to exist?

In spite of these problems there are many dear Hindu people! And this discussion obviously is not a comprehensive analysis of Hinduism. But are the points I’ve raised relevant?

A Question for Buddhists

As in Hinduism, there are many beautiful things in Buddhism. And yet the following is an extremely important question:

If one of the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism is to lose *all desires*

(since they are what cause disappointment which causes pain)...

What about the DESIRE to reach this pain-free state of Nirvana?

Isn't that *desire* what drives the whole quest?

(And once again, would there be any YOU left to experience the nirvana?)

For a few more ponderings on Buddhism, if that's something that interests you, please see this chapter's endnote.¹²⁷

Please know that I don't say any of this to be "mean" or judgmental... It's because I love my Hindu & Buddhist neighbors!¹²⁸ My hope is to open eyes where there's been deception, so that they can find the true God who both created them and *radically loves them!!*

This discussion has been brief, and hence incomplete for attaining comprehensive analysis of other religions (which also have many beautiful aspects!) I do acknowledge that.

But the *following* discussion is mind blowing! I *challenge* you to read it, if you are in agreement with America's "politically correct" thinking on religion.

America's New Religion

What has replaced Christianity in much of America? A religion of "tolerance". Acceptance of all regardless of their beliefs—which is great! We shouldn't stop loving a person—Even if he's a Satanist, as far as I'm concerned. But it goes further than this...

This new "rule of tolerance" states that you can't say what someone else believes perhaps might not be **true**. And in regards to this, I also believe you should always come from a place of love, and a respect for every person's right to choose their own religion. But nonetheless, *if I love someone*, and they think that their pet mouse is God... or they've decided to become a Satanist ... then I'm going to try to reason with them!

Similarly, if a friend is depressed and is about to jump off a bridge, as much as I may respect their “freedom to choose” ...I will TRY TO TALK THEM OUT OF IT!!

So If I’m coming from a place of love, am I being *intolerant* to seek truth?

Have you been tricked by our Pop Culture?

Are Christians *intolerant*, because they think that their religion is right, and others are wrong? Now I’m not talking about being rude or domineering¹²⁹—But is it wrong to think that a certain religion is the *right* one?

In response to that question, let me please propose the following: If it’s *wrong* to think that your religion is *right*-- then aren’t you saying it’s *wrong* to really BELIEVE your religion? Aren’t you (in reality) saying that it’s *wrong* to REALLY BELIEVE in the words of Jesus?¹³⁰ Is that what’s now called religious tolerance? Could it be that the “tolerant one” is doing the very same thing he’s incriminating?

What else is hidden? Could it be, perhaps, that what’s politically correct is its *own* religion-of-sorts (akin to Hinduism?)¹³¹ That the only “right” religion is one that includes *all* religions?

And I agree—it looks good, doesn’t it? To include everyone—If that were possible, that would be awesome! But unfortunately, the only way to *do* that, is to DISCLUDE those who don’t agree with you (or at least think of them as less “spiritually evolved”)—To *disclude* those religions that actually believe their Holy book, or believe in only one God with a specific personality or value system!

I know this is “deep”, and kind of heavy... It’s ok if you don’t get all of it...

But what I’m trying to point out is that when the “tolerant ones” judge religions that believe there’s only

one way as wrong (because they're "exclusive") →They're doing the very same thing they're incriminating! Many "Unitarians" are in fact *judging* religions such as Christianity as *wrong* (wrong that they believe the words in their Holy Book that say there's only one way, wrong to try to share their faith with others (as Jesus instructed), etc). They may SAY they include all religions, but in truth they think many Christians have misinterpreted their own Holy Book (or that it's simply WRONG), and, think of Christians as less spiritually evolved than they are. In other words, *they also* think their religion is *better than* (and/or more accurate than) certain other religions.

Now there's a whole other aspect to this new "politically correct" religion in America. Does it make any sense? The idea that all religions are just different expressions of reality? (Of course, an alternative conclusion is that NO religion is ACTUALLY true anyway, and so shouldn't be taken too seriously... Or if you're into a "hybrid" alternative, see endnote #140).

But let's explore the first idea first: All religions are EQUALLY VALID (and probably just different expressions of reality, or different expressions of God for mankind at *different levels* of spiritual advancement).

A Reality Check

Humor me once again with a hypothetical question. If you were falling from the top of the Empire State Building, and all the way down you said, "I don't believe in gravity... I don't believe in gravity!... I ~~don't~~ believe in gravity!!"—And you **believed** that with all your heart!—Would it make any difference as to whether you went SPLAT when you hit the bottom?

No, obviously you would still go splat. I assert to you that God is the same. If there IS a God, then what you

BELIEVE about Him isn't going to make a BIT of difference as to His reality... You will STILL stand before Him on Judgment Day, whether you believe that or not. His REALITY will then hit you like a lightning bolt ...

On that day, will He be your friend?

Again, He WANTS to be your friend! Forgive me for getting so heavy—But this is serious business.

The 2nd Commandment¹³² of the 10 Commandments is that you will not make a graven image. What does that mean? In ancient times (as well as today in some religions), people formed statues of "Gods", which they worshipped.

God's intention/meaning behind the 2nd Commandment NOT to worship "idols" was twofold:

First, in His love for mankind, He didn't want us worshipping other Gods (as He knew that other "Gods" weren't really Gods at all; but rather spirits, fallen angels, evil angels*)
(OR, simply a figment of your imagination).

But the *second* reason behind the 2nd Commandment is the real eye-opener. The spiritual truth behind the physical expression...

Man often thinks HE can decide who God is. So the point behind the second commandment is this:

You can't MAKE UP what you think God is.

He Is Who He Is (whether you like it or not).

You can't FORM your own God

—*Either with your hands or with your mind*—

And expect that God to be real!¹³³

And indeed, doesn't that make sense? If there IS a God, doesn't HE get to tell *us* who He is? If He's God—

* Evil angels yet who *disguise* themselves as angels of light...

He's God, not us! How arrogant (and foolish) to think that we just get to "form" God (or get to "pick" the "god" that most appeals to us)—Wouldn't that just be an imaginary god?¹³⁴

Well Maybe, But...

Flipping channels, it at least has some logic to say, "Well, maybe there's no such thing as God". That at least is *possible*.

But if there IS a God, He (or It) is Who He Is. Our opinion on the matter doesn't make an IOTA of difference as to His reality, nor to how He will choose to operate.¹³⁵

(The truth is He's a God of love who far surpasses anything we could concoct, anyway!).¹³⁶

Which Circles us back to

America's "New Religion"...Tolerance?

Regardless of what you think of the analysis I've just done (on what the Bible calls "Idolatry"), let's look again at America's New Religion of "Politically Correct" "Tolerance". Let's start from their premise of "All religions are equally valid". Again, does this make *sense*?

- One religion says people get reincarnated after they die; another says you live only once, and then face judgment.

- One religion says there's a heaven and a hell; another says there's only heaven— another says there's neither.

- One religion says there's a God who's personal and has specific attributes of personality; another says there's no such thing—God is only a force.

- One religion says that God is holy; another says the "God Force" doesn't even differentiate between good & evil—That in *reality*, there is no such thing as good & evil.

I could go on & on...

The point is they CONTRADICT each other at their CORE. Either there IS a Day of Judgment, or there isn't. Either there IS a REAL difference between good & evil—and a moral judgment can be made—or there isn't. Either you will be reincarnated after you die, *OR* you'll become extinct and return to the earth, *OR* your soul (you) will go before God, (or whatever!)

BUT THEY CAN'T **ALL** BE TRUE! That's CRAZY!! The idea that they could ALL somehow be true is **insanity**. There was a time when that was called SCHIZOPHRENIA—as it still should be! Have we lost all sense of reality? Have we been that BRAINWASHED by our educators (whether your educator be a university professor, a guru, or simply the TV!) that we've lost our minds?

(By the way, if you "idolize" higher education in this country, you should get the book, The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America by Charlotte Thomson Iserbyt, and find out how the *teachers themselves* are being brainwashed.¹³⁷)

Are all religions Really the same?

Sometimes people like to say that the various world religions are very similar in most respects, and indeed they may share some moral values. But nonetheless this is a false idea. **At their core** they **in essence contradict each other**. (Actually, that's not true of ALL religions... A few have much similarity...) but Christianity (for one), at its very core, contradicts all other religions. Either it's false, or it's true.

What about the Blindfolded men and the Elephant?

Have you heard the story of the blindfolded men and the elephant? It's a Far Eastern parable, and it goes something like this.

First, start with several men who've never seen (or heard of) an elephant before. Blindfold them and lead them to an elephant. Have one (with a peanut in

hand) touch his trunk, have another touch his back, and perhaps a third would touch its tail.

When asked, "What are you touching? What does it feel like?" the men (obviously) give very different descriptions of what this "Elephant" is like. Perhaps an argument ensues as to which one's description is correct about the elephant!

And so the story goes, and a correlation is drawn between this and mankind with God. People are arguing about their different experiences of God—but really, if they just understood THE WHOLE PICTURE, they'd realize they were ALL right—but had only PART of the information.

It sounds really wise! Matter of fact, although I sensed that there was something wrong with this parable... To an extent it sounded quite reasonable to me, and I wasn't sure how to refute it.

But consider this. Today, in 2004, as I write this book, I'm a 44 year old female, 5'6" (give or take half an inch) and I'm passionate about my faith. These are facts about me.

INSERT DIAGRAM – Drawing of lady, 5'6", Born 1960, Religion: Born Again Christian.
(Sorry-No Artwork yet!)

Now let's say you've just met me on the street. Perhaps you're a good judge of height, and you can see that I'm about 5'6". But you don't know how old I am, or anything about my beliefs. Then there's my life insurance agent—who's never met me—he only knows my age. And then there's a third person, whom I've only talked to on the phone about a religious question.

She knows I'm passionate about my faith—but knows nothing about my appearance.

These three people know *different things* about me—

But the facts don't intrinsically CONTRADICT one another!

Like the elephant, the different descriptions can ALL BE TRUE at the same time! They all describe me—just like the blindfolded men probably all gave accurate descriptions of a different PART of the elephant!

So what's wrong with applying the elephant demonstration to what man knows about God? A lot. Using myself again, for example, let's say someone said (on the same day that I'm writing this book), "Valerie is 64 years old". That would be a FALSE statement. I'm 44 years old.

Or let's say I informed a certain man that I was 5'6". Perhaps this man is heavy into relativity (or perhaps he just enjoys debating!). He responds, "No, it's not absolutely true that you're 5'6". If you were lying down, you'd only be about 6 inches tall!"

Silly, of course! Yeah, sure, if I were lying down I'd only be 6 inches tall. Or if you measured me at 80 years of age, maybe I'd have shrunk and only be 5'4". For that matter maybe I'll sit down in a chair and only be 4 feet tall!

*But in spite of these things, it's an ABSOLUTE truth that RIGHT NOW, **standing up straight**, using this country's measuring methods, I am 5'6".* Period. This is a physical FACT. Yes, you could state some (obvious) criteria: Standing up, on this date, no high heels on, etc.

But to say it's not an absolute fact (*given the obvious or agreed upon criteria*) is to let them turn your brains into mush. Let me repeat that: If you have "bought" such an idea, you're letting them turn your brain into mush. And if you *don't* believe this—that you can

count on certain things as physical, factual reality — then why do you avoid walking in front of traffic on the freeway?¹³⁸

So are the Blindfolded men and the Elephant relevant to God?

It sounded good at first, but the *problem* is that in the case of God, the “facts” given by different religions are ABSOLUTELY contradictory, whereas the facts about the elephant can be explained to be all true *at the same time* (without contradicting each other).

The same as the facts about me. Each description is true. But if I told you I was 55, yet my birth certificate says I’m 44, one statement is true, and the other is false. Similarly, if my modeling agent puts me in high heels and tells a client that I’m 5’8”, the **truth** is he’s lying. I’m either 55 OR 44; I’m either 5’8” or I’m 5’6”. They **cannot** both be true at the same time!

By the same obvious *common sense* one can see that all religions cannot be true. Again, **either** you go to heaven or hell, **or** you’re reincarnated, **or** you become extinct in the grave—but they’re mutually *exclusive* assertions—they can’t all be true at the same time! It’s one or the other!

So be committed to finding out which one is TRUE!! On behalf of a God who radically loves you, *please* don’t enter eternity without finding out the truth about God! As Dave Hunt puts it, “It is astonishing how many millions of otherwise seemingly intelligent people are willing to risk their eternal destiny upon less evidence than they would require to buy a refrigerator...”¹³⁹

He then quotes a 17th century philosopher, who as his death approached, confessed, “Now I am about to take my last voyage, a great leap in the dark.” Dave comments... “It seems irrational to take a leap into the dark in any direction—but into *eternity*?” Think about

it. Shouldn't you at least consider the evidence for the **reality** of one religion as opposed to another?

I Assert that God is Not Schizophrenic!

When considering the idea that "All religions are equally valid"-- to think so is just plain crazy. UNLESS you're coming from the premise that NONE of them are reality anyway—that they're just a panacea (to make you feel better), and so it doesn't *matter* which one you "pick".¹⁴⁰

THAT at least makes some sense—to think they ALL might be false. But to think that they're all somehow true makes for a schizophrenic, ever changing "God".

Yet in spite of all this religious insanity, there IS an answer in God! There is a TRUE God who wants you to actually know Him, and who wants to set you free from the many delusions in this world!

He's a real, *living* God who you can *know & feel*, and Who will *fill a hole inside you* that nothing else can!¹⁴¹ He loves you so much, He sent His only Son to die for you. He willingly paid the price for your sin!

Final note on: The Age of Tolerance?

While in America the new "age of tolerance" redefines what tolerance means¹⁴²... Its true colors will eventually come to light, when they start to *prohibit* exclusive religion—certainly orthodox Christianity—but who will have eyes to see it? Will Americans be so brainwashed by then that they won't be able to see that the "tolerant ones" are (in fact) being **intolerant**?

Persecution of Christians (and Jews) will come to pass according to Bible prophecy. It may even be explained that their massacre is ***in the best interest of*** an evolving, peace desiring world!¹⁴³

APPENDIX #1 ENDNOTES

¹¹³ And “pop” America! In most cases, the true academic historians “know better” than the myths I’m about to present—but many still reject the “notion” of God.

¹¹⁴ Read authors such as Josh MacDowell and Ralph Muncaster to study this subject.

¹¹⁵ The Da Vinci Code truly is: FICTION. Again, even atheistic, Christianity hating scholars admit there’s no basis in fact for Brown’s rewriting of history. *He seems to have his own VERY religious agenda* he cleverly propagates—but from a historical point of view, it’s ridiculous. Please write to us about specifics. (And see DaVinci expose teachings at www.blessedhopechapel.org)

¹¹⁶ There were Christians willing to die for their faith, (many martyrs, in fact), “from the very beginning”—in other words, within the *same year* of Christ’s death and resurrection—and continuing on through the first century. But Nero’s persecution was the first *large scale* genocide.

¹¹⁷ Publius Cornelius Tacitus, “Annals XV” 14.44.2-4

¹¹⁸ A *second* non-Christian Roman historian also spoke of Nero persecuting Christians (Suetonius, “Life of the Emperor Nero” Chapter 16). My point is that even non-Christian sources confirm Christianity was well established by 67 A.D. (Suetonius also referred to the resurrection of Jesus as a “mischievous superstition”!) **Additionally, the Jewish Talmud in Sanhedrin 43A calls Jesus a Sorcerer (and elsewhere also speaks of His “miracles” but attributes them to Satan)—Thus it seems that even Jewish leaders who rejected Jesus are admitting that His acts seemed supernatural!** (To be fair, I must point out that this was probably written centuries later as a “polemic” against Christianity; but the Talmud is said to be based on Oral Tradition from much earlier. And why would the Jewish Talmudic writers acknowledge *anything miraculous* about Jesus? (Unless His supernatural acts were too well known to ignore; so instead the only argument they could muster was that the power came from Satan!...) More in footnote below.*

1st Century Jewish (non-Christian) Historian Josephus also spoke of Christianity as having a wide following. (Antiquities XVIIIiii)

(His surviving literature also calls Jesus Messiah and has several “pro-Christian” comments... But even though Josephus is widely accepted throughout academia as a major historian of the first century, that **particular** text was probably later tampered with. Although some Christians cite it as strong “outside” support for the historicity of several of Christianity’s claims, I agree with the skeptics that these particular statements may be unreliable. It would be dishonest scholarship for me to “side with Christianity” when the evidence is questionable. There’s enough *reliable* evidence, anyway!).

(And Mara bar Serapion, a Stoic (non-Christian) philosopher from ancient Syria, wrote a letter referring to the execution of Jesus... But the *date* of Serapion’s original writing is uncertain (sometime between 73 AD and the early 200’s)

Of course, *numerous* Christian sources outside the Bible support the historicity of the martyrdom of eyewitnesses of Jesus, and support profusely the fact that the basic tenets of Christianity were established quickly after the death (and resurrection) of Jesus. **In fact scholars say that practically the whole of the New Testament can be constructed simply from quotations and writings of early Christian writers—even if the Bible itself were to have disappeared!**

*Sanhedrin 43A also says Jesus (Yeshu in Hebrew) was hung on “the Eve of Passover... Many claim however that this passage is not speaking of the Jesus of the Bible at all, but rather a different “Jesus” (in that many other details don’t agree with the historical Jesus of the Bible). For instance it speaks of 5 of Yeshu’s

disciples whose names aren't in the Gospels. But these were probably *later* followers of Jesus—or simply scapegoats for the rebuttals the Talmudic authors desired to present! (And dating was often quite unimportant in the Talmud; but rather the *theological points* were their emphasis). An AMAZING BOOK on this subject is, "Jesus in the Talmud" by Peter Schafer.

¹¹⁹ In fact, it's interesting... Most academic historians "know better" than the myths I've discussed. So how come the record hasn't been "set straight" in the general population?

¹²⁰ (SEE BELOW for MORE) A repeat of previous endnote: Please note that Jesus would've never approved of many of the actions of "the church" throughout history... Wars such as the Crusades* and surely "The Inquisition" went radically against the teachings of the New Testament.

*(Except possibly when in direct defense against violent Muslim invasion)
(Not all that is popularly known about the Crusades is entirely accurate!)

BUT may I add a few more thoughts? How come no one ever brings up the wars and atrocities that **atheism** has produced?

Stalin & Lenin killed far more **tens of millions** of innocent people than any of the religious wars... Is there a reason why that is rarely brought up?

Furthermore, persecution OF true Christians (including by the Catholic Church) has been intense through many eras of history.

Even in current events...

Why has there been such little media attention on the **2 MILLION** Christians killed just in the last decade by Muslim Jihad in the Sudan? This is almost like the Holocaust going on with America's full knowledge—yet with very little publicity and very little help given.

Just one detail of Jihad in the Sudan ... Women who claimed to be Christian were regularly gang raped by the Muslims, only to then have their breasts cut off and left for dead as examples to others

(see: http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=26672).

And finally, why do some of our public schools actually present Hitler as if *his* atrocities were done as a *Christian* ! How crazy! But again, I guess anyone can *call* themselves a Christian... (Or use and redefine a religion until it is no longer recognizable!) Please also see next endnote...

¹²¹ U.S. Presidents who *claim* to be Christian—but whose acts & behavior prove otherwise—only worsen the situation.

¹²² USA Today, September 1985. William J. Murray Report (before House Judiciary Com4mittee 105th Congress); Fullerton County California 1980's report which referenced back to pre 60's statistics (comparison); Specialty Research Associates "To Pray or Not to Pray" cites many government statistical reports; several sources show an increase of as much as 400% in Teenage Suicide rates since the 1950's. These statistics are *per capita* (not just a result of an increase in population).

¹²³ Can you do that and that God be real?→"Make-up" who God is?

¹²⁴ To be fair, I'm sure there are many kind Hindus who would help another simply out of love or compassion... But this notion of one deserving their fate curtails *much* potential humanitarian effort. And that's *logical* considering their foundational belief of karma.

¹²⁵ Please see previous endnote. Also, in Hinduism, the physical world isn't ultimately real *anyway*. It's Maya; Illusion.

¹²⁶ The correct Hindu term is “Moksha” (not nirvana).

¹²⁷ My intention is not to offend... Again, there are many *beautiful facets* to Buddhism, and this does not give the “whole picture”! But yet I feel I should share my honest observations. I have an acquaintance who was once a half-monk Buddhist, born and raised in the faith, who lived in the “City of 10,000 Buddhists”. After years of searching, he determined that there was a *spirit of death* there. Before I’d met him, I’d already seen that *really* Buddhism’s ultimate *goal* is death (although *hidden* under the allurements of the promise of bliss):

When is all desire gone? (In non-existence). Matter of fact, the literal meaning of Nirvana is “extinction, blowing out”.

Also, in what many argue to be the true Buddhist view of reincarnation, particular people aren’t even reincarnated—but rather *parts of* several people make up the new baby—no YOU continues to exist!

Shifting gears, although one might argue that good desires are allowed in Buddhism, it’s ultimate objective is detachment from all that is temporary. Jesus certainly didn’t say to get rid of all desire—He said many desires were good (i.e. desire for loving relationships, a healthy family, desire to help others, a desire to know and please God, a desire to have real joy and peace in your life, etc.). And God says that, “If we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart!”

Final note... Tantalizing spiritual experiences (like those I also personally had in meditation) can make you *think* you’re on the “right path” ... Please write to me about this if you’d like details→What at first feels great and seems both profound and wonderful can actually be as deceptive as drugs are...

¹²⁸ I used to embrace a form of Hinduism myself!

¹²⁹ Which too many “Christians” in history indeed have been!

¹³⁰ Considering the fact that Jesus made statements such as, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” and “No one comes to the Father except through Me”.

¹³¹ Of the four major world religions, only Hinduism allows for the “merging of” religions or the idea that “all paths lead to God”.

¹³² Exodus 20:4,5

¹³³ To do so actually goes back to the Original Sin—Satan’s temptation that we “can be our own God”, and that WE can determine what’s right or wrong.

¹³⁴ Although Satan will be glad to play the game with you, even giving you REAL spiritual experiences to lend evidence to your self serving God. That’s why the Bible continually associates *idolatry* with *demons*...

¹³⁵ I’m “making a point”... The truth is, we CAN affect God’s HEART; the statement above of course is not entirely true...

¹³⁶ In fact here I’d like to insert that even when it might **seem** like “the Christian God” is egotistical or arrogant, that’s due to a lack of understanding.

In the second chapter, I encouraged you to take a look at your heart’s attitude towards God. I mentioned that God “cloaks” information from those who prefer unrighteousness and rebellion in their hearts.

I’ll probe further and ask,

**Even if the evidence for God is strong, do you prefer your life of sin?
Are you willing to submit to a Creator, should one really exist?**

Because the Bible says, “This is the verdict. The Light has come into the world... But men preferred the darkness, because their deeds were evil...” (John 3:19)

By the way, what mankind thinks of as evil and what GOD does, are often quite different. I would argue that God thinks of a proud heart—one that’s unwilling to submit to the God who created it—as the worst of sins →Not because He’s an egomaniac, but because of the following: It’s ultimately the source of *all* sin--It’s ultimately the source of **all pain in this world**. (Please write to me if you’d like a more detailed explanation of this).

¹³⁷ The author expresses relatively little of her own opinions—the majority of the book is simply copies of the Dept. of Education’s policies—how they’ve changed, what and who influenced their changes—how they’ve centralized control of education in America, how they deal with protesters, etc. It’s mostly simply copies of government documents and policies—A chronological paper trail. VERY eye opening. Scary.

¹³⁸ And not only solid physical things are factual. Concepts such as mathematics are also factual... If you like chocolate ice cream better than cauliflower that’s a fact about your taste... Even the relativity freak (in spite of his claim that there’s no such thing as absolute truth), ACTUALLY thinks his theory of relativity is an absolute truth! (And the scientific theory of relativity is true. Just don’t throw out your brains with it! God gave you those brains!)

¹³⁹ “Seeking and Finding God, In Search of the True Faith” by Dave Hunt, Pages 42-43.

¹⁴⁰ If you come from the premise that there are only pieces of truth in each one, and most of ANY religion can’t be trusted (in which case Christianity at its core is outright false, because it claims that a Personal & Transcendent God chose to specifically and accurately reveal Himself and His message to men).

But if that’s what you think—that there are only bits of truth in various religions—that through the FILTER of mankind’s idiocy “he didn’t get the message right”, then how is it that Mediums get such SPECIFIC, detailed messages from spirits that they are nothing more than a channel for?... Are the spirits also totally confused? I will say, however, that the Bible says there are many LYING spirits in this world, and that Satan (and his messengers) disguise themselves as “Angels of Light”. So I would AGREE that messages received from spirits are often FALSE—But they are false *intentionally*...

The biggest issue, again, is simply this:

IS there a transcendent God? Because clearly if there IS, then He could CAUSE His message to be received accurately. (I do agree, however, that a *man’s heart* is a big determinate as to whether God chooses real communication with an individual... The Bible asserts this repeatedly).

Finally, Jesus attested that all Bible scriptures written at the time He walked the Earth were utterly trustworthy as God’s message to man. The clearly supernatural fulfillment of predictions *about* Jesus, along with His obvious character and the evidence of his resurrection, give His words enormous weight!

¹⁴¹ At least, not for long! Falling in love will fill it only temporarily...But at least it does for a while—which is why pursuing romantic love for happiness can actually be

dangerous—You can spend your whole life “trying to get back there”, not realizing that it’s GOD who will **really** satisfy you (ongoingly...)

¹⁴² There was a time when religious tolerance had a whole different meaning. Using Christianity as an example, religious tolerance would be as follows. Let’s say I’m a Christian and you’re a Mormon. I would be fully convinced in my own mind that God had shown me the truth, and so I might try to gently share my faith with you, because I love you and don’t want you to go to hell. But I would fully respect your right to choose your own religion and to train your children in your family’s religion—God gives us all free will. I might try to reach you and your family—but if you continued to choose Mormonism, I would still **respect you and treat you well as a human being**. And while I would never consider your religion “equally valid” to Christianity, I **would** be **tolerant** towards the choice you have made; never would I **force** my religion on you.

¹⁴³ In some modern countries, it’s already illegal for a preacher to read parts of the Bible that speak against homosexuality. In Germany it’s already a serious crime for a Christian to home school their kids; they must subject their children to the nation’s religious ideology...

APPENDIX #2 - Isaiah 53 Commentary

ISAIAH 53 From the Jewish Scriptures/The Old Testament

A Jewish prophet speaking about the Jewish people:
**WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR MESSAGE? AND TO WHOM
HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?**

A message from Jews to the Jewish people, but who will believe it? (The first Christians were Jews, but MOST Jews did not accept Jesus, because of the strong influence of their religious leaders who hated Jesus).

**FOR HE GREW UP BEFORE HIM LIKE A TENDER
SHOOT, AND LIKE A ROOT OUT OF PARCHED
GROUND;**

(The Messiah is referred to as a "shoot" (and a "branch") in Isaiah 11:1 & Jeremiah 33:15; also see Isaiah 6:13)

("Parched Ground"—The Jews had been without a prophet for 400 years!) **HE HAS NO STATELY FORM OR
MAJESTY THAT WE SHOULD LOOK UPON HIM,
NOR APPEARANCE THAT WE SHOULD BE
ATTRACTED TO HIM.**

(There was nothing special about Jesus' physical appearance)

**HE WAS DESPISED AND FORSAKEN OF MEN, A MAN
OF SORROWS AND ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF;** (The crowds yelled, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him! And Who was more forsaken? Even most of His disciples abandoned Him)

**AND LIKE ONE FROM WHOM MEN HIDE THEIR FACE
HE WAS DESPISED, AND WE DID NOT ESTEEM HIM**
(*it SAYS the Jews would not esteem Him. Also see endnote #78!*)
**SURELY OUR GRIEFS HE HIMSELF BORE, AND OUR
SORROWS HE CARRIED;**

**YET WE OURSELVES ESTEEMED HIM STRICKEN,
SMITTEN OF GOD, AND AFFLICTED** (They considered Him cursed of God not only because He was killed (evidently not showing the favor of God!), but even

more so because He was "hung on a tree". Based on the Bible, only those cursed of God died that way. But that was the whole point: He did it to take OUR CURSES *upon himself*)

**BUT HE WAS PIERCED THROUGH FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS,
HE WAS CRUSHED FOR OUR INIQUITIES;
THE CHASTENING FOR OUR WELL-BEING FELL UPON HIM,
AND BY HIS SCOURGING WE ARE HEALED.**

(Descriptions of the spikes ("Pierced through") and of the whipping ("scourging"). He took *our* guilt upon Himself; paid the price for *our* sin).

ALL OF US LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY, EACH OF US HAS TURNED TO HIS OWN WAY; BUT THE LORD HAS CAUSED THE INIQUITY OF US ALL TO FALL ON HIM

(Who else could this be but Jesus?!)(Iniquity is another word for sin)

**HE WAS OPPRESSED AND HE WAS AFFLICTED,
YET HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH;
LIKE A LAMB THAT IS LED TO SLAUGHTER,
AND LIKE A SHEEP THAT IS SILENT BEFORE ITS SHEARERS,
SO HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH**

(Jesus did not try to defend Himself when questioned by Pilate and the Jewish tribunal, but rather was silent, willingly laying down His life to pay for our sins)

BY OPPRESSION AND JUDGMENT HE WAS TAKEN AWAY;

(The unfairness and illegality of the "trial" is documented in the Gospels)

**AND AS FOR HIS GENERATION, WHO CONSIDERED THAT HE WAS CUT OFF OUT OF THE LAND OF THE LIVING
FOR THE TRANSGRESSION OF MY PEOPLE, TO**

WHOM THE STROKE WAS DUE? (It so clearly states that Jesus would die for the sins of the people, but the Jews didn't understand this scripture so it wasn't a well known text. However Jewish Rabbis had read all the scriptures—and some in their confusion about the apparent *death* of the Messiah in this passage, concluded that there must be TWO Messiahs→ One, the suffering Messiah, and the other, the Conquering Messiah. How close to accurate they were! How else could they have concluded? Not realizing, of course, that it was the SAME Messiah, but TWO different COMINGS of Jesus!)

(Also, Jesus repeatedly stated that He came first for the Jews, and only secondly for the Gentiles (non-Jews))

HIS GRAVE WAS ASSIGNED WITH WICKED MEN, YET HE WAS WITH A RICH MAN IN HIS DEATH (as a "criminal" sentenced to crucifixion, he shouldn't have gotten any special burial; but a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea, asked for the body from Pilate, and put it in his new tomb...)

BECAUSE HE HAD DONE NO VIOLENCE, NOR WAS THERE ANY DECEIT IN HIS MOUTH.

BUT THE LORD WAS PLEASED TO CRUSH HIM, PUTTING HIM TO GRIEF;

IF HE WOULD RENDER HIMSELF AS A GUILT OFFERING(a sacrifice for sin)...

(How much clearer could this be? Who could this be but Jesus?)

Now, in that I'm writing to skeptics... A skeptic will naturally question all evidence, perhaps with an *intention* to disprove (or even looking for any *possible* way to invalidate!) Sometimes "doubting" is legitimate; sometimes it goes BEYOND true reason to "be so skeptical"...

In that Isaiah 53 is such an obvious description of Jesus, OTHER ways to discredit have to jump to mind (for the skeptic). Isaiah 53 clearly predicted the Messiah's crucifixion, and explained God's purpose in the sacrifice of Jesus' life. Yet I've heard...

Skeptic's Argument #1

After Jesus was crucified, His followers, still WANTING to believe in Him, used Isaiah 53 AS AN EXPLANATION for the purpose in Jesus' Death. Isaiah 53 was the BASIS for the "myth" that developed about Jesus' death (Rather than simply a TRUE prophecy that was TRULY fulfilled).

Skeptic's Argument #2

A similar argument is that the disciples deliberately (or subconsciously) made up a bunch of lies—for several possible purposes—for religious grandeur, to manipulate followers, or to somehow validate what they had "poured so much into" believing.

But Isaiah's prophecy was written hundreds of years EARLIER! It explained Jesus' death *ahead of time*...

Skeptic's Argument #3

More extreme than the prior, is the theory that Jesus was some kind of a lunatic who TRIED to fulfill all the prophecies about the Messiah. But this is so far fetched I'm only going to refute with the following.

His wisdom and good character have been admired by men throughout the ages, and by many different religions. If He was crazy, he's fooled a whole lot of people! Furthermore, He fulfilled prophecies concerning His birth and several that occurred after His death (and concerning His death) that He could not have controlled.

My Continued Response

Could the theories of the meaning of Jesus' death have been a myth BASED UPON Isaiah 53? To me the more

NATURAL conclusion given ALL the evidence is that Christ FULFILLED prophecies told about Him! God said ahead of time what would happen—because He knew not only the future, but what HIS plan was! Is this so impossible?! Does not the cumulative evidence point strongly towards this?

First of all, the Isaiah 53 prophecy, at the time of Jesus' birth, was not really understood by the Jews and was rarely discussed. It was not part of a young Jews' upbringing.

It's not something the apostles were aware of until Jesus Himself TOLD THEM He was going to be abused and killed (and then raised again in 3 days!). And even then they could not comprehend it (according to the gospels).

So certainly after He died they may have been pondering this, because Jesus' Himself had told them beforehand—And now it had occurred. And then when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared many times to them, He talked with them & "opened their eyes" to see His fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies.

Did the apostles make this up? We didn't live back then, so how can we REALLY know it happened?

I can't *absolutely* prove it to you. There's no way to ABSOLUTELY PROVE something that happened in the distant past. But again, look at the evidence.

Not only did the apostles exhibit integrity and moral character in their lives, but 10 OUT OF 12 of the apostles DIED for their faith. Once again, NOT for something they grew up believing, not for something someone simply told them, but for *something they saw with their own eyes*—Jesus resurrected from the grave! They certainly wouldn't have died for something they knew they made up. Nor can you tell me **all 10** of them *imagined* this out of "subconscious desires".¹⁴⁴

Conclusion

Could the apostles in their desperation (after Jesus' death) discovered and seized upon scriptures like Isaiah 53 for explanation? If that's ***all that had happened***—Jesus had died and *stayed dead* that might make sense! But again, what about the resurrection? They ***saw Him with their own eyes! Felt Him*** with their own hands. Ate with Him, talked with Him—and it was Jesus Himself who *explained* various scriptures—because they were not part of the 1st century Jews' understanding of what the Messiah would do (even though it *was there* in their Bible...)

Finally, to the skeptic, I would add a reminder that the Jewish Scriptures said the Jews would reject Jesus. It all fits, just as it was written.

At any rate, the evidence seems overwhelming to me that the facts (especially when you include the apostle's martyrdom) speak to ***fulfillment of Supernatural Prophecy***, rather than Isaiah 53 simply being a *basis for* a myth.

If you're still skeptical, I would encourage you to be observant of your own heart's attitude. Could it be that your preconceived beliefs are causing such skepticism?

APPENDIX #2 ENDNOTE

¹⁴⁴ And the Gospels exude honesty. There's no evidence that they were "made up later" by pseudo writers. If they had been, why were they so brutally honest about their own shortcomings? And why include relatively obscure authors like Luke & Mark—If they were falsifying authorship, why wouldn't they have claimed Peter & James (or the other apostles)? Plus even the worst critics admit most of Paul's Epistles were written only 20 or so years after Jesus' crucifixion, and Paul writings SUPPORT the content of the Gospels. Truly, these only scratch the surface of the arguments against extreme skeptics' attempts to tear down the historical accounts of Jesus. Do see the next appendix—and there are many fine books on this subject!

APPENDIX #3-“The Jesus Seminar”

&

How do we know Jesus *Really Said* those things?...

Note: Skip this Appendix if this subject doesn't interest you.

The “Jesus Seminar” considers themselves to be experts in the field of Biblical Criticism. They’ve received remarkable publicity... And so, their “findings” have been largely swallowed by parts of the American public. But: Is their research really based on *facts*? And are their conclusions warranted?

The “Jesus Seminar” claims (in their arrogance) to have roughly determined which of Jesus’ quotes in the Bible He *actually* said, and which He didn’t—concluding that He only said about **20%** of what’s written!

You might ask, “How could they know?” 2000 years later...

Understanding the Bias behind their “Research”

The first thing to understand is that the “Jesus Seminar” scholars are far from unbiased (as they seem to purport). Rather, quite the opposite is true.¹⁴⁵

Matter of fact, the philosophical belief of those in charge of “The Jesus Seminar” (and of most of the “scholars” involved) is the premise of “naturalism”. This is a “bedrock” belief of the The Jesus Seminar¹⁴⁶ →That there’s **no such thing** as the miraculous. Miracles of God intervening (outside of scientific, “natural” law¹⁴⁷) were consistently judged as false! How ridiculous. First of all, to judge a religious book starting from the “factual” premise of (what most would call) atheism!

But furthermore, **having that premise be so predominant**, that even if most or ALL other evidence [normal legal/historical evidence for authenticity and dating of an ancient document (which included eye witness testimony from martyrs), and much other supportive and circumstantial evidence]... Even when all this pointed toward authenticity, still “naturalism” prevailed; most voted the “black bead”¹⁴⁸ = “Jesus didn’t say that”.

No kidding. This is a major, primary presupposition of the Seminar—that there's simply *no such thing* as miracles! (With the exception of endnote #147). Their judgments were NOT based on historical evidence or documentation when the miraculous was involved— Rather, **because** the Gospels record supernatural events that "*obviously must be myths*", they **then** conclude that the Gospels cannot be trusted as authentic records!

Sorry, but you'd have to have been there to make such a judgment...

And, you'd have to BE God to know for sure that miracles never happen!

But the Seminar simply *presupposes* no such thing as the "supernatural"...

This includes *not only* extreme miracles such as the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection; but ALSO includes any claims Jesus made about being God, Savior, Messiah, Judge of mankind, Forgiver of sin, sacrificial Lamb of God, etc.

(Even if you could somehow prove there was no such thing as miracles (or no such thing as a God who intervenes in this world outside of natural phenomenon) →How could that be proof that "Jesus didn't say that?" What if Jesus was crazy? Or what if HE DID believe in a God of miracles?)

Furthermore, anything that predicted a future event was ruled out.

And once again, this presupposition seems "set in concrete"—so even if most or all other (*and strong!*) evidence supported both an early date of record and eye witness testimony by reliable witnesses—*AND even if the majority of scholarship throughout the field, BOTH liberal and conservative*, disagrees with many of the Seminar's conclusions—even so, if the scripture forecast a future event... BLACK BEAD! (Of course, each scholar was free to vote however they chose)... But who were the scholars who were voting? Which brings us to our next point:

Does the Jesus Seminar Really Represent the Majority of Biblical Scholars?

Despite their claims, emphatically, NO. They don't even represent the majority of *liberal* Biblical criticism.

The Jesus Seminar is a self-promoted, self-defined group of scholars whose overall acceptance in the field is mostly a media (or self advertisement) creation. There are *some* leading scholars in the Seminar (mostly **very** liberal ones)—but not nearly as many as they purport. They claim 200 scholars, but only about 40 regularly participate and only **14** (of the 74 they list in "The Five Gospels")* are considered leading scholars in the field. Furthermore half of them come from three **ultra**-liberal schools: Harvard, Claremont, and Vanderbilt. The Jesus Seminar, rather than representing a consensus of opinion (even in liberal scholarship), is in fact a small body of critics in pursuit of a cultural agenda**.

*Johnson, *Real Jesus*, pp. 4–5.

**Rediscovering the Historical Jesus: The Presuppositions and Presumptions of the Jesus Seminar." Faith and Mission 15 (1998):3-15 from www.leaderu.com

To give you some idea of what *other* Bible critics think of "The Jesus Seminar"... May I present a few quotes?

This one from a Liberal scholar:

Howard Kee calls the Jesus Seminar "an academic disgrace," and says that its conclusions are "prejudicial" and "peripheral," not "a substantive development in responsible scholarly study of the historical Jesus."^[23]*

^[23]Howard Clark Kee, Editorial: "Controversial Jesus Seminar," *Los Angeles Times*, 12 March 1991, p. B6; idem, "Century of Quests," p. 28.
www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/docs/rediscover1.html

Jacob Neusner, one of the most prominent Jewish theologians of our day, has said that the Jesus Seminar is either "the greatest scholarly hoax since the Piltdown Man, or else represents the bankruptcy of New Testament studies!"*

*Jacob Neusner, cited by Richard N. Ostling, "Jesus Christ, Plain and Simple" *Time* (January 10, 1994), p. 39. www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/docs/rediscover1.html

Why are such comments made? As an example of Jesus Seminar "scholarship", I next present the circular reasoning they use to support their heavy reliance on the (supposed) "Gospel of Thomas":

1. The Gospel of Thomas is an early, primary source.

"How do you know?"

2. Because no apocalyptic sayings are found in the Gospel of Thomas.

"Why is that evidence of an early date?"

3. This is evidence of an early date because Jesus wasn't into Apocalyptic.

"How do you know he wasn't?"

4. Because the Gospel of Thomas proves he wasn't.

"Why believe what the Gospel of Thomas says?"

1. The Gospel of Thomas is an early, primary source*

[*www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/docs/rediscover1.html](http://www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/docs/rediscover1.html)

Howard Kee of Boston University calls this "a triumph of circular reasoning!"^[9] *

British New Testament scholar Thomas Wright says it's like Winnie the Pooh following his own tracks in the snow around a clump of trees and each time he sees more tracks he takes this as evidence that his quarry is even more numerous and more real than he thought before!^[10] *

"No wonder that the fellows of the Jesus Seminar haven't been able to convince very many of their colleagues by means of arguments like this!" *

[9] Howard Clark Kee, "A Century of Quests of the Culturally Compatible Jesus," *Theology Today* 52 (1995): 22.

[10] N. T. Wright, "Taking the Text with Her Pleasure," *Theology* 96 (1993): 307.

*www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/docs/rediscover1.html

And finally, in his book *Jesus Under Fire*, J.P. Moreland sums up what the Jesus Seminar is asking us to believe based on nothing more than the strength of their philosophic assumptions: "It requires the assumption that someone, about a generation removed from the events in question, radically transformed the authentic information about Jesus that was circulating at that time, superimposed a body of material four times as large, fabricated almost entirely out of whole cloth, while the church suffered sufficient collective amnesia to accept the transformation as legitimate." [5]*

[5] Moreland and Wilkins, *Jesus Under Fire* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), p. 22.

*www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/docs/rediscover1.html

And What ABOUT the Gospel of Thomas?

Although not in the Bible, the Jesus Seminar relies heavily upon The Gospel of Thomas. But most scholars—including *non-Christian* and *liberal* scholars—believe it wasn't actually written until the middle of the 2nd Century! In other words, the REAL Thomas didn't write it!

Most scholars (again, even including non-Christian) believe that the other gospels were written way before "The Gospel of Thomas", which shows heavy Gnostic influence.

Additionally, here's one "content highlight" from the Gospel of Thomas for YOUR thinking mind:

"Simon Peter said to them: 'Let Mary (Magdalene) go out from among us, because women are not worthy of the Life.'"

"Jesus said: See I shall lead her, so that I will make her male, that she too may become a living spirit, resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Saying 114, Funk, p. 532; see also Yamauchi, p. 186).

Is this the REAL Jesus? And it's so inconsistent with the whole of the Bible...

Yet the Jesus Seminar *in general* gives more weight to the “Gospel of Thomas” than to the other gospels.

(By the way—this “scripture” alone blows up the “Da Vinci Code” myth... See endnotes #98 & #115).

My personal conclusion...

The Jesus Seminar has gotten mass publicity, and the general public is easily persuaded. But “the powers that be” behind our media have a “purpose going on”.

OK, I got it about the Jesus Seminar. But what about all the Different Bible Versions, Etc, Etc?

The vast majority of what you hear “out there” about all the Bible’s discrepancies, translation mistakes, differences in Bible versions, errors in transmission (copying over the centuries), etc. is *highly unreliable*. It’s like the College Campus Myths I discussed in the first Appendix.

I have little room to discuss this in this small book, but let me at least address the following 2 points:

Accuracy through the Centuries

The Bible has “made it through the centuries” with amazing accuracy. Not perfectly, I’ll admit; but with amazing reliability.

The Dead Sea Scrolls proved this. Before they were discovered, boy, could the Bible’s critics poke fun and go wild in their skepticism!

Because before the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, the *most recent*, full copy of the Old Testament we had was transcribed about 1000 A.D. *That’s 1400 years AFTER* its writing was completed! “How could a copy made 1400 years after the original still be accurate?” The skeptics had a heyday!

But then the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. They included all but 2 books of the Old Testament. And guess what?

95% transmission accuracy¹⁴⁹ was hence *proven*. The 5% error? Most of it was spelling and very minor transcription errors!

What about the New Testament?

It's true the New Testament didn't make it through the centuries quite as accurately, because the Jewish Scribes were more meticulous. But still, a minimum of 85% accuracy was maintained—and the 15% error *does not affect a single basic doctrine* of Christianity. Again, much of it is spelling errors, and small errors like 2 words being reversed (a little dyslexia by the copyist).

It's true, that we only have extant scraps and partial books of the Bible from within a century of its writing, and no *whole* copy of the New Testament until over 200 years later. "Doesn't this prove it wasn't written until way AFTER the lives of the Apostles?" Emphatically, no.

Here's what the Skeptic's Don't tell You...

We don't have ANY such ancient documents in their original form! Not if they were written on Papyrus (or animal skins), which was most common. **They disintegrated.** Any scholar knows this... All the stuff they teach you about ancient history in history class? Julius Caesar, the Gaelic Wars, or philosophers such as Plato or Aristotle? They teach it like it's FACT, right? Yet the extant COPIES of the records of almost *everything* that's taught are from *many, many centuries* "after the fact"! Unless it was chiseled in stone, it disintegrated...

The fact that we have even scraps of the Bible within a century of their original authorship is actually a miracle! We have FAR MORE Bible manuscripts, far closer to their original authorship, *than any 10 pieces of Ancient Literature put together!* The closest single contender is the Iliad by Homer. And the oldest copy we have of that is from over 400 years after its original authorship!^{150 151}

Just because we don't have an extant copy until later, emphatically *does not mean* that it wasn't written long before. That's just the nature of papyrus.

When was the Bible REALLY written?

Most evidence shows that most of the New Testament was written (in its present form) 20-30 years after Jesus died. Does this mean we can't rely on it?

First of all, just because the first three Gospels weren't written in their *present form* until then, does not mean notes weren't taken previously... Especially by someone such as Matthew, who was a tax collector (and hence was in the habit of recording things).¹⁵² But the truth is, Israel was a CULTURE primarily of oral learning, not written.

This is hard for us to relate to. Our *minds are not trained* like theirs were. In the Jewish schools, it was customary to recite and memorize. It was normal for Jewish disciples to have WHOLE BOOKS of the Old Testament memorized— some had even memorized the whole Tenakh! Students were in the habit of memorizing entire discourses of their rabbi's teachings.

This was monitored... It's true that variations of wording were often allowed, as long as the meaning was accurately conveyed. But this simply was *nothing like* our modern day example of "Telephone" (the game where a sentence is whispered in one's ear, then whispered on to the next person, and so on round a circle—And usually by the last person, it's all mixed up!) In contrast, scriptures and teachings of the Rabbis were held sacred, and oral tradition was preserved with remarkable care.

Even "lay people" had far more training in reciting and memorizing than we do. We really can't relate to how well their minds worked in this regard. (It's kind of like comparing the average Japanese student with the average American inner city student... There's simply a radical difference in their mental training and practice).

Moreover, Jesus surely taught many of the same things *over and over* again!¹⁵³ (For 3½ years). With most of His teachings, it wasn't as if He spoke on a subject only once, and then the Apostles were expected to remember it.

(Plus they were “lessons of the heart”... They were the kind of lessons that often *pierced your soul*... (Not just some boring “school lesson” you sat through waiting for the school bell to ring!)

And finally, most of the apostles stayed together in Jerusalem for a long time after Jesus was crucified... Surely they were a “check and balance” for each other as they immediately started to TEACH about Jesus. And then of course they *continued* to teach the same lessons for the years between Jesus and the formal recording of the Gospels.

In Summary...

There’s strong evidence for the “copied through the centuries” reliability of our present day Bible.

Daniel Chapter 9 and many other parts of the Bible seem to PROVE the Bible’s reliability... (To the skeptic: You have to admit, at least its **partial** reliability!)

Doesn’t it make sense that God would *want* to communicate with us? The remarkable preservation of the Bible... It’s incredible influence on people and nations (*true* Christianity, always in a positive way!)¹⁵⁴... Its remarkable symmetry from beginning to end (in spite of many different authors over centuries and continents)... Hundreds of fulfillments of prophecies... So much more that I could share!... Does not all this point toward One Author “behind the scenes”?

Isn’t it possible that God would *guide* the writing of His message? Isn’t there *evidence* of its “supernatural” content? But reading the Bible, I admit, won’t really make sense to you unless you are “born again” of God’s Holy Spirit; only then will the Bible become *alive* to you in ways previously unimaginable!

Indeed it is the B.I.B.L.E.—Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth! And it points to Jesus from beginning to end; from its first book of Genesis on to Revelation.

Let me close with a famous quote from C.S. Lewis:

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a good moral teacher. He would be either a lunatic-on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg-or else he would be the devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit on Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

*If you are already a Born Again Christian,
and you still have doubts about, “Can you trust the whole Bible?”...
Sometimes it takes a little time for God to work out
a lifetime of false beliefs or doubts that have been planted.

The Bible was originally COMPLETELY Inspired by the Holy Spirit.
But it’s true there are sometimes translation difficulties... So it’s always good to
consult several translations if you’re in doubt about a particular scripture.
(And please do NOT trust paraphrased Bibles like “The Message”!!)
But for standard, *real* translations...

Jesus spoke of the Old Testament as if ALL of it was God’s Word. There’s no
greater testimony than His. If God successfully guided the writing of the Old
Testament, can we not trust that He did the same for the New? God Bless you and
see you in heaven!

APPENDIX #3 ENDNOTES

¹⁴⁵ In addition to what I present here, they adopt a “burden of proof” argument. In other words, the Biblical narratives are *assumed to be false* unless proven otherwise.

¹⁴⁶ See R.W. Funk, R.W. Hoover, and the Jesus Seminar, “Introduction” to “The Five Gospels” (New York: Macmillan, 1993), pp 2&3 Plus the Naturalistic philosophy of Strauss, who they acclaim, in his book “The Life of Jesus”. Also see next endnote.

¹⁴⁷ The founder, Dr Crossen, does believe to an extent in healing “miracles”... But believes they work within scientific principles →though an area of science we’re mostly unknowledgeable of.

¹⁴⁸ They decide by voting with colored beads if Jesus “really” said something!

¹⁴⁹ Transmission accuracy: The accuracy of the copying of the manuscripts from about Year #0 (the approximate dating of the Dead Sea Scrolls) to the Year 1000 A.D. (Approximate date of oldest Old Testament we had *until* the finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls!)

¹⁵⁰ Plus there are far fewer extant copies of the Iliad than of the Bible anywhere close to the authorship date (Only 643 manuscripts of the Iliad compared to 5366 manuscripts of the Bible!).

¹⁵¹ By the way, think about that↑. There are *far more* ancient copies of the Bible than *any other* ancient records, including that of other religions. WHY did Christianity spread like such wildfire? Why did it have SUCH an effect on people?

¹⁵² In fact it's widely accepted among many Biblical scholars, both conservative and skeptical, that there were earlier records that the final gospel writers could refer to (such as the "Q" Document), but these records have been lost.

¹⁵³ He went from town to town speaking to the crowds. It only makes sense that He would have repeated the points He wanted to convey!

¹⁵⁴ I've already expressed that much that has been done "in the Name of" Christianity was not motivated by true Christianity! See endnote 120.

Appendix #4 – Fascinating Foreshadowing

From the Book of Genesis!

In the first book of the Jewish & Christian Bible—the Book of Genesis—there’s a remarkable “picture” of Jesus!

I’ve really only touched upon *some* of the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus—the number of them, and the odds of Jesus fulfilling so many—are “way off the charts!”

Some are very precise and specific (as in the 70 Sevens of Daniel); others are what Bible scholars call “types” and “shadows”—*foreshadowings* of Jesus. Yet even these can be remarkably specific...

Abraham and Isaac

In Genesis Chapter 22, God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. This is Abraham’s “only” son—whom he’d waited for almost 100 years to father! God specially promised Isaac... But Abraham had to wait, and wait, and wait... until it **had to be a miracle** from God, before his barren wife Sarah finally conceived! (Way after menopause!)

Yet later, God asks Abraham to sacrifice his treasured son (Literally). What’s up, God?

But the Bible says Abraham had *such faith* in God, that he thought to himself, “If God kills him, He’ll raise him from the dead” (paraphrased from Hebrews 11:19). Here’s the dramatic story:

Genesis 22:1-14

NOW IT CAME ABOUT AFTER THESE THINGS, THAT GOD TESTED ABRAHAM, AND SAID TO HIM, “ABRAHAM!” AND HE SAID, “HERE I AM.”

HE SAID, “TAKE NOW YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, WHOM YOU LOVE, ISAAC, AND GO TO THE LAND OF MORIAH, AND OFFER HIM THERE AS A BURNT OFFERING ON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS OF WHICH I WILL TELL YOU.”

SO ABRAHAM ROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING AND SADDLED HIS DONKEY, AND TOOK TWO OF HIS YOUNG MEN WITH HIM AND ISAAC HIS SON; AND HE SPLIT WOOD FOR THE BURNT OFFERING, AND AROSE AND WENT TO THE PLACE OF WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM.

ON THE THIRD DAY ABRAHAM RAISED HIS EYES AND SAW THE PLACE FROM A DISTANCE.

ABRAHAM SAID TO HIS YOUNG MEN, "STAY HERE WITH THE DONKEY, AND I AND THE LAD WILL GO OVER THERE; AND WE WILL WORSHIP AND RETURN TO YOU."

ABRAHAM TOOK THE WOOD OF THE BURNT OFFERING AND LAID IT ON ISAAC HIS SON, AND HE TOOK IN HIS HAND THE FIRE AND THE KNIFE. SO THE TWO OF THEM WALKED ON TOGETHER.

ISAAC SPOKE TO ABRAHAM HIS FATHER AND SAID, "MY FATHER!" AND HE SAID, "HERE I AM, MY SON." AND HE SAID, BEHOLD, THE FIRE AND THE WOOD, BUT WHERE IS THE LAMB FOR THE BURNT OFFERING?"

ABRAHAM SAID, "GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR HIMSELF THE LAMB FOR THE BURNT OFFERING, MY SON." SO THE TWO OF THEM WALKED ON TOGETHER.

THEN THEY CAME TO THE PLACE OF WHICH GOD HAD TOLD HIM; AND ABRAHAM BUILT THE ALTAR THERE AND ARRANGED THE WOOD, AND BOUND HIS SON ISAAC AND LAID HIM ON THE ALTAR, ON TOP OF THE WOOD.

ABRAHAM STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND AND TOOK THE KNIFE TO SLAY HIS SON.

BUT THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CALLED TO HIM FROM HEAVEN AND SAID, "ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM!" AND HE SAID, "HERE I AM."

HE SAID, "DO NOT STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND AGAINST THE LAD, AND DO NOTHING TO HIM; FOR NOW I KNOW THAT YOU FEAR GOD, SINCE YOU HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, FROM ME."

THEN ABRAHAM RAISED HIS EYES AND LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, BEHIND HIM A RAM CAUGHT IN THE THICKET BY HIS HORNS; AND ABRAHAM WENT AND TOOK THE RAM AND OFFERED HIM UP FOR A BURNT OFFERING IN THE PLACE OF HIS SON.

ABRAHAM CALLED THE NAME OF THAT PLACE *THE LORD WILL PROVIDE*, AS IT IS SAID TO THIS DAY, "IN THE MOUNT OF THE LORD IT WILL BE PROVIDED." (Underlining mine).

Notice that Abraham prophesied that God would provide the lamb... But what was actually provided *then* was a full-grown ram...

But when Jesus came, John the Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"

God had never intended for Abraham to sacrifice his son. Rather it was God Himself who would provide the Lamb (His own Son).

The Passover Lamb!¹⁵⁵

And what gets "lost", on Passover Night? *...

Jesus is the Bread of Life!

(See footnotes below for additional amazing facts!)

*God has preserved clues even still in many Jewish traditions, to help the searching Jewish heart to find his (or her) Messiah... One of these is in the Jewish celebration of Passover...

Jesus was Crucified-Sacrificed, during Passover

Jesus was Crucified-On a mountain in Moriah (same as where Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac!)

Abraham called the name of the place "The Lord will provide" (rather than the Lord has provided)

Furthermore, traditionally on Passover night, Jews put 3 pieces of bread (matzos) in a special napkin. The middle piece of bread is called the "Afikoman". It is

Broken (when Jesus celebrated the "last supper"—the Passover meal—He said, "This is my body, which is broken for you).

Wrapped in Linen cloth (His body was wrapped in linen cloths)

Hidden away (His Body was "hidden" in the Tomb for 3 days)
(The Messiah today is still hidden from many Jews...)

Finally brought back and eaten by all (Jesus came back and became The Bread of Life for all who would receive Him)
(The Jews who remain at the end, will finally find their Messiah!)

But you can find the Messiah today! He stands and knocks at the door of your heart. Will you let Him in? (See page 68).

Afikoman (The very word Afikoman...It's a Greek word that means: "He Came").

APPENDIX #4 ENDNOTE

¹⁵⁵ To truly explain the significance of the important Jewish holiday of Passover is beyond the scope of this book—in that Passover is full of rich symbolism and rooted in ancient Jewish History. But to highlight a few points...

The Jews had been enslaved to the Egyptians for hundreds of years, when God raised up Moses to deliver them from Pharaoh's tyranny. Pharaoh, however, would not let the Jewish people go—until God poured out 10 plagues upon Egypt. Each came with warning; but Pharaoh was unwilling to set free a million Hebrew slaves!

Until finally... the 10th plague... God warned Pharaoh that He would kill Pharaoh's firstborn son, and all the firstborn of Egypt... But to the Jews He said:*

In order to have the angel of death “pass over” your homes, you are to sacrifice a perfect (unblemished) male lamb... Take some of its blood and put it on the lintel and doorposts (of the doorway) of each of your homes. As the angel of death comes, it will see the blood (of the sacrifice of the lamb) and will pass over your home without harm.

In this sacrifice—as well as in Abraham's “picture prototype” of the intended sacrifice of his son Issac—the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus was symbolized! A lamb, symbolizing innocence—as Jesus Himself was completely innocent of sin; and perfect (unblemished), as Jesus was perfect (in both love and holiness).

The only man who ever lived without any sin—he was the only one who did not already owe the price of his **own** life for his own sin. God's Son who could pay the *price for us*... As John the Baptist cried out, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”.

Very interesting that He was crucified *during Passover* ... and... Did even the blood on the lintel and doorposts foreshadow the cross? Picture the blood from the center of the lintel above dripping down, hitting the floor below... And the blood on each side's doorposts also dripped down, as did the blood from Jesus' hands... (Thus each place where blood came from Jesus' body was also touched with the blood of the Passover lamb (the crown of thorns above, His pierced feet below... His pierced hands on either side)

*(paraphrased)

APPENDIX #5-What About Reincarnation?

At least 2 of the world's major religions believe in reincarnation. Many Americans do also *regardless* of their religion.

Before I begin, let me state this will not be a comprehensive analysis—but it will be quite interesting! Two questions I am leaving out: “What about the memories people have?” (of past lives) and, “There’s even a Bible scripture that teaches reincarnation!” (not true if you understand the Bible) — Please write to me about these issues!

(Plus, there are additional ponderings I’ve included in an endnote, that are only for the “deep thinker”...) ¹⁵⁶

But for now...

Reincarnation and Science...

For a moment, let’s suppose that reincarnation IS true. You really do get reincarnated. Over and over and over again.

Much of science is quite dependable and is truly based on *facts*. There are laws (such as the law of gravity) that have been tested over & over and have *always* been found to be true. One such *foundational law* in science is the second law of thermodynamics.

The second law of thermodynamics states that all work processes tend towards a greater entropy over time. Everything is decaying; everything ultimately falls apart and disintegrates. There is an overall downward trend throughout the universe. (The Bible spoke of this long before science did: “The universe is wearing out like a garment”). ¹⁵⁷

But the Reason I Bring this Up...

...Is to get you thinking about its *application* to reincarnation. Huh?! Don’t worry, I’ll explain!

America tends to glamorize the idea of reincarnation. No real death... No severe consequences to face (most Americans think they are good people)... The opportunity to be reunited to a past romantic love... Americans think its cool! Hindus, once again, think of it as a curse, and are trying to get FREE from it—they'd probably say Americans have a bit of a misconception going on!

But there's something else I bet you haven't thought of. What happens in the end?

What if Science shows that "You" will no longer exist?

OK. Now she's really lost it! But of course, science shows you will no longer exist. Science standing alone shows that when you die you are extinct—that's it. There ain't no more. Worm food. But we're talking about reincarnation—Something science doesn't delve into. So what's your point?

My point isn't about the end of this life. It's about THE END.

The 2nd law of thermodynamics says everything's wearing out. Burning out. That's right. *Everything is going to burn out.* Every sun in our universe is going to burn out. *If you **did** continue to exist*—even if you attained a Hindu "universal consciousness" (assuming there is such a thing)—you would be part of a cold, lifeless universe. Matter of fact, there would be no energy left **concentrated enough** to generate thoughts anymore—Consciousness itself would be dead.

So your ultimate destiny if reincarnation is true—***unless there's an intelligent, direction giving God*** who stands in some way bigger and *outside of* this

universe—is extinction. If there is no omnipotent God, you are without hope. In the end, lights out.

That's the BEST you can hope for.

What if there's really a Hell?

But wait!

There IS an omnipotent God. He loves you and planned you. You can KNOW Him—Again, I'm not talking about blind faith. You can experience Him & KNOW that He is real.

He has *put eternity in your heart*. It's not an accident that you want to live forever. It's not an accident that when a man is faced with death, he cries out to God, *even if he's not a believer*. God has PUT that in your heart. No matter how our "education system" has lied to you ("You are just an accident that evolved from pond scum"),¹⁵⁸ there's still a stirring *God* put in your heart that maybe there IS a God, a hope that there IS something greater than yourself out there. And that hope will not disappoint you, if you put your trust in Jesus!

He's the real thing. Maybe at the beginning of this book you were just like me—thinking of Christianity as obsolete and for the simple minded. But it's not so simple minded after all, is it? God has given us *evidence*.

He *wants you* to find Him! God created us in His image. That means He created us in many ways like Himself, so that He could have real *relationship* with us.

And He loved you so much He sent His Only Son to die for you. That's because He knew there's no way, *no matter how many lifetimes* you might live, that you could work your way to Him (nor pay the price for your own sin and rebellion against Him).

Matter of fact, speaking of “working our way to God”... Is the world getting better or worse? If mankind were *evolving* towards *godhood*, why is it getting worse? The fact is, if God were to allow us to live multiple lives, we wouldn't get better, we'd get worse. Without Him, we gravitate towards more and more evil.

It only takes one lifetime to decide whether you're willing to follow God or not.

Sometimes I ask people, “What do you think will be up in heaven?” Obviously, we don't know a lot of the details... But there's one thing we know for sure. God will be there. The awesome, indescribable Presence of God. So. If you'd have nothing to do with Him on THIS planet, what makes you think you'd want to be with Him for all eternity?

Why won't you choose the God who loves you? I promise you, you'll never be sorry!

Ask God into your heart today! (See Page 68)

And write to us... We'd love to hear from you! Through our website: www.soncatchers.com

May the God of all Creation take you into His arms of love!

(I hope to write a second book in the future, which will give a thorough explanation of the “End Times” part of Daniel's prophecy!).

NOTE: There are some ***very interesting*** and *thought provoking* endnotes in this book that I *wish* I could have incorporated into the main text...

I highly recommend reading through this book a 2nd time—but this time including the Chapter Endnotes!

Also, check out our website for Seekers & Skeptics—the VIDEO testimonies & teachings are great!

www.godseeker.us

(And don't miss the endnote I promised on Nostradamus!)¹⁵⁹

APPENDIX #5 ENDNOTES

¹⁵⁶Many who believe in reincarnation also legitimately trust in science. But one might ask, “How does the soul *know how* to travel and get into a new body to begin with?” ...Especially a body it perhaps does not *want* to get into? Does an outside God direct this? (It just seems to me an outside *intelligence* of some sort would have to direct this).

Furthermore, *when* does a new baby first have a soul? Logically, it must happen either from conception OR at a certain point in time. If it happens from conception (an intrinsic part of the life form), then how would an *outside* soul get in?

If the soul is *not* intrinsic, then rationally a soul comes in at some specific point in time. But where does the soul come from? If you believe in reincarnation, the logical answer is from someone who just died...

BUT... The population keeps increasing exponentially. So there wouldn't be ENOUGH souls to fill the bodies. Where do the *new* souls come from? (Even if you believe maybe “from another planet”, the same question would remain—*Especially* if you believe in evolution. Because in the beginning there were no life forms *universally*).

Again, it seems like an outside intelligence, a God, would have to have “set up” reincarnation for it to be possible. I'm simply making a point that atheistic evolution (human life being a incredible cosmic accident) does not seem compatible with reincarnation.

¹⁵⁷ Hebrews 1:11 “...the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands, they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment... (Also Isaiah 51:6 and Psalm 102:26). The Bible also spoke of the earth as a sphere long before science did, and contained many sanitary principles long before science understood about bacteria (nor had other cultures of their day come up with such sanitary principles).

¹⁵⁸ Born in 1960, I've seen the medical field wave to and fro on many issues. Margarine was the “good fat” which would keep at bay heart disease. Just keep away from that evil butter...

Saccharin became the artificial sweetener that caused cancer—thank God they came out with aspartame! No side effects there... (of course now Splenda is the “safe one”...) (I personally think when you first taste ANY artificial sweetener your natural senses tell you it's poison... But keep eating it and you will “get used to it”).

Eggs were the worst... Then maybe not... The opinion on salt swings to and fro... Doctors for years prescribed milk for ulcers... Then oops! We were wrong...

Now this does not mean I throw away science and medicine. But we need to be discerning—many mistakes have been made and continue to be made.

I think we all tend to be gullible—the average person does not *question enough* how the experts have come to their conclusions. Since we all naturally accept what is taught to us, this pervades academia, and the experts often are simply repeating what

the prior experts told them. *If there was a major flaw in the original reasoning or research*, not only will it be unrecognized, but often you'll be laughed at if you challenge the experts! (Evolution is a perfect example of this... All the real evidence is for **micro** evolution, not macro. Ask us for free books!).

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Nostradamus...

As the most famous "prognosticator" of our pop culture, let's examine his famous "Prediction of 9-11". First off, we have to separate fact from fiction. Mass e-mails went out claiming he had predicted this tragedy—only a portion of which were REALLY from Nostradamus' writings.

The Internet Hoax-Nostradamus forecasted 911!

"In the City of God there will be great thunder, Two Brothers torn apart by Chaos, While the fortress endures, the great leader will succumb. The third big war will begin when the big city is burning."

A bit Cryptic, but VERY interesting! And then a second hoax followed...

In the year of the new century and nine months, From the sky will come a great King of Terror. The sky will burn at forty-five degrees. Fire approached the great new city.

And another...

On the 11th day of the 9 month, 2 metal birds will crash into two tall statues in the new city, and the World will end soon after.

Wow! Now that's impressive! Except... Most of the above were made up!

Nostradamus' Real writings

In reality, you have to take ONLY PARTS OF two completely separate "Quatrains" of Nostradamus, *ignoring* the parts that don't fit, to "squeeze" 9-11 out of it... The real writings:

Century 10, Quatrain 72

The year 1999 seven months, From the sky will come the great King of Terror. To resuscitate the great king of the Mongols. Before and after, Mars reigns by good luck.

Century 6, Quatrain 97

At forty-five degrees the sky will burn, Fire to approach the great new city. In an instant a great scattering flame will leap up. When one will want to demand proof of the Normans.

Hmmm... Well part of the second one sounds fairly convincing... The planes hit at 90 degrees, but some of the smoke must've gone up at 45 degrees... Or I read that New York City is almost at 45 degrees latitude! (in reality that's just over 40° N).

Honestly, there are a few of Nostradamus' prophecies that seem closer to having predicted certain events. (But most are "failures" or are so vague or cryptic they've been applied to *multiple* events; and I'm not aware of **any** that were accurate that predicted a certain **date**). But for the ones that look correct, could there have been a supernatural source? Very possibly *some type* of supernatural source... In fact Nostradamus wrote to his own son about his contact with the supernatural realm, often claiming to *others* that his source was God... But he warned his son NOT to follow in his

footsteps because "it drove you mad and led you to perdition". Very interesting...

Certainly the Bible is a safer source for knowledge about the future! In fact God gives a personal prediction about your future. He says if you make Jesus your Lord, and ask Him to be your Savior, He will bring you to a place of indescribable joy for all eternity!

But what about after death experiences?

Many *non-Christians* have seen brilliant light, felt love and joy...

I know this can seem convincing... But I must suggest that you probably don't know the whole story... Especially what happens *after* the light... **Please** write to me about this subject!

Once again... God makes predictions about *your personal* future... Please read the Bible with an open heart! His blessings—but especially the blessing of simply KNOWING HIM—is beyond words. You'll never know such love from any other source... Nor such "wellness of soul".

Will you feel the Holy Spirit like that every day? No, God will refine your character through many tests and trials. But when you really know God, it's more than worth it... And even when you "travel through the valley of death, you will fear no evil", for He will be with you.

And the incomparable "highs" you **do** get from God? They are only a "down payment" of what's to come!!

This life is so temporary... I pray you'll be spending eternity with the *true* lover of your soul. His name is Jesus. His name means, "God saves".