

The Book You Can Trust Study Guide

Book You Can Trust BYT: Message One (960512AM)

I Thessalonians 2:13

If you'd open in your Bibles with me please, we're going to 1 Thessalonians 2:13 again, as we continue through this magnificent epistle penned by the apostle Paul for the glory of Christ.

Last Sunday morning we were having our morning worship service outside the great amphitheater in Ephesus sitting actually in the entry on the stones of the foundation of that huge, huge theater. And as we sat there, we read Christ's letter to the Ephesians in Revelation chapter two. What a rich time. And then we walked down that main street and looked at just a tiny slice of the ruins. Ephesus of course was the largest of all the cities of the ancient Roman Empire. It's the largest of all the ruins of any biblical city, and they've only done a slice of it, it's so massive, so many square miles. But as we sat there, I thought how the apostle Paul would come to a city and he would just stand in the marketplace and he would be a total nobody that no one knew. He'd be an unknown commodity. And he'd walk in and he would start at the top of his voice proclaiming something they'd never heard before, and those people would listen to that and their lives would be utterly transformed.

Have you ever thought of it in that sense? I mean, next time you go to the mall and some wacko is out there, you know, promoting something or somebody is standing on the street corner screaming and raving, that's what Paul looked like. And yet what he was speaking was the very word of God.

Look at verse 13 of chapter two and I want to show you what I mean. "For this reason," 1 Thessalonians 2:13, "we also thank God ceaselessly because when you received the word of God which you heard from us," when he was speaking he was giving God's word, "you welcomed it not as the word of men but as it is in truth, the word of God."

Now I want you to do something with me. We'll be a little unusual. Take your Bible and hold it. I want to talk to you about what you're holding. You all are holding something that is unlike anything else that in 5,000 recorded years of human history has ever been produced on this planet. Everything else on this planet is just something from the planet that's been either, painted or built or sculptured or carved or something. This is not from this planet. This is the very breath of God breathed out. This is the very voice of the infinite, endless of days, eternal, all-powerful creator of the universe who has communicated to us and has intercepted, intersected, and invaded time and space and spoken to us. This book is unlike any book. It's unlike any other piece of any part of this civilization of humanity that ever existed. This is not

normal. This is not like Mary Baker Glover Patterson Eddy Fry's book of Christian Science. This is not like the Koran or the writings collected of Joseph Smith. This is not of this planet. This is the very breath of God. I hope you realize when you hold this book it's different. It's special. I hope you don't just flip it aside.

It really grieves me when I see people just toss their Bible down. They use it as a book weight. They use it as something that they put their coffee cup on. I can't do that. When I was a little boy, I was taught that the Bible was always the top book. I couldn't even pile it underneath everything, and you didn't put anything above it because this is God's word.

But what you hold in your hand this morning totally transformed the lives of the Thessalonians. It says it effectively worked in you who believe. And you know this morning that book that you were just holding has the power to utterly, totally, radically transform your life and mine.

We have in our progression into this book come to one of the more crucial portions of 1 Thessalonians because we're coming to the portion that extols the word of God. And I can't think of a better time in our history as a church than this to set aside a time to really meditate on this book and what it means and what it is and it's power.

There are seven reasons why I believe that the Bible is true. And I'd like to share them with you this morning. And I would like to share with you why this book is like no other book and why when you hear people attacking it or when you attack it by neglect, which you realize what you're missing when you don't make a place in your life for the word of God. I want to impress upon your hearts that this book that we hold in our hands is unlike any other in the universe. And with that truth deeply upon our hearts in the days ahead shouldn't we treat this book differently? Shouldn't we read it more diligently? Shouldn't we wait before it expectantly and from this book learn to live triumphantly?

I noticed in the paper this week on some airplane, some airport, somewhere, that the great gene and genetic DNA mapping that they did... You know they spent more money mapping out the human DNA chain than they did unleashing the atom. Our government has put more billions into that and they finished it recently. And now it's coming out in the papers constantly. Did you read this week, they found out that people that murder and are violent have defective genes? Did you know that? It's not a sin. It's a sickness. It's a disease. They found out a few months ago that all homosexual people have a little variation in their genes so that's the way they are and it's not wrong, according to man's wisdom.

This book which comes to us untainted from the very presence of God, breathed out through 40 different men over 60 generations, 1,600 years, on three different continents, this book comes to us as the very word of God. And you know what God says? Murder is not a sickness. It's a sin. Homosexuality is not a choice, it's not a lifestyle, it's an aberration from the image of God and it's utter sinfulness. And drunkenness is not a disease. It's a damnable, eternally punishable sin.

You say, that's wrong. But that's what God says.

There are seven reasons why I believe that the Bible is absolutely true. It's absolutely true in all 3,566,480 letters. All 810,697 words, all 31,173 verses, they're all the very word of God. Eleven-hundred and 89 chapters and 66 books written by the most unusual group of kings and peasants, philosophers and fishermen, poets, statesmen and scholars, written from the wilderness, from the dungeon, on a rocky hillside, from inside of a prison, from a boat, from an island and from the rigors of military conquest, the book of books, the word of God comes to us.

And I like what one author said, "I find my Lord in the book wherever I chance to look. He's the theme of the Bible, the center and heart of the book. He's the Rose of Sharon, He's the lily fair. Wherever I open my Bible, the Lord of the book is there. He's at the book's beginning to give the earth its form, He's the ark of shelter bearing the brunt of the storm, He's the burning bush in the desert, the budding of Aaron's rod. Wherever I look in the Bible, I can see the son of God. He's the ram upon Mount Moriah???, He's the ladder from earth to sky, He's the scarlet cord in the window, He's the serpent lifted high. He's the smitten rock of the desert, He's the shepherd with the staff and crook. The face of my Lord I discover wherever I open this book. He's the seed of the woman, He's the savior, virgin-born, He's the son of David whom men rejected with scorn, whose garments of grace and beauty, the stately Aaron's death, yet He's a priest forever, He is our Melchizedek. Lord of eternal glory whom John the apostle saw, light of the golden city, lamb without spot or flaw. Bridegroom coming at midnight, for whom all us virgins look, whenever I open my Bible, I find the Lord of the book."

Seven Reasons Why I Can Trust the Bible

Why is this book like no other book? Why can you trust the Bible? Seven reasons.

1. Jesus Christ Believed the Bible Was True

The first reason why I believe the Bible is utterly true can be distilled down to one or two words. Jesus (and the second word is) Christ. Jesus Christ utterly was convinced that the book you hold in your hand was the word of God. Now that does it for me. I don't need anybody else's opinion, but I'll give you six more reasons. Jesus believed this book, and over and over we find the Lord Jesus asking everyone who questioned Him, He'd say to them, "Haven't you read? The Scriptures say..." That's how He answered those who came to Him.

In fact, just this morning as I was reading God's word and just savoring it, I noticed that at Christ's birth Micah 5:2 is mentioned in Matthew two in verse six. As the infants were massacred in chapter two verse 18, Jeremiah 31 is quoted. Jesus was said to come from Egypt from Numbers 24:8. The prophet John the Baptist mentioned Isaiah 40 in verse three and that's just before Christ came on the scene.

And after Jesus started His ministry, what's the first thing He did when He faced Satan? He quotes Deuteronomy eight, and Deuteronomy six. Jesus believed and used and trusted and prayed from and lived out the Scriptures. You know what's interesting? Everything Jesus said was Scripture. And so He didn't need to use it. He could have just talked. But instead, He always hearkened back to the Bible. He hearkened back to the Scriptures. And when He was pressed with a question, He said the Scriptures say... And when He was faced with the

adversary, He said the Scriptures say... As He knelt in prayer, He prayed the Scriptures. As He spoke by the seaside He spoke from the Scriptures. As He went as a sheep before shearers is dumb, He quoted the Scriptures. And when He hung on the cross, with his dying words He gasped words from the Scriptures. Jesus Christ believed that every word of this book was inspired by God. In His private life He used it. As His sword against Satan, in His public ministry He uses the Word to teach multitudes, in His personal world with His disciples and those near Him, He uses the Bible to explain the future. Jesus believed that the Bible was true. He believed it was verbally true, every word. He believed it was inerrant. That means in its totality there's no flaw. It's inspired, every word. It's the very Word of God. Jesus Christ believed in the historical reliability of Adam and Eve. And even if some Christians, so-called today, don't believe in that, Jesus did. And He based His teaching of the family and marriage on the fact that there was a literal first man on this planet and his name was Adam. And he was not a humanoid, and he didn't grunt and groan and hide in caves and look like a monkey. He was in the image of God, created from the very dust of the ground and breathed into by the very breath of God. Jesus believed in Adam and Eve. He believed in Abel. He believed in Noah and He believed in the flood, even though a great number of our Christian colleges don't even teach there was a literal flood anymore. Jesus believed in it. And Jesus taught it. And He said just as much as God flooded the earth with water, He said, I will burn the earth with fire. He believed in Noah and the ark and the flood. And He said He knew Abraham and Moses and the burning bush, and He said I believe in David and Elijah and Daniel and Jonah. Jesus believed the Bible you hold. He read the Bible that you read. He prayed the words of the Word of God that you and I have today.

2. The Apostles and Prophets Believed the Bible Was True

The second reason why I believe the Bible is true is not only Jesus Christ, but secondly the apostles and the prophets. The second reason why I believe that the Bible is true is that all the apostles and all the prophets, thousands and thousands of times, over and over repeated that the words that they were saying were not their own. You know what they said? What we just read this morning. What the apostle Paul said, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because when you receive the Word of God, which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men but what it is in truth." It's the word of God. That's an apostle speaking. The prophets said the same thing. In the Old Testament 8,000 times they say 'the Lord', 'the Lord said.'

Did you know that the apostles and prophets believed that this book came from God? And if Jesus Christ believed it, that settles it for me. But Jesus and all those who were closest to Him, all those who knew God face-to-face, those who were His emissaries, say that the book that you hold in your hand is not from the Hill Cumorah written on golden tablets that were hidden in the dirt that Moroni came and told Joseph Smith were written in some funny language that weighed more than any human could ever carry like the book of Mormon was. That's stuff for cartoons. They said this is the breath of God. And the apostles and the prophets said thousands of times that they were totally convinced that they were sharing the words that were not originating with them. As Peter said, "holy men of old spake as they were feromenoi borne along like a sail of a ship being blown in the wind. They were borne along by the spirit of God." As the apostle Paul

said that every word of God is the breath of God breathing through them. The apostles and prophets secondly are the second reason why I believe the word of God.

3. The Word of God Has Endured Through the Ages

The third reason why I believe the Bible is the Word of God is survival. There is no other reason that you can explain why this Book exists. There has never been any book ever more targeted for destruction than this book on this planet. This Book has endured through the ages despite being the target of empires and emperors, despite armies being sent and dispatched to utterly destroy it and to rid the earth from it. Infidels have waged their war against this Book.

But, the Bible stands like a rock undaunted through the raging storms of time. Its pages burn with the truth eternal and they glow with the light divine. The Bible stands though the earth may crumble. It will firmly stand though the hills may tumble. I will take my stand on this firm foundation for the Bible stands.

This book has endured. It's endured through the ages. It's endured through every single attack against it and we're going to see how God preserved this book, And when we look at the endurance of the Bible, we're going to look at how there is more reason to believe the Bible than there is to believe that George Washington or Julius Caesar ever existed 'cause there's more verifiable factual information for Christ than there is for Caesar or a whole lot of other historical people you've heard of. And yet people fail to believe in Him to their eternal ignominious shame, yet you and I have the very word of God which endures.

4. The Bible Has Absolute Unity

The first reason I believe the Bible is true is Jesus Christ believed. The second reason I believe the Bible is true is all the apostles and all the prophets believed it. The third reason I believe is because it has endured, because it has remained in spite of all of the attacks against it, it's survived. But number four is absolute unity. You say what do you mean by that?

Well what I think is neat, and I remember in literary criticism, Shakespeare. It almost killed me going through Elizabethan English. I know it's great stuff, but it didn't ring my bell at all. But I remember that we used to study all the metaphors and all the uses of Shakespeare.

If you look at the Bible, there is an incredible unity demonstrated in the fact that as I mentioned before, 40 different men, most of whom who never saw each other... Did you ever think about that? Those people that wrote the Bible didn't even know each other. They were living in three different continents. They were writing over 60 generations of time, 1,600 years. Most of them never saw what the other one wrote. And yet, this book has an absolute unity. It fits together better than the most machined parts. It totally unites. And when you look at this book, you find that there's an unmistakable fabric that was woven from prison to palace from desert to dungeons, from hillsides to holy places and there's one common denominator. There's one shared theme. There's one united message. There's only one system of doctrine. One system of ethics. And there's only one plan of salvation. There is a supernatural, unearthly unity to this book.

I pick up the Sunday paper and I find such dissonance. You'd think that with all those people getting paid all that money that they could at least get one common theme throughout the paper. Did you know that a whole bunch of editors can't even make the paper work, but God, breathing out this book over a 1,600 year period of time, made it fit flawlessly together as one woven fabric with the backdrop being redemption and the blood of Christ.

5. The Bible Has Prophetic Accuracy

Number five is that there is prophetic accuracy. And we're going to have a fun time with this one. We're going to spend a whole service looking at the absolute accuracy of the prophecies of the Word of God where God told exactly what was going to happen right down to the nth degree, and every single thing God said happened.

Now next time you go to the Enquirer and look at Jeanne Dixon's accuracy, I mean, if she hits one out of two, I mean, people are clamoring. And they're so vague. A great earthquake is coming in next 10 years. I mean that's really a prophecy. I could say that and you could call me Nostradamus or something. But God targets the place, the people, the event, the timing with utter accuracy. Prophetic accuracy is number five.

6. The Bible is Scientifically Accurate

Number six. Scientific accuracy. Did you know that every time God speaks of a scientific issue in the Bible it is utterly accurate? Utterly. Did you know just in the last decade they've come up with the reality of the Bible where it says God separated the light from the darkness, and they found out that over 97% of our universe is made of dark matter. They just found that out, and God said "I separate the light from the darkness." And darkness and dark matter; they don't even know what it is. And God created it all and he separated it, and we are living in the part of the universe that God has described for us and it's exactly, scientifically the way God said. The Bible addresses such things as isostasy, and geodesy. It talks about the hydrological site. We're going to go through all of that. And the Bible is 100% scientifically accurate. And usually it's about a light year ahead of science. Because God tells the truth. And this book, you can trust.

7. The Bible is Historically Accurate

Finally, not only did Jesus Christ believe it, and the apostles and prophets believe it, it survived, it's absolutely united, it's prophetically accurate, it's scientifically accurate. You know what the last thing is? It's historically accurate. There has never been proven one historical error in this book.

In fact, when we were on this tour, I was thinking about the fact that Ramsey went out to prove that the Bible was true. Ramsey was a great historian and also an archaeologist, and the seven churches of the Bible were not ever known in history. They couldn't find them anywhere as well as the Hittites, and a lot of other things. And so he decided he'd go out with his spade and he started reading the book of Acts as Paul landed and walked the whole day. And then he took, he walked a whole day Ramsey did, and then he took his spade and he started digging and guess what? He found Pisidia Antioch just where the Bible said it was. So then it says Paul walked a

couple more days and then he put his spade down and started digging. Why, there was Colosse. Just like the Bible said. And Aropolis and Laodicea. And he found... and every single historical reference in the Bible that has ever been pressed has found to have been 100% true.

Well, what does that mean? It means that the book that you hold in your hand this morning, you can trust. And if you can trust this book, then you ought to read it every day. In fact as it says in Psalms 132 you shouldn't find a place for your head to lay at night if you haven't found a place for God in your life.

How do you let God in? How do you let God into your life? Well, I'll just tell you a little secret. This is the voice of God, the breath of God. This is the spirit of God, distilled down onto paper and if you want to let God into your life, you ought to open this thing up every day. And if you open up the morning paper or if you watch Good Morning America or if you have to start your day with Rush instead of with God, then that's a mistake. And if you end your day with the sleazy, slutty, wickedness of the night shows instead of with the glories of the eternal, infinite God, shame on you. Shame on me.

What Should I Do With the Bible?

- **Read it to be wise.**
- **Believe it to be safe.**
- **Practice it to be holy.**

This book contains light to direct you, fruit to sustain you, comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff. It's the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, it's the Christian's chart. Here paradise is restored, heaven is open, the gates of hell are disclosed. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. The Bible. The book you can trust. Let's bow for a word of prayer.

We thank you for your word, Oh God, forever settled in heaven. Turn our hearts by way of your word to the cross of Christ. Where we first met Christ was in your word. Where we grow with Him is in your word. And the Christ of the word is the only one we're ever going to know because your word is forever settled in heaven. Open our eyes, behold wondrous things from your word for Christ's sake, Amen.

What Bible Did Jesus Use?

BYT: Message Two (960519AM)

Not too many months ago the Congress of the US "pulled the plug on NASA's elaborate search for radio signals from alien life". (2) SETI (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence project) has been an American scientific community priority for many years. Because of the evolutionary belief system so prominent in our culture there is also a desire to find even higher evolved life forms. The newspapers at that time reported: "Some speculate that alien intelligence might beam vast streams of coded information, a virtual encyclopedia galactica, with insights into THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE AND IMMORTALITY."

SUCH AN ABSOLUTE DISREGARD FOR THE INDISPUTABLE FACT THAT SUCH A STREAM OF INFINITE KNOWLEDGE HAS ARRIVED IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE! The Intelligence of the Universe HAS beamed us about our origin and offered immortality freely to all.

Thus we have here this morning not only crystal clear details on the opening day of the cosmos but also:

- The secret of how to live forever
- The secret of how to have a joy-filled marriage (Proverbs 5)
- The secret of how to experience real love (I Corinthians 13)
- The secret of how to be prosperous and successful (Josh 1)
- The secret of how to never fear the future (John 14)
- The secret of how to resist Satan (I Peter 5)
- The Immense God who is vastly beyond all that exists, and has always been before all the universe began, has revealed Himself in the Scriptures.
- The Awesome Creator who has attested to His might by the countless stars, galaxies and mysteries of the cosmos out there, has opened His mind for us to explore.
- The Endless of Days who sees us who are as frail as dust and fleeting as shadows has placed before us the Eternal Word to have, to hold, to love and to live.

Why Have So Few Heard and Seen This Truth?

Listen to the apostle Paul:

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (KJV)

Ephesians 4:18 Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. (KJV)

What does that virtual encyclopedia galactica have to say?

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (KJV)

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; so that they are without excuse: (KJV)

Colossians 1:16 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: (KJV)

Colossians 2:3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (KJV)

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture (is) given by inspiration of God, and (is) profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (KJV)

2 Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake (as they were) moved by the Holy Ghost. (KJV)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received (it) not (as) the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. (KJV)

I believe the Bible is true. It is all it claims to be. There are seven reasons why you can believe this too. The first reason is also the ultimate one. Jesus believed, taught, and practiced personal belief in the book that you now hold in your hands!

JESUS CHRIST: Because our Lord Jesus Christ said so! Jesus believed the Scriptures were FLAWLESS from Genesis to Malachi (Matthew 23:35 Jesus refers to the Jewish Scriptures which started with Genesis 'Abel' and ended with II Chronicles 'Zechariah'. In this sweeping statement He encompassed all the Old Testament Scriptures and said He believed it, as we would say from Genesis to Revelation). The words of our Lord Jesus were filled with the Scriptures. He used them -

- To pray His Mighty Intercession of John 17 He uses the Scriptures (Psalm 41:9).
- To prepare for Gethsemane He sang from the Scriptures at the Last Supper with His disciples. (Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26 = 5214 humneo singing of paschal hymns. These were Psalms 113 - 118 and 136, which the Jews called the "great Hallel")
- To endure the horrors of Golgotha He had the words of the Scriptures flowing from His lips on the Cross. (Matthew 27:46 and Luke 23:46 quote Psalms 22:1 and 31:5.)
- To comfort the confused and sorrowful disciples in Luke 24:44 He reminds them that the Scriptures often speak of Him.

Turn with me to Matthew 5:18. We can learn a lot about what Bible Jesus used from this passage. "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."

A. EVERY WORD OF GOD IS ABSOLUTE! "Until heaven and earth pass away" represents the end of time, as we know it, the end of earthly history. As God's Word, the law would outlast the universe, which someday will cease to exist. "The present heavens and earth by

His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men" (2 Pet. 3:7; cf. v. 10). Even the psalmist knew that "Of old Thou didst found the earth; and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. Even they will perish, but Thou dost endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing Thou wilt change them, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end" (Ps. 102:25-26). Isaiah said, "Lift up your eyes to the sky, then look to the earth beneath; for the sky will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die in like manner, but My righteousness shall not wane" (Isaiah. 51:6; cf. 34:4; Rev. 6:13-14).

B. EVERY WORD OF JESUS IS EQUALLY AUTHORITATIVE! "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away" (Matthew. 24:35). What was true of the law, in its fullest meaning as the Old Testament, was also true of Jesus' teaching. It is timeless. It is incredibly foolish to ask, "What does the Bible, a two-thousand-year-old book, have to say to us today?" The Bible is the eternal Word of the eternal God. It "is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews. 4:12). Phil Johnson says, "It has long preceded and will long outlast every person who questions its validity and relevancy."

C. EVERY WORD WILL COME TO PASS! Not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, Jesus continued. The smallest letter translates the word *iota*, the smallest letter of the Greek alphabet. To Jesus' Jewish hearers it would have represented the *yodh*, the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which looks something like an apostrophe. A stroke (*keria*) literally means "little horn" and refers to the small marks that help distinguish one Hebrew letter from another. God says in Jeremiah 1:12 Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." (NKJV)

D. EVERY WORD OF GOD WILL BE PRESERVED! As one noted theologian has stated, "In other words, not only will the smallest letter not be erased, but even the smallest part of a letter will not be erased from the Law. Not even the tiniest, seemingly most insignificant, part of God's Word will be removed or modified until all is accomplished. But without the smallest exception, every commandment, every prophecy, every figure and symbol and type would be accomplished."

E. EVERY LETTER OF GOD'S WORD IS TRUE! No other statement made by our Lord more clearly states His absolute contention that Scripture is verbally inerrant, totally without error in the original form in which God gave it. That is, Scripture is God's own Word not only down to every single written word, but down to every letter and the smallest part of every letter.

F. EVERY BOOK OF GOD'S WORD IS TRUE! Jesus referred to the Old Testament at least sixty-four times, and always as authoritative truth. In the course of defending His messiahship and divinity before the unbelieving Jewish leaders in the Temple, He said, "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

G. EVERY VERB TENSE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS TRUE! John MacArthur has stated "When the Sadducees tried to trip Him up by asking which of seven successive husbands would be a woman's husband in the resurrection, that is in heaven, He

replied, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God" (Matthew. 22:29). In that confrontation with the Sadducees, Jesus' whole argument is based on a single verb tense. In the book of Exodus, which He was here quoting, God told Moses that He is, not was, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." (3:6) Hundreds of years after those patriarchs had died, the Lord was still their God. Obviously those men were still alive. God's Word is therefore authoritative not only down to the smallest part of every letter, but also to the grammatical forms of every word. Because Scripture itself is without error, when it is believed and obeyed it will save us from error.

H. EVERY MORAL PRECEPT IS TRUE! Over and over again, Jesus confirmed the accuracy and the authenticity of the Old Testament. He confirmed the standard of marriage that God established in the Garden of Eden (Matthew. 19:4), the murder of Abel (Luke 11:51), Noah and the flood (Matthew. 24:38-39), Abraham and his faith (John 8:56), Sodom, Lot, and Lot's wife (Luke 17:29), the call of Moses (Mark 12:26), the manna from heaven (John 6:31, 58), and the bronze serpent (John 3:14).

What Should be Our Response to These Truths?

1. YIELD TO THE WORD! Christ and His Word are inextricable. You cannot divide Him from the Scriptures. He spoke them, defended them and affirmed them. To accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is to yield to what He taught about Scripture. Scripture's authority is Christ's authority. To obey the Lord is to obey His Word. "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God" (John 8:47). To trust in Christ is to say of Him as Peter did, "You have words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

2. TRUST THE WORD! The Old Testament cannot contain any errors. If there were any we would have to decide one of two things about Jesus Christ. Either He was ignorant of those errors, in which case He was not omniscient and was therefore not God. Or else He knew of the errors but denied them, in which case He would have been a liar and a hypocrite, and therefore not holy God.

3. RECEIVE THE WORD! Always remembering that it is "the word implanted, which is able to save [our] souls" (James 1:21). We should receive it because of the infinite majesty of the Author and His authoritative statements about it. We should receive it because of the price that God paid to get it to us, and because it is the standard of truth, joy, blessing, and salvation. And we should receive it because not to receive it brings judgment.

4. EXALT THE WORD! Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. (NKJV) Charles Spurgeon said, "Is the infallible revelation of the infallible Jehovah to be moderated, to be shaped, to be toned down to the fancies and fashions of the hour? God forbid us if we ever alter His Word." Martin Luther never feared men, but when he stood up to preach he often felt his knees knock together under a sense of great responsibility to be true to the Word of God.

5. OBEY THE WORD! We should be diligent to present ourselves approved to God as workmen who do "not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Like Jeremiah, we should find God's words and eat them (Jeremiah. 15:16), and "let the word of Christ richly dwell within" us (Col. 3:16).

6. DEFEND THE WORD! We are to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). Like Jude, we should fight for the integrity, purity, and authority of Scripture. Spurgeon said, "The everlasting gospel is worth preaching even if one stood on a burning fagot and addressed the crowds from a pulpit of flames. The truths revealed in Scripture are worth living for and they are worth dying for. I count myself thrice happy, to bear reproach for the sake of the faith. It is an honor of which I feel myself to be unworthy, and yet most truly I can say the words of our hymn, 'Shall I to soothe the unholy throng, soften Thy truths and smooth my tongue to gain earth's gilded toys, or flee the cross endured my God by Thee?'"

7. SHARE THE WORD! We are to have as our constant goal to share the Word. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. (NKJV) Says Spurgeon again, "I cannot speak out my whole heart on this theme which is so dear to me, but I would stir you all up to be instant in season and out of season in telling out the gospel message, especially to repeat such a word as this: 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.' Whisper it in the ear of the sick, shout it in the corner of the streets, write it on your tablet, send it forth from the press, but everywhere let this be your great motive and warrant. You preach the gospel because the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

1. Scroggie says that the Gospels total 3,779 verses. The words of Christ total 1,934 of them. Jesus quotes the Old Testament 180x so just under 10% of His recorded words are Old Testament quotes!

2. San Diego Union-Tribune, 11/5/93.

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Science Proves It

BYT: Message Three (960526AM)

Charles H. Spurgeon once said the Scriptures are like a lion in a cage, he doesn't need to be defended just let him out. The Bible doesn't need to be defended just open it and let it out!

Now, look at the book you hold in your hands:

- Not one word has ever been proven wrong,
- Not one fact has ever needed updating,
- Not one scientific statement ever needing correction,
- Not one old hypothesis or theory needing adjustment due to new findings, because it has no theories or educated guesses,
- Just truth,
- Absolutely true facts,
- Truth you can stake your life and eternity upon,
- Changeless and enduring truth that will last forever,
- And all inerrantly transmitted from the presence of God to us via Inspiration,
- In essence, when we come to Scripture we find absolute scientific accuracy.

There are several reasons why I believe the Bible is true:

- JESUS CHRIST: Because our Lord Jesus Christ said so!
- APOSTLES & PROPHETS: Because all the writers said so thousands of times. They were totally convinced that they were sharing words that were not originating with them.
- AUTHENTICITY THROUGH SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY: Because of its scientific accuracy
- Have you ever read an old biology book? It is really funny to see how vastly the biological sciences are changing. Have you looked at an old Astronomy textbook? So much has changed. In fact in nearly every area of the Sciences there is flux, change, restatement and casting out the old and disproved statements. Often there is complete error and mistaken theories. But not with God, HE SAYS IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!
- Psalm 119:89-91 LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. 90 Thy faithfulness [is] unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. 91 They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all [are] thy servants. (KJV)
- Psalm 119:160 Thy word [is] true [from] the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments [endureth] for ever. (KJV)
- Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. (KJV)
- 1 Peter 1:23-25 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24 For all flesh [is] as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. (KJV)
- Why not join me for an incredible journey through the Scriptures. Look at the incredible scientific accuracy and authenticity of a book THOUSANDS OF YEARS AHEAD OF

SCIENCE! If you have heard of some passages of the Bible that are in dispute . . . just wait, it takes a while for science to catch up with God! Here are the specific areas we will look at

Astromony

- Number of stars
- Up to the time of Galileo and Kepler (17th Century) most of the scientific world thought there were 1,000 stars.
- But God has always said Jeremiah 33:22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me. (KJV)
- In fact astronomers are more unsure each year. As our reach extends further into the heavens what were thought to be.
- Stars are becoming galaxies.
- Galaxies are becoming clusters of galaxies and so on.
- Their numbers are beyond estimation or calculation.
- God made them Genesis 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night [He made] the stars also. (KJV) TRUST HIS POWER!
- God names them Psalm 147:4 He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by [their] names. (KJV) TRUST HIS PLAN!
- God sustains them Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. (KJV) TRUST HIS CARE!
- His Word has always said so! TRUST HIS WORD!

Astrophysics

- Dark matter Job 38:19 Where [is] the way [where] light dwelleth? and [as for] darkness, where [is] the place thereof, (KJV) [99% of the mass of the universe is dark matter we don't even know what it is].
- Gravity Job 38:31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? (KJV) One of the major areas of study in astronomy is the gravitational tug of stars and systems.

Geophysical Sciences

Oceanography

- Job 38:16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? (KJV) [there are teeming life systems surrounding the toxic hot springs at volcanic vents, two miles down in the dark ocean depths unknown until this century]

Biology

Ornithology

- Job 39:26-30 Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, [and] stretch her wings toward the south? 27 Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? 28 She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. 29 From thence she seeketh the prey, [and] her eyes behold afar off. 30 Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain [are], there [is] she. (KJV) Migratory navigation was not even closely imitated until satellite navigation, yet God built it into fish, birds and even insects!

Zoology

- Job 38:41 Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat. (KJV) They arrive with precision against all odds. But how do those 50,000,000 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon get home each year? How do they know the exact time to return to their spawning spot from as far as 4,000 miles away? And to all return every time those same three weeks in June and July! They never miss their mark. Why? God gave them an absolutely focused sense of direction. God has placed some nearly unbelievable senses into the animal world. Look at migratory birds. They fly thousands of miles exactly to their destination. How? Scientists conclude they have a sense of the earth's magnetic fields, like an internal compass. The King of the universe, our Creator, didn't leave us out. How's your compass? Our directional capacity far exceeds the animal world's awareness of magnetic fields or one part per billion of where we were spawned. No, we have a direct line to the Creator. We have Him. He starts and finishes all we ever need. LOOK UNTO HIM!

Meteorology

- Is the study of our atmosphere. Only a few hundred years ago was it found that air above us has mass or weight. However in the first and oldest book of the Bible nearly 4,500 years ago Job said Job 28:24-25 For He looks to the ends of the earth, [And] sees under the whole heavens, 25 To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure. (NKJV)

Hydrology

- Is the water cycle of the Earth. Water circulates from the ground and seas to the air and back again. Scripture explicitly documents this fact.
- Ecclesiastes 1:7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea [is] not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. (KJV) Note: this was written 1000 BC before anyone knew of the hydrological cycle.
- Go back 4500 years ago to the oldest book in the world and listen to God discuss evaporation, condensation, vapor clouds and precipitation - all the elements of hydrology, through Job. Job 36:27-28 For He draws up drops of water, Which distill as rain from the mist, 28 Which the clouds drop down [And] pour abundantly on man. (NKJV) Now that is scientific precision!

- Psalm 135:7 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures. (NKJV)
- Job 26:8 He binds up the water in His thick clouds, Yet the clouds are not broken under it. (NKJV)
- Job 28:10-11 He cuts out channels in the rocks, And his eye sees every precious thing. 11 He dams up the streams from trickling; [What is] hidden he brings forth to light. (NKJV)

Isostasy

- Is the relatively new study of the rotational balance there is in our global earth between the height of mountains and the depths of the oceans. The desire to understand earthquakes and so on has caused this scientific inquiry. There must be a balance for the earth to not wobble. Did God know about this? He sure does. Listen to Isaiah 600 years before Christ Isaiah 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? (NKJV)

Geodesy

- Studies the shape, size and gravitation forces on the planet. Although science thought the world flat for a time the Scriptures have ALWAYS affirmed the truth.
- The Earth Rotates (turning on an axis) is a fact that up to the 1400's was absent from science. The thinkers of the day said the earth was flat. The Hindu writings affirm that it rested on the backs of elephants. But God gives Scriptural truth in Job 38:14 It takes on form like clay [under] a seal (turning a cylinder in a axis to sign documents) , And stands out like a garment. (NKJV) Wow, it rotates and Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, [and] hangeth the earth upon nothing.
- THE EARTH IS ROUND Isaiah 40:22 [It is] He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants [are] like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. (NKJV)

Geology

- Job 38:4-6 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; (KJV)

The Laws of Science

First Law of Thermodynamics

- Here are some rules of operations for our universe. These are called the laws of thermodynamics. The 1st Law states 'ultimately nothing is destroyed'. This also means that mass and energy are conserved.

- God says Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these [things], that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that [he is] strong in power; not one faileth. (KJV) Ecclesiastes 1:10 Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. (NIV)
- So thousands of years before it was discovered God states that He keeps things from 'missing' and there is really 'nothing new'. The 1st Law of Thermodynamics.

Second Law of Thermodynamics

- The second law of thermodynamics states that although there is a conservation of mass and energy (1st Law) all matter in the universe is still involved in a breakdown going from order to disorder.
- ORDER of the cosmos to CHAOS
- ENERGY to ENTROPY
- The Scriptures affirm this Law although evolution denies it! Romans 8:21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. (NIV) Why? Because it has been cursed in Genesis 3.

In the last century Herbert Spencer won a Nobel Prize for physics in the realm of the classification of the knowable. He said that science could classify all things as either: **Time, Force, Motion, Space or Matter**. Hold onto your seats as we look at Genesis 1:1

- Time = In the Beginning
- Force = God
- Motion = created
- Space = the heaven
- Matter = the earth

Mr. Spencer rediscovered God's marvelous scientific truths! Have you ever met this Creator? This account reveals many truths that will shape your destiny:

- ATHEISM is an error because in the beginning GOD . . .
- POLYTHEISM is an error because it is GOD not gods . . .
- PANTHEISM is an error because GOD is existing prior to and independent of all matter . . .
- MATERIALISM is an error because GOD makes the matter and is not composed of it...
- FATALISM is an error because here as in all places in the Scriptures GOD acts independently and by His own Sovereign will and power...

But the day is coming when the Creator sits as JUDGE.

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death

and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (KJV)

- Then NEW HEAVEN Revelation 21
- Then ETERNITY Revelation 22
- HE IS COMING Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. (KJV)
- HE WILL JUDGE Revelation 22:15 For without [are] dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (KJV)
- HE IS INVITING Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (KJV)
- In the opening chapters of the Bible Genesis shows us God seeking fallen mankind. At the end of the Scriptures in Revelation 22 He is still seeking. Have you met your Maker?
- HE LOVES
- HE FORGIVES
- HE SEEKS
- HE SAVES
- CALL OUT TO HIM TODAY!

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Creation or Evolution

BYT: Message Four (960602AM)

What would the ten most important words in the world be? They are so vital to all parts of our life, so crucial to the destiny of our souls. In order that we never miss them, God put them in the front of your Bibles. These are the first words Jesus and the Apostles read at their mother's knees. For all Jewish children were taught to read starting with the Torah, the first five books of Moses. Why don't we read them together this morning!

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (NKJV)

Evidence for the Design of the Galaxy-Sun-Earth-Moon System for Life Support

The following parameters of a planet, its moon, its star, and its galaxy must have values falling within narrowly defined ranges for life of any kind to exist.

- Number of stars in the planetary system
 - If more than one: tidal interactions would disrupt planetary orbits
 - If less than one: heat produced would be insufficient for life
- Our sun age
 - If older: luminosity of star would change too quickly
 - If younger: luminosity of star would change too quickly
- Our sun mass
 - If greater: luminosity of star would change too quickly; star would burn too rapidly
 - If less: range of distances appropriate for life would be too narrow; tidal forces would disrupt the rotational period for a planet of the right distance; UV radiation would be inadequate for plants to make sugars and oxygen
- Our sun color
 - If redder: photosynthetic response would be insufficient
 - If bluer: photosynthetic response would be insufficient
- Our sun luminosity relative to speciation
 - If increases too soon: would develop runaway greenhouse effect
 - If increases too late: would develop runaway glaciation
- Surface gravity (escape velocity)
 - If stronger: planet's atmosphere would retain too much ammonia and methane
 - If weaker: planet's atmosphere would lose too much water
- Distance from our sun
 - If farther: planet would be too cool for a stable water cycle
 - If closer: planet would be too warm for a stable water cycle
- Inclination of orbit
 - If too great: temperature differences on the planet would be too extreme for orbital eccentricity
 - If too great: seasonal temperature differences would be too extreme
- Axial tilt

- If greater: surface temperature differences would be too great
 - If less: surface temperature differences would be too great
- Rotation period
 - If longer: diurnal temperature differences would be too great
 - If shorter: atmospheric wind velocities would be too great
- Magnetic field
 - If stronger: electromagnetic storms would be too severe
 - If weaker: ozone shield and life on the land would be inadequately protected from hard stellar and solar radiation
- Thickness of crust
 - If thicker: too much oxygen would be transferred from the atmosphere to the crust
 - If thinner: volcanic and tectonic activity would be too great
- Albedo (ratio of reflected light to total amount falling on surface)
 - If greater: runaway glaciation would develop
 - If less: runaway greenhouse effect would develop
- Oxygen to nitrogen ratio in atmosphere
 - If larger: advanced life functions would proceed too quickly
 - If smaller: advanced life functions would proceed too slowly
- Carbon dioxide level in atmosphere
 - If greater: runaway greenhouse effect would develop
 - If less: plants would be unable to maintain efficient photo-synthesis
- Water vapor level in atmosphere
 - If greater: runaway greenhouse effect would develop
 - If less: rainfall would be too meager for advanced life on the land
- Atmospheric electric discharge rate
 - If greater: too much fire destruction would occur
 - If less: too little nitrogen would be fixed in the atmosphere
- Ozone level in atmosphere
 - If greater: surface temperatures would be too low
 - If less: surface temperatures would be too high; there would be too much UV radiation at the surface
- Oxygen quantity in atmosphere
 - If greater: plants and hydrocarbons would bum up too easily
 - If less: advanced animals would have too little to breathe
- Seismic activity
 - If greater: too many life forms would be destroyed
 - If less: nutrients on ocean floors (from river runoff) would not be recycled to the continents through tectonic uplift
- Global distribution of continents (for earth)
 - If too much in the southern hemisphere: seasonal temperature differences would be too severe for advanced life
- Soil mineralization
 - If too nutrient poor: diversity and complexity of life forms would be limited
 - If too nutrient rich: diversity and complexity of life forms would be limited
- Gravitational interaction with a moon

- If greater: tidal effects on the oceans, atmosphere, and rotational period would be too severe
- If less: orbital obliquity changes would cause climatic instabilities; movement of nutrients and life from the oceans to the continents and continents to the oceans would be insufficient; magnetic field would be too weak

Chances for Finding a Life Support Planet

Each of these 23 parameters cannot exceed certain limits without disturbing a planet's capacity to support life. Not to mention... about a dozen more parameters, such as atmospheric transparency, pressure, and temperature gradient, other greenhouse gases, location of different gases and minerals, and mantle and core constituents and structures, currently are being researched for their sensitivity in supporting life.

Thus, with considerable security, we can draw the conclusion that much fewer than a trillionth of a trillionth of a percent of all stars could possibly possess, without divine intervention, a planet-capable of sustaining advanced life. Considering that the observable universe contains less than a trillion galaxies, each averaging a hundred billion stars, we can see that not even one planet would be expected, by natural processes alone, to possess the necessary conditions to sustain life.

These factors would seem to indicate that the galaxy, the sun, the earth, and the moon, in addition to the universe, have undergone divine design. If divine design is essential to explain the properties of simpler systems such as the universe, our galaxy, and the solar system, how much more necessary is God's involvement to explaining systems as complex as organisms, including human beings? As for the \$100 million now being spent by the U.S. government on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, former Senator William Proxmire may have said it best. We would be far wiser to spend the money for intelligent life in Washington.

Within those words we find all that there is. God, the universe, the end and now. Everything is encompassed in those words. And from them flow all of guidelines God has given for so we can:

- Meet Him
- Know Him
- Please Him

In other words, no book of the Scriptures matters more because EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE RESTS ON THIS ONE! If the God of Genesis 1 is unreliable so is the One in every other part of the Scriptures. Either you utterly trust the God you meet in Genesis One or you have nothing else. He is the same, He does not change. Why?

1. The book of Genesis is the foundation for the doctrines that follow. Everything you base your eternal destiny upon starts in Genesis:

- INSPIRATION: The Creator in Genesis WROTE the Scriptures! Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the

prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by [His] Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (NKJV)

- DEITY OF CHRIST: The Creator in Genesis is the One who DIED for you and me! Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of [His] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (NKJV) John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (NKJV)
- FINAL JUDGMENT: The CREATOR in Genesis is the ONE we will all someday face to enter Heaven or Hell! Acts 17:24, 31 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (NKJV)
- SALVATION: The CREATOR of Genesis is the ONLY ONE who can die in your place on the Cross! Romans 5:12-15 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift [is] not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. (NKJV)
- TRUSTWORTHINESS OF CHRIST: The CREATOR in Genesis is the ONLY ONE who knows what happened at that event! Mark 10:6 "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' (NKJV)
- THE WHOLE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE: The CREATOR in Genesis is the ONLY ONE able to send a message like we have in the SCRIPTURES! Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (NKJV)

2. What could matter more than to know what God has said and to obey it! What you believe about Genesis will also determine your available truth to live by. Why?

- Genesis is the gateway to the True God, the Creator and Redeemer.
- It is the Foundation of our ORIGIN, PURPOSE and DESTINY!
- It is the only proper way to understand Geology, Anthropology, History, Philosophy and so on.
- It is the only authoritative word on male, female, marriage, family, government.
- It alone records the start of sin, evil, cultures, language, Israel, and all.

3. What you believe about Genesis will determine your life, family and ministry. Why?

- If our children are not taught truth they can hold onto they will drift from the faith and shipwreck. Rom. 1.18
- So guard their schooling.
- Shield their exposure to error and false teaching.
- Promote much exposure to the truth daily.
- Lead them by example to the fellowship of Christ's Body - bring them to church!
- If a saintly blue-collar worker is of more value than a pagan doctor, lawyer, sport star, politician or businessperson - then guard and teach the truth. Matthew 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (NKJV)
- All attempts to compromise the Scriptures should be resisted. There are some popular views some Christians hold that are very dangerous:
- Gap Theory destroys Adam's original sin. Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- (NKJV) It puts him at the head of a creation that sits atop a multi-billion year old graveyard of fossils. This monument to sin, death and destruction before Adam is incongruous to the Word of God.
- Age Day Theory destroys the reliability of the text. It is repeatedly stated and believed by the Scripture writers that the account of Gen. 1 is true. The age Day Theory states the sun had to come before the fourth epoch. So the Scriptures can't be trusted.

What Should We Trust About the CREATOR We Meet in the Book of Genesis?

WE MUST WORSHIP OUR CREATOR Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (NKJV) Revelation 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." (NKJV) = We must respond to our CREATOR.

Our Creator is the Judge first by water then by fire 2 Peter 3:3-7 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 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 creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world [that] then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth [which] are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (NKJV)

Christ as creator is the head of the Church and He alone gives us the order for leadership, home, church, role of men and women, standards of modesty, etc. Colossians 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Creation groans waiting for redemption Romans 8:20-22 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected [it] in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. (NKJV)

Adam's sin cursed the world Romans 5:12, 19 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (NKJV)

The decline and descent of man versus the ascent of Darwin's man Romans 1:18-32

All humans are from one blood Acts 17:26 "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, (NKJV) So there is one blood for all humans, one color source melanin degrees, many cultures at Babel, one blood that can save all who come.

Christ as Creator reveals God John 1:1-3, 18 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared [Him.] (NKJV)

Christ said Creation was literally TRUE Matthew 19:4-6 And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made [them] at the beginning 'made them male and female,' 5 "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." (NKJV)

How Should I Respond?

- Trust your Creator Revelation 14:7
- Worship your Creator Revelation 4.11
- Seek your Creator Heb11.3,6
- Follow your Creator Col.
- Obey your Creator more each day John 14.15-22; 1 John 5.1-5

1. Scroggie says that the Gospels total 3,779 verses. The words of Christ total 1,934 of them. Jesus quotes the Old Testament 180x so just under 10% of His recorded words are Old Testament quotes!

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10. World that Perished, foreword.

11. MacArthur, John F., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary , (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

Biblical Creationism

BYT: Message Five (960609AM)

Revelation 4

Remember the first words Jesus and the Apostles read at their mother's knees. For all Jewish children were taught to read starting with the Torah, the first five books of Moses. Why don't we read them together this morning!

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (NKJV)

What is the Culture Around Us Trying to Conform Us to?

Theistic evolution is an attempt to accommodate God's Word to man's ideas. The theistic evolutionist says that God's method of creation was evolution, that He didn't create the world in six literal days but took millions, perhaps billions, of years to accomplish the feat.

To suggest that God relied on chance and time to create the universe is not only insulting to God's power, it makes Him a liar by contradicting His inspired written account of creation. To satisfy the theistic evolutionist, the first few chapters of Genesis would have to be rewritten. Ruth Beechick(4) suggests the ridiculous results below.

1. In the beginning God created masses of interstellar gas and dust, and after billions of years there

were formed from these masses many solar systems and in one a planet, Earth.

2. Now this planet was without form and covered with waters.

3. And God said, Let the process of orogenesis work in the earth. After a sufficient time had elapsed the waters were gathered together and dry land appeared: and it was so.

4. And God called the dry land earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He seas: and God saw that it was good.

5. And God said, Let elements in the waters come together in chance formations. And a chain of highly improbable chances brought together a true protoplasm. God called the protoplasm life.

6. And God said to the living protoplasm, keep making more protoplasm and form into cells of different kinds, and ever better and more complex groupings so you can evolve into many kinds of water creatures. And let some of the fish bring forth wings. And after millions of years God saw that it was good.

7. And God blessed them, saying, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

8. And God had also said, let some of the fish begin to crawl on the earth, and let every creature bring forth some other kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth, each after some other kind: and it was so.

9. And when the living creatures could not evolve into all the kinds God wanted, then God made some more creatures from time to time. These creatures also made new kinds upon the earth: and God saw that it was good.'

10. And God said to the primate kind, Stand upright and begin to use tools. This will develop your brain and you can have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

11. And after many generations the upright primate could do all the things God told him to do. God called him Man, and Man was the image of Him.

12. And God blessed Man and said, Be fruitful, and subdue the earth. I have given you everything in it.

13. And God saw every thing that He had made, and behold it was very good. And millions and billions of years had passed.

14. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

15. And after God ended His work which He had made, God rested on one day from all His work which He had made.

16. And God blessed that one day, and sanctified it: because in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.

17. Therefore, remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

18. Many years shalt thou labor and do all thy work:

19. But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.

20. For in millions and billions of years the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested one day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Some of the ancient manuscripts omit this verse.

Can we really take the liberty to alter the very Word of God like that? If we do so in Genesis 1-2 where else can we make it suit the current scientific, moral, cultural drift away from God?

In other words, no book of the Scriptures matters more because **EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE RESTS ON THIS ONE!** The book of Genesis is the foundation for the doctrines that follow.

Everything You Base Your Eternal Destiny Upon Starts in Genesis:

A. INSPIRATION: The Creator in Genesis WROTE the Scriptures! Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by [His] Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (NKJV)

B. DEITY OF CHRIST: The Creator in Genesis is the One who DIED for you and me! Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of [His] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (NKJV) John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (NKJV)

C. FINAL JUDGMENT: The CREATOR in Genesis is the ONE we will all someday face to enter Heaven or Hell! Acts 17:24, 31 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (NKJV)

D. SALVATION: The CREATOR of Genesis is the ONLY ONE who can die in your place on the Cross! Romans 5:12-15 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift [is] not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. (NKJV)

E. TRUSTWORTHINESS OF CHRIST: The CREATOR in Genesis is the ONLY ONE who knows what happened at that event! Mark 10:6 But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.(NKJV)

F. THE WHOLE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE: The CREATOR in Genesis is the ONLY ONE able to send a message like we have in the SCRIPTURES! Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (NKJV)

All attempts to compromise the Scriptures should be resisted. There are some popular views some Christians hold that are very dangerous:

- **Evolution** is the Satanic religion of the Fall, Cain, Babel, idolatry, paganism, humanism and all other evils. Even the Darwinism of Evolution has been proven in a legal setting to be devoid of scientific support. As Dr. Phillip Johnson says in his book

Darwinism on Trial, "at every step I, what I found was a failure of the evidence to be in accord with the theory. . . the fossil record is something the Darwinists must explain away because it records sudden appearance of organisms that exhibit no trace of step-by-step development from earlier forms. And once these organisms exist, they remain fundamentally unchanged . . ." (5)

- **Gap Theory** destroys Adam's original sin. Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- (NKJV) It puts him at the head of a creation that sits atop a multi-billion year old graveyard of fossils. This monument to sin, death and destruction before Adam is incongruous to the Word of God.
- **Age Day Theory** destroys the reliability of the text. It is repeatedly stated and believed by the Scripture writers that the account of Gen. 1 is true. The Age Day Theory states the sun had to come before the fourth epoch. So the Scriptures can't be trusted.

So What Should We Trust About the CREATOR We Meet in the Book of Genesis?

1. LISTEN TO YOUR CREATOR

- Gen. 1 is His account and He says He did it in six literal, solar, calendar days! "evening and morning" is a designation for a rotation of the Earth, a solar, 24-hour day. In fact the word used in Genesis 1-2 for day is always used for a literal day
 1. The word "day" (Hebrew yom) can have a variety of meanings. A solar day, daylight, indefinite period of time.
 2. Occurring 2291 times in the Old Testament, it almost always means a literal day.
 3. When used in the plural form yamim (845 times), it always refers to a literal day.
 4. When modified by numeral or ordinal in historical narrative (359 times in the Old Testament outside of Genesis 1); it always means a literal day.
 5. When modified by "evening and/or morning" (38 times outside of Genesis 1) it always means a literal day.
 6. Context of Genesis 1 is a tight chronology.
 7. Forms basis for our workweek of 6 literal days (Exodus 20:11).
 8. Proper interpretation is a solar day, not an indefinite time period.
- Gen. 2 is His origin of man and woman is the account of Adam and Eve, and it was instantaneous creation!
- Exodus 20 was actually inscribed by the very finger of God into stone. What do the only words that God actually wrote on an object say? Exodus 20:9-11 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day [is] the Sabbath of the LORD your God. [In it] you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who [is] within your gates. 11 For [in] six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that [is] in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. (NKJV) is His explanation of the timing and it is six solar days!

- Mark 10 is His placement of mankind in relation to the universe! Mark 10:6 "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' (NKJV)

2. TRUST YOUR CREATOR

- Hebrews 1:10 And: You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. (NKJV) Hebrews 11:3-6 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. But without faith [it is] impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and [that] He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (NKJV)

3. MARVEL AT YOUR CREATOR'S POWER

- God made all of the Universe:
 1. Nehemiah 9:6 You alone [are] the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You. (NKJV)
 2. Job 12:7-9 But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; 8 Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. 9 Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this, (NKJV)
 3. Psalm 19:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. (NKJV)
 4. Psalm 90:1-2 A Prayer of Moses the man of God. LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You [are] God. (NKJV) only God is eternal.
 5. Psalm 100:3 Know that the LORD, He [is] God; [It is] He [who] has made us, and not we ourselves; [We are] His people and the sheep of His pasture. (NKJV)
 6. Psalm 104:1-35 Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover [Yourself] with light as [with] a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. 3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, 4 Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. 5 [You who] laid the foundations of the earth, So [that] it should not be moved forever, 24 O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions -- 31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; May the LORD rejoice in His works. 32 He looks on the earth, and it trembles; He touches the hills, and they smoke. 33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. 34 May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the LORD. 35 May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD! (NKJV).

7. Psalm 121:2 My help [comes] from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. (NKJV)
8. Psalm 124:8 Our help [is] in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. (NKJV)
9. Psalm 134:3 The LORD who made heaven and earth Bless you from Zion! (NKJV)
10. Psalm 135:5-7 For I know that the LORD [is] great, And our Lord [is] above all gods. 6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places. 7 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures. (NKJV)
11. Psalm 136:3-9 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy [endures] forever: 4 To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy [endures] forever; 5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy [endures] forever; 6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy [endures] forever; 7 To Him who made great lights, For His mercy [endures] forever -- 8 The sun to rule by day, For His mercy [endures] forever; 9 The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy [endures] forever. (NKJV) note the psalmist accepted the literal words of Gen. 1!
12. Psalm 147:4-18 He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great [is] our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding [is] infinite. 8 Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains. 9 He gives to the beast its food, [And] to the young ravens that cry. 16 He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; 17 He casts out His hail like morsels; Who can stand before His cold? 18 He sends out His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow, [and] the waters flow. (NKJV)
13. Psalm 148:1-6 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! 2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! 4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created. 6 He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away. (NKJV)
14. Isaiah 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: I [am] the LORD, who makes all [things,] Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; (NKJV)
15. Jeremiah 32:17 Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. (NKJV)
16. Acts 14:15 and saying, Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, (NKJV)
17. Hebrews 1:10 And: You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. (NKJV)

18. Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. (NKJV)
- God stretched out, unrolled and spread the Heavens for His glory!
 1. Job 9:8 He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea; (NKJV)
 2. Job 26:7 He stretches out the north over empty space; [He] hangs the earth on nothing. (NKJV)
 3. Job 37:18 With Him, have you spread out the skies, Strong as a cast metal mirror? (NKJV)
 4. Isaiah 42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: (NKJV)
 5. Psalm 104:2 Who cover [Yourself] with light as [with] a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. (NKJV)
 6. Psalm 136:6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy [endures] forever; (NKJV) [overlay #7554]
 7. Isaiah 40:22 [It is] He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants [are] like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. (NKJV)
 8. Isaiah 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I [am] the LORD, who makes all [things,] Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; (NKJV)
 9. Isaiah 45:12 I have made the earth, And created man on it. I -- My hands -- stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded. (NKJV)
 10. Isaiah 51:13 And you forget the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth; You have feared continually every day Because of the fury of the oppressor, When [he has] prepared to destroy. And where [is] the fury of the oppressor? (NKJV)
 11. Jeremiah 10:12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion. (NKJV)
 12. Jeremiah 51:15 He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding. (NKJV)
 13. Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: (NKJV) [spread #5186];

4. WORSHIP YOUR CREATOR

- Psalm 33:6-9 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 9 For he spake, and it was [done]; he commanded, and it stood fast. (KJV) instantaneous fiat creation no long process

- Psalm 95:3-7 For the LORD [is] the great God, And the great King above all gods. 4 In His hand [are] the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills [are] His also. 5 The sea [is] His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry [land.] 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. 7 For He [is] our God, And we [are] the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: (NKJV)
- Psalm 96:4-5 For the LORD [is] great and greatly to be praised; He [is] to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples [are] idols, But the LORD made the heavens. (NKJV)
- Psalm 113:4-6 The LORD [is] high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. 5 Who [is] like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high, 6 Who humbles Himself to behold [The things that are] in the heavens and in the earth? (NKJV)
- Psalm 115:15-16 [May] you [be] blessed by the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. 16 The heaven, [even] the heavens, [are] the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men. (NKJV)
- Revelation 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.(NKJV) Revelation 14:7 saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water. (NKJV) = We must respond to our CREATOR.
- Revelation 14:7 saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water. (NKJV)

God stretched out the heavens. In 1929 Edwin Hubble discovered the universe is still moving away from us. The study of this distance and velocity as expressed in the Hubble constant has become the center of the current debate on the age of the Cosmos. Two groups are at odds, both secular scientific positions. One says 9 billion the other 15. One thing is for sure, they don't know and are guessing! (6) Remember design shows a designer and complexity shows a Creator! Yet Science Magazine says it outright in 1980, "there is no evidence of macro evolution." (7) The key is in the statement of Rich Bozarth published in the American Atheist, "If we can remove Adam and Eve we wipe out Christianity!" (8)

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Biblical Prophecy I

BYT: Message Six (960616AM)

Isaiah 41

What is the simplest and yet most profound evidence the Bible offers? It is prophecy fulfilled, an irrefutable verification reserved to the Judeo-Christian Scriptures alone. Prophecy is the missing element in all other sacred scriptures of the world's religions; It is not to be found in the Koran, the Hindu Vedas, the Bhagavad-Gita, the Book of Mormon, the sayings of Buddha, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy (Christian Science). By contrast prophecy comprises about one third of the Scriptures! Isaiah 41:21 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong [reasons,]" says the King of Jacob. (NKJV)

Wilbur Smith (The Incomparable Book, Beacon Publications), a man who has read several thousand books, concludes that "whatever one may think of the authority of and the message presented in the book we call the Bible, there is world-wide agreement that in more ways than one it is the most remarkable volume that has ever been produced in these some five thousand years of writing on the part of the human race. It is the only volume ever produced by man, or a group of men in which is to be found a large body of prophecies relating to individual nations, to Israel, to all the peoples of the earth, to certain cities, and to the coming of One who was to be the Messiah."

The ancient world had many different devices for determining the future, known as divination, but not in the entire gamut of Greek and Latin literature, even though they use the words prophet and prophecy, can we find any real specific prophecy of a great historic event to come in the distant future, nor any prophecy of a Savior to arise in the human race..... Neither can the founders of any cult in this country rightly identify any ancient text specifically foretelling their appearance."

When we say PROPHECY we mean detailed, specific descriptions of future events.

- Not a few, hundreds.
- Not close calls, fulfilled to the letter.
- Not historical accounts as they unfolded, but prophecies written centuries, many centuries before they took place.

Shouldn't we treat it differently, read it diligently, wait before it expectantly and from it learn to live triumphantly?

Remember when we started this series we saw there are several reasons why I believe the Bible is true:

1. JESUS CHRIST: Because our Lord Jesus Christ said so! Over and over we find Him asking those who questioned Him, "Have you never read?", "It is written", and "Search the Scriptures".

2. APOSTLES & PROPHETS: Because all the writers said so thousands of times. They were totally convinced that they were sharing words that were not originating with them.

3. HISTORICAL ACCURACY: Because of its archaeological verification.

4. SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY: Because of its scientific accuracy in every realm. Genesis is foundational to all we know in life. Origins, purpose, and destiny. Then week #5 was creation as recorded by the Word of God!

5. PROPHETIC ACCURACY: Because of its fulfilled prophecy, the Bible has proven itself to be true. Just for an example let me share some of the Scriptures that surround the life of Christ that are quite well known.

A. PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST. There are no less than 300 specific prophecies in the Scriptures about our Lord Jesus Christ. Those who won't believe the Bible say He just arranged to have all these events happen. Listen to just a few and see if you think it would take anything less than the OMNIPOTENCE of God to 'arrange' these details!

DIVINE DETAILS ABOUT HIS FIRST COMING:

1. First, Jesus arranged to have His death described a thousand years before it took place with the precision of a medical research project. In about 1000 BC David was moved by the Holy Spirit to pen the words of Psalm 22. The graphic details are just another reminder. This Psalm details the death of Christ a millennium before it took place. Who described crucifixion hundreds of years before its use as a form of execution? God through David. These prophecies surrounding the death of Christ are amazing. But God spoke with equal clarity on other topics. Each of the following events could stand up in any court of law as a perfect case for supernatural divination. God telling the future to the minutest detail.
2. Second, Jesus arranged to have a man living in 700 BC named Isaiah to foretell that His birth would be a miraculous virgin birth. That was 7 centuries before it happened. In fact all of history AD & BC is built on Christ and His coming! Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (KJV)
3. Third, Jesus arranged that He would be able to die with some thieves? And that He wanted to be buried in a rich man's tomb. He also had to arrange that He be disfigured by beating. And through the whole ignominious affair he had to remain like a lamb silent? Did all that really happen? Yes, and in Isaiah 53, again 700 years before the event, God tells us in stunning detail exactly how it would happen. Christ arranged it because He is God the Son!
4. Fourthly, Jesus had to persuade His parents (before He was born) to travel all the way to Bethlehem so He could be born there. How come? Because a little known prophet named Micah gave us the exact location of the Messiah's birth, 500 years before it took place! Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting. (KJV) Luke 2:4-7 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. (KJV) And it took Augustus Caesar to make an empire wide decree, all to accomplish the plan of God.

DIVINE DETAILS ABOUT HIS DEATH:

Thirty-three prophecies were fulfilled in a single day when the Lord Jesus died. Those prophecies included details of His betrayal (Psalm 41:9; Mark 14:10), His being forsaken by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:50), the actual price of His betrayal [He had to arrange that Judas would trade Him for exactly 30 pieces of silver] (Zechariah 11: 12; Matthew 26:15), what would be done with the betrayal money [He had to convince those hardened religious leaders to use that betrayal money to buy a very specific piece of real estate] (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:3,7), His scourging (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:26,30), His trial being furthered by false witnesses (Psalm 35:11; Mark 14:56), what would be done with His garments [He had to arrange that the Roman soldiers would divide His garments into four parts but not tear His robe, instead they must gamble for it] (Psalm 22:18; John 19:24), His death by crucifixion contrary to the normal Jewish method of execution by stoning (Psalm 22:16; John 19:16), His thirst (Psalm 69:3; John 19:28), His being given vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21; John 19:29), the piercing of His side [He had to arrange that the Roman soldiers spear His side so the Scriptures would come true] (Zechariah 12: 10; John 19:34), the mockery of the people (Psalm 22:7-8; Matthew 27:40), no bone being broken in His body. [This one was hard, He had to convince them not to break His legs in spite of being a special prisoner. Pilate wanted to make sure was dead] (Exodus 12:46; John 19:33,36), and His place of burial (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60). But of course the greatest feat of all was to convince over 500 people He actually came back to life, that they should give up all hope of comfort and material gain in this life and spend the rest of their now endangered lives trying to convince everyone they met that what they believed about this Jesus was true!] Well, that is just what Bible prophecy teaches. And, it really happened, just as the Scriptures said it would.

B. As we have seen, these were by no means all the prophecies fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus, but these were all fulfilled in a single day. Some of these prophecies depended for their fulfillment on the actions of His enemies, people who knew well the prophetic Scriptures and who certainly had no interest in seeing any of them fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Then, too, some of the prophecies depended on the actions of His executioners, the Roman soldiers who crucified Him, men who did not have the remotest idea that they were fulfilling prophecy. All told the Bible says:

- He was to be born:
 1. of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 21:12; Galatians 3:16) AND HE WAS!
 2. of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:8-10; Revelation 5:5) AND HE WAS!
 3. of the line of David (2 Samuel 7:12-13; Jeremiah 23:5; Acts 13:23; Romans 1:3-4) AND HE WAS!

4. of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1: 18-21) AND HE WAS!
 5. in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1) AND HE WAS!
- He was to sojourn in Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:13-15)
 - He was to be:
 1. Announced by a herald (Malachi 4:5-6; Mark 1: 1-8; Matthew 11:13-14)
 2. Anointed with the Holy Spirit (Psalm 45:7; Isaiah 1 1:2; 61:1; Matthew 3:16; Luke 4:18-19)
 3. His ministry was to commence in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-13,16,23).
 4. He was to preach the gospel (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:16-19).
 5. His ministry was to be accompanied by tenderness, compassion, and transparency (Isaiah 40:11; 42:3; 53:9; Matthew 12:18-21; 1 Peter 2:21-23).
 6. He was to be rejected by His relatives (Psalm 69:8; John 7:2-5); by His nation (Psalm 69:4; 118:22; Matthew 21:42-46)
 7. He was to ride in triumph into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11).
 8. He was to be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-16) and the blood money subsequently used to buy a potter's field (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:3-10) at the hands of a friend (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18-2 1); in fact all His friends would forsake Him (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:56)
 9. After His death, He was to: be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; John 19:38-42) be raised from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:23-32); ascend into Heaven (Psalm 68:18; Luke 24:51); take His place at God's right hand in Heaven (Psalm 110:1); Hebrews 1:3); exercise a priestly office in Heaven (Zechariah 6:13; Romans 8:34)

C. What does all this mean? But how about you and me? How has the Bible impacted your course?

- Have you met the Author? Do you know Him personally today? John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (NKJV)
- Do you see the unshakable conviction of those 40 men who wrote down God's words? Do you have an unshakable conviction about YOUR life, its purpose, direction? How about death? Are you ready? Your ticket is only obtainable in person, by you before you go. There are no illegal immigrants in heaven!
- Do you follow that unique message of the Kingdom? Have you bowed to the King? Are you glorifying God in every way you know how?
- Do you see its Divine Endurance and greatness? Nothing but truth, containing all truth and more than all combined? Is it your daily and only guide?
- And its history - God's story. He is the author and director. He has a great ending for those who follow Him. Where do you fit? Where will you go when God looks at you? Matthew 7:20-23 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy

name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (KJV)

In Part 6 of this series, we will look at: FIVE EVENTS GOD DIRECTED AND FORETOLD THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF THE WORLD!

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8. 2/78, pp. 19-30.
9. MacArthur, John F., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.
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Biblical Prophecy II

BYT: Message Seven (960623AM)

Isaiah 41

What is the simplest and yet most profound evidence the Bible offers? Fulfilled Biblical prophecy. What an irrefutable verification reserved to the Judeo-Christian Scriptures alone. Prophecy is the missing element in all other sacred scriptures of the world's religions, It is not to be found in them, by contrast prophecy comprises about one third of the Scriptures!

What Does the Word Prophecy Mean?

When we say PROPHECY we mean detailed, specific descriptions of future events.

- Not a few, hundreds.
- Not close calls, fulfilled to the letter.
- Not historical accounts as they unfolded, but prophecies written centuries, many centuries before they took place.

Because of the undeniable verification of history pre-written by God, may I impress upon your heart that the book you hold in your hands is unlike any other in the universe? And with that truth deeply upon our hearts, in the days ahead, shouldn't we treat it differently, read it diligently, wait before it expectantly, and from it learn to live triumphantly?

Last week we learned about PROPHECIES OF JESUS CHRIST. There are no less than 300 specific prophecies in the Scriptures about our Lord Jesus Christ.

But this week lets look at FIVE EVENTS GOD DIRECTED AND FORETOLD THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF THE WORLD!

God writes history in advance. To get a frame of reference imagine with me that in 1700, somewhere in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, an unknown religious writer wrote about a future ruler. This ruler:

- Would come to power in Europe
- Would take control of a land called Germany [in 1700 it was called Prussia]
- Would be named Adolph Hitler
- Would conquer the continent
- And would be defeated by the Allied Forces

Now notice the year was 1700 and there was no

- Allied Forces, America was a Colony of Britain
- There was barely a Germany

- and Hitler was not to be born for 200 years!

Now, turn with me to Isaiah 41 to see why this description is so important. Look at another demonstration of the power of God as shown through His Word.

Isaiah 41:21 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong [reasons,]" says the King of Jacob. (NKJV)

Now look at Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (NKJV)

God has staked His very character on the perfection and permanence of His Word! Look at His character revealed in v. 12-31. So God declared that:

- Because idols are foolish Isaiah 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? (NKJV)
- Because God is eternal and powerful Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (NKJV)
- Let me show you My power Isaiah 41:21-23 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong [reasons,]" says the King of Jacob. 22 "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they [were,] That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. 23 Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you [are] gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see [it] together. (NKJV)

Declaring the future with precise details is a proof of God and His Divine Power! Now lets examine some of those precise details about the future He has written down for us.

THE REIGN OF CYRUS [written in 740 BC = 181 years before it happened in 559 BC]

This is the prophecy of Five that changed the course of the world, is about a future conqueror named by God two hundred years before His birth! Sitting at a desk in a small and obscure home in ancient walled Jerusalem a young prophet of the God of Israel named Isaiah did just that. Open with me please to Isaiah 45:1-3

"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held -- To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: 2 'I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call [you] by your name, [Am] the God of Israel. (NKJV)

These words were inspired by God to Isaiah in about the year 740 BC. What are the specifics? First we will list them and then back up and see what exactly God is saying. Why don't you note them with me:

- A ruler not even born yet is coming. He will subdue nations and open doors for God. He is called by name - Cyrus (He was born in about 589 BC and reigned from 559 to 530 BC) nearly 200 years after these words were written.
- The Lord says he was an anointed servant doing the plan of God. Note that God has some very specific plans for him to carry out Isaiah 44:28 Who says of Cyrus, '[He is] My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' (NKJV)
- Wait a minute. Isaiah is looking at the Temple on Moriah even as he writes these words. It is Solomon's and it is there in all its glory. The Babylonians don't destroy it for 154 more years in 586 BC.
- The Lord says:
The city of Jerusalem will be taken,
Temple will be destroyed,
A pagan ruler will command its reconstruction,
And all this at the hand of a God who declares it almost 200 years ahead of time!

So when Isaiah speaks of a future conqueror ordained of God he is demonstrating one of the claims of the Lord to His right to be worshiped. As God He WRITES THE FUTURE!

Isaiah 41:23 Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you [are] gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see [it] together. (NKJV). Here are the other elements of this prophecy.

1. **BABYLON WILL BE CONQUERED** Now look at Isaiah 43:14-21 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I will send to Babylon, And bring them all down as fugitives -- The Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. 15 I [am] the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King." 16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters, 17 Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick): 18 "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness [And] rivers in the desert. 20 The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness [And] rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen. 21 This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise. (NKJV)
2. **IDOLS ARE FOOLISH AND IMPOTENT** Isaiah 44:9-20
3. **GOD ALONE IS MAGNIFICENT AND GLORIOUS AS CREATOR, REDEEMER AND SUSTAINER:** Isaiah 44:24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I [am] the LORD, who makes all [things,] Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; (NKJV)
4. **GOD CONFIRMED HIS WORD ABOUT EVENTS NOT YET EVEN HAPPENED** Isaiah 44:26 Who confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' To the cities

of Judah, 'You shall be built,' And I will raise up her waste places; (NKJV) Jerusalem was not even destroyed when God promised her rebuilding!

5. **GOD NAMES THE TOOL THAT WILL DO ALL THIS** (conquer Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem) Isaiah 44:28 Who says of Cyrus, '[He is] My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' (NKJV) HIS NAME IS CYRUS!

There are two parts to this story. First the fall of Babylon and second the rebuilding of Jerusalem and its Temple.

1. **THE FALL**

So, 200 years pass and Babylon sits proud, powerful and impregnable. The walls of the city are 30 stories (300 feet) high. They are 90 feet thick at the bottom and have a chariot road at the top that allowed 2 chariots to pass each other as they traveled around. But as I already said in chapter 13, Babylon will fall. And here is the name of the one who will do it - CYRUS. So, Cyrus is born, he leads the Persians, and on October 29th, 539 BC he enters Babylon, kills Belteshazzar (Daniel 5) and takes the city!

2. **THE REBUILDING**

Look with me at Ezra 1:1-4 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also [put it] in writing, saying, 2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which [is] in Judah. 3 Who [is] among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which [is] in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He [is] God), which [is] in Jerusalem. 4 And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which [is] in Jerusalem. (NKJV) Cyrus acknowledges God and decrees the rebuilding project. Wow. God said it in the writings of a prophet who wrote from 740 - 700 BC. Babylon would take Israel. Cyrus would take Babylon. Jerusalem and its Temple would be rebuilt at Cyrus' expense.

Well, 200 years pass and it all happens, just like God said. And that is why he is God, only God could do that.

1. THE DESTRUCTION OF TYRE:
2. THE DOWNFALL OF EGYPT
3. THE DOWNFALL OF BABYLON:
4. THE JUDGMENT UPON JERUSALEM:

Back to Isaiah 41:17-20 "The poor and needy seek water, but [there is] none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the LORD, will hear them; [I,] the God of Israel, will not forsake them. 18 I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land springs of water. 19 I will plant in the wilderness

the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree [and] the pine And the box tree together, 20 That they may see and know, And consider and understand together, That the hand of the LORD has done this, And the Holy One of Israel has created it. (NKJV) Look at Him through Isaiah's eyes. Do you see the One who can be known?

- **MEET HIM FIRST BY FAITH:** John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (NKJV)
- **FIND HIM ENOUGH EACH MOMENT:** If so then you can find Him to be the ALL SUFFICIENT GOD WHO IS ENOUGH. Listen to Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these [things,] Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of [His] power; Not one is missing. (NKJV)

-You can trust His ALL SUFFICIENT WORD THAT IS ENOUGH Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." (NKJV)

- And then wherever you are in the world,
- At whatever stage you are in life,
- At whatever level you are of need spiritually, emotionally or physically

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A Flat Tyre

BYT: Message Eight (960630AM)

Ezekiel 26

Dr. John Phillips states in his book Exploring Prophecy:

"Of the hundreds of specific and detailed prophecies in the Bible we could examine, here is one of the most famous: the body of prophecy concerning the destruction of Tyre. That magnificent Phoenician city on the coast of Palestine was leveled to the dust by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. in one of history's most spectacular battles."

Tyre was the proudest and most prosperous city on earth when Ezekiel wrote chapters 26 and 28 - the emporium of the world, its markets bulging with gold and precious stones from Ethiopia and Arabia, silver from Spain, tin from Britain, emeralds from Damascus, ivory from the East, and wheat, honey, and oil from Palestine.

What is the simplest and yet most profound evidence the Bible offers? Fulfilled Biblical prophecy. What an irrefutable verification reserved to the Judeo-Christian Scriptures alone. Prophecy is the missing element in all other sacred scriptures of the world's religions, It is not to be found in them, by contrast prophecy comprises about one third of the Scriptures! When we say PROPHECY we mean detailed, specific descriptions of future events.

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God writes history in advance. Declaring the future with precise details is a proof of God and His Divine Power! Now lets examine some of those precise details about the future He has written down for us.

1. THE REIGN OF CYRUS [written in 740 BC -- 181 years before it happened in 559 BC]
Open with me please to Isaiah 45:1-3 A ruler not even born yet is coming. He will subdue nations and open doors for God. He is called by name - Cyrus (He was born in about 589 BC and reigned from 559 to 530 BC) nearly 200 years after these words were written.

When God wanted to describe the fall of Satan there was no prouder and more haughty people than those of Tyre. As no other creature, Lucifer basked in the splendor and radiance of God's glory. The name Lucifer means "star of the morning" or, more literally, "the bright one." But he was not satisfied with living in God's glory, and he said in his heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High" (Isa. 14:13-14). His ambition was not to reflect God's glory but to usurp God's sovereign power-while forsaking righteousness. Therefore when Satan declared his intention to make himself like the Most High, the Most High responded by declaring to His adversary, "You will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit" (v. 15).

The first sin was pride, and every sin after that has been in some way an extension of pride. Pride led the angel Lucifer to exalt himself above his Creator and Lord. Because the bright "star of the morning" continually said, "I will, I will, I will" in opposition to God's will, he was cast out of heaven (Isa. 14:12-23). Because he said, "I am a god," the Lord cast him "from the mountain of God" (Ezek. 28:11-19). The original sin of Adam and Eve was pride, trusting in their own understanding above God's (Gen. 3:6-7). The writer of Proverbs warns, "When pride comes, then comes dishonor" (11:2), "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling" (16:18), and again "Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin" (21:4).

Pride comes in many forms. We may be tempted to be proud of our abilities, our possessions, our education, our social status, our appearance, our power, and even our biblical knowledge or religious accomplishments. But throughout Scripture the Lord calls His people to humility. "Before honor comes humility" (Prov. 15:33); "The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life" (22:4); "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips" (27:2).

Humility is an ingredient of all spiritual blessing. Just as every sin has its roots in pride, every virtue has its roots in humility. Humility allows us to see ourselves as we are, because it shows us before God as He is. Just as pride is behind every conflict we have with other people and every problem of fellowship we have with the Lord, so humility is behind every harmonious human relationship, every spiritual success, and every moment of joyous fellowship with the Lord.

In Ezekiel's day such predictions as those in chapter 26 must have sounded ridiculous. Tyre was mistress of the seas, the seaport of the world. Even mighty Carthage, whose troops under Hannibal almost conquered Rome, was a mere colony of Tyre. Tyre enjoyed its great prosperity between 1100 and 573 B.C. Its location enabled it to resist capture for centuries. Its walls defied even the siege-wise troops of Assyria.

2. THE DESTRUCTION OF TYRE: [written in 593 BC -- 261 years before it happened in 332 BC]

The story of Tyre's doom originated several centuries earlier when the prophet Ezekiel (who wrote for God from 593 to 571 BC) pronounced the city's destruction because of its traffic in slaves and its vile, cruel religion. In foretelling Tyre's overthrow, the prophet added detail after detail (Ezekiel 26).

- COALITION: that many nations would come against the city (26:3);
- COMPLETE: that the actual site of the city would be left flat and scraped as clean as a rock (26:4);
- CLEARED: that where Tyre once had stood fishermen would spread their nets (26:5);
- CAMPAIGN: He said that the invader Nebuchadnezzar would first take the suburbs of the city (the "daughter" cities of Tyre) in 26:6;
- CONQUEST: and then he would take Tyre itself (26:6-11);
- CAST DOWN: that Tyre itself would be thrown into the sea (26:12);
- CURSED: and finally, for good measure, the city known to Ezekiel would never again be rebuilt (26:14).

THEY WERE PROUD! By the time Nebuchadnezzar's troops came hammering at its gates, Tyre was riding the crest of imperial might and power, secure in the belief that, having defied the Assyrians for five years, its defenders could certainly sneer down from its walls and fortresses at the Babylonians. But Tyre's hour had come, although none of its citizenry knew it.

- First, THE CAMPAIGN STARTS! Nebuchadnezzar's armies took the daughter cities of Tyre on the mainland as foretold; then, in 585 B.C., he brought the full weight of arms to bear on the main prize itself. For months he battered away at the city's defenses until at last he broke through, sacked the town, burned the city to the ground, and left it a heap of rubble littering the landscape. The people of Tyre, however, escaped to an island lying half a mile offshore, and from there they continued to defy the Babylonians. Nebuchadnezzar had neither the fleet nor the resources for an amphibious assault on the new Tyre. He continued his siege for another thirteen years and then gave up. Both sides acknowledged that the situation was a stalemate, and they signed a truce in 572 B.C.
- Tyre had won a moral victory over Nebuchadnezzar, but part of Ezekiel's prophecy had been fulfilled. The Tyre known by the prophet was no more, and its ruins testified to the partial fulfillment of prophecy. But it seemed it must remain just a partial fulfillment, for Nebuchadnezzar had more important matters on his mind than tossing the rubble of Tyre into the sea merely to fulfill the oracles of a Hebrew prophet whose name he likely did not even know. Meanwhile, the people of the new island Tyre set about fortifying their city against further would-be invaders. They built mighty walls 150 feet high all around the coastline of their city. They mined the channel to the mainland with underwater obstacles to sink unwary enemy ships, and they built a first-class navy. For two and a half centuries they rested in a false security while Ezekiel's prophecies slumbered in the womb of time.
- Then, in 332 B.C., Alexander the Great came hammering at their walls, and Alexander was a far more brilliant tactician than Nebuchadnezzar.
- The Macedonians had just won a tremendous victory over the Persian army in 333 B.C. Flushed with victory, they were marching south to take Egypt. Alexander had no intention of leaving a powerful city-state like Tyre standing astride his lines of communication, and since his navy was no match for Tyre's, he decided to build a causeway from the mainland to the island. To get the materials he needed for that mammoth project he used the rubble of old Tyre, left behind centuries before by Nebuchadnezzar. Before the causeway was finished, his engineers and sappers had scraped up the very dust of the old ruins and thrown it into the sea.

- The people of the island fought back desperately to halt the building of that causeway of doom, but God's clock had struck the hour. Nothing now could prevent Tyre's full and final fall. Alexander's men made giant shields for shelter from the arrows and missiles of the foe as the mole they were building crept relentlessly on. Then his engineers built mobile towers, twenty stories high, with an upper platform that towered 160 feet above the ground. These towers were dragged along the causeway and from them Alexander's troops could look right down into stricken Tyre. Drawbridges on the front of the towers enabled the Macedonians to leap at last over the massive walls and take the city.
- So Tyre fell and Alexander had unwittingly fulfilled Ezekiel's ancient prophecy. As the centuries came and went, drifting sand from the sea converted Alexander's causeway into a peninsula on which fishermen now spread their nets.

Peter Stoner, a mathematician, once applied the law of compound probabilities to seven Biblical prophecies concerning Tyre. He assigned conservative estimates of probability to each of the seven statements to see if Ezekiel's prophecy could have been fulfilled by chance. He concluded that Ezekiel's chances of writing this prophecy and having it come true by luck amounted to one chance in seventy-five thousand. Yet everything came true to the minutest detail.

If this were the only such prophecy in the Bible one could concede that a fortuitous series of coincidences might have brought about the fulfillment. But there are scores of other such prophecies in the Old Testament dealing with the fate of cities and nations.

- Following the same ground rules, Dr. Stoner applied the law of probabilities to Biblical prophecies concerning (1) Samaria, (2) Gaza and Ashkelon, (3) Jericho, (4) the golden gate in Jerusalem, (5) the plowing of Zion, (6) the enlargement of Jerusalem, (7) Palestine, (8) Moab and Ammon, (9) Edom, and (10) Babylon.
- He worked out the probabilities for the various prophecies connected with those places and came to the astonishing conclusion that the chances of the accumulated predictions all coming true were one in 5.76×10^{59} th that is, one chance in 5.76 multiplied by 10 and followed by 59 zeros.
- Such a figure is beyond our power to comprehend when thus stated; it is astronomical. Dr. Stoner, therefore, illustrated what such a figure means. He suggested we make 5.76×10^{10} to the 59th power silver dollars. That many silver dollars, he said, would be sufficient for us to make 10^{28} power solid silver balls each the size of our sun. Or, to put it another way, from our pile of silver dollars we could make the equivalent of all the stars in all the galaxies of space two million times over. Now let us suppose that one of those 5.76×10^{59} silver dollars was marked. The chance that these accumulated prophecies could all come true would be the same chance of a blind man finding that marked silver dollar the first time he tried.

The Bible contains far more than the eleven groupings of prophecy treated by Dr. Stoner. In each of them the words ring out from Isaiah 42:21-23 The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make [it] honorable. 22 But this [is] a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, And they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!" 23 Who among you will give ear to this? [who] will listen and hear for the time to come? (NKJV)

3. THE DOWNFALL OF EGYPT

- **THE PROPHECY:** Jeremiah 46:25-26 The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saith; Behold, I will punish the multitude of No, and Pharaoh, and Egypt, with their gods, and their kings; even Pharaoh, and [all] them that trust in him: 26 And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants: and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD. (KJV) the year is 605BC, an unknown Hebrew prophet named Jeremiah speaks about one of the greatest nations on earth - EGYPT.
- **THE TIME FRAME:** Pyramids 2600 BC; Moses and the Exodus 1446 BC; Jeremiah's time 605 BC Egypt is powerful and great as a world power. In his prophesy God says that the capital city under the New Kingdom (1567-1085 BC) will be destroyed.
- **GOD'S AMAZING DETAILS:** He says that the great Egypt will be struck by a king named Nebuchadnezzar. If you were to go to the greatest treasure house of biblical archaeology today the British museum in London you would find the following recorded in the Chaldean/ Babylonian Rooms. In 568 BC after 18 years spent capturing Israel's southern kingdom (Judah), Nebuchadnezzar marched the length of the Nile, all the way to the 1st cataract at Aswan. He destroyed the capital city of No (Thebes) and left it a heap of rubble. We stood in silent, worshipful awe on that hot, dusty heap a few years ago. It has not been rebuilt to this day! What a chilling reminder it was that God is in control. ...

4. THE DOWNFALL OF BABYLON:

- **THE PROPHECY :** It is the year 740 BC and the prophet Isaiah is writing under the control of the Holy Spirit the words of Isaiah 13:6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD [is] at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. (KJV)
- **THE TIME FRAME:** Babylon does not come on the world scene for 135 years. but God sees them and tells us about their coming desolation. The city of Babylon with its million inhabitants. a city of gold, the richest kingdom of the ancient world would be destroyed.
- **GOD'S AMAZING DETAILS:** Yes, as a quiet Hebrew prophet sat down to his writing table, the Spirit of the cosmos hovered over him and breathed out through his pen the events that would alter the direction of human history.
- Now turn to Daniel 5:28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. (KJV) This "handwriting on the wall" event took place 135 years after God told Isaiah to write it down!
- Daniel is summoned hastily to the banqueting hall. Old and stooped down he shuffles in having served nearly 70 years in the Babylonian empire. Looking up at the 70' high palace walls , past the first 50' of royal blue at the top in the plaster a horribly large hand suspended, finger outstretched is scribing the wall with a terse four word eviction notice. Impending judgment foretold and now due! Herodotus the Roman historian.
- On that night Cyrus waded through the shallow waters of the diverted canal of Babylon to conquer and fulfill God's promised fall. The city fades never to return, occupied only by wild animals.

- What did Isaiah say, the MEDES? They were so unknown, distant and little at the time he wrote that prophesy down it would be like saying that Monaco would conquer America. ONLY GOD WRITES DOWN HISTORY BEFORE IT HAPPENS!

5. THE JUDGMENT UPON JERUSALEM: [spoken in AD 30 = 40 years before it happened] This prophesy was made by none other than Jesus Himself who predicted the horrible future awaiting the city after His crucifixion. As he wept over the city He said Luke 19:43-44 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (NKJV). Again He said Luke 21:24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (NKJV)

- Gethsemane, Gabbatha, Golgotha and the Empty Grave were about the year AD 30. Forty years (the number of testing) pass.
- In AD 70 it happened. An eyewitness by the name of Josephus gives the grisly details as a news reporter at the scene of this carnage where 600,000 Jews were slain and many more thousands were taken away into captivity.
- Again they rebel in AD 134 and this time Hadrian ruthlessly smashes them, destroys the city, levels, plows up the foundations and rebuilds a pagan city Aelia Capitolina. All Jews are banished and scattered.
- Yes, again the Bible is true and without error. It is God alone who knows and can reveal the future.

6. CONCLUSION: The Bible is powerful , so there are seven reasons to study God's Word. They are because it is a (JB):

- **REVEALER** -- It discovers and convicts us of sin in our lives.

John 16:7-10 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; (KJV)

- **REMOVER** -- Through it God's Spirit cleanses us from sin

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

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. (KJV)

- **RESTORER** -- It imparts strength to our spiritual man

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts. (KJV)

- **REMINDER** -- It instructs us in going God's way

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (KJV)

- **RESISTOR** -- It provides us a sword for victory over sin and temptations

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (KJV)

- **REFINER** -- It shapes us into a life that glorifies Him

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (KJV)

- **REVIVER** -- It drives us to prayerful dependence

Psalm 119:25 My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. (KJV)

John 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (KJV)

1. Scroggie says that the Gospels total 3,779 verses. The words of Christ total 1,934 of them. Jesus quotes the Old Testament 180x so just under 10% of His recorded words are Old Testament quotes!

2. San Diego Union-Tribune, 11/5/93.

3. MacArthur, John F., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

4. Faith for the Family, 11/77, p.29.

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10. World that Perished, foreword.

11. MacArthur, John F., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

Genesis Flood: World That Perished

BYT: Message Nine (960714AM)

As an 11 year old Jr. High student I sat at the feet of **Dr. John Whitcomb** as he said,

"We have been living in an age of deep skepticism. A century of evolutionary philosophy, with its seeds of naturalism and atheism, has yielded the bitter fruits of revolution, non-moralism, and despair. Nevertheless, even in such an age as this, God has 'left not himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you rain from heaven, rains and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness' " (Acts 14:17).

There is also another silent, yet eloquent, witness in the very rocks of the earth's crust. In every nation, in the land beneath our feet, and in the hills and valleys through which we travel reposes a vast cemetery. Therein lie the bones and shells, the teeth and trails of innumerable animals, along with the compressed and carbonized remains of immense forests that once filled a beautiful world. Here and there, scattered widely throughout the rocks, can be found artifacts or other fossil evidences even of the human life of long ago.

Modern speculation has managed to distort the testimony of this sedimentary graveyard into a fictional record of slow evolutionary development over a billion years of imaginary earth history. This strange notion has indeed today become accepted and taught as scientific fact in most of our educational institutions all around the world.

Fossils, however, speak of death-not development! Their witness is one of extinction-not evolution. The God who created all things is a God of both power and mercy. He need not and would not have used the principles of suffering and death (especially the massive and violent death implicit in this fossil witness) as implements of creation.

Fossils speak of death, and death speaks of sin and judgment, not of creation and development. When correctly interpreted, whether theologically or scientifically, this world- wide witness in the very earth itself testifies of a sovereign Creator who controls and judges His creation. Rather than evolutionary progress over many ages, these stones cry out concerning a judicial termination of one age.

The Biblical record is complete with a first hand account of that great hydrodynamic convulsion with which God judged the wickedness of the antediluvian world. Whatever geological problems may be suggested, there can no longer be any question that, if the word of God be true, the Genesis Flood was a world covering, cataclysmic judgment imposed by the strong hand of God.(10)

LIVING IN A WORLD OF SCOFFERS

Now join me in II Peter 3. The Lord tells us what do when you find yourself in a world that denies their Maker!

TRUST THE WORD (v. 2)

EXPECT THE SCOFFERS (v. 3)

As people run amok in sin and every form of debauchery and ungodliness, they will become more and more impervious to God's truth and resentful of His standards of righteousness. They will be so vile, wretched, and preoccupied with sex, drugs, alcohol, materialism, and pleasure seeking that they will believe every explanation for the end-time signs except the one given in Scripture. Rather than turning to God in repentance, they will curse Him (Rev. 9:21).

In the days of Noah before the Flood, they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage. While Noah built the ark, he also preached (2 Pet. 2:5), but the people were just as unconcerned about his preaching as about the ark he was building, thinking both were meaningless and absurd. They laughed when he spoke of the coming flood. They had never seen rain, much less a flood, because until that time the earth was apparently covered by a vapor canopy that provided all the moisture necessary for life to flourish. Because they had never seen such a calamity, they discounted the idea that it could happen. They therefore went about their daily routines of eating and drinking and of marrying and giving in marriage. It was business as usual until the day Noah entered the ark and it started to rain.

The people were so untouched by God's truth that they did not understand their perilous situation until the flood came and took them all away into a godless eternity. Flood translates kataklusmos, which means deluge or washing away, and is the term from which the English cataclysm is derived. Only after it was too late did the people of that generation understand their tragic destiny.

The times in which Noah grew up were among the most evil and corrupt in history. "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). If any man had reason to regret the time in which he lived it was Noah. But he did not complain about when he was born, his lot in life, or his calling. He obeyed as he was and where he was.

Noah's job was to warn the people of his time that God would soon judge them because of their wickedness and unbelief. They had had the same opportunity to know God and His will as had Noah. The difference between Noah and everyone around him was not a difference in the amount of light but a difference in response to it.

RESIST THE LIE (v. 4)

Satan's gospel = uniformitarianism, evolution, impersonal god, animal ancestry and chance.

God's truth = cataclysmic intervention, creation, personal God, image of God and purposeful design.

AFFIRM THE CREATOR (v. 5)

REMEMBER THE JUDGE (v. 6)

The people had no excuse for their sin before Noah began building the ark, and they had even less excuse after he finished. One hundred and twenty years, even when men sometimes lived to be nearly a thousand, was more than ample time for anyone to repent who wanted to repent.

Spurgeon said, "He who does not believe God will punish sin will not believe that he will pardon it through atoning blood." Many people are glad to hear about God's gracious promises but want to hear nothing of His judgment. Spurgeon went on to say, "I charge you who profess the Lord not to be unbelieving with regard to the terrible threatenings of God to the ungodly. Believe the threat even though it should chill your blood. Believe though nature shrinks from the overwhelming doom. For if you do not believe, disbelieving God at one point will drive you to disbelieve God upon the other points of revealed truth."

Against that wicked, cruel, and dark world, Noah's life and testimony shined in glistening condemnation. Black never seems so black as when white is put beside it. The man of faith rebukes the world just by his living, even if he never utters a word of reproach. A young man of Athens told Socrates, "I hate you, because every time I meet you, you show me what I am."

ESCAPE THE FIRE (v. 7)

Perhaps the saddest lesson from Noah's day is that men have not changed in their attitude toward God since then, and will not change until the Lord returns. "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24:37-39).

The parallels of Noah's day to our own are sobering. In Noah's day God's message was rejected, as it is today. In his day wickedness, immorality, violence, lewdness, vulgarity, profanity, lying, killing, and blasphemy were rampant, as they are today. In his day a remnant found grace, just as a remnant believes today. In Noah's day or shortly before it, Enoch was translated, picturing the rapture of believers when the Lord returns, which could be in our day. We can be as sure, as they should have been, that judgment is coming, because God has promised it just as clearly and men deserve it just as much. Someone has said, "If God doesn't destroy our world, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." The next judgment will be different in two ways, however. First, it will not be by flood (Gen. 9:15) but by fire (2 Pet. 3:10). Second, it will be the last. And again the only security is refuge in God's ark, Jesus Christ. (11)

SEEK THE SAVIOR (v. 8-9)

It will be a moment of sheer terror when unbelievers face a holy God and realize with absolute certainty that they are eternally lost. That must have been the feeling of the people of Noah's day when they saw the flood waters rise above their heads and knew the door to the ark was unalterably shut.

The ark symbolized many of God's future dealings with men. The Hebrew word for pitch, for example, has the same root (kpr) as that used for atonement. The pitch kept the waters of judgment from entering the ark just as Christ's atoning blood keeps judgment from the sinner.

The ark is a beautiful picture of the salvation offered in Jesus Christ. The ark was easily large enough to hold all the animals needed to assure each species' survival. It had plenty of room for every person who wanted to come to God for safety. The fact that only eight persons came into the ark means that only eight wanted to be saved on God's terms. God does not wish "for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). God's nature does not change. His will in Peter's time was the same in Noah's time. Only those perished in the Flood who rejected God's way of salvation. Had more come to Him for safety, we can be sure the ark would have accommodated them. Just so, Jesus' blood is more than sufficient to atone for all the sins ever committed since the Fall. That no more people are saved than are simply means that these are the only ones who want to be saved. Jesus declared absolutely that no one who comes to Him will be cast out (John 6:37)

1. Scroggie says that the Gospels total 3,779 verses. The words of Christ total 1,934 of them. Jesus quotes the Old Testament 180x so just under 10% of His recorded words are Old Testament quotes!

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The Life Changing Book

BYT: Message Ten (96022AM)

Psalm 19

Open your Bibles to the Psalm extolling the majesty of God's word, Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV)

Many years ago a missionary statesman stood holding a well worn Bible and said:

Though the cover is worn and pages torn... and places bore traces of tears--

More precious than gold is this book worn... and old, that can shatter and scatter my fears--

When I prayerfully look in this precious old book many pleasures and treasures I see--

Many promises of love from my Father above, who is nearest and dearest to me.

This book is my guide, tis a friend by my side-- it will brighten and lighten my way.

And each promise I find, soothes and gladdens my mind as I teach it and preach it each day.

To this book I will cling, of its worth I will sing though great losses and crosses be mine.

For I cannot despair, though surrounded with care, while possessing this blessing divine.

-Don Jennings-

What is the blessing divine? It is the final reason why I preach that the Bible is literally true is because of its life transforming power. This 7th reason is a crescendo. Looking at them together we can see them as a unit. The Proof of Scripture and then as a second series The Power of the Scriptures.

What Are the Seven Proofs That Verify the Scriptures?

- **JESUS BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURES:** He often said "Search the Scriptures" "have you not read."
 - The One Who created all things Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (KJV)
 - The One who stilled raging seas Mark 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. (KJV)

- The One who quelled the terror of disease Mark 5:34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. (KJV)
- The One who halted the grip of death Luke 8:48-56 And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. 49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. 50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. 51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. 52 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. 56 And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done. (KJV)
- The One who calmed fearful hearts John 6:19-20 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. 20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. (KJV)
- The One who sustains the universe Colossians 1:15-17 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: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (KJV)
- The One who accomplished our eternal redemption Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (KJV)
- He who controlled the elements, commands demons and declares He is the only One who determines each of our destinies! He said it, so I believe Him! What are the other proofs?
- Because of the unshakeable conviction of the **APOSTLES & PROPHETS**: Because all the writers said so thousands of times. They were totally convinced that they were sharing words that were not originating with them. They said 3800 times "thus saith the Lord".
- **SUPERNATURAL ENDURING and SURVIVAL**: Because of its endurance through the ages, despite being the target of empires, armies and infidels the Bible stands like a rock undaunted through the raging storms of time. Its pages burn with the truth eternal and they glow with a light divine. The Bible stands though the hills may tumble it will firmly stand though the earth may crumble. I will take my stand on its firm foundation for the Bible stands!
- **ABSOLUTE DIVINE UNITY**: Because of its incredible unity demonstrated in the fact that from 40 plus men on 3 continents over 1,600 years and 60 generations comes one un mistakeable fabric woven from prison to palace, desert to dungeon, hillside to holy

places. There is one common denominator, one shared theme and one united message. There is but one system of doctrine, one system of ethics, one plan of salvation and one rule of faith. One King and one Kingdom and one entrance into His presence!

- **SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY:** Because of its scientific accuracy in every realm, Genesis is foundational to all we know in life, origins, purpose and destiny. Then week #5 was creation as recorded by the Word of God! In every science it is absolutely accurate: astronomy, geology, hydrology, oceanography, isostasy, and so on!
- **PROPHETIC ACCURACY:** Because of its fulfilled prophecy, the Bible is proven itself to be true. Just for an example let me share some of the Scriptures that surround the life of Christ that are quite well known. Isaiah 41:23 and **HISTORICAL ACCURACY:** Because of its archaeological verification (Criswell)
- **TRANSFORMING POWER!** The Bible of all books in the world has the power to change your life. Other books change your opinion on matters. Only God's book can cause you to have a new nature, a new heart, a new spirit, true peace and true love. That is all only from the Scriptures.

In summary, what are the seven proofs that verify the scriptures?

1. JESUS BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURES
2. APOSTLES & PROPHETS BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURES
3. SUPERNATURAL ENDURING and SURVIVAL OF THE SCRIPTURES
4. ABSOLUTE DIVINE UNITY OF THE SCRIPTURES
5. SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY OF THE SCRIPTURES
6. PROPHETIC ACCURACY and HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE SCRIPTURES
7. TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE SCRIPTURES ! The Bible of all books in the world has the power to change your life. Other books change your opinion on matters. Only God's book can cause you to have a new nature, a new heart, a new spirit, true peace, and true love. That is all only from the Scriptures.

How Do the Scriptures Change Me?

In one place, in the Bible, the powerful Scriptures are most clearly displayed. In six masterful strokes the eternal author etches his character and sufficiency toward us. We are introduced in this passage to the first of six synonyms for the Word of God. In fact there are three sets of truths:

- There are Six **TITLES** given for the **WORD**: law, testimonies, statutes, commandments, fear, judgments.
- There are Six **ATTRIBUTES** given for the **WORD**: perfect law, sure testimonies, right statutes, pure commandments, clean fear, true judgments.
- There are Six **EFFECTS** given for the **WORD**: perfect law restores, sure testimonies makes wise, right statutes rejoice, pure commandments enlightens, clean fear endures, true judgments vindicates.

All of these reveal the Word in a whole new, powerful and refreshing way.

- They give us God's purpose and plan for His Word.
 - They are His review on this new product He has manufactured.
 - They give us the operator's manual for this new high powered instrument.
1. THE DIVINE TEACHER: God's truth that totally transforms
 2. THE DIVINE WITNESS: God's testimony absolutely trustworthy
 3. THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe
 4. THE DIVINE DECREES: God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes
 5. THE DIVINE CONDITION: fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me
 6. THE DIVINE DECISIONS: God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.

Turn with me to Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV) Here God tells us that His Word is to be our TEACHER, the Word is identified as a DIVINE TEACHING. God says, "In my Book I give rules for living!"

What God is saying is that if you were a castaway on a desolate island somewhere and only had a Bible, you could see the utter transformation of a society and the people of that society by the proclamation and reception of the WORD. No other books, ministries, schools, clinics, counselors, support groups, or media needed! Witness the work of Jonah in pagan Ninevah!

So we are focusing on the Power of Scripture. We need to see three things in this study:

- a. What does God claim His Word can do?
- b. What changes take place when we let Him work in our life?
- c. How does God define the role His Word is to have in our life? And that will be the marvelous six fold portrait of the Scriptures in Psalm 19.

Seven Reasons Why I Should Study God's Word

The Bible is Powerful, so there are Seven Reasons to Study God's Word.

1. IT'S GOD'S BIOPSY: A DIVINE REVEALER -- It discovers and convicts us of sin in our lives

John 16:7-10 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; (KJV)

2. IT'S GOD'S SURGERY: A DIVINE REMOVER -- Through it God's Spirit cleanses us from sin

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

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. (KJV)

3. IT'S GOD'S THERAPY: A DIVINE RESTORER -- It imparts strength to our spiritual man

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts. (KJV)

4. IT'S GOD'S PRESCRIPTION: A DIVINE REMINDER -- It instructs us in going God's way

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (KJV)

5. IT'S GOD'S ANTIBIOTICS: A DIVINE RESISTER -- It provides us a sword for victory over sin and temptations

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (KJV)

6. IT'S GOD'S EXERCISE PROGRAM: A DIVINE REFINER -- It shapes us into a life that glorifies Him

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (KJV)

7. IT'S GOD'S HEALTH SPA: A DIVINE REVIVER -- It drives us to prayerful dependence

Psalm 119:25 My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. (KJV)

John 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (KJV)

So THIS INDISPUTABLY proven book when taken by faith is powerful. This morning the question is do you let it change your life?

- Do you read the Word daily?
- Do you eat it by memorization?
- Do you seek God in His Word first? Or second after the newspaper, TV and so on?
- You can test your spiritual temperature by the entry level we give the Word in our daily life!

1. Our Amazing World of Nature, Readers digest Books, 1969, pp. 261-63.

2. Henry Morris, 9/96, Back to Genesis #93.

3. Billy Graham, APPROACHING HOOFBEATS, p. 13-14., 1954, R.B. Munger.

4. Mark Syverud, *Daily Messenger* , (August 13, 1995).

5. The Bulletin, Bend, OR (4/4/96), A-8.

6. The Berean Call, 8/96.

7. World's Last Mysteries, Readers Digest Books, p.

8. Who moved the Stone?

9. Exploring Our Living Planet, NGB, p. 39>

10. Exploring, p. 30.

The Life Changing Book – II

BYT: Message Eleven (960929AM)

Perhaps the clearest picture of the Power of Scripture was painted by a shepherd boy on a grassy hill in the Middle East 3,000 years ago.

David Sang of the Power of the Scriptures Psalm 19

Unquestionably the most majestic and awesome affirmation of the Divine Scriptures is in Psalm 19. As we turn there think with me. . . how did David the shepherd boy, a man after God's own heart, arrive at such an incredible understanding of the Word? Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (KJV) In Hebrew hashe-mayim mesaperim-kevoth-ale The heavens are shouting the glory of their Almighty Creator God. When you come to Psalm 19 God says the Heavens are shouting the wonders of their Creator!

As a boy, David must have chosen to focus his heart upon the study of God's two great books: NATURE and SCRIPTURE. Think of this, so careful was David's study of these two books, he compares and contrasts them. He skillfully magnifies the wondrous character and person of the Author in both!

Psalm 19 magnifies God's Revelation of Himself.

1. In v. 1-6 through CREATION God is revealed in a general way. (general revelation)
2. In v. 7-14 the SCRIPTURES reveal God in a special way. (special revelation)

One of the amazing ways nature reveals its Almighty Creator is the majesty of a common thunderstorm. David watched many as he sat long hours on lonely hills watching his flock. They were so much a part of his life that they crop up repeatedly in his and Asaph's writing of the Psalms.

- Psalm 18:13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. (KJV)
- Psalm 29:3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. (KJV)
- Psalm 77:18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook. (KJV)
- Psalm 78:48 He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. (KJV) (pretty accurate description since a thunderbolt is about 30,000 degrees centigrade, hotter than the surface temperature of the sun).
- Psalm 81:7 Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: I proved thee at the waters of Meribah. Selah. (KJV)

Job adds some great words on this beautiful reminder of our Creator God:

- Job 26:14 Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand? (KJV)

- Job 28:26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder: (KJV)
- Job 40:9 Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him? (KJV)

So thunder and lightning are powerful. They are extolling their Creator God. But are they so amazing? Yes they are!

In Every Way Thunderstorms are Magnifying God's Greatness!

1. THUNDERSTORMS DEMONSTRATE THE LAWS BUILT INTO NATURE AT CREATION.

- There are laws built into nature. Hot air rises, water vapor condenses into rain, cools and falls.
- What makes a thunderstorm?
 - The sun's rays warm the ground, air rises carrying with it moisture. Cool air doesn't hold water long so water drops form into fluffy white cumulus clouds. This is stage one and this process takes 15-30 minutes.
 - Warm air continues to rise from the earth, water continues to condense, cumulus cloud continues to form rising at one to two thousand feet per minute until it flattens into an anvil shape at 60,000 feet. The friction of the rising air against the falling rain produces enormous positive electrical charges. The ground is negative and the stroke of positive meeting negative is called lightning and the sound thunder. This is Stage Two the Mature Stage.
 - Finally droplets condensing into rain evaporate, upward warm air cools and stops rising and the storm dissipates. This is the final stage.

2. THUNDERSTORMS DEMONSTRATE GOD'S INCALCULABLE POWER.

- Why? Because in that middle stage of the storm, the mature stage, something happens - lightning.
 - Electricity present in the cloud flows downward in a stroke toward the ground.
 - The stroke returns upward from the negatively charged earth making as many as 4 trips back and forth in one flash.
 - The flash we call lightning consists of a 2 inch wide bolt of electricity that super heats molecules of air to 30,000 degrees centigrade. That is 5x as hot as the surface of the Sun!
 - The power released in one stroke or bolt of lightning is enormous. Upwards of 1 billion volts and as much as a thousand billion KWH of energy! How much?
 - In everyday terms, a normal home uses a 1000 KWH per month. The lightning storm you last saw had enough electrical power to light every home on earth for a month. Yes, a month! And that is one storm.
 - There are 2,000 lightning storms on earth at any moment and each one could light all the homes of all the people for a month. IS THERE ANY SHORTAGE OF POWER WITH GOD?

An Outline of Psalm 19

1. In v. 1-6 through CREATION God is revealed in a general way. (general revelation)

- What is "general revelation"? It is the fact that nature reveals and magnifies the wondrous character of our Heavenly Father. Note what Paul says in the New Testament:
 - Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (KJV)
 - Romans 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 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; so that they are without excuse: KJV) REMEMBER PEOPLE COME INTO THE WORLD HOLDING TWO CANDLES (creation and conscience).
- What does Ps 19:1-3 teach? CREATION REVEALS THE CREATOR - JESUS!
 - We know that the "glory" the heavens declare is in the fullest sense, no less than our Lord Jesus Christ. Who is Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (KJV)
 - 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; so that they are without excuse: (KJV)
 - Col 1:15-23 links the Creator with this gospel of the Creator.
 - But, all of us Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (KJV)
 - Now read Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. (KJV) In Hebrew *hashe-mayim mesaperim-kevoth-ale* The heavens are shouting the glory of their Almighty Creator God. What are they saying? They are declaring:
 - HE EXISTS- HE IS GOD
 - HE IS CREATOR - HE HAS REVEALED HIMSELF
 - HE IS REDEEMER -HE HAS PAID SIN'S PRICE
 - HE IS JUDGE - HE WILL DETERMINE WHERE YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER!

We were all born with two candles - creation and conscience. To those God adds His Word. We know He is real. Don't blow out any of your candles. Let them lead you closer to your Creator.

1. Our Amazing World of Nature, Readers digest Books, 1969, pp. 261-63.
2. Henry Morris, 9/96 Back to Genesis #93.
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Have You Met Your Creator?

BYT: Message Twelve (961103AM)

Psalm 19

Genesis 1: *The first words the Bible opens are the Creator introducing Himself to us, His creations. "In the beginning God . . . "*

John 1: *The Gospels start and Jesus is introduced as the Creator announcing His coming to earth "In the beginning was the Word . . . all things were made by Him . . . and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us".*

Revelation 10: *The last words of the Scripture as human history concludes when the Creator returns to earth to take His place as King of kings and Lord of lords! Revelation 10:6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: (KJV)*

Have You Met Your Creator?

That meeting will begin when you start to listen to His voice. Our text in Psalm 19:1-6 explains this morning that our Creator God has revealed Himself in two ways. In nature and in His Book, the Holy Scriptures!

*I find my Lord in the Book,
Wherever I chance to Look
He's the theme of the Bible
The center and heart of the Book.*

*He's the Rose of Sharon,
He's the lilly bright and fair,
Wherever I open my Bible,
The Lord of the Book is there.*

*He at the Book's beginning gave the Earth its form
He is the Ark of shelter bearing the brunt of the storm
He is the burning bush of the desert, the budding of Aaron's rod
Wherever I look in the Bible, I see the Son of God.*

*The Ram upon Mt. Moriah, the ladder from earth to sky.
The scarlet cord in the window, and the serpent lifted high,
The smitten rock in the desert, the Shepherd with staff and crook,
The face of my Lord I discover, wherever I open the Book.*

He is the Seed of the Woman, the Savior virgin born,

*He is the Son of David of whom men rejected with scorn,
His garments of grace and of beauty, the stately Aaron Deck,
Yet He is a Priest forever, for He is Melchizedek.*

*Light of eternal glory, whom John the Apostle saw,
Light of the golden city, Lamb without spot or flaw,
Bridegroom coming at midnight for whom the virgins look,
Wherever I open my Bible, I find my Lord in the Book.*

Psalm 19 Magnifies God's Revelation of Himself

1. In v. 1-6 through CREATION God is revealed in a general way. (general revelation)
 2. In v. 7-14 the SCRIPTURES reveal God in a special way. (special revelation)
- In v. 1-6 through CREATION God is revealed in a general way. (general revelation)
 - We have already learned that "general revelation" is nature as it reveals and magnifies the wondrous character of our Almighty God . Note what Paul says in the New Testament:
 - Romans 1: 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 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; so that they are without excuse: (KJV) REMEMBER PEOPLE COME INTO THE WORLD HOLDING TWO CANDLES (creation and conscience).
 - NEXT OUR CREATOR REVEALS THAT HIS NAME IS JESUS! What does Ps 19:1-3 teach?
 - We know that the "glory" the heavens declare are in the fullest sense, no less than our Lord Jesus Christ. Who is Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (KJV)
 - Col 1:15-23 links the Creator with this gospel of the Creator. Colossians 1:15-23 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: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and

which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; (KJV)

- But, all of us Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (KJV)
- NEXT OUR CREATOR REVEALS WHAT HIS CREATURES NEED - SALVATION!
 - What does Psalm 19:4a teach? "Their line is gone out through all the earth."
 - Paul quotes this verse in Romans 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. (KJV)
 - Jesus said He was John 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. (KJV)
 - But Jesus sadly affirms John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. (KJV)
- FINALLY OUR CREATOR REVEALS HIS CREATURES' ONLY HOPE - JESUS! What does Psalm 19:4b-5 say. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world . In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race , teach? The two metaphors (bridegroom and runner) seem out of place. But isn't Jesus our Bridegroom from Heaven? He who waits to come at His time to our home with Him? Eph 5 and John 14

JESUS IS GREATER THAN OUR SUN

- The sun consumes 4.2 million tons of hydrogen each second, and turns it, via thermonuclear fusion, into helium heat and light. That's 8.4 billion pounds of heat...
- Do you know what 1 pound of matter turned to heat can do? We call it a hydrogen bomb. Its power is measured in MEGATONS or millions of tons of TNT explosive power. One pound of matter turned to pure heat can raise 20 million tons of rock by 2500 degrees celsius and cause it to glow as incandescent lava. Nothing can approach energy unleashed that powerfully.
- A piece of the sun ⁽¹⁾ **the size of a flake of dandruff or a white fleck of lint on your clothes that was in Oklahoma City -- would kill you here in your seat this morning because of the heat radiating from it!**
- It only takes eight minutes for that light to get to the earth from the sun. It travels 93 million miles in those minutes. To generate that light and heat, the sun consumes 4 million tons of itself each second. It is 864 thousand miles in diameter and won't burn out for a long time though. The energy radiated from the Sun in one second is more than all the energy used on the earth since creation!
- Now hold onto this one. The sunlight and heat you felt on a hot July or August day is only 1/2 of 1/billionth of the sun's radiant energy. 93 million miles of space and a hundred miles of atmosphere and all the other buffers God has put there keep us shielded. But, with that in mind look again at Revelation 1:16 and his 'JESUS' countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength . (KJV)

JESUS IS AS INESCAPABLE AS OUR SUN! What does Psalm 19:6 teach? His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. (KJV)

- This verse ⁽²⁾ is often derided by skeptics as teaching that the sun goes around the earth, instead of the earth rotating on its axis.
- But the writer was more scientific than his critics. There is no fixed point of zero motion in the universe, so far as astronomers know. The sun indeed *is* moving in a gigantic orbit in the Milky Way galaxy, and the galaxy itself is moving among the other galaxies. So the circuit of the sun is, indeed, from one end of the heavens to the other.
- However, the psalmist was really using the scientifically correct terminology of "relative motion." No one knows scientifically where a fixed point of zero motion may be, so all motion must be referenced to some *assumed* fixed point. For practically all measurements by surveyors, navigators, and astronomers, the most useful (therefore, the most scientific) zero point is the earth's surface at the location of the observer. That is exactly what the psalmist has assumed.
- And note the significance of the statement that *"there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."* This refers mainly to the sun's effect on the earth, and scientists now know that the heat energy transmitted to the earth by solar radiation empowers all activity on earth, either directly (e.g., winds, rains) or indirectly (plant life through photosynthesis, and therefore also animal and human life). Through "fossil fuels" derived from buried organisms, it even drives our machinery. It is significant that the science which deals with all these energy transfers is called thermodynamics (meaning "heat power") and its two basic laws are the best-proved and most universally applicable laws of science.
 - These two laws testify plainly to the existence and power of God. The Second Law (the law of decreasing available energy, as the universe heads downward toward an eventual "heat death," with the sun and stars all burned out) tells us that there must have been a primeval creation, or else the universe would already be "dead"! The First Law (law of energy conservation) tells us that no energy is now being created, so the universe could not have created itself. The only scientific conclusion is that *"in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Genesis 1: 1).
- When this verse speaks of the sun's *"going forth,"* however, it is not referring only to its transit across the sky, but to the *"outgoing"* of its radiant heat energy.
 - It is the same Hebrew word as in Deuteronomy 8:3 which reminds us that man cannot live by bread alone, but *"by, every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord)."*
 - It is also used in the remarkable prophecy of the coming birth of Christ in Bethlehem, where we are told that His *"goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting"* (Micah 5:2).
- Here also, the sun is a beautiful type of Christ, picturing both the Living Word and the Written Word of God. He is the eternally begotten Son of God, everlastingly proceeding from the Father and declaring Him (John 1:18), while the Holy Scriptures *"for ever settled in heaven"* (Psalm 119:89), can continually sustain our spiritual lives, just as the sun does our physical lives.
- As marvelous as God's witness in the creation may be, it can never bring lost men to salvation. The sun may sustain their lives, but it can never save their souls.

JESUS SPEAKS THIS MORNING THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

In v. 7-14 the SCRIPTURES reveal God in a special way. (special revelation)

- IF YOU MET JESUS, YOUR CREATOR THIS MORNING, WHAT COULD HE SEE?
 - He can see your past . John 4:17-18 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. (KJV)
 - He can see your thoughts . Luke 11:17 But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth. (KJV)
 - He can see your future . Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise. (KJV)
- IF YOU MET JESUS, YOUR CREATOR THIS MORNING, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
 - When demons faced Him they were terrified . Mark 5:7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. (KJV)
 - When a tree faced Him it wilted . Mark 11:20-21 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. (KJV)
 - When diseases met Him they fled . Luke 4:39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them. (KJV)
 - When the winds and waves of a fierce storm faced Him they fell silent . Luke 8:24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. (KJV)
 - Have you met Jesus, your Creator? What are you going to do when you meet Jesus? He is here this morning. Will you hear His voice?

Harry Didn't Listen

Mt. St. Helens⁽³⁾ belched gray steam plumes hundreds of feet into the blue Washington sky. Geologists watched their seismo- graphs in growing wonder as the earth danced beneath their feet. Rangers and state police, sirens blaring, herded tourists and residents from an ever-widening zone of danger. Every piece of scientific evidence being collected in the laboratories and on the field predicted the volcano would soon explode with a fury that would leave the forests flattened.

"Warning!" blared loudspeakers on patrol cars and helicopters hovering overhead. "Warning!" pleaded radio and television announcers, shortwave and citizens-band operators. "Warning!" echoed up and down the mountain; and lakeside villages, tourists camps and hiking trails emptied as people heard the warnings and fled for their lives.

But Harry Truman refused to budge. Harry was the caretaker of a recreation lodge on Spirit Lake, five miles north of Mt. Saint Helens's smoke-enshrouded peak. The rangers

warned Harry of the coming blast. Neighbors begged him to join them in their exodus. Even Harry's sister called to talk sense into the old man's head. But Harry ignored the warnings. From the picture- postcard beauty of his lakeside home reflecting the snow-capped peak overhead, Harry grinned on national television and said, "Nobody knows more about this mountain than Harry and it don't dare blow up on him. ..."

On 18 May 1980, as the boiling gases beneath the mountain's surface bulged and buckled the landscape to its final limits, Harry Truman cooked his eggs and bacon, fed his sixteen cats the scraps, and began to plant petunias around the border of his freshly mowed lawn. At 8:31 A.M. the mountain exploded.

Did Harry regret his decision in that millisecond he had before the concussive waves, traveling faster than the speed of sound, flattened him and everything else for 150 miles? Did he have time to mourn his stubbornness as millions of tons of rock disintegrated and disappeared into a cloud reaching ten miles into the sky? Did he struggle against the wall of mud and ash fifty feet high that buried his cabin, his cats and his freshly mowed lawn-- or had he been vaporized (like 100,000 people at Hiroshima) when the mountain erupted with a force 500 times greater than the nuclear bomb which leveled that Japanese city?

Now, Harry is a legend in the corner of Washington where he refused to listen. He smiles down on us from posters and T- shirts and beer mugs. Balladeers sing a song about old Harry, the stubborn man who put his ear to the mountain but would not heed the warnings.

- If you don't listen to Him now, you will later. John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves 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. Matthew 13:49-50 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (KJV)
- We were all born with two candles - creation and conscience. To those God adds His Word. We know He is real. Don't blow out any of your candles. Let them lead you closer to your Creator.

"Have You Any Room for Jesus?"

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2. Henry Morris, 9/96 Back to Genesis #93.

3. Billy Graham, APPROACHING HOOFBEATS, p. 13-14.

4. 1954, R.B. Munger.

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God's Word: The Divine Teacher

BYT: Message Thirteen (961110AM)

Psalm 19

Our text this morning is Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV)

IN THE DRAWING ROOM⁽⁴⁾

We walked next into the drawing room. This room was rather intimate and comfortable. I liked it. It had a fireplace, overstuffed chairs, a bookcase, sofa, and a quiet atmosphere. He also seemed pleased with it. He said, "This is indeed a delightful room. Let us come here often. It is secluded and quiet and we can have fellowship together." Well, naturally, as a young Christian I was thrilled. I could not think of anything I would rather do than have a few minutes apart with Christ in intimate comradeship.

He promised, "I will be here every morning early. Meet with Me here and we will start the day together." So, morning after morning, I would come downstairs to the drawing room and He would take a book of the Bible from the bookcase. He would open it and then we would read together. He would tell me of its riches and unfold to me its truths. He would make my heart warm as He revealed His love and His grace toward me. They were wonderful hours together. In fact, we called the drawing room the "withdrawing room." It was a period when we had our quiet time together.

But little by little, under the pressure of many responsibilities, this time began to be shortened. Why, I don't know, but I thought I was just too busy to spend time with Christ. This was not intentional, you understand; it just happened that way. Finally, not only was the time shortened, but I began to miss a day now and then. It was examination time at the university. Then it was some other urgent emergency. I would miss it two days in a row and often more.

I remember one morning when I was in a hurry, rushing down the steps, eager to be on my way. As I passed the drawing room, the door was ajar. Looking in I saw a fire in the fireplace and the Lord sitting there. Suddenly in dismay, I thought to myself, "He was my guest. I had invited Him into my heart! He had come as Lord of my home. And yet here I am neglecting Him." I turned and went in. With downcast glance I said, "Blessed Master, forgive me. Have you been here all these mornings?" "Yes," He said, "I told you I would be here every morning to meet with you." Then I was even more ashamed. He had been faithful in spite of my faithlessness. I asked His forgiveness and He readily forgave me as He does when we are truly penitent.

He said, "The trouble with you is this: You have been thinking of the quiet time, of the Bible study and prayer time, as a factor in your own spiritual progress, but you have forgotten that this hour means something to Me also. Remember, I love you. I have redeemed You at a great cost. I desire your fellowship, Now," He said, "do not neglect this hour if only for My sake. Whatever else may be your desire, remember I want your fellowship!"

You know, the truth that Christ wants my fellowship, that He loves me, wants me to be with Him, wants to be with me, and waits for me, has done more to transform my quiet time with God than any other single fact. Don't let Christ wait alone in the drawing room of your heart, but every day find some time when, with the Word of God and in prayer, You may fellowship with Him.

Psalm 19 Magnifies God's Revelation of Himself

In v. 1-6 through CREATION God is revealed in a general way. (general revelation)

- The start of the universe - Supernatural because they are v.1 "the work of His hands".
- The purpose of creation - Eternal v. 1 "telling the glory of God".
- The extent of God's influence - Universal v. 2 "day unto day bubble forth".
- The confrontation with God's revelation - Inescapable v. "no speech or words" and v. 4 "their city has gone through all the earth".
- The comparison of our world to God - Infinitesimal v. 4 "in them (sky) he placed a tent for the sun". The sun is the mightiest power we know. Almighty thermonuclear furnace consuming millions of tons of matter each day. Super densely heated at the core to millions of degrees. All this is dwarfed by the Magnificent Almighty Creator who lit the sun and flung it into its tent!
 - So God gave us in v. 1-6 the;
 - SUPERNATURAL START -God gave us the Universe
 - ETERNAL PURPOSE God programmed the Universe
 - UNIVERSAL EXTENT God speaks through the Universe
 - INESCAPABLE CONFRONTATION God is seen as Creator through His Universe
 - INFINITESIMAL COMPARISON God is greater than His Universe

In v. 7-14 the SCRIPTURES reveal God in a special way. (special revelation)

- What does mankind see? The Candle of Creation. And what does God add? The candle of conscience. Note that v. 1-6 has only one name of God. It is EL the least specific term for God in the Word of God. But look at v. 7-14. We find 7x the intimate, personally revealed name of God - JEHOVAH (YAHWEH).
- So what is the point? Psalm 19:1-6 reveals God in a general way by the:
 - Candle of creation. The incomprehensible size of the universe. The inescapable signature of the Creator. The indescribable power in nature. The incalculable variety of life and diversity of entities in the universe. (Any direction we go there seems to be no limit to the unfolding symmetry and diversity. From particles to stellar groups.)
 - Candle of conscience. As the 18th century philosopher Immanuel Kant concluded in his Dialect of Pure and Practical Reason : "Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the starry heavens above, and the moral law within." There they are, the two candles! But we need to look at the floodlight!

- The source that gives ultimate light is the sublimely described Scriptures. Psalm 19:7-9 has six synonyms for God's Word and twelve qualities ascribed to it. Each of these 18 descriptions of the Word of God is an inspired photo of the divine power of God's Word. It is sufficient. It can absolutely meet its purpose!

Six Masterpieces of Word Painting—Each With a Three Part Description

- THE DIVINE TEACHER: God's truth that totally transforms
- THE DIVINE WITNESS: God's testimony absolutely trustworthy
- THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe
- THE DIVINE DECREES: God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes
- THE DIVINE CONDITION: fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me
- THE DIVINE DECISIONS: God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.

The CHARACTER of the Word of God

- LAW = The Word of God is the Divine Teacher
- TESTIMONY = The Word of God is the Divine Witness
- STATUTES = The Word of God is the Divine Directions
- COMMANDMENTS = The Word of God is the Divine Decrees
- FEAR = The Word of God is the Divine Conditions
- JUDGMENTS = The Word of God is the Divine Decisions

The CLAIMS of the Word of God

- PERFECT
- SURE
- RIGHT
- PURE
- CLEAN
- TRUE

The CATALYST of the Word of God

- RESTORES
- MAKES WISE
- REJOICES
- ENLIGHTENS
- ENDURES
- VINDICATES

Look at Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV)

"The law of the LORD is". The Word of God is the Divine Teacher. God is the instructor. The Word of God is His divine instructions. The book is the revelation of our Creator's will! We have the LORD'S rules for living life.

"The law of the LORD is perfect ". The word perfect literally means: entire day, healthy vine, spotless, altogether directed toward the good of man; complete and entirely in accord with truth and fact. Thus it means lacking nothing, covering all aspects.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul ". Nephesh or soul speaks of the whole person. The Word of God can turn the whole person to God . Scroggie adds, "Refreshing the inner life as food to the body."

So what do we have? An amazing promise.

- Divine instructions from God.
- All sided, able to touch every part of our life.
- Able to turn a whole person to God.
- That is no less than a totally transforming power.

The applications of Psalm 19 may be found in Psalm 119. In the 22 stanzas of the longest chapter in the Scripture we find a love song about the transforming power of the Word.

- Psalm 119:41 Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word. (KJV)
- Psalm 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (KJV)
- Psalm 119:81 My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word. (KJV)
- Psalm 119:146-147 I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies. I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word. (KJV)
- Psalm 119:158 I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word. (KJV)
- Psalm 119:174 I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. (KJV)
- 1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (KJV)

So how is it with you? The Word of God is designed to be our divine instructor.

Is God's Word -

1. **REGENERATING** James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (KJV)

2. **QUICKENING YOU** Psalm 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (KJV)

3. **ILLUMINATING YOUR PATH** Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. (KJV)

4. **SANCTIFYING** John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (KJV)

5. **PRODUCING FAITH IN YOU** John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (KJV)

6. **PRODUCING HOPE IN YOU** Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (KJV)

7. **PRODUCING OBEDIENCE IN YOU** Deuteronomy 17:19-20 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel. (KJV)

8. **CLEANING YOUR HEART** Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (KJV)

9. **PROMOTING GROWTH IN GRACE** 1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (KJV)

10. **ADMONISHING YOU** Psalm 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. (KJV); 1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (KJV)

11. **COMFORTING YOU** Psalm 119:82 Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me? (KJV)

12. **REJOICING YOUR HEART** Psalm 119:111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. (KJV)

If you don't listen to Him now, you will later. Ye Call Me Lord And Master And Obey Me Not. A poem from a cathedral in Lubeck, Germany:

*You call me Master, and obey me not;
You call me Light, and see me not;
You call me the Way, and walk me not;*

*You call me the Life, and live me not;
You call me Wise, and follow me not;
You call me Fair, and love me not;
You call me Rich, and ask me not;
You call me Eternal and seek me not.
If I condemn thee, blame me not!*

How does the power of the Scriptures change me? In one place in the Bible the powerful Scriptures are most clearly displayed. In six masterful strokes the eternal author etches his character and sufficiency toward us. We are introduced in this passage to the first of six synonyms for the Word of God. In fact there are three sets of truths:

- There are Six TITLES given for the WORD: law, testimonies, statutes, commandments, fear, judgments.
- There are Six ATTRIBUTES given for the WORD: perfect law, sure testimonies, right statutes, pure commandments, clean fear, true judgments.
- There are Six EFFECTS given for the WORD: perfect law restores, sure testimonies makes wise, right statutes rejoices, pure commandments enlighten, clean fear endures, true judgments vindicates.

All of these reveal the Word in a whole new, powerful and refreshing way.

- They give us God's purpose and plan for His Word.
 - They are His review on this new product He has manufactured.
 - They give us the operator's manual for this new high powered instrument.
1. THE DIVINE TEACHER: God's truth that totally transforms
 2. THE DIVINE WITNESS: God's testimony absolutely trustworthy
 3. THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe
 4. THE DIVINE DECREES: God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes
 5. THE DIVINE CONDITION: fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me
 6. THE DIVINE DECISIONS: God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.

THE LAW OF GOD

1. Is absolute and perpetual. Mt 5:18.

2. Given

- a. To Adam. Gen 2:16,17; Rom 5:12-14.
- b. To Noah. Gen 9:6.
- c. To the Israelites. Ex 20:2-17; Ps 78:5.
- d. Through Moses. Ex 31:18; John 7:19.
- e. Through the ministration of angels. Acts 7:53; Gal 3:19; Heb 2:2.

3.Described as

- a. Pure. Ps 19:8.
- b. Spiritual. Rom 7:14.
- c. Holy, just, and good. Rom 7:12.
- d. Exceeding broad. Ps 119:96.
- e. Perfect. Ps 19:7; Rom 12:2.
- f. Truth. Ps 119:142.
- g. Not grievous. 1John 5:3.

4.Requires obedience of the heart. Ps 51:6; Mt 5:28; 22:37.

5.Requires perfect obedience. Deut 27:26; Gal 3:10; James 2:10.

6.Love is the fulfilling of. Rom 13:8,10; Gal 3:10; James 2:10.

7.It is man's duty to keep. Ecc 12:13.

8.Man, by nature, not in subjection to. Rom 7:5; 8:7.

9.Man cannot render perfect obedience to. 1Kings 8:46; Ecc 7:20; Rom 3:10.

10.Sin is a transgression of. 1 John 3:4.

11.All men have transgressed. Rom 3:9,19.

12.Man cannot be justified by. Acts 13:39; Rom 3:20,28; Gal 2:16; 3:11.

13.Gives the knowledge of sin. Rom 3:20; 7:7.

14.Works wrath. Rom 4:15.

15.Conscience testifies to. Rom 2:15.

16.Designed to lead to Christ. Gal 3:24.

17.Obedience to

- a. A characteristic of saints. Rev 12:17.
- b. A test of love. 1John 5:3.
- c. Of prime importance. 1Cor 7:19.

18.Blessedness of keeping. Ps 119:1; Mt 5:19; 1 John 3:22,24; Rev 22:14.

19.Christ

- a. Came to fulfill. Mt 5:17.
- b. Magnified. Isa 42:21.
- c. Explained. Mt 7:12; 22:37-40.

20.The love of, produces peace. Ps 119:165.

21.Saints

- a. Freed from the bondage of. Rom 6:14; 7:4,6; Gal 3:13.
- b. Freed from the curse of. Gal 3:13.
- c. Have, written on their hearts. Jer 31:33; Heb 8:10.
- d. Love. Ps 119:97,113.
- e. Delight in. Ps 119:77; Rom 7:22.
- f. Prepare their hearts to seek. Ezr 7:10.
- g. Pledge themselves to walk in. Nehemiah 10:29.
- h. Keep. Ps 119:55.
- i. Pray to understand. Ps 119:18.
- j. Pray for power to keep. Ps 119:34.
- k.Should remember. Mal 4:4.
- l. Should make the subject of their conversation. Ex 13:9.
- m. Lament over the violation of, by others. Ps 119:136.

22.The wicked

- a. Despise. Amos 2:4.
 - b. Forget. Hosea 4:6.
 - c. Forsake. 2Chron 12:1; Jer 9:13.
 - d. Refuse to hear. Isa 30:9; Jer 6:19.
 - e. Refuse to walk in. Ps 78:10.
 - f. Cast away. Isa 5:24.
23. Is the rule of life to saints. 1Cor 9:21; Gal 5:13,14.
24. Is the rule of the judgment. Rom 2:12.
25. To be used lawfully. 1Tim 1:8.
26. Established by faith. Rom 3:31.
27. Punishment for disobeying. Neh 9:26,27; Isa 65:11-13; Jer 9:13-16.

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- 1. Our Amazing World of Nature, Readers digest Books, 1969, pp. 261-63.
 - 2. Henry Morris, 9/96 Back to Genesis #93.
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 - 5. Mark Syverud, *Daily Messenger*, (August 13, 1995).
 - 6. The Bulletin, Bend, OR (4/4/96), A-8.
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 - 9. Who moved the Stone?
 - 10. Exploring Our Living Planet, NGB, p. 39>
 - 11. Exploring, p. 30.

Restoring the Soul

BYT: Message Fourteen (961117AM)

Psalm 19:7

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV).

The source that gives ultimate light is the sublimely described Scriptures. Psalm 19:7-9 has six synonyms for God's Word and twelve qualities ascribed to it. Each of these 18 descriptions of the Word of God is an inspired photo of the divine power of God's Word. It is sufficient. It can absolutely meet its purpose! That was until just recently. Up to modern times the Scripture have comforted, encouraged and kept God's people going.

How Firm a Foundation

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2 'Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
3 'When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
4 'The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!'*

Standing on the Promises

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Thro' eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.
2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.
3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,*

*Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.
4Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.
Chorus Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

Sin: Redefined

Has it ever struck you how rapidly our culture has slid away from God? This morning we will examine just one reason why this moral erosion has crumbled the foundations of our nation. Ironically, the one culprit which has been the major cause of the rapid and deep slide into immorality in the last forty years is generally promoted rather than opposed by those leading the crusade against immorality. That culprit is psychology.

Psychology's redefining of sin as sickness has excused immorality and thus encouraged it. Instead of being held accountable and called upon to repent, the sinner is diagnosed as in need of "therapy." Everything from disobedience to murder is excused these days as some kind of syndrome or addiction.

Adulterers are now "sex addicts" whose insurance covers lengthy "treatment" at Christian psychiatric hospitals. Christ's command to "Go and sin no more" (in 8:1 1) is "too simplistic" these days.

The explosion of crime, rebellion and immorality has coincided with the exponential growth of psychology since the early 1950s, a growth which is still accelerating. There was a 43 percent increase in the number of Americans in the 10-19 age bracket committed to psychiatric hospitals from 1980 to 1987, while the number of private psychiatric beds per 100,000 persons more than doubled in the five years from 1983 to 1988. What a growth industry! Psychology has been rightly called the only profession that "creates the diseases which it claims to cure."

The firm discipline which children need and the Bible commends (Prv 13:24; 22:15; Heb 12:6, etc.) is now called "child abuse," and children have even been taken by government agencies from Christian parents who lovingly "applied the rod." What once was recognized as laziness, disinterest, stubbornness or rebellion is now excused as some new "syndrome." The number of children diagnosed as having "learning disabilities" nearly *tripled* from 1977 to 1992! Difficult children are placed on Ritalin after they and their parents have been convinced by some therapist of their abnormality, a stigma (and excuse) which will probably be with them for life. In spite of its addictive nature, disputable evidence of its helpfulness, and many reported incidents of violence and suicide brought on by withdrawal from it, Ritalin is currently being given to about 1 million American children. Whatever did we do without it?!

Inventing new kinds of "mental illness" has increased the power of psychiatrists and psychologists over society. Americans now suffer by the millions from alleged maladies that were unknown a few years ago. These are defined in the "bible of mental illness" the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders (DSM)*. When first published in 1952 it listed 112 mental disorders, compared with a half dozen 100 years earlier. DSM-II in 1968 listed 163. There were 224 in DSM-III, published in 1980. DSM-IV came out in 1994 and the list of disorders had grown to 374! Whence this raging epidemic of new mental illnesses-or are we being duped?!

One newspaper editor wrote sarcastically, Does your 10-year-old dislike doing her math homework? Better get her to the nearest couch because she's got No. 315.4, Developmental Arithmetic Disorder. Maybe you're a teenager who argues with his parents. Uh-oh. Better get some medication pronto because you've got No. 313.9, Oppositional Defiant Disorder I am not making these things up. (That would be Fictitious Disorder Syndrome).... I know there are some cynics out there who ... wouldn't be caught dead on a psychiatrist's couch [Your unwillingness to seek professional help is itself a symptom of a serious mental problem. It's right here in the book: 15.81, Noncompliance with Treatment Disorder." ⁽⁵⁾

These newly defined "disabilities" are creating a host of new "rights." George Will points out , *"You have a right to be a colossally obnoxious jerk on the job. If you are -just slightly offensive, your right will not kick in. But if you are seriously insufferable to colleagues at work, you have a right not to be fired, and you are entitled to have your employer make reasonable accomdations for your 'disability.'"* In a word, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) encourages irresponsible and obnoxious behavior. The authority behind ADA is DSM-IV's nearly 900 pages of folly. Will continues: *Consider the DSM's definition of "oppositional defiant disorder" [ODD] as a pattern of "negativisfic, defiant, disobedient and hostile behavior toward authority figures ... often loses temper .. is often touchy ... or spiteful or vindictive."* *The DSM's list of "personality disorders" includes "anti-social personality disorder" [ADD] ("a pervasive pattern of disregard for ... the rights of others); "histrionic personality disorder" [HPD] ("excessive emotionality and attentionseeking ... inappropriately sexually provocative or seductive"); "narcissistic personality disorder" [NPD] ("grandiosity, need for admiration ... boastful and pretentious ... may assume they do not have to wait in line"), etc., etc."* ⁽⁶⁾

Selfish and sinful behavior is no longer wrong but simply a sign that one is "special" and even entitled to "rights" denied to the rest of us! Is it because so many of those Christians leading the crusade against immorality in society are committed to "Christian" psychology that they fail to sound the alarm that psychology itself is the major contributor to today's growing immorality? The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, not only from the penalty of sin but from its power in our lives. The church has lost confidence in God and His Word to meet our needs. The Christian mission-yes, Christianity itself-has been redefined. Let us return to the Lord and to His Word in obedience to our mission! TBC ⁽⁷⁾

- In Psalm 19:7-8 we find six masterpieces of word painting. Each with a three part description.
 - **THE DIVINE TEACHER:** The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: God's truth that totally transforms

- **THE DIVINE WITNESS:** 9 the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. God's testimony absolutely trustworthy.
- **THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS:** The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe.
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- Psalm 119:158 I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word. (KJV)
- Psalm 119:174 I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight. (KJV)

A Session With the Divine Teacher

Is His Divine Word...

So how is it with you? The Word of God is designed to be our Divine Instructor. As our Divine Teacher, we sit in His classroom as He asks us:

- Is my Word at work in you? **COMFORTING YOU?** Psalm 119:82 Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me? (KJV)
- Is my Word at work in you? **REJOICING YOUR HEART?** Psalm 119:111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. (KJV)
- Is my Word at work in you? **QUICKENING YOU?** Psalm 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (KJV) This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life. (NKJV)
- Is my Word at work in you? **ILLUMINATING YOUR PATH?** Psalm 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. (KJV)
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- Is my Word at work in you? **CLEANING YOUR HEART?** Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (KJV)
- Is my Word at work in you? **REGENERATING?** James 1:18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (NIV)
- Is my Word at work in you? **PROMOTING GROWTH IN GRACE?** 1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (KJV)

1. Our Amazing World of Nature, Readers digest Books, 1969, pp. 261-63.
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3. Billy Graham, APPROACHING HOOFBEATS, p. 13-14.
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5. Mark Syverud, *Daily Messenger*, (August 13, 1995).
6. The Bulletin, Bend, OR (4/4/96), A-8.
7. The Berean Call, 8/96.
8. World's Last Mysteries, Readers Digest Books, p.
9. Who moved the Stone?
10. Exploring Our Living Planet, NGB, p. 39>
11. Exploring, p. 30.

The Divine Witness

BYT: Message Fifteen (961124AM)

Our world ⁽⁸⁾ is filled with mysteries. For thousands of years humans have lived, left their accomplishments and died. Only in our day of global travel and television has the magnitude of these ancient mysteries been confirmed.

- Who constructed the megaliths of Europe that number in the tens of thousands, each stone weighing 20 plus tons?
- How were the 16 to 65 ton faces of Easter Island moved and raised?
- How were the pyramids built of 2.3 million blocks totaling 6.5 million tons of stone, 481 feet high without modern machinery?
- How did Herod move 30 foot long and ten foot wide dressed stones of up to 120 tons into place for his Jerusalem temple, so perfectly a knife blade can't go between them?
- What happened to the lost colony in early colonial America that was found deserted without a trace?
- How did TWA Flight 811 explode in July of 1996?

These are only a few of the mysteries of the world. None were witnessed well enough to explain the mysteries that surround them.

The source that gives ultimate light is the sublimely described Scriptures. Psalm 19:7-9 has six synonyms for God's Word and twelve qualities ascribed to it. Each of these 18 descriptions of the Word of God is an inspired photo of the divine power of God's Word. It is sufficient. It can absolutely meet its purpose! That was until just recently. Up to modern times the Scriptures have comforted, encouraged and kept God's people going.

How Firm a Foundation

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*'Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*'When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*'The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;*

*That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!*

In Psalm 19:7-8 we find six masterpieces of word painting; each with a three part description. How does the power of the Scriptures change me? In one place in the Bible the Powerful Scriptures are most clearly displayed. In six masterful strokes the eternal author etches his character and sufficiency toward us. We are introduced in this passage to the first of six synonyms for the Word of God. In fact there are three sets of truths:

- There are Six TITLES given for the WORD: law, testimonies, statutes, commandments, fear, judgments.
- There are Six ATTRIBUTES given for the WORD: perfect law, sure testimonies, right statutes, pure commandments, clean fear, true judgments.
- There are Six EFFECTS given for the WORD: perfect law restores, sure testimonies makes wise, right statutes rejoices, pure commandments enlightens, clean fear endures, true judgments vindicates.
 - All of these reveal the Word in a whole new, powerful and refreshing way. They give us God's purpose and plan for His Word. They are His review on this new product He has manufactured. They give us the operator's manual for this new high powered instrument.
 - The CHARACTER of the Word of God
 - HIS PERFECT LAW RESTORES (v. 7a) = The Word of God is the Divine Teacher. THE DIVINE TEACHER: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: God's truth that totally transforms.
 - HIS SURE TESTIMONY MAKES WISE (v. 7b) = The Word of God is the Divine Witness. THE DIVINE WITNESS: 9 the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. God's testimony absolutely trustworthy.
 - HIS RIGHT STATUTES REJOICES (v. 8a) = The Word of God is the Divine Directions (perfect joy) THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe.
 - HIS PURE COMMANDMENTS ENLIGHTENS (v. 8b) = The Word of God is the Divine Decrees (seeing God) THE DIVINE DECREES: The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes.
 - HIS CLEAN FEAR ENDURES (v. 9a) = The Word of God is the Divine Conditions (eternal life) THE DIVINE CONDITION: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever. This is fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me.
 - HIS TRUE JUDGMENTS VINDICATES (v. 9b) = The Word of God is the Divine Decisions (REV.19). THE DIVINE DECISIONS: : the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether . God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.

Now, what is the second claim to Divine sufficiency? Psalm 19:7b The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple . (KJV)

"Sure" nemanah in Hebrew means 'firmness, certainty, pillar, support'. It is also passive in form so it conveys not just firmness but confirmedness! Genesis 42:20 But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so. (KJV)

What is God's Word saying? It is worthy of being absolutely followed! Something happens when a person at last finds a firm object to hold onto. Remember the frightened disciples? Frank Morrison ⁽⁹⁾ describes them for us. *"Yet the material from which we have to derive this dynamic force consists of a habitual doubter like Thomas, a rather weak fisherman like Peter, a gentle dreamer like John, a practical tax gatherer like Matthew, a few sea faring men like Andrew and Nathaniel, the inevitable women, and at the most two or three others."*

There they sit, shivering with fear, seething with doubt, overcome by despair. John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. (KJV)

Now look at Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: (KJV) Look at the change!

Again Frank Morrison says: "Now the peculiar thing about this phenomenon is that not only did it spread to every single member of the party of Jesus of whom we have any trace, but they actually brought it to Jerusalem and carried it with inconceivable audacity into the most keenly intellectual center of Judea, against the ablest dialecticians of the day, and in the face of every impediment a brilliant and highly organized camarilla could devise. AND THEY WON!

Within 20 years the claims of these Galilean peasants had disrupted the Jewish church and impressed itself upon every town on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean from Caesarea to Troas. In less than 50 years it had begun to threaten the peace of the Roman Empire.

When we have said everything that can be said about the willingness of certain types of people to believe what they want to believe, to be carried away with their emotions, and to assert as fact that which originally reached them as hearsay, we stand confronted with the greatest mystery of all, WHY DID THEY WIN?"

Of course we know! They had come face to face with the divine Witness. A sure testimony, they saw the risen Christ! From John 19:19's gloom, to Acts 2's boldness and confrontation at all costs. You hold the same divine witness in your hands this morning. And by faith it lives in your heart. It is God's Word and it is sure. Now back to Ps 19:7 and the last stanza to the divine witness. Those 4 words: "making wise the simple". This is profound.

First of all 'pethi' is a person that is naive or literally, one who has an "open door mind". He goes with whatever hits him just then. And changes with the next wind. What can the absolutely true testimony of God on any topic do for the inexperienced, open door minded person we all so often are?

God can take the open door and with His sure testimony make them wise shakam "skilled in the art of holy living".

In the Scripture God is always the source of this shakam wisdom. To Greeks wisdom was facts; to Hebrews it was EXPERIENCE!

So God by His sure testimony can make all who come skillful in the art of divine living!

How? By bowing before the Author, the Divine Teacher, and yielding to His testimonies as the Divine Witness! Here we meet the Divine Witness. This witness is giving a testimony in court (that is the sense of this Hebrew word). This word "testimony" is always and only used of the Lord. It speaks to the reality of the Almighty God being the best witness of any event. What are some events that He has witnessed about?

- THE BEGINNING (Genesis 1-2) No theory, no mystery, God was the Divine Witness of what happened at creation. Listen to the Divine Witness as He speaks as an eye witness you can absolutely trust.
 - FROM THE DAWN OF THE UNIVERSE (Before time began, before matter existed, before the forces that bind our cosmos together were instituted by the Creator - HE SPEAKS) Genesis 1:1-4 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. (KJV)
 - FROM THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH ⁽¹⁰⁾ That doesn't sound like much until you penetrate the thin skin of the earth. In proportion the shell of an egg to the egg the crust of the earth is a thin skin. Beneath the crust of only 30 to 90 miles in thickness, the mantle made up of a rigid lithosphere, a plastic like Asthenosphere, a semi solid Mesosphere and then the foundations. The core of the earth is a mystery still. Probably made up of an outer core of liquid nickel and iron and then an inner core of solid nickel-iron. Now the wonder. The core of the earth is hotter than the surface of the sun at 6,000 degrees centigrade. Another fascinating fact is that oceanographers mapping the ocean floors found a continuous 46,000 mile long mountain range (the Mid-Ocean Ridge) snaking ⁽¹¹⁾ through all the seven seas of the planet.
- FROM THE THRONE OF THE ALMIGHTY Isaiah 40:12-31 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

If you don't listen to Him now, you will later. Poem Luke 6:46 Ye Call Me Lord And Master And Obey Me Not. from cathedral in Lubeck, Germany:

*You call me Master, and obey me not;
You call me Light, and see me not;*

*You call me the Way, and walk me not;
You call me the Life, and live me not;
You call me Wise, and follow me not;
You call me Fair, and love me not;
You call me Rich, and ask me not;
You call me Eternal and seek me not.
If I condemn thee, blame me not!*

1. Our Amazing World of Nature, Readers digest Books, 1969, pp. 261-63.
2. Henry Morris, 9/96 Back to Genesis #93.
3. Billy Graham, APPROACHING HOOFBEATS, p. 13-14.
4. 1954, R.B. Munger.
5. Mark Syverud, *Daily Messenger*, (August 13, 1995).
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The Divine Witness II

BYT: Message Sixteen (961201AM)

We all know that things special to us are usually as close as possible. We keep things around, in our pockets and wallets and purses that are special. When someone carries something in their pocket by habit like a watch or a locket, it means a lot to them. Well, someone you know from history carried some precious objects in his pockets the night he died. They tell us a world about his life.

What Was Special to Abraham Lincoln?

Do you know what Abraham Lincoln had in his pockets the night of his assassination at the Ford Theater? The actor John Wilkes Booth, shot and mortally wounded the 16th president of the US, on April 14th, 1865, just 5 days after the South surrendered and the Civil War ended. But what did a man we now admire so greatly value enough to take with him? Most people in America have carried the picture of the man we are considering this morning. His face has shown up 285 billion times on the penny. Add another 1.4 billion five dollar bills always in circulation and you have one of the most well known faces in history! The label ⁽¹⁾ on the box read: CONTENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S POCKETS ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 14, 1865.

Since that was the fateful night Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, every viewer's attention was seized.

Boorstin then proceeded to remove the items in the small container and display them on camera. There were five things in the box:

GIFTS OF LOVE: A handkerchief, embroidered "A. Lincoln"
REMINDERS OF LIFE'S BREVIETY: A country boy's pen knife
REMINDERS OF OUR FRAILITY: A spectacles case repaired with string
PAINFUL MEMORIES: A purse containing a \$5 *bill-Confederate money(!)*
WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT: Some old and worn newspaper clippings

"The clippings," said Boorstin, "were concerned with the great deeds of Abraham Lincoln." And one of them actually reports a speech by John Bright which says that Abraham Lincoln is "one of the greatest men of all times."

Today, that's common knowledge. The world now knows that British statesman John Bright was right in his assessment of Lincoln, but in 1865 millions shared quite a contrary opinion. The President's critics were fierce and many. His was a lonely agony that reflected the suffering and turmoil of his country ripped to shreds by hatred and a cruel, costly war.

Many of the mysteries of the world were witnessed well enough to explain them. The source that gives ultimate light is the sublimely described Scriptures. Psalm 19:7-9 has six synonyms for God's Word and twelve qualities ascribed to it. Each of these 18 descriptions of the Word of God is an inspired photo of the divine power of God's Word. It is sufficient. It can absolutely meet its

purpose! That was until just recently. Up to modern times the Scripture have comforted, encouraged and kept God's people going.

How Firm A Foundation

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*'Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*'When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
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In Psalm 19:7-8 we find six masterpieces of word painting. Each with a three part description. How does the Power of the Scriptures change me? In one place in the Bible the powerful Scriptures are most clearly displayed. In six masterful strokes the eternal author etches his character and sufficiency toward us. We are introduced in this passage to the first of six synonyms for the Word of God. In fact there are three sets of truths:

- There are six TITLES given for the WORD: law, testimonies, statutes, commandments, fear, judgments.
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All of these reveal the Word in a whole new, powerful and refreshing way. They give us God's purpose and plan for His Word. They are His review on this new product He has manufactured. They give us the operator's manual for this new high powered instrument.

- The CHARACTER of the Word of God

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Now, what is the second claim to divine sufficiency? Psalm 19:7b The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple . (KJV)

So in Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure , making wise the simple. (KJV)

What is God's Word saying? It is worthy of being absolutely followed! Something happens when a person at last finds a firm object to hold onto. How? by bowing before the Author, the Divine Teacher, and yielding to His testimonies as the Divine Witness! Here we meet the Divine Witness. This witness is giving a testimony in court (that is the sense of this Hebrew word). This word "testimony" is always and only used of the Lord. It speaks to the reality of the Almighty God being the best witness of any event. What are some events that He has witnessed about?

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 - FROM THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH (Job 38)

- FROM THE THRONE OF THE ALMIGHTY Isaiah 40:12-31 Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?
- THE ENDING (Revelation 22). God wrote about each step as He draws back the universe from its fallenness. He chronicles the cosmic earthquake and the pitiful death of the earth in the Tribulation. What does the Rapture allow us to escape? The Tribulation to come. Walk with me through the pages of Revelation chapters six, eight, nine, and sixteen, and let me briefly describe the living hell you will escape by being part of the Rapture. These are but a few of the things that will happen during the Tribulation:
 - One-fourth of mankind will die (see Rev. 6:8), some because of war, some because of famine, and still others by the wild beasts of the earth. Whether by death that is swift and instant or death that is lingering and excruciating-25 percent of all people will die. Now the world's population in 1995 is 5,733,687,096, so a quarter of this is 1,433,421,774 or almost five and a half times the current population of the United States - can you imagine that? And remember that the population of the world is doubling every 39.5 years. So every day the number of people who will die becomes larger and larger.'
 - One third of all vegetation will be burned up. All grass, every tree, everything green will be destroyed (see Rev. 8:7).
 - The sun and the moon will be darkened as nature goes into revolt (see Rev. 8:12).
 - The gates of hell will open and hordes of locusts, the size of horses, will come upon the earth. Those locusts will be allowed to sting men like scorpions and the pain will last for five months. The Bible says men will beg God to let them die but they will not die (see Rev. 9:3-6).
 - There will be worldwide famine unlike anything the world has ever seen (see Rev. 18:8).
 - There will be a world war so bloody that the blood of those killed in battle will flow for two hundred miles up to the bridle of a horse in the valley of Jezreel. This will be the Battle of Armageddon. During the Great Tribulation, one third of all the people on the earth will be killed (see Rev. 14:20).

LIFE (and its purpose) John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (KJV). Life apart from God is restlessness. Isaiah 57:20-21 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 21 There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. (KJV)

1. LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION Ps. 139:13-15

2. GOD PROGRAMS THE LENGTH OF EACH LIFE Psalm 139:16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (NIV); Heb. 9:26-27

3. HE SETS OUR UNCHANGEABLE FEATURES Exodus 4:11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? (KJV)

What else? DEATH (and how to prepare) Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (KJV)

How do we escape death? Only one person ever met and defeated the ruler of death, the devil. And that was Jesus! Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death -- that is, the devil -- (NIV) How did He do it? It started in His life. He overcame Satan in the wilderness with prayer, the Word and obedience! Poland has been overrun for 1,000 years because it has no barriers to the east and west. If you don't build up walls of resistance you get overrun!

There should be no uncertainty about the afterlife. There should be no fear of the unknown. Death is only a doorway from time to eternity. Jesus said you can know Heaven's Doorkeeper. In John 10 Jesus said, "I am the Door!" In Luke 16 Jesus gives us A GLIMPSE THROUGH THE DOOR OF DEATH, a view into the grave. His points were:

- PERMANENCE v.22 Only the body dies.
- CONSCIOUSNESS v. 23 In the grave we are conscious, we can see and remember or recognize people even ones we never met.
- PAINFULNESS v. 24 In the grave there is the experience of pain.
- MEMORY v. 25 In the grave events from earthly life may be recalled.
- HOPELESSNESS v. 26 In the grave there is no escape.
- HORROR v. 27 In the grave the occupants of the torment want no one else to come it is so bad.
- INTUITION v. 29 Abraham seems to know the events after his life 2166 BC, including Moses 1446 BC and the prophets.

MARRIAGE all of the secrets from the Author Himself. Gen 2:18-24 Proverbs 5:19b Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love . (KJV)

CHILDREN and how to raise them, with inside secrets from your Heavenly Father!

MONEY its purpose and usage . . . Matthew 19:29-30 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life. 30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. (KJV)

PLEASURE and how to keep in happiness . . . John 1:12 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: (KJV)

REAL POWER and confidence. How to get and keep it! Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. (KJV)

And on we could go. All these from the Divine Witness. The truth on all things necessary is in His Scriptures. Psalm 119 illustrates God's Testimony.

TRUE WEALTH Psalm 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. (KJV)

TRUE GUIDANCE Psalm 119:24 Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors. (KJV)

TRUE JOY AND HAPPINESS Psalm 119:111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. (KJV)

TRUE SECURITY Psalm 119:152 Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever. (KJV)

TRUE PARTNERSHIP 2 Timothy 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; (KJV) Paul never said he was prisoner of Rome or of Nero. He was a lifetime prisoner of Christ.

TRUE INTRODUCTION Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (KJV)

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7. HIS CLEAN FEAR ENDURES (v. 9a) = The Word of God is the divine conditions (eternal life) THE DIVINE CONDITION: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever. This is fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me.

- 2 kings 6 words heard in bedroom
- Noah in tent
- Joseph in house
- David on balcony list of steps

8. HIS TRUE JUDGMENTS VINDICATES (v. 9b) = The Word of God is the Divine Decisions (REV.19). THE DIVINE DECISIONS: : the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether . God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.

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1. Swindoll, p. 61.

2. USA Today, 11/29/96.

3. Sanders, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, p. 90-92.

4. Scroggie?

5. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit, pp118-120.

The Divine Directions

BYT: Message Seventeen (961208AM)

Psalm 19

Psalm 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: (KJV) God's directions are the only way to make it to happiness now and forever!

Flight 961

It was a typical flight. One that occurs thousands of times every day around the world. Ethiopian Air Flight 961 took off November 23rd, 1996 from Addis Ababa. Onboard were 163 passengers and 12 crew members. Among those flying that Saturday were Mr. & Mrs. Andy Meakins. Andy was an elder at the International Evangelical Church of Addis. That large Bible-believing church was pastored by a dear friend of mine up until last year. In less than two hours more than 120 people died, including five from Andy's church. Andy never survived the crash.

Somewhere near Kenya the hijack began. An unidentified number of men declared themselves escaped convicts taking the flight to Australia. Then things turned horrible. Brandishing an ax and a supposed bomb they stormed the flight deck. After savagely beating the copilot and throwing him down they proceeded to order the plane to turn eastward. In spite of the nearly empty fuel tank they forced the pilot to continue.

With dangerously low supplies the pilot tried to plead for a refueling stop to no avail. After trying to hug the coast, the hijackers threatened to blow up the plane and so the pilot tried to make it to the Indian Ocean Island of Comoros. When it became evident they would not make it, Captain Leul Abate ⁽²⁾ announced to the cabin passengers, *"Listen, guys, we're all dead people, there is no argument now."* People began to scream one witness said, others began to pray.

The crash is now well known, captured on the film of a Japanese honeymooning couple. They caught the descent of the 767, dip of a wing, the flip the crash and the disintegration over the water. What the news reports never reported was contained in a fax to us this week. It was the inside the cabin account of Andy Meakins wife who did survive the crash. This is what she told her church . . .

As soon as the captain told us we were going to crash I heard the distinct snap of my husband's seat belt. He was up and out of his chair. Going down the aisle row by row he earnestly shared the gospel of Christ with any who would listen. Before the sickening screech of twisting metal and the 110 mph crash of our plane into the water that snuffed out Andy's earthly pilgrimage, he had led 20 passengers to Jesus Christ for their salvation. Andy never made it back to the safety of his seat belt. But, he took twenty souls with him to Paradise.

You see there was a safe spot in that plane. A shelter where no twisted wreckage could permanently harm. A haven that no crushing impact could erase. Andy knew and shared the divine directions. "God's directions are the only way to make it to happiness now and forever!!" He knew how to escape the plane before it was too late for eternity. Do you know those directions? Are you following them? Have you shared them lately?

- The Divine Teacher Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: LEADS US TO...
- The Divine Witness the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV) WHICH GIVES US...
- THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: Psalm 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. (KJV) God's statutes give directions to only secure place in the universe

The Statutes

- Some explanations:
 - KD says: "declarations concerning man's obligations."
 - Scroggie said: "God's directions designed to secure obedience and check disobedience."
 - Others have said: "God's guidelines for living."
 - The word statute or precepts is the Hebrew word (#6490) pik-koo-deem; 24 times in Old Testament, only in Psalms.
 - Here and Ps. 103:18 translated as "remember His commandments" Psalm 103:18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. (KJV)
 - Ps. 111:7 translated as 'all His commandments are sure Psalm 111:7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. (KJV)
 - and 21 times Ps. 119 in all, but 3 stanzas (3, 15, 19)
 - Always translated precepts v. 4, 15, 27, 40, 45, 56, 63....etc. Always accompanied by words of positive action such as:
 - v. 4 keep also (v. 63, 56, 100, 134, 168) Psalm 119:4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. (KJV)
 - v. 15 meditate (v. 78) Psalm 119:15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. (KJV)
 - v. 40 longed Psalm 119:40 Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness. (KJV)
 - v. 87 forsook not Psalm 119:87 They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts. (KJV)
 - v. 93 never forget (v. 141) Psalm 119:93 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me. (KJV)
 - v. 94 sought Psalm 119:94 I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts. (KJV)
 - v. 110 erred not Psalm 119:110 The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts. (KJV)
 - v. 128 esteemed Psalm 119:128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way. (KJV)
 - v. 159 love Psalm 119:159 Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness. (KJV)
 - v. 173 chosen Psalm 119:173 Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. (KJV)

- So what is it we are keeping,An insight is in the base or foundation verb. This noun derives from pah-kad (250 times or more). This verb means
 - In Ex. 3:16 I have surely visited you
 - Num. 3:39 Moses & Aaron numbered
 - Ezra 1:2 hath charged me to build
 - Isa. 13:11 punish the world
 - Gen. 39:4,5 He made Joseph overseer
 - Ex. 38:21 as it was counted
- Now in the negative:
 - Sam. 20:18 David's place was empty
 - I K. 20:39 if he be missing
 - II K 10:19 let none be wanting
- Catch this: this word precepts and the verb it stems from speak of "a definite accounting"
 - something counted has an assigned number for each item
 - troops mustered are seen to be present, etc.
 - so negatively one unaccounted for is missing, empty, wanting
- So, what's that to Ps. 19:8? God has met with man to give His accounting of all that matters in life and life to come! His precepts or directions. So, the directions of the Lord or divine directions are... "right" - literally straight, or correct path, laying out right track. See the idea: God's account of things is the straight road to our true goal!
- God's divine directions or precepts are right. Now, "rejoicing the heart", literally: "delight and pleasure to inner being".
 - Let me quote the eminent Hebrew team K&D: "their educative guidance, taking one as it were by the hand, frees from all tottering, joyous (in) conscious of being headed toward the right goal."
 - Well -- that says it all. "God's directions are the only way to make it to happiness now and forever!!"

How Do Those Apart from Christ Die?

Nietzsche (insane babblings)
Churchill "What a fool I've been"
Kaiser IX "I'm lost for sure and I know it."
David Hume "I'm in the flames" (terrible scene)
Napolean "The emperor dies lonely and alone" (terrible flight)
Caesare Burger "And now I die completely unprepared"
Hobbes "I stand before a fearfully, terrible plunge into darkness!"
Sir Thomas Scott "Until the moment I thought there was neither God nor hell, but now I know both as I am sealed unto damnation by the sentence of the Almighty"
Stephen "Lord Jesus receive my spirit. Lay not this sin to their charge."
Lord Jesus Christ "It is finished!"

So, What Should We Do?

Only one thing to do if you have perfect and straight directions from God to the true and only

goal of life!! Follow them!

1. Swindoll, p. 61.
2. USA Today, 11/29/96.
3. Sanders, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, p. 90-92.
4. Scroggie
5. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit, pp118-120.

The Divine Directions II
BYT: Message Eighteen (961215AM)

Psalm 19:8 The statutes [or directions] of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: (KJV) God's directions are the only way to make it to happiness now and forever! God has given guidelines for life. What happens if you miss them?

- Have you ever been lost as you travel? That's a memory
- But, to be going the wrong way and unable to turn back... That's a horror
- And, to not even know it That's utter doom .

Jesus often warned of this spiritual condition. He called it lost-ness.

BEING LOST OR DOOMED IS NOT FOLLOWING HIS DIRECTIONS

Doomed ones get thrown into the fire. Look with me at Matthew 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (KJV) Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (KJV) Here are religious people. Involved in ministry. Helping others and knowing about the Lord. But, they are cast out!

Doomed ones get cast into outer darkness. Now look at Matthew 8:11-12 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (KJV) Here are people coming in to share in a banquet. They are convinced that they are invited and should be there. But they are found to have neglected the only requirement, a wedding garment. As only those clothed with Christ enter heaven, so only those clothed in a wedding garment enter the feast in this story. Are you wearing Christ's righteousness or your own? Its not religion, its not church, its not rituals performed (baptism, confirmation, walking an aisle, praying a prayer) It is only the sacrifice of Jesus alone. Self righteous, good works can save no one. Hypocrites on the inside, beware. God will not let you in. There will be horror, shock, dismay and GNASHING!

Doomed ones still have sin blackened hearts. (Perreti in Oath pictures sin as an oozing black sore that smelled foul to all but the one with the sore.) Now look at Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. (KJV) Here Jesus warns that the Kingdom will be sown with fakes by Satan. Side by side growing in the field are look alike 2215 zizania {dziz-an'-ee-on} AV - tares 8; 8 a kind of darnel, resembling wheat except the grains are black. Wow! They are the same except one is black on the inside the other white. What a picture of salvation. Are you washed, in the blood . . .

Doomed ones will someday weep and gnash their teeth after it is too late. Now look at Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (KJV) Again, someone crashing the party. Only those with reservations get to heaven. Have you got yours? Don't leave here today without them!

Doomed ones look okay on the outside. Finally, Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (KJV) Here is one who made it all the way. Always looked right. But, no fruit! Thus, lost! Remember Jesus said He would keep His own. John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (KJV)

A modern version of this would be from Alfred Hitchcock, master of horror, who directed a brief scene he called - "Permanent Escape." The scene is wealthy man in a Latin American prison; he makes a deal with the prison undertaker to be nailed in a coffin, taken outside and put in the cemetery where the undertaker would rescue him and they would share his wealth; so nailed in the coffin and buried and, in the same 6 foot trench a box is lowered with an unforgettable flash of a familiar face, the undertaker BURIED ALIVE - WHAT HORROR, WHAT UTTER DOOM - NO ESCAPE. But wait, there's something far more horrible. Let me share the last chapter of life for some people you have possibly heard of:

Where is Happiness to Be Found?

Not In Unbelief.

- The witty Frenchman, Voltaire, was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: "I wish I had never been born."
- The nurse that stood by him in the end said he called for help and forgiveness to no avail -- she said never again for all the money in the world.

Not In Pleasure

- Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure if any one did. He wrote: "The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."

Not In Money

- Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying he is reported to have said: "I suppose I am the most miserable devil on earth."

Not In Position and Fame

- English politician Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote: "Youth is a mistake, manhood a struggle, old age a regret."

Thus they all agree: Voltaire, the literary infidel; Byron, the pleasure-loving poet; Gould, the multi-millionaire; Beaconsfield, the famous politician. One and all they confirm Solomon's verdict, though long centuries have rolled by since that Eastern potentate penned the words:

"All is vanity and vexation of spirit" (Eccl. 2:17).

Happiness is to be found in none of these things. Where, then is it to be found? The answer is simple: In Christ Alone. The Lord Jesus said,

"I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you" (John 16:22).

How Do Those Apart from Christ Die?

You see there was a safe spot in that plane.
A shelter where no twisted wreckage could permanently harm.
A haven that no crushing impact could erase.

Andy knew and shared the divine directions.
"God's directions are the only way to make it to happiness now and forever!!"
He knew how to escape the plane before it was too late for eternity.
Do you know those directions?
Are you following them?
Have you shared them lately?

- THE DIVINE TEACHER: Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: LEADS US TO...
- THE DIVINE WITNESS: The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (KJV) WHICH GIVES US...
- THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe.

Let's dig in and see the first half of this verse.

The Statutes are always translated precepts v. 4, 15, 27, 40, 45, 56, 63....etc. Always accompanied by words of positive action such as:

- v. 4 keep also (v. 63, 56, 100, 134, 168) Psalm 119:4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. (KJV)
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- v. 173 chosen Psalm 119:173 Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts. (KJV)

This word precepts and the verb it stems from speaks of "a definite accounting"

- something counted has an assigned number for each item
- troops mustered are seen to be present, etc.
- so negatively, one unaccounted for is missing, empty, wanting

So, what's that to Ps. 19:8? God has met with man to give His accounting of all that matters in life and life to come! His precepts or directions . So, the directions of the Lord, or divine directions, are... "right" - literally straight, or correct path, laying out right track. See the idea : God's account of things is the straight road to our true goal!

God's divine directions or precepts are right. Now, "rejoicing the heart", literally: "delight and pleasure to inner being".

- Let me quote the eminent Hebrew team K&D: "their educative guidance, taking one as it were by the hand, frees from all tottering, joyous (in) conscious of being headed toward the right goal."
- Well -- that says it all. "God's directions are the only way to make it to happiness now and forever!!"

What Should We Do?

Only one thing to do if you have perfect and straight directions from God to the true and only goal of life!! Follow them!

- Read His directions Deut. 17:19; Isa. 34:16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.
- Know His directions 2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (KJV)
- Believe His Directions John 2:22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. (KJV)
- Trust His directions 1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. (KJV)
- Study His directions John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (KJV);

- Search His directions Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (KJV)
- Treasure His directions Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: (KJV), Deuteronomy 11:18 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. (KJV)
- Teach His directions to children and talked of them continually Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (KJV); Deuteronomy 11:19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. (KJV); 2 Chronicles 17:9 And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people. (KJV); Nehemiah 8: 8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. (KJV)
- Protect His directions 2 Corinthians 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (KJV)
- Obey His directions Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (KJV), Luke 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. (KJV); James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (KJV)
- Follow His directions Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (KJV) Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (KJV)
- Love His directions Psalm 119:97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. (KJV), Psalm 119:113 SAMECH. I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love. (KJV), Psalm 119:159 Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness. (KJV), Psalm 119:167 My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly. (KJV)
- Delight in His directions Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. (KJV)
- Taste His directions Psalm 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (KJV)

His directions should be esteemed, above all things , Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. (KJV)

- Internalize His directions Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (KJV)

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1. Swindoll, p. 61.
 2. USA Today, 11/29/96.
 3. Sanders, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, p. 90-92.
 4. Scroggie
 5. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit, pp118-120.

The Glory of God

BYT: Message Nineteen (961222AM)

On an unnamed hill, surrounded by sheep contentedly munching their grass, a handful of shepherds witnessed the greatest sound and light show ever staged. God's birth announcement filled the front page of the sky that night. The only ones He found that were in tune were the humble shepherds. There, watching lambs destined for sacrifice, came word of the ultimate lamb. And when it came how did God word it? Look with me at Luke 2:7-15.

But why did God do that? What is all this Glory to God about? Our precious portion of scripture to meditate upon in our study this evening is Ps. 19:8. Note the second half. This is the fourth of six sets of divine snapshots of the perfect sufficiency of God's word. Each focuses on a special facet of God's written revelation. Our text says the commandment of the Lord, or His divine decrees, are so pure they enlighten our eyes.

1. The divine teacher touching all of life turning the whole person to God
2. The divine witness absolutely trustworthy making us skilled in the art of holy living
3. Divine directions causing great joy because we know what is absolutely right
4. Divine decrees without any flaw bringing the light of God on every area of life.
5. But what do we mean by divine decrees? You see this word commandments of decrees speaks of: "those things that are binding and non-optional". They are "authoritative and impervious". They are decrees from God; His divine commands. This morning we need to consider the chief command of God - that He be glorified.

Chuck Swindoll captures the nature of this aspect of God's word in his book, Rise and Shine. Let me quote from him on one of God's decrees. Our purpose in existence is to please Him, singing glory to His name!

"The primary purpose of our lives is to glorify God. That, in a nutshell, is the reason we have been left on this planet. We haven't long to live. In our brief span of sixty or seventy years, God graciously allows us breath in our lungs, a heart that beats over a hundred thousand times a day, and sufficient mental and physical strength to carry on. In the process of our earthly existence, His most primary purpose for our lives is not that we make a name for ourselves or accumulate a pile of dough or push people around like a hot shot. Pure and simple, it is to bring glory to His name. If in the process He permits us a measure of success or a few joys and benefits for our labor, no problem. But due to the brevity of life, we must keep first things first."

Wow! What a clear view of life! Turn to Isaiah 42:5-7.

"Our God is a jealous God. He shares His glory with no one else. From this day forward, do not allow yourself to forget the importance of glorifying His great name, regardless of your age, your status, your financial portfolio, or your sphere of influence. Read the following divine decrees through two ancient prophets. They represent words of warning for every generation.

*"Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out,
Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it,
And spirit to those who walk in it, 'I am the LORD, I have called you in righteous-
ness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you,
And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,*

*To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon,
And those who dwell in darkness from the prison."
(Isaiah 42:5-7)*

*""But you, are you seeking great things for
yourself? Do not seek them..."" (Jeremiah 45:5).*

God says: Seek Me first and My ruling of your life before all else! (My paraphrase Mt. 6:33).

Again: Whether therefore ye eat, drink or whatever, do it for My glory. (1 Cor. 10:31).

Those are divine decrees. They are the authoritative, binding, non-optionals of God's word.... Ps. 19:8. Note the commandments on divine decrees of the Lord are clear ...

- This word is literally "bright like the sun"
- It speaks of that which is clear, easy to see and understand.
- It makes our duty to God's decrees plain !

Sometimes people long to know what to do. If someone could just tell me.... God already has! He said glorify Me while you have time. That's a non-optional command, the only reason we are here is to do that.

The story is told of the man who, while walking on the beach, found washed up on the sand a used magic lamp. When the genie answered his rub, he told him that the lamp contained but one remaining wish. The man pondered for a moment, and then requested a copy of the stock page from the local newspaper, dated exactly one year later. In a puff of smoke, the genie was gone, and in his place was the financial news. Gleefully, the man sat down to peruse his trophy; he could invest with certainty, knowing the winners one year hence. As the paper fell to his lap, it turned over to the obituary column found on the reverse of the page, and the name on the top of the listing caught his attention, it was his! We need to invest in the glory of God while we can.

Glory of God in Scriptures

Glory of God in Scriptures is described as:

- Light that emanates from God . This light is as inescapable as the searing rays bursting from an exploding atomic blast, brighter than a supernova in the skies, brighter than the sun in its strength.
 - In eden light flowed from God 1 Timothy 6:15-16 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (NKJV)
 - In the Sinai it flowed from God Exodus 19:18-19 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 And when the blast

- of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. (NKJV)
- In the tabernacle it flowed from God Exodus 40:34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (NKJV)
 - In the temple it flowed from God 1 Kings 8:10-11 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. (NKJV)
 - In Christ it flowed from God.
 - At His birth John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (NKJV)
 - At His baptism Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.
 - 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (NKJV)
 - Throughout his ministry 2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (NKJV);
 - At his transfiguration Matthew 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (NKJV)
 - At the cross and empty tomb Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (NKJV)
 - Now in heaven Revelation 1:15-16 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (NKJV)
 - Truth that emanates from the created universe . Pulsating in different ways from the heavenly bodies out in space, down to the least known creature on earth, all reveal and display the glory of their Creator. 1 Corinthians 15:39-41 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. (NKJV)
 - Psalm 29:3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD is over many waters. (NKJV)
 - Psalm 19:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. (NKJV)
 - Magnification and reflection that emanate from the redeemed. This is the praise of God's people. This is the testimony of the saints. This is the purpose of the church and each member of the body of Christ. God isn't sending out the heavenly hosts to put on a cosmic sound and light show this Christmas. He has you and me instead. What are some ways we can glorify and magnify God?

- Regularly confess your sins (Joshua 7:19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." (NKJV))
- Regularly praise God (Psalm 50:23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." (NKJV)).
- Include the Lord in every part of your life! Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (NKJV);
- Seek him above all else in your life! Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (NKJV).
- Constantly pray (John 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (NKJV))
- Abundantly bear fruit (John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (NKJV))
- Gratefully thank him for everything! Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (NKJV); 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (NKJV).
This is another great test of life. If you can't say aloud with sincerity: "Thank you dear Father in Heaven for that...
 - Date I just returned from,
 - Movie I just watched,
 - Outing I just participated in,
 - TV show I just opened your holy dwelling place to [your mind is where He lives remember!],
 - Video game I was just mesmerized by,
 - Book I just read,
 - Magazine I just looked at, purchased or read
 - Sporting activity I just invested one, two or three hours of the most precious commodity in the world my time! And so on!

1. Swindoll, p. 61.
2. USA Today, 11/29/96.
3. Sanders, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, p. 90-92.
4. Scroggie
5. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit, pp118-120.

Our Glorious Lord

BYT: Message Twenty (961229AM)

Please open with me to Luke 9:28 on our way to our study of Psalm 19. Come with me to the place Jesus let His glory shine. Come to that hallowed spot that Peter couldn't shake the memory

of. To his dying day he remembered that awesome sight. There on a lonely mountainside he saw God shining out of Christ. Yes, he had seen the miracles. Loaves multiplied, sick healed. These were amazing. But nothing rivaled this. For just a moment they were bathed in an unearthly light. There was a warmth and wonder to it. So much so that Peter wanted to never leave that place. But there was also the sheer horror of seeing the unleashed glory of an infinite, incomprehensible, limitless God coming out of One he had spent so many days and nights with.

John said it near the end of his life, we beheld His glory! Attending the transfiguration of Christ ⁽³⁾ was memorable privilege "*granted to only three disciples, our Lord's intimates, Peter and James and John; intimates not because of favoritism, but because they more than the others were willing to pay the high price of following Him closely. Like them, we are each as close to the Lord as we really want to be.*"

For those three it was an unforgettable experience.

- *In reading John's record of it written half a century later, we can almost detect the awe in his words, "We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14).*
- *Peter too records the indelible impression the experience made on him, "We ... were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16). The passing years had only served to deepen their awe and wonder. It appears as though the evangelists vie with each other in their endeavor to convey the impression of the glory of the Lord on that occasion.*
- *Matthew records that "His raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow" (Mark 9:3; see also Matthew 17:2).*
- *Luke adds other elements: "The fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening" (Luke 9:29). The "form of God" shone through the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6).*

These descriptions make it clear that the illumination was not merely external, as from a spotlight. The change came from within, first the countenance and then the garments, which had the translucent whiteness of pure light. Common to all records are the two features of dazzling whiteness and blazing light. The word "glistening" means to emit flashes of light. Combining the three descriptions, we have the purity of snow, the majesty of lightning, and the beneficence of light emanating from the person of the Lord. Small wonder that Peter wanted the experience perpetuated!"

- So we are here this morning to glorify God. How? What can we do personally that would please and magnify Him? First we should respond to His glory. How ?
 - HALLOW HIS PRESENCE = Exodus 3:5-6 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand [is] holy ground." Moreover He said, "I [am] the God of your father -- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (NKJV)
 - FEAR HIS HOLINESS = Judges 13:21-22 When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He [was] the

Angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" (NKJV) Manoah - died because he saw God.

- REPENT OF ALL SELF-SUFFICIENCY = Job 42:5-6 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor [myself,] And repent in dust and ashes." (NKJV)
- CONFESS ALL SINFULNESS = Isaiah 6:5 So I said: "Woe [is] me, for I am undone! Because I [am] a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." (NKJV)
- BOW BEFORE HIS GLORY = Matthew 17:6 And when the disciples heard [it,] they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. (NKJV) transfiguration, fell on face.
- BELIEVE HIS WORD = John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand [here,] and put [it] into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." (NKJV)
- TALK ABOUT HIS MAJESTY = 2 Peter 1:17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (NKJV)-- Peter still talking at end of life.

Lets do it now! Open to Revelation 5:11-13 (also 7:11-12) and we will talk about His Majesty!

- Back to Psalm 19.
 - HIS PERFECT LAW RESTORES (v. 7a) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE TEACHER: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: God's truth that totally transforms, touching all of life, turning the whole person to God. so the word teaches . . .
 - HIS SURE TESTIMONY MAKES WISE (v. 7b) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE WITNESS: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. God's testimony is absolutely trustworthy, making us skilled in the art of holy living. so the word teaches and testifies . . .
 - HIS RIGHT STATUTES REJOICE (v. 8a) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. God's statutes give directions to the only secure place in the universe, causing great joy because we know what is absolutely right. so the word teaches and testifies and turns . . .
 - HIS PURE COMMANDMENTS ENLIGHTEN (v. 8b) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DECREES: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. God's commands give a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes, without any flaw bringing light on every area. So the Word teaches and testifies and turns and ties us to God.

John Calvin of Geneva who wrote over four centuries ago on this very verse: "In the end of the verse, the Psalmist teaches that *the commandment of God is pure, enlightening the eyes*. By this he gives us tacitly to understand that it is only in the commandments of God that we find the difference between good and evil laid down, and that it is in vain to seek it elsewhere, since

whatever men devise of themselves is more filth and refuse, corrupting the purity of the life. He farther intimates that men, with all their acuteness, are blind, and always wander in darkness, until they turn their eyes to the light of heavenly doctrine. Whence it follows, that none are truly wise but those who take God for their conductor and guide, following the path which he point out to them, and who are diligently seeking after the peace which he offers and presents by his word. ⁽⁴⁾ "

Glory of God in Scriptures is Described As:

Light that emanates from God . This light is as inescapable as the searing rays bursting from an exploding atomic blast, brighter than a supernova in the skies, brighter than the sun in its strength.

- In Eden glorious light flowed from God 1 Timothy 6:15-16 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. (NKJV)
- In the Sinai glorious light flowed from God Exodus 19:18-19 Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. 19 And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. (NKJV)
- In the tabernacle glorious light flowed from God Exodus 40:34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (NKJV)
- In the temple glorious light flowed from God 1 Kings 8:10-11 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. (NKJV)
- In Christ glorious light flowed from God:
 - At His birth glorious light flowed from God John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (NKJV)
 - At His baptism glorious light flowed from God Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (NKJV)
 - Throughout His ministry glorious light flowed from God 2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (NKJV);
 - At His transfiguration glorious light flowed from God Matthew 17:2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (NKJV)
 - At the cross and empty tomb glorious light flowed from God Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all

- things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (NKJV)
- Now in Heaven glorious light flowed from God Revelation 1:15-16 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (NKJV)

Truth that emanates from the created universe . Pulsating in different ways from the heavenly bodies out in space, down to the least known creature on earth, each reveals and displays the glory of their Creator. (Corinthians 15:39-41)

Glory that emanates from the redeemed. This is the praise of God's people. This is the testimony of the saints. This is the purpose of the church and each member of the body of Christ. God isn't sending out the heavenly hosts to put on a cosmic sound and light show this Christmas. He has you and me instead. What are some ways we can glorify and magnify God?

- By agreeing with God about our sins Joshua 7:19 Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me." (NKJV)
- By personally praising God (Psalm 50:23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." (NKJV)).
- By including the Lord in every part of your life! Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (NKJV);
- By seeking the Lord above all else in your life! Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (NKJV).
- By constantly praying John 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (NKJV)
- By abundantly bearing fruit John 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (NKJV))
- By gratefully thanking him for everything! Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (NKJV); 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (NKJV). This is another great test of life. If you can't say aloud with sincerity: "Thank you dear Father in Heaven for that:
 - Date I just returned from,
 - Movie I just watched,
 - Outing I just participated in,
 - TV show I just opened your holy dwelling place to [your mind is where He lives remember!],
 - Video game I was just mesmerized by,
 - Book I just read,
 - Magazine I just looked at, purchased or read
 - Sporting activity I just invested one, two or three hours of the most precious commodity in the world my time! And so on!

- By humbly refusing to take any of His glory for yourself. Again, the damned are characterized in
 - Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (NKJV);
 - James 4:6-10 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (NKJV);
 - 1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, (NKJV).
- By completely trusting God Romans 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (NKJV))
- By dedicating every activity of life to Him . 1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (NKJV). This is one of the acid tests for a spirit-led believer. Can you really and honestly say as you start out on anything, "Lord God my Creator and Redeemer, I now utterly dedicate to you my -
 - Expenditure of money on this item [since its your money]
 - Body as I take it to this place, my presence and activities I dedicate to your glorious holiness. *[See why the older you get in Christian maturity, the less freedoms you take! There is a consuming passion that grows to be found in Him unspotted by the world James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (NKJV)]*
- By consistently enduring suffering 1 Peter 4:14-16 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. (NKJV))
- By joining the team exemplified by:
 - David , Psalm 57:5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth. (NKJV);
 - The multitude , Matthew 9:8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men. (NKJV); 15:31;
 - The Virgin Mary , Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, (NKJV)
 - The angels , Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (NKJV)
 - The shepherds , Luke 2:20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (NKJV)
 - By Jesus , John 17:4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (NKJV)

- The man sick of the palsy , Luke 5:25 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. (NKJV) as well as: the woman with infirmity, Luke 13:13; the leper whom Jesus healed, Luke 17:15; the blind man, Luke 18:43;
- The centurion , Luke 23:47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" (NKJV)
- The church at Jerusalem , Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." (NKJV)
- The Gentiles at Antioch , Acts 13:48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the Word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. (NKJV)
- Abraham, Romans 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, (NKJV)
- Paul , Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (NKJV)

1. Swindoll, p. 61.
2. USA Today, 11/29/96.
3. Sanders, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, p. 90-92.
4. Scroggie
5. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit, pp118-120.

Fearing God

BYT: Message Twenty-One (970105AM)

The fear of the Lord may best be described in the lives of two shepherd boys. Both knew only nomadic life. following the pasture. feeding the sheep. leading the flock, and protecting the weak.

It was a quiet and demanding sort of life. Cold and damp nights on the ground; long and hot days in the sun. Then came the big change. For one it was the pit, and then the test. For the other it was the palace and then the test. Both were tested on the fear of the Lord. One passed with flying colors. The other crashed and burned. The first met Mrs. Potiphar and said no. The second met Mrs. Uriah the Hittite and said yes.

What was the difference between Joseph and David? Joseph feared the Lord anywhere, anytime and in anything. Startled by the rapid culture shock of being sped (actually walking about 30 days from Dothan to Egypt) to the most advanced civilization of the day. He is confronted with new rules, new dress, new language, new responsibilities. But it was the old habits he took with him. They proved to be good ones. He cultivated the awareness of God's presence. He saw God looking at him. He had been aware of that in Palestine. He was equally aware in Egypt.

A crisis does not make a man or woman, it only reveals what they have all the time been becoming. Joseph was becoming a young man who feared God. What did that mean? Well Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (KJV) HIS CLEAN FEAR ENDURES (v. 9a) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE CONDITION: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever. This is fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me. The fear of the Lord kept Joseph pure even in the days of his youth when it can be so hard. God had big plans for him. He might have forfeited it all for a moment of fun. But the fear of the Lord kept him.

What is this fear of the Lord about for us this morning ? In the New Testament it is commanded 1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (NKJV)

When Should a Person Fear God?

- When they come to realize his omnipresence as Joseph did!
 - Genesis 39:8-9 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (NKJV)
- When they come to realize his omnipotence as Elijah did!
 - 1 Kings 19:11-14 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14

And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."
(NKJV)

- When they come to realize his omniscience as Elisha's servant did!
 - 2 Kings 6:9-17 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." 10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice. 11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" 12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan." 14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (NKJV)
- When they come to realize his holiness as Isaiah did!
 - Isaiah 6:1-5 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." (NKJV)
- When they come to realize his sovereignty as Nebuchadnezzar did!
 - Daniel 4:32-37 And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." 33 That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the

earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down. (NKJV)

Why Should the Fear of the Lord Motivate Us to Holy Living? Because We See:

- God's Greatness
 - Deuteronomy 10:14 "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it. 17 "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. (NKJV);
 - Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power Not one of them is missing. (NASB)
- God's Awesome Wonders
 - Joshua 4:23-24 "for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, 24 "that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever." (NKJV)
- God's Goodness
 - 1 Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. (NKJV)
- God's Mercy
 - Psalm 130:4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. (NKJV)
- God's wrath Revelation 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." (NKJV)
- God's Holiness
 - Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested." (NKJV)

How is The Fear of the Lord Presented in the Scriptures?

- As a purifying power
 - Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, (NKJV)
- As an enduring power
 - Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; (NKJV)
- As a motivating power

- Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (NKJV)
- As a separating power
 - Proverbs 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. (NIV)
- As an invigorating power
 - Proverbs 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. (NIV)
- As an enriching power
 - Isaiah 33:6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure. (NIV)
- As an investing power
 - Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, (NIV)

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (NKJV)

- The Title:
 - Here the Word of God is called "the fear of the Lord". Thus stressing the condition of those who heed. Where are we? We have already seen:
 - HIS PERFECT LAW RESTORES (v. 7a) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE TEACHER: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: God's truth that totally transforms, touching all of life, turning the whole person to God. so the (divine teacher) Word teaches the truth of God
 - HIS SURE TESTIMONY MAKES WISE (v. 7b) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE WITNESS: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. God's testimony absolutely trustworthy making us skilled in the art of holy living. so the (divine teacher) Word teaches the truth of God and (the divine witness) testifies the way of God.
 - HIS RIGHT STATUTES REJOICES (v. 8a) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS: The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart. God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe, causing great joy because we know what is absolutely right. so the (divine teacher) Word teaches the truth of God and (the divine witness) testifies the way of god and (the divine directions) turn the walk to God
 - HIS PURE COMMANDMENTS ENLIGHTENS (v. 8b) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DECREES: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. God's commands give a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes, without any flaw bringing light on every area. . so the (divine teacher) Word teaches the truth of God and (the divine witness) testifies the way of God and (the divine directions) turn the walk to God and (the divine decrees) tie us to the will of God.

- HIS CLEAN FEAR ENDURES (v. 9a) = The Word of God is the Divine Conditions (eternal life) THE DIVINE CONDITION: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever. This is fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me.
- The Attribute:
 - "Clean" or with no foul spot, untainted, unstained, and the absence of imperfections; thus stressing the character of God's work of producing holiness in us! What is this divine condition of fearing the Lord ? What does it mean to God ? How does He describe it in His Word? ⁽⁵⁾ **If WORLDLINESS IS ACTING LIKE A PAGAN, then holiness is acting like a saint!**
 - The divine condition (holiness) is realizing God's eternal plan . Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (NKJV). "Remember that holiness was God's purpose for all his people when he planned their salvation".
 - The divine condition (holiness) is seeing Christ's dying purpose. Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, (NIV) Remember that holiness was Christ's purpose for all of us when he died for us.
 - The divine condition (holiness) is living as new creatures in Christ. Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV) Remember that it was for holiness that we were raised to life in Christ.
 - The divine condition (holiness) is learning the message of grace. Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (NIV) Ephesians 4:21-24 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (NIV) Remember that the gospel that calls us to Christ summons us also to holiness
 - The divine condition (holiness) is Christ liberating us from sin. Matthew 1:21 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (KJV) Remember that holiness, which is another name for the life of deliverance from sin, is itself a part of the salvation that Jesus brings us.
 - The divine condition (holiness) is the only way of seeing God. Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (NIV) "Remember that ... without holiness no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14 NIV) not because a Christian's final acceptance has to be earned by holy living, but because, just as only through a sound eye can one ever see a view, so only

through a pure heart can one ever see God (we have that on Jesus' authority)."

- The divine condition (holiness) is opening fellowship with God Psalm 15:1-2 LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? 2 He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart (NIV) Remember, too, that holiness makes for the happiness of fellowship with God, which the unholy will miss.
 - The divine condition (holiness) is securing a place of pleasing service for God. II Timothy 2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. (NKJV) Remember also that holiness is the precondition of usefulness to God.
 - The divine condition (holiness) is growing through God's pruning. Hebrews 12:7-8 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. (NKJV) "Finally, remember that holiness is in any case the only way of life that is natural and fulfilling to anyone who is born again... As the great preacher of over a century and a half ago prayed, "Lord, make me as holy as it is possible for a saved sinner to be." Can we pray that this evening?
- The Effect:
 - "Enduring forever". It is eternal. Because it has no evil, taint, or spoil it needs no editing, refining or addition! Thus stressing the eternal duration it's going to last! The fear of the Lord produces in us holy living. We see Him magnifying:
 - The divine condition magnifies our victory! Exodus 20:20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." (NKJV)
 - The divine condition magnifies our leadership! 2 Samuel 23:3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God. (NKJV)
 - The divine condition magnifies our service! Psalm 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. (NKJV)
 - The divine condition magnifies our worship! Psalm 5:7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. (NKJV)
 - The divine condition magnifies our holiness! 2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (NKJV)
 - THE BENEFITS OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD:
 - THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S COMPASSION UPON US! Psalm 103:13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; (NIV)

- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S's MERCY UPON US! Psalm 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S BLESSING UPON US! Psalm 112:1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S HAND IN OUR LIFE UPON US! Psalm 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S GOOD PLEASURE UPON US! Psalm 147:11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S FULLNESS FOR LIFE UPON US! Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S CONFIDENCE FOR LIVING UPON US! Proverbs 14:26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S HATRED FOR EVIL UPON US! Proverbs 16:6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS GOD'S PROTECTION UPON US! Isaiah 8:12-13 "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. 13 The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD'S PEOPLE UPON US! Malachi 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. (NKJV)
- THE DIVINE CONDITION BRINGS God's presence UPON US! Acts 10:35 "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (NKJV)
- Now, let's focus on these 3 areas impacting our lives as believers:
 - The condition of fearing God as a way of life from God's word.
 - The qualitative character in God's word as clean.
 - The eternal duration of God's word.

The Way of Life Called Fearing God

- Defined to living acknowledgING that God sees me
- Described first (positively) in Bible
 - Adam & Eve (Gen. 3:9-10) Adam and Eve ran from God because they knew condition.
 - Hagar (Gen. 16:7-14) Hagar called God *El Roe* , the all-seeing God - responds.
 - Abraham (Gen. 22:12) Reverenced God so moved to action.

- Joseph (Gen. 39:9) Alone inside palace, acknowledged by actions God saw Him.
- Nehemiah (Neh. 5:15) Didn't take advantage of privilege because knew God saw him.
- David (2 Sam. 12:9)
- Job (Job 1:1) Job turned from evil. Why? Because he acknowledge God.
- Early Christians in Acts 9:31
- Cornelius in Acts 10:2
- Heroes of faith, Heb. 11:7
 - All were fearing God and by that awesome reverence, living in a righteous way or livingly acknowledging that Thou God seest me.
- Secondly, let's see some negative descriptions.
 - Gen. 6:5 Every imagination only evil.
 - Rom. 3:10-18 It's the way of sin! Harkens back to Ps. 36:1
 - Rom. 1:18 Suppress it.
 - Rom. 1:21 Ignore it.
 - Rom. 1:23 Exchange it for:
 - The, fear of God: defined Thou God seest described positive/negative in word of God to be desired.
- What does God desire us to do? In fact, fearing God is the doorway into God's presence on a moment. by moment basis! Listen to Solomon:
- Fear of the Lord
 - Prov. 9:10-12 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."
 - Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. (NKJV)
 - Proverbs 14:2 He whose walk is upright fears the LORD, but he whose ways are devious despises him. (NIV)
 - Proverbs 14:26-27 He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. 27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. (NIV)
 - Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor. (NIV)
 - Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble. (NIV)
 - Proverbs 28:14 Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble. (NIV)
- Fearing God is thus: Trustig in God or self
 - Proverbs 3:5-8 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. (KJV)
 - So, the way of life called fearing God is the title for God's word used in Ps. 19:9. Thus, it's part of salvation!

The Fear of the Lord is Clean

- That is its character. *Tahor* is the word. It means with no foul spots or antagonizing corruption, no evil....
- Isn't it interesting that only those things untouched by sin will last forever? All the rest need redemption.
- God's word has no stains, errors, mistakes, historical inaccuracies, cultural *faus faux* . It is purely preserve - clean!

The Fear of the Lord "Endures"

- It is eternal. The Bible never needs an update, never a new edition, it is never obsolete. It speaks with the same power today as 35 centuries ago.
- That can hardly be said for any of man's creations!
 - Science evolves
 - Psychologies fade
 - Philosophies die
- Psalm 119 has 22 stanzas. The fifth has as its theme: "The Enduring Word", v. 89-96 (read)
 - The Word of God never passes. It is eternal!
 - Need to know what will last! Those who have come to the Word of God and changed to its likeness, fearing God, they last forever.
 - Note 2 Samuel 12:9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. (NIV)

1. Swindoll, p. 61.
2. USA Today, 11/29/96.
3. Sanders, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, p. 90-92.
4. Scroggie
5. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit, pp118-120.

Fearing God II

BYT: Message Twenty-Two (970119AM)

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (NKJV)

The pre-eminate attribute of God is His HOLINESS. All other aspects of His character radiate outward from that attribute. His holiness is His utter distinction from all His creatures and creation. He is above, beyond and separate from all that is decaying, defiled and temporal.

His nature is HOLY.
His decisions are HOLY.
His character is HOLY.
His responses are HOLY.
His decrees are HOLY.
His sovereignty is HOLY.
His love is HOLY.
His wrath is HOLY.
His jealousy is HOLY.
God in every way is HOLY.

To Understand Even a Tiny Bit of His HOLINESS is to FEAR GOD!

The universe FEARS GOD.
Death and disease FEAR GOD.
The fig tree Christ cursed FEARED GOD.
The wind and the waves FEAR GOD.
The demons FEAR GOD.
Satan FEARS GOD.
All the angels of heaven FEAR GOD.
All the saints FEAR GOD.

Fearing God Demands a Response

God created us.
When we fell into sin He sought us.
When we had no hope He came and bought us.
When our sins were unpayable He offered Himself as payment.
When we were guilty He was a substitutionary sacrifice for our sin.

All that truth leads us to respond. First in saving faith and then in surrendered life.

All around people are dying without hope. They can't find their way to the pathway of hope. The Lord said fearing Him leads you to purity - it is "CLEAN" and permanence - because you will be "ENDURING FOREVER". This is the pathway to God and it is the road to heaven. Even the greatest on earth will miss that way unless they begin fearing God. Responding to God is imperative today. Are you responding to God? Do your neighbors, friends and relatives know that you fear God?

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (KJV)
The fear of the Lord.

A Person Would Fear God:

- When they come to realize his holiness as Isaiah did! Isaiah 6:1-5
- When they come to realize his omnipresence as Joseph did! Genesis 39:8-9
- When they come to realize his omnipotence as Elijah did! 1 Kings 19:11-14
- When they come to realize his omniscience as Elisha's servant did! 2 Kings 6:9-17
- When they come to realize his sovereignty as Nebuchadnezzar did! Daniel 4:32-37

This week we want to concentrate on WHY we must fear God! The exhibition, the motivation and the obligation.

Why Should We Fear God?

The exhibition: fearing the Lord is presented in the Scriptures as:

- Giving us purifying power Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, (NKJV)
- Giving us enduring power Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; (NKJV)
- Giving us motivating power Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (NKJV) We are motivated to live a life for His "well done."
- Giving us separating power Proverbs 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. (NIV) Because we fear Him we turn away from evil.
- Giving us invigorating power Proverbs 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death. (NIV) Because we fear Him we have an inexhaustible supernatural resource planted within us.
- Giving us enriching power Isaiah 33:6 He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure. (NIV). Because we fear the Lord we are heir to all the riches in Christ.
- Giving us investing power Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, (NIV). Because we fear the Lord we give back all we are and have to Him!

The motivation: fearing the Lord comes when we see God.

- Fearing God is seeing his greatness.
 - Deuteronomy 10:14 "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it. 17 "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. (NKJV);
 - Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power Not one of them is missing. (NASB)

- Fearing God is seeing his awesome wonders Joshua 4:23-24 for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever. (NKJV)
- Fearing God is seeing his goodness 1 Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. (NKJV)
- Fearing God is seeing his mercy Psalm 130:4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. (NKJV)
- Fearing God is seeing his wrath Revelation 14:7 saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water. (NKJV)
- Fearing God is seeing his holiness Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested. (NKJV)

The obligation: the fear of the lord should prompt a holy response . Once a servant of God sees His holiness and RESPONDS to it God has big plans for that servant. Don't miss them! How can we miss them? What hinders usefulness?

- In the New Testament Christians are called priests! Listen to Peter and John.
 - Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (NKJV)
 - Revelation 1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)
- In the Old Testament God lays down some stunning details! As we turn to Exodus 20 this morning examine your response to God. Are you living up to your calling as a holy priest living in the fear of God this morning?
 - A New Testament priest has the holy temple of a pure body Exodus 20:26 'Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.' (NKJV)
 - God's New Testament priests never expose their bodies in an unholy way. What is this? God has asked us to prevent any sexual display, or any cause for arousing wrong desires in another. Any flaunting of this temple (proudly, sensually, etc.) is an unholy thing.
 - Remember in the mind of an adulterer are women God calls adulteresses because they have given their body to be seen by those men. 2 Peter 2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. (NKJV). Be careful ladies what you expose to the lust filled eyes of this world. You are responsible as God's priests to be a holy temple with a pure body!
 - It also declares that the New Testament priest has a body given to the Spirit of the Lord and not to the flesh, the world or the devil! How is your body this morning?

Is it cleansed by the blood of Jesus? Are you keeping it holy for the glorious use of Jesus?

- A New Testament priest has the holy temple of a pure MIND (Exodus 28:36 You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD. (NKJV); Ex. 39:30)
 - As a New Testament priest, holiness to the Lord must always be engraved upon our forehead. The supreme qualification of a godly man or woman is a clean mind. That is why Paul said Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)
 - This pure mind also directly impacts the eyes! It is only as the purified Word is richly dwelling in our minds that we offer acceptable worship and service! Remember Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (NKJV)
 - It also declares that the New Testament priest has eyes focused on the Lord and not on the flesh, the world or the devil! How are your eyes and mind this morning? Are they cleansed by the blood of Jesus? Are they being kept holy for the glorious use of Jesus?
- A New Testament priest has the holy temple of pure EARS Exodus 29:20a "Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tip of the right ear of his sons . . ."
 - The anointing of the ears with blood speaks of cleansing away any past defilements of hearing (gossip, evil reports, filthiness, etc.) as well as keeping clean all future things listened to.
 - It also declares that the New Testament priest has an ear tuned to the Spirit of the Lord and not to the flesh, the world or the devil! How are your ears this morning? Are they cleansed by the blood of Jesus? Are they being kept holy for the glorious use of Jesus?
- A New Testament priest has the holy temple of pure HANDS Exodus 29:20b "Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the . . . thumb of their right hand."
 - The anointing of the hands (right thumb) with blood speaks of cleansing away any past defilements of actions we do (filthy habits, misuse of money, impure activities, etc.) as well as keeping clean all future activities.
 - It also declares that the New Testament priest has hands yielded to the Spirit of the Lord and not to the flesh, the world or the devil! How are your hands this morning? Are they cleansed by the blood of Jesus? Are they being kept holy for the glorious use of Jesus?

- A New Testament priest has the holy temple of pure FEET (Exodus 29:20c "Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the big toe of their right foot, (NKJV))
 - The anointing of the feet (right toe) with blood speaks of cleansing away any past defilements of places gone (where God is not honored, where false worship takes place, any occultic contact, places of violence, greed, places of sensuality, etc.) as well as keeping clean all future destinations.
 - It also declares that the New Testament priest has feet given to the Spirit of the Lord and not to the flesh, the world or the Devil! How are your feet this morning? Are they cleansed by the blood of Jesus? Are they being kept holy for the glorious use of Jesus?
- A New Testament priest has the holy temple of pure service Exodus 29:20d "Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood . . . and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar. (NKJV).
 - Every act of a New Testament priest in worship and service for Christ in His church, as His priest and for His glory must be pure and holy to the Lord!
 - It also declares that the New Testament priest has become a bond servant to the Lord and not to the flesh, the world or the devil! How is your servanthood this morning? Is it cleansed by the blood of Jesus? Is it being kept holy for the glorious use of Jesus?
- Lets sing TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE and in any area where you are not a New Testament priest living in the fear of the Lord , consecrate that part back to Him this morning!

1. Swindoll,

2. Swindoll,

3. Donald McCullough, *Waking from the American Dream* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1975), 15.

4. Adapted from Swindoll, *Shedding Light*, p. 61.

5. As told by Charles R. Swindoll in *Come Before Winter . . . and Share My Hope* (Portland, Ore.: Multnomah Press, 1985), p. 34.

6. Euripides, as quoted in *The Home Book of Quotations*, 10th ed., comp. Burton Stevenson (New York, N.Y.: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1967), p. 377.

7. *From Heaven*, by J. Oswald Sanders, p. 148-49.

8. *Maier, The Book of Nahum*, p. 127. Diodorus's work is called the *Chronicles*. The material on the fall n in turn from *Persica*, a chronicle of Assyria and Persia in twenty-three books by a Greek physician named Cresias, of which only fragments survive.

Liberating Truth

BYT: Message Twenty-Three (970202AM)

As you open your copy of God's Divine Truth this morning, turn to Psalm 19:9. History records one tragic life lived off the pathway of truth. Let's heed it! ⁽¹⁾

Who really cared? His was a routine admission to busy Bellevue Hospital. A charity case, one among hundreds. A bum from the Bowery with a slashed throat. The Bowery ...last stop before the morgue. Synonym of filth, loneliness, cheap booze, drugs, and disease.

The derelict's name was misspelled on the hospital form, but then what good is a name when the guy's a bum. The age was also incorrect. He was 38, not 39.

The details of what had happened in the predawn of that chilly winter's morning were fuzzy. Would it have made any difference if she and those who treated him had known who he was? Probably so.

His recent past was the antithesis of his earlier years. The Bowery became the dead-end street of an incredible life. But all that was over. A 25 cent-a-night flop house had rooms you hear about, but never want to see...full of stinking humanity too miserable to describe. He was one among many. Like all the rest, he now lived only to drink. His health was gone and he was starving. On that icy January morning before the sun had crept over New York's skyline, a shell of a man who looked twice his age staggered to the wash basin and fell. The basin toppled, shattered.

He was found lying in a heap, naked and bleeding from a deep gash in his throat. His forehead was badly bruised and he was semiconscious. A doctor was called, no one special--remember, this was the Bowery. He used black sewing thread somebody found to suture the wound. That would do. All the while the bum begged for a drink. A buddy shared the bottom of a rum bottle to calm his nerves.

He was dumped in a paddy wagon and dropped off at Bellevue Hospital, where he would languish, unable to eat for three days...and die. Still unknown.

A friend seeking him was directed to the local morgue. There, among dozens of other colorless, nameless corpses with tags on their toes, he was identified. When they scraped together his belongings, they found a ragged, dirty coat with 38 cents in one pocket and a scrap of paper in the other. All his earthly goods. Enough coins for another night in the Bowery and five words, "Dear friends and gentle hearts." Almost like the words of a song, some thought. But who cared?

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (NKJV)

This poor man died a slave to untruth. He was deceived by a false hope, namely alcohol. What happens we operate outside of God's truth? We are misled, deceived and captured by sin.

What Promises Happiness But Only Brings Despair?

Alcohol promises happiness, in the end, no happiness just bitterness, emptiness and lies. As drunken Elah, king of Israel found in 1 Kings 16:9 Now his servant Zimri, commander of half [his] chariots, conspired against him as he was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, steward of [his] house in Tirzah. (NKJV)

Promiscuity promises happiness, in the end, no happiness just bitterness, emptiness and lies. As lustful Amnon found in 2 Samuel 13:1-3 After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name [was] Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she [was] a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her. 3 But Amnon had a friend whose name [was] Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab [was] a very crafty man. (NKJV)

Drugs of all kinds promise happiness, in the end, no happiness just bitterness, emptiness and lies. As the addicts of the Tribulation find in Revelation 9:21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries (pharmakeia) or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (NKJV)

Money promises happiness, in the end, no happiness just bitterness, emptiness and lies. As the wealthy business men find to their sorrow in Revelation 18:15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, (NKJV).

Divorce often promises happiness, in the end, no happiness just bitterness, emptiness and lies. As the unfaithful Jews found in Malachi 2:14 Yet you say, "For what reason?" Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. (NKJV)

Selfish living for me first promises happiness, in the end, no happiness just bitterness, emptiness and lies. As the rich fool found on the night of his death in Luke 12:19-20 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, [and] be merry." ' 20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' (NKJV)

Pride promises happiness, in the end, no happiness just bitterness, emptiness and lies. As Lucifer the shining light bearing one found in Isaiah 14:12-14 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [How] you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' (NKJV)

Where can we look to find truth? In a person who declared they were truth and life. Jesus Christ and His book, the Bible!

Where Can We Find True Happiness?

1. **HIS PERFECT LAW RESTORES** (v. 7a *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE TEACHER: God's truth that totally transforms, touching all of life, turning the whole person to God.

2. **HIS SURE TESTIMONY MAKES WISE** (v. 7b *the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE WITNESS: God's testimony absolutely trustworthy making us skilled in the art of holy living.

3. HIS RIGHT STATUTES REJOICES (v. 8a *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS. God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe, causing great joy because we know what is absolutely right.

4. HIS PURE COMMANDMENTS ENLIGHTENS (v. 8b *the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DECREES: God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes, without any flaw bringing light on every area.

5. HIS CLEAN FEAR ENDURES (v. 9a *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever*) = The Word of God is (eternal life) THE DIVINE CONDITION. This is fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me.

6. HIS TRUE JUDGMENTS LIBERATE (v. 9b *the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether*) = The Word of God is (REV.19). THE DIVINE DECISIONS. God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.

- *Liberating truth comes by realizing God's eternal plan* . Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (NKJV). Remember that holiness was God's purpose for all his people when he planned their salvation.
- *Liberating truth comes by seeing Christ's dying purpose* . Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, (NIV) Remember that holiness was Christ's purpose for all of us when he died for us.
- *Liberating truth comes by living as new creatures in Christ*. Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV) Remember that it was for holiness that we were raised to life in Christ.
- *Liberating truth comes by learning the message of grace*. Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (NIV) Ephesians 4:21-24 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (NIV) Remember that the gospel that calls us to Christ summons us also to holiness.
- *Liberating truth comes by Christ liberating us from sin*. Matthew 1:21 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (KJV) Remember that holiness, which is another name for the life of deliverance from sin, is itself a part of the salvation that Jesus brings us.
- *Liberating truth comes as the only way of seeing God*. Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (NIV) Remember that ... without holiness no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14 NIV) not because a Christian's final acceptance has to be earned by holy living, but because, just as

only through a sound eye can one ever see a view, so only through a pure heart can one ever see God (we have that on Jesus' authority).

- *Liberating truth comes by opening fellowship with God* Psalm 15:1-2 LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? 2 He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart (NIV) Remember, too, that holiness makes for the happiness of fellowship with God, which the unholy will miss.
- *Liberating truth comes by securing a place of pleasing service for god* . II Timothy 2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. (NKJV) Remember also that holiness is the precondition of usefulness to God.
- *Liberating truth comes by growing through God's pruning* . Hebrews 12:7-8 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. (NKJV) Finally, remember that holiness is in any case the only way of life that is natural and fulfilling to anyone who is born again... As the great preacher of over a century and a half ago prayed, Lord, make me as holy as it is possible for a saved sinner to be. Can we pray that this evening?

Why ⁽²⁾ in the world would a forgotten drunk carry around a line of lyrics? Well, maybe he still believed he had it in him. Maybe that derelict with the body of a bum still had the heart of a genius. For once upon a time, long before his tragic death at age 38, he had written the songs that literally made the whole world sing, like:

*"Camptown Races"
"Oh! Susanna!"
"Beautiful Dreamer"
"Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair"
"Old Folks at Home"
"My Old Kentucky Home"*

And two hundred more that have become deeply rooted in our rich American heritage. Thanks to Stephen Foster, who nobody knew. And for whom nobody cared.

Makes me think of a few lines out of an old poem preachers once quoted:

*And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine;
A game--and he travels on.
He's "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."*

Almost. Almost gone. Until someone cares. And steps in. And stoops down. And, in love, rebuilds a life, restores a soul, rekindles a flame that sin snuffed out, and renews a song that once was

there. As Fanny Crosby put it:

*Touched by a loving heart,
Wakened by kindness
Chords that were broken,
Will vibrate once more.*

Deep within many a forgotten life is a scrap of hope, a lonely melody trying hard to return. Some are in prison. Some in hospitals. Some in nursing homes. And some silently slip into church on Sunday morning, terribly confused and afraid. Do you care? Enough to share the truth that can set them free? That was Christ's ministry. Is it yours? Some might look like bums from the Bowery, but they may have a song dying in their hearts because nobody knows and nobody cares.

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. (NKJV)

Stephen Foster died a slave to untruth. He was deceived by a false hope, namely alcohol. What happens when we operate outside of God's truth? We are misled, deceived and captured by sin.

Where can we look to find truth? In a person who declared they were truth and life. Jesus Christ and His book, the Bible!

1. 0.1 Swindoll,

2. Swindoll,

3. Donald McCullough, *Waking from the American Dream* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1975), 15.

4. Adapted from Swindoll, *Shedding Light*, p. 61.

5. As told by Charles R. Swindoll in *Come Before Winter . . . and Share My Hope* (Portland, Oreg.: Multnomah Press, 1985), p. 34.

6. Euripides, as quoted in *The Home Book of Quotations*, 10th ed., comp. Burton Stevenson (New York, N.Y.: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1967), p. 377.

7. *From Heaven*, by J. Oswald Sanders, p. 148-49.

8. *Maier, The Book of Nahum*, p. 127. Diodorus's work is called the *Chronicles*. The material on the fall in turn from *Persica*, a chronicle of Assyria and Persia in twenty-three books by a Greek physician named Cresias, of which only fragments survive.

Better than Gold, Sweeter than Honey

BYT: Message Twenty-Four (970209AM)

Worshipping God is the highest calling we can have as His creation. We were created to worship God. Yet I find more resistance in my life to worship than anything else. Distractions pour in, doubts arise and the constant downward tug of the world, the flesh and the devil all make it hard.

On the positive side, we can all agree that the most precious moments in our life are those few that we know were spent standing consciously in the very presence of God. This morning may I

ask you to rise to this moment?

This is a worship service. We have come to worship the sacrificial death of Christ in our place. We have come to worship God the Father's plan. Would you lay aside all the plans, imaginations and distracting thoughts of other things and give the gift of your total attention to God? Will you follow along in the Scriptures and in a spirit of continual prayerfulness ask the Lord to open your heart more and more to Him? Its the hardest and yet most rewarding exercise I can think of!

Isaiah 64:7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. (NIV).

God was lamenting His worshipless people. Note the key words "strive to lay hold of you."

Isaiah 64:7 And [there is] none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. (KJV)

As you open to the 19th Psalm, you turn to the testimony of one young man, inspired by the Holy Spirit to extol the benefits of experiencing God.

David spells out two superlatives of the Scriptures: their attraction is greater than anything else, and their satisfaction is better than all else.

Psalm 19:10-11 More to be desired [delighted, covet] [are they] than gold [splendor, shimmering], yea, than much fine gold [pure gold]: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb [dripping honey, honey comb]. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [and] in keeping of them [there is] great reward . (KJV)

This morning, have you experienced the irresistible attraction and the incomparable satisfaction of experiencing God? The two metaphors David used are Possessions "fine gold" and Pleasures "dripping honey". In his world - gold was king of riches and honey was the sweetest known substance. He proposes to all who will try, that experiencing God is the highest pleasure and greatest treasure to be found. What do you think? God and His Word have fallen on hard times in our world. There are far more exciting pleasures and captivating treasures than Him, aren't there?

Rich and Empty

In 1923 seven men who had made it to the top of the pyramid met together at the Edgewater Hotel in Chicago. Collectively they controlled more wealth than the entire United States Treasury, and for years the media had held them up as examples of success. Who were they?

- Charles Schwab, president of the world's largest independent steel company;
- Arthur Cutten, the greatest wheat speculator of his day;
- Richard Whitney, president of the New York Stock Exchange;
- Albert Fall, a member of the president's cabinet;

- Jesse Livermore, the greatest bear on Wall Street;
- Leon Fraser, the president of the International Bank of Settlement;
- and Ivar Kreugger, head of the world's largest monopoly.

What happened to them?

- Schwab and Cutten both died broke;
- Whitney spent years at Sing Sing Penitentiary;
- Fall also spent years in prison, but was released so he could die at home;
- and the others, Livermore, Fraser and Kreugger, committed suicide. ⁽³⁾

In more modern times Elvis "the King" had gold plated, crushed-diamonds-in-the-paint limousines, world wide worship and wealth in banks. He died alone, despairing and lost! When Diet Coke could only be found in America, Aristotle Onassis's daughter Christina dispatched a weekly jet to replenish her supplies of the "real thing". She would drink her Coke with "friends" hired at the rate of \$30,000 a month to spend time with her . . . all the while never experiencing the REAL FRIEND who could fill her empty soul with inexpressible joy!

Have you found God in such a way that it has filled your soul with sheer delight?

Is He sweeter than the sweetest experience you have ever felt?

Are you captivated by His beauty, His perfections and the brightness of His glory?

If there is any hesitance in your responses look again at Isaiah 64:7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. (NIV)

Does God Delight Your Soul?

1. GOD WANTS TO MEAN MORE TO US THAN MONEY OR NICE THINGS: Job 22:25 then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you. (NIV)

"Lord You are More Precious Than Silver"

2. THE LORD WANTS US TO FIND OUR LASTING JOY AS WE LINGER IN HIS PRESENCE: Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (NIV)

3. HE WANTS US TO TRY HIM OUT, TAKE THE TASTE TEST THIS MORNING: Psalm 34:8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. (NIV)

4. GOD THE FATHER WANTS TO INTOXICATE US WITH HIS LOVE: Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. (NIV)

5. THE LORD IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF DEEP AND ABIDING JOY: Psalm 43:4 Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God. (NIV)

6. GOD IS THE MOST RIVETING, BREATHTAKING AND ALLURING SIGHT IN THE UNIVERSE IF YOU WILL JUST STOP AND FOCUS ON HIM: Psalm 96:6-8 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. (NIV)

7. LISTENING WITH OUR HEARTS WE TASTE HIM: Psalm 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (NIV)

Isaiah 64:7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. (NIV).

Do You Want to Worship God As Few Ever Do?

"I Love You Lord"

We now just start the process of trying to worship Him as we startledly sit still in front of His awesome Majesty: Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (NIV); Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him." (NIV)

"Be Still and Know"

Then as we comprehend even a fraction of Who He is and how utterly magnificent He is we stop again in awe, wondrous reverence and sheer delight at the magnitude of His power, might and infinitude: Psalm 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. (NIV)

"We Worship You "

As we linger in the glow of His presence we find our lack of holiness becomes painfully revealed: Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says -- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. (NIV)

"There is a Fountain"

Then it hits, a pang of hunger. We want to know Him, love and adore Him. We begin to fill up with wonder and gratitude for even the chance to have this moment: Psalm 42:1-2 Psalm 42 For the director of music. A [maskil] of the Sons of Korah. As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (NIV); Psalm 63:1 Psalm 63 A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah. O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. (NIV); Psalm 73:25-26 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (NIV).

"Love Divine"

Awash with wonder we feel the sheer delight of a new hope. Joyously He begins to flood our souls with His response of bearing away the deadening load of our sin. We feel the burden lifted, the stains removed, the coldness warmed and the emptiness filled. We are experiencing our God: Psalm 30:11-12 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, 12 that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever. (NIV); Psalm 27:4 One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. (NIV).

1. 0.1 Swindoll,

2. Swindoll,

3. Donald McCullough, *Waking from the American Dream* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1975), 15.

4. Adapted from Swindoll, *Shedding Light*, p. 61.

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8. *Maier, The Book of Nahum*, p. 127. Diodorus's work is called the *Chronicles*. The material on the fall in turn from *Persica*, a chronicle of Assyria and Persia in twenty-three books by a Greek physician named Cresias, of which only fragments survive.

Warned and Rewarded BYT: Message Twenty-Five (970223AM)

We all are surrounded each day by warnings of every kind; that bothersome seat belt alarm in our cars, the smoke detectors when the toast gets stuck in the toaster, labels on food warning that it has too much fat or sugar and so on!

Radiation, sun, and air are all dangerous, we are warned. But life goes on. Some warnings are true and some we aren't sure about. This morning we can all put our natural suspicions and

aversions to warnings down, and let the Lord through His Word teach us about God's Warning System!

So many times people have been misinformed and actually steered the opposite direction they needed to go for safety. The Lord never does that. He is TRUTH and LOVE. His warnings are right every time.

BLACK DEATH

The Great Plague ⁽⁴⁾ that infected London in the seventeenth century began innocuously enough with a few isolated cases in May 1664. One year later in that same month, 590 cases were reported, but ignored. By June the number swelled to 6,137. Panic ensued as the figure rose to 17,000 in July. Like stampeding cattle, two-thirds of London's population fled their homes as the deaths totaled 31,000 in August, 1665. But that was only the beginning. By the time the Plague was brought under control, more than 70,000 Londoners had been buried or burned.

What caused this catastrophe? The infinitesimal bites of fleas carried by diseased rats. Back then, however, people thought badsmelling air was the problem, so they carried sweet-scented posy petals in their pockets to ward off the disease. Hospitals even walked patients around rose gardens hoping to cleanse their lungs with the flowers' fragrance. This cured no one, of course, and it's said that one man sang these words as he piled the victims onto his pushcart: Ring around the roses, A pocket full of posies; Ashes, ashes, we all fall down. ⁽⁵⁾

Ironically, this parody of calamity is now sung all over the world as an innocent nursery rhyme. Yet for those who know the horror of its history, the last line is a sobering reminder of the greatest plague of all-death. Even those fortunate enough to escape the Plague in that day still eventually died. "Death is a debt we all must pay," wrote the Greek poet Euripides. ⁽⁶⁾ "Ashes, ashes, we all fall down" is also a constant refrain throughout the Scriptures.

Our Lord warns us how to escape death and find life. Where? In His Word! (Psalm 19)

The Word of God Tells Us How to Find Life

HIS PERFECT LAW RESTORES (v. 7a *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE TEACHER: God's truth that totally transforms, touching all of life, turning the whole person to God.

HIS SURE TESTIMONY MAKES WISE (v. 7b *the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE WITNESS: 9. God's testimony is absolutely trustworthy making us skilled in the art of holy living. So the word teaches the truth of God and testifies the way of God.

HIS RIGHT STATUTES REJOICE (v. 8a *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DIRECTIONS. God's statutes give directions to only secure place in the universe, causing great joy because we know what is absolutely right. so the Word teaches the truth of God and testifies the way of God and turns the walk to God.

HIS PURE COMMANDMENTS ENLIGHTEN (v. 8b *the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes*) = The Word of God is THE DIVINE DECREES: God's commands give a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes, flawlessly bringing light on every area. So the Word teaches the truth of God and testifies the way of God and turns the walk to God and ties us to the will of God.

HIS CLEAN FEAR ENDURES (v. 9a *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever*) = The Word of God is (eternal life) THE DIVINE CONDITION. This is fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me.

HIS TRUE JUDGMENTS LIBERATE (v. 9b *the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether*) = The Word of God is (REV.19). THE DIVINE DECISIONS. God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.

- In six masterful strokes the eternal author etches his character and sufficiency toward us.
 - The divine teacher: God's care that totally transforms.
 - The divine witness: God's testimony absolutely trustworthy.
 - The divine directions: God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe.
 - The divine decrees: God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes.
 - The divine condition: fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me.
 - The divine decisions. God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living.
 - God's final word "the judgments of the Lord".
 - God's faithful word "are true" (*absolutely true, never false*).
 - God's firm word "and righteous altogether" (*mutual parts explain and defend one another*).

Warnings:

In the garden God warned Adam and Eve Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (NKJV). There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

Before the Flood God warned the people through a mighty prophet who preached unflinchingly against the whole world! Jude 14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (NKJV) There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

At the Flood God warned Genesis 6:3, 5 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he [is] indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every intent of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. (NKJV). There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

Two thousand years later the Lord Himself came down and warned a family to get away from a city named Sodom, whose name now stands for wretchedness. Genesis 19:14-26 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. 15 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." 16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed." 24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. (NKJV) There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

Should we listen to the Word of the Lord this morning? Yes. Psalm 19:10-11 More to be desired [are they] than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, [And] in keeping them [there is] great reward. (NKJV)

As the writer of Hebrews said: Hebrews 2:1-3 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard [Him,] (NKJV)

God's Warnings From His Word the Holy Scriptures:

In the Old Testament the word for warn is #2094 *zahar* 'teach, warn, shine, lighten' in 5 places:

- God's warnings are based upon His Word Exodus 18:20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. (KJV)
- God's warnings have to do with how we live our daily life. Second Chronicles 19:10 "Whatever case comes to you from your brethren who dwell in their cities, whether of bloodshed or offenses against law or commandment, against statutes or ordinances, you shall warn them, lest they trespass against the LORD and wrath come upon you and your brethren. Do this, and you will not be guilty. (NKJV)

- God's warnings flow from the Divine Word which teaches, witnesses and directs our lives Psalm 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [and] in keeping of them [there is] great reward. (KJV)
- God's warnings ignored are the path to destruction Ecclesiastes 4:13 Better [is] a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished. (KJV)
- God's warnings are simple to follow Ecclesiastes 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [there is] no end; and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh. (KJV)

In the NT the key words are #5537 *chrematizo* 'warned of God by consultation' 4 times:

- God's warnings kept Baby Jesus safe Matthew 2:12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. (NKJV)
- God's warnings led Joseph to take his family the right direction for the Lord Matthew 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. (NKJV)
- God's warnings led Cornelius to seek the way of salvation Acts 10:22 And they said, "Cornelius [the] centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." (NKJV)
- God's warnings led Noah to serve the Lord in a most wicked time on earth Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (NKJV)

And *'hupodeknumi* 'show by placing before the eyes of, teach' 2 times:

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FLEE YOUTHFUL LUSTS: Don't...

1. HABITUATE your lusts
2. CRIPPLE your conscience
3. SOIL your mind
4. DESENSITIZE your warning system
5. MISUSE your body, mind and eyes
6. SPOIL your ability to give
7. LESSEN your desires for a godly wife

1. 0.1 Swindoll,

2. Swindoll,

3. Donald McCullough, *Waking from the American Dream* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1975), 15.

4. Adapted from Swindoll, *Shedding Light*, p. 61.

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God's Rewards

BYT: Message Twenty-Six (970302AM)

RIMMER LETTER

Let me read a letter ⁽⁷⁾ Dr. Harry Rimmer wrote in 1953, just a week before his death. He wrote to the great radio Bible teacher, Dr. Charles Fuller who was just starting a series on heaven, just as we are doing. Listen and carefully ask yourself if your confidence is as firm as his. If not may

I urge you to make preparation for heaven before its too late?

Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for more than fifty-five years, I did not buy it. It was given to me "without money and without price." But the donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation, since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot.

For more than half a century I have been sending materials, out of which the Great Architect and Builder of the Universe has been building a home for me, a home which will never be remodeled nor repaired, because it will suit me perfectly, individually and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations, for they rest upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks nor bolts will ever be placed on its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that Land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected.

There is a valley of deep shadows between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a very short time. I cannot reach my home in that city of gold without passing through this dark valley of shadows; but I am not afraid, because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long, long, ago and drove away all its gloom. He has stuck by me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted fifty-five years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form that He will never forsake me nor leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me.

In six masterful strokes the eternal author etches his character and sufficiency toward us.

- The divine teacher: God's care that totally transforms
- The divine witness: God's testimony absolutely trustworthy
- The divine directions: God's statutes giving directions to only secure place in the universe
- The divine decrees: God's commands giving a clear portrait of God's non-optional absolutes
- The divine condition: fearing God, lovingly acknowledging by my actions God sees me
- The divine decisions: God's judgments, His final word on everything! Non-negotiable living
 - God's final word "the judgments of the Lord"
 - God's faithful word "is true" (*absolutely true, never false*)
 - God's firm word "and righteous altogether" (*mutual parts explain and defend one another*)

God's Warnings

In the garden God warned Adam and Eve Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (NKJV). There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

Before the Flood God warned the people through a mighty prophet who preached unflinchingly against the whole world! Jude 14-15 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (NKJV) There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

At the Flood God warned Genesis 6:3, 5 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he [is] indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every intent of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually. (NKJV). There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

Two thousand years later the Lord Himself came down and warned a family to get away from a city named Sodom, whose name now stands for wretchedness. Genesis 19:14-26 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. 15 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." 16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed." 24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. (NKJV) There was God's warning. Did they heed and obey? Of course we are painfully aware of the deadly results of their disobedience.

Should we listen to the Word of the Lord this morning? Yes. Psalm 19:10-11 More to be desired [are they] than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, [And] in keeping them [there is] great reward. (NKJV)

As the writer of Hebrews said: Hebrews 2:1-3 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard [Him,] (NKJV)

In the Old Testament the word for warn is *zahar* 'teach, warn, shine, lighten' in 5 places:

- God's warnings are based upon His Word Exodus 18:20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. (KJV)
- God's warnings have to do with how we live our daily life. Second Chronicles 19:10 "Whatever case comes to you from your brethren who dwell in their cities, whether of bloodshed or offenses against law or commandment, against statutes or ordinances, you shall warn them, lest they trespass against the LORD and wrath come upon you and your brethren. Do this, and you will not be guilty. (NKJV)
- God's warnings flow from the Divine Word which teaches, witnesses and directs our lives Psalm 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [and] in keeping of them [there is] great reward. (KJV)
- God's warnings ignored are the path to destruction Ecclesiastes 4:13 Better [is] a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished. (KJV)
- God's warnings are simple to follow Ecclesiastes 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books [there is] no end; and much study [is] a weariness of the flesh. (KJV)

In the NT the key words are *chrematizo* 'warned of God by consultation' 4 times:

- God's warnings kept Baby Jesus safe Matthew 2:12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. (NKJV)
- God's warnings led Joseph to take his family the right direction for the Lord Matthew 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. (NKJV)
- God's warnings led Cornelius to seek the way of salvation Acts 10:22 And they said, "Cornelius [the] centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." (NKJV)
- God's warnings led Noah to serve the Lord in a most wicked time on earth Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (NKJV)

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THE BELIEVER'S REWARD

1. Christ Sees All His Servants Clearly:

- He opens the inner thoughts of our hearts. 1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For [the] [Lord does] not [see] as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (NKJV)
- He will correct the direction of all who ask. Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if [there is any] wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting. (NKJV)
- He brings all the evidence to light. 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. (NKJV)
- Nothing is hidden from Him. Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account. (NKJV)

2. Christ Rewards Each Servant Differently:

- Only those servants who built to "specs" are rewarded 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Now if anyone builds on this foundation [with] gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on [it] endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (NKJV)
- Jesus gives out correct rewards 2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (NKJV)

3. Faithful Servants Get Big Rewards:

- God calls us "great" if we teach what we live. Matthew 5:19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches [them,] he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)
- God gives eternal joy to faithful servants. Matthew 25:21 His lord said to him, 'Well [done,] good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (NKJV)
- We can be pleasing God with our lives. Philippians 1:10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, (NKJV)
- We can be confidently awaiting Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:6-9 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, [that you may be] blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God [is] faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (NKJV)
- Keeping the Word gets the crown 2 Timothy 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (NKJV)
- Spiritual maturity leads to boldness 1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. (NKJV)
- God remembers who has earned rewards Hebrews 6:10 For God [is] not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, [in that] you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (NKJV);
- God rewards us based on the big picture. 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. (NKJV)
- Rewards come for missing Jesus so much you look for his return. 2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (NKJV)
- God is only swayed by what we do for Him. 1 Peter 1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay [here] in fear; (NKJV)

- The reward appointments come one at a time. 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (NKJV); Colossians 3:24-25 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. (NKJV).

4. Fleshly Servants Get Sad Results:

- Earthly riches usually lead to spiritual poverty Revelation 3:17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked -- (NKJV)
- Undisciplined living always leads to spiritual disqualification 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (NKJV)
- Building for self brings heavenly loss 1 Corinthians 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (NKJV)
- Fleshly servants reap an empty harvest of rewards Galatians 6:6-8 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (NKJV)
- Some of God's servants will be ashamed of their life lived for self instead of Christ, when Jesus appears. 1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (NKJV)

REWARDS

Ancient sources give a remarkably clear picture of the destruction of Ninevah. There had been rebellions in the empire for some time. Many of them were repulsed by the armies of Nineveh supported by her allies. But in the year 612 B.C. the doom of the city arrived. Combined armies of Babylonians and Scythians marched up the left bank of the Tigris River and surrounded the city. It happened in early spring at the time of the annual rainfalls. Since the rains were especially hard that year, the Tigris and other rivers flooded and apparently washed away a portion of the walls, leaving a breach for the armies to enter the city.

The Greek historian Diodorus Siculus (c. 20 B.C.) says that the river not only broke down the walls of the city, it also inundated part of it. At this point, the king, Sardanapalus, remembering an oracle to the effect that Nineveh would only fall when the river itself declared war against it, believed that the oracle was fulfilled and abandoned any hope of saving himself. He built a gigantic funeral pyre in the royal precincts, heaped up large quantities of gold and costly clothes, shut his concubines and eunuchs in a chamber he had made in the midst of the pyre, and then burned himself, his family, his concubines and eunuchs, and the palace.

Whatever had not been burned in this conflagration was destroyed by the entering armies. There was a terrible slaughter. Diodorus said, "So great was the multitude of the slain that the flowing

stream, mingled with their blood, changed its color for a considerable distance ⁽⁸⁾ ." There was unparalleled looting. For centuries the wealth of the ancient world had been pouring into Nineveh as a result of the Assyrian conquests. Now it poured out. Diodorus says, using a phrase which he did not employ in any other description of a city's fall, "They plundered the spoil of the city, a quantity beyond counting."

Then remember with me the passing of CT Studd. A former lean and fit athlete, now gaunt and emaciated. All his formerly gleaming white teeth now brown or long gone. Stooped, halting with each step he is surrounded by thousands of glistening black bodies. They have come to hear their beloved Bwana for the last time. He speaks after over two hours of singing. There in front of him sit 5,000 former head hunters. Now their oiled bodies, clothed in banana leaves, sit in an immense sea of white toothed smiles. With faces turned heavenward they sing of the sweet by and by and that beautiful shore they will someday see.

Passed now are the years of darkness and savagery. The former enemies sit shoulder to shoulder. No weapons of war are left, only the bond of love. This would be the last sight of this dear saintly convert Studd would see. After his message uttered between gasps for air, with every ear strained to catch each word, he is carried back to his hut. Exhausted, he rests, though only his Savior knew it was his last. In the night the Faithful Shepherd who had led him to China, then India and finally to the very heart of Africa took CT home. In the morning only the shriveled earthly tent was left. But around that hut and to the furthest reaches of the jungles and on mission stations around the world, the footprints of this giant can be found today.

CT Studd gave every thing to Christ. And in return he lost nothing. Sardanapalus kept everything to the end and dies as it was destroyed. Jim Elliot summed it up the best, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." This morning let's find what we can give up that will last forever!

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What God Rewards

BYT: Message Twenty-Seven (970316AM)

Psalm 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [and] in keeping of them [there is] great reward. (KJV)

Have you ever heard anyone say, "Well you can't take it with you!" That is true. God no less says the same thing. But so many have tried. Most notably we think of the god-kings of Egypt. Those

Pharaohs built giant banks (known as pyramids) to house their fabulous wealth so they could "take it with them". Now empty and looted they stand as silent witnesses to the folly of trying to hold onto this earth.

Perhaps the contrast between the last hours of life in two vastly different men will help us see how great are God's rewards!

The first man was the incredibly wealthy, last king of Assyria (in what is today Iran). Ancient sources give a remarkably clear picture of the destruction of Ninevah. There had been rebellions in the empire for some time. Many of them were repulsed by the armies of Nineveh supported by her allies. But in the year 612 B.C. the doom of the city arrived. Combined armies of Babylonians and Scythians marched up the left bank of the Tigris River and surrounded the city. It happened in early spring at the time of the annual rainfalls. Since the rains were especially hard that year, the Tigris and other rivers flooded and apparently washed away a portion of the walls, leaving a breach for the armies to enter the city.

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The second man was neither wealthy nor a king. His name was CT Studd. After serving 15 years in China and 6 years in India, he invested his final 21 years in the heart of Africa's vast, dark jungles among the fierce, cannibal, head-hunting pygmies. As his breaths became more shallow and labored, and his skin turned black. We need to remember the passing of this hero of heroes in the Lord's army of faithful servants.

CT Studd, a former lean and fit athlete, now gaunt and emaciated. All his gleaming white teeth now either broken, brown or long gone; stooped, halting with each step, he is surrounded by thousands of glistening black bodies wearing banana leaves. They have come to hear their beloved Bwana for the last time. He speaks to them only after over two hours of singing the songs he had so lovingly taught them: "Wounded for me, wounded for me, there on the cross He was wounded for me, gone my transgressions and now I can sing, all because Jesus was wounded for me!"

There in front of him sit 5,000 former head hunters. Now their oiled bodies, formerly the habitation of dark, foul fiends from the pit are temples of the living God. Once naked and grossly immoral lovers of darkness, now not only clothed in Christ but also modestly clothed in banana leaves. Before their beloved father in the faith they sit in an immense sea of white toothed smiles. With faces turned heavenward they sing of the sweet by and by and that beautiful shore they will someday see.

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- Nothing is hidden from Him. Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account. (NKJV)

2. Christ Examines each Servant Individually:

- Only those servants who built to "specs" are Rewarded 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Now if anyone builds on this foundation [with] gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on [it] endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (NKJV)
- Jesus gives out correct rewards 2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (NKJV)

3. Christ Promises Rewards for Faithful Servants:

- God calls us great if we teach what we live. Matthew 5:19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches [them,] he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)
- God gives eternal joy to faithful servants. Matthew 25:21 "His lord said to him, 'Well [done,] good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (NKJV)
- We can be confidently awaiting Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:6-9 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, [that you may be] blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God [is] faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (NKJV)
- God rewards us based on the big picture. 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. (NKJV)
- The reward appointments come one at a time. 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (NKJV); Colossians 3:24-25 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality. (NKJV).
- We can be pleasing God with our lives. Philippians 1:10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, (NKJV)
- Keeping the Word gets the Crown 2 Timothy 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. (NKJV)
- Rewards come for missing Jesus so much you look for his return. 2 Timothy 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (NKJV)
- God remembers who has earned rewards Hebrews 6:10 For God [is] not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, [in that] you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (NKJV);
- God is only swayed by what we do for Him. 1 Peter 1:17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay [here] in fear; (NKJV)
- Spiritual maturity leads to boldness 1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. (NKJV)

4. Christ Promises Loss of Rewards for Fleshly Servants:

- Building for self brings heavenly loss 1 Corinthians 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (NKJV)

- Undisciplined living always leads to spiritual disqualification 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (NKJV)

1. O.1 Swindoll,

2. Swindoll,

3. Donald McCullough, *Waking from the American Dream* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1975), 15.

4. Adapted from Swindoll, *Shedding Light*, p. 61.

5. As told by Charles R. Swindoll in *Come Before Winter . . . and Share My Hope* (Portland, Oreg.: Multnomah Press, 1985), p. 34.

6. Euripides, as quoted in *The Home Book of Quotations*, 10th ed., comp. Burton Stevenson (New York, N.Y.: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1967), p. 377.

7. *From Heaven*, by J. Oswald Sanders, p. 148-49.

8. *Maier, The Book of Nahum*, p. 127. Diodorus's work is called the *Chronicles*. The material on the fall n in turn from *Persica*, a chronicle of Assyria and Persia in twenty-three books by a Greek physician named Cresias, of which only fragments survive.