

Are we

Live for today?

Why is life so unfair?

Why so many religions?

Are you sure you are saved?

Why do we avoid discussing it?

Why are the facts not obvious?

Why so many pains and hardships?

..alone?

Why all the lies?

Do we only live once?

Can I earn my salvation?

Why is the truth so secretive?

Is being 'good' good enough?

Why can't we see God or angels?

What really happened on Christmas

day? Why does being bad feel so good? Why are we shy to discuss Jesus?

What does it mean to be "saved"? Amazing **grace!** "You prepare a table

before me in the presence of my enemies. You **anoint** my head with oil; my

cup **overflows**. Surely **goodness** and **love** will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. And I'll take away all the pain

you have suffered on this earth! How great is the **love** the Father has lavished

on us, that we should be called children of God! You will seek me and find

me when you seek me with all your heart. "and i pray that you, being rooted

and established in **love**, may have power, together with all the saints, to

grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the **love** of Christ, and to

know this **love** that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the

measure of all the **fullness** of God. "Fear not for I have **redeemed**

you; I have summoned you by name, **you are mine**. When

you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when

you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over

you. When you walk through fire you will not be

burned, the flames will not set you ablaze."

Who said: "Yes, I am coming soon."

"For God so **loved** the world, that

He gave his only Son, that

whoever believes in Him

shall not perish, but

have eternal

life. "



## WHY AM I HERE?

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Where did i come from, and where am i going to? What is the purpose of the angels, and their fall; man, and the fall of man; the Ten Commandments and the crucifixion? Why all the wars, fighting, evil and hardships? Why are there so many religions?

To find out, I took a very close look at the only reliable resource available to mankind. What a wonderful experience!

I always thought that we will have to present a good CV about all the 'good' deeds we have done. With a little help and grace from above i should be allowed into God's kingdom.....

I am now embarrassed to admit how wrong i was! How could i have underestimated my wonderful and loving God and Saviour so badly! I now know that:

The one and only true God is a God of love! God *IS* love! Boundless, amazing, unbelievable love – for us! Man and woman, you and me! He does not want our 'good' deeds or our sacrifices! He want's us! Not as slaves but as His bride! He has proven His great love for us so many times already, and He is now asking you and me to come to Him.

Will i say 'YES', will i get into a relationship with Him, love Him in return, get involved with Him? Or will i simply ignore Him, postpone it perhaps until i have the time; and allow this wonderful once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to slip through my fingers...?

I found more and more evidence as i continued investigating that our God is truly amazing. Everything about life started to fall in place and to make perfect sense! I had many questions and i found wonderful answers to them!

This was and is the most enjoyable and humbling task i have ever done and i have found many, many very pleasant surprises!

**God is Love!**

A long, long time ago, before anything we know existed, the only true God existed. God is perfect, creative and almighty, but most of all: God is a god of love, God *is* love!

His love is so great that He decided to create a perfect, loving, harmonious and eternal life in a wonderful paradise, with many people, you and me, all those who love Him in return. More wonderful than we can imagine!

In the beginning He created the angels, the universe and everything in it, the earth and much more than we need to exist. Only once all this was completed, did He create us, the crown of His creation and His greatest love. Like a surprise party for mankind, everything was ready on our arrival in paradise!

His love for us is reflected in His creation. He made so much more than we need! All we really need is the earth, the sun and the moon. But with all our modern technologies we cannot even observe the ends of the universe nor the depths of the seas. The simplest living cell is more complex than the infrastructures of a major city, too intricate for us to understand! Wherever we look, even in the most inhospitable places His magnificent creations are there! New species are still discovered daily. It is estimated that more than 4million insect species exist where a dozen or two would have sufficed! Why so many? Why so overwhelming?

He is telling us: “see how mighty I am, see how much I love you! Nothing is too much trouble for Me when it comes to you!”

He created everything just for us and our short stay on earth! It will all be destroyed when this life is over and we no longer need it. We cannot comprehend the full extent of it all, and likewise we cannot comprehend how much God loves us! We cannot even begin to understand how wonderful eternity with Him will be! He is already creating that for us too, in time for our arrival as His bride! (John 14:1)

He has created some of His love within each of us. We love our children and our spouses. Many of our love songs declare our love for a lover, for example:

*We promise each other the world, but;*

*God made the entire universe, sun and moon just for us!*

*We give each other flowers and red roses, but:  
God gave us countless plants, trees and shrubs to admire  
and to serve us as food and medicine!*

*We promise each other to remain faithful for the rest of our  
lives (which often only lasts a year or two) but:  
God wants us for all eternity!*

*We promise each other to climb the highest mountain,  
swim the deepest sea and even to kill the dragon, but;  
Jesus left His comfortable and perfect heavenly paradise  
to come to us as a mere human being and allowed people  
like us to crucify Him in the most horrible way possible,  
just to save us! He even went through hell to save us from  
the worst dragon of all time; Satan!*

*As if this was not enough, He promised to make us a new  
heaven, a new earth, and new glorified bodies!*

The question is; will we reply “yes” to Him, or will we keep on ignoring or even rejecting Him, until it is too late?

## **The Angels.**

God created the angels to serve Him with this great task of helping and communicating with mankind. But the angels, (like us) are not like the robots and computers that we make. Our products are designed to perform specific tasks, and if it performs them well then we are happy with it. But we do not love it!

The angels and us are created as individuals. We each have our own character, personality, likes and dislikes. We even have our own DNA! As children we are raised differently and that also influences our outlook on life.

The angels obeyed God in everything and served Him joyfully. But some of the angels chose to go their own way and not to serve God anymore (2Pet.2:4). They became self centred, caring only about themselves. God allowed them to go their own way because He does not want anyone as slaves. They became evil and opposed to God, eventually trying to conquer Him. This resulted in these evil angels being banned from heaven. They

are now called devils or demons and their leader is Satan, also known as Lucifer, the big liar...

God is mightier than Satan, and He can put an end to him at any time. But for now God is using him.

Satan has now turned his attention to God's most beloved creation, that is us! He is trying his best to separate us from God in any way he thinks he can succeed. He continues this onslaught until the day we die.

We have to be vigilant and alert to his tactics. This is what the war against the evil spirits in our midst is all about! But, if we are fighting it, we are not fighting it alone, and we can be sure that we will not be tested beyond our abilities, and we can be sure that we are on the winning side!

## **The Fall of Man**

Adam and Eve lived in a place God had created specifically for man. The most delicious fruit and vegetables grew there abundantly, unspoiled by pests and insects and without any hard work required! Rivers of pure, crystal clear water ran through it and the gardens must have been breath-taking. It was harmonious, crime and disease free. Nothing and nobody died there! God created this perfect paradise for the sole use of His most beloved creation: man!

Satan knows that he cannot be like God, but he saw an opportunity to make mankind (Adam and Eve) think that they can be like Him, which was a lie off course. There is only one true God. Adam and Eve as we know, both chose to obey Satan rather than God. By doing this they have turned their backs to God and they sided with Satan instead. As a result they were banned from paradise and ever since then God was out of man's reach. Man rejected God and chose evil and evil took hold and since then hard work (in the sweat of your brow), death, crime, pain, disease, suffering, corruption, murder and hardships was the result.

As their descendants we inherit this tendency to hate and ignore God and to allow evil in our lives and as a result we also suffer the consequences thereof. Even today we have banned God out of parliament, our schools, our businesses (and our families?). And then we have the audacity to blame Him for all the nasty things that happen to us and around us! But worst of all, we are lost and doomed to be without God for all eternity, in hell, by default. If we choose to be without Him, He reluctantly obliges!

We are now destined to be without God for all eternity (in hell), unless we make amends in time! (Rev.22:17)!

### **The Ten Commandments.**

God loves us so much that He gave us another opportunity to make amends. He gave us the Ten Commandments (Ex.20..) and if we were able to comply with them perfectly, then He would accept us. But like a wedding dress, we had to be spotless to qualify.

Unfortunately we cannot comply (Rom.3:23). If we think we can it is because we are so lost that we don't even recognise our sins anymore! Sin can be defined as anything we think, say or do (or fail to say or do) to benefit ourselves at the expense of God and/or others.

Put yourself to the test. Write a cross on paper every time you: use the Lord's name in vain, swear, lose your temper in traffic, sleep or even desire to sleep with a person you are not married to. And every time you buy food or fill up the car, work, or have anyone work for you on a Sabbath/ Sunday.

Even if we commit only three sins per day, it amounts to about a thousand per year! How many in your lifetime? What will the groom's reaction be if we had that many stains on our wedding dress? If they were traffic offences we would be locked up and the keys thrown away!

We are sinners even if we committed only one sin in our entire lives, and we are therefore guilty not only by inheritance but

personally too! (1John.1:8). We are destined to be without God for eternity, in hell! Unless we make amends in time!

## **Amazing Grace.**

Mercifully, God's love for us is much greater than our sins and ungratefulness. He loves us so much that He did the unthinkable. He sent His beloved, perfect and innocent Son to us as a man, to abide by The Ten Commandments perfectly for us, because we cannot. He came to pay the price for our sins because we cannot save ourselves (1Pet.3:18-)! God's amazing grace for us came into fruition when His Son Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas day.

He was the opposite of our human celebrities and rulers. He came without pomp and ceremony. He came to serve, not to be served. He left His loving Father and wonderful kingdom with all it's magnificent comforts behind and He came to suffer pain, hardships, even death to save us! Unbelievably, the only true and loving God did not come to punish us, but to save us!

His punishment started immediately. He was born in a barn and was laid down in a smelly crib with animal feed; far from home; in the dead of winter. He was seen as an illegitimate child in a very conservative society. In an attempt to murder Him, the dictator at the time (Herod) murdered all children about His age, and they had to flee to Egypt to escape this. He later grew up in Nazareth, a very poor town. He spent His short (human) life teaching and healing many thousands of people. He washed peoples feet and rode a donkey! He was betrayed by a loved apostle and denied by another. He was seen as a gangster and ridiculed by many people throughout His life and even today, as are His followers!

He was arrested and found to be innocent. However, a criminal named Barabbas, was released in His place, and Jesus was tortured and crucified in the most shameful, horrific and painful way possible. Like Barabbas, we are guilty and deserve to be punished, but like Barabbas we can now become free of this punishment! If we accept Jesus our day of judgement can be over and done!

Jesus cured many sick people and He even resurrected people that have already died, even at a distance! He could do this because He is truly God. How much easier would it have been for Him to escape death by simply letting all his enemies perish on the spot? Or He could have simply disappeared from their midst as He has done many times before. But because of his love of the Father, and us, He restrained himself and allowed sinners like us to murder Him, to be slaughtered like a lamb, just to save us! Truly amazing grace!

Because we are all sinners, we are just as guilty as those who physically crucified Jesus. Because of our sins it was necessary for Jesus to die on the cross for us!

In His hour of need on the cross He was abandoned by The Father and was left at the mercy of His greatest enemy; Satan. We cannot even comprehend the full extend of His suffering and hardships there.

Knowing His fate beforehand, He prayed intensely to the Father to let this pass Him by. But He loved the Father and us so much, that He obeyed the Father and submitted Himself to the punishment that we deserve! And the Father loves us so much that He allowed His beloved Son to endure this torture (Rom.8:32;5:8). Would you or me abandon a beloved child and allow him to be subjected to something like this, for something we don't really need? Surely this was painful for the Father too!

Mary may have suspected that this child was going to tear her heart apart. How painful for a mother to see her beloved son suffer so often throughout His life, especially at the end when she had to watch Him die a damned and painful death on a cross, at the tender age of only 32?

At the time there was a sturdy curtain in the temple. Nobody was allowed behind this curtain as that was God's domain only. The only exception was the high priest who could enter once a year to clean up. When Jesus died the earth shook and this curtain tore apart. This symbolises the fact that Jesus has opened the way for us to reach God again! We can get to God without having to be perfect anymore! Our 'good' deeds don't count anymore.



Jesus paid the full price about two thousand years before we were born!

On the third day after His crucifixion Jesus rose from the dead (Luk.24:6) and forty days later He ascended to heaven (Luk24:51), thereby conquering death and paving the way for His followers!

So now the ten commandments are no longer intended to be a punishment or a burden for us, but rather to:

- free us from the consequences of sin;
- make us aware of how God wants to be served;
- make us aware of all our sins;
- make us aware of how much we need Jesus to save us.

It would drastically improve our lives and the lives of those around us if we could comply fully! This is what God wants for us. Only the best!

Jesus did not bring peace on earth, but now we can be at peace with God!

### **The Lord wants us to come to Him.**

We have a responsibility if we want to be with God in His kingdom. We are tested for this and we are not accepted by default. It is different from what we assume, and yet it makes perfect sense! Unfortunately, very few people ever discover this truth (luk.13:22,18:8; Matt.7:13) because they don't seek!

Even brilliant scientists wonder why we are here, but tragically, few really bother to find out. Perhaps they are so absorbed by the complexities and intricacies of nature and science itself that they fail to notice it's Creator! This knowledge is not apparent to most highly educated people, but is revealed to many simple people (Mat.11:25).

We cannot help to earn our salvation by trying to be good because Jesus paid fully and perfectly for our sins and therefore we cannot contribute.

Satan and his demons will not be in heaven and therefore all those who are there will be perfect by default! Therefore, there is no need to be 'good' before we get there!

All the false religions originated from Satan, and he tells his followers to be 'good'. He hates us and he does not want us so he demands great sacrifices which enslaves his followers without any benefit to anyone.

God has shown us so many times and so convincingly that He loves us. He wants our love in return. He wants us to believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as our one and only Saviour (1Joh.5:11; Joh.14:6; and many more...) and to establish a relationship with Him. He wants to be our caring and loving Saviour, and for us to become his loving and trusting bride, child and friend. Our Lord loves us and He wants us, not our sacrifices!

It is like a good marriage. If you want to share your life with someone you would firstly seek such a person. If you have found someone you spend time getting to know them. When you are far away you read their letters and emails (the Bible) over and over and phone them often (pray). When you are ready to commit to this relationship you become engaged (baptism, commit your faith). You tell all your friends and relatives about your loving fiancé (Evangelise). If both persons agree to love each other for life it becomes a marriage (eternity with God).

But a relationship cannot exist unless both parties agree to it. God has shown many times how much He wants everyone of us to be in a relationship with Him. God loves us beyond our comprehension and He is sad to see anyone who does not want to be a part of it.

He will let us go if we don't care or don't want to be in this relationship with Him. He has even created His own opposition so that we can have that choice! He sets us free hoping that we will come back to Him of our own free will and because we love Him and we *want* to be with Him. God allows Satan to try drawing us away from Him. Unless we resist Satan we are lost and we are destined to be without God forever, by default. If we love God we would resist this evil force and God will help us. We have to seek the truth and to get to know and love the one and only true God. This we *can* do! And *this* is how we are tested!

The necessity of our relationship is confirmed many times in the Bible and as far back as Exodus 20 by the words “...but showing love to a thousand generations of those who **love Me**...”. Later on Jesus often sent people away with the words “.. I don’t know you...”. No matter how good i am at anything, i am nothing without love (1Cor.13). The criminal that was crucified next to Jesus was saved by his last words to Jesus (Luk.23:42).

Following His first statement Jesus often said something like: “..away from me all you evildoers”. It is true that we are all sinners and evildoers but these people had no relationship with Jesus and therefore their sins were not paid for on the cross. They will still have to face their Day of Judgement.

In Exodus 20 the words “...and keep my commandments.” follow the first statement. We will therefore try to keep God’s commandments but not to save us. Instead we will do it because we love Him, we want to please Him and we know that He has our best interests at heart. They are intended to improve our lives here as well. If we can abide by them we will be happier as we won’t have to suffer the consequences of our deeds, our consciences will be clear, and we will improve the lives of others as well by creating a more caring and loving environment!

Simply believing that Jesus has died for us is not enough. Satan *knows* Jesus very well but it will not save him! Our lives have to change. We need to establish that relationship with the Lord, become reborn (Joh.3:1-8), join His church and participate actively in it, be baptised (Eph.4:5,Act.19:5). and accept the faith. He wants us to care for each other (Heb.10:25,Joh.15:9), praise Him and to bring our offerings to help maintain the church and to support the less fortunate. Spend time and effort with Him and other people, especially those who love Him too.

We have to abandon all other gods (Ex.20:3,23).

The Lord wants us to tell others about Him, so that they also get an opportunity to be saved. God is saddened by those who have not yet found and accepted Him and that is why He wants us to tell to the whole world about Him (Col.4:4; Mat.9:38).

What kind of a person would i be if; knowing how great and loving God is and how much He wants us all to accept Him, and how terrible it would be to spend eternity without Him, and i remained quiet about it? If one person saves another from a temporary disaster he/she is regarded as a hero. How much more of a hero would a person be if he/she saved someone from being with Satan and all his evil ways for ever and to be with God and His loving grace and care for all eternity instead?

Evangelism can be difficult initially. Satan tries to discourage us as much as he can. We have to overcome the fear, the tension, perhaps the stuttering, not finding the right words to say. But if we resist the devil he will run away (James4:7). Then it becomes a wonderful experience telling others about the great love of God for us, and knowing that you are working for God's kingdom; with everlasting results! We get to know our loving God more as we tell. We are no longer spectators but we have sided with the winning team! It is extremely gratifying knowing that God may have used you when you notice a big change in the life of someone you told!

Don't lose heart if you cannot do all these things perfectly. Remember that Jesus sacrificed perfectly for all our sins and imperfections, including these! When we are weak, God's strength shines through!

### **Satan hates God and us!**

Satan is very cruel and neither stupid nor lazy. He is using many techniques to keep us ignorant or to lead us astray, and he is deceiving the vast majority of people. He hates God and each and everyone of us with a passion. He spends all his time and effort to prevent us from finding the one and only true God. He does not want us but he does not want God to have us either. His main focus is to conceal the only way left for us to get back to God namely through Jesus Christ. (Matt.13:19, 2Cor.4:3-4, 1Tes.2:18). He has established all the false religions some of which appear to be good and even mention Jesus, but distorts the truth. He

tries to make us believe anything as long as it excludes Jesus Christ as our one and only saviour. Most people then get confused in their search or just give up and accept fables or whatever feels right to them (Gal.1:6....).

All these false religions treat their followers badly. They have to make many sacrifices and they are punished regularly if they do not comply.

In the eastern countries he dominates the people like slaves. He punishes them harshly if they fail to bring their prescribed offerings of food and drinks. That is why they have so many shrines on the street corners and even in their homes and workplaces. These people live in constant fear of punishment in case their offerings were inadequate. To them these evil spirits are very real and very fearful, and their greatest hope in life is for lots of “good luck” and “a long and happy life”. They really are fearful of what awaits them after this life as an ex Buddhist testifies. Glamorous temples can be found even in poor suburbs amongst the most humble shacks proving that satan’s demands and burdens are very high on his followers!

In Africa Satan has many people obsessed with the spirits of their forefathers and other evil spirits such as the “tokelosie”. They have to perform many painful and deadly rituals.

Satan tells us many lies such as: it is not important to have a relationship with God; we have to be “good” to get to God; there are many ways to get to God; we will get another chance if we fail this time (re-incarnation); we will be okay because we are not really “bad”; the stars somehow affect our “karma”; and many, many more. Through the media he continuously tries to make us believe his fables of evolution and almost all of Europe and the west believe it without question! He does his utmost to prevent us from searching and finding God in time for us to be saved. Even on our death beds he will try to mislead us!

He tries to deceive us into a false sense of security and many do not realise the importance of inviting God into our lives. Many get so absorbed by their studies, work, business and even sports that they neglect the Lord and His church! Many say that they ‘do

not have the time' when it comes to church matters. Do they actually mean: *they are too busy making a living that they do not have time for God?* Many church members walk out of a sermon if it runs a little late. Would these same people also walk away when a rugby game goes into injury time? Why do we think that we have to work very hard to succeed in this life but that the everlasting life is not as important and it will just work out fine by itself?

Satan tries to keep us quiet, makes us uncomfortable, stirs our emotions, clouds our minds and makes us think and act irrational when the Gospel and especially Jesus is discussed. This puts a damper on evangelism, which is exactly what he wants to achieve. He wants us to remain silent, uninformed, confused and ignorant, until it is too late.

In order to tease God, Satan encourages people to use the holy name of God and Jesus in vain. Sadly, this blasphemy is now accepted in our society and through the media and it is even highlighted in program previews! Even if they do edit out the f... words they still keep the blasphemy in!

The greatest days on the Christian calendar is Christmas and Easter. On the former Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on earth. He is also known as 'Immanuel' meaning 'God amongst men'. A very happy occasion when Jesus gave up His heavenly home and came down to man and paid fully for all our sins in order to mend our relationships with God.

However, Satan has distorted Christmas day celebrations into a "Santa" (Satan?) with reindeer and slay bringing gifts to children. Our shops and stores exploit this opportunity to make great financial profits while playing distorted Christmas songs to encourage shoppers to spend more! People wish each other a "merry" (drunken?) Christmas, but the "politically correct" way is to wish people "happy holidays" instead, so as not to offend followers of satan's religions!

On Good Friday the great love of God and Jesus for us reached a climax when Jesus was crucified and punished to fully pay for

our sins. Once again the wonderful truth has been reduced to fables for children about bunnies and Easter eggs!

At an early age children are told these lies, and later in life they view these days as if they really were fairy tales for kids, and they in turn propagate these lies to their kids. Because of this the amazing grace of God is forgotten.

People who consult mediums to contact their ancestors are often convinced that they were in contact with their loved ones. This is not so. All souls belong to God and God does not allow them to be disturbed. But Satan knows us all intimately and he knows exactly what to say to convince that person that they really were in contact with the deceased person because something was said that “only that person would know”. The only exception God allowed was when Saul contacted Samuel and the medium got such a fright when he really did appear that she fell off her chair (1Sam.28-)! This has never happened to her before! This is a great sin and Saul was punished for it. He died the next day.

From the book of Job we can see how eager Satan is to harm us (job1:12-20). He will do everything God allows him to do as soon as he is allowed! God has to restrain him continuously to prevent him from turning our lives into absolute misery. But occasionally God will allow something to slip through, usually when we need it for our long term benefit. Perhaps to make us humble again, to build our character or as a wakeup call. Bear in mind; God’s priority is not our comfort and convenience here, but our presence forever. Like Job, we cannot always understand why we are experiencing hardships and most often it is not intended as punishment.

We see on the news all the cruel acts Satan instigates and has inspired people and terrorists to do, murders, rapes, robberies, disease, you name it. Take away all the good things that happen in life and this gives us a good insight into what it will be like being with him in hell! Except that he will not be restricted there!

**God is not overbearing.**

God does not pressure us in any way to influence our decision. He does not try to grab our attention with great marketing strategies or miracles and shows of power. He is Almighty and He could make the stars dance for us, the earth stop or spin the other way, the angels sing us love songs or whatever. To the casual observer God does not appear to be real or desirable.

Jesus was not popular on earth creating much friction with local authorities and He and His disciples were often regarded as gangsters. He often told those He healed not to tell others (Luk.8:56). Unlike the movies, Jesus was not charming or good looking at all (Is.52:14). Christianity does not appear attractive to the casual observer.

The Bible is written in such a way that it appears like fairy tales to sceptics. Many concepts were explained through parables so that the meanings will not be apparent to many (Luk.8:10). To outsiders it appears that *“Jesus could not save himself from the cross and that His followers are a bunch of bunglers and life is no better for them. Like all other religions they also have a number of commandments they have to adhere to”*.

It is only when we start investigating that the amazing miracle starts to become apparent. Our lives here may not improve visibly if we accept Jesus, in fact it usually appears to be worse. If it did improve noticeably it would attract insincere followers.

God is not trying to win a popularity poll or an election. If we have failed to notice or react to His magnificent creation and His great love for us, then many miracles would not either! He simply knocks on our door (Rev.3:20) (perhaps as you are reading here), and is hoping that you will open up your life to Him.

God want's us all to come to Him and to be in His Kingdom for ever. But He is testing us to see if we love Him in return and if we are sincere. He even created Satan and allows him to draw ignorant people away so that we have to make an effort to be with Him. We have to want to be with Him, and show it!

## **God Encourages Us.**



God has planted the seed of knowledge of His existence within us, that instinctive feeling of 'longing for someone you have not met yet'. And that is exactly what it is! We were made to be with Him and we are unfulfilled if He is not in our lives! This need to fill the void within us exists in all human beings of all races, but in no other creatures because it is only relevant to humans! (another nail in the coffin of the theory of evolution!).

This is what makes all peoples on earth serve some god or other. The Incas, Egyptians, Greeks and Africans had numerous gods. They are all trying to find the true God but many have been led astray by the lies of Satan, and others have not heard the Good News! Unfortunately so many people accept anything that 'feels right' to them in order to fill this void. And then they stop searching. God has promised us that "Those who seek, will find". God has given us the Bible which is the only means by which God reveals Himself to us (2Tim.3:16, Rom.1:16). The Bible can be proven true in a court of law (Josh McDowell)!

The Holy Spirit works within us to help us understand the Gospel and to accept it. He encourages and consoles us. He is saddened by those who do not accept Him.

God uses His followers to tell and explain the Gospel to everyone who wants to hear. This is extremely important and we only have this life to do it in. Once we die, become senile or when Jesus returns our fate is sealed.

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Heb.11:1). If we really believe in Jesus and we love Him, we will get involved with Him and his church on earth.

## **Why so many Hardships**

So often we hear people complaining that there are so many undeserved hardships in life. God does not make bad things happen to us but Satan does, but only as often and as badly as God allows. God continuously shields us from Satan's attacks,

but once in a while He may allow Satan to hurt us for various reasons, but rarely as punishment.

Consider this: God made paradise, us and the world around us extremely beautiful, far beyond our needs and comprehension! But we (man) chose evil, Satan, the snake on the first opportunity we were given, turning our backs to God! Through many miracles God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and led them to the promised land. He even parted the waters of the Red sea to create dry land for them to walk through the waters. Shortly after these miracles they made themselves a golden calf which they worshipped instead of God! Many years later Jesus left His wonderful kingdom to come to serve us and to save us. His life as a human was sacrificed with many pains and hardships which reached a peak at the end of His life on earth. All this to save us. Were we extremely grateful to Him? Oh no! On the contrary, we crucified Him! And the amazing thing is: He knew before coming to us that we would do this to Him, and yet He willingly came to us and allowed us to do it, because He loves us so! He willingly took the the burden upon himself even though we deserve it. Our hardships do not compare to the suffering Jesus had to endure for us.

In our daily lives we frequently obey evil and reject God. Perhaps we continuously tease the Lord by using His name in vain. We turned Christmas into a merry children's party and Easter into lies about rabbits and eggs!

We often dread hardships we expect to endure in the near future, and then we usually pray intensely to let it pass us by. But even if God saves us from of these hardships, we forget quickly and fail to thank and praise Him for it! We even say that our "good luck" saved us, or; "as luck would have it....."!

We cannot abide by the Ten Commandments, and all too often our hardships are a direct result of this. We deserve to get the fruits of our evil ways and very often our pains are as a direct result of wrongs that we have done!

Our hardships are not necessarily punishment for our deeds, but is often used as a wake-up call, to draw us closer to Him.

Hardships build character, which is more important to God than our comfort now. (John 17:24). It is also a small contribution we make towards the birth pains of eternal life with God. We are fighting the same enemy!

The second most important command is that we should “love each other as ourselves”. By this command God wants us to look after each other and thereby ease each other’s pains and burdens.

However, it is good to know that we will not be tested beyond our abilities, and that we are on the winning side!

## **Conclusion**

God is three persons with a common purpose, like the various directors running the same company. The Father is overseer, Jesus Christ is His Son and our Messiah who opened the way to the Father for us. The Holy Spirit is our consoler, living within us and encouraging us to turn to Jesus. He can open our hearts and minds to understand and accept the Lord as our saviour (Joh.16:7-15). He gives us wisdom to defend the faith and He comforts us during hard times.

The Lord is creating a perfect eternal life and we are now in a prerequisite phase. We have been created in two parts: a physical body with a soul or spirit. The spiritual us continues living for ever after our physical bodies have died.

God has already proved several times that He loves each and everyone of us very much. His Son, Jesus, has sacrificed willingly and dearly to make it possible for us to share His perfect and everlasting kingdom with Him.

Satan and his demons hate God and us and they are continuously trying to keep us away from God, by means of lies, deceit or any means possible. By default we are lost and without God. God allows this to some extent as He is testing us to see if we really want to be with Him too!

God does not partake in high profile or aggressive marketing to attract our attention or influence our decision. Jesus was not

popular or good-looking. His disciples were not good speakers and many had speech defects. They were not prominent public figures and they were often mistaken for gangsters and criminals. To the casual observer it does not appear attractive. Perhaps this is to keep the freeloaders and chancers away. He wants us to seek, tell and to prove it for ourselves. God willing, the Holy Spirit will open our hearts and minds to understand and accept Him.

He wants us to establish a relationship with Him, become His child, His bride, His friend and for us to invite Him into our lives, to show we love Him, and that we want to spend eternity with Him too!

Taking everything into careful consideration one can only conclude that this is the best and probably the only way to create a perfect and everlasting life. Only those who love Him and want to be with Him will be there! (Rev.22:17)

The Christian faith is absolutely unique. It is the only faith of love, and the only faith that can be proven! The Lord has suffered and sacrificed willingly, without any objection or resistance and thereby paid fully for our sins himself (Joh.3:16)! We cannot add to our salvation and there is no need to make sacrifices by restricting diets, pre-set prayer times, wearing prescribed clothing, blood letting, virgin sacrifice, so called "Holy wars" and so on. Jesus has done it all, perfectly for you and me! We only need to invite Him into our lives!

Knowing that we are cared for by an almighty, loving God is a great comfort and has vastly enriched my life! The Lord replaces that empty feeling in our souls with the rich, overflowing fullness of His love and amazing grace. Our day of judgement is over and done! In troubled times it is great to know that this life is only temporary and that a great eternal future with our Lord is being prepared for us! Nothing happens without reason and with the Lord our lives are meaningful. Imagine how great it would be, when we finally meet face to face; and He is happy about us! (Joh.17:24). On the other hand, how frightening would it be if He does not even know us and sends us away!

It is so easy to comfort the next of kin of a Christian when they die because we know that it is only a temporary separation after which there will be a wonderful reunion! But how can one honestly console the next of kin of someone that did not accept Jesus, and has nothing to look forward to?

This booklet serves merely as a pointer to the real, true and only Book that contains all the information that we need to be saved, and so much more! The Bible off course!

The Bible is unique. We will never fully comprehend it and clerics who have studied it intensely for many years still discover fascinating and wonderful facts on a regular basis.

As a beginner I recommend that one starts reading The Gospel according to John and continue reading the New Testament from there. Thereafter the Old Testament from Genesis.

Personally, I hope, pray and trust that the Lord will forgive me and accept me. I long to be with Him and I am eager to meet Him face to face! Observing His amazing grace and love, and the beauty and greatness of all His creations, I am sure that this will be a very profound and wonderful experience, far beyond my wildest expectations! I can't wait!

### **Prove it for yourself!**

Common sense and experience tells me that it takes a lot of love, passion and patience to create and maintain anything worthwhile. Nothing comes into existence or gets better by itself. Neglect causes steel to rust, timber to rot, weeds to ruin a garden. A Rubik's cube can be scrambled in seconds by a child, but it takes most adults many hours of dedication and concentration to unscramble! Therefore, the universe with it's millions of wonders and miracles could only have come into existence by a very loving and passionate Creator!

Historians assume a historic event to be true if three or more scrolls, scriptures or documents written by different authors exist describing the same event. Four scriptures written by different authors of the most important part; The Gospel, is included in the

Bible, thus already exceeding this minimum requirement. However about 14000 other scriptures by different authors have been found that describe the Gospel! Surely this alone must rate as proof beyond any shadow of a doubt!

Most of the other so-called “holy books” have been written by one person during a few years of his life. They often claim having seen visions which they describe in their books together with many philosophies, guides and conditions needed for “a long and happy life”. But who can prove this? Where did their visions come from, God or Satan? Who want’s a long life here if you can be with God sooner?

The Bible is a collection of 66 scriptures written by about 40 different authors. More than 239 events that are described in one book also appear or are referred to in one or more other books written by another author, thereby forming one cohesive and credible collection of books. The ancient dead sea scrolls found only a few decades ago is copy of the Bible; evidence that no corruption has occurred over time as some claim!

The Bible books have been written over a period of about 1600 years (that is about 50 generations!). Most if not all of these books have been written in two or more languages and all the *original* languages are used for our translations today! This is done by scores of translators from several church denominations. Translations are updated from time to time from the original languages to keep in pace with the changes in *our* languages. It is therefore likely to become even more accurate with every new translation. See the preface in your Bible.

Many attempts have been made to disprove the Bible. It would make front-page news if anyone did! In the process many became convinced that the the Bible is trustworthy and can even be proven *true* in a court of law! People like Josh McDowell, an aspirant lawyer, came to this conclusion as described in his book “(New) Evidence that demands a verdict”.

The Bible’s account of origins is a framework through which we can explain everything about the world and life, and even the spiritual world! It is true to life and many events, many of which

are only occurring now in our times, have been described in it centuries ago. It foretold events such as space travel, pollution, tsunamis, earthquakes, uprisings, revolutions, and many more (Luke 21..). Many of these could not have been understood by the authors at the time and this proves that it has truly been inspired by God.

The earth is slowing down and losing it's magnetic field and the moon is slowly moving away from it. Jupiter's rings are unstable and like comets they are losing mass. Mountains are eroding, the sea is becoming more saline, deserts have been growing for centuries and human populations are increasing. If we take the rate of growth or deterioration of factors like these into account and project them back in time, then it proves that the Biblical timeline of about 6000 years since creation and 4000 years since the Flood, is very accurate.

Geologists confirm evidence of many events described in the Bible such as the great Flood, and the ruins of many biblical cities and artefacts still exist in abundance. Egyptian chariot wheels have been found at the Red sea crossing together with the pillars that were erected there at the time by king Solomon.

Theologians study the Bible for seven years or more, and still find it inspiring. Yet it is not too complicated for anyone to understand. The Bible is the handbook of man, inspired by it's Creator. It teaches us many life lessons, how to raise a child (which so many people get wrong), and how to act in many situations.

God reveals Himself to us *only* through the Bible. We dare not add anything to it nor remove anything from it. (Rev. 22:18).

Many people in many countries throughout the centuries have risked their lives to own a Bible. We are lucky, we can get one from the nearest book store in our own language at a subsidised price, or even download it for free from the internet! It is still the best seller of all times and a growing number of people worldwide, currently about 100,000, accept it every day!

## **Themes in the Bible.**

NB: The following themes appear more often than shown here!

## God Triune

- 1) **Baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:** Mat.28:19 ++
- 2) **God's love for us.....your name has been engraved in His hand palms:** Jhn.3:16, Ps.107:1, Ps 136:9, Ps.23, Rom.8:37, 1Jhn.3:1,4:8, Is.61:10, 62, Is.49:15, Ex.20:6, Jer.31:3, Jer.9:22
- 3) **God takes care of us:** Is.43:1
- 4) **God wants everybody to be saved:** Mat.18:12-, 2Pet.3:9, 1Tim.2:4.
- 5) **Everything belongs to God;** Ps.24:1
- 6) **God does not tempt anybody:** Jms.1:13
- 7) **God disciplines those whom He loves:** Heb.12:5

## Jesus Christ

- 1) **He is God. He was there before creation:** Mat.1:23;8:2; 14:33; 28:9; Luk.24:52, Jhn.9:38; Jhn.1:1-, Heb.1:3;18 Rev.1:4-, Rom.9:5, Is.7:14,.
- 2) **Is Lord; God and human, We are lost if we don't believe it:** Jhn.20:28, 1Tess.1:1-, Is.9:5, 1Jhn.4:2-, Jhn.8:24, Heb.8:26, Joh1:1, 14; 20:28.
- 3) **Is the image of God:** Kol.1:15. **Was sent by the Father:** **Jhn.5:36**
- 4) **He did no sin:** 2Cor.5:21, Heb.4:15, 1Pet.2:22, 1Jhn.3:15
- 5) **He loves us very much:** Ef.3:16-, Ef.5:25, Zeph.3:17, Jes.30:18-
- 6) **Is the groom of His church:** 2Cor.11:2
- 7) **He was crucified to save us:** Gospels, Rom.8:32, John.3:16, 1Pet.1: 18, 1Pet.3:18, 2Cor.5:21.
- 8) **Is our only way to God:** Jhn, 6:40, 54, 14:6, 15:4-, 1Jhn.5:11, Tim.2:5, Acts.4:12, 2Tes.1:8.
- 9) **Came to serve us:** Mark.10:45, Fil.2:7-,
- 10) **He knocks on our door..** Rev.3:20
- 11) **Jesus did not bring peace but division on earth..** Luk.12:51.
- 12) **Often disappeared amongst angry crowds:** Luk.4:28.
- 13) **Jesus was not good looking:** Is.52:14, Is.53:2-.
- 14) **Jesus is preparing a place for us:** John.14:1.
- 15) **Jesus will return:** Heb.9:28, Rev.22:7

## The Holy Spirit:

1. **One with the Father and the Son:** Mat.28:19, 2Cor.13:14.
2. **Is a Godly person:** Acts 4:2, 5:3, 1Cor.3:16-, 6:11, 2Cor.3:17-, Mat.3:11.
3. **Can be grieved:** Is.63:10, Ef.4:30, 1Tes.5:19.
4. **Helps us to accept the Gospel:** John.16:7-15, 1Cor.2:4. John 14:16-26;
5. **Lives within believers:** 1Pet.4:14, Ef.5:18.
6. **Inspires prophets:** Num.11:29, Mic.3:8, Sag.7:12, 2Pet1:21



7. **Communicates via psalm writers:** 2Sam.23:2, Acts.1:16, Heb.3:7.
8. **Helps us to fight Satan:** Ef.6:17
9. **Lives in the church:** 1Kor2:16, **Chooses overseers:**Acts.20:28, **and servants:** Acts.13:2. **Directs evangelism:** Acts.8:29,39,16:6
10. **Is with us when we gather in His name:** Mat.18:20

## Angels

- 1) **Spiritual beings created by God:** Heb.1:14;
- 2) **Are sent to people to save them:** Mat.18:10.
- 3) **Opens prison doors:** Acts.5:19.
- 4) **Rejoices over one sinner who repents:** Luk.15:10.
- 5) **Appears to Mary:** Luk.1:30.

## Satan and demons

- 1) **Were angels that sinned:** 2Pet.2: 4. **cast down to earth:** Is.14:12-;
- 2) **Is opposed to God:** Mar.12:25, 25:41, Mark.3:24, Luk.11:17 .
- 3) **Makes us disobey God:** Ef.6:12, Ef.2:2.
- 4) **Knows he has little time:** 1Pet.5:8, Rev.12:12.
- 5) **Pretends to be good:** 2Cor.11:14.
- 6) **Tries to prevent the spread of the Gospel:** Mat.13:19, 2Cor.4:3, 1Tes.2:18.
- 7) **Persecutes the church:** Rev.2:10, Rev.12:13.
- 8) **Makes us sick:** Job.2:7, Luk.13:10-, Acts.10:38
- 9) **Resist the devil, and he will run away from you:** James 4:7.
- 10) **His end; the final victory:** Is.14, Rev.20:10, Rom.16:20

## Mankind

- 1) **Lesser than the angels, for a short while only:** Heb.2:6, 1Cor.6:3.
- 2) **Stay on earth is temporary:** 1Pet.1:17.
- 3) **We are all sinners:** 1John.1:8, Rom.3:23
- 4) **Few people will be saved:** Luk.13:22, Luk.18:8, Mat.7:13, 22:14.
- 5) **Suffering for being a Christian:** 1Pet.4:12.
- 6) **Will judge the angels:** 1Kor.6:3
- 7) **Women should not speak in church:** 1Cor.14:34-

## Our relationship, not our sacrifices..

- 1) **Love God, and your neighbours:** Ex.20; Mat.22:37, Mark.12:19;30, Luk.8:47, 10:27, 1Cor.13-.
- 2) **We must know Jesus, and He must know us:** Mat.7:23, Luk13:25-.
- 3) **Love saves us; is more important than offerings:** Luk.10:27, 11:42, Jam.2:5;13
- 4) **Abraham was God's friend:** James.2:23.
- 5) **Realise our dependence.. (man on cross):** Luk.23:42.

- 6) **Believers will be saved:** John.3:15,36.
- 7) **Faith without action is dead:** James.2:17,26.
- 8) **We must serve each other:** Fil.2.
- 9) **Rebirth is essential, test yourself:** John.3:3, 2Kor.13:5.
- 10) **Trust in Jesus:** John.3:36.
- 11) **Pray:** Luk.12:51, Mat.5:44, Ps.122:9.
- 12) **Become like a child:** Mat 18:1-, Mark.10:13.
- 13) **We have to seek:** Mat.6:33, Mat.7:7- Luk.11:9; Luk.12:37, Prov.8:17.
- 14) **Test everything, keep what is right:** 1Thes.19.
- 15) **The wisdom of the world is foolish:** 1Cor.1:18-
- 16) **The crucifixion seem ridiculous to non believers:** 1Cor.1:18

### Evangelism

- 1) **Evangelise- responsibly:** 2Cor.1:17; Rom.10:8-, 1Tim.4:13-.
- 2) **Footsteps of those who bring the good news:** Is.52:7.
- 3) **Go out and tell the world:** Mat.4:19; Luk.12:8, Mar.16:15, John.15:8, Mat.28:19, Luk.24:47, 2Cor.5:10, 1Pet.2:9, Acts.18:9-.
- 4) **If we don't testify...** Mat.10:32; Luk.12:8.
- 5) **Stones will testify, if we do not!:** Luk.19:40.
- 6) **Testify without arguments..** 2Tim.2:14-23, 1Tim.6:20.
- 7) **Timely and untimely..** 2Tim.4:2.
- 8) **With your mouth you confess and are saved:** Rom.10:8-.
- 9) **Is not understood by educated people:** Mat.11:25, Luk.10:21.

### Sin and forgiveness

- 1) **Forgive your brother:** Luk.17:3.
- 2) **Do not cause others to sin:** Luk.17:1.
- 3) **Hypocrites, preventing others from reaching God..** Mat.23:13.
- 4) **Fight sin** Ef.6:12, Heb.12:1-. **Confess** 1Joh.1:9, Prov.28:13,
- 5) **Blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven:** Mat.12:31, Mark3:28-, Heb.6:4.
- 6) **Consulting a medium: results in Saul's death:** 1Cron.10:13
- 7) **Gays and lesbians:** Rom.1:26, 1Cor.6:9.

### Eternal life in God's Kingdom:

- 1) **Destined for those who want it:** Is.55:1-, 2Tim.4:8, Filip.1:23, Rev.22:17, **and accepts Jesus:** Ps 40, 63, 130, Jhn.3:16, 6:52-; Mark.15:43, Heb.11:13-, Mat.26:28, 1Cor.1:7,18
- 2) **Was intended for everybody:** Mat.8:11-,
- 3) **Jesus longs for us to be with Him:** John.17:24.
- 4) **We should wait patiently for it:** James.5-7....
- 5) **Is more wonderful than we can imagine:** 1Cor.2:9-.
- 6) **Comes after satan's final rebellion:** 2Thes.2:3, Luciferism...

## Last days

- 1) **End of the world:** Mat.14, Mark.13:25-, 2Pet.3:10, Is.13:10; Rev.6:13.
- 2) **Tsunamis:** Luk.21:25. **Space travel.** Obad.1:4.
- 3) **..young men will see visions, old men dream..** Acts.2:17, Joel.2:28.
- 4) **False Christ's..** Mat.24:24.
- 5) **Only the Father knows when the end will come...** Mat.24:36, Ef.1:9-10.
- 6) **People will accept what they want to hear:** Gal.1:7, 2Tim.4:3.

## The Bible

- 1) **The entire Bible was inspired by God:** 2Tim.3:16.
- 2) **A power from God ..saves all who believe:** Rom.1:16.

## Miscellaneous.

- 1) **True church of God:** 1Jhn.4-.
- 2) **False religions:** Luk.21:, Mat.24:3, Mark13:3; 1Tim.6:3.
- 3) **Jews reject the Gospel:** Romans 11.
- 4) **Murderers (Muslims) believe they are working for God:** Jhn.16:2.
- 5) **God is absent in hell:** 2Thes.1:9.
- 6) **Hell is a place of suffering:** Mat.8:12, 25:30, Luk.16:23.

## Qur'an: Muslim / Islam

1. **Jesus was more than just a prophet:** Sura Al-imram 3:42-55.
2. **Jesus is the Messiah and did no sin. He was virgin born:** Sura 3:45-, 19:19-21.
3. **Jesus performed miracles; raising the dead:** Sura 5:110.
4. **Jesus ascended into heaven bodily:** Sura 4:158.
5. **The Bible contains authentic revelations from God:** Sura 2:136; 4:163.
6. **None can change His (Jesus) word:** Sura 6:115; 6:34; 10:64.
7. **Muhammad did no miracles:** Sura 17:90-.
8. **Muhammad told people to read the Bible:** Sura 5:68; 10:49.
9. **Prescribes killing of those who don't believe in allah ("infidels"):** Sura 9:5,29, 47:4

**Buddhist:** Reincarnation; "Desire is the cause of all evil." Should one *desire* to have no *desire*?

**Jehovah's:** If they really were God's prophets as they claim, they would not have predicted the end of the world incorrectly!

They regard Jesus as only human- in conflict even with their own holy book!

## Some Reference materials.

You may find the following references useful:

- The Bible (off course!). It is available free on the Internet.

- (New) Evidence that demands a verdict: Josh McDowell.
- The first/last five minutes before/after death: Isak Burger.
- The Purpose Driven Life: Rick Warren.
- Ninety Minutes in Heaven
- The Greatest Hoax on Earth: Dr. Jonathan Sarfati.
- [www.Creation.com](http://www.Creation.com)
- <http://www.cruma.co.za>

## **Some Thoughts.**

1. The one and only true God wants us, not our sacrifices!
2. All of us believe that we are saved. Almost all of us are wrong!
3. We are eternal souls temporarily trapped in a human body.
4. God's priority is not our convenience here, but our presence forever!
5. Satan never misses a church service. He is there to distract us.
6. God's children are not perfect yet.
7. If Jesus was insignificant, then why does our calendar work around Him? Why do atheists abuse His name? Why are Christians persecuted? Why does everybody celebrate His birthday?
8. Satan lies so convincingly that terrorists believe they are working for God.
9. It is a waste of time and energy to serve God the way we want to.
10. We cannot change the truth no matter how fanatically we believe anything else.
11. The Lord never promised His followers a comfortable journey through life, but he did promise them a safe arrival.
12. Our character is more important than our comfort here!
13. To remain on our feet, we have to go on our knees.
14. God is everywhere, except in Hell.
15. Families who pray together, stay together.

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*The latest update of this booklet is available free by email in English and Afrikaans and may be freely distributed.*

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