

Let's Get It Right!



*A Little Book Of Questions & Answers,
Giving Renewed Meaning To Some Often
Quoted - But Seldom Correctly - Scriptures*

FOREWORD

The Word of God should be paramount in the life of a child of God. Each one is born of the Word [*James 1:18*], cleansed by the Word [*John 15:3*], guided and instructed, rebuked and corrected by the Word [*2 Timothy 3:13*]. From ancient times, God's people were told that they were not to live by bread only, but by every word that proceeded from God [*Deuteronomy 8:3* - which the Lord used against Satan's taunts, *Matthew 4:4* and *Luke 4:4*].

Scripture should be quoted to us to shed Light on our souls. "By the foolishness of preaching", *1 Corinthians 1:21* says, are believers saved. We learn of Christ the Saviour **only** through the Word of God. So Paul expanded that Truth in *Ephesians 4:20-21*, saying to the former Gentiles, with their unclean behaviour, "but ye have **not** so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the Truth is in Jesus."

Therefore, we cannot separate the Person of Jesus Christ and the truthful understanding of the written Word of God.

Not surprising, then, that five of the Questions in this book concern the actual Person of Christ. If we fail to know Him as He is how will we comprehend the Truth that is **in** Him..?

One Question concerns the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of **Truth** [*John 15:26*], sent to show us the Truth which our Crucified God.

The remaining six of the twelve Questions, including two on the Rapture, hopefully, will stimulate thought. So often we benignly accept what we see and hear without considering whether it is truth or not...

What is the point, we may ask ourselves, of quoting the Bible incorrectly? It does no-one any good, and renders it powerless - unable to be used by the Holy Spirit for our spiritual health.

Where?
When?
Which?
Why?
Who?

The Lord Jesus Christ gave us a sound example when He quoted the written Word of God. It is recorded in the Gospels of *Matthew* and *Luke*, for **our** victorious living. When Satan tried his utmost to distract the Lord from Heaven from His secret Mission, the rebuffs that silenced him were, “It is written”, “It is written”, “It is written”.

Each time, He quoted an Old Testament Scripture *correctly*.

Imagine God made flesh misquoting His own Eternal Word!!

Words and the way we use them can be fascinating.

For instance, we would prefer, without doubt, to be of a positive mental attitude, than be positively mental! But the same words are used, are they not?!

This little book is to be enjoyed as well as be informative!

May I appeal to you to travel slowly and deliberately through its arguments, and, at the end, happily resolve to think more deeply about the written Word of God.

Together, for the Glory of God, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, with whom we plan to spend our Eternity. . .

“Let’s Get It Right” !

What?
Now...??
How?

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More and more spiritually-minded Christians who seek to understand the depths of God's Written Word, are turning back from their New International Versions (NIV) and Revised Standard Versions (RSV) to embrace once again the Authorized Version, which they probably knew as a child.

They have realised that many passages are unnecessarily shortened in these modern versions; that they often obscure the prophetic pointers to the Lord Jesus Christ; that they cannot be easily recited, as can the AV; and that therefore they cannot be used for serious study of the Word of God.

The Manuscripts from which all modern versions are taken were produced by Eusebius on the orders of Emperor Constantine in 331AD, deliberately 'doctored' to appeal to both pagans and Christians! 50 copies were made and taken to Rome and Alexandria, Egypt - a centre for everything occult.

<http://www.1611kingjamesbible.com/constantine.html/>
<https://www.preservedword.com/content/the-unreliability-of-the-alexandrian-manuscripts/>
http://www.jesusisprecious.org/bible/beware_alexandrian_revisions.htm
http://www.jesusisprecious.org/bible/nkjv/alexandrian_corrupt_source.htm

For all these reasons the Scripture references in this book are taken from the King James Authorized Version (often called the AV or KJV) without apology.

QUESTION 1

Is there a “second chance” for Christians to be saved if left behind after the “Rapture”?

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Is there a 'second chance' for Christians to be saved if left behind after the 'Rapture'?

Firstly, what is meant by the term 'the Rapture'?

The 'Rapture' is so called to describe the taking up – catching up, or snatching away – from the earth those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ at a specific time according to the Will of God. It is what was referred to by Him in His parable of the ten virgins: *“And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him”* [Matthew 25:1–13] where the wise kept the Word of God in their hearts, and in His warning, *“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man”* [Luke 21:36].

This 'Rapture' is called in the book of Revelation *“the first resurrection”* [Revelation 20:5] and is referred to by the Lord in the Gospel records as the *“resurrection of life”* [John 5:29] and the *“resurrection of the just”* [Luke 14:14]. Contrary to some teaching, it is a one-time event, as the above Scriptures in Matthew and Luke imply.

There is and can only be one resurrection to Eternal Life. When it happens, it will be the fulfilment of the prophecy, *“He will swallow up death in victory”* [Isaiah 25:8] which Paul translates as, *“Death is swallowed up in victory”* [1 Corinthians 15:54]. All who are raised will be changed into new sinless bodies of flesh and bone; those raised from sleep will once again be a complete 'soul'.

The Purpose is to bring obedient, sinless souls before the Throne of God, to acknowledge Him to His Face and worship Him in true and loving fellowship, bringing them up to escape from the rebellious world before it suffers the Judgments in the Day of the LORD. This is an Event, doubtless, that He has waited for since the creation of Adam and Eve!

Speaking specifically of the Church, the Body of Christ, Paul clearly describes every detail to the newly-formed assembly at Thessalonica :

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” [1 Thessalonians 4:16-17]

“caught up” - snatched away; enraptured! Hence the term, the ‘Rapture’. If we are said to be enraptured about something, we are caught up with the idea, or event. Are you *“caught up”* with the Lord Jesus Christ? Does He fill you with enraptured joy? Those early Christians certainly were - they were on fire!

It will embrace the living and deceased members of His Body, the Church, and also those faithful saints from the Old Testament who died in faith, still waiting in their sleep for the fulfilment of God’s Promises – including John the Baptist!

This Event can take place only **once**. Understanding this throws light and understanding on the way the Book of Revelation progresses to its conclusion, revealing both the redeemed in Heaven and the ungodly on earth and in Hell. Without this basic understanding, all manner of strange and convoluted doctrines and thoughts arise – and have already arisen. False prophets abound!!

It is the *“resurrection of the just”*; the *“resurrection of life”*. It will affect those alive in Christ – those remaining in Christ at the time of His Coming – and *“the dead in Christ”* – those who are now sleeping in a safe place until they will be raised. Paul teaches clearly on the resurrection of the saints in the Body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 15: *“The dead ... shall rise...”* – so they can’t be already There!

Two Resurrections. One for Life; One for Death.

The book of Revelation in describing the *“resurrection of the just”* as the *“first resurrection”* [Revelation 20:5] also describes the second resurrection, called the *“resurrection of the unjust”* [Acts 24:15] or the *“resurrection of damnation”* [John 5:29], as *“the second death”* [Revelation 20:6]. This again is a one-time event, the consequences of which for both resurrections are for Eternity.

John further states clearly that there is a stark contrast between the “*first resurrection*” and the “*second death*”, by saying, “*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*” [Revelation 20:6]. He confirms again the unity in resurrection of both the Old Testament faithful saints and the members of Christ’s Body.

The partakers of the first resurrection are called blessed and holy; the prospect of being in the second death was completely ruled out – it was something they will have avoided!

Incidentally, before we go on to fully answer the Question ‘Is there a second chance for Christians to be saved if left behind after the Rapture?’ read the whole verse of Revelation 20:4: “*And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*”

Here are two separate visions which John saw. 1) judges on their thrones, and 2) resurrected people once killed for their faith and adherence to God’s Word.

Consider this for the first vision: “*Ye are they which have continued with Me in My temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom as My Father hath appointed unto Me; That ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*” [Luke 22:28–30]

These are the thrones, and the judges! All the Church, Christ’s Body, will partake of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb [Revelation 19:7–9] and of the Kingdom, not only the eleven to whom He spoke these words. It would appear therefore that the Lord was especially encouraging these eleven remaining disciples of the important future they had in front of them, and including them, therefore, with the twelfth disciple yet to be appointed (Matthias, Acts 1:21-26) and the whole completed Body as it will be in these days to come. The twelve tribes of Israel are those

tribes specifically named in Revelation 7:1–8. These are the Remnant of Israel which will by this time have grown from the 144,000 into a faithful and thriving Nation during the 42 months of their special protection in the ancient lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon (now Jordan).

They will not yet have been given new sinless (bloodless) bodies. They will continue throughout the Thousand-Year Reign of Christ in their normal human flesh, blood and bone bodies. They will need guidance and direction and feeding from the Word of God as they carry out their appointed duties. Hence the thrones of judgment; judgment of right decisions and helps, not of sentences for crimes!

Consider this for John’s second vision of Revelation 20:4: “*And the LORD God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*” [Genesis 2:7] The spirit and the body together in a living human being makes a soul! John saw resurrected people, some of whom had been beheaded as believers in Christ (James was killed by the sword [Acts 12:2]) and some of whom had been beheaded for their faithfulness to God’s Word in the days before the Cross (such as John the Baptist).

For both groups, their lives were such that nothing of the ways of the beast, the Antichrist to come, was in them; they belonged only to God and sought His righteousness. Failure to appreciate that these people had never lived and would never live under the reign of the Antichrist has given rise to a strange doctrine that multitudes of true believers in that horrendous time of forty-two months of plagues and punishments will be killed and resurrected. This false teaching is totally illogical!

These people have already been resurrected *before* the Judgments begin! So when could they be resurrected if there is clearly only one resurrection to life?

In answering fully this Question of whether a Christian can be left behind after the Rapture and still go on to be saved, one must carefully consider what the position of the Christian believer would be at that time, in the light of the Scriptures.

As we have seen, the Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples to “*Watch ye*

therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” [Luke 21:36]

The pastor of the church in Smyrna received instruction for himself and for his flock: *“He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”*[Revelation 2:11]

There is therefore something to “escape” from and there is a power to “overcome”. The book of Revelation contains a complete prophetic record of all the Plagues, punishments and torments which the world is to receive in the Day of the Lord – the Day of His Indignation. These are the things which we are meant to escape from if we are to benefit from the Salvation promised us through Christ. The power which we are encouraged to overcome is the endless darkness and torment of the Lake of Fire – burning *but not consuming*.

Paul also said, “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” [1 Thessalonians 5:9]. The Wrath of God is appointed specifically to those who have rejected God’s Gift of Salvation – the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. So he continues in v10, *“Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”* There is no question of being ‘left behind’ in Paul’s reckoning. Christ came to save us from the wrath coming on unbelievers, and part of that salvation is the Rapture!

Through Church Teaching, the Apostles reveal that Christ is its Head and believers in His Death and Resurrection are His Body. The Holy Spirit has been sent to keep the members of the Body always aware of the Head in His absence. There is always the expectancy that the Body, at some point in time, will be joined, and joined forever, to the Head!

As Revelation 10:7 says, *“the mystery of God should be finished”!* The Church at that time will be complete and complete with the Lamb, its Head. [The Church will not be complete until the Two Witnesses return to Heaven after their 42 months Ministry unto the Lamb. Their story is told in Chapters 10 and 11 of Revelation.]

In the same book of Prophecy, it is very specific on the joining together of the Body with the Head, using the language and example of a Marriage.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him [God on the throne]: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he [the angel] saith unto me [John], Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” [Revelation 19:7-9]

Did not the Lord Jesus promise His disciples at the last Passover He had with them that He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until He drank it new with them in His Father’s kingdom? [Matthew 26:29]. He is still abstaining; He is still waiting! He’s waiting for God’s signal to come and collect you! Why should you be living in such a way that demonstrates your unwillingness to meet Him?

This is where He will drink with those disciples and with us, for whom He prayed as those who will believe on Him through the word which they spoke [John 17:20] – at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. He has abstained from that time! Celebrating His Marriage Supper is still something that Jesus Christ is looking forward to! Again, if you count Him as your Heavenly Bridegroom, why should you be living in such a way that demonstrates your unwillingness to meet Him?

This Marriage Supper will be the culmination, the fulfilling, of all the pouring out of His soul, the pouring out of His sinless Blood to atone for sin, to cleanse and justify, and enable the Holy Spirit to come into a human body and make it His temple... This is Full Salvation!

This is where you should be! Indeed, the very fact that you are a child of God, according to the Lord Jesus Christ, makes you a *“child of the resurrection”* – *this* resurrection; the “Rapture”. And *this* resurrection is guaranteed since The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. *“.....: because I live, ye shall live also”* [John 14:19b].

“Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection” [Luke 20:36].

All these Scriptures and the logical arguments that come from them show that there is only one plan for the salvation of God's people – resurrection leading to Eternal Life. Coupled with that very sobering fact that the coming Judgments on the earth **are for the purpose** of completing the annihilation of every Jew and every Gentile born in the Church Age who has rejected God's Gift, Jesus Christ, it is again clear that the Rapture is God's vehicle for saving His Blood-bought children from a world devoid of the Holy Spirit and the New World Order of Man, led eventually by the Antichrist.

Breaking that long sentence down into simpler parts: The coming Judgments on the earth are for the purpose of bringing to death every Jew and every Gentile born in the Church Age who has rejected Jesus Christ. God sent the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Heaven, to the earth to save Mankind. Those who believe on Him as the Salvation of God will be resurrected when Christ comes in the Air. The Rapture is God's vehicle for saving His Blood-bought children from a totally God-less world. The Holy Spirit will take the Church and resurrected saints up to Christ, leaving the world. The New World Order of Man will progress until the appearance and reign of the Antichrist.

One of the co-authors of the 16-book series 'Left Behind', Tim LaHaye, died in July 2016 at the age of 90. It is possible that through his writings many weak and back-slidden Christians have been deceived into thinking that they need not separate themselves from the world, or seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but that they can still have a second chance to be saved if they are left behind after the Rapture.

Apart from the strong calls in Scripture to be ready for whatever time the Lord returns, there is also the fact that the Holy Spirit takes the Church away to meet Christ in the air. "*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now letteth will let, until He be taken out of the way.*" [2 Thessalonians 2:7] is a Scripture talked about very little.

If you are the holder of a British passport, you will have these words written on the inside cover: "... all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without **let** or hindrance..." It simply means not to prevent. The Holy Spirit is preventing, restraining, the full onslaught

of evil until He is instructed to leave, taking His Temple, the Church, away.

At present, in this still continuing Church Age, the Holy Spirit is fulfilling the Commission given Him by the Risen Son of God, to *“reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”* [John 16:8]. He also is here to *“guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.”* [John 16:13]

If you are following the Lord Jesus Christ as you should, according to the Scriptures, you have been born again by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, been baptised in water by total immersion, and are already or are seriously seeking to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. You should therefore know what is coming and be preparing to escape, not considering whether you might be given a second chance or not!

The Word of God, rightly divided and spiritually discerned, shows clearly that all those left behind will die by one means or another, and eventually be part of the second death which is Eternity in the Lake of Fire. When they stand before the Judgment Throne of Christ, they will be reminded of the Scriptures they had rejected - not received into their lives - and will be personally shown the place in the Lamb's Book of Life where their names had been blotted out.

Revelation 3:5 says, *“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels”*.

Now why, when the poured out Blood of Jesus Christ has caused God to blot out all your sin, and that through that Blood you have victory over Satan, the accuser, to be an overcomer; and *“more than conquerors”* [Romans 8:37], and when you have been made *“partakers of the divine Nature”* [2 Peter 1:4] why, oh, why, would you live so carelessly that you will be left behind?

QUESTION 2

In the Communion Service, is it correct to say that the Lord's body was broken?

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This is the scripture most quoted at the start of the Service:

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: ²⁴. And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: This is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

And the **Four Gospels** account of The Last Passover Supper:

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

Mark 14:22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is My body.

Luke 22:19 And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

John 13:2-4 And supper being ended, the devil having now Put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him; ³. Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He was come from God, and went to God; ⁴. He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself ... [to wash their feet].

John's account is significant in that it shows Christ's attitude to the giving of His body - utter humility and grace - even, and especially, to Judas Iscariot. However, the emphasis in *Matthew*, *Mark* and *Luke* is on the the bread as **representing** the physical body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The bread was NOT, and never could be, His *actual* body, simply for the reason that He was there in the flesh, handling the separate 'loaf', which He broke into the pieces before them!

The meal took place, as we know, **before** He went to the Cross, where, After being severely beaten, manhandled, and scourged, He died. The bread, as He told the disciples, represented that **giving up** of Himself - as God's perfect Sacrifice for the sin of the world.

At the Supper, being still alive in His sinless, unblemished, undamaged body of human flesh, He took in His hands the round of plain unleavened bread, and **broke** it up into separate pieces to distribute it among them. Each of the remaining eleven disciples, therefore, received a **piece**, a portion, of the **broken** bread.

Each then had received a token, a reminder in the **bread** - it stood for the fact that His Body was given up in Sacrifice. Each one was told by the Lord to **eat** his piece of bread. Each therefore **partook** of the bread that **represented** His physical Body.

That specially prepared Body was soon to be given up as an Offering in death, and afterwards, **live forever** with the wounds He received as Evidence of His Giving. (That is why He said, "*With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer*" (Luke 22:15) - **He would never again be seen in that perfect state.**)

1 Corinthians 10:16b-17 The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? *17.* For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

Communion. The word means *participation*. That was possible only because the bread was then, and is still, broken up into small pieces for each *participant* to eat. Each partaker, believing, showed then, and now, a partaking of CHRIST HIMSELF - the same Christ Who had risen from the dead and would come again. (*1 Corinthians 11:26* - "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*" - that is, His coming in the air for His own.)

Paul wrote this **before** *Ch. 11:24*, “*He brake it, and said, Take eat: this is My body, which is broken for you.*” He had already spoken about the broken **bread**. There is no hint of him referring to a broken **BODY**.

Paul's account in *1 Corinthians 11:23 - 24* is most nearest to Luke's record, *Luke 22:19*, “*And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*” However, there is one important difference! A written grammatical difference. How little a thing a “,” has proved to be, in causing so much confusion to so many!

But first, another question! Why are we **not** to think that His body was broken? Here, in these two passages, is the clear direction of Scripture:

Exodus
12:43-47

And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat Thereof: *4.* But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. *45.* A foreigner and a hired servant shall not eat thereof. *46.* In one house shall it be eaten; Thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye **break a bone** thereof. *47.* All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

Numbers
9:9-12

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, *10.* Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD. *11.* The fourteenth day of the second month [ie. instead of in the first month] at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. *12.* They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor **break any bone of it**: according to all the ordinance of the passover they shall keep it.

Whether the Passover was eaten in the anniversary month, therefore, or in the following month because of circumstance, the commandment was the same - **no bone of the Passover lamb was to be broken**.

These two passages speak of the actual occurrence when the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled those instructions for the keeping of the Passover:

Psalm 34:19-20 Many are the afflictions of the Righteous: But the LORD delivereth Him out of them all. 20. He keepeth all His bones: not one of them is broken.
[Capitalised pronoun to show this is speaking of Jesus Christ on the Cross.]

John 19:31-36 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. 32. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with Him. 33. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already, they brake nor His legs: 34. But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true:and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. 36. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, **A bone of him shall not be broken.**

THE ENGLISH GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE of *1 Corinthians 11:24* :

*And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said,
'Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you:
this do in remembrance of Me.'*

"And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat:" - this is a complete sentence. The colon at the end, ":" indicates that.

In analysing the sentence, "*He*" is the Subject, and "*it*" is the Direct Object. "*This is My body, which is broken for you:*" is a complete sentence also, as the phrase ends with a colon, ":"

Without knowing anything, then, of the sentence construction of English Grammar, the **Scriptural truth** is immediately understood, that : We are all sinners, of sinful human natures; Christ alone had no sin in Him, in His human body of flesh and blood, despite being born of an ordinary (sinful) woman.

The first sentence (*1 Corinthians 11:24*) could read, “*This, which is broken for you, is My Body*”. The second (*2 Corinthians 5:21*), “*He hath made Him, Who knew no sin, to be sin for us.*” Both, however, are thought to be clumsy.

Hence, in English Grammar, at any rate, we have the adjective clause.

Here are some more examples :

Ephesians 6:17 and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. “*Which*” follows the comma after the word “*Spirit*”. As in *1 Corinthians 11:24* and *2 Corinthians 5:21*, there is the **adjective clause**. It is to the words “*the sword*” that the word “*which*” refers. Because it reads “*the sword of the Spirit*”, it is readily understood that the word of God is the sword and **not** the Spirit.

Revelation 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

This is a similar case. As it says “*the doctrine of the Nicolaitans*”, it is easily understood that the adjective clause “*which thing I hate*” refers specifically to the doctrine, rather than to the Nicolaitans themselves.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

The adjective clause - “*which they have imagined to do*” - obviously does not relate to the “*them*”, although it comes immediately before the comma. It relates to the word “*nothing*” (no thing), and could read, “*and now nothing which they have imagined to do will be restrained from them*”. It lacks a certain flow of language, however.

In coming to a conclusion on the true meaning of *1 Corinthians 11:24*, let us consider the third and last part of the compound sentence:

“: *this do in remembrance of Me.*”

Again, the emphasis is on the bread **representing** the physical Body of Jesus Christ. “*This do*”. What were they to do in the future? Simply, to break up the bread into pieces and pass them round to all those in the gathering remembering their Lord as **THE** Passover Lamb.

The Passover Lamb Whose bones were not to be broken [*Exodus 12*]. The Passover Lamb Who rose again from the dead in the same wounded, disfigured Body, but Whose bones had **not** been broken [*John 19*]. The Passover Lamb, **alive**, to die no more, taking to Himself a Bride - His Church, and His body [*Ephesians 1:22-23*]

These verses show how He loved His Church:

Ephesians 5:30; 1 Corinthians 6:15-17, 12:27; Genesis 2:21-24.

The Communion Service is intended to concentrate us on the fact that Jesus Christ is That Eternal Life Who died [*1 John 1:2*]. He poured out the Blood in His Body of human flesh to reconcile mankind to God. **He** was the Sacrificial Lamb. He was **sent** by God; He **came** to die.

He could only die *by* taking on Himself a Body of flesh and blood. In doing so, He put away sin from the face of an offended God. His sufferings and death fulfilled all the Old Testament sacrifices for worship and atonement for sin. The animal offerings, as a shadow of Christ's death, were offered **whole**. They were whole burnt offerings, both for the voluntary, and for the sin and trespass offerings.

There is a wealth of revelation to be realised from these sacrifices, but for now, it is sufficient to understand that, **1)** Christ offered Himself **whole** to God (with *unbroken* bones), for that was what was required by God for Him to fulfil all Scripture.

And **2)** He was raised again from the dead, able to walk into Heaven! As the Head of God's new Family, He is also the Head of the Church, a **body** of people who, together, would **share** Him - as the breaking of bread signifies. When God gives Him the signal, He will come again to snatch His saints away **before** returning to reign and to judge.

We continue with the passage concerning the Lord's Supper :

1 Corinthians 11:28-29 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ^{29.} For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ^{30.} For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

We can also learn from these verses that, if a Risen Christ with **broken** bones is presented to us, the partakers of the Lord's Supper, then we are not being shown the same Lord Jesus Christ that God and the Holy Spirit see. We will not, therefore, fully discern why He was sent into this world with a flesh and blood body; why He is different, and why **His Death** was different from any, and every, other death.

For He and He alone died in **obedience** to the Word of God, rising again to fulfil for us the abundance of God's eternal life in **Him**. He is the Bread of Life [*John 6:35*]. He is **alive** for us to feed on Him.

We will not have, therefore, perfect spiritual insight and faith to live a life "*in the Spirit*", and so fulfil God's Purpose for the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His **body**.

It is so important, then, that we are capable of "*discerning the Lord's Body*" : to know, to see, with the eyes of the Holy Spirit, the difference - the **distinguishing** - between the Giving of the Eternal Lord Himself to death for the benefit of all mankind, and any other death.

Those who fail in this, we are told, will reap the rewards of ignorance and slackness - weakness and sickliness, physical and spiritual, and even premature death, within the churches. For the spiritual life will not be there.

But, if we read and understand in our hearts as the Holy Spirit desires us to, we will reap the lasting blessings of our faith in Christ, of which we read earlier in *1 Corinthians 10:17* -

"For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one Bread".

QUESTION 3

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won't prevail against the Church?

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Generally, the verse is only half-quoted. This is it complete:

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

There are actually three issues to consider here:

The first concerns the quoting of the verse. In very many cases, when the point is being made about the victorious position of the Church of God, only a portion is quoted : *'I will build My church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.'*

The second, therefore, concerns the “*it*” against which the gates of hell shall not prevail (be victorious over). Is it the Church, as the partly quoted verse suggests, or is it the rock, considering the whole verse?

The third, therefore, concerns “*the rock*”. Is it Peter, upon whom the Lord would build His Church? - millions in the world believe that. Or is it **Christ alone**, building His spiritual congregation upon the foundation of **Himself**, Crucified and Risen from the dead.

Let us first establish the identity of **the rock**. Then it can be reasoned which is more likely to be able to gain the victory over the gates of Hell - that rock, be it Peter or Christ, or the Church.

Peter: *Matthew 10:2* The first, Simon, who is called Peter.

16:17 Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona.

Mark 3:16 And Simon He surnamed Peter.

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees.

6:14 Simon, (whom He also named Peter,).

John 1:42 And when Jesus beheld him, He said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

<i>2 Samuel 23:3</i>	the Rock of Israel spake to me.
<i>Psalms 61:2</i>	lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
<i>Isaiah 8:14</i>	a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel
<i>Romans 9:33</i>	As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.
<i>1 Peter 2:8</i>	a rock of offence [to unbelievers]
<i>1 Corinthians 10:4</i>	that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

It is evident that GOD, the Triune God, True and Eternal, was and is and will always be **the Rock**. The whole point of Moses being told to speak only to a rock in their wilderness journeying, was because he had smitten a rock already, 38 years before. A **once**-smitten rock was intended to show that Christ, being part of the Godhead, was coming to be smitten **once** for all mankind [*Exodus 17:6; Numbers 20:11*].

Many of the Old Testament references to “*the rock*” are in the Book of Psalms - that Book of Scripture which was counted by the Jews as a part of the Law : “*The people answered Him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever*”, using *Psalms 89 & 110* [*John 12:34*] and also, “*Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, ye are gods?*”, quoting *Psalms 82*, in *John 10:34*.

This is highly significant, because if Christ fulfilled the Law in Himself, as indeed He did, by suffering unto death, shedding His Blood, then the Psalms themselves are **also** fulfilled in His Sacrificial Work.

The Psalms, full of desperate cries and holy complaints to God.

The Psalms, full of exuberant, confident praise of God’s excellency and for His Word.

The Psalms from the heart of One identifying Himself with sinners and making intercession for their sinful souls; for their cleansing, and approach to God for now and Eternity.

The Psalms which cry to God in Heaven for justice, and for the judgment of the wicked...

The Psalms, revealing **Christ** depending on God as **His** Rock, that we, called, chosen and faithful, may depend upon **Him** as *our* Rock.

Luke 24:44-45 And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the **psalms**, concerning Me. *45.* Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.

With Christ in the sinner's place, crying out to God and calling Him "*the rock of My salvation*", the mediation between God and man was established. **Christ** is the One to take us to God - *no-one* else can.

Christ, God on earth in human flesh, in relying upon God in Heaven as **His** Rock, made Himself helpless, totally dependent upon the One Who sent Him. So that, when His Church, members of His body, was formed, they could rely on Christ as their Rock. As Paul the apostle confirmed, "*and that Rock was Christ*". It was always the Plan of God that Christ should lead man to God in Heaven, to be His children.

It is evident that the Lord said to Simon, 'I name you "*Peter*", **a stone**, to give you the confidence that you will be built into the building of My Church, which will be built upon this Rock' - indicating Himself.

The second issue concerns "*it*": "*And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" Is it **the Church**, that is built upon the rock, or is it **the Rock** Himself?

We have first to consider what happened to Jesus Christ in His Work for God. He had to **die** according to the Scriptures, to cleanse the hearts of man before any spiritual building could be formed of human beings with **Him** at its Head. To completely fulfil His commission to be a Substitute sinner, cursed by God, punished fully for sin, He had to go the way of all sinners - **down into Hell**.

Matthew 12:39-40 An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas; for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Acts 2:26-32
(v28 omitted)

Therefore did My heart rejoice, and My tongue was glad; moreover also My flesh shall rest in hope: 27. Because Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption. 29. ... David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. 30. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on His throne; 31. He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption. 32. This Jesus hath God raised up.

Ephesians
4:9-10

(Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill [pleroo, to make replete; ie. fig. to furnish, finish - a task, complete, fulfill] all things.)

1 Peter
3:18-19

Being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison.

Psalms 69:1-2

Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto My soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, whence the floods overflow Me.

:14

Deliver Me out of the mire, and let Me not sink: let Me be delivered from them that hate Me, and out of the deep waters. 15. Let not the waterflood overflow Me, neither let the deep swallow Me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon Me.

Psalms 83:4-5

I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength. Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from Thy hand.

- Psalm 28:1* Unto Thee will I cry, O LORD My rock; be not silent to Me: lest, if Thou be silent to Me, I become like them that go down into the pit.
- Psalm 30:3* O LORD, Thou hast brought up My soul from the grave: Thou hast kept Me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. 9. What profit is there in My blood, when I go down to the pit? shall the dust praise Thee? shall it declare thy truth?
- Psalm 16:10* For Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.
- Psalm 40:2* He brought Me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set My feet upon a rock, and established My goings.

When Peter declared the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, [*Acts 2:31*] he used *Psalm 16* as proof that Christ went down into Hell, and was raised from the dead **in the same body**. (Incidentally, the scriptures which read “*from the dead*” actually mean “*from among the dead*” where “*dead*” is a plural word referring to those people in the place of the dead.)

Christ's body was terribly wounded and disfigured - His blood had to be shed quickly for Him to die before the Passover sundown, and certainly before the Sabbath or His legs would have been broken - but it remained incorruptible. His flesh did not decay - it was sinless.

His soul came back out of Hell's prison and He took the keys with Him. This we read in *Revelation 1:18* - “*I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*” The words are spoken with such exuberance, it is as though it had just happened! He took charge of the keys of the gates of Hell. God raised Him from the dead, and those prison gates could not hold Him in.

With all these scriptures to guide us, are we to understand that the “*it*” (“*and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*”) then actually refers to **the Church**?

Or, is the answer to our question made clear from knowing that **Jesus Christ is our Rock**. It is He Who ascended out of Hell to sit on the Throne of God [*Ephesians 4:9-10*]. **The gates of Hell could not prevail against HIM.**

Here is another Psalm of Christ's hope of His exit from Hell:

Psalm 9:13 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death.

And when, in *Job 38:17*, He questioned Job to declare Himself the Almighty, He said "*Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?*" - 'as I will', He could have added!

The Lord's prophesy, therefore, "*and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*", has **already been fulfilled**. At His Resurrection, He rose victorious from among the dead in Hell, and took full control of it.

The Church - the members of it - will never come near to the gates of Hell! In dealing with Satanic forces and the powers of spiritual wickedness that are in **the air**, the Church's protection is the Blood of the Lamb through whom she clothes herself with the armour of God [*Ephesians 6:12-18*]. The evil forces that are bound in Hell will be released in the Day of The Lord, which is to come [*Revelation 9:1-19*].

During this Church Age, therefore, the gates of Hell are under the sole Authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. The keys of it are in His possession.

He went down into the lowest Hell [*Deuteronomy 32:22; Psalm 86:13* - Christ speaking]. It would appear, then, that the Lord Jesus, in locking those gates, secured the captivity of those condemned evil spirits, and the lost without Christ slip into the upper region of Hell, the continual locking and unlocking of its gates unnecessary. The Lord remains on the Throne at the Right Hand of God with the keys in His hand until the future Day of The LORD. At the last, Death and Hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire [*Revelation 20:14*].

QUESTION 4

What is meant by the foundation of the apostles and prophets?

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Ephesians
2:19-20

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20. And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.

“The foundation of the apostles and prophets” is often quoted with no reference to the words which follow: *“Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.”*

By isolating the phrase *“the foundation of the apostles and prophets”*, an ambiguity arises. Could it mean the foundation which the apostles and prophets have themselves given the household of God? That is, the foundation being theirs, because they have laid it by teaching the household of God?

The word *“of”* can mean *“possessed by”*. For example, the words *“the children of the devil”* [1 John 3:10] correspond to the words of Jesus Christ: *“Ye are of your father the devil”* [John 8:44], or, ‘You **belong** to the devil; you are the devil's property’.

By not completing the phrase *“the foundation of the apostles and prophets”* with *“Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone”*, the wrong interpretation can easily arise - and does.

The other possibility is that **the foundation** *“of the apostles and prophets”*, is **that very One**, Jesus Christ Himself! As it says, *“Jesus Christ Himself ... the chief corner stone”*. HE is the Foundation upon which the apostles and prophets built their lives. The implication is, that as they built their lives upon Christ Crucified, so should all the household of God.

Here is another reference to a foundation :

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

This scripture of *1 Corinthians 3:11* alone makes it quite clear that the apostles' and prophets' foundation was NOT what they had laid by their teaching, but was **the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ, alone.**

These other scriptures add to the Holy Spirit's illustrations of Jesus Christ as the only foundation stone:

***Psalms 118:22* The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.**

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Mark 12:10 And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner.

Luke 20:17 And He beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

1 Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. [v8 quoting *Isaiah 8:14*]

***Isaiah 28:16* Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.**

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.

In a building, it is the **CORNER STONE** - the edges of the foundation - which bears the spread load from the two walls built upon it. The corner stone is not different or secondary to the foundation. It **IS** the foundation itself.

All these amazing prophetic Scriptures from the Old Testament and the New Testament quotations of those prophecies, clearly show that the Lord Jesus Christ as "*the chief corner stone*" is **HIMSELF** that Foundation. He is the **only** suitable, fit and approved, Foundation for the spiritual building which is the household of God.

Everything that was taught and revealed by the apostles and prophets through the Holy Spirit to the churches was therefore based **solely** upon the Obedient Person of the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTION 5

Is it right to say that “rivers of living water” refers to the Holy Spirit?

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This is the scripture relating to this question:

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹ (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John, by the Spirit, added the words of *verse 39*. And the Lord had spoken **already** of the living water:

John 4:10,14 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water. ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

First He spoke to one needy woman, **then**, at the Feast of Tabernacles, He spoke publicly of the same revelation: He, Jesus Christ, contained within **Himself** all that a human being required for the full provision, sustenance, satisfaction of a vibrant, righteous life, right into Eternity.

There is an interesting point to note here: to the woman, He spoke of a well full of water which would spring up into everlasting life; to the crowds, He spoke of rivers of living water which would flow out of the inner being of a believer. In both cases, there is the water AND there is the action upon the water.

The scriptures on which the Lord Jesus based these most exhilarating

calls are from His prophet Isaiah:

- Isaiah 12:3* Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.
- 44:3a* For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground.
- 55:1a* Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.
- 58:11* And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Let us consider a revelation concerning Jesus Christ : Nothing that He said when He came in the flesh was without reference to the Scriptures of the Law and the Prophets, because **He specifically came as God's Servant** to fulfil those Scriptures in Himself.

At the Feast of Tabernacles, 32AD - the last feast of the year, and the last He would attend before He went to the Cross - Christ developed the promise of abundant Life in Himself a stage further. He taught that the water was not only to be *within*, quenching the believer's thirst, but was also be a ready store to be spilled out in blessing to others.

Isaiah 58:11 is the nearest equivalent to “*out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water*” - “*a spring of water, whose waters fail not.*”

So we see again that there is the water within AND a means by which the water is pushed out in spiritual blessing to others. There is the water AND there is the action upon the water.

The second half of *Isaiah 44:3* gives insight into the life God desired for His people **after** the Cross: (Christ speaking) “*I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thine offspring: 4. And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses*”.

A beautiful picture, not just of pure contentment, but of flourishing where grass would easily wither. A life such as is possible when we are cleansed from our sin. Of course, the promise was first to the Israelites, who first constituted the Church of Jesus Christ, until the Gentiles also were added, according to God's Plan.

John 3:5 records Christ telling Nicodemus, a Pharisee, “*Except a man be born of **water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*”. Here we see clearly that the water is a **separate item** from the Person of the Holy Spirit.

So what is the **WATER**?

It is the Scriptures themselves that show us that **the Written Word of God** is described as water, and that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the **Source** of the water :

Jeremiah 2:13 For My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake Thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

Revelation 21:6 And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

God the Father is speaking : He will freely give the blessings which are resident in Christ - which is what we would expect!

Ezekiel 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean...

Ephesians 5:25b-26 Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26. That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.
(body = soma, as a sound whole, not meaning the flesh, which must be crucified!)

And one more:

1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood.

The “*water*” does not refer to the colourless plasma which poured out with the last drops of His blood at the soldier's spear [*John 19:34*]. The verse says that He came by water and blood. He came to fulfil the Word of God, to obey it unto death, by the pouring out of His blood.

Let us look at the following two verses in detail:

1 John 5:7-8 **For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** [The Persons of the One Triune God.] 8. **And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit,** [The Holy Spirit] **and the water,** [the Word of God, written, as Christ has completed His Work] **and the blood:** [shed according to that Word] **and these three agree in one.**

The Lord Jesus Christ was recognised from old as the **Source** of that water to quench man's thirst. Moses forfeited the Promised Land when he struck the rock again 38 years after the water first gushed out of a smitten rock (BC1491) [*Exodus 17:3-6*]; (BC1453) [*Numbers 20:8-11*]

This was a serious error to God, because the physical rock represented **Christ**, the Promised One [*1 Corinthians 10:4*]. And He was to be the Christ **Crucified**, smitten ONCE for the life of the world. This He said Himself in *John 6:51, 53-57* and *Mark 14:27* quoting *Zechariah 13:7*. *Hebrews 9:24-28* is very specific - “*Christ was **once** offered*”.

The part of the verse in *John 7:39* which is under question is in parenthesis (round brackets) : “*(But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*”

The Holy Spirit **would** not come until man was clean in God's sight [John 16:7]. Christ had first to put his sin away to God's perfect satisfaction, and be seated, alive from the dead, on God's Right Hand on God's Throne. **Then** He could fulfil His Promise of John 14:16. When He addressed the people, He still had that to do.

The words “*But this He spake of the Spirit*” simply means ‘*This He spoke **concerning** the Spirit*’. Christ was referring to the Holy Spirit's **involvement** in bringing the Word of God to God's cleansed world.

“*Water and the Spirit*” [John 3:5]: the written Word of God and the Person of the Holy Spirit, bringing about the spiritual process of regeneration. First we hear, then obey, the Word of God, in repentance, because we have **already** been set free from the darkness of unbelief by the Death of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit can then adopt the new believer into God's Family.

He, the Holy Spirit, is not Himself the living water - it is His **ACTION** upon the rivers of living water, the Word of God, to which the Lord referred. The Word of God comes **FLOWING** out of the cleansed soul of the believer - out to other thirsty, needy souls.

(1 Peter 1:23, speaks of the same need to be born again, says, “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*”. The metaphor is changed from *water* to **seed**, but shows clearly that it is by the entrance of the Word of God that anyone is born again.)

And we know by our understanding of all the Scriptures, that it **is** the Holy Spirit Who activates the Word of God as it is preached, to make it real, and alive, and understandable to the listeners. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. If the Holy Spirit is absent, spiritual fruit does not, and cannot, materialise.

This is exactly what Paul was saying in 2 Corinthians 3:1-11. The new believers were **the living evidence** that God's Message of Christ Crucified had worked **in** them **by the operation of the Holy Spirit** through the apostles' ministry. Paul said they had received a **new** testament (a covenant, by Blood), which differed from the old, given by Moses.

And although even that old had been accompanied by the wonderful manifestation of God's (actually, Christ's) glory, the new *was* different because it was given to them **by the Holy Spirit**. - “*Not of the **letter**, (which, after all, the written Law was), but of the **Spirit**: for the letter killeth, (administered death, condemnation), but the Spirit giveth life*” (because Eternal Life through Christ **was now available** for the Spirit to give).

The **real** message of *John 7:39* is that **every** believer on the Lord Jesus Christ should find it an absolute necessity in their new lives to be Baptised in the Holy Spirit, speaking in other tongues as the initial clear Evidence of this Amazing Gift from a Justifying God.

After all, right from the beginning when John the Baptist revealed Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, he declared, “*He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire*” [*Matthew 3:11*]. Read also *John 1:30-33*.

Apart from very few instances, throughout the administration of the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit anointed only the prophet, the priest and the king. The New Testament means that the cleansing Blood of the Lamb enables the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon all flesh, as Peter quoted in *Acts 2:16-18* the prophecy of Joel [*Joel 2:28-29*]

First be Baptised, then **continue** in the Spirit, who illuminates the Word of God to you. He has been sent to open your understanding of the **Law**, the **Prophets** and the **Psalms** to see the Revelation of Jesus Christ [*Luke 24:44*]. Moreover, you need the Power and Authority to preach and to teach the Message of Christ Crucified by the **indwelling action** of the Holy Spirit - until The Rapture!

QUESTION 6

Did the Holy Spirit physically look like a dove when He came at the water baptism of Jesus Christ ?

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Did the Holy Spirit physically look like a dove when He came at the water baptism of Jesus Christ?

Each Gospel records the event of the water baptism of the Lord :

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him.

Mark 1:10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him.

Luke 3:21-22 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened. 22. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased.

John 1:32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33. And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

True, Luke's account does say that the Holy Spirit came in a *bodily shape*, and **seems** to describe Him as actually looking like a dove, but this is a typical passage where we need to understand what the Holy Spirit is indicating, more than how it appears to read.

Each Gospel account states that the Holy Spirit **descended** UPON the Lord Jesus. John adds that He **ABODE** upon Him - He rested on Him. The likeness to the dove, how a dove **behaves**, is found in the record of where Noah tested the height of the flood waters, in *Genesis 8*.

Genesis 8:6-12 And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made: 7. And he send forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth. 8. Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; 9. But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark. 10. And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; 11. And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plukt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth. 12. And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

This is such a tender story! Noah seems to treat the dove like a daughter he is sending out into the dangerous world!

Noah first sent out a raven, which would look for food each day, swooping down on floating drowned animal carcasses, and then return to the ark, until it found a permanent base.

The dove is described as a creature that only remains where it is safe : *“but the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark”*. It is known as being a sedentary bird, it has a heavy body; it pecks on the ground for grain and weed-seeds - and flies off to the highest point at a moment's disruption or alarm. It will not rest where there is no peaceful situation.

The waters were too high for Noah's dove to land when he first sent her out, so she returned to the safety of the ark. She returned to the ark again a week later, finding only a leaf. It was still not to her satisfaction. But when the dove could **rest**, that is, remain, on the dry ground, to peck away safely, then there was no need for her to return to the ark again.

This is the meaning of describing and likening the Holy Spirit to a **dove**. It was the manner in which He **RESTED** and **REMAINED** on Christ. The Holy Spirit indicated to John the obedient, humble, Christ.

The “*bodily shape*” seen, which Luke records, was the same form upon which man was modelled! Should it surprise us if one Person of the Godhead appears with a body similar to man's body, when man has been made by God in the image of God?!

Luke, rather than leading us to think that the Holy Spirit looks like a dove, is actually confirming God's word that God is a real Person, with a recognisable shape and form. When Christ called Moses up Mount Sinai the second time, He said, “*Thou shalt see My back parts: but My face shall not be seen.*” A bodily form; His spiritual body, before He came in the flesh. When John saw God upon the Throne, seated, (a recognisable shape, also!), he saw His right hand. Should we not properly assume that He also had a left hand. And when Daniel saw God on the Throne, as “*the Ancient of days*”, he saw even the hair on His head - and He was clothed. [*Exodus 33:23; Revelation 5:1,7; Daniel 7:9*]

Here's a passage to set you thinking! :

Romans 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

Paul firstly makes the distinction between the holiness of God and the unholiness of man - that is the difference here, not that man **wasn't** made in the physical image of God. Then he says that unholly men made God, to them, to be like birds, animals and reptiles.

To believe that God the Holy Spirit actually looked like a small, flying bird, not only reveals a lack of understanding of the Scriptures, and the knowledge of God, but becomes perilously close to professing a mythological god such as the heathen worship.

Once again, we see that it is vital to understand the whole Word of God on a particular matter. When we perpetuate the imperfect understanding of others, and hold their views as our own also, we will not receive the full revelation from the Holy Spirit of God.

QUESTION 7

And was Jesus Christ baptised in
the Holy Ghost at His water baptism?

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The first three Gospel writers, *Matthew*, *Mark* and *Luke*, record John the Baptist clearly pointing to the Promised Messiah - "**He that cometh after me**". John's coming fulfilled a 400-year-old prophecy in *Malachi* 4:5-6. Elijah the prophet would come to turn the hearts of the people of God **before** Christ came to the earth (the second time) to execute the Wrath of His Judgment. The Lord confirmed this in *Matthew* 11:13-15.

Matthew
3:11-12

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12. Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Mark 1:6-8

And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; 7. And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. 8. I indeed have baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Luke 3:15-17

And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; 16. John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: 17. Whose fan is in his hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and will gather the wheat into His garner; but the chaff He will burn with fire unquenchable.

Then John, the son of Zebedee, fisherman turned Apostle, records the revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to John the Baptist :

John 1:33 And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is He which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Seven weeks after Jesus Christ had died for our sins, and had risen again to give us His gifts, in His role of High Priest, this happened :

Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The explanation that Peter gave of the miraculous event, was about **Judgment** as well as **Salvation**. In *verses 18-21* of *Acts 2*, he says :

“And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19. And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Peter was quoting *Joel 2:28-32*.

Salvation for all was available from that time; the **Judgment** will come in the Future upon those rejecters of the Good Gift of **Himself**.

Peter continued by quoting *Psalms 110*. *“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit Thou on My right hand, until I make Thy foes Thy footstool.”* [v1]

We see therefore, that the first sermon from the Church echoed those words of John the Baptist: The One baptised in water by John was **Lord**, "*mightier than I*", a mere man - and the Promised One, the Messiah, or, in the Greek form, **Christ**.

Then Peter continues, "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ*" [v36]. Peter is not saying that God had only just made Him both Lord and Christ. He was stating that the One Whom God **had** made both Lord and Christ was the same One called Jesus, Whom they had crucified.

The point is that the Promised Messiah **came from Heaven**, with both Salvation and Judgment in mind. That was the Plan of God from the beginning. Therefore He, the Messiah, or CHRIST, came **already anointed** to fulfil the whole Plan of God. "*Christ*" means "the Anointed One". He came "*sent by God*". The fact that He didn't even preach until after He was baptised in water, does not mean that He was not anointed by the Holy Spirit until that time.

Psalm 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength because of Thine enemies, that Thou mightest still the enemy and the Avenger.

The babe and suckling was Jesus Christ. **He** waged war on the enemy (Satan) from His birth, then as God on earth in human flesh. (The Avenger is God upon the Throne. Compare *1 Thessalonians 4:6*.) The Story of His Birth tells us Who He is :

Matthew 1:16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. *11.* For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD. If He had received the anointing of the Holy Spirit at His baptism in water, He would not have been the Christ until that time.

Isaiah 42:1 Behold My servant, whom I uphold; Mine elect, in whom My soul delighteth; I have put My spirit upon Him.

God spoke of Christ and His coming through the prophet by the Holy Spirit. Christ had **already** put Himself in subjection to God upon the Throne in Eternity, long before He came in the flesh. He was already counted as God's Servant, God's Elect, God's Anointed. The prophets acknowledged Him as that One Who was to come.

Consider now the Old Testament order for the anointing of priests :

Exodus 30:31-32 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto Me throughout your generations. 32. Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you.

“Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured”. So Aaron was clothed first with the priestly garments and the oil poured upon his covered head [*Exodus 29:5-7*]. This was a foreshadowing of that Day of Pentecost, when the Church of Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit. **They** had been washed from their sin, and could then receive the Holy Spirit, but Christ's position was different. He has no human nature, with or without a human body. His anointing took place in Heaven.

Again, when He rose again from the dead, He was anointed in Heaven, as High Priest to intercede for mankind before the Throne of God. Hence He is also called **Christ Jesus**, signifying the second anointing.

Psalms 45:7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.

This is an obvious prophetic record of God on the Throne speaking to the Risen, victorious Christ. The next verse we will look at appears to relate to Solomon, the son of David. However, the revelation comes in the New Testament: it actually spoke of Christ and the relationship He adopted for man's salvation, and of His Resurrection from the dead.

2 Samuel 7:14 I will be his father, and he shall be My son.

Hebrews 1:5b And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?

The revelation is completed with the quote from *Psalms* 45 :

Hebrews 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.

Again, this next verse also seems to speak of David, as David is named in v20. However, v27 is a direct link with *Psalms* 2:7, and that is quoted as referring to Christ in both *Hebrews* 1:5 and *Acts* 13:33 :

Psalms 89:26 He shall cry unto Me, Thou art My father, My God, and the rock of My salvation.

:19-20 Then Thou spakest in vision to Thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people. 20. I have found David My servant; with My holy oil have I anointed Him.

:27 Also I will make Him My firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.

Psalms 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.

Acts 13:33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee.

(Incidentally, this process is called in Scripture “*comparing spiritual things with spiritual*”, and “*rightly dividing the word of truth*” as stated in Paul’s letters of *1 Corinthians* 2:13 and *2 Timothy* 2:15).

Jesus Christ, then, is the Perfect Man, obedient to God's Written Word unto death, raised to life as the Only Begotten Son of God. All the ‘shadows’ and ‘types’ of the Old Testament were fulfilled in Himself. Twice anointed by God personally, He sits at His right hand until that time when He comes to a world totally submitted by 42 months Terror.

QUESTION 8

Is it true, as has been said, that a Christian is more alive after death than before?

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Many years ago, a well-known Christian missionary said, ‘When you read that I have died, don't believe it. I shall be more alive than ever before.’ This has been quoted by others since then. But what does the Word of God say...

Luke 8:52-55 And all wept, and bewailed her: but He said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. ^{53.} And they laughed Him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. ^{54.} And He put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. ^{55.} And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and He commanded to give her meat.

John 11:11-14 These things said He: and after that He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. ^{12.} Then said His disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. ^{13.} Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that He had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. ^{14.} Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

These are the two Gospel references where sleep (slumber) and death are linked. In sleep, where the body rests, the spirit remains in the body. In death, the human spirit leaves the body, rendering it a corpse.

Luke 23:40-43 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ^{41.} And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this Man hath done nothing amiss. ^{42.} And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom. ^{43.} And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise.

“Paradise”, *paradeisos*, in Greek, and *parec* in Hebrew, is a word of Oriental origin. Literally, it means a *park*, especially an Eden - like the Garden of Eden. It signifies, a place of (future) happiness.

The day that the Lord Jesus died was on our Thursday, at the time of the evening sacrifice at the Feast of the Passover, two days before the Jewish Sabbath, our Saturday, which is the **seventh** day of the week and was called “*an high day*” [*John 19:31*] (from which we get the expression ‘high days and holidays’ - *holy days*). He died; His body of flesh and bones was laid in a tomb and He went down into Hell until God raised Him up on the third day - the first day of the week.

The thieves crucified with Him died the next day, called the Day of Preparation (for the Sabbath). None of the condemned was to remain hanging on such a high day, the soldiers broke their legs to greatly hasten their death. Victims would lose more blood, and also suffocate, as their legs could no longer provide the lift they needed to expand their lungs to breathe.

Because the Lord had already died, His legs were **not** broken, thus fulfilling the Scriptures that His bones were not to be broken. The believing, repentant thief had to endure the additional pain of smashed bones and death by suffocation, but he kept the amazing Promise of the King of Eternity in his heart. He died; his body was disposed of, but his spirit went to that place of happiness - until he is raised in the Rapture.

Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. *60.* And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. *8:1* And Saul was consenting unto his death.

This is the first mention in the order of the Books of Church teaching where the death of a believer is spoken of as sleep. The apostles, Paul and Peter take up the same thought, by the Holy Spirit's direction:

1 Corinthians 15:6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

The same Saul, now the Apostle Paul, then proves the importance of Christ's Resurrection to every believer :

1 Corinthians 15:17-18 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. *18.* Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-15 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. *14.* For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him [ie, back into Heaven]. *15.* For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [by no means go before] them which are asleep.

These passages show us clearly that the believers had died as Christ had died; their spirits had left their bodies, which became corpses and were buried. But as Christ rose from the dead, His spirit coming again into His body, so, at The Rapture (the first resurrection), those who had died would also be raised to life and be **taken into Heaven** at the same time as the living believers.

2 Peter 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

These are the words of the scoffers who doubt the Coming of Christ for His own at the First Resurrection, because it seems to them too long a time to wait. But it **will** come, and Paul again explains how it will happen, and why:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: *17.* Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. *18.* Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

RISE FIRST ... CAUGHT UP ... SO SHALL WE EVER BE WITH THE LORD - a future **together** with Him **after** we have met Him in the air!

That is the very reason for the coming Resurrection - the joining up of the spirit of the believer with a body - as a “*living soul*” - to live for ever with God and with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

WITHOUT A BODY ENCASING OUR SPIRIT, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO LIVE AN ETERNAL LIFE AS A HUMAN SOUL!!

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

This is not saying that we don't know what we shall look like, just that it hasn't happened yet. We are the children of God who are still awaiting Christ's Coming for us - to “*change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body*”, as *Philippians 3:21* says. It's a matter of when. And when He does appear, we shall indeed see Him in His same marred body of sinless flesh in which He won our Salvation.

But we shall be clothed in a new body of sinless flesh, like His.

1 Corinthians 15:49-50 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. *50*. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

These scriptures on the resurrection and our future life with Christ and God on the Throne, have a great bearing on answering our question. If it is necessary to have a new body **in order to live an eternal life with God** (and, incidentally, also to live in the endless torment of the Lake of Fire, *Revelation 20:5a*), then **how** can someone be said to be actively **alive** when **the spirit is without a body**?

Furthermore, how can it be said that they are **living in Heaven, where God lives**, when they are dead and their spirits have been separated from their bodies? As the Scriptures have shown us, The Rapture, The First

Resurrection, is the event where the spirit is RAISED and given a new body, and taken up to God. It does not and would not come out of Heaven with Christ to be clothed in a new body on the way down!

The Word of *1 Thessalonians 4:16 - 17* is, “*The dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air*”.

When we are asleep, we have no consciousness of time. Truly, in sleep, a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day! Sometimes we drop off for just five minutes, and we're as unaware of it as if it had been five hours! Surely, you have experienced that!

The place where the spirits of the **believing** dead sleep must be in a different and separate place from the **unbelieving** dead (Hell). It must also be called paradise, where the repentant thief went, for it is a safe haven under the watchful eye of God. Those that are there are assured of future happiness. But it **MUST** be a place under the earth, for the dead are RAISED.

Luke 16:22-26 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ^{23.} And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ^{24.} And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ^{25.} But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ^{26.} And beside all this, between us and you **there is a great gulf fixed**: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

The beggar died and his spirit was carried to that safe place under the earth. Abraham was already there. Abraham's whole story is that he

looked to the future, to the **resurrection**. “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”, so says Hebrews 11:10. He saw by faith the Holy City of Revelation 21.

The Lord did not use this parable to show that the believing dead slept, or there would have been no story! But a side issue to the main point that belief in God’s Word is paramount for gaining eternal life, is to show that there is **a great gulf fixed** - by God, obviously - between those believers and unbelievers who have died.

Their future destinies are completely opposite in every respect. And while they wait for their respective resurrections, they are **under the earth** until they are raised - some to the resurrection of life, and some to the resurrection of damnation.

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the grave shall hear his voice, ²⁹. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Again, the fact that the Lord spoke of those that are in the grave, shows that He was speaking of them being under the earth, and not physically with God in Heaven.

Then Peter, by the Spirit, says some interesting things:

1 Peter 4:4-6 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: ⁵. Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. ⁶. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit [the Spirit, *Newberry Edition*].

The Lord Jesus Christ **Himself** will be the Judge over **all** mankind - in the Future. He will first judge those raised at the First Resurrection.

The “*quick*” will be those living at the time, who are spiritually, as well

as just physically, alive.

“*The dead*” can mean those dead either physically, but are spiritually alive (asleep), or spiritually dead, to be raised from Hell. Peter refers to both, for the Gospel is preached, and **each** hearer is expected by God to respond while **yet alive** in the body.

This is exactly what Peter is saying in *verse 6*. He is not saying in **this** verse that Christ went to preach the Gospel to the physically dead, as in *Chapter 3 [1 Peter 3:19-20]*. That was when He faced in Hell the spirits of those who had rejected His Word during their lives in the days of Noah.

Peter is saying that the Gospel which was preached to them in their lifetime are now dead. In the Future they **will** be judged by Christ in their new bodies, as will all mankind. But the purpose of the Gospel is that they should have the opportunity to live unto God, by the Holy Spirit.

A modern French translation for the second part of *verse 6* reads: “*elle leur a ete annoncee afin que, par l’Esprit, ils puissent vivre comme Dieu vit*”. In English, this reads: *It (the gospel) has been announced to them in order that, by the Spirit, they be able to live as God lives.* - Lovely!

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself spoke of **the resurrection of life and the resurrection of damnation** [*John 5:29*]. *Revelation 20:6,14* calls the resurrection of damnation “*the second death*”. The physically dead can be either “*asleep in Christ*”, awaiting the First Resurrection, or be also spiritually dead, in Hell, awaiting the resurrection of damnation.

So we are shown again that in physical death, the spirit leaves the body. The corpse is buried, and the spirit goes to its allotted place - under the earth - until it is raised at its destined resurrection.

The time of “*the second death*” comes at the end of the Millennium Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth; a “*rod of iron*” rule. Then the existing creation will be dissolved, and Christ will judge the dead (being dead physically and spiritually, and released from Hell) and will cast them into the lake of fire [*Revelation 19:15* and *20:11-15*].

But, we must be clear on the fact that both believers **and** unbelievers who

are raised, respectively, to eternal life and to eternal death, are given **new physical bodies** to **clothe** their spirits for Eternity.

A human being **needs** a physical body. God's Final Settlement for the New Order of a new earth under a new heaven [*2 Peter 3:13*], allows for the **righteous** to enjoy fully the Blessings prepared for them in Christ, and for the **unrighteous**, to experience fully, in a place **far away** from Him, the Cursing from which they were warned to escape.

QUESTION 9

Was there a time when there were marriages
between fallen angels and women?

QUESTION 9

Where there ever marriages between fallen angels and women?

This is the reference which speaks of “*the sons of God*” taking “*the daughters of men*” as wives :

Genesis 6:1-5 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2. That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. 3. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. 4. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. 5. And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

It is the second part of *verse 4* which controversial : “*After that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them...*”

Fortunately, as always, we have the clear directives from Scripture, and especially from the mouth of the Holy One who came to this earth, our Lord Jesus Christ :

Matthew 22:29-30 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Mark 12: 25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

Luke 20:34-36 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: ³⁵. But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: ³⁶. Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

The apostle Paul, now liberated from his dead and futile religion, by his contact with the Risen Saviour of the world, experienced and wrote on, the conflict between the fleshly mind and the spiritual mind :

Acts 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Colossians 1:15-16 [His dear Son:] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶. For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him. [God on the Throne]

Hebrews 1:13-14 But to which of the angels said He at any time, Sit on My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool? ¹⁴. Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

These are amazing Scriptures from God's illuminating Written Word. Is it to be considered then, after reading all these scriptures, that fallen angels, could, even if they would, actually enter into a marriage bond, which *Genesis 6:2* indicates, they, "*the sons of God*" initiated, with a female human being?

As a springboard to the argument, let us consider this :

Can **angelic** beings, which have been cast out of God's Presence with the proud, disobedient Lucifer, be described as “*sons of God*” ? Adam was created personally by Christ as the first of Mankind. He was a completely separate creation to begin the Family of God. Adam was called the son of God [*Luke 3:38*] being made in the image of God. It is never said that angels were made in the image of God.

The holy angels of God have been referred to as “*the sons of God*” in *Job 38:7* being created, originated, by Him. (But not, I believe, in *Job 1:6* and *2:1*, which is where the accuser of men, Satan, provoked God.) However, even if classified at the dawn of Creation as “*sons of God*”, the holy angels obviously would not have made these ungodly relationships even if it were possible to them! *Hebrews 1:5* makes it quite clear, by the way, that angels have never been compared in rank with the Only Begotten Son, seated on “*the right hand of the Majesty on high*” [v3], having been raised from the dead.

Second, angels, holy or fallen, are, in any event, UNSEEN, unless God permitted them to be seen. How, then, would it have been possible for them to have wooed and wedded women - humans - in any kind of official ceremony of marriage?

God's holy angels are described as “*ministering spirits*”. Obviously fallen angels do not minister to man's needs, but they are nevertheless **spirits** and not visible in the same normal way as human beings are.

Finally, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the Creator of all things visible and invisible - so He should know! - personally taught the people that angels cannot procreate. They were not created with that ability as spirits.

When God's angels *have* been revealed to people, they have been described as men or even young men, because they live for ever and are without obvious female physical features. Except in visions or dreams, and in the end time of 42 months of Plagues on this earth, fallen angels are not revealed to man. Thank God! Ghosts - actually “familiar spirits” (evil spirits familiar with the person now dead) - are hardly true images of people.

Genesis 6:2-4 has therefore, a simple, pure meaning. “*The sons of God*” were **human beings**. It describes those **male descendants** of Adam, “*the son of God*”, but through that obedient son, **Seth**. “*The daughters of men*” were those **female children** born to the descendants of **Cain**, the disobedient son of Adam, murderer of righteous Abel.

The Scripture is put in such a way to show us what happens when God’s Way is compromised. Instead of keeping themselves separate unto the LORD, those men allowed themselves to be seduced and to mingle with the daughters of unbelievers in marriage. This is a Principle throughout Scripture; only pure, separated souls willing to embrace God’s holy Ways can expect to be part of God’s Kingdom.

Returning to the Genesis account : The evil of mankind, obviously, greatly increased, until there were just eight souls in the whole world whom God could consider righteous. Only Noah and his family were saved from His Wrath by the Flood.

Right from the beginning of God's history with mankind, there is that division. That is still our choice today :

To obey or to disobey? To follow God, now, in these days, through the Finished Work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, or to follow the flesh, and the ways of man?

The same applies to the general interpretation of Scripture and our lives today. Do we choose to rely on the pure, holy, Principles of God's Way, as we read His Written Word by the Holy Spirit, or do we allow ourselves to be seduced by the fanciful, and in this case, even, frankly, obscene, thinking of ignorant, unlearned and unspiritual minds?

QUESTION 10

Do the Nativity card pictures we mostly see tell us the true story of when Jesus Christ was born?

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Matthew and *Luke* are the two Gospels with all the details of the Birth of Jesus Christ and the surrounding facts of His coming physically into this world. As with **all** Scripture, every text must be read carefully, and prayerfully. Each passage must be understood in relation to another.

This is how it was told to Mary, as she prepared for marriage :

Luke 1:24-37

And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵. Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. ²⁶. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. ²⁹. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. ³⁰. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ³¹. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy

womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS. ³². He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: ³³. And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. ³⁴. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵. And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And this is what the apostle Matthew first recorded by the Holy Spirit :

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. ²⁰. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹. And she shall bring forth a son,

and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. ²². Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. ²⁴. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: ²⁵. And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS.

These two passages tell us that, first, Joseph was engaged to Mary (*Miriam* in Hebrew). The way the story is told by *Matthew* suggests that she was found to be pregnant only a little while before they were to be married. The clues are: “*before they came together*” and “*being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him*”.

The angel of the Lord told Joseph not to be afraid of marrying her - it was the Plan of God for Salvation. The next day, all fear of having to send her away from him relieved, Joseph married Mary in their city of Narareth, but had no intimate contact with her until after the Baby, the Promised Messiah, had been born.

Note that *Matthew* says, “*she ... brought forth her firstborn son*”. We know from *Matthew 12:46 & 13:55-56*; *Mark 3:31* and *Luke 8:19*, that many children, both sons and daughters were born to them after the Christ had come into the world.

Amongst them, James, later known as James the Less, to distinguish him from the apostle James, wrote the letter called the *General Epistle of James*. Also, Judas, called Jude, wrote the *General Epistle of Jude*. Other references are *Acts 1:13-14*, “and Judas the brother of James”; *1 Corinthians 15:7*; *Jude 1*, “brother of James”.

The story continues with the journey of Joseph with his new bride to Bethlehem, where the Saviour was born to her:

Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by

night. 9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16. And they came with haste, and

(Luke 2:1-20)

found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which

were told them by the shepherds. 19. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

We too need to ponder these things in our hearts, and praise God for this most wonderful Story of all stories. It goes way beyond a pretty picture on a card which thousands send out once a year - it is the beginning of freedom to enjoy an abundant Life in Jesus Christ, our only Saviour.

In AD32, 36 years later, He said, “*Let these sayings sink down into your ears: ...*” - that’s what we should be doing with God’s Word. “*... for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.*” [Luke 9:44 - after delivering a boy from an evil spirit, on His descent from the mountain where His Eternal Glory was seen by Peter, James and John]. Christ was born to be the Sacrificial Lamb. We cannot have the wonder of His Birth without acknowledging our need for His Cross.

Many cards supposedly acknowledging Christ’s Birth depict the shepherds looking up at a star. Others depict the wise men in the stable. *What a shame that the **true** story is left untold year on year, when people of other religions know all the details of their prophets and ‘holy places’.*

The night that the Saviour of the world was born, God, in His Great Joy, sent thousands of angels to join Gabriel as he told the shepherds the Good News. The shepherds were directed specifically to a **stable** in Bethlehem, where they would find a new-born Baby - Christ the Lord.

The story continues with the arrival of the wise men from the east :

Matthew 2:1-11

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there

came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2. Saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for

(Matthew 2:1-11)

we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. 3. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. 5. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophets, 6. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule My people Israel. 7. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 8. And he

sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also. 9. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, til it came and stood over where the young child was. 10. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 11. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew continues :

Matthew 2:16-18

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. 17. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy

the prophet, saying, 18. In Ramah was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. [quoting *Jeremiah 31:15*. (Ramah was on the hills near Bethlehem, where Rachel had been buried.)]

Herod killed all the young boys under **two years** of age. That was the length of time that it took the men to travel from their country east of Jerusalem. “*We have seen His star in the east*”, they said to Herod.

They knew they were looking for a **King**, so they thought that He would be born in Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah, and the place of worship for the Jews. It was only five miles away from their destination.

When they reached Bethlehem, about two years after He had been born in the stable, Joseph and Mary had moved into a **house**. The wise men found them there, and fell down in worship before the **young Child**, no longer a baby.

As each passage is read and understood in relation to another, truth and clarity emerge, instead of confusion and vagueness.

For example, *Luke 2:21-38* tells of Christ's naming and circumcision, on the eighth day, and of Mary's offering, after thirty-three days, for her purification in accordance with the Law [*Leviticus 12:4*] in Jerusalem. Then *verse 39* says, "*And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.*"

It would appear, without reading anything else, that they returned to Nazareth immediately after presenting Christ in Jerusalem. However, we know from *Matthew 2:11-15 & 19-23*, that they fled into Egypt to escape Herod's wrath, and went to Nazareth after Herod's death.

Again, one might think from reading *Luke 2:21-22* quickly, that they came to Jerusalem on the eighth day after Christ's birth. So we must read of the thirty-three days in *Leviticus 12*. (A good margin reference Bible gives the links between the Old and New Testaments.)

The following references in *John's Gospel* and *Romans, Galatians* and *1 Timothy*, also add to our wonder at the miracle of God made flesh :

John 1:10-14

He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. *11.* He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. *12.* But as many as received Him, to them gave He

power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: *13.* Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. *14.* And the Word was made flesh,

(John 1:10-14)

and dwelt among us, (and we the only begotten of the Father,) beheld His glory, the glory as of full of grace and truth.

“And the Word was made flesh” The introduction of corrupt versions of God’s Word have given rise to two separate translations. Only the King Version reads *“the Word was made flesh”*. Every other (English Language) version reads *“the Word became flesh”*.

Indeed, Strong’s Concordance shows that *“became”* and *“was made”* are from the same root, the verb *ginomai*, to cause to be, but the **spiritual** implication is **very** different. The form using *“became”* is termed **reflexive**. It means that one does something oneself.

And what do the Scriptures repeatedly, plainly, say?... These are all the references to *“sent”* / *“send”* on the coming of Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 48:16, 61:1; *Matthew* 15:24, 21:37; *Mark* 9:37; *Luke* 4:18, 9:48, 10:16, 20:13; *John* 3:17, 34, 4:34, 5:23, 24, 30, 36-38, 6:29, 38-40, 44, 57, 7:16, 18, 28, 29, 33, 8:16, 18, 26, 29, 42, 9:4, 10:36, 11:42, 12:44, 45, 49, 13:16 (by implication), 20, 14:24, 15:21, 16:5, 17:3, 18, 21, 23, 25, 20:21; *Acts* 3:20,26; *Galatians* 4:4; *I John* 4:9,10.

The Lord Jesus Christ was **sent** by God into the world, at His birth **and** at His Resurrection. Most of the references speak of His coming in the flesh, at His birth. Probably *John 8:42* is the most precise of all, *“For I proceeded forth and came from God; **neither came I of myself, but He sent Me.**”* The translators of the King James Authorized Version were clearly guided by this, and the many other sayings of the Lord Himself.

This is another profound scripture, not often understood, or so one presumes, as it is seldom quoted or explained :

Romans 1:3-4 Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4. And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Note that the AV, uniquely, again translates *ginomai* as *“was made”*.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead.

First, the apostle Paul states [v3] that Jesus Christ, in earthly terms, came through the line of David. Then he explains that Christ's title, the Son of God, was given Him when He rose again from the dead [v4].

“For the invisible (unseen by man) things of **Him**” Paul returns to the details of His birth in *verse 20*. He is saying that God's hidden (invisible) Plan to send Christ into the world was then **clearly seen** - because He was before them **in the flesh!** They then **saw** God's eternal power and Godhead in **seeing** Jesus Christ.

Doesn't, in *John 14:9*, Jesus Christ say to Philip, “*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*”?

This next passage gives further meaning to *Romans 1:4*. The Plan of God's Salvation was complete when Christ rose from the dead. He was obedient unto death, and therefore proved Himself **perfect in the flesh** - not only perfect through His divinity. In having the Position of Son of God, He is then able to bring in other sons and daughters to the longed-for Family of God.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Of all the wonderful scriptures concerning the coming into this world of the Lord from Heaven, this must surely be among the most powerful :

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

God was manifest in the flesh. Just that! No diversion from the Truth!

No mixing a human nature with a Divine Nature. Christ cannot have a human nature! Jesus Christ is **GOD**, equal with God upon the Throne, equal with God the Holy Spirit, but, for the Salvation of lost mankind, willingly took on **flesh**. Simple, yet utterly profound!

With a human body of flesh, bones and blood, He was limited by the frailties of a human body - hunger, thirst and tiredness, and pain. He set Himself willingly to obey the Written Word of God completely. He behaved as a Servant to God, bowing Himself to suffer the most intense humiliation, violence and pain.

The scripture saying that He “*was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*” means that He experienced every temptation, **even though**, unlike us, He had no sin in Him. “**YET without sin.**” *Hebrews 4:15b* doesn’t say, ‘yet He sinned not (despite all His temptations)’.

He did not come to prove that He could overcome sin for Himself, but to prove that the Written Word of God could be obeyed by all human flesh. That is how we become children of God - by following our Lord Jesus Christ, the Obedient One, in taking into ourselves the Written Word of God. **He is God’s Perfect Man.** That is what His Title “*Son of God*” means.

So that is the Truth about His Coming and why He came... The next big Question is : **When** did He come?!

The great deception that the 25th day of December should be celebrated as His Birthday lies entirely at the door of the Roman Catholic stable! Should it be called a disgrace that every other denomination, including Evangelical and Pentecostal movements, on the whole, go along with this myth, quite happy to brush aside their knowledge that a Pagan Festival was supplanted with “Christmas”? Sadly, the melodious and cheery songs - “carols” - telling the story of the Saviour’s birth have completely clouded our spiritual judgment.

A closer look at the revealed truth in the Scripture shows us exactly when the Christ came into the world as a Baby. Firstly, it was not at a time a snow - “In the deep mid-winter” - rather ‘In the glow of Autumn’! How appropriate that the Feast of Tabernacles comes in September!

Let's work it out. The people involved are, of course, Mary and Joseph, but also an elderly priest and his childless wife. *Luke 1:5 - 23* concentrates on this couple, saying in v5, "... a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth." So this priest came to Jerusalem to "execute the priest's office before God in the order of his course" [v8]. And the course of Abia fell in the months of June/July. This website explains it well: <http://www.the13thenumeration.com/Blog13/2012/11/02/the-course-of-abija/>

With Zacharias returned home, Elisabeth conceived as Gabriel had said. After six months, (December/January) Mary was also visited by Gabriel with his message from God to her, and conceived by the Holy Ghost. She travelled to her cousin's home and remained there until the birth of John was nearly due. Christ the Saviour was born in the Biblical seventh month, our September/October.

The blasphemy of the word "Christmas" is fully and clearly exposed in this article by the late Pastor David J Meyer on this website - <http://www.lasttrumpetministries.org/tracts/tract4.html>.

He warns believers to heed the words of the Lord Jesus who said in Matthew 12:36-37, *"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."*

The images of cosy family gatherings around a log fire after a full-blown roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings, for most of us, is a fantasy anyway! Every December we fall into this pit, repeating, however well-meaning, the greeting "Merry Christmas!" "Merry" is an innocent enough word, but when used with "Christmas" it actually becomes a horrible mocking blasphemy. Rather than meaning "the birth of Christ", as Pastor Meyer explains, according to the World Book Encyclopedia, the Catholic Encyclopedia, and the book, *The Mass In Slow Motion*, it actually means "death of Christ". It is Christ-Mass, the perpetual slaying of Christ as the Victim (the "Host"). Do you really mean to be part of that? Let us henceforth avoid this Satanic, Papist deception and lie.

QUESTION 11

What does the old saying "help-meet" mean?

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What does the old saying "help-meet" mean?

“*Help-meet*” was, in former times, well used as an expression to describe, mainly as a wife, a companion. Even the venerated Alistair Cooke used it on occasion. Let us therefore begin our search for Truth by considering what this little phrase is supposed to mean. It has its origin in Genesis :

Genesis 2:18,20 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an **help meet** for him. *20.* ... but for Adam there was not found an **help meet** for him.

Different Bible references to "meet" in Genesis Chapter 2:

- meet* - Hebrew: **as before him** [margin note from Cambridge University Press, Authorized Version (AV)]
- meet* - (**suitable, adapted, completing**) [Amplified Version]
- meet* - ^{as}meet, where ‘as’ = **as before him** [Newberry Edition (AV) margin note]

And Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible references:

- meet* - 5828 ezer; from 5826; **aid** :- **help**
- 5826 azer; to surround, ie, **protect** or **aid**; **help**, **succour**

All other Scripture references to the word *meet* :

Old Testament

Exodus 8:25-26 And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land. *26.* And Moses said, It is not **meet**¹ so to do...

Deut 3:18 ...ye shall pass over armed before your brethren the children of Israel, all that are **meet**² for the war.

[superscript number references on p.8]

Judges 5:30 ...to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, **meet** for the necks of them that take the spoil? (Deborah and Barak's victory song, vs 1-31a) In the AV, the word *meet* (set in italics) is assumed; Modern versions read simply "*on the necks...*"

Ezra 4:14 Now because we have maintenance from the king's palace, and it was not **meet**³ for us to see the king's dishonour, therefore have we sent and certified the king.

Esther 2:9 ...such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were **meet**⁴ to be given her, out of the king's house.

Job 34:31 Surely it is **meet**⁵ to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more.

Proverbs 11:24 And there is that withholdeth more than is **meet**⁶, but it tendeth to proverty.

Jeremiah 26:14 ...do with me as seemeth good and **meet**⁷ unto you.

27:5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed **meet**⁸ unto Me.

Ezekiel 15:4-5 ...Is it **meet**⁹ for any work? 5. Behold, when it was whole, it was **meet**¹⁰ for no work: how much less shall it be **meet**¹⁰ yet for any work, when the fire hath devoured it, and it is burned?

The reference figures (non-italic for Old Testament Hebrew) refer to the fuller meanings given in Strong's Concordance:

1. 3559 kuwn - to be erect. fig. proper: right.
2. *1121 AV = ben - builder of family name, that is, worthy.
The * denotes modern versions: changed to "*men of valour*", that is, worthy
3. 749 arak (Chaldean) - to suit.
4. 7200 raah - approved.

5. *6298 pagash - to concur (agree in opinion) to meet with.
* - versions changed to read: "hath any" (said).
6. 3476 yosher - the right: equity, right.
7. *3477 yashar - straight: convenient, equity, just.
* - versions that read "right in your eyes".
8. *3474 yashar - to be straight or even; right, pleasant
prosperous: direct, fit, seem good.
* - versions that read "right".
9. *6743 tsaleach - to push forward: be good, profitable.
* - versions that read "profitable".
10. 6213 asah - to do or make: apt, fit.

New Testament

Matthew 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits **meet**¹ for repentance.

15:26 But He answered and said, It is not **meet**² to take the children's bread, and cast it to [little] dogs. [Newberry margin]

Mark 7:27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not **meet**³ to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the 'dogs. [l-little, as above]

Luke 15:32 It was **meet**⁴ that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Acts 26:20 ...that they should repent and turn to God, and do works ^{w.}**meet**⁵ for repentance. [Newberry margin reads: w. worthy of]

Romans 1:27 burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was **meet**⁶.

1 Corinth 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not **meet**⁷ to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

16:4 And if it be **meet**⁸ that I go also, they shall go with me

- Philippians 1:7* Even as it is **meet**⁹ for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart...
- Colossians 1:12* Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us **meet**¹⁰ to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.
- 2 Thess 1:3* We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is **meet**¹¹, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.
- 2 Timothy 2:21* If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and **meet**¹² for the ^smaster's use, and prepared unto every good work.
[Newberry margin reads: s. sovereign master's]
- Hebrews 6:7* For the earth that drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs **meet**¹³ for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God.
- 2 Peter 1:13* Yea, I think it **meet**¹⁴, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance.

Figures in italics denote Greek references in Strong's Concordance

1. *514 axios - prob. from 71 (ago - to lead); deserving, comparable or suitable (as if drawing praise): due reward, worthy.
* - versions that read "worthy of".
2. 2570 kalos - beautiful, but chiefly (fig) good (lit or mor) ie valuable, virtuous (for appearance or use): better, fair, good, well, worthy.
3. 2570 kalos ditto above.
4. 1163 dei - from verb 1210 deo - to bind; be necessary: behoved, must needs, ought, should.
5. *514 axios ditto above.
* - versions that read "worthy of".
6. *1163 dei ditto above.
* - versions that read "due"
7. 2425 hikanos from hiko - to arrive: competent, fit (in character): able, good, sufficient, worthy.

8. 514 axios as before - suitable, ie fitting.
9. *1342 dikaios - equitable; innocent, holy: just, right.
* - versions that read "right".
10. 2427 hikanoo from 2425 hikanos - enable, ie qualify: make able
11. 514 axios - ditto above.
12. 2173 euchrestos - easily used, ie useful: profitable.
13. 2111 euthetos - well placed, ie (fig) appropriate: fit.
14. *1342 dikaios as above - right.

"I will make an help meet for him". These are the words which the LORD God (that Person of the Triune God Whom we now call the Lord Jesus Christ) said of Adam. He wanted him to have someone to whom he could relate. As one, they were to grow in understanding of their part in the Family of God.

Wherever the man Adam went, he would be aware of this special help, Eve - **"as before him"**. He would be aware of her being a part of him (physically and emotionally, as in a true marriage); completing him.

"It is not good that the man should be alone". Her function was that of **enhancing** him; making him feel good!

1 Corinthians 11:7 ...he is the image and **glory** of God: but the woman is the **glory** of the man.

Strong's Concordance renders **Glory** in the Greek as:

1391 doxa (Greek) from 1380 dokeo - be accounted, please, be of reputation, seem (good), suppose, think, trow. - doxa: glory (as very apparent) in a wide application (lit or fig; objectively or subjectively) dignity, glory(ious), honour, praise, worship.

Condensing all these worthy descriptions then, the creation of the woman was to give the man Adam **dignity**. Together, they were to give honour to the LORD God - Whom they saw and talked with, even Jesus Christ.

She had been created most **suitable** for him. She was to be a **help** to him in their walk together with the LORD God . This is simply what it means.

Concluding, then, there is actually no such phrase as '*help-meet*', therefore, despite its common usage. It doesn't make sense! And neither does '*help mate*', a phrase which has been coined, presumably in an attempt to modernise the more dated phrase!

Help meet, as we now clearly see, are in fact two separate words, and are to be read in the context of what Christ meant : that, because Adam should not be on his own, the woman, as his wife, was to be a **help** in a way that was **SUITABLE**, fitting, for him.

QUESTION 12

At which time in History will the Rapture take place?

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No doubt most Christians these days have been faced with the doctrines of a “Pre-Tribulation”, or a “Post-Tribulation” or a “Mid-Tribulation”.

And, no doubt, because very little is actually taught from the Scriptures, most Christians these days are very confused, to the point of not bothering to ask any further questions about it!

Firstly, in explaining the true facts about the timing of the Rapture, there are no Theories in the Word of God! The Scriptures are the Word of Truth. They come from the heart of the True and Living God. The Word of God is pure; it is light; it is sound doctrine; it is the Seed which grows in the heart of a believer unto Eternal Life.

So let us take each one of these doctrines and consider which is True and which is False.

Strangely, there is also yet another doctrine which states that the Old Testament faithful saints will be resurrected when Christ comes to reign on the earth. This doctrine will also be examined.

Mid-Tribulation

This doctrine holds that believers will be snatched away from the earth in the midst of the Tribulation. But at which stage of those forty-two months?? Is there Scriptural evidence for that? For all these doctrines, our only source of Truth is the Word of God. Any passages which appear difficult to interpret or understand must be looked at under the illumination of the Holy Spirit, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 says, “*For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ*”, . Surely that means the Church, the Body of Christ - she who is pure and “*not having spot or wrinkle*” is exempt from the Wrath and Indignation of God!

After all, why should believers endure any part of the Plagues and Terrors of God’s Wrath upon the earth and then be taken away? The Wrath of

God is specifically poured out upon those Jews and Gentiles who have continued in their unbelief, rejecting the Gift of God's Salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ. Here's another relevant 'end time' passage :

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 *“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”*

Let's be clear: the “*day of Christ*”, “*that day*”, is the Day of the LORD. And it will not come *before* there is a “*falling away*” of those who had once professed Christ as Saviour. This back-sliding can only occur in the Church Age. We see it now; Christians becoming cold, slothful, rebellious, carnally minded and disobedient.

The “*day of Christ*” and “*that day*” which will occur at some time after the Rapture, is an Eternal Day. It begins with 42 months of Judgment by way of Plagues of the Sword, Famine, Pestilence and Wild Beasts. Seven specially appointed angels assist Christ in executing these Judgments, according to the Instructions written in the Book of Seven Seals which Christ takes from the Hand of God. The redeemed are clearly seen in Heaven before it begins [*Revelation 4:4*].

This Plan of God is very precise. The Plagues are relentless. There are four terrible Plagues, then the warning is given, “*Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*” [*Revelation 8:13*]. At which point of this Plan do proponents of the Mid-Tribulation doctrine suppose the Rapture will take place. Like all things Untrue, this is insane!

The rise of the Antichrist will be part of the Plan of Judgment:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”*

The inspired comma between “*first*” and “*and*” in v3 indicates therefore that the man of sin can then be revealed at the start of the LORD’s Day. This wicked man, the son of perdition, cannot rule the world in the Presence of the Holy Spirit! The Church is taken away by the Spirit!

The “*falling away*” can be clearly witnessed in these last days in the Church Age! New Age practices have infiltrated the churches, sodomy and perversities and abuse of every kind are wide-spread. If any of these adherents to these practices are alive when the Plagues roll out, even though they may be very old by this time, they will certainly be killed and made to await the second death whilst in Hell.

The Antichrist, having ruled the world for 3½ years, waging wars and seeking total dominion over the Southern Kingdom, enters the Temple at Jerusalem and proclaims that he is God. The First Seal of the book has been opened in Heaven, and the living creature calls to the Antichrist to take dominion and conquer, signalled by the white horse; the counterfeit Messiah. He first facilitates the Plague of the Sword – signified by the red horse, then the Plague of Famine – the black horse.

The scriptures which, rightly put together, to reveal this progression are found in *Daniel 11:5-21* and *Revelation 5 & 6*, with *2 Thessalonians 2:4*.

One interpreter of end times Scriptures believes that the Antichrist will come at the last seven years of the Church Age. This is clearly a wrong interpretation of Daniel’s prophecies. The Antichrist does not begin his reign until the last Kingdom of man is up and running. There are three rulers over “*the glorious land*” - Palestine - before him, as *Daniel 11* reveals. He is the “*vile person*” of v21.

Post-Tribulation

Revelation 4:4 reveals twenty-four elders around the Throne witnessing the Lamb taking the book of the Settlement from God’s Right Hand. It is universally believed that these represent twelve from the Old Testament and twelve from the New Testament – these latter being specifically the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

They all wear the white robes of righteousness (in Christ!) and they all have crowns of gold (authority of Christ!) on their heads, and they all

declare before the Throne of God that the Lamb has made them kings and priests unto God and they will reign on the earth! [Revelation 4:4, 5:8–10]. (How the Book of Revelation helps us to understand !)

John, the last remaining Apostle, understood by the Holy Spirit that those who will be living and reigning with Christ during His Millennium Reign had been *already* resurrected beforehand, and therefore wrote, “... *they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*” [Revelation 20:4b-5]. He is saying clearly that all those living and reigning with Christ had been partakers in the first resurrection, and all the rest will be raised to face the wrath and final judgment of Christ. (How Understanding Chapter 4 throws light on Chapter 20 !)

These two placings of the Rapture, Mid-Tribulation and Post-Tribulation, come about only by misunderstanding and misinterpreting the revelation of the Written Word of God. Both should immediately be discarded upon the realisation that the redeemed are already resurrected in new bodies, rewarded and enjoying their Blood-Purchased Eternal Life before God’s Throne, and in the Presence of The Lamb!

In fact, it is their prayers which initiate the Launching of the Day of The LORD! In *Revelation 8:2-5*, the Lord Jesus Christ, as “*the angel*” - ministering the Office of High Priest - offers up the incense “with the prayers of all saints”. After this come the ear-splitting sounds ushering in the time of God’s Righteous Indignation, executed by The Lamb.

Pre-Tribulation

Of course, it must be stated that the Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples to “*Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*” And “*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.*” [Matthew 24:42, 44] It is not only to do with ‘When will He come’ but ‘How must I be when He comes’.

Matthew 24 and *Luke 21* are important Chapters; teaching from the Lord before He went to Calvary. Some is for the Church, soon to be formed, and some is for the future Remnant of Israel. But read it all. Discern, believe and be blessed in the Truth! And, of course, Be Ready!!

EPILOGUE

It is not wrong to ask questions! Indeed, Christ Himself, when dealing with man in Old Testament days, asked a great deal of questions: to Adam, “*Where are you?*”; to Job, “*Where were you?*” among a total of no less than fifty-eight questions, before Job confessed his inadequacy before Him.

Obviously, these questions were not asked because the answer was unknown. God asks questions of us to make us think, consider our ways before Him, cause us to change direction, to face up to our lack...

The Word of God also reveals that the kind of questions we ask, fall into two categories.

Mary was in one; Zacharias in the other. Mary asked, “*How shall this thing be..?*” Zacharias: “*Whereby shall I know this..?*”

On the face of it, they may sound similar. But Gabriel’s answers show they were from two entirely different attitudes of heart: “*The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee.*” and “*I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God.*”

Mary needed to know what was to happen to her, and how. So she asked, and Gabriel gently told her. Zacharias was in fact saying, ‘*Don’t talk rubbish*’. Gabriel, in righteous indignation, told him that he, God’s special messenger, came from where the Truth originated.

Fortunately, Zacharias, being basically a God-fearing man, learned his lesson, and became a part of the Story of God’s Salvation to all the world.

So we see that one type of question is borne out of **unbelief**, a doubting of God’s Ways, or even foolish, unspiritual, self-focused thinking. - ‘*Why does God allow suffering?*’; ‘*Why doesn’t He answer **my** prayers?*’...

Do such hearts ever ask, 'Why did **Christ** suffer?', or, 'What do you want of me, Lord?', or even, 'What does this passage in the Bible mean, Lord?' - Hearts, I say, not minds, because it is out of the abundance of the heart, that the mouth speaks. [Matthew 12:34]

The other kind of question is borne out of a **seeking** heart, sincere, hungry and thirsty for the Truth of God. A desire to know and understand **His** Ways, which are deemed Holy and Just, by the one who "trembles at My Word" [Isaiah 66:2].

Such a heart is conscious that God IS - a Rewarder of them who diligently seek Him - the Answerer. *Do you want to be like this?* - willing clay in the Potter's hand? *Is this how you want to be?* - assured of God's ear ... and of God's answer to the questions you ask Him?

We can change our attitude, if need be, thanks to His present Mercy. Like Zacharias, and any other who repents of asking the questions that reveals unbelief or foolishness. We can seek with humility what **God** makes of a thing - what **He** means by what He says ... why **He** has written what is written ... and by what means we may understand it all.

In coming to the end of our Twelve Questions and Answers, let us go on our way to God's Eternity on this positive and high spiritual note :

To know and possess the Lord Jesus Christ, as God sees Him, and as He is revealed in the Word by the Holy Spirit, is to have that Perfect and acceptable life before God upon the Throne.

It is the complete opposite of the lawless, wilful, vain and self-centred life which separates us from God.

It enables us to come with a humble mind to the Written Word of God, and patiently wait for the Holy Spirit's illumination, and quickening of our understanding.

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