

Eyes of Faith

It's dark, 5:15 in the morning. I am here for my appointment. To my shame it's one I do not always keep...but God never fails to keep it.

I have learned that He is a God who patiently waits to be wanted... and so, He waits for me to wake up and be with Him early in the morning; He waits to teach me about Himself.

When I keep my appointment I prove that I love Him. Because it's only my obedience, that proves my love for Him.

So here I am Lord, being still, waiting to hear from you.

If you've visited our home you would have seen wonderful works of art adorning our walls, all created by my wife Elyse. She creates contemporary paintings, some as large as 5 x 7 feet.

Art is Elyse's passion, her canvas's are awash with bold and soft colors, with texture and small details to draw you into her images.

The dawn light is beginning to shine on the one special painting that I cherish most. The early soft light washes over the canvas bringing to life textures that begin to produce shapes that tell an ancient story about a humble, loving King.

As I watch, the scene of Calvary becomes clear yet again as it does every morning when the sunrise greets the painting.

You see weeks ago, some friends were over and said they could see two Crosses in the painting; the one Cross of Jesus and the other cross of just one thief. Sure enough, when I looked the crucifixion scene unfolded before me.

Throughout history when artist paint that scene they elevate the Cross of Christ to emphasize that He is Gods Son.

Yet here in the painting on my wall there are only two crosses at the same height. To me it says, at the crucifixion Jesus died like one of us, in place of us, a sinner like us.

He took my place on that Cross. Yes, He came to die for us all. But He would have come to earth to die on the Cross for me alone, if I had been the only sinner on earth.

How was it I had not noticed before? Maybe it's because we are trained to see the forest instead of the tree. Seeing the tree means we must get involved, we must feel others pain, we must care about those around us...its safer to see the forest!

But not so with our Lord. He knows each of us individually and feels our pain and cry's tears for each of us. Max Lucado said in one of his wonderful books:

“When we see a crowd, we see exactly that, a crowd. Filling a stadium or flooding a mall. When we see a crowd, we see people, not persons. A herd of human's. A flock of face's.

But not so with the Shepherd. To Him every face is different. Every face is a story. Every face is a child. Every child has a name.

The Shepherd knows his sheep. He knows each one by name. The shepherd knows you. He knows your name and He will never forget you. In Isaiah 49:16, God said, “I have written your name on my hand.”

Quite a thought, isn't it? Your name on God's hand. Your name on God's lips.”

How awesome, that when He views the painting of our life that He has created, He sees us and not the crowd.

Why only two crosses, there were three on the hill. In the painting which thief is there, which is not?

One thief acknowledged Him as the Son of God and was promised to be with Jesus in Heaven that same day. The other thief went to his death with a heart of stone. The weight of that heart of stone carried him down to meet the fate that he chose for himself...an eternity without God.

CS Lewis said, “There are only two kinds of people in the end, those who say to God “Thy will be done”.

And those to whom God says in the end, “Thy will be done.”

You belong to your physical family, but you had no choice. In heaven everyone there will again be a family but to belong to this eternal family you must choose!

So which thief remains in the painting, does it make any difference to you?

For 2,000 years the voice of Jesus has been crying out from the Cross asking each of us the question... "Who do you say that I am?" Jesus died on that Cross with open arms.

The nails were not necessary to hold Him on the Cross; HIS love for us would have held HIM there.

God has given me a gift through the creative hand of the wife I love. Elyse, was painting a contemporary piece of art, yet God was painting the Passion of His Son.

But there is more. In the lower right corner you can see the garden tomb, its dark entrance and the round stone that is now lying on the ground in front of the opening. Jesus was resurrected. Neither the tomb nor the grave could hold Him.

He was born the God/Man, in the frailty of humankind. He died in weakness...but He Rose in power and is alive today... and He is coming back in Majesty to judge all those who have not already bowed to His name.

In the painting behind Jesus there is an area of darkness. Within it you can see one pair of menacing eyes piercing the darkness, almost gloating, watching Him hanging on the Cross.

They are the eyes of the one who always lurks in the shadows, who himself hides from the light...the thief of our souls.

John Eldredge wrote in one of his books that there are 3 eternal truths.

"Things are not what they seem.
A battle is under way.
We have a crucial role to play.

You are not what you think you are. There is a glory to your life that your Enemy fears and he is hell bent on destroying that glory in you before you recognize it and act on it."

The light is stronger now on the painting.

I see at the foot of the Cross of Jesus a solitary figure whose bending body is covered by a prayer shawl...it's me.

I am there in this scene, you are too. Each of us clings to the foot of HIS Cross, holding on as tight as we can. If we but stopped for a moment to look up, we would see that really it is Jesus who is bent down from the Cross holding on to us.

I forget too often that I am one of His and He has promised to keep me and provide for me till He takes me home to be with Him.

At my deepest point of betrayal, when I had run my farthest from Him and gotten so lost I could never find my way home, Jesus came to die for me.

He extends His hand from the Cross to me; all I need is to but reach out and take hold of His hand...

I have never been loved like this before.

As the sunlight continues to illumine the painting; the colors above Jesus begin to look like a golden morning filled with hope and there above the Lord's head is the image of the head of a Lion.

That image reminds me that Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah...Death could not hold him... He comes in the light of a new eternal day. Jesus, our coming, conquering King Jesus.

“There is another painting that exists, a picture written in words long ago about the most amazing drama that ever was presented to the mind of man—a drama written in prophecy in the Old Testament and in the biography in the four Gospels of the New Testament— it is the narrative of Jesus the Christ.

One outstanding fact, among many, completely isolates Him. It is this: that one man only in the history of the world has had explicit details given beforehand of His birth, life, death and resurrection; that these details are in documents given to the public centuries before He appeared, and that no one challenges, or can challenge, that these documents were widely circulated long before His birth; and that anyone and everyone can compare for himself/herself the actual records of His life with those ancient documents, and find that they match one another perfectly.

The challenge of this pure miracle is that it happened concerning only one man in the whole history of the world.

Centuries before Christ was born His birth and career, His sufferings and glory, were all described in outline and detail in the Old Testament.

Christ is the only person ever born into this world whose ancestry, birth time, forerunner, birthplace, birth manner, infancy, manhood, teaching character, career, preaching, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection and ascension were all prewritten in the most marvelous manner centuries before He was born.

Who could draw a picture of a man not yet born?

Surely, God and God alone! Nobody knew 500 years ago that Shakespeare was going to be born; or 250 years ago that Napoleon was

to be born. Yet here in the Bible we have the most striking and unmistakable likeness of a man portrayed, not by one, but by multiple artists, none of whom had ever seen the man they were painting with words.

The inspiration of that portrait came from the heavenly gallery, and not from the studio of an earthly artist.

Nothing but divine prescience could have foreseen it and nothing but divine power could accomplish it. It is obvious the prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (*2 Peter 1:21*)”

Anonymous

I am truly blessed, because every morning now as I walk out of the house to begin my day, I look at the painting on my wall. I am reminded of His death for me and I realize that I am called to carry my Cross as well.

I am reminded that Jesus is the one who was, who is and is still to come.

I am reminded that if I love Him I will show it by my obedience to His command to tell His story to everyone I come into contact with each day because time is short.

Yes, how is it I never saw His story in the painting before? Maybe because like most mornings I never got up for my appointment to speak to Him before my day began.

How undeserving of His mercy and grace I am. His thoughts of me are as countless as the sands on the seashore. He knew me before I was conceived and chose me before He planned creation...and He came here to die just for me.

And to my shame I thank Him by breaking appointment after appointment.

I can easily identify with Paul and say how I long to be absent from this body and home with the Lord.

In the end I will shed tears before Him, tears of remorse for the wasted time, the promises to Him I never kept and the broken appointments *when I left Him waiting, to be wanted.*

But now He has given me a gift through the hand of my wife. A gift I cherish, one that reminds me daily of His triumph on the Cross, so I can go home some day and be with Him.

The sun is coming up and as intense light washes over the painting, details begin to blend into hues of creams and beige and gold. Yet, the message is still there formed in the earth tones of dark brown and rust.

The Cross and the head of the lion still stand out.

The Cross reminds me that He came to us first as a lamb, an unblemished lamb, a sinless sacrifice for the world's sins.

The Jews today cry out in the streets, Messiah Now!

The Jewish Nation has been saying “**Where is the Lamb?**” for over 3,500 years. God instituted the sacrificial system for the Remission of individual Sins by the shedding of the blood of an innocent lamb.

During the Temple period, every week throughout a Jew's entire life he would be constantly searching for the best lamb to sacrifice for his family.

When Abraham took Isaac to Mt. Moriah as a sacrifice Isaac asked the question that would echo throughout time by the Jewish people...
”Where is the Lamb?”

The Rabbis want a Temple to be prepared for their coming Messiah.

SOON, the Nation of Israel will again begin sacrifices and they will again be saying...

”Where is the Lamb?”...ONLY this time, The Lamb will FINALLY COME to be with His people!

Next time you are with believers, worshiping the Risen Lord and you are lost in the wonder of it all before HIS throne...

Quiet your heart, and listen carefully, and you will hear Him.

When we worship Jesus together in song...you can hear the LION of JUDAH ROAR!

He will soon be among His people again.

I finally understand what is meant by the eyes of faith.

Song writer Michael Card said it well:

”To hear with my heart, to see with my soul, to be guided by a hand I cannot hold, to trust in a way I cannot see, that's what faith must be”.

Now may the Ancient of Days, the Lord of Hosts, the Lord God of Israel put a hedge of Holy Angels around you and your family. Holy Angels that are empowered by the awesome might of the Holy Spirit to protect you and your family from all evil now and forever more.

Amen and Amen.

The Ending of the Greatest Story Ever Told

It's 5:30 in the morning. I sit here listening, but hear nothing...it's peaceful. The only sound that comes like relentless waves to the seashore is my thoughts of my family in Israel.

It's pitch black outside but soon there will be rays of light and the sun will shine and once again ONLY because of the promises of God, another day will begin.

A day of peace for me and a day of war that rains down death from the sky for my family in Israel.

I think of my parent's generation of Holocaust Survivors, a generation that closed their eyes to the times around them and lined up like sheep to the slaughter. And now my cousins in Israel, young, strong, fighting for their right to live. To live in a Nation that God calls the "Apple of His Eye", an eternal nation whose existence today is nothing less than a miracle.

No other ancient nation has arisen from the dust and ashes of history to stand as a Nation among Nations after 2,500 years. Israel, God's chosen people have been resurrected in a very real sense, just as their Messiah was 2,000 years ago at His prophesied first coming.

The Lord God of Israel, the ANCIENT of Days holds history in His hands. He directs it like water; all is accomplished according to His will. History, its beginning and ending is God's plan; written down through His Words beginning in Genesis with Moses and then through a long line of prophets to its ending in the Book of Revelation.

Our past, present and future history lives on the pages of Old Testament Scripture. Just as God breathed life into the first human being (Adam), so now the wind of His breath is turning over the remaining few pages of His book. The winds of war are quickly bringing about His Glorious ending of the Greatest Story Ever Told.

How many days of peace has the Nation of Israel seen since the time of Abraham? Not many. Through Abraham God chose a people for Himself out of the world through which the Jewish Messiah / Savior would someday come to bring peace to the world. Through the Jewish bloodline of King David, through the Nation of Israel, the prophesied Messiah would come to violently take back what is HIS and one day rule the world in peace.

Just as God chose to bring life through the Jewish Messiah to the world, satan also has chosen to bring death to this world. Every person has been created bearing the the Image of God...an Image that satan hates.

Satan chose to eliminate the Jewish Nation of Israel to stop the prophesied Messiah from coming; because the Messiah brings the end of evil and of Satan.

There have been two lines of blood running parallel in the sands of the Middle East throughout history. The first is the blood of Jesus, the eternal Son of God who existed before the manger, in eternity past with God. The Cross and the Blood of Christ are anchored in the sands of the Middle East. The line of blood shed by Jesus on the Cross runs back into eternity and forward into the future.

The other line of shed blood is that of the Jews, the Nation of Israel. Both lines of blood will merge at the very end of time when Jesus comes back again. Jesus will come back to His Chosen People and finally as a Nation, Israel will... "Mourn for Him whom they have pierced" and be healed... a nation Saved from an eternity spent in hell.

And so from the time of Abraham till today the nation of Israel continues to wait for the coming of their Messiah and his peace. They wait in blindness to the words of their own Scriptures. Still not recognizing the fact that their Messiah has already come according to Gods plan and soon will come again fulfilling Old Testament messianic prophecy.

And satan, recognizing that Jesus came already, now awaits his destruction and continues to persecute the Jews whom he hates and to mislead the rest of the world through his World religions into a choice based on ignorance that leads people on the path to hell rather than heaven through Christ.

It's interesting how you can light one candle in the darkness and the darkness flees from the light, such is the power of light. Jesus claimed to be the truth, the light of the world. The world has seen a great light, but it seems that since His coming 2,000 years ago His light has diminished and the darkness is growing.

The more familiar you are with the Greatest Story Ever Told, the more you understand the times we live in ... that they are called the **End - times** by Jesus.

The end-times are also unveiled in the Book of Daniel.

What has changed in our world that now the darkness grows ever greater as the light recedes and the minds of men grow dim? It is a sign of the end-times.

The Lord has asked us to witness because the fields of harvest are ripe. There is an urgency to do so because “Soon the night will come” and the light and the Truth will not be found. But witnessing is not getting easier, it’s getting harder.

This darkness that is all around is not physical but Spiritual. We are experiencing the lengthening of the darkness of the night of Sin. The world grows dark as do the minds and the hearts of mankind.

Jesus, his life, death, resurrection and ascension really happened in time and space. It is the most documented Historical fact in the ancient world.

Yet people choose to ignore the facts and choose not to believe. In fact people are so busy in their daily lives trying to build their mini empires of things, things that they will leave this world without; that they will not even take the time to understand the God/Man who came back from the Dead.

This darkness is not a physical darkness you can see, but darkness of the soul and mind causing us to see life through a mirror dimly. God has said, the time will come when we will see everything that is wrong become right and what is right become wrong. It refers to a moral decay, whose time has now come.

In the Judeo/Christian Bible the God who created everything provides us a summary of mankind's history... past, present and future. It represents man's beginning as a corporeal being to his becoming a spiritual being that will live forever.

Genesis 1 & 2:

God created all things and established His authority over all mankind and His creation.

Genesis 3:

Mankind rebels against God's authority.

Gen. 4 – Rev. 22:

God moves through history to re-establish His authority over all mankind.

That history includes the pre-flood era. When mankind walked in such darkness, and Sin that God chose to destroy all mankind except 8 people. When the Book of Revelation mentions “and the Sea will give up its dead”; I believe it is referring to pre-flood humanity.

The Book of Revelation speaks about the destruction of mankind again. This time it will not be by water, but by fire. But instead of only 8 people, God in His mercy and grace has spared a Remnant of people throughout history, billions of people throughout time that will inherit eternal life in heaven through faith in his Son.

Are you part of the Remnant? Or have you chosen the road marked destruction? The paradox is that the CHOICE is yours...God will only confirm your choice in the end.

Who but God could have come up with it.... **GOD BECOMING A MAN ...so HE could rescue some of us.** "Some of us", because His word tells us there will only be a Remnant (a few), who will take HIS outstretched hand and be saved.

Darkness fills our time but we wait for the Glorious day when time is no more and the Dawn of Eternity will break.

We wait patiently, in peace of mind and heart, able to Stand Alone in Faith awaiting our coming King...because we believe that the Bible is Gods Word...and God never lies!

Faith is trust based on evidence... We choose to believe.

Pray for your loved ones that are not part of the Remnant. Then pray for the peace of Jerusalem and that the Messiah Yeshua/Jesus, the Prince of Peace will now come to bring His peace to the world...without delay.

Isaiah Ch.9 vs 6-7

My Fathers Touch

To be emotionally dead...then live again.

It was mid morning; I was in my early 20's married to my first wife with two boys, Adam and Jamie. The Yom Kippur Holiday, (Jewish Annual Day of Atonement for the Sins of the Nation), Service at the little synagogue was always longer than I liked so I arrived late.

I had gotten up early so I could worship with my Dad along with 82 Holocaust Survivor members, people who remained faithful in their obedience to their God.

My Dad had been praying for hours already when I came into the service.

My Dad as I mentioned in previous emails lost two children and a wife in the death camps. As you can imagine, to my parents, I was their sole reason for living, a special gift from God after the war.

My wife at the time did not like my parents, even though it was my parents who always came through for us in the beginning of our marriage with money and groceries ...and never said a word to us about their help.

My parent's only joy was to see me and their grandchildren. It had been several weeks since I allowed them their joy.

When I arrived and took my place next to my Dad he turned towards me. The look on his face was one of compassion for me...but there were tears in his eyes. Then as if forcing his expression to change he became angry and he said I should follow him out of the synagogue.

My mother that morning was crying deeply...why had she not heard from her son for almost 6 weeks, why could she not see her grandchildren, he blurted out. It was more than my Dad could bear, to see the woman he loved so deeply at this late stage of her life be in so much emotional pain.

My Dad with tears told me he never wanted to see me again, that I was dead to both him and my mother...then he began to walk back towards the synagogue without me...back to his God to whom he would pray for strength, solace, and for peace in this new emotional pain.

To hear those words, see his face and feel his new agony that I had inflicted was more than I could bear. I began yelling for him to stop and wait, he didn't. I yelled loudly to him, he turned and I passed out and fell to the ground.

He ran to me and fell to his knees, cradled and held me, crying that he was sorry. Can you imagine... HE ran to me and said HE was sorry. What had he done? Nothing...I did it all! I had become insensitive to the greatest love of all, the love of a father for their child.

Like you I grew up in a family with relatives. There were always plenty of people to wipe away my tears; Aunts, Uncles and Cousins, my Mom and Dad. Yet, when I think of someone wiping away my tears I think of my Dad.

That morning so many years ago in front of the synagogue, with my Father rocking me back and forth, holding me in his arms, tears streaming down his face, wiping away my tears, with people walking by staring at us, offering His forgiveness when it was me who caused him pain...changed my attitude and my emotions and my life.

His hands were rough and callused, his fingers crooked and long. Years ago in the old country his grandmother chased him upstairs trying to hit him with a rod. To get away he jumped head first from a two story window, breaking his fall with his hands.

There was something in my Father's touch that took away more than the drop of hurt from my cheek. It took away my fear of rejection.

"The Apostle John says that someday God will wipe away your tears. The same hands that stretched the heaven will touch your cheeks. The same hands that formed the mountains will caress your face. The same hands that curled in agony as the Roman spike cut through will someday cup your face and brush away your tears. Forever." (MAX LUCADO)

The theme of the Book of Revelation is one of rewards for those that believe in the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God. That reward is to go home. If my earthly father Armin can show so much sacrificial love to me his son when it was I who caused his pain.

Then how much more sacrificial love does the Father of us all have in sending His Only SON to die on that Cross in place of me, the one who caused HIS PAIN.

This life I have lived for 59 years now is held together by Joy...because of what awaits me when I get home. Like Abraham before me I too am a vagabond looking for a city whose builder and maker is God, to a city with eternal foundations in Heaven.

My daily prayer is that those I love and cherish will come to faith and belief in Jesus the Messiah of Israel as their Savior and Lord. And that we can spend Eternity together in Heaven.

If not, I know God is greater than us all and He has promised to wipe away every tear from my eyes and give me peace ...Forever.

My Mothers Eyes

“Within us the dust of the earth and the breath of heaven are joined in a mysterious union only death can separate. Our eyes are windows into our Soul and there is more to you than you know !”

“Windows of the Soul” by Ken Gire

It had been 6 months now since I put my mother into the nursing home. My dad had been taking care of her in their apartment when he had his first of 3 heart attacks.

He was 82, she was 77. My dad was in the hospital recovering when I got the call from the nursing home that my mother no longer was eating. I went to the nursing home to meet with her doctor. I had a decision to make, he said.

Without nourishment she would die within the week from starvation, she needed a feeding tube. I went to my mother. This gentle woman, who bore me and raised me and loved me more than her own life, was now reduced to a shell of her former self.

She could do nothing for herself. She couldn't speak, move, turn, raise her arm...hug me...nothing but watch me with her eyes.

It has been said that our eyes are windows to the soul. Her eyes focused and followed me as I approached her. There was life and intelligence in her eyes.

The mother who raised me, knew me and loved me had now become a living spirit encased in the flesh of her dying outer shell.

I made the wrong decision that day. The doctor gave her a feeding tube and extended her captivity for 6 more months.

I have never forgotten nor forgiven myself for making that decision. I was embarking on a journey we all must go on at some point in our lives. My father and mother will both die within the year...and I would be alone in the world for the first time in my life.

I would visit my mother weekly. It was always the same. She never moved nor spoke...but her eyes...her eyes spoke volumes to me. Who we are, the journey we each have taken in life, all rests within our eyes. Our eyes are the gates into our soul, and our soul was created immortal by God, and made in His image.

We were meant to walk on streets of gold, to explore His universe, to experience Joy forever.

Nothing was more important to me in the time left to us than to put my mother's life into focus and hide her life in my heart, before she was gone.

"It hardly seems possible to talk about the soul without in some way talking about God.

We long for the companionship of God. We long for the assurance that we are not taking this journey alone. That He is walking with us and talking with us and intimately involved in our lives.

We are shaped from something of earth and something of heaven. We were torn from two worlds. Our body is but dust, made of the earth. But our spirit, who we really are, is given to each of us by God.

Through our creative talents we express the image of God and in doing so we see Him in us...as we paint pictures, compose music, sculpt wood and stone, or write stories. Through art, music and stories our souls seek that elusive something missing from our lives...God.

We reach out not knowing this God, with the talents He gave to us. But, He has revealed Himself to us through Scripture and asks us to seek Him not only through our talents but through His Word, and our Worship and Prayers.

There is a relationship within us that is a strained one, for while the body is fitted for a terrestrial environment- with lungs to breathe air and teeth to chew food and feet to walk on dirt...the soul is extra terrestrial, fitted for heaven. It breathes other air, eats other food and walks other terrain.

Something has been written by the hand of God deep within each of us in our being, something the soul strains to recall...they are recollections of our origins.

They whisper to us telling us we are more than a mere collection of chemical reactions or animal instincts. Like any memory, they can be repressed, but cannot be erased." . . . Ken Gire

Because the soul belongs to the unseen realm, we find ourselves feeling our way in the dark, groping for the words as we explore its mysteries by the dim light of our understanding.

But God has given us light...that light is His Word...it is a Lamp unto our Feet, allowing us to walk the path of the Soul upright, exploring its mysteries in Truth, giving us understanding of this tear stained journey of life that points the way home to God.

Gazing deep into my mothers eyes, memories came into sharp focus of a life lived, of stories told ...there were no words between us only our eyes spoke to each other.

After the war my mother began a new life. She was a holocaust survivor, like my father. Unlike my father's family who all came out alive, my mother lost everyone she loved. She came here alone. All the love she had for her family was now focused on me and she lived the rest of her life for me and lived through me.

She spent her life in tears. Confused with anxiety for each step in life I would take.

So great a love that bore so much emotional pain...I never understood till later.

Out of death God brings forth life. Out of pain God grants wisdom.

Before the foundations of the world were ever made, in eternity past....the Lord knew both my mother and me! I truly believe we can never understand the depth of that statement about predestination.

My mother told me the story of arriving at Auswiche with her sister and her sister's children, nine year old Teddy and 11 year old Lillian.

The four of them were in one line and a Nazi soldier pulled my mother out of the line and put her in a separate line by herself. My mother left the line 3 times to go back to be with her sister and her children.

Each time she was beaten and thrown into the other line. The last time she was beaten with clubs and physically could not get back. She was carried along by other people, unable to walk.

Her eyes were locked on three precious souls, the four hearts beat as one as the three slowly disappeared from her view.

Her last memory would be seeing the silent scream on the face of her sister as her two children clinging to her, walked together into the darkness of a past that haunted her for the rest of her life.

Why wasn't my mother allowed to stay in the line with her sister and the two children?

She didn't know that the line her sister and children were in meant death in the gas chamber and that the other line meant life...but God did.

You see my mother, years later was going to have me. God knew me from eternity past and graciously provided me with the gift of faith in His Son, the Messiah so I might have Salvation and some day go home to be with The Lord.

My mother loved God and knew the Old Testament. Why, during her life didn't she come to know the revealed Messiah Yeshua, Jesus The Christ, The Son of God?

All through His word God makes it clear that He knows everything about us:

The number of hairs on our heads
He knew us before we were conceived
He chose us when He planned creation
He determined the exact time of our birth
The days of our lives are written in His book
Every good gift comes from His hand
He loves us with an everlasting love
His thoughts about us are more than the sand of the seashore
He rejoices over us by singing

Didn't my mother know and understand this?

The answer is yes and no. It is Gods desire that all should be saved. But desire is not will. He left that decision to our wills by giving us free will. Hidden in the prophecies of the Old Testament is this message from God to both Jew and Gentile.

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. He is the exact representation of my being. He came to demonstrate that I am for you not against you and to tell you that I am not counting your sins.

My Son died so that you and I could be reconciled. His death on the Cross was the ultimate expression of my love for you. I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love.

Receive my son as your savior and nothing will ever separate you from my love again...and you can come home to me.

Is my mother home with God...I believe the answer is no. I base that on the Old and New Testament words of God to us all.

God is Holy and has made it clear that nothing less than perfect Holy people can enter Heaven. Since the fall in the Garden of Eden our race has been infected with a disease called Sin. Since the beginning of time there has only been one Perfect, Holy Person that walked the earth...the God/Man...Jesus.

The door of heaven opens through the Cross and no where else.

I love my mother and I love and trust the God I serve. He is Holy and His judgment is righteousness. As with many things in my life, I have given my mother to God who is wiser than I.

In return He has given me His peace that passes all understanding.

I visited my mother two days before she died. I wiped away the tears from her eyes...and said goodbye.

5th Commandment

“Honor your Father and Mother”

I try to meet with God every morning. I come before Him quietly because He says, “Be Still and Know that I AM God. I come to listen, not for an audible voice but for a thought, a gentle moving of my heart about a topic. So I wait, with God’s Living, Inerrant Word next to me for the Holy Spirit to move me.

I have a list of many thoughts that I have written down. Thought’s that need research and development to become a written insight, like the ones I have been sending out.

However, sometimes I am inspired to write by simple daily happenings in my life. I am getting better at understanding who God is and the pattern He has set up for our lives. That pattern or theme is called “Remembrance”.

We are a people called to remember Him and each other.

When you think it through God is the ultimate Storyteller. The difference in His stories is that they are actual events in History, not a story of fiction like a novel.

His stories are meant for edification. To help us learn lessons from other people’s lives, so we can benefit from their joy and sorrow...so we can continue living our lives becoming more and more like Jesus.

Once we come to know Jesus as Lord, God has promised to complete the work that ultimately will re-make us in His Image. Making us perfect, righteous and Holy...fitted for Heaven and Eternity. We will finally become the person God intended from before the foundations of the world...God’s ultimate triumph!

I was at a Bible Study a while ago. Our study is made up of 5 couples that have been together for many years. They are my brother’s and sister’s in Christ. Together we enjoy the Lord and each others company.

We all know and share in each others joy and sorrow. We are connected to each other. In our last meeting I could not help but listen to the concern’s that each family had regarding elderly parents.

We are all close to the same age, although I admit I have the title of being the Ancient of Days. Their parents are in the last stages of life and along with that come many ailments, both physical and mental. They require care, patience, but most of all understanding.

I am the only one whose parents have died already. They were both gone since I was in my 30's. They had me after living through the Holocaust. So I was born to them very late in life. It actually was like being raised by my Grandparents.

Both parents literally lingered on in life near the end. My mother took 2 years to pass on, my dad only 1 year. But I remember the constant involvement I had at that time with each needing continuing help and visitation.

I grieve anew when remembering my selfish feelings; the constant interruptions to my life, the "When will this end mentality...so I can be free to be me!"

Last year at a family Chanukah party I distinctly remember the feeling of sadness when I looked at the Old ones. I see in their eyes, so many faces I grew up with that are no more.

The sounds of their voices are but a soft echo in my ears. The memories of their lives, once vibrant in my mind have faded and come alive occasionally like embers in a dying fire when we softly blow air on them to keep the flame alive. Life truly goes away like a wisp of smoke that the wind takes away forever.

Too many of the younger ones today have no memory of those that have walked before them in the family. No one takes the time to look at old pictures or to hear the stories of their family members captured in time by their photographs.

How can they know the foundation of family lives upon which they stand? Without knowing the past how can the young ones increase their wisdom?

The Bible in the same way represents our family, those who have gone before us. God has provided eloquent word pictures that take us deep into the souls and motivations of those who loved and obeyed God while physically alive on earth.

The lives we live are like drops of water entering a pond. When we finally enter the water we make a ripple that continues out to join the circle of life started by those who have gone before us. In Hebrews 11:4- 40 there is a listing of people that God has given special mention too. These people lived their lives in faith, standing on the promises of God; but they died without seeing the object of their faith with their own eyes. They represent a model of faith for us to study and learn from.

I'll let you in on a personal secret. When the communion cup is passed to me I always look for the cup with the most bubbles in it. To my mind every bubble represents billions of believers throughout time. The bubbles remind me that I must do the best I can to live up to the faith that has been passed on to me by them. That they died for the cause of Christ.

You know this life is described in the Bible as a race that we are too run in and win. The difference is that this is a race of winners. We all are running together. As the one in front dies and immediately goes on to be with The Lord, their hand reaches back into time to pass the torch of Faith to the one who follows behind them. To the one in whom they put their time, effort and life into...the one they have been called to disciple.

My prayer for me comes from a lyric in a Steve Green song...*"May those who come behind me, find me faithful"*.

In **Hebrews 12:1** God reminds us about the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us taking the message of the Cross to the world. Like me, if you know Him, you too now belong to that cloud of witnesses. The word world for each of us means our family, friends, neighbors...people within our reach, our touch, and the sound of our voice.

People, who have been placed within the sphere of our lives by the Creator of the Universe for the express purpose of telling them how two stories became one. The story of a Holy God who sacrificed Himself on the Cross for us and the story of our changed lives based on our faith in HIM. Together we are now ONE.

We are not only called to remember the Cross and Christ, but each other and the lives we have lived and the deeds we have done. The deeds representing our stories lived out and written in Gods Book of Life must also be told to the next generation. In a real sense our stories become Living Stones.

I have determined in my heart to try my best to remind my children and grandchildren, when opportunities arise in the future about those who have gone before...their joys and sorrows and their passion to see us have a better life than they had.

When my mother died, I took it very hard because I had authorized a feeding tube that extended her bedridden life for 6 additional months of suffering.

When my dad died one year later I was devastated. My mother was gone and now my father. For the first time in my life, even though I was a husband and father, I felt alone and abandoned.

The feelings even now come back like waves crashing on the shoreline as I think about them. I miss my mother and father. **There is a part of the child left in me at age 60 that wants to cry and be comforted.**

Neither of my parents knew their Messiah, the Lord Yeshua...God's Son as Redeemer / Savior. I have long since given this over to God. I just want all of you to remember, that whatever situation you find yourself in with your aging parents, that your time is coming.

Since the day we were born Sin has continued to degrade our bodies, minds and for too many their souls. We were created in the Image of God, but Sin has deformed us.

So my prayer for all of you is that you remain patient and understanding about not only the physical and mental debilitation of your parents as they get old; but also consider the loneliness they feel. Most parents only hear the echo's of their own voices during those final years as memories of former days flood their minds.

God created 10 Commandments for those who love HIM to follow. The 5th of the 10 Commandments is to "Honor Your Father and Mother".

Anonymous created the line that humbles all mankind... "there ultimately but for the grace of God go I."

Honor, Cherish, Show Kindness, Patience and Mercy to all those you love. For in doing that...you do it to HIM. The greatest way you can show your love is to share the Gospel with those you love.

Especially if their time here is short, like elderly parents.

His mercies are new everyday.

Halloween from God's Perspective

A simple question for you. If Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Gods Son, who came to die for our sins, then who are we celebrating at Halloween?

No....don't be afraid. This message is not a lecture about whether a Christian should be celebrating Halloween. Actually it's more of an introspective look into my own struggles as a believer and whether my own life and actions are true to my faith in God.

You know what I mean. Am I walking the talk or am I full of hollow words because my life does not exemplify the ONE I serve. I am called to walk in the light. The light of course represents daylight in which we walk awake with our eyes open seeing the path ahead. I fear that more often than not I walk in the dark, sleep walking in part of the shadow's that surround and pervade our world.

I am a believer, but sometimes I think like a non-believer. I know I serve a Living God who has called me to be a person who remembers Him. Too often I need to be reminded to remember Him.

I seem to forget that everything I do, I do before the eyes of God. To Him there is no darkness no shadows, only light. He will judge my every word, every deed, every thought, my very heart and my motives.

It is hard to relate to God daily because He is invisible, but He is invisible everywhere at the same time. He is Omnipresent. When I became one of His, He promised to get me safely home to Him. But the choices I make during this journey called life He left to me. Those choices all have consequences.

The Old Testament is the story of the Jewish nation. It was written to us so we could learn about God; His love, His mercy, His patience as well as His wrath and Judgment. Unlike much of the one sided preaching today, God has two sides to His nature...Love and Wrath.

Psalms 106: 19-27 gives us a picture of God and His people. The story transcends time, crosses over to the New Testament bringing with it a message to all who claim to be believers today.

"At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped an idol cast from metal. They exchanged their Glory (relationship with God) for an image of a bull,

which eats grass. **They forgot the God who saved them**, who had done great things in Egypt, miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

So He (God) said He would destroy them—had not Moses, **His Chosen One**, stood in the breach before God to keep his wrath from destroying them.

Then they despised the pleasant land; **they did not believe His (Gods) promise**. They grumbled in their tents and **did not obey the Lord**.

So he (Moses) swore to them with uplifted hand (Speaking as a Prophet for God), that He (God) would make them **fall in the desert**, make their **descendants fall among the nations and scatter them throughout the lands**.”

There are times when to my shame I walk before God like the Nation of Israel mentioned in Psalm 106. As a believer I am sensitive to those times I walk in the shadows, because He calls me to walk in His light. The days are coming when believers will have to pay a price to walk in His Truth, and to Speak His Truth. That price will separate us from the world because we will have to Stand Alone for our Faith or blend in with the world around us.

We all know Halloween is a holiday that everyone has really gotten into. It used to be just for the kids, now we dress up in costumes at the office, we decorate our bushes in front of our homes with little orange pumpkin lights. Put cute pictures in our windows, ghastly pumpkins on our porch. We go to parties in costumes, giving us all another excuse to drink a little too much, but of course as long as we have designated drivers...it's ok.

Our kids love Halloween, they get to stay out later, collect candy, pretend they are witches, goblins, superhero's, a princess, Harry Potter...just about anything they can imagine. Its fun to run around in the dark because no one really knows who you are, so you can be anyone or anything you want.

Every year at this time we are bombarded by Christian books, television and radio broadcasts that say its ok to celebrate this holiday with the world. Use it for God, it's a great time to witness and share your faith at the door. Throw a Christian tract about the Pagan roots of the holiday into the little ghost's bag along with the candy. God will use the tract to reach out to someone in their family, right?

This is the first year in 22 years of being a believer in Christ that I turned off my front porch light, dimmed my house lights, sending a message I thought was clear..."I choose not to endorse or support this holiday any longer, please pass my house by."

Do you think that stopped waves of little gremlins and teenage ghouls from coming up on my darkened porch, waving flashlights into my home, banging on my door, ringing the doorbell, disrupting my privacy? No, their parents, (who noticed the absence of light on my porch), encouraged them on to scream Trick or Treat, while the teenagers on my porch yelled other epithets!

It amazed me, but then Halloween is a dark holiday that appeals to those like me who have walked in the light and in the shadows. A tightrope walk, part of two worlds that cannot exist together...that will not exist together. So the kids and their parents were both drawn to the light on porches and also to the darkness, the absence of light, on the porches. They were all focused only on one thing; fulfilling their desires.

I chose not to take part in this holiday because for almost 2 years now I have been trying to understand God, His Word, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mankind and his coming end, Evil, Sin and Prophecy. You all have been part of my personal journey and growth through emails that sometimes get to be 3 – 7 pages long. (I am sparing everyone from the ones that are 20 – 30 pages).

The point to all this is simply that when you read Scripture you realize that God's word has never changed. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He calls us to obey the words He wrote thousands of years ago that still ring true today and to walk in the light, not in the darkness.

He calls us to be separate from the world. We live among people, but we are called to walk differently, because of the one who died for you and I.

Yet more often than not, we choose to disobey His words by rationalizing our choices, trying to be part of the crowd and partake in everything our society does.

Instead of standing out and standing up for Gods principals, we choose to blend in. Its safer, no ridicule, no confrontation where we will have to stand alone and defend our Faith. Instead, we throw tracts in bags and let God do the work he called us to do.

God has never in my entire life been more real to me than now. The stench of the world's sewage has never smelled as strong to me as it does now. Every year the standards of morality go lower not higher.

You know that God destroyed a civilization of billions of people and saved only 8 in an Ark (Noah and his family). Why did God do this?

He tells us in **Genesis 6:5**: "Now the Lord observed the extent of the people's wickedness, and he saw that all their thoughts were consistently and totally evil".

And again in **Genesis 6:11**; “Now the earth has become corrupt in God’s sight, and it was filled with violence. God observed all this corruption in the world, and he saw violence and depravity everywhere!”

You know the rest of the story...it began to rain.

If God IS and we know who God IS, then the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:21 should have a special significance and fear for each of us that profess to know God and have come to Him the only way we can...through the Cross of Christ.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

God took every **Un**-righteous person off the planet with water last time. The Great White Throne Judgment described in the Book of Revelation and the comment about "and the Sea will give up its dead"; I believe refers to those billions that died in the world wide flood of Noah’s generation.

Next time, God will do the same thing, but with fire.

Sometime last year I wrote a message called “Easter thought’s from a Jewish perspective.” Here is an excerpt:

It Is Easter and He Is Risen !

But who among you will be able
to **stand before HIM?**

King David in Psalm 24 asks a question that we still need to ask ourselves today, “Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His Holy place?” The Bible is clear that no one can see God and live, because no one is righteous.

Some of you have been with me since the beginning of these email messages. Others of you are new and some, not reading this, have left. If any of you want the latter message I’ll send it to you, just let me know.

The Bible calls us to self examination of whether we are in Christ. If we are, then we should be living a separated life before the world that is worthy of our high calling. We live among people, but we are to be audibly and visibly different.

BECAUSE:

JESUSis a **real** person.

JESUS.... lived a **real** life.

JESUS.... died a **real** death on the Cross.

JESUS... **came back** from the dead.

The Bible you own is ONE book. With ONE HERO...Jesus, with one villain...satan, with one theme....Salvation and ONE Purpose....to Glorify GOD.

Only when you have knelt before God, will you be able to stand alone before men. Until you are ready to die, you are not ready to live.

Fear No man.....**but Fear The Living God.**

Will you be able to stand before HIM when He comes the 2ND time?

I want to remind all of you that I started these emails for the express purpose of giving believers (most of you) topics and thought's to witness with. I am not trying to speak down to anyone and I have the same spiritual struggles that you do.

These comments and thoughts are part of my own journey and struggle to gain wisdom and discernment from Gods Scriptures. These messages represent a window into my own Soul.

To those of you who do not know Christ in this list, it is my hope that you will come to know and understand what a Biblical Worldview is and how important **it is for you to come to know Christ as your Savior.**

It doesn't take a deep thinker to realize that our world is again fast approaching Gods comment in Genesis 6:11; "and God saw violence and depravity everywhere!"

There is a day, an hour, a minute, a millisecond that God has appointed, before the foundations of the world were ever made; to loose His patience.

What each of you chooses to do with Halloween next year is up to you. You do not have to worry about it till you stand before Him. Just be prepared to answer the questionWhy?

IT | and Him

John 8:51, *“if a man keeps My sayings he shall never see death!”*

About “IT”

Have you ever heard the phrase, “life is wasted on the young?” I always thought it was the young that life was made for.

And why not, their bodies are strong and firm. They have that fresh blush of youthful color on their skin. Their minds are sharp, clear and quick. Their energy abounds and their hearts are full of passion.

Then there is my body. For sake of a better word let’s refer to my physical body as **it**. **It** is no longer strong or firm. **Its** skin is pale and loose. I could buy that youthful color in a can and spray **it** onto **it** if I wanted too. My mind, well at best you could describe **it** as having “Part-timers”. **Its** prayer is that the prefix “All” never happens.

Its physical strength is supplied only from food. I am a vegetarian by marriage. Yes, **it** can exist quite happily without meat; however I get a serious energy boost from a piece of chicken. I find **it** can fly with the eagles after eating a single piece of chicken. **Its** heart still beats and contains a greater passion than **it** had as a young man.

The difference between the passions I had as a young man when compared to the passion I now have as an old man is not in the passion...but in the Love.

As a young man I loved only me, it was all about me and my life’s desires. Now as an old man my love is all about you, your life and your needs (not your wants and desires).

Think of the world as your parent. The world constantly tells you through the media how to take care of this thing, this body, this **IT** that you live in. How to clothe **IT**, maintain **IT**, groom **IT**, feed **IT** entertain **IT**, satisfy **ITS** desires and how **IT** should think.

It represents who I am according to the world and therefore what I need is based on **IT**...my body, appearance...that reflects my pride...my vanity.

This passionate relationship between my body and me lasted for 38 years; until my realization that **IT** was not me and that **I** am currently renting space within **IT**.

When I found out who I am, a child of God, I realized that what the world, my supposed parent, had told me I needed was not true at all. Life is not about me, nor feeding the desires of my body for the short life we live here.

Life is about getting to know my Dad (Abba...Hebrew for Daddy) and learning from Him that the missing partner of passion that the world gave me is LOVE...real love. I can only learn what real love is from God, not the world.

So you see the need the world wants me to have, to put **IT** first in all that I do, I really don't need at all.

Rather, what I now **have** is what the world desperately needs.

About "I"

Jesus asked, "Who Do YOU Say that I AM ?"

Before you can answer Christ's question you have another personal question to answer first. **Who am I**....this is a question that too many people answer too quickly. Who is Ernie Pahlek? How did I get here? What is my purpose here on earth? And lastly, where am I going when I die?

The answer to these questions can only be found in the Truth. Where do you search to find the Truth, the Truth that Pilate questioned, "What IS truth" he asked Jesus? Truth is only found in the Word of the True God who revealed Himself to His creatures within the pages of the Old and New Testaments.

As you walk through this veil of tears called life you will meet people from differing religious backgrounds: Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, Jews, Muslims, Hindu's, Buddhists, New Agers and Atheists.

All of them believe they know the truth. When you begin witnessing to these people they will try to convince you that your Christian faith is wrong.

The reason they feel that way is because satan (the original liar) has created every false religious system in our world. These religious systems, with the exception of Judaism, are designed to draw people away from the Truth of the Bible and away from Christ and ultimately into an eternity in hell.

Judaism, unlike the other religions is God's word to us in the Old Testament. The Mystery of Christ is hidden in the Old Testament prophecies and revealed in the New Testament. The Jews, God's chosen people,

need to hear about their Messiah's death on the cross for their salvation, as do all people. If my people, my family that are Jewish, whom I love; die without the salvation offered them by their Messiah Yeshua/Jesus through the Cross...they too will spend eternity in hell, not heaven...and I will never see them again.

Judaism is incomplete. Its prophecies point to the Messiah revealed in Christianity's New Testament; written by Jews for Jews. These two faiths's, become **ONE** at the Cross and represent Gods complete revealed Truth about Himself for mankind.

You and I as Christians stand on a firm foundation of faith. We do not place our trust for salvation and heaven into myths or fairy tales or theories.

Christianity, our faith in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Messiah is based on **FACTS**, facts that are affirmed in History, Archeology and Science.

So, first you must study the Bible from an Evangelistic point of view. That means you have to learn how to defend THE **TRUTH**. When you do this you will then be able to go back to those 4 personal questions and answer them intelligently.

Who am I? I am a child of God; Jesus is my Lord, my King, and my Friend. I was given to Jesus by God as a love gift. I am one of His sheep. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice." That means I listen and pay attention to his every word.

How did I get here? God said in Psalm 139 vs 13 that He knew me before I was in my Mothers womb. God said in Romans 8 vs.29, that whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become a believer in His Son Jesus. I am one of His chosen and elected Ecclesia (called out ones).

What am I to do here on earth? I am to live out the "Great Commission": To make disciples of all nations, teaching people about the word of God; telling all the Good News of John 3:16.

Where am I going when I die? Because Jesus died for my sins and He was resurrected, He is alive today; I too will live forever with Him in heaven because I accepted Him as my personal Lord and Savior.

Now, I am able to answer Jesus' question to me...**Who Do You Say That I Am?**

You are the Christ / Messiah, the Son of the Living God !

God has given you His Holy Spirit. You are never alone; He is in you and with you always. So take your place with the Elect of God, Study the Bible so you will be able to stand in the front of the battle. Christ asks you as a soldier of the cross, to accept His Mission assignment.

It's in John 20 vs 21. "As the Father has sent me (Jesus), I am sending you." You are to make a difference in this world for the cause of Christ; which is to save people (your friends, neighbors and relatives), from spending not one day, or a week, or a thousand years, but forever in hell.

"A Christian, will not see death with such interest, for his attention will not be on death's terrors, but upon the One who Himself bore all that death had to offer, yet conquered it forever. A Christian can look even at his own approaching death calmly, with passive interest, for it holds little influence over him.

1 Corinthians 15:15, " O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

(EXCERPT FROM DAYS OF PRAISE DEVOTIONAL)

God's word to us in the Bible is clear. The Christian will die a physical death only once then inherit eternal life in Heaven.

The Bible clearly says every Non-Believer who dies without faith in Christ will die two times. Once physically and again spiritually to then live eternally in hell.

The Holiday of Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

For just once, can Thanksgiving be about someone else, rather than about me and the stuff I want.

A wise man once said we all live in a constant state of worry. We worry about how we can get the things in life that we think we need. Then when we have them, we worry about losing them...we're never happy... never content, we have no peace.

To my shame, as a Believer, I am more often consumed with me and making me happy by satisfying my wants and desires rather than considering anyone else's.

That's when I feel the worlds pull and momentarily forget Who bought me, Redeemed me and to Whom I now belong.

Well, I am approaching 60. After all these years I have learned painfully that every decision I have made has either a positive or negative consequence on those I love.

That the impact of any decision is always greater on those I love than on me. I can take my own pain. But the pain I cause others is too much for me to bear and breaks my heart.

As Thanksgiving approaches my thoughts are not about the things money can buy...the stuff of life we feel we must have that causes us to be in debt for years. The stuff the world says I need to satisfy the **IT** I still rent space in while here.

Thanksgiving is about the needs of others, my family, my friends, my neighbors and even you. It's about seeing the silent cries of those around you and showing them you care. It's about a great love and passion for the lost.

We are thankful to God for His mercy to us. That through the Cross Jesus has given those of us who Believe a new birth, a new life and a new destination for eternity.

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday. One in which our forefathers thanked the Lord for His grace, mercy in protecting and feeding them in abundance.

Thanksgiving is about the attitude of prayer. We thank God for His abundant daily provisions. And then we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of our coming King.

The King who came for those who have nothing!

In Revelation 3:17, this coming King said to those of you who's parent is still the world, to those of you who live to satisfy **IT**, to those of you who still think its all about **you**:

...**You say**,

"I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,"

...**Jesus says**,

"and **you** do not know that **you** are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, (Revelation 3: 16-18).

May the ONE and Only TRUE Eternal God, who came to walk through our storms with us; the One who promises to meet all our needs as we go through this journey called life bless you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving Season.

It is not about "IT"

It's not about "I"

You are ALL about HIM.

Fresh Winds... bring an Ancient War

**If an Adolf Hitler ever comes to America...
would you give me a place to hide?**

One statement that remains clear in my mind is that mankind never learns from history. The civilizations throughout history seem doomed to repeat themselves.

If you are a critical thinker you cannot help but notice that the repetitive themes that plague mankind are illuminated as the struggle between Good and Evil.

When you consider the actions of men throughout history and watch the world and local news tonight, you cannot argue that evil exists in our world. Evil exists and it is escalating at an alarming rate. Everyone is affected from the old to the unborn because evil knows no boundaries and is no respecter of persons.

God has placed within us a moral code that allows us to recognize Good and Evil. The question is not "Is there Evil" it is rather what will we do about it?

Evil is not just a concept or the opposite of Good. Evil is a disease with deep roots that go back into antiquity, back into time...back to the beginning.

Man's inhumanity to man is horrific, but the worst display of this evil penchant to destroy is contained in the concept of genocide, the destruction of a race, an ethnic group of people from the face of the earth.

There is one nation existing today that has borne the continual focus of evil to eliminate them throughout history and from the face of the earth.

My people...the Jews...the Nation of Israel.

This miraculous nation has resurrected itself from the dust of ages past and has proven it is an eternal nation. A Nation chosen by Almighty God to fulfill His yet future prophetic plan.

I was raised to believe that actions speak louder than words; and that the actions during WWII by the Church meant... "Never trust a Christian...they are the enemies of the Jews!"

I was taught this by my father. When the winds of war came, my father wanted a place to hide but was not given one; instead he became a survivor of the Holocaust, an attempt by Hitler, a Christian, to exterminate the Jews.

Both the Roman Catholic and the Protestant religious worlds stood by as the atrocities came. Yes, there were exceptions. There were individuals like Corrie ten Boom, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others who exemplified in deed, what their Risen Lord would require, that being defending and helping their Jewish friends, neighbors and families.

After the war Corrie ten Boom was asked why she and others like her did what they did. She said, "It was the Christian thing to do".

The winds of war that brought the Holocaust are rising again in the world. A vortex of anti-Semitism is growing stronger with each passing day. Anti-Semitism is the fluent language, the universal tongue of evil spoken by the world.

But today there is a difference. Today the Jews have a close friend. This friend is working hard to change the Jewish perception of Christians as instruments of persecution, violence, and Holocaust to instruments of Christian love, friendship, support and solidarity; even to the point of dying for their best friend.

Not all Christians are Christians. You cannot paint their kind with a broad brush. Just as there are Jews today who still can be considered people of the Book (Bible), who know and trust the living God and His Holy Inerrant Word. So too there are Christians who are considered people of the Book (Bible), who know and trust the living God.

We live in a culture of labels. The Food and Drug Administration has by law instituted labels on our consumables that help us determine whether the item of food we want to eat is good or bad for us.

It is the same with Christians, they also come with labels. The difference between the labels is not evident by the verbiage but by the actions of the labeled group. Remember, my father taught me that actions speak louder than words.

As David Brog asserted in his recently released book, *Standing With Israel: Why Christians Support the Jewish State*, "The anti-Semitic Christians of past generations have been eclipsed in America by Christians who enthusiastically embrace the Jewish people and the Jewish State. As the Jews confront the latest threats to their existence, they will find standing alongside them Christian soldiers who passionately share their concerns not despite their Christian faith, but because of it".

This new friend of Israel is the “Evangelical... Christian Zionist.” They above all else know that defending and standing with Israel, as Corrie ten Boom said...” is the Christian thing to do!”

I subtitled this article, “if an Adolf Hitler ever comes to America---would you give me a place to hide?”

The answer to that question is yes, because I know many “Evangelical... Christian Zionists” who are committed to me as deeply as I am committed to them.

But, this question is really a moot point, because today I know I speak for the Nation of Israel when I say...they are not looking for a place to hide!

There is however a difference between the way I will stand before evil and my people, the Nation of Israel will stand before evil.

Israel today is proud in its own strength. They believe in their military, their weapons, their cunning and their own reasoning. They do not realize yet, that their secret weapon is God Himself.

God called the Nation of Israel to be a people of remembrance, to reflect on the great miracles shown them throughout history by their God.

No other nation on earth has been destroyed and scattered to the four corners of the globe, and then re-gathered as the focus of world attention.

No other nation declares by its re-emergence in time, that there is a God who deserves to be feared and loved and obeyed.

God patiently waits to be remembered and wanted again by His people Israel. Prophecy **IS** History and God is Sovereign and in control.

The time of Jacob’s trouble spoken of in the Book of Daniel is coming. The Nation of Israel will stand before this final coming of evil in its own strength, but in the end will turn again to the God of their fathers to save them.

I will stand before this evil within the shadow of His wings, I will fear no evil for God is with me and I will... not... look... for... a place to hide!

One... Two... Three

The date is June 3, 1947. The place is my mother's womb. I am about to be born into a world that is now healing from the horror's of World War II. My mother's location is within the immigration camp located in Ansbach Germany.

Before the war my mother and father were sister and brother in law. My father was married to my mother's sister. My father's wife (my mother's sister) and his two children, Teddy a young boy of 9 and Lillian a young girl of 11 along with my father's wife; died in the gas chambers at Auswiche.

My mother was married to Mr. Greenstone. They had no kids. He died in the gas chambers at Auswiche. After the war both my mother and father meet in the immigration camp at Ansbach Germany.

They were in Ansbach for almost 2 years, physically recovering from the horror they went through. They found each other in the camp, married and produced the One that would unite their lives, bring them joy, a reason to live and give each of them new life through this one new birth.

So now on June 3, 1947 at the appointed time and place the Creator of the Universe decreed for me to be born...I entered the world.

Just like each of you I entered the world screaming and with a clenched fist holding my warranty certificate. It stated that I was born a sinner, that life would revolve around the One...ME.

The small print on the warranty certificate, which no one ever reads said, "this child was born with a broken heart and a dead soul". Please refer to the owner's manual, the Bible for a free offer to claim a new heart and a living soul that will be guaranteed for eternity.

For years my life revolved around the One...**ME**. I lived with a broken heart and a dead soul. Then life became Two.

I was a copy writer at an advertising agency. A new client wanted us to develop a campaign to sell a very special engagement ring for Valentines Day. We called a creative meeting to develop the concept along with the music jingle. The music was orchestral with rich melodies and violins.

The words to go with the music became, "Two as One, the circle has begun". And so my wife Elyse came into my life and my One had now become Two.

When you're One the world can revolve around you but if your honest with yourself you will realize that making you happy, loving only yourself, fulfilling only your desires is the lowest form of life and brings no satisfaction.

You and I were meant to share and enjoy someone else. We were made for a relationship of Two.

So in marriage, with love and devotion to someone else I became Two. Two as One our circle had begun.

It wasn't until I was 38 years old that I realized there was a higher relationship than Two as One. This other relationship was Three in One. Their circle had no beginning and no ending.

Just as my circle of Two as One, my wife and I revolved around love, relationship and the creation of children...so also did the Three **in** One.

The difference between the two patterns is the distance between the two ends of infinity. For the Three in One is God. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Earlier I spoke of my birth and the warranty certificate I came out clutching. It said I was a sinner, with a broken heart and a dead soul.

The reason for that was because the most beautiful angelic creature that God ever created and wrapped in light...went dark. Lucifer (Son of the Morning) had a relationship with the Three in One, but chose to go the path of the ONE -himself. And now the One is consumed with himself in pride.

This fallen One took down 1/3 of his kind and along with them also mankind. But God (Three in One), is God and Creator of all. Satan is simply a creation by the Creator. Satan's leash is short and his life unlike our eternal life has a termination point.

God has spoken the words "and He (Satan) will be no more". These words represent the living word of God. God is letting everyone know that evil will someday end for eternity.

One of the Three in One came to this planet on a supreme mission of Love, Forgiveness, Mercy and Redemption through providing an ultimate Sacrifice. This was Jesus, the Son of God who chose to leave Heaven and come down here to die for our sins.

Just as I have learned when I became Two as One that I would gladly give my life in devotion to the one I love, even to death; so too is that demonstrated to us by the Son of God coming into our world becoming one of us. Wrapped in flesh He came walking out of the pages of the Prophets to meet us in time, the appointed time, so He could show us the only way into eternity and into His Fathers Heaven. That way is only through His open arms that are nailed open to the Cross.

Multitudes of people throughout time and history have chosen not to follow Jesus home. Instead they live blindly, their lives focused on the One...themselves...clutching their almost expired warranty certificate, never reading the fine print.

Ken Gire said, "Jesus comes to us daily to remind us of Him. He comes in such a way that we can always turn Him down...He comes to us in the hungry man we do not feed...He comes to us in the lonely man we do not comfort...He comes to us in all the desperate human need of people everywhere that we are always free to turn our backs upon."

We have lost the vision of who we were meant to become, of who God intended us to be.

Phillip Yancey said, "Prayer, and only prayer, restores my vision to one that resembles God's. I awake from blindness to see that wealth lurks as a terrible danger, not a goal worth striving for. That value depends not on race or status but on the image of God every person bears. That no amount of effort to improve physical beauty has much relevance for the world beyond."

We live on a broken planet, fallen far from God's original intent. It takes effort to remember who we are, Gods creation, and faith to imagine what we someday will be...God's Triumph."

The Jewish Holy Day of Yom Kippur has recently ended. The holiday looks back to God's beginning sacrificial system for the shedding of the blood of an innocent life in place of the guilty sinner. This holiday is the Day of Atonement for the Sins of the Nation of Israel for the past year.

According to the Jewish view, it was also the day on which Adam had both sinned and repented; that on which Abraham was circumcised; and that on which Moses returned from the mount and made atonement for the sin of the golden calf.

On a Cross two thousand years ago God Himself provided what mankind has not been able to provide since his fall into sin. God through the death of his Son, Jesus the Messiah; once and for all **paid the sin debt** of humanities past, present and future sins.

My prayer for you is that you run the race of this life to its end and gain faith in Jesus as your Savior; so when you Cross the finish line, Jesus will be there to hug you and wipe away all your tears.

Then, He will say to you... “well done my good and faithful servant”... enter into the rest that I have prepared just for you, in eternity past, before time began....

Blessings,

In the name of the **ONE** Lord... Adonai Ehad,
Yeshua Hamashiach, Jesus the Christ.

A Christmas Long Ago

**O come, O come Emmanuel....
Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel...
Shall come to thee...O Israel.**

The strains of a familiar hymn fill my mind as I listen to the sounds of Christmas.

Interesting isn't it that a Christian hymn writer in the 1800's would encapsulate in the lyrics of a hymn, the Jewish cry through the centuries that God would come and be with His people (Emmanuel means "God with us") as in days of old.

And so the Nation of Israel not recognizing the first advent of their Messiah waits yet another year for their Messiah to come, so that they too will be able to sing the end of the hymn....Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel...("God is with US"), Shall come to thee, O Israel.

My house is full of family and friends. I have walked to the front door of my home, away from the noise of the family gathered in the kitchen. As I look out the side window next to the front door, I began to reflect on the light shining from my porch light.

The outer darkness that surrounds my home is pierced by the porch light that emanates a soft welcoming light to those who are approaching. The darkness as always bows the knee and recedes before the light. For the power of light is far greater than that of darkness. The light proclaims here is the way to my home. Come, O Come out of the darkness into my light where you will find love, companionship, comfort and rest.

The light beckons to all who were invited to find my home and enjoy my company; just as the light of Christ beckons your soul to spend eternity with HIM. Matthew refers to those who will reside outside the New Jerusalem (the city of God) away from God, as living away from His Light for eternity in outer darkness forever.

The wind has been gently kicking up. The predicted snow fall is beginning. The tiny wind funnels of snow flakes begin dancing before my eyes. Swirling patterns of dazzling white snow with sparkling diamonds dance for joy in the light coming to rest on the ground forming a white blanket covering the earth.

The earth once covered in darkness beyond the light from my porch is now turning white. The white blanket of snow begins to reflect light causing the shadows to recede even further.

The light emanating from my porch represents to me the light of Christ, the Messiah who came long ago. The One God refers to in the Bible as

“The Light of the World” who will cause darkness to recede, while leading all people who have been invited, to His door.

(No one has been left out of His invitation to come in to Him...not even you.)

The light illumines the white of the snow that whirls around the door. The snow represents His purity and righteousness; His righteousness that we all must acquire before we can enter through His door that opens into Heaven. God has made it clear, that only those that are Holy and perfect according to His standards can enter Heaven. He also has made it clear that not one of us is good enough to get in on our own merit.

Isaiah 64:6 in the Old Testament says, *“all our righteous deeds are like filthy garments.* This is echoed by the Apostle Paul in **Romans 3:9** when he said, *“Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin...there is no one righteous, not even one.”*

I am looking forward to the Second Coming of Yeshua / Jesus and The New Jerusalem. **What about you?** Are you remembering to celebrate the reason for the HOLYDAY? In eternity past before the foundations of the world God set into time the Birth Date of Emmanuel (God with us), His Son Jesus, the Messiah / the Christ of all humanity.

Let us fast forward to another day that God has set, when time is no more. This day will begin with the dawn of Eternity in the hearts of all those who humbly will bow the knee before the King of Kings.

Revelation 21

THE NEW JERUSALEM

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

*He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new!**” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

Jesus is the **“Light of the World”**, the One who’s coming we celebrate this night.

Christmas is not about the baby. Christmas is about the One whose journey of sorrows began from eternity past. Christmas is about a small cry that finally came from the lips of God in a manger to pierce the darkness of this world. Thirty three years later that small cry would become a deafening Roar from the lips of the God / Man on the Cross as He proclaimed "It Is Finished" as sin was conquered for all time and eternity.

Four centuries of silence passed between the Old Testament and the New Testament. God had not spoken to His people for 400 years until the deafening silence was broken by the cry of baby.

The first thing a baby does when it leaves the comfort of its womb and enters the world is to cry. But the second thing a baby does after it cries is to weep tears.

The silence of the ages was broken as God cried. The tears of God washed over His small face. The hidden face of God became real to us as God entered the world a newborn babe to live among us (Emmanuel); but with a broken heart.

The baby's cry says to me, it is enough. No longer must you "Wonder as you Wander" in the night seeking refuge from your pain and wounds. "Come, O Come", bring your pain and sorrows and your wounds to me.

Those of you who know sorrow are closest to my heart. "Come, O Come", worship me with your wounds for I have been wounded for you. I am the God who came to be broken for you, the God with a broken heart who comes to make all things new again.

God has said He collects all the tears you shed during your life in a bottle, but what of **HIS** tears, the tears of God?

Eden had known no tears...no rain from the sky. Eden had only known the light reflected from the face of God. With the first disobedient bite in the Garden of Eden, came the fall of mankind and brought the very first tear of sorrow to the eyes of God. And for the first time darkness entered the world.

With the passing of time Sin grew worse and covered the earth until the days of Noah. God had collected all the tears of a fallen world that He could stand to hold. And then, the collected tears of a fallen world began to rain down from the face of God and fill the earth.

The fallen people that never cried looked up with fallen eyes in surprise as the tears they had never known washed down their faces. The tears fell from the sky, and so it was that the tears from the broken heart of God washed over the earth.

"In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." **Genesis 1:1**

How magnificent it was at the beginning of the creation of the Universe as God called forth from nothing...Light. The myriad of billions upon billions of the angelic hosts sang with One Voice as the symphony of creation continued to come forth from the spoken Word of God.

The Bible says God rejoices over you with singing. Here, on earth we speak words to communicate. Maybe in heaven we will sing to communicate.

But for now the angels are silent.

They wait with anticipation for the final movement of Gods Symphony of Salvation. When together with us, our combined voices will sing praises to our Glorious and Holy God.

Only one other time during recorded Biblical history did the angels sing. That was at the Birth of our King 2,000 years ago. The King who came for those who have nothing; to those who say... " I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing. He says you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked", (**Revelation 3:16-18**).

The Song "Mary did you know?" by Mark Lowry speaks eloquently of the miracle of the ages...the coming of the prophesied God/Man... Emanuel, God with Us.

Mary did you know?

Lyrics by Mark Lowry

*Mary did you know... that your baby boy
would someday walk on water?
would save our sons and daughters?
would soon deliver you?
would calm a storm with His hand?
walked where angels trod?*

And when you kiss your little baby... you've kissed the face of God?

*Oh, Mary did you know...
the blind will see...
the deaf will hear...
the dead will live again...
the lame will leap...
the dumb will speak praises to the Lamb.*

Oh, Mary did you know your baby boy... is Lord of all creation?

And Mary did you know your baby boy... will one day rule the nations

*Oh Mary did you know the sleeping child you're holding ...
is the Great I AM !*

Isaiah 7:14

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel which translated means “God with us”.

Matt 1:20

“Behold an angel of the Lord appeared to Him in a dream saying ... Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit and she will bear a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for it is He who will save His people from their sins”

Luke 2:18

“And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”

Isaiah 9:6

“For a child will be born to us a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

Seek God this Christmas with the eyes of a child.

Their faces I formed so that mine they would seek
 Ears to listen for the Word I would speak
 Eyes to see, minds to understand
 All they required I made with my Hand
 The Law and the Prophets for centuries foretold
 The birth of a baby begotten of old
 In words unencoded, with language so plain
 That even the simplest could call on my name
 Fathom mysteries confounding the wise
 See the Messiah through a child’s eyes.

Father:**(My prayer for you)**

Most everyone we know and love tend to forget that this holiday called Christmas is about Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, Your Son, Your gift to each of us.

We forget that 3,500 years ago You wrote down through the hands of Your Prophets the Messianic Old Testament Prophecies about a coming Redeemer, the coming Messiah who would take away each individual’s sins if they but believe in HIM and His death on the Cross.

You sent your Holy Angels to proclaim His birth to Shepherds; the poor to whom the hope of the ages would mean the most. How awesome to think that Heaven touched Earth that night so long ago.

We thank you for last year, for you honored each of us with food, clothing, shelter, relationships with loved ones and a job to work and pay our bills.

Help us to learn from life and its lessons. Help us to love one another. Help us to look forward to each brand new day, because with you, all things are possible and your mercies are new each morning.

Regardless of what might be ahead, we trust You in all our circumstances. We may not be sure of the future, but we know who holds the future in HIS hands.

We look forward to your personal care for each one of us and those we care about so deeply, through the coming year.

We Praise, Honor and Thank You...

Father...for sending us Your beloved Son as our Redeemer.

Holy Spirit...for staying with us during our journey home.

Jesus...who for the Joy set before Him, went to the Cross for each one of us.

Jesus, who is able to keep us from stumbling, and who will bring each of us that know and love HIM into His glorious presence with great joy.

We recognize and honor Jesus as **YOUR** great gift to us at Christmas.

Yet, we also look up to the Heavens, as YOU promised, for the soon coming of our Messiah, our Redeemer, The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords...

Yeshua...
“The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.”

May the light that came into the world, shine forth from your heart and touch the lives of all those you hold dear this Christ-mas Season.

Christmas is not about the baby, but about the One who gave you the greatest gift of all. He came to exchange His death for Yours and give you Eternal life and a place called Heaven to live in forever.

The Song that Whispers to my Heart is Bitter...Sweet

The hours have gone so slowly. Time has been moving like an eternity before me. My life has been full, a wife, children, grandchildren, friends, and relatives.

I have much money and many things.

I am Old...so very old. I no longer have the best days of my life ahead of me. I sit in this chair daily with only my memories.

Sitting in a chair by the window, waiting... waiting for what?

My life is without hope. Nothing to look forward to but a downward spiral of decay and death. My mind speaks to my body but it has long since stopped answering.

All around me, people look the other way, pretending not to see, they turn their back to me.

My body, eaten up by age...my soul now ravaged by loneliness...no one even thinks of me anymore.

No one looks me in the eye or extends their hand out to me. It seems my end is to be utterly alone.

So I wait....for what I don't know.

You would have thought I would have found satisfaction from all the years I have lived. That time would have brought me wisdom. But instead of wisdom it seems to have brought me only remorse and pain.

When I see hunger, I wonder why. Senseless deaths, endless tears, needless loss...where do they come from...where do they lead?

I sit and waitwaiting for what...is there not more to life than this experience here on earth?

I found no satisfaction in the relationships I have had in my life. The possessions I held within my grasp so tightly, still call to me...even though I cannot use them.

Sleep no longer brings me peace...it eludes me.

But Wait !

Listen... do you hear its refrain, a sweet greeting from one who cares for me.

It's my daily visitor, one who comes regularly to me every morning with the dawn; a little bird outside my window.

Every morning I hear his tiny Aria at dusk. His solo refrain begins at the dawn. He won't be silent until the Sun comes out and is seen.

His song is like a whisper that comes to me on the waves of the wind. I cannot ignore it, it is constant and he is devoted to bringing it to me each morning.

The message becomes clearer to me day by day as I learn to be still and listen. His song is a mournful one, for it yearns for eternity. It has become his task to come to me out of the shadows at dusk with his golden song.

He visits with me while I still have time...chirping a timeless song. His song is mine and it is yours. His is a tiny heart that beats with yours. You see, your heart song and mine will not be silenced until we see the dawn of a new day.

This little bird peers through the shroud of dawn and sees a painless place and the coming One who brings JOY.

“God has planted eternity in the hearts of men”... Eccl 3:10 TLB

How do I know that is true, because not long ago a young couple stopped in to see me. No, their not friends or relatives but they have been taking the time to visit me and tell me about their Promise Keeping God.

When we first met I told them, when I look inside myself I only see me. ***I am alone.***

They told me I could have God living inside of me... so when I looked inside myself I would no longer be alone...because God would be inside with me.

They gave me Words of Life and Hope...and most of all... their time.

Now when my little bird friend comes in the morning, I am reminded that Gods mercies are new every day.

Now I know what it is that I am waiting for, the Coming of the Son of God.

Praise God, I am now ready to meet with Him at the time of His choosing.

Do you know anyone like me? Do you look the other way, turn your back, and pretend not to see?

The person I described, the OLD ME, does not have to be old like me...because the description fits all people who do not know Christ.

They too have nothing to look forward to, they're bodies are also being eaten up as they age...they too wait for what they don't know...they too will experience their end utterly alone...

Unless, **you** take the time to tell them about your Supernatural, Miracle Working, Promise Keeping, Living God who changed your life.

“In the Beginning God”,

Who:

Created the Heavens and the Earth
Saved Noah and his family in the Ark, from the
flood Spoke to Moses from a burning bush
Parted the Red Sea, so Israel could walk on
dry ground
Fed millions daily for 40 years in the wilderness
Provided guidance and protection by the Pillar
of Fire
Conquered huge nations on behalf of his
chosen people
Provided 10 commandments, written by His finger.

Not for rules to follow that make you righteous, but rules to prove you cannot keep them and to show your need of a Savior to make you righteous

Sent His Son, Jesus to be born of a Virgin
according to prophecy
Jesus, who healed the blind, the deaf, the
leper and the diseased
Jesus, who walked on water, then told the sea...
Be Still and it listened
Jesus , who fed 5,000 and now becomes the
Bread of Life to you
Jesus, who took your place on the Cross and
died for your sins
Jesus, who promised He would come back again!

Yes, from the depths of this living grave I cried out and called for help, waiting for what I did not know.... yet the living God heard my prayer.

I thank God for sending that young couple who spent time with me so I can spend Eternity with God.

Romans 10 vs 14-15 says it all.

How can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him?

And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him?

And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?

That is what the Scriptures mean when they say...

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News."

Are you keeping the Good News to yourself...the miracle of your changed heart?

God has filled my heart with dreams of passion, compassion and a desire to walk in the Truth... what about you?

May your Faith give you Courage to do great things, to be bold and touch someone's life for Eternity.

I serve the God of Ancient Promises that are still coming true today.

The Prophet Isaiah said... "to us a SON is given."

See for yourself.

In the manger... He is there.

The Apostle Luke said... "this same Jesus will come again in the clouds."

See for yourself.

In the tomb... He is gone.

I lift up my voice to the Heavens with Praise

To the all wise God of Israel and the Church

...the Almighty, the Ancient of Days...

...the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

To the Father, the **One who sent ...**

To the Son, the **One who came...**

And to the Holy Spirit, **the One who stays...**

and now lives in me.

Grandpa Ernie's God Room

Do you have a special place where you can be alone with God? The Bible calls such a place, your prayer closet. For me that place is a room upstairs away from the noise of the world.

Some of you have been over to my house and know that this room, this prayer closet has been named by my wife and friends as Grandpa Ernie's "God Room".

Occasionally people come over and we talk about God. This has become the greatest joy in my life...to talk about God.

I am up here now reminiscing. The four walls of this room remind me of a 360 degree panorama of my universe. Everywhere I look there are memories of a journey I have been on for almost 22 years.

The walls are covered with special items that people have given me that I cherish very much. It's not just the things on the wall that mean so much to me, but the people that took the time to either give them or create them for me.

By now you all know I am a Messianic Jew. This is one of many labels. I dislike labels intensely. Suffice it to say I am a follower of Jesus, Gods Son, whom I as Jew recognize as the Messiah of Israel.

Micah a Jewish friend of mine, who does not recognize Jesus as his Messiah, took a trip to a Caribbean Island. Micah and I have had many interesting conversations about the Messiah. He is seeking but so far in the wrong places.

He came home from the trip with a present for me. He said it was custom made just for me, but he was nervous about giving it to me. The symbolism of the gift could be interpreted two ways.

Most of you are familiar with a Catholic Crucifix, a Cross with the dead hanging body of Jesus on it. You also are familiar with the Jewish Star of David. This is the star that adorns the blue and white flag of the Nation of Israel.

Micah had gone to a jeweler who took the body of Christ off the Catholic Crucifix and then hung it across a Jewish Star of David. To Christians and Jews who lack Bible knowledge this symbol says Jesus was murdered by the Jews.

Both are wrong. God planned the death of His Son, the Jewish Messiah before the foundations of the world were ever made, in Eternity past. Jesus did not die; He willingly gave up His life at the appointed time written in Bible Prophecy.

He came to die as the perfect one time sacrifice for the sins of the Jews and Gentiles alike.

To me this gift is precious, because I see Jesus, the Lamb of God, born a Jew from the Nation of Israel, who was sacrificed on a Cross to redeem mankind from sin, death and hell one time for all people.

To the right up on the wall is a 3ft. x 2 ft. Cross made of wood. One of the old pressmen at our company was close to retirement. We had spoken about the Lord many times. He showed me a picture of a beautiful contemporary cross in a magazine. It was unusual. It was made of multiple chunks of wood with different stains and at its heart it had a rectangular piece of Bronze with a black burnished cross in its center.

He asked if I liked it. I said yes but the price of \$700 by the artist was more than I would spend. He said he was considering buying it for himself. What I didn't know was his real talent was carpentry. After researching various woods, finding the right nails, along with the piece of shiny brass that he burned a relief image of the cross into...he presented it to me as a gift. It was the exact replica of the Cross in the magazine.

I was so humbled. I said, "Why did you put so much effort and time into making this for me?" He said, "I should have a reminder in my home about how much time and effort God had put into me."

To the left on the wall is another Cross. **This one was drawn by the hand of Kristopher, my youngest son.** It is a pencil sketch he drew of an empty Cross with the spear that pierced Christ's heart leaning against the Cross. The word "Gone" appears near it.

The Cross has dark areas representing the blood from the hands, head, side and feet of Jesus; blood running down the Cross into the earth below. There is a ray of light beaming up from the Cross into a cloud.

He drew this early in his teens. Back when he placed his faith in the Risen Lord. His drawing speaks of the Gospel more eloquently than words.

I created a letterhead from Kristopher's drawing that now represents my testimony ministry to churches.

Behind me are four 24 x 36 Ron D'Ciani art prints.

His first painting is entitled “Gabriel’s Message”.

Ron’s art is ablaze with rich deep colors. The images draw you deep into the painting and its message.

You are familiar I am sure with the movie “Raiders of the Lost Ark”. First let me tell you that the Ark is not lost but found, a topic for another message.

Artist renderings based on the description of the Ark in the Bible show it with two angels bowed over the Mercy Seat with wings outstretched touching each other.

In this painting Ron has chosen to show the story of Zechariah a priest appointed to serve in the Temple. Zechariah was chosen by the drawing of lots for an added honor ...to offer incense in the Holy of Holies behind the veil.

When he entered he saw the angel Gabriel standing by the Ark. Gabriel would go on to tell Zechariah about the coming birth of his son who was to be called John.

John would become “the forerunner of the Messiah, the voice crying in the wilderness”, the one who would appear like the prophet Elijah whom the Jews are waiting for to precede the Messiah’s first appearance.

The second painting is entitled, “The Forerunner”. It is about the birth of John the Baptist. Ron says,” I tried to portray John’s beginning as a baby like all of us, with his future in the distance. The lightning symbolizes the tumultuous life he would experience. The hand intersecting the baby would at first be thought of as the tender hand of old Zechariah about to gently alight on his boy.

I made it larger and more heavenly to make a bigger statement. The hand of God was on John from the beginning. John was set apart for service to God from conception.”

The third painting by Ron he has entitled “The Gift”. It is a representation of the Birth of Yeshua / Jesus. The sky is that which you would see at the beginning of the dawn. A rich blue-black filled with shining stars. Stars represent two things, the Holy angels and the Born Again children of God both whom will shine forth throughout eternity in Heaven.

There is an angel with outspread wings, with eyes closed and hands clasped in prayer, before the manger and Baby Jesus. The angel’s hands cover his mouth as if saying this is Gods most precious, unspeakable gift to mankind.

“The Creator has woven Himself a robe of virgin flesh; so He could walk among us and make Himself known to us”.

The infant Jesus has His one small hand outstretched towards the angel as if saying to him, do not fear...it will be ok. The manger He rests in is bathed in the light of dawn. Colors of Gold flood the landscape bathing the mountains and the desert surrounding the scene. At the foot of the manger rests a single lamb. For Yeshua / Jesus is the Lamb of God. Who came to die ONE TIME only, forever to take away the past, present and future sins of mankind, for those who believe.

Ron said,“ the Nativity has been painted by countless artists through the ages. Mostly, I would guess they portray a version that is closer to what we want to think than what actually might have been. No one who was there that night could have been aware of the profound meaning of that night, or of that Baby---nobody, except perhaps the unseen visitors who stood in awesome vigil for the Baby they already had known as the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

Yeshua / Jesus alone of all men born on earth was Born The Crucified. Everyone loves the Baby, but few are willing to bow before the man on the Cross.

Christ was not born for Christmas...He was born for Easter and His Resurrection. That’s why I put a lamb at the foot of the trough. As John would one day exclaim, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

If we could get a true glimpse of Christmas, we would probably have to swallow hard and take a deep breath at the reality of what Christ started on that starry night. It is summed up in Hebrews 12:2--- “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the Joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Something to remember the next time we sing “Silent Night”.

The last painting by Ron is entitled “Simeon’s Moment”. This is a scene of a very old observant Jewish man. His eyes are shut, his face is turned upward. He is holding an infant in his arms. The bottom of the painting is very dark, you cannot see the lower half of his form, but the top half is bathed in a glorious light of gold tones.

It is as if he is being raised out of darkness that has held him for millenia. The gold light is formed by soft images of land masses that represent the earth. The countries continue to disappear into the darkness as your eye follows them to the bottom of the painting.

The Baby he holds in his arms is covered by a small “tallit” prayer shawl. Simeon a devout Jew had been coming to the Temple his whole life. In the eyes of God Simeon like Abraham before him was righteous because of his faith. God, through the Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would not die until he beheld the Redeemer, The Savior...who would take away the sins of the world.

That day came when Jesus was brought to the Temple by Mary and Joseph. The baby Jesus, who’s very Name means Jehovah IS Salvation was brought to be presented to the Lord at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Before Mary and Joseph could even approach the alter, they were approached by Simeon with outstretched arms, his face radiant with joy and expectation and with tears of Joy said, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” Simeon’s soul could now rest in peace, because he held the Prince of Peace, the light of the world, The Light that the darkness would now run from.

The prophet Isaiah said it centuries before the birth of Jesus: “The people (the world) who walk in darkness **Will** see a **great light**; Those who live in a dark land, The **light** will shine on them. (*Isaiah 9:1-3*).

Ron said, “Imagine the moment! It has to rank at the top of any Christian’s list of dreams---to hold the very son of God in your arms and understanding His purpose for coming.

In this painting I tried to let Simeon’s face tell the story. Ecstasy. He knew that he held the “Light” of the world, which I symbolized by the star emanating from the baby. Intertwined through them both, I put a map of the world with its obvious symbolism that Christ came to impact the whole world and not just the Jews as most of the people would have concluded. Simeon knew. I purposely made the map showing the world as we know it today.

Simeon’s tear was put in to reflect deep joy. But the more I contemplated it, the more I realized it could symbolize that Simeon also might have known that this Baby was born to be crucified. *That was why He came.*”

To my left are two precious things combined into one. Many years ago an artist friend of mine, a believer, created a ring design for me. I had just accepted Jesus as my Lord and wanted to wear a ring that would remind me daily of Him and my commitment to serve Him.

Most Messianic images I see which combine the Cross with the Star of David have a large Cross usually with a very small Star of David at the center of the two cross beams.

I fully understand that the Cross is more important than the Star. Like the Apostle Paul I recognize the Risen Christ, the Messiah, but I too was born a Jew and will die a Jew.

So the symbol my friend created was a larger Jewish Star with a Cross spanning the distance between the two vertical points that form the top and bottom of the Star. This represents Jesus, Gods Son, a gift of love through the Nation of Israel to the gentile world and those born again Jews and Christians that would form the True Church of Christ throughout history.

I took this symbol and had it placed within a poster I purchased. The poster has a black background surrounding the following words:

“In the Beginning God”.

Those are the opening words in Genesis...the living Words of God.

Those are the words that began my three year journey to faith in Gods Son. Those were the words that began a study that brought questions my Rabbi Uncles could not answer to bring peace to my soul. Those were the words that I finally tried to explain to my lost family after I had been found...and then no one spoke to me for 10 years.

The word for God is Elohim. What is so staggering is that the word is a plural word not singular. I had been searching for the One God of Israel, but instead I found the One in 3 of Israel...the Trinity. I now can speak to a Jew or anyone and show them that God is made up of 3 unique persons and that He has a Son...and prove it all from the Prophecies in the Old Testament.

I put the symbol my friend created with the Star of David forming the background to the Cross onto this poster. I did this because this one piece of art represents both the birth of my journey as a Seeker of God and the new beginning of my eternal life in recognizing that the Messiah of Israel was one and the same as The Christ of Christianity...the Son of the Living God.

I have closets and book shelves filled with possessions that are precious to me. All represent moments in time of my journey. But the most precious possession I have is my Bible.

I want to end this message by sharing an inscription that I have written in my Bible. I have written it inside Bibles that I have given to people through the years.

“The Journey will never end; His Mercies are new every morning. Here is some wisdom I have learned along the way:

As long as Jesus is one of many options, He is not an option. As long as you can carry your burdens alone, you don't need a burden bearer.

As long as your situation brings you no grief, you will receive no comfort. As long as you can take Him or leave Him, You may as well leave Him, because He won't be taken half heartedly.

But, when you mourn, when you get to the point of sorrow for your sins, when you admit that you have no other option but to cast all your cares on Him, and when there is truly no other name that you can call on, then cast all your cares on Him... **for He is waiting in the midst of your storm.**

This Bible you are holding contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrines are Holy, its Precepts (laws) are binding, **its Histories are TRUE** and its Decisions are immutable (unchanging).

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be Holy.

Within its pages heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design and the glory of God its end.

Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully, always asking for the Holy Spirits guidance in Christ's name.

It is given to you here, in this life and **will be opened at the judgment and is established**, unchanging forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward your greatest labor **and condemn all who trifle with its contents!**

This Bible you own is **ONE** book. With **ONE** HERO...Jesus, with **one** villain...satan, with **One** theme...Salvation and **ONE Purpose**... to Glorify GOD.

**My prayer for all of you is that you will be able to sing
along with the hymn writer.. "It is well...
It is well... with my Soul."**

**Only when you have knelt before God, will you
be able to stand alone before men...
Fear No man... but Fear God.**

It Is Easter and He Is Risen!

But who among you WILL BE ABLE TO STAND before HIM?

King David in Psalm 24 asks a question that we still need to ask ourselves today, “Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His Holy place?”

The Bible is clear that no one can see God and live, because no one is righteous.

I would like to take you on a journey with me back to the beginning, before there was time when a Holy God would walk and talk with His creatures (Adam & Eve) in the cool of the day.

Then it was possible to **Stand** in His presence because mankind had no sin in them...they were righteous. But then Satan came with his temptation to doubt God, and she took a bite.

Adam knew he was breaking Gods law when he took the bite offered him by Eve. He ate of the forbidden fruit because his love for his wife was greater than his fear of God. What ever this action would bring, Adam would accept the consequences and **Stand** with his wife whom he loved more than his own life. God would have to judge them together.

You know the story. Adam and Eve together brought in Original Sin that doomed the human race to be born once but to die twice, physically and then spiritually forever. The human race was no longer righteous and could not **Stand** before their God and walk with Him in the cool of the day. In the garden mankind enjoyed the ultimate expression of what they were created for...to have a personal relationship with their Creator and to **Stand** in His presence.

This broken relationship would not be resolved again for thousands of years. God instituted a sacrificial system of blood that would require the death of an innocent animal to pay for the sin of a guilty person. Blood would be required as a covering for sin.

God became unapproachable. Man could no longer see Him or **Stand** before Him without paying his own sin penalty... “the wages of sin is death”.

When Eve took that forbidden bite, mankind’s guarantee of spending an eternity with God ended and time as we know it began.

You would think this was the end of the story, but it wasn't. God had a plan to bring His people back to a personal relationship with Him, so they could **Stand** in His presence again without fear.

So He chose a nation of people who would come to know Him and then be responsible to present HIM to the rest of the nations of the world. The nation is Israel, a people that God calls the apple of His Eye and the focus of His love.

Through the writings of Prophets God provided Messianic Prophecies of a coming Redeemer a Messiah, the anointed One who would save both Israel and the nations of the world from their sins. Someone who would recreate this relationship between the Creator and His creatures.

These prophecies would be sign posts that would allow the Jews to recognize the coming Messiah. The prophecies would provide information that would fit only one person in all of human history centuries before His birth.

When He was to be born, His ancestry, birth time, forerunner, birthplace, birth manner, infancy, manhood, teaching character, career, preaching, reception, rejection, sufferings, death, burial, resurrection and ascension were all prewritten in the most marvelous manner centuries before He was born in the Old Testament.

Yet when the Messiah finally came, fulfilling every Messianic prophecy given by God for people to recognize Him...they missed it and still do.

Rabbis had been studying Messianic prophecies for thousands of years. Yet back in the beginning of the Old Testament in Genesis 5 there is a genealogy of names. Each of the names has a meaning and when you put the meanings together in order they form a sentence. "Man is appointed mortal sorrow (death), but the Blessed God shall come down teaching, that HIS DEATH,(Gods death), will bring the despairing (mankind) comfort and rest (peace through the renewal of that lost personal relationship with God).

That one sentence represents God's plan of Salvation contained in the entire Old Testament. The Messiah is hidden within the Old Testament and Revealed in the New Testament as Jesus.

From the pages of the Prophets, He stepped out into the World.

Jesus the Messiah brought Redemption through His death on the Cross as depicted in Isaiah 53; a death that was prophesied hundreds of years before in Daniel Ch.9 vs. 26.

God provided from the time of Moses a Tabernacle (Tent), in which people could come in and worship Him. But still, because they had original sin, the people could not **Stand** before God. God was behind a Veil. When God came to speak thru Moses to the people He would come down in a cloud. Then His Glory, represented by light would fill the room within the veil, the room that contained the ARK of the Covenant.

The ark contained 3 items: the stones containing the 10 commandments written by Gods finger, a bowl containing Manna – the food which God used to feed the people in the desert and then Aarons Staff. On the top of the Ark was the Mercy Seat- made of pure gold...it is above the Mercy Seat from which God spoke to Moses, who stood on the other side of the veil. Because Moses was sinful and could not **Stand** in the presence of God.

Have you ever thought about how big the Pillar of Fire and Smoke was that led the Children of Israel through the desert for 40 years? When the people camped around the Tabernacle, they filled 96 square miles of area. Can you get your mind around how big that pillar had to be, in order to be seen by the entire camp?

King David wanted to build a Temple for God, so God would not have to dwell in a tent. God would only allow David to furnish the supplies from which his son Solomon would build the Temple. When the Temple was built it still had a veil before the Ark. Solomon could not **Stand** before God either, for he too had original sin.

For a man to be able to **Stand in the Presence of God** he would have to be sinless. God provided the sacrifice of His Son, the Messiah as the One Sacrifice for sins forever. This finally makes sense of all the blood and smoke of ancient times. The perfect Son, Leader and Priest sealed the New Covenant between God and man for all time with His blood on the Cross.

All the Old Testament sacrifices weren't the point. They POINTED to a God who forgives, not a god who trades sins for sacrifices. Not a god who "sells" forgiveness, but a God of loving kindness, justice and grace.

God demonstrated His grace by becoming the perfect sacrifice.

The last words of Jesus, the words heard throughout the Universe were "**IT IS FINISHED**". Those words were not whispered from a dying Lamb on the Cross, but were *ROARED by the LION of the Tribe of Judah*... and the Temple Veil that had symbolized the separation of God from Man was torn in half...the veil, the way to a personal relationship with God is now open.

Since coming to faith in Jesus my view of the Cross has changed. I first saw only the Broken Body, the outstretched hands of the ONE who came

to die for me. Now I see Him through the eyes of a child. Risen, Alive before me with His hands outstretched in Love, ready to re-introduce me to His Father.

Since the day Jesus died on that Cross, every man, woman or child who places their faith in the Son of God as their Savior can now **Stand** in the presence of God and in the future walk with HIM in the cool of the day.

There is a anonymous poem that expresses my feelings:

*Their faces I formed so that mine they would seek,
ears to listen for the Word I would speak,
eyes to see, minds to understand,
all they required I made with my Hand,
the Law and the Prophets for centuries foretold
the birth of a baby begotten of old,
in words unencoded, with language so plain,
that even the simplest could call on my name,
fathom mysteries of old, confounding the wise,
come, see the Messiah through a child's eyes.*

There is but one opening that has remained closed for thousands of years...the Eastern Gate entrance to the city of Jerusalem in Israel. God said it would remain closed until His Messiah; King Jesus sets foot again on the earth.

Then the Eastern Gate will open, first to welcome the King of Jerusalem and then to all those who will come from the nations to Worship the King and visit His City, Jerusalem.

Jesus deserves the title of King and with it the crown of "Glory and Honor." He was born King, but He was also present at Creation. He shared birth with us, but He never knew a time when He didn't exist, for He has always been.

And He will be there at the end when creation grows "Old like a garment". The worn out will be changed and us with it, if you believe.

But the King, He has never changed since the beginning and will be the same when time is no more. He is "I AM", the ever present Jehovah of the Old Testament.

The Prophet Isaiah speaks for God in *Ch.9 vs. 6-7*

"For to us a **child is born**, to us a **son is given**, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace **there will be no end**. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on **and forever**.

*The Zeal of the Lord Almighty **WILL** accomplish this."*

God has called the Nation of Israel to be a people of remembrance, to reflect on the great miracles shown them throughout history.

The Jews during the holiday of Passover reflect on their deliverance as a nation out of Egyptian bondage. They walked thru water, walls of water, thru the Red Sea on dry ground, as God provided them a route of safety and Salvation.

Later in History came another who could have walked through the water, but instead chose to walk on the water, His words "BE STILL", would calm the raging sea beneath HIS feet.

The water listened, because the ONE who spoke created the water and everything else in the Universe.

God through the Pen of Pain wrote in Isaiah Ch. 6 vs 9, the answer to the question regarding the blindness of the Jewish people to the truth of their Messiah's first coming 2,000 years ago.

God has chosen by purpose to blind His people Israel to the truth of the 1st coming of their Messiah...but know this, it is Satan who blinds the rest of the world to the 2nd coming of God's Son Jesus the Jewish Messiah.

During this Holiday of Easter, both Redeemed Jews and Christians together celebrate the culmination of the greatest Miracle purposed by God.

God sacrificed His Son for the Sins of Mankind on the Cross 2,000 years ago.

Jesus provided the final blood covering for past, present and future sins for ALL who would recognize Him in the Messianic Signposts of the Old Testament. Jesus, the flesh and blood God/Man that God would send for us to believe in for our eternal Salvation.

The Messiah Jesus walked out of the pages of the Prophets and into our world. The world HE MADE. And for a while the Heavens loss became mankind's gain, and God proved that his mercies are new every day.

At the end of my days, when HIS Throne fills my view, I will sing of HIS Mercies anew, and ***I will STAND in HIS Presence*** forever and ever.

There is One Faith, One Hope, One Baptism, One God and Father of All. One Church, One Body, One Life in the Spirit, now given so freely to All...

“May the Lord God Almighty, the Ancient of Days, the Lord God of Israel and its Believing Remnant and HIS Redeemed Church, shower you with His Grace and Mercy and Peace... as you raise your voice with the Apostle Peter’s response to the question Jesus asked him (Matthew 16: 13-17)

“Who do you say that I AM...

You, are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God”.

Will you be able to stand before HIM when He comes the 2nd time?

HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED ! ! !

AMEN and AMEN.

Crosses Everywhere

I just completed moving into a new condo 2 weeks ago. This is the 5th home I have lived in within the last 27 years. The first house was the most exciting for me because at the time I was sure I would never be able to afford a house.

My dad had died and besides the legacy of love, he left me \$10,000 in an insurance policy that allowed me to buy my first home. It was a small 950 square foot, 3 bedroom brick ranch home on Tuck Road. To me it was a palace...but it eventually was not good enough.

So I moved again, to a bigger palace on a street called Hollyhead. This house was open with vaulted ceilings almost cathedral like. It became easy to begin worshiping this home for it was my most beautiful possession...but it eventually was not good enough.

So I moved again, to a bigger palace. I am sorry but I cannot recall the name of the street. This house was broken into smaller spaces and rooms but was larger than Hollyhead. The owner's sales disclosure said everything worked.

The first week we moved in we found out the sprinkling system had 5 broken heads. As I turned on the system the lawn began to rise up in those 5 places like sandworms from a movie. The dishwasher began spraying water all over the kitchen. As we took the wallpaper off, it took the drywall off in chunks. We replaced the air conditioning unit in winter because it went on and would not shut off. When I stood still in my bedroom and shut my eyes, I found I was leaning, because the floor was not level. And one of the floor drains in the former owners work room was plugged by sawdust. He was a carpenter, a dishonest carpenter.

So after 13 months this new palace was put up for sale. It sold right away but I lost money because of the lack of equity growth and having to pay the sales commissions. It was difficult for me to worship this home. It was larger, but the problems I experienced in it became a heavy burden to me.

Then came North Creek Drive. This house became a blessing to me. Not because of its size but because of its cathedral like design. The doorways had high arches and there were bold crosses in each of the windows. The light inside the house softly illumined each window; so when you passed by or came towards the house at night you would see crosses in every window.

When I got up in the morning to write, everywhere I turned, every window I looked through had a cross in it. In this house of crosses I learned to develop a biblical worldview by looking out through the crosses in the windows into the fallen world I lived in. I learned to look at the world through the eyes of Christ.

Then I began looking inside myself at the cross He told me I must bear in order to follow Him in this life. I have grown closer to Him in this house because His arms were open to me here. When the light is just right as the sun rises at dawn and recedes at dusk you can see His arms reflected as shadows on the walls and floors inside the house. Everywhere I look there are crosses.

It was easy to worship Him in this house. In this house Jesus became real to me for the very first time in my life. Sure like you I understood what He did for me in concept, but here, in this house He became Flesh and Bone to me. This house was the one I turned my study into Grandpa Ernie's God room, the place I went daily to meet with HIM and sometimes with others. This house was difficult too leave, but it was time to move.

This current move was not to a bigger house but a much smaller condo. Elyse and I have reached that place in our lives where less is now more. Our needs are simpler now. They always were. We did not know it back then because we listened to the voices of the world in years past instead of HIS Voice.

Most of things we had purchased in years past, that we poured our love and pride into had no place in this new condo. We found out that these were things we really never needed. So we parted with these things that had caused us so much debt and worry in the past.

Understanding the difference between needs and wants is the most difficult exercise of our will in life. The decisions we make are tied to emotions and our pride. Our ability to make right decisions unfortunately grows from making wrong ones and being able to learn from them.

One thing after another went wrong with this most recent move. So many things that I thought I would not have peace here. Yet I rest under the shadow of His wings knowing He cares for me one day at a time.

My life verse from Scripture is two fold. Both are short. "This too shall pass" and "Jesus Wept".

The windows in the condo as of this writing have no coverings yet. We have been here a week now. Our bedroom catches the full light of morning.

Light pours into the room early.

Every morning I look at the sky through our bedroom window. But last night I couldn't sleep and found myself staring out the window. It was a full moon. The light from the moon reflects the light of the sun. Just like you and I are made in the Image of God and should be reflecting Him to others.

The windows here are different yet the same as in the house I had just left behind in that there is a bold structure of a Cross. But the Crosses in this house are different. Supported by the extended arms of the cross design are 9 square window panels resting on top of each arm of the cross.

I do not know why I hadn't noticed this before. There before me was His Cross. Resting on each outstretched arm were 9 small crosses. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are heavy laden, MY yoke is easy and I will give you rest".

Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow me". Jesus promised to be with us in the storms of life. He promised never to let us go. He promised to bring us home to Him when the ebb and flow of this life's rough seas are over...when we stand before Him on a glassy sea accompanied by all who have gone before us.

As His Cross grew larger in my sight I was reminded about that evening long ago when I had accepted Him as Savior at the foot of His Cross and He exchanged His life for mine. Then I remembered that Jesus said if I am to follow Him I must pick up my own cross and join the great cloud of witnesses from ages past.

Before I knew Him my cross was huge for it was on my shoulders alone. Now my cross is small, yes it is still with me, but now it is supported by His strong arms. My cross has become so light to me that I hardly know its there, my burdens are now His as He walks with me through my storms.

The Crosses in the windows of my former house were tall, strong and bold. They reminded me of all He did for me at the Cross. The battle that was won by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and His victory cry that went throughout the universe. "It is Finished", was heard throughout His Creation as the Roar of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

It broke my heart to leave the last house. Not because of the house but because I felt His presence there. Now as I weep silently, not wanting to wake Elyse, I look out at this window scene within my bedroom and realize that He has promised never to leave me and that He has followed me here.

My whole life He has followed me with the outstretched arms of His cross pleading with me to turn from my path of destruction. He walked behind me patiently knocking on the door of my heart to come in. In 1985 I let Him come into my heart. Now His arms enfold me. He is all around me both protecting me and leading me.

In the windows of this home I am reminded about His love. His arms are strong and full of the small crosses of those He supports as He continues to bear their burdens for them as they follow Him during their daily lives.

Never before have we been loved like this. That the Son of God, would humble Himself; become like one of His creatures and die in your place so you might live.

This condo complex I now live in is still under construction. Dirt is piled everywhere, the land is in disarray. This area of Wolverine Lake is old because everywhere I look I see telephone poles. It has always been ironic to me from the beginning of my walk of faith in Christ that man's first attempt to communicate with man on a global scale was upheld by the arms of telephone poles.

God had confounded mans language and ability to communicate with himself at the tower of Babel. He did this because mankind had lost its focus on the God who created him, thereby elevating themselves higher than God.

Yet, what tool did mankind choose to uphold lines of communication with each other later in history...a telephone pole...the sign of the Cross of Christ. The symbol of Gods calling out to every person on earth to repent and look up to His Son for Salvation was now everywhere on the surface of the earth.

The sun is rising this morning. It rained last night and the clouds are starting to recede. There in the window facing the west I see the biggest, fullest rainbow I have ever seen in my life. The colors are vibrant and it's beginning to form a double rainbow before my eyes.

You all know that God used the rainbow as a sign to mankind that He will never again destroy this planet with water. People take this to mean that God will never destroy those living on this planet again. But actually He is only saying He will never destroy all life on this planet again by water.

Later in Scripture it speaks of the destruction that is coming again but this time by fire. The earth, His earth will be purified of sin and remade by fire in the future. The account is there in the Book of the Revelation for you to read.

As the sun illuminates the rainbow in the clouds it also begins to shine on the ground outside my window. There is a construction mound of dirt I can see outside the window facing the west. It covers the view of the street and the homes behind it so all you see is the front of the mound.

But the mound is not tall enough to eliminate the telephone poles along the road. On top of this hill is a single Cross standing in the light. Off to either side are two crosses. As the clouds begin parting, the crosses grow brighter and clearer with the coming sunlight. This day as I look around there are crosses everywhere.

Mankind is proud. Even those of us that believe, tend to think that God is coming back only for us; those made in His image. But God has made it clear that His whole creation is groaning under this burden of sin. All of Gods creation is under a curse and He is sending His Son back to make everything new again including His Creation.

The Bible speaks about the renewed JOY of His Creation at His approach. Listen carefully the next time you feel the gentle touch of breeze.

Be still, quiet your heart and you will hear the leaves of the trees clapping for Joy as they hear the echos of the sounds of The Lords approach... on the wings of the wind.

I have found peace in this new home because He has moved with me here. I have learned in recent years that the signs of Christ are all around us; if you but look, you will find ***Crosses Everywhere.***

“Abba....daddy”

Sometimes I feel so alone. No longer do I have the excitement and wonder of youth. The seasons of life have all but gone by so quickly. All my life I have had a front row seat before my television watching the horror story of mans inhumanity to man unfold on the world’s stage.

I have heard too much and have seen too much of the world around me. Ancient prophecies written by the Creator God, who stands outside of time, continue to come to life. You can read them in a book that is the only True communication to mankind from outside his world.

Why are we so focused on ourselves that we have grown calloused to the pain all around us?

We see, yet we are blind. We hear, yet we are deaf...our hearts have grown cold towards everyone, except ourselves.

Gods revealed Truth remains The Truth whether we believe it or not, whether we acknowledge it or not. He is your God and He said every knee shall bow and every mouth will confess Him as Lord.

He is the Lord of the living and the dead. The Lord of the Lost and the Lord of the Found.

The smoke and mirrors of this world’s value system no longer comforts me. The mask that I viewed the world through for years has been ripped off my face many years ago.

No longer can I hide my emotions. The reality of the pain and despair that surrounds me has wrapped my heart in grief for all those I see and meet who do not know HIM.

When you humble yourself and allow people to see you...the real you, they tend to open their heart of hearts to you. They begin to open the pages of the book of their lives to share with you.

Everyone has a story and a deep longing within their heart to share with someone who will listen and care.

It becomes a bond I cherish between myself and another person who admits deep down they too feel so very alone.

As with me, the world has worn out their hearts, their minds and their bodies. Slowly they have come to the knowledge that the possessions of this existence have no meaning.

We have anxiety about accumulating the treasures of this world and then once gaining them we have anxiety about keeping them. In a very real sense we continue to act like children focused only on ourselves.

I share with others about my realization that the child I was is still very much alive within me. This child still cries within my heart for my daddy to come and get me and take me home.

I remember the time as a child being dropped off at the Royal Theater on a Saturday afternoon to meet my cousin to see a movie. My Dad said to wait outside the theater and he would pick me up at 3 PM and take me home.

It was always a wonderful time. We enjoyed a double feature for the price of one and all the popcorn you could eat.

At the end of the movie I followed the crowd out. The crowd moved out like a thunderous wave spilling out in front of the theater.

My Aunt was waiting outside in her car to pick up my cousin. He got in the car and I waved goodbye. I waited for my Dad, but he was nowhere to be seen.

At first I was part of the crowd and drew comfort from them; but then I stood there alone. I waited from 3 pm to 5 pm for my Daddy. He said he would come get me. He always did what he said he would do. He never lied to me and if he made a promise he always kept it.

As the time went by I drew comfort not only from the words he had spoken to me; but also because his past actions always consistently backed up his words.

He had car trouble that delayed him for 2 hours. I was 12 years old. When He finally came he apologized, hugged and kissed me and congratulated me for being so very brave. He praised me for obeying his instructions to stay in one place and wait for him to come back and get me.

I told him I knew he would be back to get me to take me home and that I would always listen to him and remember his words of instructions.

You see I wanted to grow up and **be just like him.**

There's another Story of a Father and His Son that touched my Soul and mind and changed my heart forever.

When I first heard this story it seemed like a magical bedtime story, a legend or a mythical account lost deep behind the veil of time.

The story is about a King who became a child to become a King again.

It goes like this:

“Long ago, before dinosaurs roamed the earth, and before there was a star in the sky, a great king issued a decree that shook the realms of darkness.

The king spoke and the universe exploded into existence. He said, “Let there be light,” and the darkness ran from him. By the power of his words he created high mountains and deep valleys. With endless imagination and attention to detail, the king filled the land, waters, and sky with living creatures of every shape, color, and size.

Then, as evil eyes watched from a distance, the king reached down, picked up a handful of loose soil, and breathed into it his own likeness. From the dust the king made a man to share his happiness. Motioning to the surrounding paradise the great One said, “All of this I am entrusting to you. Care for it, and you will see how much I have cared for you.”

For a while the new caretaker was too absorbed in his work to recognize the emptiness within. The king, however, knew that it was not good for the man to be alone. So he put his likeness to sleep, and from a rib that protected the man’s heart, gave the man a helper and friend he called woman.

One of the gifts the king entrusted to the couple was the freedom of choice. In the center of their garden home the king had planted two trees. One he called the “tree of life” and the other, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Pointing to the second tree, the king said, “Eat freely from everything except this one. Don’t eat from this tree or you will die.”

The caretakers took the King’s Counsel and shared his happiness. Life was good for them. Planet earth was at peace.

Hiding in the shadows, a rebel watched the caretakers and envied their happiness. In another time and place, he too had known the king’s favor.

Disguised as a friend, the rebel engaged the woman in conversation. He asked her about the rules of the garden. Suggesting that he knew a side of the king the couple hadn’t seen, he raised questions they had never thought about. What was the king withholding? What didn’t he want them to know?

Curiosity got the best of them. Tasting the forbidden fruit was like taking a mind-altering drug. With a rush of lost innocence, the caretakers suddenly felt afraid and vulnerable. Grabbing leaves to cover themselves, they ran to hide from the king.

When the king found the couple, they admitted what they had done, but tried to make excuses for themselves.

Even though the king showed his willingness to forgive, life would never be the same. Unfriendly thoughts and inclinations began to show up everywhere, even in their children. In a fit of jealousy their first son killed his younger brother. Seeds of rebellion continued to grow until the whole earth was filled with conflict and violence.

Saddened by a world spinning out of control, the king sent a killer storm that wiped out everyone except for the small family of one man who was true to the king.

A new beginning seemed full of promise. But a disrespectful son and drunken father showed once again that human nature had not changed. The enemy was within. Seeds of self-rule continued to fill the earth with trouble and pain.

The king intervened again. This time he appeared to an old childless couple and told them he was going to give them a son in their old age. He promised that through their family he would offer peace and happiness to the whole world.

The seasons changed. Generations passed. Yet even though the king gave the old couple their miracle family most things remained the same. Caretakers continued to seek self-rule and happiness at one another's expense. They took for granted all that had been entrusted to them. Yet the king kept promising his chosen people that through them the world would be blessed with a son who would be called, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

The promise, however, usually fell on deaf ears. Even though the king gave his "chosen people" a homeland at the crossroads of the world, and even though he introduced them to their neighbors as a miracle family, they tested his patience until he stopped talking to them.

After 400 long years the silence was broken by the cry of a baby. A young unmarried woman conceived a child whose name meant "Savior." Local shepherds and wise men from the East took turns worshipping the child whose birth was announced by angels in the night and a star in the sky.

Thirty years later this son of promise turned water to wine at a wedding party and then traveled from town to town doing good and giving hope to the poorest and most troubled of people. Crowds of excited people followed him until religious leaders became envious of his influence. Instead of using his power to overthrow his enemies, the teacher said he had not come to condemn, but to be the servant of all.

In a stunning turn of events, family leaders spread false rumors about the teacher. They accused him of trying to overthrow the government and called for his death. On a holiday that celebrated their national freedom, an angry mob unknowingly subjected the son they had been waiting for to a public execution.

For 3 days the teacher's friends were afraid and confused. Then a group of women found his grave empty, and for the next 40 days the Lord of life let hundreds of his followers see that he had overcome the power of death in their behalf.

Now, the whole story can be told. To share his happiness the great king became the Servant of servants. After giving us life to share his joy, he was born into our world to bear our pain.

He left with a promise to return. His story must be told. Time is running out for all who side with the forces of darkness. Everlasting happiness is waiting for all who will welcome into their hearts the Servant of servants, the Lord of lords, and the King of kings."

Been Thinking About, Monthly Column by Mart DeHahn
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When it seemed like God, His FATHER, would never come for HIM, Jesus cried out from the Cross "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"

Had Jesus forgotten the promises of His Father? No.

Had His Father forgotten Jesus? No.

God His Father had a plan for Jesus to finish before He came back to take Jesus home again.

If you have a personal relationship with Jesus that allows you to look at His Cross and see yourself enfolded in His arms, hanging there with HIM, then you have become one of Gods Children.

Now you have the right to call God ABBA...daddy. Just as God had a plan for His Son Jesus, He also has a plan for each of His children who call HIM daddy.

Here is a message just for you from HIM;

*Your face I formed so that mine you would seek,
I gave you ears to listen for the Word I would speak,
I gave you eyes to see, a mind to understand,
all that you required I made with my Hand,*

*the Law and the Prophets for centuries foretold
the birth of a baby begotten of old,
in words unencoded, with language so plain,
that even the simplest could call on my name,
fathom mysteries of old, confounding the wise,
come, see the Messiah through a child's eyes.*

Love, ABBA

He wants you to listen to Him, remember His words of instruction and to stay in the place He has put you so you can make a difference there for Him among all those you know who so desperately need Him.

He asks you to wait patiently, knowing you are never alone.

He left you with **HOPE** for the end of days
With **STRENGTH** for when you are weak with fear
With **JOY** when you are surrounded by dread
With **PURPOSE** in the midst of an aimless culture
With **PEACE** when storms of anxiety roll across

Your horizons (From *Discover the Bible*, Pastor John Barnett)

You see MY God said He would come get me. MY God always does what He said He would do. MY God never lies to me and if MY God makes a promise He always keeps it.

He is My Abba...MY Daddy.

MY God said He will be back soon to take me home to be with Him and if you know HIM through His Son Jesus; He will take you home to be with HIM too.

Real wealth is what remains after losing our health, wealth, prosperity, possessions and power. "What good does it do to gain the worlds possessions ...but loose your eternal soul?"

**Jesus IS the LIVING HOPE
for the End of Days**

Remember Jesus this Easter

At My Father's Knee

Beginning at my father's knee, my whole life long I was taught that God was **not** knowable or approachable. He was mysterious, unsearchable, far above us.

My Father Armin had lost his wife and 2 children in Hitler's death camp.

Being a father and grandfather, I cannot even begin to imagine the depth of my father's sorrow, his emotional pain, his doubts and the tears that must have flowed like a river running into a sea of hopelessness and despair.

Many people in his position came out of the death camps hating God. Somehow my father was able to start over again, marry my mother (also a survivor), raise me and live into his 80's. He was never bitter, but placed his trust in the God of his fathers.

He loved this unknowable God with all his heart. Armin, more than anything else desired righteousness...he wanted to be perfect. According to the demand of God, we must be perfect to get into heaven. Armin wanted to have his name written permanently in Gods Book of Life.

So my father did good deeds, went to synagogues, gave charity to the poor. He was an honorable, loving, calm, gentle, soft spoken and kind man. I cannot begin to tell you how much I loved him. He is never far from my thoughts as is my mother.

Armin spent hours each day in the Old Testament. He loved to speak to me about the stories of the Nation of Israel and this unapproachable and unknowable God whom he loved.

On his bedroom dresser were 10 "Pushkeh" boxes. These boxes were for coins. A very Old Rabbi would come once a month to my father's house on a Saturday to collect them for charity. One of my Dad's proudest moments was when I would bring him on Saturday the 2 boxes that I had filled with change and then wait with him for the Old Rabbi to come. Then the three of us would visit and speak about this unknowable and unapproachable God.

As all of you know, I am a Jewish Believer in Yeshua / Jesus. That is the only difference between my father and I as Jews. He waited for the 1st coming of the Messiah and I wait for His 2nd coming. This difference separates us by a chasm so great that it is not possible to cross. The theological consequences of our differing views bring with it eternal consequences.

My Dad taught me about sin, the fact that I can never attain true righteousness and that because there are no more sacrifices of animals in a Temple, I must now rely on my Good Works to please the God of Israel. Then when I die, based on my Good Works, this unapproachable, unknowable ...Holy God of both Mercy and Wrath would take pity on me when I stand before HIM and answer HIS question ...“Why should I let you into MY Heaven?”

Gods word in the Old Testament is clear in Isaiah...all our good works are like filthy rags...everyone’s heart is evil from conception in our mothers womb, no one is righteous. Our boasting before God about our good works will not gain us entrance into His heaven.

So where does that leave me? Where did it leave my father? What about your father? My father would tell me God is merciful and I agree. His mercies are new to us every day that He grants us life.

But God is also Holy. And a Holy God hates Sin. God said through the Prophets that good works are not good enough, then what is good enough? Did God provide us a way to be saved from His wrath or not?

That answer is yes!

God is Omniscient, He knows the past, present and future. He already had a plan for saving us the second that Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden. That plan was to provide a Savior. One who would come at the appointed time and offer a solution around our Sin problem.

I have spent the last 21 years of my life trying to convince people who do not have a Biblical Worldview that they are Sinners in danger of Gods Wrath and Judgment and that they are in need of a Savior.

This has been my passion, my joy and my greatest sorrow. Both my parents died before I came to know Jesus, the prophesied Savior and Messiah of Israel. I would gladly give up my life if I could but go back in time, and show my father in the Old Testament he cherished...the prophecies and portraits God gave the Jewish people, so they would recognize His Son Yeshua...the coming Messiah when He appeared on earth.

If you believe in His death on the Cross, the Empty Tomb, His Resurrection, , the historically documented evidence of His appearing after death before many people, including 500 witness on one occasion and His Ascension into Heaven...**then talk to your father if he still lives.** Take part in giving your father, with Gods help the gift of eternal life... belief in the Messiah of Israel who came to die for the sins of the world.

Max Lucado says it best in one of his books.

“If a child you don’t know appears on your doorstep and asks to spend the night, what would you do? Likely you would ask his name, where he lives, find out why he is roaming the streets, and contact his parents.

On the other hand, if a youngster enters your house escorted by your child, that child is welcomed. The same is true with God.

By becoming friends with the Son of God, we have entrance to the throne room of God. His Son ushers us into that blessing of Gods grace that we can then enjoy in Heaven forever.

Ponder the achievement of God. He doesn’t condone our sin, nor does He compromise His standard. He doesn’t ignore our rebellion, nor does He relax His demands.

Rather than dismiss our sin, He assumes our sin and, ***incredibly, sentences Himself to die for our sins.***

God is still God. The wages of sin is still death. And we are made perfect...God does what we cannot do so we can be what we dare not dream: *perfect before God.*”

I have said this to all of you before in past emails:

Contained in the list of Hebrew names in Genesis 5 is a sentence that reads, “Man is appointed mortal sorrow, but the Blessed God, shall come down teaching, *that His death* (Gods Death), shall bring the despairing (you and I), comfort and rest.”

This amazing prophecy of names in the very beginning of the Old Testament represents Gods plan to provide a Savior later in history. Take the time to study the prophecies of the coming Messiah. You will find that He can be no other than the Son of God...Jesus.

Blessing’s to you all this Father’s Day.

Proverbs 30 vs 4

The Bridge between my Mind and Heart (*Cup of Cool Water*)

I have a friend named Mick. Mick is Brit. He has a fabulous accent. I love to hear him call my name...Aayyehh Urrnieeeee. I have known Mick for 5 years. I keep a small Bible on my desk. Two weeks after I met Mick he noticed the Bible.

“Aayyehh, your not **one of them** are you!?”

That statement began a unique friendship that has lasted 5 years now. NO, Mick does not know the Lord, but he keeps coming to the well for a cup of cool water.

Mick’s personal life has been tumultuous to say the least. He claims to be a man of reason, of intellect, a person of logic...an Atheist. His standard of reason is measured purely against his own mind. His standard changes continually like waves tossed about by the wind and the sea.

His standards are like clouds on a sunny day, pretty to look at but devoid of rain that brings nourishment to the earth.

His opinions are based on a foundation built on shifting sand; for his mind and heart are never nourished with absolute truth.

Yet, Mick is a seeker. He asked me for a copy of the small book I wrote called “Crosses Everywhere”. He saw it on my desk next to my Bible. The cover distinctly shows two Crosses...the Lords and one thief. But Mick held the book sideways and commented that the picture looked like the back end of a pig.

Weeks later he said he was still on the first two pages. I asked him why it was taking him so long to read such a small book. He said the only time he has to read is when he catches stop lights on the way to work. He laughed.

Mick just doesn’t get it, but what he sees in me he wants. However he is not willing to put in the time or energy to dig deep and investigate the answers. I gave Mick a Bible year’s ago but he is not willing to take the time to read the Living Word of God.

It is Gods Word that is alive, not the words of my book. He is looking for answers in all the wrong places.

Mick wants superficial answers, sound bites, quick and easy Grace. He wants Grace and Mercy without repentance. He like many others

want to walk down an isle, have an emotional experience, sign a card of commitment to the Lord and feel like they have gained Salvation.

During our 5 years of encounters Mick tried to prove how ignorant I was. He took me on a tour of biblical questions about the flood, Noah's ark, why a good god would allow suffering, how could god have created evil, life on other planets, people wrote the Bible not god, can god create a rock too big for him to pick up, the Bible we have today is not the same as the originals...where are the originals, all the versions say something different and more.

I answered his biblical questions with fact, logic, history, science and statistics but my answers fell on deaf ears. His ears hear only myths, fairy tales, legends and half truths.

At the end of each encounter I always challenged him to explain the Cross and the Resurrection and that he is in need of a savior. He said he did not need to be saved from anything to which I explained hell...another concept he does not accept as true.

In all the words exchanged between us, none have penetrated Mick's mind or heart. His home life and work life are filled with sorrow and pressures. His reactions to everything are extreme. His inner man is anchored in sand giving him no stability, purpose, peace or hope in life or more importantly in death.

In me he sees a faith that is unchanging by Gods grace, for I have told him many times I am a sinner just like him. The difference between us is that my anchor is set deep within the Cross that is set in the solid rock foundation of the Living Word of God. So when the storms come, Christ is with me...I am never alone. Therefore I have peace in life and in death.

I try (I am not perfect), to live out my faith before him so that my talk and walk convey the same message. Because I do pray Mick keeps coming back for a cup of cool water. God is not finished with Mick yet.

What I've learned is that no amount of reason, fact or logic will change the heart of an unbeliever. It truly is a work of God through the Holy Spirit.

So the following is for those of you who believe that Jesus **is** the Son of God, the Messiah of Israel. It is meant to edify you, encourage you and strengthen your faith and understanding of who Jesus is...and give you strength to stand in the storms of life because you are never alone.

Go back to the beginning of your journey; reconsider the Majesty, the Wonder and the Awesomeness of the God you serve and His Inspired, Inerrant Word.

God alone is the perfect witness of what He created, not His creatures. His entire Bible stands or falls on the very first 10 words of His Book, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

If you are a believer who doubts the first sentence of Gods Inerrant Word in His Bible then throw the book away. **It is ALL His Word or not his word at all.**

For those of you who as yet do not know HIM as Lord, maybe God will use some of these facts to begin the process of bridging the gap between your mind and heart. The only thing I would ask of you is to PRAY, asking the True God to reveal Himself to you. If you do that He will honor your prayer.

Jesus Himself stands between you and God. His hand reaches out to you to touch your mind, your thoughts and connect them to the heart of God.

Jesus is the Bridge you need to cross over to get to the other side

“Prophetic FOOTPRINTS of the 2nd COMING of the MESSIAH”

Be still...quiet your heart and you will hear the sound of a trumpet announcing the approaching hoof beats of your KING.

What Old Testament bible study is mentioned 12 times in one book of the bible and is given by seven different people and is almost never given today?

THAT JESUS/YESHUA IS THE MESSIAH OF ISRAEL!

Presented by: Peter, Stephen, Philip, Paul, Apollos, Aquila and Priscilla:

<i>Acts 2:22-38</i>	<i>Peters 1st sermon</i>
<i>Acts 3:18-26</i>	<i>Peters 2nd sermon</i>
<i>Acts 7</i>	<i>Stephen before the Sanhedrin</i>
<i>Acts 8:26-39</i>	<i>Philip and the Ethiopian Treasurer</i>
<i>Acts 9:20-22</i>	<i>Saul Preaches at Damascus</i>
<i>Acts 10:42-43</i>	<i>Peters sermon to the Gentiles</i>

Acts 13:16-41 Pauls sermon at Antioch
Acts 17:2-3 Paul at Thessalonica
Acts 18:5 Paul at Corinth
Acts 18:24-28 Apollos, Aquila, and Priscilla at Ephesus and Corinth
Acts 26:23 Paul preaches to Agrippa
Acts 28:23 Paul at Rome

AND presented by JESUS Himself, the 8th person, making 14 sermons.

Luke 24:13 *Emmaus Road: "And beginning with Moses and with all the Prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself In all the Scriptures."*

Luke 24:44 *Upper Room: "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me In the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be Fulfilled. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scripture"*

Prophetic Clues to the coming Messiah in the Old Testament:

Follow the clues; they revolve around questions using the word **WHO?**

Gen: 3:15 *Who is the seed (offspring) of the woman who crushes the head Of Satan?*

Gen: 12:2, 22:18 *Who is the seed of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob that will bless all nations?*

Deut:18:15 *Who is the Prophet like Moses of whom God says, "You must Listen to him."*

Psalms 22 *Who is the one crucified?*

Isa 9:6-7 *Who is the child that is God and will have an everlasting kingdom?*

Isaiah 53 *Who was crushed and pierced for our transgressions so that We would be healed by His wounds; upon whom did the Lord Lay the iniquity of all mankind?*

Jere 23:5,6 *Who is the righteous Branch, the wise king, who will be called "The Lord Our righteousness?"*

Dan 9:24-27 *Who is the "Anointed One" to be "Cut Off" (karat = executed), Prior to 70 A.D.*

Micah 5:2 *Who is the one who is eternal, who will be ruler over Israel, who Is born in Bethlehem (Ephrathah)? “From you (ephrathah), One Will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from Long Ago. from the days of eternity.*

Zech 12:10 *Who is Jehovah, “The one they have pierced”, for whom Jerusalem and all the nation of Israel will weep and mourn?*

Indeed **who** is God speaking about?

DID YOU KNOW THE OLD TESTAMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT GOD HAS A SON?

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin Will be with child and bear a **Son**, and she will call His name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 9:6 *For a child will be born to us, a **Son** will be given to us; and the Government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

Ps 2:6-12 *He said to Me, Thou art **My Son**. Today I have begotten Thee. Ask Of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance and The very ends of the earth as Thy possession Do homage to **The Son**, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!*

Prov.30:4 *Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
Who has bound the waters in a garment?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is His name, and what is **His Son's name**,
Surely, you know?*

JESUS / YESHUA IS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD!

How do we know this? Because Peter says in 2 Peter 1:19, that we have a more sure word of prophecy.....no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

For us who know Christ as Messiah, this statement is good enough. But for those that are not saved it is not good enough.

How does modern science establish truth? Truth is documented by exper-

iments whose results can be duplicated beyond question. Basically it is the law of probability in action.

We can do the same with the 100's of prophecies fulfilled by Jesus.

8 prophecies fulfilled.....10 /17th

Cover the state of Texas with silver dollars 2 ft. thick. Mark one with a permanent marker. Then take a blind man in somewhere by helicopter, set him down and give him one try to find the marked silver dollar.

16 prophecies fulfilled.....10/56th

48 prophecies fulfilled.....10/168th

THERE ARE OVER 300 PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. ANY PERSON REJECTING JESUS CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD IS REJECTING A FACT PROVEN MORE ABSOLUTELY THAN ANY OTHER FACT IN THE WORLD!

Let me close with this. The rabbis have been searching the Scriptures for centuries for its treasures. The genealogy of Genesis 5 found after the 1st Messianic Prophecy about the Coming Messiah being the Seed of the Woman, represents a hidden prophecy containing the **Christian Gospel** in the Old Testament.

Adam	.....	Man (is)
Seth	.....	Appointed
Enosh	.....	Mortal
Kenan	.....	Sorrow (but)
Mahalalel	.....	The Blessed God
Yared	.....	Shall Come Down
Enoch	.....	Teaching
Methusaleh	.....	His Death Shall Bring
Lamech	.....	(the) Despairing
Noah	.....	Comfort / Rest

Man *(is)* appointed mortal sorrow (*death*), but The Blessed God, shall come down (*from heaven*), teaching, (*that*) HIS death (**death of God**) , shall bring (*the*) despairing (*people...you and I*), Comfort and Rest.

No other nation on earth has been destroyed and scattered to the four corners of the globe, and then re-gathered as the focus of world attention.

No other nation declares by its reemergence in time, that there is a God who deserves to be feared and loved and obeyed.

No other nation exists as a declaration to the world that in the records of her history we find our roots and in the predictions of her prophets we find our future.

GOD

SAYS to YOU!

I knew you even before you were conceived
I chose you when I planned creation
You were not a mistake
for all your days are written in my book

Your face I formed
so that mine you would seek,
ears to listen for the Words I would speak,
eyes to see, a mind to understand,
all you require I made with my Hand,
come, see the Messiah through a child's eyes...

May, The Ancient of Days, the Lord God of Israel and His True Church
bless you all as you continue to grow in your pursuit of the knowledge
of the ONE True God... **AMEN**

Look at your life through Heavens Eyes

A drop of water hitting the surface of the ocean sends rings of energy out from its epicenter. So too **humanity's cry for peace, peace and safety** moves out from ground zero, the earth...and echo's throughout the universe.

Does Anyone Hear?

Does Anyone Care?

The lives of my mother and father, along with many relatives, all Holocaust victims have now passed on. The narratives of their lives have been planted into my memory. All their life stories, their joys and sorrows are now mine. Their stories like plants in the soil have become rooted deep inside my mind and the only water I have to keep them alive are my tears.

Emotionally their burdens are now my burdens because their lives now form the foundation of my life.

In life they boldly referred to themselves as Survivors, because they came through the most horrifying experience that any human being could possibly live through. In the death camps they were nothing more than livestock penned behind barbed wire. Many carried the number of their brand on their flesh.

The brand shouted they were just a number, that their bodies belonged to Hitler. Hitler took their bodies and did as he pleased with 6 million of them. But their Souls and their Spirits belonged to someone else. Some one else who said,

***"I knew you even before you were conceived.
I chose you when I planned creation."***

Upon gaining freedom, they all began a new life. On the outside they were brave, but in the shadows of their minds a vortex of Un-answered questions whirled round and round. Their cries and prayers seemed to rise up to deaf ears as they experienced the Silence of God. Answers never came.

Locked within their forever broken hearts were deep longings and unfulfilled love for fathers, mothers, children, relatives and friends. The lives of those they loved were now gone like a wisp of smoke in a gentle breeze.

Afterwards for the most part they put up brave fronts. Life after all was for the living not the dead. **They were wrong...** for the dead make up the living. They were not Survivors, but broken VICTIMS of the Holocaust. Their voices joined the voices from the ancient past of those who had gone before them. Looking back through the Veil of time we know the ancient ones also cried to the heavens but only heard back the empty echo's of their own voices... and the Silence of God.

Mankind and sometimes believers like you and I have forgotten that disobeying God brings trials and testing accompanied by the consequences of sorrow and pain. For God will use hammer blows on an anvil and fire to purify us, in order to keep us on the narrow path home to HIM.

But most of all He reminds us this life is not ours, nor about us, but about HIM!

There was a time of suffering in Egypt for the Nation of Israel when God was silent not for just 4 years but 400 years. The song lyrics of the movie "Prince of Egypt" reflect the depth of the heart cries of not only the Jewish people that were chosen by God; but if you listen carefully, the cries of all people who look to the heavens for answers that seem never to come.

With the sting of the whip on my shoulder
with the salt of my sweat on my brow
Elohim, God on high
can you hear your people cry?
Help us now in this dark hour...

Deliver us, Hear our call, Deliver us... Lord of all
Remember us, here in this burning sand.
Deliver us there's a land you promised us
Deliver us to the promised land...

Lyrics from the Prince of Egypt.

I am here sitting in this theater in the blackness of darkness waiting for the play to begin. There is only me here, along with the dead who now live in my mind. And as the curtain opens I hear the voices of my ancient forefathers calling to the child still within me...

Don't be frightened and don't be scared My son,
I have nothing I can give;
But this chance that you may live.
I pray we'll meet again ...If He will deliver us...
Send a shepherd to shepherd us
And deliver us to the promised land!

Questions like a flood race into me from the darkness:

Is anyone out there? / Is God speaking? / What is God like? / Who am I? / What went wrong? / Is sin serious? / Where do I go from here? / Is it religion or relationship? / Is there an answer?

There is a feeling to this darkness that envelopes me. My eyes see absolutely nothing. I am blind sitting here all alone.

But wait, listen...there is the sound of a whisper. The voice calls like it did in the story of Samuel and whispers my name... ernie...ernie... and I reply yes Lord, I am here. Then in a voice so quiet I hear... "Be still and know that I AM God".

It's God calling me so quietly, touching my soul like a soft breeze.

I hear the stirring of sound coming from a distance like rolling thunder. **Louder and Louder** it comes as it gains speed and comes closer to me. I feel it permeate my entire being, reverberating through my body and soul.

Until...I hear the voice of God saying "**LET THERE BELIGHT**". In less than a millisecond there is an explosion of sound and light together. I see and hear myriad upon myriad of angels lifting their voices together forming a symphony of music that accompanies what my eyes are seeing.

I feel the power and the presence of God and I now know in my heart that I am not alone. Not now or forever.

My eyes watch in wonder as God reveals to me the mystery of Creation. My ears continue to hear the beauty of the symphony of angel voices worshipping God with praises as they accompany the Voice of God saying "**Let There Be. . . Let There Be. . .**".

How majestic, how awesome to witness the power of God...and how humbling.

He has allowed me to see within me what He has described in His Living Word of Truth in the only true book (the Bible) through which He has chosen to reveal HIMSELF and communicate to us...to me...and to you.

God defends nothing, but states FACTS. The reality of the beginning of all history is in the first line of His Word...

“In the Beginning GOD...Created the Heavens and the Earth”.

There is silence again. Then instead of continuing to say “**Let there be...**” God now says... “**Let US make...** man in OUR OWN IMAGE.”

I watch God reach down into the dust of the earth and begin molding Adam the human father of our race. Gently He holds Adam in the palm of His hand as He **breathes out** life into the Creature He has chosen to place His Image into.

And the Breath of God, representing the Signature of God gives life, creating a Soul and Spirit within Adam. God gave us the ability to think, to reason, to plan and to make choices and most of all to LOVE.

Only man was made in the Image of God.

Adam was made of dirt and now stands out of the dirt before the Living God that made him. As if waking from a deep sleep Adam stretches his arms out to each side of his body before His Creator.

God knows and sees **ALL** the past, present and future at the same time. And so God sees His creature...Adam; stretch out his arms before HIM to make the sign of Gods promised Redeemer, Messiah...**the sign of the CROSS.**

And God seeing Adams outstretched arms is reminded of a scene yet to be played out in history. **THE defining moment of all History (His—story).** When God would give His Son for a noble cause that touched His heart deeply.

And so as God looks upon the outstretched arms of Adam He sheds the first tear in a Journey of Tears to be shed with each of us, as we walk the short path of tears through this life into eternity.

The Cross of His Son was to come in the future. The journey of the descent of mankind would be wrapped up in the Tears of God and the Silence of God.

Can we even begin to comprehend the compassion of a GOD who humbly cries?

The Son, who came, did so with compassion for us, shedding the very tears of God. The same Son who will yet come again has no more tears. Jesus will be both the Lord of the Found and also the Lord of the Lost.

The Inerrant Living Word of God, states that every human will bow before Jesus and acknowledge Him to be Lord. The word Lord will either burst forth from your lips from a heart filled with Joy ...OR...you will hear the words come out of your own disbelieving mouth.

But the words... will come forth.

Which will you be? One of the lost or one of the found? We are all like bleating sheep in search of a Shepard. In search of answers.

Is anyone out there? / Is God speaking? / What is God like? / Who am I? / What went wrong? / Is sin serious? / Where do I go from here? / Is it religion or relationship? / Is there an answer?

But answers are useless unless they are anchored to Truth. All others are anchored to The Lie. Dying with the weight of that lie anchored in your heart of stone will only take you down forever.

Do you have questions about your health, your financial situation, your job, your family or your future?

Nothing in life is more important than this: having a True Relationship with God. Good health, financial stability, secure employment, a contented family and a hopeful future are all things that we want. Yet even these are temporary and eventually pointless unless you have a living relationship with God, one that is clear and certain...and will last forever.

There is one question with an answer that is more important than all the others combined. This question will answer your cries and your tears when you look up to heaven for relief but only hear the Silence of God.

That Question isWhy the CROSS?

The Cross is the perfect gift from God to you and I.

It is a miracle wrapped up as a gift.

There can be miracles... if you believe.

C.S. LEWIS, helping us to understand the Incarnation said:

“In the Christian story God descends to re-ascend. He comes **down**; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, **down** into humanity; **down** further still, if embryologists are right, to recapitulate in the womb ancient and pre-human phases of life; **down** to the very roots and seabed of the Nature He has created. But He goes **down** to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him.

One has the picture of a strong man stooping lower and lower to get himself underneath some great complicated burden. He must stoop in order to lift, he must almost disappear under the load before he incredibly straightens his back and marches off with the whole mass swaying on his shoulders.”

GOD became a Man ...so HE could rescue “Some of us” that Believe. No one has been left out of His invitation to come to Him...not even you.

The Bible is the Autobiography of God. Jesus when He died on the Cross said “It is Finished”...but it is by NO Means the end of the story!

The “Greatest Story Ever Told” is about New Beginnings, a new Creation, a new Universe, a new Earth that will join with heaven...and a new You.

Salvation is not about mans religion, but about a Personal Relationship between you and the SON of GOD.

“Scripture offers the only accurate explanations that can be found anywhere about how our race began, where our moral sense originated, why we cannot seem to do what our own consciences tells us is right, and how we can be redeemed from this hopeless situation.

Scripture is not merely the best of several possible explanations. It is the Word of God.” *John MacArthur*

The Journey of life will never end; and His Mercies are new every morning you are alive.

God sheds tears over you. Soon when He comes again there will be no more tears, for the fire in His eyes will have evaporated all the tears of people throughout time and history.

His Mercy and Grace Will then be gone...He comes back only in Judgment.

For now He speaks to you with open arms from His Cross...

“Look to Me ALL you ends of the earth! **For I AM God** and there is no other”

Remember HIM on Easter morning.

For He has Risen...He Has Risen Indeed.

“God has planted eternity in the hearts of all men, and Faith is trust based on evidence...**We choose to believe.**”

May the Ancient of Days, the Lord God of Israel and His True Church bless and keep you and all those you love and cherish this Easter Season.

My life and your life are written into the story of the Nation of Israel and anchored deep into the Cross of their Jewish Messiah.

It has only been a week. Has the routine of this life absorbed your thoughts and actions again. Have you chosen not to remember God and His greatest work wrought for you on the Cross?

Have you already forgotten Easter?

Easter is the culmination of Gods plan for mankind. It represents the final extension of Gods nail pierced hand **down** to His Creatures. Each one of us must **choose to take hold** of His outstretched Hand and then be pulled **UP** out of the coming fire that will consume every non-believer forever.

Today the only place you will **see His Plan** (past, present and future), the only place you will **hear His Voice**, the only place you can **feel His Heart** beat as ONE with Yours...is in His Revealed Word to you....in His Bible.

As a believer, God says through His word that I am to live as Salt and Light among people because I know the Truth.
What does that mean? What will it cost me?

Being Salt and Light comes at a Cost

How can you and I as believers in Christ remain true to our individual calling by God to be His Salt and Light in the darkness of the culture we live in?

To begin we need to define both Salt and Light. Salt is a preservative. As long as salt remains pure and does not get mixed with another substance it will keep its properties and continue to be effective.

Like salt, Believers who remain in the Word and stand alone for Christ in society will have an effective witness. Once we try to be like the surrounding culture our witness becomes ineffective and our credibility is gone. Then to make matters worse through our stumbling we let the Lord be mocked.

Salt also provides flavor. The Gospel represents a meal that when flavored with truth, and given to a true "Seeker of God" will satisfy their appetite forever.

Salt also makes us thirsty and so we drink water to refresh ourselves. But water is only a temporary solution for our thirst as we begin to thirst over and over again but never get satisfied.

The Gospel however is the Living Water that satisfies our body, mind and soul eternally and will satisfy our everlasting thirst.

Light is meant to illuminate. Just as darkness flees from the light, so to the Gospel, the light of Truth; causes the lies that live in the shadows that plague mankind's soul to disappear.

Light illuminates the path before you, so you can see the destination of your journey clearly. The Gospel represents a journey that everyone needs to take in order to gain the Salvation offered by God.

The Word of God is a "Lamp unto thy feet". It keeps you from stumbling on the pathway home.

God if you recall never prepared Hell as a destination for mankind. Hell is the place prepared for "the devil and his (fallen) angels" in which fallen humanity will also reside. It is mankind's destination by choice. It is not Gods choice for mankind.

“The lost will enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded and are therefore self-enslaved. God will abandon sinners to their own choice and the consequences of their choices.”

CS Lewis...Problem of Pain

Therefore, you and I are to be salt and light in a Godless society. We are to open our mouths whenever the Holy Spirit gives us an opportunity to witness to a forever dying soul. We are never to compromise our life, our walk or our talk. All three must be unified for us to effectively witness to non-believers.

The Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts spoke about “becoming like one of them” in order to witness to the pagan world around him. He did not mean to blend into the society, to be like one of them, to do what they do; so he could have an opportunity to witness to them.

If Paul acted like them he would not have stood out from among them. “Becoming like one of them”, means to understand what they believe and why they believe it so you can witness to them intelligently and show them the errors of their belief system, the flaws contained within their worldview.

Rather than engage people in meaningless witnessing on topics of their choosing, which lead people away from the Truth into arguments, and animosity. Paul chose to control his witnessing by preaching Christ Crucified and His Resurrection from the dead. The ultimate objective of your witnessing is to take people to the Savior’s Cross and to His Resurrection from the dead.

People must understand their need to be saved. Your job is to explain both why they are in need of a Savior and what it is that they are being saved from. This way they will understand the truth of their situation before a Holy God who is coming this time in wrath and with judgment.

Without repentance their can be no Salvation.

When Paul spoke to someone with biblical knowledge, he spoke to them using the Bible to show them the God of the Bible. When they had no knowledge of the Scriptures Paul spoke to them about Creation and the God of Creation revealed in the Scriptures. These are the two areas of common ground we have with people to explain who God is.

I realize we are all afraid to take on “Spiritual encounters with darkness”...which is the essence of witnessing.

However we need to realize as believers we have the resident Holy Spirit, the Comforter within us so we can step out in faith knowing we are not alone in our witness.

Even Moses feared to do this. But God reminded Moses that it was God who made his mouth and it would be God who would put the words into his mouth. Because Moses doubted, God gave the honor of speaking HIS words to his brother Aaron, who then spoke for Moses to Pharaoh.

Moses lost part of the Joy that belongs to each of us in our journey because he chose not to listen and obey God.

God is strong when I am weak. This insures that He Gets the GLORY...not me. My ears have heard responses from my lips in witnessing confrontations that came from the Holy Spirit, not from me. How awesome it is to see God use our weakness while watching HIS strength in action.

All of us can look back on our journey to faith in Christ and see the multiple seeds that were planted by people into our lives.

You and I are not responsible for any one persons Salvation. We are not responsible for that person's choice to either accept or deny the Gospel. In the end the responsibility rests with the Holy Spirit and with the choice each person must ultimately make.

You and I are responsible to obey God and do His will during our lives. Being obedient is how we prove to God that we really love Him.

One of the saddest stories in the Bible is about Samson. God was with Samson from the womb. He was a believer that was used greatly by God until he became like the culture around him. The process was slow, like a frog being cooked alive in a pot till it dies.

God did not turn away from Samson; it was Samson who turned away from God to live a perverted life. You know the story, Delilah cut his hair. Samson got up to fight but his strength was no longer with him. The saddest part is that Samson **did not know that the Holy Spirit had departed from him.**

He no longer was salt and light in his culture.

God left Samson to the consequences of his own choices for the rest of his life. In a sense he was given over to satan for a time. Yet God in His mercy to Samson allowed him to end his life in the service of His Lord.

Every face of someone you know represents the face of God. They were made in the image of God. If they do not know Jesus as Savior, their image is damaged. They need to hear your personal God story; they need the seeds that God has uniquely given you to plant. They need you to be salt and light for their sake.

This is a time when the pulpits of most churches are filled by weak men in weak churches giving weak messages. Instead this should be the time for boldness, for strong biblical ministry so people hear the word of the Living Lord and respond in true repentance for their sins.

One of the signs of the wrath of God is when he abandons a culture. I believe He has done that throughout the world, including the United States. Our culture has asked God to leave and He has complied. We now are left to reap the whirlwind.

There is one last aspect of Salt we did not touch on, the ability of Salt to heal.

As a believer, knowing who I am in Christ is a great responsibility. When I act like Moses and refuse to open my mouth or when I act like Samson and choose to flow with the current of the sewage we all swim in rather than Stand Alone against the tide... my heart breaks leaving an open wound.

You see, my soul is full of light. I know better than to let the encroaching shadows of the old man get a hold of me...yet...often shadows fill my soul.

Sometimes even a follower can get lost.

When this happens my witness is tarnished, the Holy Spirits power is diminished in my life and I am ashamed and cry out for forgiveness. **The salt that I am supposed to be turns inward and flows into the open wound in my broken heart. The salt then causes me pain as it heals me.**

The God I serve knows that "**I am but dust**" before HIM. My God loves me and extends new mercies everyday to all those who love him. He heals my broken heart and takes away the evil shadows in my Soul with His light.

And then, I begin a new day devoted to making a difference for Him with those I love and those He puts into my path.

May you continue to live your days under the protection of His wings, bathed in His light and covered by the Shadow of His Cross.

The Blind Will See...

Sounds familiar doesn't it. This is one of the promises of God to those who believe in the coming of His Redeemer, Messiah...His Son Jesus. This promise is to those who have placed their faith in Christ. They will be able to step out in faith, into eternity to live in the Kingdom of God...forever.

Do you remember all of the promises?

the blind will see...

the deaf will hear...

the dead will live again...

the lame will leap

the dumb will speak praises to the Lamb.

These promises will be kept because they were made by Jesus, the Lord of ALL Creation who alone became the God/Man who...

Walked on water!

Came to save our sons and daughters!

Came to deliver you!

Calmed a storm with His hand!

Walks where angels trod!

Jesus the Son of God, the Ancient of Days, the Great I AM of the Old Testament!

When we read that the blind shall see, the other promises usually come to mind for most of us. But for me there is much more to sight than seeing through my eyes. For unless you are *Born Again*, the physical eyes you see through are blind. They are the eyes of a dead person waiting for physical death, who then will experience the second death described in the Book of Revelation.

According to Gods Word this second death is a spiritual death that will leave the person in outer darkness...blind for eternity without hope.

On this physical plane of existence most people struggle to reach the top of the mountain. Their personal ambitions and desires shrouded in pride, and self awareness drive their calloused hearts and self absorbed minds ever forward.

They are intensely focused on getting to that door at the top of the mountain where they believe they will have arrived and finally fulfill their purpose for themselves and be satisfied.

No one else matters in this personal journey to self fulfilled glory. People get there by using other people for their own benefits. Cast off on the side of their road to success are spurned people who once trusted them, loved them...broken people left far behind. They make up parents, wives, husbands, friends and children.

There is a procession of haunting memories that occasionally break into their consciousness and touches what is left of their hardened hearts. Their climb to the top becomes increasingly harder, because the weight of those whom they have left behind clings to their dead hearts like anchors.

Finally their journey to the top of the mountain ends. They have arrived and stand before the door. They are close enough to reach out and touch the handle to open the door at the top of the mountain. Their focus has been so intense, so self serving that they do not see a small sign just above the door.

But why should they see this small sign? All their lives they only focused on themselves, never had their gaze widened to see the needs of all those around them.

Their ears were only tuned to hear what they wanted to hear, never once did they hear the cries, the sobs representing the emotional and physical pain of those around them needing their help. They never cared about the blind, the lame, the deaf and the dumb... a world filled "*With the Least of These.*"

So they eagerly reach out and grasp the handle to open the door to the fulfillment of their desires. The handle is painful to their touch...it's so very hot ! But they are consumed with their desire so they bear the pain and open the door.

Standing in the open doorway they see a light off in the distance, yet they seem to be standing in shadows. As they look out into the distance a faint path emerges that leads to the light. But as they look down they cannot see the place to put their foot on the path so they may follow it to the Kingdom of Light.

A random thought comes to their minds, words they somehow recognize but have never heard before "*My Word is a lamp unto thy feet.*"

So they look up and see the little sign. It says...“If you had seeked me with all your heart, mind and soul you would have found me. You have lived your life in darkness yet you have seen a great light and now it is appointed to man once to die, and then the judgment”.

The message falls on a soul filled with shadows and a mind that never became renewed; for they had lived their lives deaf, dumb and blind to the truth.

Just under the sign is a pull chain attached to a light bulb. Still not understanding the message they reach up and pull the chain that's attached to the light bulb expecting the light to come on and illumine their path, but instead they **turn ON the Darkness**. They finally have arrived at the place they personally have chosen to spend eternity. They will be in outer darkness...blind and alone for eternity without hope in a place where ..."*the dead shall live again.*"

“ Yet those who live in Darkness have seen a great light ”.

Reflections:

The Bible gives us in-sight into the physical world we think is real; and into the invisible world that is true reality. The spiritual dimension is more real than our own existence. The physical realm is ending, but the spiritual realm is forever.

The following is taken from a Bible study of the ancient book of Job. It is written by Ray Steadman. The book is called “Let God Be God”. Continue to read and you will gain real sight into a reality that is all around you. A reality you will step into the split second you die.

From the Physical to the Invisible:

“The scene shifts to that world of invisible reality that the New Testament calls the heavenly realms.” Paul spoke of this realm in *Ephesians 1:3*. This realm is not up above the clouds or off in outer space. It's here...all around us... but it is invisible to us.

We are separated from this realm by an invisible barrier. We cannot see what is going on in an unseen realm, but we know it is the place where God and His angels are engaged in a great struggle against Satan and his demons.

Here, in *Job 1:6*, the curtain lifts, and we catch a glimpse of the drama taking place behind the scenes of history. I am reminded of the scene in *2 Kings 6*, where the heathen king of Aram sends a strong force of men and chariots to capture the prophet Elisha in the city of Dothan. When Elisha's servant awakens in the morning and sees Aram's arm all around, he panics and say to Elisha, “Oh, master, what shall we do?”

And Elisha replies “Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are greater than those who are with the army of Aram.” Then Elisha prays, “O Lord, open my servant's eyes so he may see!”

In that instant the Lord lifts the curtain that hides the heavenly realm from the servant's eyes. The servant looks and sees the horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha's house, providing a zone of security and protection against the armies of Aram.

This is a description of the invisible realm that surrounds you and me at all times. It surrounded Job. We humans cannot see that realm unless God raises the curtain on this drama in the heavenly realms and allows us to see what Job himself could not see:

One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.”

Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is not one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

“Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lift a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”

An impressive scene! It reminds us of John’s vision in Revelation 4, where he sees thousands of angels gathered in the great audience chamber of heaven, in the presence of God Himself.

In verse 6, the word translated angels is literally the sons of God in the original Hebrew. No one knows how many angels there are, but their number seems countless. The text suggests that they were required to periodically come before God and report their activities to HIM.

Where did the activities of the angels take them? Well, consider the universe God has made. According to the American Astronomical Society, our own sun is one star out of an estimated four hundred billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy, which is just one galaxy out of an estimated 240 billion galaxies in the known universe.

How many planets there might be in such a vast universe is anyone’s guess, but God could have assigned an angel to every planet of the universe. If we push back the limit of our imagination, we begin to see that God is interested in far more than this little planet of ours. He and His angels have an entire universe to oversee.

That is the scene we glimpse in these opening verses of Job. The ministering angels of the Lord have gathered from all over the universe to report to God on their activities, and in the midst of them was Satan.

The name Satan means “the adversary”, and it’s an apt name. That’s how Satan first appears in the book of Job. We see him there in the midst of all the angels of heaven, and there is no question that he comes as an adversary...an enemy of God and an enemy of humanity. Clearly, this is Satan after his fall. The books of Ezekiel and Isaiah describe the fall of Satan (see *Ezekiel 28:11-18* and *Isaiah 14*).

There we are told that he was once the greatest of angels, but he became arrogant and proud. In Opposition to God, who created him, Satan led a rebellion.

Now he has returned to the courts of God, where he once had a place of honor as the greatest of angels. Satan though fallen still has been granted access to heaven.

The book of Job has much to say to us about the reasons for our suffering in this world and especially why innocent people suffer. Yet there is a deeper level of truth for it reveals to us the relationship between God and Satan. God does not want us to be confused or uninformed about the power of Satan.

The adversary is deadly and powerful, he hates God and he hates us. But Satan is not the equivalent of God. He is under the authority of God. He is not the equal of God.

The book of Job shows us right from the start that God is in control of all things. All the forces of the universe are His to command. All of time and space are under His authority. Nothing ever takes God by surprise. There is nothing beyond the reach of God’s will, not even Satan.”

This ancient war has been going on for thousands of years. The battlefield is in your mind. The prize is your heart and your soul. The objective of the deceiver is to keep you from knowing the truth. That you are not really alive, but part of the walking dead of this world, doomed to judgment for your original sin. Sin is part of your genetic makeup, and must be removed before you meet God.

God has given us only one way to remove our sin. He sent His Son Jesus to die on a Cross for you and me, so whom ever would look upon Him and accept His death in place of their own, for their sin; would be cleansed and have eternal life in Heaven.

Satan exists only to turn your eyes away from the Cross, so you will die in your sins. **He is the enemy of your soul.**

The Light that dances in Tina's eyes

I recently attended my cousins "Bat Mitzvah". For those of you not familiar with the term it refers to a celebration of becoming an adult, at the age of 13, within the Jewish community.

Through the years non Jewish people have stood in awe at the extravagance of these Bar (Boy) and Bat (Girl) celebrations; since they cost about the same as a wedding for two adults.

It was wonderful for me to see relatives that I had not seen for 45 years. They came to this party from around the country. Our family emigrated from Europe after the war. All were Holocaust survivors, who were Orthodox Jews.

I found myself lost in memories as I looked around the room. Waves of emotion came over me that night much like waves from the ocean. Thoughts gathered strength as they came out of the depths of the mist in my distant past.

As my memory grew clearer I was overwhelmed by bitter sweet thoughts of joy as I remembered times gone by. People long gone were alive in my mind, forever young. These scenes of memory played before the eyes of my heart.

Then like waves in the ocean, these waves of memory ultimately ended. They too like real waves stop abruptly when breaking upon the rocks of the shore line. The rocks represent the reality that awaits all people who "know not God".

To the best of my understanding, those that "know not God" represent my entire family both alive and dead with few exceptions. Our lives, like waves start young and build in strength during their short journey either to end quietly on the shore or violently against the rocks.

Contentment in this short life here lies not in what is yours, but in who's you are.

There were two words that were repeated during both the synagogue service and at the candle lighting ceremony at the party. Both these words have different meanings to every Jew.

"Tradition", represents the Rabbinic words of men and "Torah" represents the first 5 Books of Moses (Old Testament)...the Word of God. God

speaks plainly in His Word, but the religion of Judaism is based on the spin put on Gods Words by Rabbi's. The subtle nuances and shadings of rabbinic interpretation have changed throughout the generations.

At the Bat Mitzvah to my left is a table of 10 elderly women. Their husbands are no more. They represent the remaining remnant of Holocaust survivors in our family. They are ones who were between the ages of 13 to 20 when they entered the camps.

To the women the word's "Tradition" and "Torah" have a deeper meaning than to most of the second generation here and for sure the third generation of 13 year old immigrants at this party.

We will get back to the party a little later because this story is about Tina.

The last time I saw Tina was 4 years ago. Prior to that, I have not seen Tina since I was 14 years old. I just turned 60 on June 3rd a week ago. The very first thing you would notice about Tina is how the light seems to dance within her dark eyes.

Years ago my cousin Klara said of my father Armin that he was a very old soul. Klara was into Kabala, a form of ancient Jewish mysticism. I asked her why she thought that. She said by the wisdom that came forth from his mouth and the light that danced within his eyes.

The Word of God says we were all created before the Foundations of the world were made...we are ALL old souls. The difference between us all is whether we live this life as a Seeker of the knowledge of the True God.

In this life God can ONLY be known if we SEEK HIM. The only place you will find Him is within the pages of the book He Wrote of Himself, the Old and New Testaments. It is not for us to disbelieve and twist His Words...but to BELIEVE them and to PRAISE HIM.

I have heard it said that each seeker who has found God can be compared to a single thread that makes up a beautiful tapestry. God weaves His children into the tapestry so that our lives are intertwined together at specific points in time.

We are sewn together with other souls, touching each other for Gods purposes. We are knit together, bonded in strength as part of Gods Tapestry of Life. All we see in this life are pieces of threads from our view beneath the tapestry.

It is not until we get home that we will view the finished work and how we fit together to form Gods tapestry of life.

Then, we will understand and appreciate His purposes in our individual lives and we each will “Know as we are Known.”

In life you cannot find if you do not seek. But it is also true that you can seek all your life in the wrong places and never find.

My father like most of the European Jewish people learned the Word of God through the Traditions of men. His knowledge and understanding were of the mind not the heart. Here in America he worshipped God and studied God with the Rabbi’s at a Hebrew School called Beth Yehudah. This school had within it an Orthodox synagogue. It was located behind his apartment complex so he could easily walk there. The name Beth is translated House and the name Yehudah can be used for the word Praise. So, Beth Yehudah can be called the House of Praise.

While my Dad was physically alive I worshipped with him on occasion at this house of praise. After his death I swore to myself that I would never set foot within its walls again. But God had other plans in mind for me. In years to come God would weave my thread through that building and have my life intertwine with two other lives at HIS appointed time in the future.

Seventeen years after I came to Christ a Messianic Jewish friend of mine asked me to attend a special meeting at Beth Yehudah. He had been attending regular Bible studies for years there. The Rabbi’s who taught Torah knew of my friend’s faith in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah. The Rabbi’s welcomed the opportunities to try and bring my friend back into true Judaism. My friend welcomed the opportunities to plant seeds of Truth into souls darkened by shadows.

This special meeting was put on by a team of Orthodox Rabbi’s from New York. They were coming to the House of Praise to speak to observant Jews about the topic “Gods Eternal People ...the Jews. This was going to be a meeting built around the topic of Prophecy in the Old Testament.

I did not want to go there. Too many memories and shadows filled that House of Praise. But God whispered my name and spoke to my soul. Deep inside my heart I know I must attend.

I got there early and waited in my car in their parking lot for my friend to arrive. As I sat there I watched the procession of people, many whom I knew and would remember me. Three times I started the car to leave, but could not.

Finally my friend arrived and together we entered through the door into a line to get into the meeting hall. Standing in front of me was

a woman with light dancing within her eyes. Yes...it was Tina. The reunion was sweet, but as we spoke about her life I found it to be as with all of us, bitter / sweet.

Tina for years has been studying Torah to try to understand her Jewish heritage in relation to God and His soon coming Messiah. Tina was indeed a Seeker, an old Soul with a deep desire in her heart to know God through Old Testament Prophecy. She too was looking for her Messiah.

I have learned there are no coincidences in life. God brought me back to Beth Yehudah to meet Tina at this place and at this time to cross paths so our threads could again be intertwined. But there was another to meet. God also at this time and place introduced me to Tina's Rabbi (teacher)...Tsvi.

Tsvi was 6 foot 8 inches tall; I am but 5 foot 4 inches tall. He towered over me. I felt like David before Goliath surrounded by Philistines. Tsvi was raised in the Hassidic / Rabbinic Traditions of Biblical interpretations by the Sages of Judaism...the words of men.

His mind was sharp but his heart was uncircumcised by the Holy Spirit of God so it had remained a heart of stone, not flesh. After this presentation Tsvi invited me to come with my friend and study with them at the house of praise. I explained my faith in Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and that I could not in good conscience study Gods Word with them.

But maybe the two of us could begin writing to each other about biblical topics and questions. He agreed so over the course of 6 weeks we continued difficult, confrontational discussions. Tsvi would tell me about what this or that Rabbi had said. I answered only with the Word of God from the Bible.

God speaks plain enough for a child to understand His Word. (I have a summary email I can send anyone regarding this witnessing encounter with Tsvi). In any case God brought me to meet Tina and then to meet Tina's teacher as well. God graciously gave me opportunities to plant seeds of life into each of their hearts and in so doing showed Tina and Tsvi mercy.

Now back to the Bat Mitzvah party. Several years have passed since that encounter with Tina. I am sitting at a table of 10. One seat remains open, someone is late. She looks familiar as she approaches the table. I first notice the light dancing in her eyes. Yes, it is Tina. A coincidence; I do not think so, neither does Tina.

She speaks to me evidently forgetting our past conversations about a dear friend of hers who is a Messianic Jew. Tina said her friend continually tells her that Jesus is the Messiah in the Old Testament. Tina says, "I just don't get it".

I seize the moment to speak to Tina again about her Messiah Yeshua / Jesus. As we speak time stood still. The noise around us stopped and for what seemed like an eternity of 20 minutes God intervened as once again Tina and I were intertwined into HIS Tapestry of Life.

I spoke to Tina about the Messiah and how Jesus fulfilled them. I spoke about how the references to the name of God were all plural. I am sure in the realm beyond our sight that a hedge of Holy Angels formed around us as I spoke of the God of Israel.

If you knew Tina you would know it is hard to get a word out when you speak to her. Yet, for 20 minutes her mouth was shut as I prayed and spoke words that I hoped would touch her heart.

I watched Tina's eyes and while I spoke the light that danced deep within them was now an intense flame that burned brighter as seeds of Gods Truth began to take root in her heart.

Is Tina's name written in the Lambs Book of Life...Only God knows. My prayer for her is that the Lord God of Israel and His True Church will circumcise her heart of stone and replace it with a new heart; heart that is Born Again.

I pray for Tina's eyes to be opened to Gods Word so she can see her King sitting on His Throne high and lifted up.

*Jesus the Lord of All.
Jesus the Lord who came from Heaven.
Jesus the Lord over Hell.
Jesus the Lord who wants to live in you.*

For thousands of years worshippers have been called to Beth Yehudah, the House of Praise to worship the True and Living God. But the Old Testament hid His identity and it was not possible to have a personal relationship with HIM.

Then 2,000 years ago a baby was born. The cry of this baby was heard throughout the Universe. His cry put the world on notice....I AM has come to walk among His people and provide a way home.

Jesus is the great I AM of the Old Testament. He is revealed in the New Testament as Gods Son, the God / Man...the Messiah.

The Person of Jesus, whom we have worshipped throughout time in the Houses of Praise, was born in Bethlehem (Beth/house...Lehem/bread), The HOUSE of BREAD.

It is written in the Word of God that Jesus is the very BREAD of LIFE and the VERY IMAGE of GOD.

If they seek in the right place, the light that dances in the eyes of seekers will become a flame of fire that dances in the eyes of a Born Again Believer.

That fire is a reflection of the fire that blazes in the eyes of God Himself.

Your eyes are windows into your soul.

Do they dance with light?

The Silent Cries of those Beneath Our Feet

There are two history books in existence that tell the story of mankind's great adventure on the face of the planet Earth.

One history book recounts the recorded story of mankind's past to his present. This story is tied to what most people call religion.

Religion is man's explanation of what he fears and does not know. It is man's attempt to explain what he sees through a veil; the unexplainable shrouded in mystery and explained by mysticism.

It is an explanation whose foundation is built on half truths. It is an attempt to explain the past through too today. However mans religion cannot explain tomorrow let alone the distant future.

The object of mans religion is man...not God.

The other history book is the Inspired Word of God given to mankind through the prophets in the Old Testament, and the apostles in the New Testament which contains the recorded words of Jesus who claims to be the Son of God.

This book we know as the Judeo / Christian Bible. It is not like the account of the religion of man that speaks of mankind's past to his present. The Bible is the REVELATION (an unveiling, an uncovering) of the story of man and the universe he lives in from Gods own lips. The Bible is the history of mankind that ends with God offering man Redemption that only can be found through a personal relationship with Jesus the Son of God.

The Bible speaks not only of the beginning of man but the beginning of the universe. It speaks about the past recorded history of mankind through to today. But it does not stop there. The Bible also speaks about mankind's yet unwritten, yet not lived, future history. The Bible is Gods prewritten history of the Creation of mankind, his beginning and his ultimate end and mans new beginning.

**Set before you are two versions of History, only one can be true!
Whose account of history do you believe?**

For those that have a personal relationship with Jesus, God is writing your personal history right now. Whatever life brings, God is weaving provisionally His good handiwork into the fabric of your life.

The end of life brings a new beginning of life and the measure of your real wealth is what remains after losing your health, wealth, prosperity, possessions and power. This is the essence of Gods Word, live for tomorrow, not for today.

Yet there once was an entire civilization living for today on planet earth. They held their worldly possessions and power in a death grip. They lived for today and died never gaining their real wealth. God allowed only 8 people on the entire planet to survive and continue to renew the race of mankind on Earth.

I love song lyrics, don't you? Some writers speak volumes with just a few words. The following song lyrics encapsulate the heart cry of mankind since the fall in the Garden of Eden.

“There's a place for us, somewhere a place for us, take my hand and we're almost there, take my hand and I'll lead you there.....Somewhere, Somehow, we'll find a reason for living, we'll find a new way of living, we'll find a way of forgiving...Somewhere....Somehow...”

It's quiet and still. The sky is filled with stars and the sun has gone to sleep. The moon is full and bright in the sky as it continues to fulfill its purpose since time began. Its calling is to reflect the light of the Sun...so we would have light in the darkness.

As I stand outside my cabin, looking out at the Ocean all I can hear is the quiet lapping of water alongside the ship. The light reflects a path along the water inviting me to step out onto the water and follow its path to the moon.

It's tempting because the water looks like slate. My eyes and heart say step out...it looks solid. But my mind knows better. It's an alluring illusion, inviting me to follow the lights reflection along the path that will lead me to my death.

Every path begins with a choice, I could step out onto the water, but that would be the wrong choice and I would be no more. Just as the light of the moon is an illusion, so too is the Angel of Light...Lucifer. Lucifer is the one whom the Bible calls the God of this present world.

He comes to each of us disguised as an angel of light but with a message of darkness. Darkness so thick, so addicting, so enveloping you can actually taste it as you drink deeply within the womb of sin.

We can easily live our lives within his womb connected to his umbilical cord receiving our daily sustenance. We live that life devoid of truth and compassion focused only on ourselves; never able to forgive or to be forgiven.

Being out here at night looking out over the vast body of water brings to mind the historical account we have recorded by God in the Bible of the Lost World. The Lost World followed the reflection of Lucifer's light rather than the true light of God. The heavens had never offered rain in that world; instead there were mists that watered the vegetation on the face of the Earth. But the eyes of the people would soon shed tears like rain when God opened the Heavens and broke open the earth to allow water, miles deep, to encase the entire planet.

This Lost World was so evil, that it brought upon itself the Judicial Judgment of God. The Creator stepped in and said "No More" and decreed the termination of an entire race of people; an entire civilization with the exception of 8 human beings. The family of Noah.

There were between 1-2 Billion people who walked the earth before us. The record of this Lost World is contained in the sediment layer that encases the earth. This layer starts about one mile down and ranges between 20 to 40 miles thick. This layer is called the fossil record by scientists. But do not be fooled, it's not the fossil record as we have been lead to believe of just vegetation and animals.

It is the fossil record of the extinction of an entire race of people.

They represent the silent cries beneath our feet.

The flood was an act of purposeful extinction that speaks of a Sovereign Creator who controls and judges His Creation and His Creatures. There is a limit to God's Grace and Mercy to the lost souls of men both then and today. His patience is long suffering but will not last forever.

He will not stand by and be mocked forever.

The Creator in His Mercy chose to save 8 people from that world. Just as Adam and Eve had a fresh canvas to paint on so did Noah and his family as they entered into the Brave New World.

When you stop to think about it everyone currently on this planet came from one of the lines of Noah's sons. Our ethnic lines can be traced back to just 3 people Ham, Shem or Japheth; but not any further back than that. There truly is a brotherhood of man; we all come from one family.

Every fossil we find, every piece of bone, every tooth coming from the compressed layer of sediment is made up of the Lost World.

Every ancient myth, every legend that we have today began from the time of Noah. The secular world claims Herodotus was the Father of History. Yet Herodotus lived during the time of the prophet Isaiah.

The well known books of the Odyssey and the Iliad are made up of a mixture of legends, myths and history written by Homer. Yet Homer was alive during the time of the prophet Samuel.

Every spade put into the dirt of the Middle East has come out verifying Gods Word as accurate history. So while mankind's history goes back to Herodotus, **Gods History continues to go back into time 1,200 more years to Noah.**

If you are a student of ancient history you can find bits and pieces of the truth recorded by ancient nations of the world.

240 of the nations of the earth record a worldwide flood

The Chinese pictograph for flood is a shape of a boat with 8 sticks in it

90% of those 240 nations mention 8 people in the boat

85% of those 240 nations say the boat contained all animals

Coincidence. . . I don't think so.

Science has confirmed there is no fossil left on earth that is carbon dated older than 4,000 to 6,000 years old. They also agree that the fossils and the sediment layer were formed at one time by one cataclysmic event...not over millions or billions of years.

Yet the God who waits to be wanted, who continually whispers our names to turn to HIM has left us markers of this Lost World of people, who mocked HIM, to speak to us today. These grave markers are REDWOOD TREES, the so called eternal trees that have been dated back 3,000 years.

That's 1,000 years before the first coming of Christ.

These trees are rooted deep within the Sediment Layer of the Lost World. They stand as silent grave markers to the people of the Lost World.

They are a constant reminder of Gods continued Mercy to those who would look up to Him for safety and protection. They also stand before us as a testament of a past world that forgot the God who made them.

These trees, if they could talk, would stand before us as Noah did before the people of the Lost World, and preach about another world wide cat- aclysm yet to come.

The trees everywhere must be very sad. You see they have heard throughout their generations about the great flood. God says in His word that the creation groans while waiting for its coming Redeemer Jesus. Jesus, the Son of God who brings healing in His hands for all of His Creation.

The trees look forward to the time when their leaves will clap for Joy at the sight of the return of Jesus to the earth...for then they will groan no more.

The trees have always tried to talk to us, but cannot. Even if they could we would not listen for we do not have ears that hear.

Next time you find yourself standing next to a tree in the sunshine on a cloudless day and you feel the gentle breeze caressing your body...look up.

Open the eyes of your heart. See the limbs gently waving back and forth. Open the ears of your soul and listen to the sound of the rustling of the leaves in the wind.

Then be silent and stand in awe as you look up towards Heaven.

The trees are doing what God has called all of creation to do since the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden.

For what you are seeing with the eyes of your heart and hearing with the ears of your soul are the trees lifting up their Holy Hands in Worship to their Creator... and praying for your Salvation.

To Touch the Face of God

Of the five senses you were born with, touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight which would you consider the most important to you? Which could you live without? How many of them would you need to live your life?

Each attribute allows you to explore the world you live in. Together these five senses are designed to build one upon the other to make you complete and give you a full sensory experience of the world around you.

Through taste, I can enjoy a meal or a cool cup of water in the heat of the day. Through smell I can enjoy a flower or the scent of the wife I love. Through hearing I can enjoy the sounds of nature and the voices of family and friends, and through sight I can enjoy the beauty of the world around me that ONLY God could have created.

If I had to choose only one of the five senses to live my life through, it would be touch.

For it is through touch that I can feel love. It is the greatest sense shared between two people. From a newborn baby's need to be held by its mother. From the need of two people to embrace each other through marriage. To an old mans being held by his loving wife as his life comes to an end. From our beginning to our ending it is touch that communicates love and lets us know we are not alone in this world and gives us peace.

Have you ever thought about the fact that God, who is Love, choose to come down to visit with us for a while and clothed Himself in flesh with a body like ours? Why would God do that?

The God of creation and the Universe, the only TRUE and Holy God became a man so we could touch Him for awhile. Yes He came down to communicate to us through His words. But, I believe even more important than that He came down so He could touch us and we could touch Him.

Two thousand years ago, there was a special generation alive on the earth that walked in the cool of the day with their God, as Adam did in the Garden. This special generation lived by sight, smell, hearing and taste and had the ability to TOUCH God.

God became "Immanuel" which means God With Us. This special generation experienced God with All their senses; but they recognized HIM NOT because they knew NOT the time of HIS COMING.

Today we live by faith alone. Faith is a special sense that God gives only to those who believe in His Son Yeshua / Jesus who came down to us with Salvation in His Hands. Those of us who believe in Him shall on one future day walk by sight, forever with Him in heaven.

Jesus while here on earth became the God / Man. But Jesus looked no different than anyone else; you could not have picked Him out of the crowd of the nation of people He was born into. There was nothing physically unusual about Him. There were only two ways of telling He was God. The first were the Words that came from His mouth and the second was the Touch of His hands.

Both His Words and His Touch performed many miracles. The miracles were designed to prove that He is God Incarnate, (God in Flesh). But there is a greater meaning behind His Words and Touch than the miracles He performed to prove to us who He is. Everything He did, He did because He loves us. He IS Love. It is because of that Love for us that He came to us.

To Jesus His coming is ALL about a Family Reunion. Every Word spoken and every Touch felt was meant to prove His love for His family...that's you and I.

Would you or I have compassion to touch to hold or to cry with a leper?
Jesus did.

A leper can see, taste, smell, and hear. He has all the senses to enjoy life but one. A leper cannot touch, for he has no feeling in his hands or in his body. A leper can be old or young depending when the disease came upon them. A leper is an outcast rejected and avoided by society. A leper has no mother, no father, no family, no friends, no children and no love...he has been abandoned by all.

Their death sentence imposed by society is not to die, but to live until they die; devoid of human contact without love and alone. They are locked inside their decaying body, alone and feared by all. They had been given Non-Human Status at the time of Jesus first coming.

A leper cannot feel the pedal of a flower, the coolness of a cup of water nor the gentle breeze that caresses our skin...or the touch of mother, father, child, brother, sister or friend. Can anyone be more alone in this world than a leper? Can there be anyone more in need of a gentle touch expressing love than a leper? Is there anyone more in need of Reunion with their family than a leper? I cannot think of anyone.

There were many lepers healed by Jesus.

In *Mark 1 vs. 40 - 41* it says:

“Then a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him (prostrate on His face) and saying (begging-pleading) to Him, If You are willing, You can make me clean. And Jesus, **moved with compassion**, put out His hand and touched him and said to him “I am willing, be cleansed.”

This leper could not contain his joy and ran throughout the village proclaiming His encounter with God and I am sure on that day there was a reunion with mother, father, wife, children, friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters like no other before. All because the outstretched hand of love was accepted by the one who had become devoid of love.

Yet there is another side to think about.

In *Luke 17 vs. 11 – 19* Jesus meets 10 lepers. “Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that ...He entered a certain village, there, met Him, 10 men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” In this encounter Jesus healed them with words of love not his touch.

Scripture says the 10 were all healed together by Jesus, then turned away from HIM and left. Only one turned around and with a loud voice glorified God, ran to Jesus and fell down at Jesus feet and thanked HIM.

As always there is only a remnant (few) with true faith. The Words of Christ call to us with healing, many listen but few turn and fall in the dust before his Cross and accept the touch of his nail pierced hands. The difference is that hearing may give you physical healing for this world only but in the end it means hell. But if you turn, believe and let him touch you then you will receive spiritual healing from sin and you will inherit Heaven and be part of His family reunion.

The Word of God throughout both the Old and New Testaments speaks clearly about humanity when it says only a Remnant (a few), will be saved throughout history. This is the fact that breaks the heart of God for it is Gods greatest **wish/desire** that all would receive Salvation.

God provides His children faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. You and I have never been loved like this before.

High Flight

*Written by Pilot Officer Gillespie Magee No 412 squadron, RCAF
Killed 11 December 1941*

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung

High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high un-trespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and **touched the face of God.**

The words of that poem have touched the hearts of multiple generations since it was written. It reflects the ultimate yearning and desire of man to reach out and touch his Creator.

Today we live by faith as described by the *song lyrics of Michael Card*:

*"To hear with my heart, To see with my soul,
To be guided by a hand I cannot hold,
To trust in a way I cannot see, That's what faith must be."*

Yet for a while, Two thousand years ago your Creator took the form of a babe, born in Bethlehem to a woman named Miriam. She was the first person of countless Billions yet to come who will be able to Touch the face of God.

God through the writer of *Colossians 1:15* said that, "He (Jesus), is the image of the invisible God."

"Without Jesus we would never have seen God. But through Him, God is brought within touching distance." (Don Magee, Pastor).

With my Faith in the Word of God and Yeshua /Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, I now see clearly what was unseen for I have placed my eternal life in the hands of my Messiah. And along with the Apostle Thomas I too say "My Lord and My God". *John 20:28*
Helen Keller who was blind, and deaf lived her entire life through touch. Through touch she found the True God. And God by touching her heart brought her into His Kingdom of Light when she died.

Helen Keller now walks by sight.

There is a famine in the land and it's not a famine of food but of those who SEEK to put out their hand and touch the face of God.

And because of that ***"Jesus Wept"....***

John 11: 35-36

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.

“In Your presence Oh God. Shalom, Shalom Jerusalem...peace be to you. When Messiah comes to take us home, may HIS Praise be found in you?”

“Baruch HaBah B’Shem Adonai”... Blessed is HE who comes in the name of the Lord.”

These are music lyrics from a CD called Shalom Jerusalem. It was recorded live in Jerusalem a few years ago at a gathering of over 3,000 Jewish Believers in Yeshua from Israel and all over the world.

The album cover says:

“In Matthew 23, Jesus spoke these words,” ...you will not see me again, Jerusalem, until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

As we stood together that evening and sang those very words to HIM, in Hebrew, the presence of God began to fill the auditorium. We knew we were standing in a HOLY place!”

(The words of worship leader Paul Wilbur).

Yes, Yeshua / Jesus waits to hear those words from His people Israel so He can come back to Jerusalem. It will happen because God said it would.... In HIS timing.... the entire Nation of Israel will recognize, Him whom they have pierced. They will call upon Him together, in a time of great sorrow.... and The Messiah, The Christ, The Son of God will answer them and SAVE them.

But, He also waits to hear those same words “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” from your lips as well. Because in the truest sense the Lords resting place is not Jerusalem, it is within your heart that He wishes to reside. He will bring with Him, Healing, Restoration, Grace, and Mercy for your Heart, Mind and Soul.

If you just listen and be still you can hear God say to you.... “there will be healing in this house...in your house when I come in to live within you. Please open your heart to Me. I bring you peace for troubled times. You lived within me in eternity past and now I have come to live within you...and then together we will walk into eternity future and you will have the joy of my pleasure from age to age to age yet to come.”

Why would God shed HIS blood... so pure and undefiled for such a one as me?

The answer is simple.... because you are His Chosen precious child.

The next clear, dark, starry night, when you look up to the heavens...remind yourself of the Psalmists question to God in Psalm 8:4..."What is man that You are mindful of him?"

God answers that for us in Psalm 103: 13-14..."Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust."

His compassion for you was poured out through His Sons blood on the Cross. Today, if you do not know Him you are one of the Walking Dead. Your future is to die twice not once. Open your mind and examine the Truth of the Word of God. Ask Him to make the Truth clear to you. Claim His Promise in Proverbs 8:17..."I love those who love Me; and those who diligently seek Me will find Me."

Believe that HE is and believe in what He says.

The words in the Bible of His prophesied coming have all been fulfilled. Therefore the prophecies of His 2nd coming will all be fulfilled as well.

The words of the Bible are the Promises of God.... and God does not lie!

Jesus will come again soon because of:

Gods Promise to Himself.

Gods Promise to destroy satan.

Gods Promise to His creation.

Gods Promise to save a believing Remnant both Jew and Gentile.

Gods Promises to the Nation of Israel.

Gods Promises to You.

Every day that you live is a day of Mercy and Gods Grace to you...but even for God there is a time when His patience towards you will end. He will stop waiting for you. On that day He will honor your decision to live forever without HIM.

A Day at the Zoo

Elyse and I decided to revisit places this summer that we had not been to in many years. Its Saturday and the weather report promised thunder showers on and off during the morning and then sunshine in the afternoon.

To be honest I really was not that excited about revisiting the zoo. But being able to spend quality time with my wife and seeing her child like curiosity and pure love of Gods creatures was worth every minute.

So we talked and walked and danced in the rain with umbrellas. We could not avoid the deep puddles so our shoes got wet and our socks got soaked, as we stayed tightly together. We fought walls of water born on the wind during our Jungle Safari journey.

At first I thought the animals would be hiding because of the heat and humidity. But they all came out in the rain to play and enjoying the cool water that God provides them from heaven.

After 23 years of faith in Christ I have learned to look at life through Biblical Eyes. I filter everything through the word of God and my Biblical Worldview.

So stay with me as I reminisce about some exhibits and how if you look close you will see the hand of God everywhere.

You know the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and that God entrusted to Adam and Eve the job of caretakers. You know they failed their mission and the whole of creation is now fallen as the animals and the earth groan together bearing the burdens of Mankind's sins.

So nature is not what it was intended to be when God first created it. However there is a simplicity and extraordinary beauty to be found in every creature, whether animal, insect or plant...even in this fallen world. And so as we walked in the rain, the beauty of God represented by His creatures came alive before us.

The colors, the patterns, the odd yet uniquely divine designs of every creature were incredible to behold. We came to the house of butterflies. Oh, so many colors and patterns to their wings, so delicate and beautiful and whimsical. We stood in amazement as they flew around us. They were everywhere. One came up to my face a number of times. I gently blew air in its direction as it came close.

The wind from my mouth served as waves of air that gently pushed it back. I was reminded how God has promised to each of His Children continued protection by HOLY Angels if they believed in His Son. The Holy Angels are all around us just as the butterflies were; ministering to each of us, doing the bidding of God. They help us from a realm not scene during our journey through this life.

Then when we die they carry us to be with the Lord. It will be a special ride, a once in a lifetime ride in the arms of a Holy Angel with wings that flutter like the butterflies.

Then we came to the House of Amphibians. Many of the aquarium displays had land on top and water beneath for the animals to go into... like the turtles. As I stood back to look at their habitat I became aware of a linear line that split their environment. It was the water line that separated water from the land.

I was reminded that God has created a separation between the realms of earth and heaven. There is a line that cannot be crossed by us as long as we exist on this physical plane. I prayed and said to the Lord that He would help me always to live for HIM here on earth and to please keep my heart and mind on heaven. I do not want the riches and comforts of life here...for they are going to pass away.

Everything here is fallen and now is only a shadow of what it really will be like in heaven. Much like looking through a mirror dimly or the mists that Elyse and I walked through in the rain while trying to find our way from one exhibit to another.

I look forward to a City made by the hand of God. To a Holy mountain were everything and everyone; both man and animal will live together in peace forever. To a new Universe created by God to explore and enjoy forever in a new glorified body created especially for eternal life with God.

Then both Elyse and I became sad as we realized that the Zoo only served the fallen purposes of people, as the animals were contained and not able to live the life that the Creator purposed for them.

We came upon African Hyenas. We watched as the 3 dogs walked a small area along a path that was maybe one foot wide. They had worn this path into grass that no longer lived beneath their feet. They walked behind each other back and forth aimlessly. It was all they could do.

Then we came to an outdoor pond with a hippo listlessly sleeping. The pond was maybe 4 times his size. There was no room for him to do what hippo's do in the wilds of an African river.

The arctic exhibit held two Polar Bears. The temperature was 80 degrees outside. There was no ice, no snow so they listlessly lay there on their sides not knowing what to do. In the arctic they would have miles of terrain that belonged to them. Here at the Zoo they were framed into a picture with boundaries that were created for people and little children to view them within.

The Rhino's walked back and forth in their area. They had two fallen tree trunks to rub their great bodies on. They had two dented hanging oil drums to take their frustrations out on.

This was not the way God intended His animals to live. The animals were sad, and Elyse and I were sad too. As the rain continued to fall, it seemed like the tears of God were flowing everywhere over the Zoo as God was saddened by what mankind had done to HIS Creation because of their Sin.

The last exhibit was in the House of Penguins. I had seen them many years ago. This was going to be a highlight for me. And indeed it turned out to be just that as the first little fellow ran towards us in greeting with his little HAPPY FEET.

The sign said there were 17 distinct Penguin specie represented in their KIND. I stopped to think how many ethnic groups God had made out of Adam and Eve.

The terrain in the Penguin House was rough considering they had no legs ...only feet and bodies like bowling pins with tiny appendages for wings. Yet they scaled their man made mountain with craggy peaks by jumping.

I watched as some lost their balance and fell. It was hard work for them to get anywhere within their landscaped habitat.

As we rounded the other side of the exhibit, to our surprise there were about 50 Penguins surrounding a man with food in his hands. I watched as some came right up to him; as others seemed indifferent and disinterested in the food. Then there were others who were out further to which the man tossed fish to reach them because they could not draw close to him.

Two things came to mind as I watched the trainer feed the Penguins. The first was that He was not standing up towering among them. He was sitting down among them almost at eye level. He reached into the bucket to get one fish at a time. Then he fed one Penguin at a time as they gently came to him unafraid.

Then I was reminded of the story of Jesus as He fed the 5,000 while preaching the words of eternal life to them. Feeding not only their stomachs but their souls.

This was Almighty God who came down from Heaven to become a Holy Human Embryo that became a child, who became a Man to walk about HIS Creation among Creatures that He created; to be among them...at eye level.

He came with an individual word of life for each one of us...to feed us personally. If we but reach out and take His Gift of Life that He extends toward us with His own hand we will never again be hungry or thirsty... forever.

Some of us are like the disinterested Penguins that stand off to the sides not caring about HIM or the food He will provide us. Others further out hunger for the food and so He throws it out before them in the hopes that it will draw them all the way in to the foot of HIS Cross.

It is strange to think about the statement of God where He says..."It is His Will / Wish that all would be saved". How is it that the Sovereign God, the All Powerful God who created the Universe is reduced to wishing that something would happen? It is because you were created with free will and He has left the choice up to you and in the end He will grant you your wish.

This wish of God that you would be Saved is not a small thing. In fact it is everything because the consequences of rejecting Salvation (the personal Gift from His Hand to YOU Alone); determines literally whether a person will live on after death in eternal darkness or eternal light...forever.

Those that accept Gods offer of Salvation will live in a Kingdom of light, where the 5 senses we have will be used to explore a New Universe created by God for His Children that He loves, who also Love HIM.

But first please realize that just like the animals we keep enclosed in a habitat that is unnatural...so too, we live in a world that is a habitat that is unnatural for us. We live as fallen human beings in a fallen world. God did not create a fallen world for us. The pristine and Holy world that God created for us no longer exists in space and time.

God sent His Son to liberate fallen captive souls from their chains of bondage; Souls that were created to roam the Universe freely to enjoy all of His Creation. That Liberation Day is fast approaching both for His animals and for us; and a recreated pristine world is coming for all His Children to play on.

In essence we all live together in this Zoo called Earth. Let me close this story with Scripture, the Words of God direct from His mouth to you. These words are a promise written down to be kept pure and Holy throughout all time. Words for you to believe in that will bring peace to your mind...and comfort to your Soul.

Revelation 21...The New Jerusalem

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. **2** And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." **6** And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. **7** All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children...."

10 So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. **24** The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. **25** Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. **26** And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city.

Revelation 22... Jesus Is Coming

1 Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. **2** It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

3 No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. **4** And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. **5** And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

7 “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book.”...

12 “Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life....

20 He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon!”

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Back to the Future

Have you met people who told you they would like to go back in time to another era? People have said to me they would like to go back to the 60's or the 30's. Some would like to go back further to the Wild West or Colonial Days or even back to the Middle Ages.

Others say they want to go forward into the future. They say they cannot wait to see what mankind through technology will do for us. They dream of traveling not to far off lands but distant stars and solar systems.

It seems that today's world is too complicated for most of us. We want a simpler life in the past or a life made easy in the future. A time when the world has become so small we will come to the realization that we are one family.

I have to admit I felt the same earlier in my life. Any time would be better than the time I lived in. Going back in time would give me the advantage of knowledge. Going forward in time gave me hope that things would get better because of the advances in science and technology.

We look into the past through the lens of History. History being documented fact. So those of us who want to go into the past do so because of what we know of the recorded past.

The same holds true of the future except the lens we look through is clouded. We draw conclusions about the future based on the ever changing technologies of today; making our conclusions nothing more than a guess.

Since I became a believer in Jesus as my Savior and Lord, I have developed a different point of view on this topic. The worldview of non believers is shaped by the accomplishments of mankind and mans ability to provide for himself a future.

My worldview is shaped by God and the details of His accomplishments written by Him in His Autobiography...the Holy Bible. He has the answers to everything. God is the only expert witness because He was there at the very beginning.

In His book you find the facts of mankind's history...past, present and future. You find the facts about the origin of the earth, the universe and the facts about an Angelic Civilization created before us, still very much alive today living in a dimension around us, but not seen by us.

When I originally read Gods declaration that said it was **He** that knit me together in my mother's womb and that **He** knew me before the foundations of the world were ever made....well what can I say....I wanted to go "BACK to the FUTURE".

The imagination of our entertainment industry is producing movies based on what we know of the past and today. Then they draw from limited knowledge and postulate about what the future holds.

Amazingly if you look closely you will find Biblical themes and words from the Bible in their movies...especially science fiction. The most recent Superman parallels Christ in that mankind needs a Savior. The Transformers represent hidden guardians of mankind like the Angels watching over us, protecting us.

The same goes for the horror films that explore occult themes; many of which delve into the themes of Judgment written in the Book of Revelation.

Every scene of these movies and every word is nothing more than fiction portrayed as reality. The writers mix truth, error, fiction, legends and fairy tales together to weave stories that excite our imaginations.

Well I have found in studying the Bible a greater fascination with the Truth of Gods Word than the musings of men.

In a very real sense Truth is stranger than Fiction. God has already recorded the past, the present and the future. The fascinating thing is that you literally can read the end of the story if you have the courage to do so.

Have you read the entire story through to the end? I have, several times through the years. I have gone back in time through recorded history, back in time to the beginnings of creation and the universe; and back in time to the creation of an Angelic Race. And I have traveled into the future to read tomorrow's headlines and the end of the story. It is both Awesome and Fascinating!

But you can go even further, you can go "Back to the Future", into Gods Mind and find yourself there. There you will find out that He has a plan for your life. Not a plan that requires you to be a robot, but a plan that you can choose of your own free will to follow; a plan for your life that has meaning beyond your life.

If you follow His plan you can have a future with Him. If you choose not to follow His plan ...then you have a future without Him.

Be aware, today's current events are plainly written in His Book. These events are placed within a period of time referred to as the "End Times"

in Bible Prophecy. This is a period of time without a specific date. However, we know that at the end of this time period Jesus is coming back a second time.

Yes, He comes for His own, but He also comes in Judgment for those who do not know HIM. He entered time as a baby and died as a lamb slain on the Cross for you. But His last words from the Cross were "It is Finished". The words "Roared" out of His mouth with His last breath. It is interesting that the pre-incarnate Christ breathed out life into Adam and now in death He breaths out eternal life to all those who hear and understand that "IT IS FINISHED". He has conquered death once and for all for everyone. He laid His life down for you and He picks it up again for you.

At the Cross Jesus sent a message to the entire Universe that cannot be denied..."Behold I have completed my mission to offer Salvation to all."

He is the one who **was**, who **is** and who **is to come**. He represents the past, the present and the future. He is coming back for what is HIS.

He is coming back as the LION of the tribe of Judah; King of Kings, and Lord of Lords with a rod of iron to rule the nations on earth for 1,000 years. You can read about His Theocratic Millennium reign in the book of Revelation.

I am sure, like everyone else you are mesmerized and intrigued with knowing the future. There is a record of the history, written by the one who rules history itself. It's a grand sweeping saga of mankind's past, present and future. Its words are historically accurate and continue to come alive daily before your very eyes in the newspapers and on television.

It was written by the ONE who lives outside of time as an eyewitness account of events in the past, present and future. It was written by GOD and given to mankind to understand.

You truly do have a choice as to where you will live. Don't choose to go back into the historical past that we know of written by man; for it is a dead end. Don't go forward into a future unknown by man based on myths, legends, and fairy tales.

Rather determine today to spend time with God, and get to know HIM intimately from the Autobiography He wrote that contains your future.

Begin reading the only book known to man that will show you how and what you **MUST DO** in order to spend eternity with God. The only book with documented miracles and prophecies that prove it was written by a Supernatural God.

Go ahead try it; read the Holy Bible that will take you... "BACK to the FUTURE"; into the very mind of God. The last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation promises a blessing to all those who take the time to read it.

In the Book of Revelation you will see the Majesty and the Glory of King Jesus revealed. It is pre-recorded history yet to unfold on the world's stage. If you ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and accept Him as your Savior and Lord then God will not only reveal His mind to you, but He will let you into HIS Heart as well.

Freedom or Oppression? If given the choice which, would you choose?

When you look back into the history of the civilizations of the world you will see a path of blood. Its always been there meandering throughout the globes topography. It's a gentle flowing river of crimson touching every human being throughout history.

You can walk this path of blood back in time seeing one culture pitted against another. One culture wields the mighty arm of Oppression, the other resists...fighting for its Freedoms.

Freedom and Oppression are the two titans embodied within every one of us. They are at odds continually. They represent two socio-economic views in opposition to each other on how to control people. Each wants harmony, but the methodologies are radically different. Oppression will make the decisions for you, while Freedom allows you to be an individual.

When the wall came down in Germany we all thought the death blow had finally been administered to Oppression and the evil empire had now been crushed down into the earth.

The world was glad because now Freedom had gained yet another country. No longer would the oppressed be responsible to someone else thinking for them, making decisions for them...creating rules for them to live by.

The door for Freedoms family was open. Freedom grew quickly and Democracy and Capitalism could take their rightful place among the people bringing peace and tranquility to all.

People would now be able to think for themselves and do what they wanted and live a life of abundance. But there is a flaw within this new plan of Freedom, Democracy and Capitalism.

Neither the system of Oppression or the system of Freedom is wrong in and of itself. What is wrong is a deeply rooted character flaw. A flaw that runs deep into the very root of what it means to be a human being.

Our instinct's for individual survival when put to the test eliminates the good of compassion and caring. Yes, there are individuals that attain the best of what it is to be human. But they are unique and are not representative of the majority of humanity.

In our country living in abundance, having every desire, every want fulfilled is more dangerous to us than anything else. This simply is because at our core...it is always all about us. To get what we want we will lie, cheat, steal, and murder because we are driven to fulfill our lusts....not our needs or for that matter anyone else's needs...only our lusts.

When people have freedom and all their needs are met they reach new lows as standards go further down every year. Yet worse than this is that they forget God, because they no longer need their daily bread from God.

In our arrogance and ignorance we think we are feeding ourselves. In actuality we have always been fed and always will be fed by the hand of God.

In the Book of Deuteronomy God speaks to the time when a new generation of Israel is gathered on the plains of Moab to hear Moses review the law in preparation for their entrance into the Promised Land.

The previous generation had died in unbelief in the wilderness.

Listen in on the comments of God to a people who had been oppressed and now were going to gain their Freedom....a great freedom provided by the hand of God.

Deut. 6: 10 – 12..."And it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which **you did not build**, houses full of all good things, which **you did not fill**, hewn –out wells which **you did not dig**, vineyards and olive trees which **you did not plant**.

When you have eaten **and are full**—then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. For the Lord your God is a jealous God. Lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth."

Deut. 8: 2 – 3..."And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to **humble you** and **test you**, to know what was in your heart whether you would keep His commandments or not.

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but **man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.**"

Beware of Freedom...for when you think you are strong you are weak and if you are proud...He WILL HUMBLE YOU!

It is so easy for us to forget our past as individuals and the lessons learned and get caught up in our today and our concerns for our tomorrows. If you take time to remember you will see the footprints of God following behind you. He is there in the background orchestrating events around you trying to get your attention focused on Him. He provides you things **you did not build, fill, dig or plant**. He allows you your wilderness experience to **humble you and test you...to know what is in your heart**.

When you come to know Him as Lord and you look behind you; there are still only one set of footprints in the sand. But they belong to God for He has promised to carry you all the way home.

Now the path forward is easier because He leads you.

The 3rd World Christians are poor, they suffer, they starve, they die continually...they have nothing compared to us in terms of worldly goods or Freedom. Yet these Oppressed Christian brothers and sisters have something the western nations seem to lack...True Faith.

God has said that the poor, the widow and the orphan will always be among us. They are the Oppressed that live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God, they are the Oppressed, the Meek that shall inherit the earth.

When you have nothing, you have a whole lot of nothing to share with others. When you have nothing and you know God, you have a lot of God to share with others because that's all you have.

And those who have God through His Son Jesus have become the Children of God, and are rich beyond their wildest dreams. Because their Father owns it all and has decided to share everything with those who have nothing but their FAITH....Forever.

So the initial question stands before you. Would you rather have your individual Freedoms or would you rather be Oppressed by God and HIS Commandments?

When it's all over only three things will have made a difference in the life you have lived for Christ.

*I have fought a good fight...
I have finished MY course...
I have kept the FAITH...*

I Can't Believe...It's Not Butter!

Two phrases used to establish a marketing campaign for a highly successful product that *imitates* real butter. The phrases represent two negatives that form a positive in our minds.

The longer we experience the *imitation* butter, the more it becomes real until it literally takes the place of real butter. What has happened is that a standard that we could count on and measure against is now gone.

The *imitator* has usurped the place of the standard and we now have a new standard in place that is no longer the original. This seems good to us because we get used to this new standard and ultimately we forget the original.

The change is so very subtle that we never quite see it happening. Our powers of discernment no longer serve us. In order to tell the difference between the *imitator* and the standard you must know the standard intimately.

The later applies to Truth. Christ's ultimate question to you is "Who Do YOU Say That I Am?" This you could say is the biggest question put forth in the Bible. But there is a bigger question. A question that Christ's question hinges on. Jesus had just finished referring to HIM-SELF as the Truth when Pontius Pilate raised a question in a voice dripping with sarcasm. Looking into the eyes of the ONE who would ultimately Judge him and sentence him to hell for eternity; Pilate sarcastically said..."What is Truth?"

And So Jesus, who is Truth was called a Liar...THE TRUTH became a lie. Since the beginning of the fall of man into sin and now throughout the generations since the Cross of Christ one thing has remained the same. Lies have taken the place of Truth. We are so comfortable with the *imitation* we no longer recognize the Truth.

Humanity tends to react to everything first through our emotions. It is our Achilles' heel. We react before we think, and therefore we can be led like sheep by any charismatic shepherd with the talent to manipulate us.

As long as the herd runs together as one, we will follow the leader, even if it means over a cliff. The reason is that we have placed our faith not in the Truth but in an *imitation* of the Truth.

And so it is with the current causes out there today. Great causes touch

us deeply and tear at our hearts; so that rivers of compassion and activism come forth from us.

Al Gore seems to have become one of the new charismatic shepherds of a growing flock of GREEN Sheep. He is leading the charge regarding Global Warming through information venues like “Live Earth: Climate in Crisis”. He is fully backed by the brain trust of our country...politically active television and movie stars who have a platform to speak their opinions.

The public outcry to save the planet is deafening. I understand why, because we care about our planet.

We identify with conservationists who want to protect the rainforest and the species living in them. Some of us would literally give our lives for the protection of a tree. Don't take me wrong, or misunderstand me. I am not saying any of the later is wrong in and of itself.

But I am saying we have selective vision and selective hearing. We support the issues that either touch us individually or that the herd seems to support. I think we have fallen for issues that are the *imitation*, not the real thing. Issues that take our focus away from the reality of Gods truth regarding the Planet that HE Created and HE will be changing in the near future without our permission!

What we believe always has an impact on what we do. The question is if you have put your faith and belief in the TRUTH. Or have you been swept up in the swift currents of the coming *Imitator*?

The highest calling of humanity today is to save our planet ...guess from who ...from US. Yes, we know who the enemy is ...the enemy is us!

So we put all of our energies into these issues, while ignoring the reality of the Truth and what's really coming. We have put our heads in the sand, so we are deaf and dumb and blind. We run with the rest of the sheep in a growing herd, led by charismatic shepherds that play off our emotions and our inability to think.

Humanity no longer recognizes the standard that is Gods own Son lifted up off the earth by the Cross. Instead, humanity will soon turn its eyes and hearts to an angel of light called Lucifer, Son of the Morning...the Lie...the *Imitator*.

Lets change one word in the two phrases in the beginning of this message. “I can't believe, it's not the **Messiah** !” The same thought process applies to the original Messiah and the coming *Imitator*.

Two negatives (I can't & it's not) will insure a positive that will mislead

and deceive people in the days yet to come about the identity of the True Messiah causing worship of the ***imitator***.

Listen to what God says about “The GREAT LIE that’s coming”, the ***Imitation*** of the Standard....“Matthew 24 ...For false Christ’s and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.. Mark 13:22 Jesus said this...”but take heed, behold, I have told you everything **in advance**.”

Then in 2 Thessalonians 2, God brings the point home and drives the nails into the coffins of all those who do not BELIEVE in HIS SON but instead turn to the ***imitator***.

9 The coming [of the lawless one, **THE** Antichrist] is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of miracles and signs and delusive marvels—[all of them] lying wonders—

10 And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to hell) because they did not welcome the Truth [Jesus} but refused to love it that they might be saved.

11 Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion **to make them believe what is false**,

12 In order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on] the Truth [Jesus], but [instead] took pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Are we called at this late hour to put all our efforts into Saving the Planet? Should we shed great tears for the rainforest?

The latter are all symptoms of the disease of sin that plagues humanity. The Great ***Imitator*** wants you to focus on those things and not on the reality of your need for Salvation thru Christ and His Cross. He wants your eyes to look at the creation and not the Creator. He knows all about Hell and Heaven, he is a greater Bible believer than you or I.

The Bible says that the fallen Angels are believers in the Truth, they tremble at their fate...but there is no Salvation for them through the Cross. Instead they wage war on the bearers of Gods Image...people. They do all they can to misdirect us so we too will share their fate in the lake of fire.

Don’t continue to waste your time trying to save a planet that God is going to recreate brand new by destroying the old. Instead dig deep into the Truth of Christ and His Credentials as the Messiah. Study the CASE For CHRIST in the pre-written history of the Old Testament Messianic

Prophecies.. for ALL have come true.

See Jesus through the lens of the New Testament as He speaks of events yet to come that HE will fulfill literally, bodily ...and personally.

“Fix your eyes upon Jesus in a lowly stable in Bethlehem, and know that He is the virgin-born Son of God.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus and know that, as no other man, He lived a sinless life, and always, without exception, did the perfect will of His Heavenly Father.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus at His baptism in the Jordan River as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and hear the voice of His Father say, “this is my beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased”.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth as He testified of Himself with these words: “ The Spirit of the Lord is **upon ME**, because he hath **anointed ME** to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath **sent ME** to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Fix your eyes upon Jesus as he taught His Father’s truth, healed the sick, restored the sight to the blind, and raised the dead; and, in so doing these things, demonstrated that He had the power to reverse the effects of sin.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus as from the cross with His last breath He spoke these triumphant words: “It is finished”. He was speaking of redemption for which purpose He had come into the world.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus on the third day following His crucifixion and burial and see the empty tomb and know that Jesus defeated satan, light defeated darkness and life defeated death.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus and see Him as He ascended from the Mount of Olives to Heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of His Father as our great High Priest, our advocate and intercessor.”

(Fix your eyes upon Jesus... taken from Zion’s Fire Newsletter, written by Marvin Rosenthal.)

Yes, view our world through the lens of the life of Jesus, you will not despair nor will you be disappointed at history’s end.

The end of the Old Testament speaks of His Coming. The end of the New Testament speaks of His Coming Back. And the Book of Revelation speaks of a new Earth created for people with a new future that will last

forever. This promise is for all those who have placed their faith in the Son of God.

Prior to Christ's RETURN the **IMITATOR** will come with lies and Signs and Wonders so strong and believable that even the ELECT (Born Again Believers) might be deceived.

Share your faith with all those you love...show them the Standard. Introduce them while there is time to the REAL MESSIAH. In the end the only thing that will survive what is coming will be eternal souls. Everything else on the planet, including the planet, as we have known it will no longer be.

All things will be re-made new by the God who created them in the first place.

Prepare and study the Standard intimately and you will recognize the lie when it comes. Don't listen to the false shepherds or the herd that follows them.

For in unison all over the world Green bleating sheep will say to you with conviction when their shepherd the ***Imitator*** arrives...

I Can't Believe...It's NOT the Messiah!

“The Scriptures point out—in terms which few can fail to understand—that time does have an end; that God will intervene in the world of men; that God has a destiny for those who are willing to trust and believe in Him; and the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of humanity will judge the world and sift the sons of men!”

(Walter Martin...Walter Martin Ministries)

Remember Who and Why?

Just how important is your memory?

Without it you no longer would be able to function at your job. On your way home you might have forgotten which daycare you left your child at. You may have forgotten to pick up dinner on the way home. But even if you did pick it up you might not remember where home is.

Not being able to remember will cripple you. Without question, memory is the most precious gift we have from God. Memory is the foundation upon which all your senses rest and have meaning. Memory is the realm in which all your emotions exist and are filtered into actions.

Every society and culture throughout time had ways of reminding themselves nationally of memories that have meaning to all their people. Holidays are the way we use to celebrate and remember events that we care about as a nation. These holidays become traditions etched into the very fabric of our culture and who we are as individual people.

Holidays become days of remembrance that are joined to events of significance we want to honor: Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Easter, Christmas...even down to our Birthdays honoring the day we received life.

God is aware that we also need ways to remember HIM. For without the establishment of holidays that cause us to remember HIM...we will forget God.

One of the greatest holidays born again Jews and Christians should celebrate together is the Holiday of Passover. Why would a Christian want to celebrate this Jewish Holiday? Because; you can find the pre-incarnate Christ all through it. Because; Jesus died on Passover as the final Passover Lamb that would be slain for the sins of the world.

At the Cross God eliminated the entire sacrificial system given to the Jews from the time of Abraham. It began when the veil to the Holy of Holies was torn in two by the hand of God at the precise moment that Jesus cried out "It Is Finished" and then gave up His Life of His Own volition for the sins of the world.

Then in 70 A.D. God allowed the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. This was the ONLY place that Sacrifices for the Sins of the people of Israel could take place. The Sacrificial System that actually began in the Garden of Eden by God HIMSELF was now ended forever.

Today this holiday of Passover has been set aside as a special holiday to remember God and the mighty works He performed. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be an Israelite alive at that time? To see first hand the miracles of the 10 plagues brought down upon the Egyptians by the hand of God.

To be part of the 3 million plus people that followed Moses out of Egypt and then to see the waters of the Red Sea part on either side of you as you walked on dry land to safety. Then you watched as the walls of water came together eliminating the enemy that kept you in bondage for 400 years.

You went into the wilderness led by God through a pillar of Cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night and you were fed Angel food...Manna...by God everyday for 40 years. You saw streams of water coming forth out of rock before your very eyes and your clothing never fell apart for forty years in the desert.

Yes God set this holiday into the minds and hearts of His people (all people of the Living and True God) to remember HIM throughout the generations. Passover was to be as permanent as the 10 Commandment's God Himself wrote with His finger into the two stone tablets given to Moses for the people of God.

God had set forth both His 10 Commandment's to rule the people and set forth this Holiday of Passover as a way for all His people to know Him as a God of Mighty Works and a God who will provide Salvation for His people.

It is His way to help us REMEMBER HIM. To be honest not many remember the Old Testament works of Almighty God...The Ancient of Days.

The Passover meal has one key question that leads to 3 others. The questions are to be answered so God would be praised for His Mighty works.

The first question is "Why is this night different from all other nights?"

Every year during Passover the Jewish people answer this question, which is the first of the 4 questions of Passover. These 4 questions were chosen by the rabbis but there were many other questions that could have easily been chosen.

Why does the Matzot Bag have 3 compartments for 3 Matzot?

Why do we break the Middle Matzot in half?

Why do we wrap half the Middle Matzot in a cloth and hide it?

Why is the word Afikoman the only word in the entire Jewish Haggadah a Greek word that means ...He **HAS** Come?

Why do the children at the end of the Passover Meal search for the broken piece of Matzot that was wrapped in the cloth and then Hidden?

Why does the father of the house redeem the lost Matzot with money?

The Rabbis have no answers for these questions...but God does. To answer those questions would be to admit that God ordained the Passover Meal to remind Jews of their coming Messiah...for Jesus IS hidden within the service; just like He is in the Old Testament.

To see Him clearly in the Old Testament and in the Passover Services you must be born again by the Holy Spirit. Then you will see with new eyes. Questions...so many questions plagued me during the 3 years the Lord had me on an anvil, molding the new man in me with hammer blows.

You could say that my journey to faith in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God was a journey filled with questions. Many questions the Rabbis could not answer in a way that would give me peace. For years God whispered my name. The call was always faint until my heart heard the roar of His Words from the Cross...It is Finished!

The sound of His voice finally pierced my own heart with His Truth and I was humbled before the foot of HIS Cross and I ...BELIEVED.

Allow me to share a series of questions with you that stem from the Old Testament and end at the foot of HIS CROSS. Following these questions through the Scriptures with an open heart and mind will lead you to the Cross of Christ.

Then you will be confronted by the Truth that you cannot deny; that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah and The Only Begotten Son of God...the ONE born to be crucified just for you alone.

The answers to these questions can give you Eternal Life...if you but BELIEVE.

Genesis 1:1...In the Beginning GOD (Elohim)

When you add an im to a Hebrew word it becomes plural. Why is the word Elohim (translated GOD some 2,750 time's in the Old Testament), used in its plural form?

Genesis 1:26...Then God said let us make man in our image.

Who is us and who is our...if God is singular?

Genesis 3:22...the man has become like one of us?

Who is us?

Deuteronomy 6:4...Hear O Israel the Lord Our God is ONE (Echad).

The word Echad is a plural word that means one of the same kind or essence. By God using Echad He is portraying Himself as a unity of one. How can this be?

Who else can be equal with God?

Genesis 3:15...Who is the seed (offspring) of the woman who crushes the head of satan?

Genesis 12: 2, 3 & 22:18... Who is the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that will eventually bless all nations?

Deuteronomy 18:15... Who is the "Prophet Like Moses" of whom God says, "You Must listen to Him?"

Psalms 22... Who is the one crucified?

Isaiah 9:6-7... Who is the child that is God and will have an everlasting kingdom?

Isaiah 53... Who was crushed and pierced for our transgressions so that we would be healed by His wounds; upon whom did the Lord lay the iniquity of all Mankind?

Jeremiah 23:5-6... Who is the Righteous Branch, the wise king, who will be called Our righteousness?

Daniel 9: 24-27... Who is the "Appointed One to be cut Off (killed) after 483 years?"

Micah 5:2... Who is the one who is eternal, who will be ruler over Israel, who is born in Bethlehem Ephrathah?

Zechariah 12:10... Who is Jehovah, The one they have pierced, for whom Jerusalem and all the nation of Israel will weep and mourn?

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. Immanuel translated means God with us. How can a virgin conceive?

Isaiah 9:6... For a child will be born to us a Son will be given to us and the Government will rest on His shoulders. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The child described here is Eternal and called Mighty God... How can it be?

Proverbs 30:4... Who has ascended into Heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment: Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is HIS Name and what is His Son's Name, if you know?

Is the answer beginning to take shape in your mind and Heart? Take this journey of questions. You are called to Remember God. The reason is that He wants to SAVE you from yourself. He has placed Himself deep within your heart and mind.

You know He is there waiting. You feel it and you hear His Voice whispering your name. Open His Word, look at the Scriptures with an open mind and trust HIM to help you to... BELIEVE.

Sacrificial Chickens

The one common thread among all Jews is that they believe God will let them into heaven based on their good works. The Jewish people are no longer the people of the book / Bible. Rabbinical teaching is held higher than Gods Word in Scripture.

Nothing in the Old Testament gives you assurance that when you die you would be with God. There is nothing that guarantees you the assurance that your sins are forgiven.

In the days of the Temple the Torah instructed you to bring a sacrifice to the Temple for your sins. You would have laid your hands on the animals head, symbolically transferring your sin to the head of the innocent animal. The animal would have been killed in your place and its blood would have been placed on the altar to make atonement for your sin, in accordance with the commands God gave Moses in *Lev. 17:11*.

But, today there is no Temple. For some inexplicable reason, the same God who had commanded that forgiveness of sin be sought through blood sacrifice had allowed the total destruction of the only place on earth where He had commanded that sacrifice to be made.

All that is left of that Temple is the Wailing Wall. Without the ability to offer a sacrifice, how then can a Jew follow Gods instructions for obtaining forgiveness?

Leave it to the Rabbis to come up with an official answer from God to this problem. On Yom Kippur, the most solemn of days, when people ask the Lord to forgive their sin's they now come with a chicken for their sacrifice.

They will swing the poor chicken around their heads in a circle, 3 times and say something like this: This is my sacrifice that dies for my sins. This chicken shall go to its death; but I shall go to a good, long life and to peace.

This is my replacement, this is my healing, and this is my atonement. Then the chicken is slaughtered and usually given to the poor for food.

You will not find a chicken anywhere in the Old Testament being used as an atonement for sin. The Jewish people must make a decision, either to follow the Priests and Rabbis or to follow the Word of God.

You know why the Temple is no longer necessary; the Jews do not need it. The final sacrifice had been made! A Holy God demanded the ultimate

price be paid to obtain forgiveness of sin. Yet in His profound and incomprehensible love for you and I, He had paid that price Himself.

Isaiah tells the story of the Son of God and HIS act of Redemption on the Cross more than 700 years before it happened in 53: 5-6.

DID YOU KNOW THE OLD TESTAMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT GOD HAS A SON?

*Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a **virgin will be with child** and bear a Son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*

*Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, **a son will be given to us**; and the Government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.***

*Ps 2:6-12 He said to Me, Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee. Ask Of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance and The very ends of the earth as Thy possession...Do homage to The Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way...How blessed are all **who take refuge in Him!***

*Prov.30:4 Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
Who has bound the waters in a garment?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
**What is His name, and what is His Son's name,
Surely, you know?***

An Anonymous writer once said:

The most amazing drama that ever was presented to the mind of man—a drama written in prophecy in the Old Testament and in the biography in the four Gospels of the New Testament—is **the narrative of Jesus the Christ.**

Jesus, the only man in the history of the world whose ancestry, birth time, forerunner, birthplace, birth manner, infancy, manhood, teaching character, career, preaching, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection and ascension were all prewritten in the most marvelous manner centuries before He was born.

Who could draw a picture in words, of a man not yet born?

Surely, God and God alone! Nobody knew 500 years ago that Shakespeare was going to be born; or 250 years ago that Napoleon was to be born. Yet here in the Bible we have the most striking and unmistakable likeness of a man portrayed, by writers, none of whom had ever seen the man they were painting with words.

The inspiration of that portrait came from the heavenly gallery, and **not from the studio of an earthly artist.**

Nothing but divine omniscience could have foreseen it and nothing but divine power could accomplish it. In *2 Peter 1:21* it says:

“Prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”.

Did you know that the Holy Scriptures and fulfilled prophecy offer answers to peoples itching ears.

People are interested in knowing the future. You can take people on a journey through Scripture all the way to the foot of the Cross. You can explain human history from its beginning to its end. You can show people their need for salvation from the coming judgment.

Most of all you can assure them that it is not the end of the world that’s coming but a new world and a NEW BEGINNING.

The Nation of Israel is Gods Prophetic Time Clock for the World:

God is still molding Israel on an anvil with hammer blows:

Israel is a nation that has been destroyed, re-gathered, and has re-emerged in time as the focus of world attention. Its capitol Jerusalem is indeed a cup of trembling for the world.

No other nation exists as a declaration to the world that in the records of her history, we find our roots and in the predictions of her prophets we find our future.

And the Jewish Messiah is also the Christ of the Cross.

When Abraham made the trip to Mt. Moriah to sacrifice his son Isaac on an alter to God...

Isaac asked the question “Where is the Lamb?”. Jewish fathers for 3,500 years asked the same question as they searched for the perfect lamb to be slain as a sacrifice for the sins of their family.

The question stopped with the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D.

Today, the Sanhedrin is re-established, the cornerstone of the temple is ready, the instruments of sacrifice are ready, the red heifer is ready, the ark of the covenant is ready, the temple structure is ready to go up, and the place is found...it all awaits Gods perfect timing.

The cry in Israel today is “Messiah...Come Now.”

Soon the fathers of Jewish families will begin again asking the question...Where is the Lamb ...and this time, ...**the Lamb will Come AGAIN to be with HIS people...as THE LION of the Tribe of Judah...The Lord of Lords...the King of Kings...King Jesus... The SON of the Living GOD.**

Faith is trust based on evidence... We choose to believe

It's 5:30 am.

It's pitch black outside but soon there will be rays of light and the sun will shine and once again **ONLY** because of the promises of God, another day will begin.

It's interesting how you can light one candle in the darkness and the darkness flees from the light, such is the power of light. Jesus claimed to be the truth, the light of the world. The world has seen a great light, but it seems that since His coming 2,000 years ago His light has diminished and the darkness is growing.

The more familiar you are with the Greatest Story Ever Told, the more you understand the times we live in ...that they are called the **End - times** by Jesus.

What has changed in our world is that it is the darkness that is now growing while the light recedes and the minds of men grow dim.

The Lord has asked us to witness because the fields of harvest are ripe. There is an urgency to do so because "Soon the night will come" and the light and the Truth will not be found.

This darkness that is all around is not physical but Spiritual. We are experiencing the Dawn of the darkness of Sin...producing a temporary eclipse of the SON.

Not physical Darkness you can see, but darkness of the soul and mind causing us to see life through a mirror dimly. Just like God has said, we are seeing everything that is wrong becoming right and what is right becoming wrong.

Darkness fills our time and we wait for the day when time is no more and the Dawn of Eternity breaks...so you and I wait for the coming King.

Why do we wait...because we believe that the Bible is True.

The evidence is overwhelming regarding Jesus, His life, death and resurrection. If people just took the time to explore Scripture they would find themselves neck deep in proof. It is impossible to mine the depths of the Word of God. But when you dig deep with your spade into the Judean dirt you will strike nuggets of gold.

Phillip Yancey wrote, "You don't know what it's like out here!" Job was most brazen, flinging to God this accusation: "Do you have eyes of flesh? Do you see as a mortal sees?"

Of the many reasons for the Incarnation, surely one was to answer Job's accusation: Do you have eyes of flesh? ...For a time, God did.

God is not mute: the Word spoke, not out of a whirlwind, but out of the human larynx of a Palestinian Jew."

You draw breath every day because Jesus lets you and HE lets you because He has a purpose for your life.

God has written down all the days of our life in HIS Book of Life. You and I are not a mistake.

Before the foundations of the world were ever made, in eternity past.... the Lord knew me! I truly believe we can never understand the depth of that statement. I propose to you that God does the same for each of His Chosen and Elect children.

My mother, a Holocaust Survivor told me the story of arriving at Auswiche with her sister and her children, nine year old Teddy and 11 year old Lillian.

The four of them were in one line and a Nazi soldier pulled my mother out of the line and put her in a separate line by herself. My mother left the line 3 times to go back to be with her sister and kids.

Each time she was beaten and thrown into the other line. The last time she was beaten with clubs and physically could not get back. She didn't know that the line her sister and children were in meant death in the gas chamber and that the other line meant life...**but God did.**

God knew from before the foundations of the world, that I would come to know His Son as my Savior and Lord.

At age 38 that finally happened when I realized what Jesus said of Himself to the Apostles in the Upper Room was true:

"These are MY words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written of Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scripture." ...**Luke 24:44** .

I came to understand that a living faith is not based on religious rabbinical traditions, but on a living God revealed as a Trinity in the Jewish New Testament.

Religion is the stuff of men; Faith is the Gift of God.

Why did God SAVE You?

What kind of answers do you think we would hear from Christians if we asked them that question?

To show Gods Love to others, to give to Charities, to Help people, to Protect the poor and the widows and orphans....

All of these reasons represent the **results** of your Salvation; they reflect your Christian walk before the world, **but that is not why God saved you.**

Most people who claim to know the Lord **do not witness** to their friends, neighbors and family. They feel it is someone else's responsibility.

Or, they say faith is a personal concern. It is really not my business to ask other people whom they believe in and trust for their eternal life. **Besides, what if I am asked a question I can't answer. I'll let my life speak for the Lord.**

Most people walk the talk, but few know how to talk during their walk. **People are not saved seeing your walk.** They are saved, through the work of the Holy Spirit by **hearing your TALK...** your God Story.

Jesus promised us all a Cross-to bear. He said the Cross-was both a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the world around us.

Faith only comes by hearing and we are called to be witnesses to a lost and dying world. **The Cross that Jesus promised, is never more real to us than when we obey Him and begin witnessing to the world.**

Why do we witness, because:

Jesusis a **real** person.

Jesus.... lived a **real** life.

Jesus.... died a **real** death on the Cross.

Jesus... came back from the dead.

Jesus... **is coming back** again.

How do we know this? Because Gods Autobiography tells us so. The Bible you own is **ONE** book. With **ONE** HERO.... Jesus, with **one** villain.... satan, with **one** theme.... Salvation and **ONE Purpose**....to Glorify GOD.

What does this book clearly say about you and I?

John Eldredge wrote, “**You are not what you think you are.** There is a glory to your life that you’re Enemy Fears. He is Hell-Bent on destroying that glory (Christ’s light) **before you realize you have it and act on it.**”

We are called to be Light Bearers...don’t hide your light, but shine it boldly into the darkness that surrounds you.

Before you can go out and begin to tell others the Truth about Jesus, you first have a responsibility to answer a question that Jesus asks you.

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

This is a question that too many people answer too quickly. **Before you can answer Christ’s question** you have 4 personal questions to answer first. Who am I? How did I get here? What is my purpose here on earth? And lastly, where am I going when I die?

The answer to these questions can only be found in the Truth. Where do you search to find the Truth? It’s found in our Bible, both Old and New Testaments.

Christianity, our faith in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Messiah is based on **FACTS**, facts that are affirmed in History, Archeology and Science.

So, first you must study the Bible from an Evangelistic point of view. That means you have to learn the Truth and how to defend **THE TRUTH that you Believe!**

Then you will understand **your Faith in your Lord and** will be able to go back to those 4 personal questions and answer them intelligently.

Who am I? I am a child of God; Jesus is my Savior, my Lord, and my King. I was given to Jesus by God as a love gift.

How did I get here? God said in Psalm 139 vs. 13 that He knew me before I was in my Mothers womb. God said in Romans 8 vs. 29, that whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become a believer in His Son Jesus.

What am I to do here on earth? I am to live out the “Great Commission”: To make disciples of all nations, teaching people about the word of God; telling all the Good News of John 3:16.

Where am I going when I die? Because Jesus died for my sins and He was resurrected, and He is alive today; I too will live forever with Him in heaven.

Now, like the Apostle Peter, YOU too will be able to answer Jesus' question...**Who Do You Say That I Am?**

LORD...You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Max Lucado wrote,

“I have heard it said that...

It wasn't enough for HIM to appear in a bush or dwell in the temple. It wasn't enough for HIM to become human flesh and walk on the Earth. **It wasn't enough** to leave HIS word and the promise of HIS return. **HE had to go further.** HE had to take up residence **in us.**

Perhaps you didn't know God would go that far to make sure you got home.

Man says, look inside yourself and **find self.**
God says, look inside yourself and **find God.**”

Who is GOD to you?

I have studied HIS names as all of you have through the years. HE is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Eternal Father, Lord, Savior, Jesus the Son of God...Y'shua Hamachiach –Jesus the Messiah of Israel and the world.

Yes, He is all of that and more. But when I get quiet before HIM and ponder HIS words to us in the Scriptures **I am humbled by the one recurring theme** that I rarely acknowledge or understand the depths of....

That is, HE **is FATHER** and we, you and I are HIS children; and HE loves each one of us so very much.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the World, that He gave HIS only begotten SON.”

The Christmas Cross

It's late Sunday afternoon and Elyse left a while ago to spend some quality time with her brother. The day has been overcast with occasional snow. The snowflakes as I look out the door wall seem like floating feathers. They swirl about lifted up by the wind and then gently fall down on one another forming a blanket of white. The earth looks clean and pristine.

Elyse and I are what you would call empty nesters. The Kids are grown up and the grand children seem grown up even at their young ages. Everyone seems to be busy but me.

This Thanksgiving Holiday gave me four days without work. To most of you that probably would be great. But I have no hobbies; so for me time has stood still now for the past four days. Alone this afternoon in this house I hear no human voice, just the sound of silence and the laughter of the water coming out of the fountain in the living room.

I have felt moved to write for the last three days, but nothing has come to my mind to write. I have been sitting alone for quite awhile with my thoughts.

It's getting dark now as I begin to write this by the light of our new Christmas tree. We have had so very many Christmas trees since I became a believer in Christ in 1985. The trees have been short and fat in small houses and tall and skinny in houses with vaulted ceilings.

I have brought the trees home stuffed into the back seats or hanging out of the trunks and even tied to the top of the roofs of every car I have owned.

Through the years we have had friends, neighbors and family gather together to trim the Christmas trees while we listened to secular Christmas music.

We had seemingly hundreds of ornaments that were passed out for everyone to hang on the trees. There were framed pictures of kids with Santa, carvings of dogs we've owned, clowns, air balloons, angels, wise-men, reindeer, the starship enterprise and of course the most sought after ornament of all.

This ornament is still with the Grandparents having been placed into their will to be awarded to the most deserving of their 3 adult children... "The Holy Hand Grenade". Elyse known as the "first and best" has high hopes for it.

The themes of every Christmas tree before this one was always about family. Family was the focus of Christmas. And that's ok to a point. Jesus was never the focus of the ornaments, or the star on top of the tree or the gifts underneath the tree Christmas morning. Everything focused on the family.

How could I as a believer in Christ decorate 25 Christmas trees, year after year and miss the whole point of sharing Gods greatest gift of all to my family, friends and neighbors within my own home. It is sad to me now as I think about it, that I never took the time to tell the story for 25 years.

Alone at the moment in the condo sitting next to the Christmas tree in the dark I am reminded by what Christmas in our condo has become. No longer do I have the room for a small fat tree or a tall skinny one. We have given all of our ornaments away to the kids who love them. The ornaments provide treasured memories for them of Christmas's past and precious family moments that touched their lives as they have grown up.

Elyse and I long ago have stopped giving each other gifts at Christmas so we don't need a tree under which to put them.

This little Christmas tree we have is made from Silver Tinsel. There is a Silver Star at its top. The tree lights are all white and they glow intensely in the dark. The tree is 2 ½ feet tall and it sits on a table in front of the window.

It is very small but this Christmas tree is special and precious to me. This is the very first Christmas tree I have owned that when you look at it...you only see Christ.

The tree is small like Jesus was when He came down from heaven to be born of a virgin at the Incarnation. Can you believe that God miraculously entered the womb of a virgin named Miriam as prophesied back in Genesis? That God became a Holy Embryo so He could be born and grow up to become the God/man, the Messiah of the Old Testament and later the Christ of the Cross.

Do you understand that His only purpose in doing that was to save you from yourself? That He came to die in your place so that you would have eternal life and not die the second time.

Jesus was born in a manger and myriads of Holy Angels announced His birth to mankind. God His Father tore open the darkness that enveloped this planet to allow Holy Light to come through from heaven. This light washed over the faces of Shepherds in the field. God still honors Shepherds today who take their responsibility to share the light of Christ with their sheep.

There were no gifts given at His Birth, except God's gift of His Son to you personally. The gifts given by the Magi came two years later. This little Christmas tree was a surprise gift to us last year by our kids. It also represents the gift that Christ gives to you...the gift of His Light.

The Word of God says that Jesus is the light of the world and that at HIS First Coming the world, living in darkness has seen a GREAT LIGHT.

It is pitch black now in my condo's living room. I am aware of only two things. Both give my heart Joy as I now anticipate the celebration of Christmas. The first is the sound of laughing water. It fills my ears as I am reminded ONLY JESUS is the Living Water that will quench the thirst of my Soul.

As I sit now in the darkness of my living room I see the second item of Joy, which is the little Christmas tree of lights on the table by the window. Interesting as I approach the lights how my shadow runs and hides behind me. It reminds me that even though I have the assurance of my salvation I continually need to be bathed in the Light of the Word of the Living God to keep my sins behind me.

That is what Christ came to do for you at Christmas. His light while drawing you to HIMSELF at the same time drives out the shadow within you, which is the sin you were born with.

Christmas is simple to understand because it is really not about us but about HIM. The Story of Christmas existed before our universe was created. It is a story from Eternity past that bridges Time to Eternity future.

That bridge in Time is a tree. You see the real Christmas tree was the CROSS...the Cross that Jesus was nailed to. But as the lyrics from one songwriter say...it was not the nails that held HIM there...it was HIS Love for you that held HIM there.

As I look across the room to the door wall I see two more things. I see my outline in shadow and the bright lights of the little Christmas tree reflected there next to me.

The scene in the door wall reminds me that Jesus, the LIGHT of the World has already come. It reminds me that His light, which is the Spiritual Fire ignited within the heart of every true believer; will shine brighter against the darkness of the people of this world...until HE Comes Again as the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings to claim what is rightfully HIS.

Today we see through a mirror dimly, but soon the darkness will be swallowed up by Light and you and I will who believe in HIM; will live forever by SONLIGHT.

The promises of God in His Word to you
are both YES and AMEN...but ONLY in HIS SON JESUS.

Merry **CHRISTmas**
to you from the LORD of LIGHT.

There is no **CHRISTmas**
without the **CROSS!**

Christmas Train

I stepped out on the balcony tonight. It's 11 pm. The Sun went to sleep earlier and now the Moon reflects the light of the Sun onto the scene before me. The night can be so very beautiful. The sky is clear with an explosion of pinpoints of light...the stars are everywhere.

As I behold this scene I recall that the Heavens declare the Glory of the Lord.

It's December 14, 2008, the wind is still, yet I am cold, very cold standing out here on the balcony. I can reach out before my face and touch my breath. The landscape lit by moonlight is both beautiful and eerie. Shadows seem to come alive in my mind as I survey the shadow lands before me.

Finally I can hear it coming, just a pinpoint of light, but growing ever larger as it gets closer. I signed up for this trip years ago, but the disclaimer on the contract said the train would not come for me until I had matured in my Faith and finally could let go of everything that tied me down to earth.

You see this is a special trip for believers who have peace on earth among the storms and have written on their hearts "The Lord is my ROCK, The Lord is my FORTRESS, The Lord is my DELIVER, and He RESCUED me.

I am standing waiting on a second floor balcony for the Christmas Train to pull up next to me. In years past I watched as this train of light passed me by. You see I still had too many burdens that weighed me down. My attitude was wrong and I rarely looked up in anticipation of His coming.

Now I know more than ever who HE is and each day of life that He has granted me I take seriously in terms of my calling, which is to serve HIM Faithfully.

So now this Christmas Train filled with light is stopping in front of my balcony so I can get on and take the trip of a lifetime. This trip is a virtual trip "Back to the Future". There are four pillars upon which Christianity stands. All of them form the Rock Bed Foundation of the life of Jesus Christ upon which your Faith must stand.

Gods Plan for:

His Birth...His Death...His Resurrection...and His RETURN.

Without your personal Faith in these four pillars of the Christian Faith you cannot call yourself a Christian. If you do not have the assurance of your Salvation your life will be filled with anxiety and disappointment in God.

I say this because you will then expect God to serve you in this life and not live to serve HIM.

Stay with me as we go back in time to examine the plan of God for His Only Begotten Son Jesus so that you would BELIEVE. A journey **planned** in eternity past, documented in the Old Testament and given Birth in the New Testament; so that the Birth of your Faith in the TRUTH could be validated beyond any doubt; so that you could live in the Assurance of your Salvation.

Quickly now, yes take my hand and jump on ...the doors are closing...have a seat...we are in for the trip of a lifetime accompanied by God Himself as He explains His **Plan to RESCUE You from yourself**.

The clear and calm night sky exploded into streaks of starlight as we traveled beyond the speed of light, back before the beginning, back to when I was conceived in the very mind of God.

Hear His Words so gentle and reassuring as He spoke to me of His Plan:

Ernie, you live for now in my mind, you are part of my being. I have given you the gift of conscience. You live for now within me. The day will come in the future when I will live within you.

I have given you a life that will never end and this journey is just the beginning of your life with ME. Do not be afraid I have a plan and I have promised to be with you always. I will never leave you nor forsake you because you belong to me. You are being prepared as a love gift for my Son, who loves you as much as I do.

His voice of soft thunder recounted to me His plan. It contained only four simple points. With the economy of words that only God could use; these four points contained depths of knowledge beyond our comprehension. For who among those He has created can say they understand Him or even begin to know HIM.

Point One: God had a vision to create an ultimate Holy and Eternal World where God and man would co-exist. This vision became reality when God said, "Let there be Light...." And so there was a place where God and man could walk together in a garden, in the cool of the day.

Point Two: Sin entered into this pristine world, twisting the relationship between God and man. This disease born on the dark wings of a fallen angel named lucifer spread to every man and woman made in the image of God for all time.

Point Three: Two worlds now exist side by side; two dimensions occupying the same space but not the same time. God in one and man in the other. But God promised to send His Son to redeem mankind and the world he lived in and re-unite both planes of existence...into ONE.

And so the God / Man was born into the world to die for the world and make it ONE again.

Point Four: In the beginning everything was made new. Then for a time everything new became old and life became a cycle of continuing birth and death. But God who spoke forth the physical creation, known as the Earth and the Universe will in the same way speak forth and Un-create this physical universe that He made.

With its Un-creation everything evil will be destroyed by fire.

Then God will speak forth and create a new earth and heavens where God and His Image Bearers again would walk together as family, forever.

The anchor of this Plan, it's pre-written Story, its History wrought in time and its Glorious Future all stand immovable on the Cornerstone whose architect is God HIMSELF...the God/Man Jesus.

The Son of God who for the Joy set before HIM in Eternity Past chose the NAILS, and to go and be born a man to walk among the fallen. He came to RESCUE all who would believe and call on His Name.

He came to SEEK and SAVE the LOST.
He came to SAVE you from YOURSELF.

HIS BIRTH:

The stars are no longer streaks of light; the train is slowing, then stops. There is light everywhere, at first it's blinding, then slowly my eyes adapt to my surroundings.

Glowing all around me are myriads of Holy Angels, messengers appointed to protect and serve believers. You cannot imagine the beauty of created beings in whom no sin exists. Angelic beings with power beyond imagination that exist only to serve the True and Living God.

There is song and music everywhere within this light and there is Love and there are questioning words being spoken in anticipation of the Birth of Gods Son Jesus. Angels themselves look deeply into this curiosity called Salvation. You see for them there was a single choice to be made with eternal consequences.

Their once brother's, the fallen angels made the irrevocable choice to join lucifer and now forever will be lost to destruction. For them there is no Salvation. No REDEMPTION...no second chance.

But for man during the course of the days he draws breath there are thousands of chances to be saved. If only people would listen as HE whispers their names.

There is a loud noise and the veil of light parts before us so we all can look into the darkness below us and see the sheep and their shepherds. How honored the least of these should be; Shepherds with flocks.

God has throughout History placed the communication of His truth into the hands of trusted Shepherds. Empowered men, who can rightly divide the Truth of Gods Scripture and feed His sheep.

And so the Son of God had come to earth...born of a virgin...through a young Jewish girl named Miriam. Heavens Veil of light was torn open that night to allow the Son of God to enter the darkness so the RESCUE, the Plan of REDEMPTION could begin as foretold through the coming of Gods REDEEMER.

The words of the Prophet Isaiah Ch.6 versus 9 echoed within me:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HIS DEATH:

The train has been moving for quite a while now. I had forgotten the cold of the night air back on my porch as I waited for the Christmas trains arrival. The train was filled with light and love and warmth. But now we were slowing down again and the light became dim and the feeling of damp stale cold air overtook me.

There was only one man who ever lived on the face of this planet that God said was the greatest person who ever lived...it is John the Baptist. Why have we stopped here I thought to my self. I thought the next stop was going to be the scene of the Cross where Jesus died for us.

Then I understood. The Cross is the most documented event in all of History. The Cross is where Jesus triumphantly roared out to the entire universe ...IT IS FINISHED!

The battle of the ages was won on the Cross of Christ. We who believe have set our anchor into the foot of the Cross. But to help us understand how secure that anchor is God has chosen to record a conversation between Jesus (through a messenger) and John the Baptist.

John said of Christ ...BEHOLD, the Lamb of God who came to take away the Sins of the World. John said ...He was but a voice in the wilderness preparing the way for someone who's shoes he was not fit to tie.

John was given life in eternity past so he could be born for such a time as this. It would be John who prepared the path before His Savior and proclaim the coming of Christ. This man who had the Holy Spirits guidance and empowerment his entire life, had a crisis of faith within the dark confines of this cold and damp dungeon as he awaited his certain death.

He could not believe that soon his head would be on plate before Herod. Was his work on earth finished already? John was confused and alone so he sent friends to share his doubts with Jesus asking, are you the ONE?

Jesus sent back these words to comfort John:

Luke ch.7 verse 22:

*And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the **deaf hear**, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM."*

With every day of life that Jesus lived, with every breath, with every word spoken, with every miracle performed, with every touch of kindness and healing to a broken person...the Bible and its Messianic Prophecies were fulfilled. He lived out the details of pre-written History to the letter. Then, He went to HIS Cross to die thinking about ***YOU and the Joy set before HIM.***

The light is coming back on and with it, the warmth of Love on the Christmas Train. I hear God whispering to me through a soft breeze the words of Luke...
the Blind Receive Sight, the Deaf Hear and the Poor have the Gospel Preached to them.

So often in my early years as a believer life tested my faith. I was filled with anxieties wondering why God was not responding to my will. To me I thought I was always doing His will and could not understand the firestorms that came and went throughout my life.

I thought I had lost my faith...but then I realized it was HIM who saved me and it was HIM who called my name. All those years I struggled and held on so tight to the foot of His Cross, never looking up. Had I but looked up, I would have seen HIM bending down from the Cross holding onto me.

You can count on HIS word to each of HIS own..."I will NEVER leave you or forsake you". His Word is everything, for He has fulfilled every pre-written word about HIMSELF in the Old Testament Prophecies. And the Words HE has spoken about HIS Future and ours will ALL come true just as the others have already.

His Promises should comfort us as they comforted John the Baptist hours before they put him to death.

When we started this journey the Christmas Train seemed to be on level ground, but now it is climbing. The angle is steep, almost straight up. The light that surrounded us during our trip has changed. It is growing more intense, more piercing, purer and whiter.

I feel like all that I am is being revealed...I am being drawn into the very presence of God.

HIS RESURRECTION:

The Christmas Train stops before God. My child He said to me. I wanted to tell you personally what the Resurrection of My Son meant to me.

You have children and grand children and I know you love them. I know that you would do all you could to protect them from harm and that you would gladly take upon yourself their death. I know this because you were created in my image with the ability to Love.

I know that if men took your child and beat him with whips that ripped both flesh and bone from his back...**that you could not be restrained.**

I know if men forced your child to carry a beam of heavy wood down the street as people swore at him, mocking him, and spitting on him... **that you could not be restrained.**

I know if men forced your child to lie down on that cross and then drove nails through his feet and hands to hold him there...**that you could not be restrained.**

Could you Ernie? The Lord asked softly...no Lord I said quietly.

I stood and watched as they did all those things to my Son. I stood there not for His sake but for yours, because He took that punishment not for His sake but for yours....I honored you through His Pain. But Ernie, when Jesus...MY SON cried out ...**MY GOD...MY GOD...WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**

That was more than I could bear, so I turned away and cried uncontrollably. My Son had cried over Jerusalem; and now I cried over my Son.

Yes, I could not look upon the Worlds Sins that MY Son was bearing, but even more than that, if I had looked at HIM at the moment HE said those words...I knew in my heart ...

That I could not be restrained!

I wanted you and those that say they love my Son to know that even for the Joy set before both HIM and I...the Cross was the most difficult thing either of us have gone through.

At that moment light from HIS eyes beamed down through Space and Time, through the earth's atmosphere, through solid rock into the tomb where Jesus lay. The light glowed like the light that powered and carried the Christmas Train.

Words were spoken that filled the Tomb and Jesus drew breath again.

The Veil in the Temple that kept mankind in the darkness not being able to know God personally; had been torn open by the finger of God literally opening access to Himself through the death of His Son.

Earlier at His Birth we had seen the light of Heaven ripped open so we could see into the darkness of the world that cold night so long ago. Now the darkness on the Earth has been ripped open so those who believe in Jesus can look up and see the Glorious light of His Presence in Heaven where He now waits upon His Fathers appointed time for His RETURN to earth.

His Return:

I stood there before Jesus not knowing what to do. Then I heard a trumpet blast and He said to me it was time to go back to the Christmas Train. But, I said. You have shown me things in the past that have come to be as you have said they would through the Prophets and the Apostles.

I thought the Christmas Train would show me scenes of your RETURN in the future?

Jesus said to me...take this message from me to all you know. There is enough documented evidence in the past about MY Birth, MY Life, MY Death and MY RESSURECTION that no one can deny that ***I AM who I say I AM!***

I say to them all.... you have the Prophets, the Psalms and the Apostles. You have MY SPOKEN Words, written down and kept just for you to hear and believe contained in the Old and New Testaments. MY Word is Sufficient for them all.

The things yet future are recorded there for all to read. The times and the seasons have been made clear within the Bible regarding when I will RETURN.

Tell them I am coming sooner than they think!

It's cold again. I do not remember the ride back on the Christmas Train, but I am here on the balcony shivering in the night air. The reality of the fact that I had yet to fulfill my purpose here on earth...hit me hard. But the assurance that I would touch again the warmth, the light and the love I had just experienced gave me the strength to continue until the moment in time He calls me home.

For now I must persevere through whatever comes. But I felt at peace as I remembered His promise to me that He would never leave me or forsake me.

The two of us would face any storms of life that came my way...together.

I remained on the balcony staring up at the star filled Heavens. I am still cold and the words of my prayers come alive before me as they take shape from the breath of my mouth. Then for a brief moment a warm gentle wind swirls around me and I hear His voice as He whispers to me

Perhaps Today.....Trust ME!

Cloning...for the good of mankind?

How long do you think God will hang in there with mankind? I can tell you that He is not happy with us. That He has a predetermined date to end physical humanity and begin a completely new spiritual world populated only by Born Again people.

Lets go back to the beginning to listen in on some of the saddest comments about us that God has recorded. Back to the time of Noah prior to the flood described in Gen: 6 vs 1-7...

“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God (fallen angelic beings), saw that the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

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.

There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God (fallen angelic beings) came into the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

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. And **the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth and He was grieved in His heart.**

So the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, **for I am sorry that I have made them.**”

Then the rain came.

Now lets go forward to after the flood and the new beginning of mankind's second chance through the bloodline of Noah.

Adam had been instructed to go forth and populate the earth. This same command was given to Noah and the generations to come forth from him and his sons. However they chose to disobey God and congregated as one on the Plain of Shinar where the people were of one language and began building a monument to themselves called the Tower of Babel.

Gen: 11 vs 1-9...

“ Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

Then they said to one another; Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly. They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.. And they said, Come ,let us build a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.

*But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men (sons of men) had built. And the Lord said, Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do ...**now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.***

Come let US go down (the Trinity) and then confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth and they ceased building the city.

Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

Before the flood God said...

My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.

The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth and He was grieved in His heart.

For I am sorry that I have made them.

Then the rain came and destroyed all but 8 human beings.

After the flood God said...

Now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

The final Book of Revelation in the Word of God holds true to Gods declaration through the Rainbow that symbolizes the flood and Gods promise to mankind that He never again would destroy the world and mankind with water. However He does say He is coming in the end to destroy the world we now know and recreate it for those that have chosen HIM. He won't destroy the earth with water. This time, the final time it will be with Fire...and its coming.

Why? ...Why would God again destroy this world that He made for man to have dominion over? God is not happy about this coming judgment. God said **He was grieved in His heart...yet He also said that He was sorry that He had made us.**

Why? There are many reasons why. But the two core reasons are first our fallen sin nature. The image that we bear of God is distorted and twisted by this disease we all have rooted in our DNA called Sin.

Because of this disease, we no longer have the capacity to walk with God. Instead we now walk with ourselves and because God gave us minds to think with and to dream with, we have the ability to create anything we can dream. We have gone far higher than a simple tower, we now can reach out to the stars.

Now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Secondly we have a problem because we now are going to make ourselves in our own image through cloning. And this time it will be such an affront to God; this time we will MOCK God to the point that He will no longer Grieve over us, even though His heart will be broken over us.

We have seen HIM through His Son Jesus as He literally walked out of the pages of Prophecy contained in the Old Testament onto the dusty roads of Judea. He came to His own, He cried great gut wrenching tears over you. Then He hung on Cross for 6 hours in agony over you and died for you...yet mankind refuses to run into the arms that were held apart on the Cross and embrace their Savior.

This time He comes back as described in the Book of Revelation with fire in His eyes and Anger in His heart. No one, whether a human being or demonic angel will be able to withstand His Righteous Anger; except Born Again human Believers in Christ for whom God has provided a way out of the coming judgment.

The old system will be over and the prophesied new system will begin...with you or without you. The choice is yours, God will only confirm your choice forever.

Have you heard what their doing now in England at the Roslin Institute? Dr. Ian Wilmut has begun cloning stem cells from a man's leg and a cow's egg. They were not happy cloning lambs, now they are going for mutations. They say it is to better mankind. It will help mankind in the long run to eliminate diseases, grow new limbs, new organs every part necessary to extend life. And so they are combining man with animals creating a new hybrid being.

It reminds me of Nazi Germany, where life was cheap, where the innocent that were experimented on screamed into the night while the darkness smothered their cries. A time when darkness swallowed light for 4 years and evil reared its ugly head from a nation of people that were blinded to the truth and willfully turned their heads from the shame before them.

God warned us that the end would come when humans epitomized the Days of Noah, **when every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**. The bloodline that God had created through humans had been breached genetically and violated by fallen angels. The demons populated the earth with this hybrid brand of humanity and God drowned them all, except 8 that were not polluted in their bloodline.

Dr. Ian Wilmut said, "It's only a preliminary first step". It's actually the first step towards the end. The human race is doing all it can to put God in a box and bury Him forever. This seems to be working simply because God is patient, **not wanting any to perish... *but to come to Salvation through His Son Jesus***. Instead it is us who bury our heads in the sand... ignoring the Truth around us that is continually being revealed to us.

Recently I listened to a Christian talk show host asking his audience to debate whether these Cow Boys and Cow Girls had a soul and could be saved. Hearing these ridiculous discussions by Christians made me ashamed before God. Don't we understand that we too in our ignorance are Mocking God? How shallow are we becoming for the purposes of entertainment amongst ourselves?

This is yet another early warning sign of what is coming. WE should not be postulating about whether the Cow Person has a soul or not or whether it can be saved.

WE should be using this issue to take people back to Genesis, to the origins of Sin. Then take them to the future into the Book of Revelation to explain the coming judgment and the need for people to pull their heads out of the sand and begin to fear the Angry God who is coming back to earth for them; if they do not know and have Faith in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of the Son of God.

**Look UP for your REDEMPTION
draws closer every hour of every day!**

Ancient Faith....called out ones....Ecklesia

Of late I have had the distinct **dis**-pleasure of meeting fellow Christians who stated that ONLY their denomination had the correct interpretation of the Bible.

They made it clear to me what they believed and that they were right and the rest of the denominations were wrong.

They stated clearly *what parts of the Bible they accepted*.

I thought it was; **ALL Gods Word or not Gods Word at all!**

Having gone through this recently reminded me of the last time people wanted me to join their denomination; their version of Christianity. Many years earlier I had just come to faith in Christ out of Orthodox Judaism. I had become a completed Jew...a new Jewish believer.

Some of you may not understand the following statement; but because of my Jewish heritage, I feel I have a distinct advantage over most Christians. Most of you have been taught about Jesus from the Cross forward. Very few of you realize that Jesus can be seen all through the Old Testament. His life, death, resurrection and second coming are told thru Old Testament Messianic Prophecies.

Two thousand years ago His first coming had fulfilled every one of them in the fullness of Gods timing. The remaining New Testament prophecies will be fulfilled in His second coming.

The Old Testament is as much your book as a Christian as the New Testament is mine as a Jew. When all you learn about Jesus is from the Cross forward you miss out on the rich foundational heritage upon which Christ stands in the Old Testament.

Many people over the course of the 3 years of my seeking God had put their witnessing efforts into me. They were Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Catholics. Each of them we're overjoyed about my Salvation faith in Adonai Echad...the ONE Lord...Yeshua.

But each of them wanted to know what I was. I said I did not understand their question. What they wanted to know is which denomination I was going to join and worship within.

I asked why that was important. Simply put each felt their denomination had captured the essence of Gods Truth. For me to grow in Christ, to learn the Bible correctly I had to join their particular denomination.

I found each of these people to be arrogant and filled with pride. The extreme of the latter was told me by my dear Catholic friend.

“Ernie, you must come over to the ONE True Faith of Catholicism”. Why I said. He said, “all Catholics were going to heaven and all Protestants were going to hell according to the Pope.”

To which I said to my Catholic friend and then later to each of my friends in other denominations...I was raised a Jew and I was part of a group who thought they knew the One true God. I did not come to Christ to join one of the many new clubs that felt they had the truth.

I came only to the Cross, to the one who came to die for me.

Two thousand years ago Jesus came to fulfill the Messianic prophecies about the coming Messiah.

He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His Sheep. He has gathered His sheep out of many nations throughout time.

His Kingdom unfolds by His plan, it is unhindered by the quarrels of man. His Church is upheld by His hand alone. The word of God has never changed. It is the same today as it was when it was written. Our faith is not subject to the seasons of change that each new generation brings. For God has built His Church on the unchanging rock foundation of Christ as told only in the Word of God.

There is but ONE Faith, ONE Hope and One Baptism. One God and Father of All. There is ONE True Church, One life in the Spirit, now given freely for ALL.

Now when I am asked about which denomination I belong to I say the original. The One True Church made up of Born again Christians and Born Again Jews. My worship and my allegiance is to the One Founder of the One True Faith...Messiah Yeshua, Jesus The Christ.

It began at the Cross and has remained the same for 2,000 years...Faith alone by Grace alone in Christ Alone.

Each of us together belong to an Ancient Faith. Together we are the called out ones...the Church...the Eklesia.

I hope the walls that separate us will come down some time in the future.

I hope we will focus on sound doctrine. I hope every Church that claims Christ will preach not only about His Love, but also about His Coming in Judgment. I hope we stop arguing about who among us is right. So once and for all we can act like family...for that is what we are...Brothers and Sisters in Christ...CALLED to LOVE One Another.

Focusing on our differences and defending our points of view especially when we cannot support them by the Word of God... is **wrong!**

The ONLY **right** is what should unify us...**HIS CROSS!** The great commission is not to go out to the world and argue. We are called to go out to the world with the Gospel of Salvation in Christ alone.

The Apostle Paul set the pattern 2,000 years ago...Preach the CROSS and His Resurrection and the hope we have as believers established solidly in the fact that He **is** Coming Again Soon for HIS Ecclesia.

ELECTION 2008:

Based on the emails that continue to be forwarded to me by my brothers and sisters in Christ; there seems to be a vast difference between the way we think!

It is an election year again. Once again the country is in emotional turmoil. The cry from the valleys to the mountains is "CHANGE". Change can be good and change can be bad. It depends on your point of view and the change that you as an individual want...for you will judge this change solely by your viewpoint regardless of others.

Once again the two parties put forth their candidates. Once again the HOT issues of the day are put onto the stovetops all across our country to cook in preparation for the meal we will be fed for the next 4 years.

The issues are like water that we cannot grasp with our hands or our minds. Issues we only seem to be able to understand as we watch them boil like water in a pot. The pot is our country and the water represents our issues. Again in election 2008 as the temperature increases, the differences between us burst forth like venom.

The issues of the day are everywhere in the mouths of everyone. We need, we demand clarity in the answers from the candidates. Yet the rhetoric that comes forth from the mouths of the candidates, as always, speak to the issues so broadly that their substance is lacking.

It's like pouring perfume on a swine. The pig still stinks; it's just that our noses only smell the perfume. The candidate's agenda's sound good because they each are trying to appeal to all the issues we as diverse individuals hold dear.

As these issues begin to boil in the pot of water on our stoves so do they separate us as individuals based on how those issues effect us personally.

Our points of view are different and so are the causes we support and care about. Yes we each need to vote it is both our civic duty as well as what God calls us to do. But, no matter who wins you will find that you will not be satisfied with what comes next.

The reason is simple; the control of this planet and its nations and cultures is still and always will be rooted in an ongoing struggle of GREED and POWER. It is self evident in the struggle between nations and the struggle within nations.

Democracy is a grand idea that will never work well because the stumbling block is still the darkened heart of men. So what are your issues...the price of gas, your home, the food you eat, your 401 K retirement future?

What about others like the poor, the homeless, the widows, the orphans, the mentally ill, the out of control youth culture, the aged who wait only to die and those in the womb who die prematurely.

Or maybe for you it's the environment, pollution, the animals, the flora and fauna...Global Warming.

What about war between countries far away from us that soon may ignite a firestorm that will consume you and all your issues, that in essence you cannot do anything about.... regardless of who gets into office.

All these thoughts are swirling in circles in my mind as I drove to work one morning last week. The direction I was driving was to the East. The view was spectacular as the sky opened up before me with clouds and a rainbow of colors that the new day sun was casting as it began to come up.

As I drove into the East I watched as God painted yet another canvas before my eyes. My mind slowed down, my attitude began to change as HIS peace that passes all understanding took hold of my soul. I began to quiet down as my heart again began to beat as one with HIS and HIS Words "BE still and KNOW that I AM GOD"...filled my mind.

God said through the Palmist in Psalm 53:1..."The **fool says** in his heart, "There is **no God.**" And that is exactly who the majority are that live in this country.

Whether you agree with me about what I am going to say makes absolutely no difference. Yes, there are Believers in Christ in this country but they are the few, they are the remnant, but this country is no longer a Christian Country. Our society proves beyond any doubt that God has abandoned the United States to reap the consequences of its immoral and Godless actions.

I have received countless forwarded emails from faithful believers during campaign 2008 about who and what I need to vote for unless I want to see darkness overtake this country and the world we live in.

Do not all of you understand that the United States of America is NOT the hope of the world! Neither is McCain or Obama.

Jesus Christ ALONE is the HOPE of this World.

God has abandoned this planet to the consequences of its SIN'S. God has also abandoned ALL NATIONS on the face of the earth including ours and the nation of Israel to the consequences of its sins.

BUT, GOD has not abandoned His Children that BELIEVE in HIM through HIS SON JESUS ! ! !

We have been living in the end times since the death and resurrection of Christ 2,000 years ago. Back then Jesus told us about both the coming judgment of people who do not know HIM as Savior and the end of the earth as we know it and the creation of a new Eternal Earth where sin is no more.

A new earth made up of every nation, tribe and tongue...All ruled by the God who created them. It will not be a democracy. It will be a *Theocracy* as it was originally intended to be.

When Jesus spoke it was the beginning of the end times. The difference is that we are now at the end of the end times. Look around you, read the papers, listen to the empty talking heads on the Television or Radio news or the country's leadership in Hollywood.

Man thought he was ascending the evolutionary ladder, when in fact man has been descending on his way back to the dust God created him from since his fall in the Garden of Eden.

The election is important and we as believers are called to cast our votes for the best person to lead us. But know well that whoever becomes our next president will be the man that God intended, not the one you necessarily wanted. God is still on HIS THRONE and God is in control, He alone allows people into power to bring to pass the events He has shown us in His Pre-Written History called Prophecy.

The end of the story as I have written about before is both Bitter and Sweet. The question is whether your story will continue to be sweet or forever bitter.

The first person that should be important to you is you. It all begins with you and your realizing you need a Savior who will stand with you before Almighty God and tell God that you are one of HISnot one of satans.

When you are saved the next focus of your attention should be your family, those you love who are not saved. Those you love that you want to be in heaven with you. Those you love that will always remember you in hell, but you by Gods grace will forget forever.

As the sun continues to rise in the Eastern sky its light begins to illuminate the road around me. To my right reaching up to the sky are multiple telephone poles with lines bearing the communications of men to each other. To me I only see a road full of Crosses. Just like the one that held the body of my Lord in Jerusalem.

Paintings throughout history depict the Crucifixion showing only three crosses with the Cross of Christ higher than the other two.

His Cross was the same size as all the others. He died as a man to identify with our sins. You would not have been able to pick HIM out of the crowd of the dead that lined the road full of crosses that day.

The Bible says that Jesus is Gods Son and bears the express image of God. If you know Him you can know God. Yet God imparted His image into each of us...we are all made in the image of God. And just like Jesus each of us has a Cross to bear in this life...a cross of sin.

But if you know Jesus as Savior it is He who carries both you and your cross through this life on earth.

You know the account of the Cross with Jesus in the middle between two thieves. Which thief are you, whose Cross are you nailed too, the one who turned away from the Lord or the one who turned to HIM for Salvation?

Its fall and the leaves are so colorful. The visual backdrop around the Crosses is filled with trees. They groan as much as you and I do for the redemption that is coming with Jesus when He comes again soon.

The morning light dances off the few leaves that are still on the tree limbs. The wind moves them as they lift up their holy hands praying on our behalf to Almighty God that those of us that hang near death on the Crosses along the road might turn to the ONE who died for each of us so we could be saved from ourselves.

Watch the Eastern sky in the mornings and let its beauty remind you that God has given you another day to come to know HIS Son as Lord and Savior.

Know that you still will not be satisfied with your life here after election 2008. You personally cannot affect the course of events coming to this country or any other country. God has written it all down and it will come to pass, both the bitter for sinners and the sweet for those who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

If your one of the sweet then know that you can do your part to affect change in the souls of those you love and those around you by sharing your faith and praying that those seeds take root in their hearts.

The Lords promise to you as His Child is that you will either enter His presence when you die or He will come for you in the clouds at the rapture. Either way He will not abandon you.

You can look and appreciate the Eastern Sky for its beauty. Tell everyone they too can do the same. But the day is coming when the sky will go black and the only light people will be able to see on the face of the earth will be HIS SIGN in the EASTERN SKY...

...But for them, when they see that sign...it will be too late.

The Greatest Promise of God...

This is a topic that is extremely personal. What we believe about God is shaded by how old we are and what we have experienced during this journey called life. But the key is where we get our information and whether the source is true.

The combination of our experiences of joy and pain create our perspective on life. The meaning of life is also shaded by the times we live in, and the country we were born into at that specific time in history.

God gave this promise to each of us through the coming of His Son Jesus. The reason that He came is ...”that you might have Eternal life”.

What is life? We have been told that through faith in Christ we can have life in abundance. But I don’t think that statement only applies to this physical existence here on earth. For none of us have life in abundance here.

In fact it could be argued to the contrary.

My Legacy of Words.

It has been a few years now that I have been doing this...writing my thoughts down about God. I began writing for me because it helps me to crystallize my thought process about the words of God.

Then I began writing for you simply because I wanted to motivate people to share their faith with other’s; to reach out and touch one soul at a time. Then finally I find I am doing this for HIM. Because that is what He has asked each of us to do...to share our faith in HIM with the lost.

This has been a very unusual experience for me. It began back in 1982 when I took a walk into my own mind and began introspectively trying to understand the concept of God. As I looked into the distance of my minds eye I saw a light glowing in the surrounding darkness.

When I arrived before this light it proved to be a porch light. I was their staring at it from a short distance, hidden deep within the shadows. The light seemed to reach to me. It lit the stairs all the way down to the step I stood before. The stairs led up to the porch and at the far side of the porch was a door.

The sign above the door said “Everyone Welcome”. I walked up the stairs. The light was extremely bright and cast a shadow behind me of my body as I climbed.

This shadow behind me seemed to be alive for it would not let go of the darkness behind me. It was connected to the shadows of my past; shadows that lived within my very soul. Yet the light beckoned me to come forward. The light offered me the warmth of Shalom / Peace and Love...the shadow behind me offered only fear.

For many years I had heard about this door of light. God had allowed a multitude of people into my life with every kind of religious background you can imagine. There were members of the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Catholics, Protestants, New Agers, Wickens, Christian Scientists , Muslims, Hindu's , Buddhists, Atheists and even a fellow Jew or two.

As I openly began enquiring of people about God they all had an opinion rooted in their minds. They were happy to talk about such a mystical topic to me.

This parade of people began forming my faith in God. This group of people with widely divergent and conflicting comments about God, the universe and the future fascinated me. Their words and comments formed the foundation of knowledge I had about God at that time in my life.

Little did I know at the time that everything I believed had its basis in opinions formed from legends, lies, half-truths, stories, myths and fairy tales. So here I stood on the welcome mat before the door. I came there in 1982 when my father died, to worship before this mystical God with my face looking up, bathed in the light, worshipping the unknown God, in my own way.

I wanted desperately to know God and find out where my father had gone.

THE GREATEST PROMISE OF GOD TO EACH OF US IS ETERNAL LIFE.

My parents were young with lives full of promise before them. They had dreams, plans, desires and hopes...they were thinking of today but not tomorrow and for sure not about the meaning of eternity. Marriage came, children came, friend's and relationships grew strong. Jobs, money saved, homes built...lives lived in abundance with all its creature comforts.

Then in their late 30's when life was established and good; the clouds of war and a world gone mad came. The war turned wild, the clouds grew dense and black. The lightning lit the skies. It seemed that from one day to the next that life was now out of control, because Hitler came and destroyed their world for them. They were not prepared for this as the winds of war intensified the inferno that enveloped them for almost 4 years.

They lost spouses, children, friends, all their worldly goods but most of all they lost faith in Gods ability to make good on the promises they counted on regarding life in abundance. The reason for the lost faith was that abundance to them meant everything that materialism provided them...things that made life easy.

The only thing we have here of any precious value are people, not the stuff of life. It is the people that are eternal, and the things are temporal. In a real sense everything we have is on loan to us. Ultimately everything we worked so hard to accomplish will belong to someone else. The only real treasure we have is eternal relationships that we want to continue with our loved ones into eternity.

I have spoken in the past about the times we live in. But there is no other time more exciting for each of us to live in than ...the times we live in, since that is all we have. Both history and your life are in the hands and purposes of God.

His hands direct the course of History like water in a river.

Your body is described in the Bible as a vessel. This physical vessel contains Spiritual Life. For you to take the journey down the river of life to its intended destination you will need the protection of the Ark. This is a special place of refuge. Only God can open the door for you and then close it behind you to grant you safe passage.

Without being in the Ark you will have to swim in your own strength throughout the course of the river of life. No one throughout all of history who has chosen to swim the river alone; has made it to the end of the river of life...which is the beginning of Eternal Life.

I just went on a business trip to New Mexico. I got up at 2 AM in the morning and returned to my home the following 2 AM. Flying home during the night gave me a panoramic view the landscape beneath. I was struck by the brilliance of the spots of light representing humanity below enveloped in a mass of darkness. Actually the brilliance of the light was only due to the contrast of darkness around it.

It reminded me of the condition of this world that is wrapped up in darkness and the few bright piercing spots of light that represent those that have faith in Christ. After all we are called Light Bearers...for His light should emanate from within us. If we are true followers of Christ then we are supposed to be doing what He wants us to do...to bring people to HIM. That is our call and that is our mission to push back the darkness that surrounds us.

Today we support missions around the world. We feel if we give money we have done our part. But, you won't find the word missionary in the

Scriptures. You will however find the word disciple. You are individually charged by the Lord to open your mouth and witness. Your responsibility begins with those you love and want to be with you in heaven throughout eternity.

The memories of my father are vivid to say the least. Funny isn't it how we take those we love for granted while they're here. Then when they are gone we begin remembering the moments of their lives that touched our hearts.

My father loved God. He spoke to me infrequently about His God because the events of his life were filled with so much pain. He could not understand how a good God could have allowed the Holocaust. He did not understand the Holiness of God and the Sins we all bear before HIM. He was raised to think that we all through being good and giving charity can earn a place in heaven. His theology was wrong because he too listened like I did to the words of others rather than read the Words of God.

Yet when he talked about God his eyes filled with tears and his words were filled with awe, and wonder and passion. As I stood on the welcome mat on the porch I remembered all those moments my father had spoken to me of his God. All of the seeds my father had planted into my heart were watered by his tears for me.

For his heart cry was always that I would come to know the God he had come to love. As I think back on him I am truly saddened that it was his death that actually led me to Yeshua / Jesus and life. My father died not knowing his Savior, by loving God through religion rather than coming to know God through a personal relationship with His Son.

The Bible is clear that Loving God is the last of several steps that begin with the Truth about God and then fear that becomes knowledge, leading to understanding, then repentance and acceptance and finally love.

I opened my eyes for the first time and watched as the hand of God opened the door of His Ark of safety, which is His Words contained in His Bible. I stepped in and His mighty hand shut the door behind me and there within this refuge of sanctuary I sat before His Throne as He began to tell me in His own words the Greatest Story Ever Told.

When He was done I understood the past, the present and the future told to me personally through the words that contain eternal life, by the one who is, who was and is to come.

So now I write first and foremost for HIM. Then I write for YOU and finally I write for those in my family that I love.

The day will come when like my father before me I will no longer be here. I want to leave a legacy of words and memories for them that tell them who I am and what I believe.

I want them to know that I love them, pray for them and will wait for them in a better place. I want them to know that I placed my eternal life in the nail scarred hands of Yeshua , the Jewish Messiah, the Son of the Living God.

I want them to know that I have not found a religion but a relationship, a personal relationship with God. I want them to know that as long as they have life they have the ability to Seek the Living God who waits at the top of the stairs for them with a welcome mat. All they need do is open the door of their hearts and He will open the door to them so they can go into the ARK. There they will find the Living Words of God, written personally to each of them.

Only by reading His Words will they come to the knowledge of the Truth about God. Then they will fear HIM. That fear will become knowledge of HIM, and that will lead to the understanding of what this life truly is about and why they were born.

Then with repentant broken hearts they will allow God to heal them of their sins by accepting the death of Jesus on the Cross for their sins. Only then will they be able to Love God and live for God and grow in wisdom and discernment of God.

The following are lyrics from 2 Steve Green songs I have learned to love and hide in my heart of hearts.

The first lyrics are for my children and grand children, for they express my heart.

The second are for all of you so you can draw strength to stand alone like a pinpoint of brilliant light in the darkness that surrounds you...to stand alone...to stand strong...for Christ.

For my kids...so they might Believe.

We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road
And those who've gone before us line the way.

Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining Grace.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us run the race not only for the prize

But as those who've gone before us, let us leave to those behind us
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.

May all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way

May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
And our children sift through all we've left behind

May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must fine.

Oh May all who come behind me find me faithful.

For all of you....that Believe.

We believe in the Father, who created all that is.

And we believe the universe and all therein is His.
As a loving Heavenly Father, He yearned to save us all,

To lift us from the fall.....**We Believe.**

We believe in Jesus, the Father's only Son.

Existing uncreated before time had begun.
A sacrifice for sin, He died then rose again,

To ransom sinful men.....**We Believe.**

We believe in the Spirit who makes believers one.
Our hearts are filled with His presence, the comforter has come.
The kingdom unfolds in His plan, unhindered by quarrels of man.

His church upheld by His hand.....**We Believe.**

We believe though the earth be removed and time be no more.
These Truths are secure; God's Word shall endure.

Whatever may change, these things are sure.....**We Believe.**

So if the mountains are cast down into the plains.

When kingdoms all crumble, this one remains. Our faith is not subject to seasons of men, with our fathers we proclaim.

We believe that the Lord will come as He said.

The land and the sea will give up their dead. His children will reign with Him as their head.....**We Believe!...We Believe!**

The promise of God for eternal life and heaven to those who come to HIM through His Son Jesus is beyond comprehension.

There is a statement by Jesus from a scene recorded in Revelation 3 vs 5. Jesus said that HE **will** confess your name before His FATHER and before His angels.

Can you imagine that? Jesus will come for you and take you by the hand and lead you between columns of myriads of holy angels. Up, the stairs of light, continuing up amongst the cheering of a great cloud of witnesses of those that have gone before you throughout the ages; up to stand before the very throne of God.

Then Jesus will say to HIS Father, I want you to meet one of mine... One who was not ashamed of MY NAME.

Please take HIS outstretched hand and let HIM take you home.

“For the hour is coming when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God...and those who hear will live.”

The Fallen Gods

They existed before time began and will exist when time is no more. They freely walked the streets of Heaven in fellowship with others of their kind. They communed with their Creator who made each of them unique and knew each of them individually by name.

The moment came when the traitor among them drew them away from the God who made them with lying words that seemed true. They like **us** who came after them; were given the freedom by their Creator to choose eternal Life with HIM or eternal Death without HIM.

This angelic minion of evil, small band of Archangels decided to follow their leader Lucifer (Son of the Morning)...the Highest creation by God up to that point; in a revolt against the "Most High God".

They breached the commands of God and went down to Earth to begin the war of ages against God and those made in HIS Image...**US**.

Over one third of the angels created by God revolted. But in the very beginning they started with a small host of elite dark angels who followed satan down into the garden to tempt mankind.

And so souls filled with light would now become souls filled with shadows. A disease would be born genetically through one man that would taint the entire race of humanity throughout time.

A disease that caused every human being to be born spiritually dead, in need of a new spiritual birth. So began the true dark ages of mankind until the "Seed of the woman" would be born several thousand years later as prophesied in Genesis 3:15.

Then Jesus, the one born to be "THE Crucified" would choose the Nails and the TREE and DEATH. Just as thru one man Adam, physical and spiritual death came to mankind, so now thru the God / Man JESUS, came spiritual life and a new body fitted for heaven and eternity.

But for now the man and the woman were evicted out of the garden prepared for them by their Creator. The small group of archangels, this elite minion of evil would now follow mankind like a pack of wolves feeding off the growth of their family throughout the generations of man throughout time.

They would become the gods of the nations, the small gods that were nothing but fallen demon angels that reported to the god of this world, their leader the fallen angel known as lucifer.

They would be described in Genesis 6 as “the sons of god...Nephilem”. They broke Gods command yet again by taking wives for themselves from the daughters of men. Their objective, to pollute the bloodline of mankind to ultimately stop the plan of God for the redemption of the race of Adam...to stop the coming birth of Jesus the Messiah.

The Bible speaks of certain angels that have been bound in chains in darkness since the beginning waiting for their judgment. I believe they are the ones known as the Nephilem...the ones that created a polluted race of giants like Goliath. They have been taken off the world stage of history, but the rest of their evil kind still roam the earth.

Some of the Old Testament fallen gods were known by many names Adramelech, Baal, Molech, Dagon, Milcom, Tammuz, Diana of the Ephesians, Rimmon, and many more.

All through the Old Testament these dark angels performed signs and miracles so that people believed they were gods. Then through the Jews and Moses; God reminded the world that there was but ONE TRUE GOD as written down by the finger of God Himself on the stone tablets of the 10 Commandments.

The First of the 10 Commandments stated it plainly so everyone would understand. ...” YOU shall have NO other gods before ME!” Exodus 20 verse 3.

But the disease of mankind had deep roots and on thru ancient history the gods of cultures continued to rise up from the pit... Ares, Hades, Atlas, Zeus, Cronus, Apollo, Uranus, Nike, Aphrodite and again many more from cultures all around the globe to numerous to name. Man needs God but looks for HIM in all the wrong places.

But with the demise of superstition and the rising up of technology and science man can no longer believe in the gods as they existed in ancient days. No one calls on the gods of the past anymore. But their echo can now be heard again from the sands of time-gone bye. The wind is beginning to move and uncover them again.

There is an old familiar stench carried by the 4 winds that flow over the course of this earth. The stench of greed, immorality, perversion and pride permeate the winds. These minions of evil rise up on their haunches like the wolves that they are and pick up the scent of man once again.

They come now among us to feed again. They too know the words of the Bible, they too tremble at their fate, and they also fear the God that made them. They too know that God said that He would come back again when the world became continually evil as in the days of Noah.

Jesus the Creator of everything (John 1: 1-5) is coming back to Judge His entire creation of both man and angels.

Back in the beginning the demons lead the revolt, the rebellion of mankind against God. But today that isn't necessary for mankind is evil enough on his own without their leadership. Instead they have become secondary support for the evil of man.

So they come to feed on the wrecked lives, the chaos and the sewage that now permeates our culture. From the shadows they coach us in our evil ways.

Man has taken the place of the ancient small gods. Man now believes he can be god. He believes he can now create life through science. The fact is that Science and Technology have become god.

But, the ancient gods are smarter than man and they will come again on this world stage and draw mankind into the final lie that mankind will believe. The stage has been set because Gods word has been fulfilled about the truth becoming the lie and the lie now becoming the truth.

Man demands answers about who he is, what he is, where he came from, why he is here.... those answers are on the way...they will arrive very soon.... they will come from the heavens.... you must watch the sky...they will be answers you want to hear... but they will be the wrong answers...lies from the pit that most will believe.

The angels are creatures that were made by the CREATOR. They are not gods. They experienced and lived life before the HOLY GOD of CREATION, so their choice to rebel leaves them without any chance of redemption.

But because you and I were born with a dead spirit within us and have never had the opportunity to know what true HOLINESS is ...you and I have a choice to make that will redeem us, that will make us clean, that will replace our dead heart with a new one, that will eliminate the shadows in our soul and fill it with light...and will give us entrance into heaven to live eternally with the God who created us in LOVE and for Fellowship with HIM.

Or your choice will bring you a forever death in eternity...in the place that God designed for the devil and his angels. This place was not designed for humankind...but you can end up their depending on the choice you make.

I was driving down a road. There was a sign at its end coming towards me. The road I was driving on ended at a Dead End. It reminded me of

these demonic angels I have been writing about and the fact that for them the sign “DEAD END” is just that. It is the end that they chose for God allowed them the freedom to choose...even if that choice means an eternity of damnation without HIM.

There is no redemption for fallen angels; they are twice dead.

Please know and understand that it is not God who damns anyone. That privilege is given to you; it is part of your free will.

As I said, I could no longer travel the road ahead for it was a DEAD END. But **I could** either go to the right or the left....I had a choice to make.

I made mine already..... **have you made yours?**

To Be Forgotten

Do you own a “RED Letter version of the Bible? Do you remember when they first came out? All the words of Jesus were highlighted in red. What a great tool I thought...now I could concentrate on the literal words of God.

Then I realized the red letters were only in the New Testament. Being a Jewish believer I recognized not only the historical existence of Jesus in the New Testament, but that He is also the Yahweh of the Old Testament.

I wondered why the publisher came out with a red-letter version of the words of God when every word in the Old and New Testaments **IS** the literal word of God.

Then I started thinking about the word Literal. I cannot begin to tell you about all the verbal engagements I have had through the years about the word Literal. I mean is the Bible the Word of God, or just some parts of it? Does God say what He means and mean what He says?

Are we supposed to put our own spin on His Word because of our own bias? How many statements are black and white and how many are in that misty grey area? I can tell you that the doctrines of Salvation, Heaven and Hell are black and white.

Today most churches agree on the following statement... “In Essentials UNITY, in non-essentials LIBERTY and in all things CHARITY”. This provides churches the ability to agree to disagree on parts of the Bible that are not essential for salvation. But at the same time there are doctrines that are Essentials that you must agree on or you cannot call yourself a Christian.

The statement **NO ONE comes to the Father but by ME**”; is an Essential, it is black and white. Belief in core Doctrines is essential for unity within the Church. I have no problem taking the Word of God to mean exactly what it says on any topic from 24-hour day’s to the topics of Hell. So to me there is a literal place called Heaven and Hell.

And then there is a literal being called satan, who is described as the ruler of this world. He exists because Jesus said he exists. By the way Jesus also spoke of the existence of a literal Adam and Eve.

In Luke 16 vs. 19 – 31 Jesus gives us an insight into Hades, a place of the wicked prior to their final judgment in hell. He speaks candidly about an individual named Lazarus (not the Lazarus He raised from the dead).

The following is not a story but an illustration by Christ of a real person in a real place...Lazarus is still there today, 2,000 years later. There are two things that would hurt me deeply as a person. One is to be purposefully ignored and the other is to be forgotten. I have said before that I currently am the repository of all the memories of my mother and father.

When I die and go to be with the Lord, there will be no one left to remember him or her. If they knew Christ as their Savior and Lord (which they do not), then there would be a reunion in heaven between us. But I do not have that to look forward to and neither do they. When I go to be with the Lord He promises to wipe away every tear from my eyes regarding this journey of life here on this veil of tears we call earth.

He will somehow give me peace and I believe forgetfulness of all those whom I loved and cherished while here, but will never see again.

So in a true sense I will have forgotten them, never to be remembered again. Unlike them (my parents) who will be in another place, not together, but alone with all their memories of the life they lived.

Memories that will be remembered by each of them and reviewed forever.

Who do you know and love more than your own life that does not know Jesus Christ as Savior? Look around you at. ...Your wife, your husband, your brother, your sister, your child (son or daughter), your grandchildren, your relatives, your best friends...the list can go on and on for most of us. By keeping your mouth closed about your faith do you understand that you are helping them condemn themselves?

That's not what God wants and that should not be what you want. If you claim faith in Christ and His written words then you cannot argue that the following account is both literal and real.

19 "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20** And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21** who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. **22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, **23** and in Hades, being in torment, *he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.* **24** And *he called out,* 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' **25** But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. **26** And besides all this, *between us and you a great chasm has been fixed,* in order that those who would pass from here to

you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' **27** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to *send him to my father's house*— **28** for I have five brothers so that he *may warn them*, lest they also come into this place of torment.' **29** But Abraham said, '*They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.*' **30** And he said, 'No, father Abraham, *but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.*' **31** He said to him, '*If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.*'"

Note that Lazarus is very much aware of his surroundings. He remembers his five brothers and wants to warn them, so they do not end up where he is.

I bought a new Apple computer not too long ago. I have been a P.C. user all my life. I switched because of the continued spam and the need for constantly upgrading my security to protect the computer from intruders capable of stealing information, corrupting my system, shutting it down and even capable of stealing my identity.

That is amazing is it not? Someone now has the power to steal me...who I AM. So my answer to this was to buy an Apple. A great machine, not used by the masses, so the thieves and intruders pay little attention to it.

Unlike the computer world, real life is filled with intruders. You cannot see them or hear them but they are there and they pay attention to everyone. Their mission is to steal your identity in Christ by blinding your mind and darkening your heart to its need to be saved.

There is a screen saver I have that rotates through images of the Universe. The images are spectacular. When I look into the night sky I see darkness with pinpoints of light. When the Hubble telescope trains its eye on the same night sky the darkness explodes in color. Hubble sees planets, galaxies, stars, solar systems...the very stuff that God created by the words of His mouth.

The literal words spoken by God are recorded in the Book of Genesis, which begins the story of the pre-written history of the Redemption of Mankind with the words... "In The Beginning GOD, CREATED heaven and earth".

Man today focuses his attention on Outer Space...when he should be focusing on Inner Space and what the Word of God says about us being created to live forever. You will always be who you are and never go out of existence.

As fascinating as Outer Space is...Inner Space is even more so. I don't mean all the stuff we now see within our bodies that amazes us. I am

talking about your soul, your inner essence that is who you really are. It's the YOU that you see in the mirror as you gaze into your eyes that are the windows of your Soul.

As I said you must be aware that there is someone working diligently to steal "who you are" without you even knowing it. The Bible speaks to this topic and puts the blame squarely on you for not knowing and understanding this Truth revealed by the Word of God.

You have "Moses and the Prophets"... Jesus said to Lazarus...and today Jesus says to you that you also have the New Testament.

Jesus says to everyone with an ear to hear...if you do not believe the Old and New Testaments are the revealed Word of Truth from the God who created you...then you will not be convinced if someone came back from the dead.

But someone did come back from the Dead. He also is the only person who can raise the dead to life and give them eternal life in heaven where they will spend eternity with God and their forever-family members.

There are many creative ways to share the Word of God. Don't ever give up, keep on trying. Some day it will be too late and those whom God has put in your path will be forgotten to you...because you won't be here anymore.

They will miss the reunion. They will miss a new universe that God has created to give us dominion over with purpose and joy. They will miss the forever journey without end.

When it is all over, there is nothing more important for you to do than to share your faith and speak to them about their need for a Savior. Should they die before you; you do not want to carry the emotional anguish because you kept your mouth shut. Jesus LITERALLY Said...

"I AM the WAY the TRUTH and The LIFE"... there is **NO OTHER WAY** to Heaven but through ME.

Your blessing will be to forget them.... they have no blessing... they will become **the FORGOTTEN.**

The Friend We Fear...

Where has all the time gone?

Most everyone understands what an hourglass is used for. Most people think of it as a symbol used today on computers to indicate the computer is working to open up a program.

You will notice when you see this icon on the computer that it no longer represents the passing of an hour. Instead it disappears in a few seconds like a wisp of smoke in the air.

In the past you could actually watch time literally disappear as the grains of sand moved from the top portion of the hourglass through the narrow way into the basin that collected the grains of time.

In a sense it was you who controlled time. The power was in your hands...simply turn the hourglass upside down and time was extended another hour. An awesome thought is it not? Me controlling the amount of time I have to live.

In the days prior to the Holy Spirits indwelling me I would have used the time for me. Because back then it was all about me. But today I want to extend time because it's all about HIM.

I have come to the understanding of what it means to respond to The Lord when He said "Come-Follow Me".

You see HE is The Sovereign LORD. The term used in Greek is Kurios. It means someone who has power, and ownership and an unquestionable right to command us.

We like to refer to ourselves as friend and servants of the Lord but that is really not so. The term servant appears throughout the English translations of the Bible. But in fact the word most often used in Greek is Dulas. Dulas is not a servant; it means you are HIS Slave.

We are no longer our own for He bought us with His own blood. We speak of Him as a friend, someone we have a personal relationship with. But we are not truly His friend but His Slave. We are not here to live for our purposes but for His purpose alone.

It was not by our choosing that we came to follow HIM. It was He who pursued us and chose us. Each of us that know Him was chosen in Eternity past by Him before the foundations of the world were formed.

Then we were bought by HIM, we are owned by Him, we are subject to His will and control, we are totally dependant on Him for everything, and we will ultimately be called to account for everything we did for Him.

It is He who will evaluate our lives and then either chasten us or reward us. We are His and we are His Slaves.

So what is my life truly about? My life is about Him and the time He has given me to serve as His slave.

What is it He wants of me during this time I have been given? This time that I can see moving before my eyes as the grains of time funnel through the narrow way of the hourglass collecting in the basin.

He wants me to focus only on His Great Commission. To be part of His plan to save people from themselves as they walk blindly through this life to the edge of a cliff overlooking the abyss. The abyss is a place that God created not for man, but for the devil and his angel followers...a place called Hell.

How serious is this call on your life? Have you really thought it through? Have you counted the cost of becoming not a disciple, not a servant... but a SLAVE?

Are you a broken person sick of even your smallest sins? Do you understand your helpless situation, as you will someday be called to stand before a Holy God?

Are you willing to forsake everything in your life and re-prioritize everything to accommodate His Will for your life?

His demands are that of The Lord (Kurios) to a slave (Dulas)...the only response possible from a slave is that of obedience. In Luke 6:46 Jesus said..."Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do the things which I say?"

It is through obedience that a true slave shows their love for their master.

And in response the MASTER will show His Love for His Slave. To be His disciple means He comes before your family, friends, personal plans, ambitions, and everything else that you want in this world.

You do not serve a friend; you are the slave of the Lord. His authority over you is non-negotiable. He is Sovereign.

When you understand this relationship between you and your Lord, then He is your friend and He grants you the privilege of being His servant.

When this happens your hearts cry will be ...May the end of my days be greater than their beginning as I serve The Living Son of God. Your passion and your joy will be to keep turning over the hourglass so you can gain more time here to serve HIM.

Because in the end of our time here each one of us wants to hear Jesus say...“Well done, my good and faithful Servant.”

Then what was once lost will be found...it's you. For in HIM you will find yourself. You began in His mind and you will continue to be on His mind forever.

And so the Friend that we most feared in the beginning of our relationship will acknowledge us as a brother who loves each of us with a love greater than we can ever know...because we have become part of HIS new eternal family.

A family that is truly all for one and one for all.

To My Never Ending Anxiety God says... ...*Shalom / Peace.*

Do you have a quiet spot where you can withdraw from the world around you? A place where the only sound you hear is your heart beating and the rush of wind coming out of your lungs.

A place where the sound of silence is deafening; a place not where you go to meet with God; but a place where God is always waiting patiently to greet you with open arms.

Jesus described this personal place as a prayer closet. A small place where we can be alone with God...a place of prayer. It is a chosen place where the image bearer of God goes to meet with the one whose image we are called to reflect to the world around us.

Unfortunately I come to this place, this special bitter sweet place very little. As I reflect on my days it seems of all the things that I am; what I am not is a man of prayer.

The reason for this is that through my years I have prayed mainly in desperation. The prayers have almost always been "Me-Centric"...about my needs and wants. The answers to my prayers rarely seemed to come quickly. More often than not the situations went painfully forward for a long time.

I always wanted answers now not later. I waited for a cool cup of water from the hand of God. Instead the desert heat dried out my tongue until it cleaved to the roof of my mouth and my words stopped as the deafening sound of silence continued.

I have learned something from the Silence of God. My attitude has been reshaped to understand the words of the Psalmist..."This Too Shall Pass". Now rather than pray for what I want to happen in any given situation; I give it over to God and ask for His strength to bear the burden till it passes.

In so doing I have learned the best way to wait on Him is to Worship and Praise HIM for who He is. This lifts the clouds of anxiety and the SON shines again into my soul. Our prayer life when tied to our worship feeds our faith. Then when the answer comes the invisible God becomes real to me in a greater way.

The relentless waves of bitterness that wear me down always leave me as I turn my eyes towards His Throne. I know that our ultimate end is a

new beginning in a new land into which we who believe in Him will enter a world we cannot even begin to envision or imagine.

No longer will we live in a country governed by Democracy. Instead we will live in a new united universe governed by a Sovereign King who makes everything new just for you. A place where the King will personally escort you to the personal space he has created for you. Have you met this Visible King who calls your name? The King who stepped out of eternity and walked upon the Earth that He created among the people He created?

You know He left a seed of life in your heart that need's watering. It is a kernel of Truth that will only grow if you nurture it within you by reading His Word. You can hear the voice of God today, but only through the written words He has spoken to you recorded in His Book. He only speaks there, within the context of His Words. His truth about each of us is buried deep within us. It is like a dream that is so real, yet recedes back into the mists of your inner mind when you awake.

Until you understand that truth and act upon it by personally calling on His name; your life will have been lived out as a lie and your heart will remain cold as stone forever.

This Visible God came to Earth 2,000 years ago to save you from Himself (His Holy Wrath towards sinners). This Visible God came to proclaim His Invisible Kingdom. A growing Kingdom that resides within the hearts of His called out ones. His Ecclesia...His Born Again True Church of Believers in the Son of God.

You can be one of those called out ones, the seed is already there in you. It just needs to grow. Admit it, life is hard and its challenges a severe burden. He is there all around you waiting for you to ask HIM to share your burden and make it light.

Every person bears His image and all of nature sings His praises while waiting for His coming.

He is the God who made you. He is the God who was broken for you. He is the God who cries tears over you. He is the God who patiently waits to be wanted by you. He whispers your name and says, "Why have you not returned to me?"

Yes true peace is resting within the protection of someone greater than you. Go find your quiet place, call on HIS name, He will hear you. Then wait quietly...it will be worth it. He will answer you...and when you receive your answer...be still...and know that HE is YOUR God.

Given Dominion

Have you been listening carefully to the wind?

God has given us an account of Creation written down in His Book called the Bible. He tells us that He created everything out of nothing. All that He created He Spoke into existence.

Out from the very mouth of God came His life giving breath imparted into carefully and lovingly designed living creatures.

The creatures were created with purpose, with beauty, with instinct and some it would seem with intelligence. When God had completed the Creation of what we would call Nature that includes the animals that could walk, crawl, swim and fly...He said, "It was Good". In fact He said it was very good.

There are only two ways through which God has chosen to reveal Himself. The first is Special Revelation through His recorded Words given to us in the Scriptures. The second is Natural Revelation that can be visibly seen in the Earth and the Heavens above that surround us.

The words in the Book are there for us to read and place within our hearts so we can know and understand the awesome God who created us with the purpose of Dominion. That purpose was to be a caretaker and caregiver for the pristine innocence of His Creation. This encompasses the Earth and everything on it and in it.

This was the prime responsibility of mankind from which he would receive joy and satisfaction. The innocent animals would rely completely on the care and love of mankind on behalf of God.

What was that, did you hear it? It's the sound of the wind that speaks on behalf of the animals and creation. The wind goes as it wills, as does the Spirit of God throughout the entire Earth.

It swirls around the globe collecting the sounds of the animals and then carries them to the ears of people who will listen to their cries. Are you one who has heard the cries of the animals in the wind?

Everything seems to be about us these last days as we move towards the Tribulation Time recorded by God in His Word. The Tribulation will be a time when God will sift the hearts of men like we sift the wheat from the chaff; by throwing it into the wind.

Mankind has learned to do horrific, heartless and cruel things to each other. This horror has extended itself in actions towards the innocent. Not just innocent children and babies but also through acts of unconscionable cruelty to animals.

The children can speak for themselves, but it's the wind that speaks for the animals of the Earth. The wind encircles the globe and carries the voices of the animals that we mistreat. They too cry out to God as we do in pain, sorrow and rage about people who for sport and fun callously, uncaringly abuse and mistreat them.

Yes the wind carries their cries up to the very throne room of God.

God has stated that not even a sparrow falls to the Earth and dies without His knowledge. He cares intimately and personally for every species He has created in HIS loving kindness. In the Old Testament book of Ezekiel you get a glimpse of mighty and powerful beings that stand before the throne of God.

“and within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance; they had human form. Each of them had four faces and four wings....as for the form of their faces, each had the face of a man, all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle.” Ezekiel 1:10 .

We continue this scene of these 4 faced beings in the Book of Revelation 4: 6-11 as it depicts the worship by the creatures of their Creator. Note that the image of man is only one of 4 that include animals. Because we live and have not yet gone to be with the Lord in heaven we cannot fully understand what these creatures are...yet they do exist.

It is evident that God cares for the animals He has created and has given them a special calling in Heaven. In the Book of Job God speaks about Nature in chapter 38, but then speaks about His animals in chapter 39. He speaks in love of the mountain goats, the deer, the wild ox, the ostrich, the horse, the hawk. In chapter 40 He speaks of the behemoth, the leviathan out of whose mouth goes fire and from his nostrils smoke.

Yes, if you want an education from God about the awesomeness of His Created Animals read about it in Job, the oldest Book in the Bible.

In fact God honored the animals by presenting His Son Jesus to the world from a manger located in a stable with animals. Later Jesus chose to come into Jerusalem riding on the foal of a Donkey fulfilling Messianic Prophecy. Animals have played their role all throughout the Greatest Story Ever Told.

So listen carefully to the wind, for the cries of the animals requires Justice from God. Justice is not revenge, justice is getting due punishment for the crime committed with malice and fore thought. Justice requires punishment equal to the crime committed.

God Himself has said jealously; that Justice will be HIS ALONE to met out to people who commit crimes against the innocent. From my point of view the innocent are not just the people but also the animals HE lovingly made for us to take care of.

So here is a simple warning to all that take pleasure in hurting, and maiming the beloved creatures that God has given us to care for. There are levels of punishment in Hell. Everyone will not suffer equally but everyone will suffer eternally. You can count on it, because God has said it.

Beware of what you do for the cries of the animals are carried on the wind. And the wind will surround you as you reap the whirlwind in Hell forever that you have sown in life.

God protects the innocent with His love and kindness and will re-create anew this planet for all those that love the coming of His Son Jesus.

Revelation 21: 1 – 5... “ and I saw a new Heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed awayBehold, I am making ALL things new and He said write, for these words are faithful and true”.

Revelation 22: 20... He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly”.

Written in honor of my wife Elyse, who claims Dominion...
whose heart cries out for those who cannot...
one who loves all Gods Creature’s Great and Small.

Gnarly Bob's Christmas Story

Have you read the story of Simeon? He was a special man who lived to be very old. He was righteous in the eyes of God and so God gave to him a personal message through the Holy Spirit. Simeon was told that he would not die until his eyes beheld the Messiah.

This was a morning like all the others. Simeon woke up, bowed before His Maker and then praised Him for the new day of promise. For this could be the day that God would allow Simeon to behold the Messiah.

Simeon left his home and stood facing the temple and with eyes focused up to the top of the hill and the heavens beyond. With hands held high before him, he ascended to the temple mount preparing his heart and mind for worship.

As he walked up the path his mind revisited the promise from the lips of God. "Simeon...for all these years you have prayed asking that you would remain alive until your eyes beheld and you hands could touch...the Messiah of Israel. The desire of your heart is granted to you.

You will see and touch the Promise of Israel before you die...live your life in patience before ME and wait."

When the Christ Child was born the scales that balanced the light on one side and the darkness on the other would begin to change forever. A great light had now broken forth out of the darkness. The light of the world, the Messiah of Israel, Jesus the Son of God had now been born...as promised by God in HIS WORD.

This anointed, pre-determined day for Simeon was to become his day of promise. Simeon, this day would behold and touch the flesh of Gods most precious Gift of All...Yeshua, who's name means Salvation. Emanuel who's name means, "God With Us". Jesus , Lord of Lords and KING of KINGS had arrived.

All the prophets that lived and proclaimed in faith the ONE TRUE GOD had died without ever seeing HIS coming. But to this special man named Simeon, who also lived by faith as the prophets before him...God gave the gift of sight. For now man would be able to walk with God by sight for 33 years.

Gods promise to fallen mankind of a REDEEMER to come was fulfilled that day as Jesus walked forth from the pages of Scripture as foretold in eternity past before the foundations of the earth were ever formed.

Jesus walked the Earth He had Spoken into existence among people He had created. Every step in the Judean dirt brought life to the Words recorded in Scripture. Then at the end of His short 33 year journey HIS

feet were nailed to a piece of wood and His arms were nailed open to a wooden Cross beam as the Flesh of the God/Man hung suspended between heaven and earth, supported by wood from a tree.

You know the story. You can find on among the pages recorded within the ONLY BOOK that has both pre-written and written history in it...so you would BELIEVE in the One of whom it speaks.

Simeon like us today, lived at a pivotal time in history. God refers to this time as "the fullness of time". For God sent His Son to be born and to die and to be resurrected at the fullness of time. A time when all the prophecies pre-written would have come true in history about the birth the death and the resurrection of Jesus the King of Kings during HIS short journey on earth.

Now today we wait for the prophecies that are pre-written to reach the one that will bring the end of this "greatest story ever told"...the RETURN of THE KING. A day pre-determined when everyone living in darkness will look up at the same time as their faces are washed in the light of God.

And So...Christian...you and I wait. It has been over 2,000 years since the coming of The King. Born as flesh from a Jewish mother, Born the Greatest Jew that has ever lived, for He is Alive today. Resurrected the First Born in the Spirit, He now brings together by the Holy Spirit Born Again Jews and Born Again Christians to form the One True Church, the Bride of Christ.

And so we wait together.

When I think about all of this it still bothers me greatly that Jesus would ask the question of us who claim to believe..."Will the Son of Man find Faith on the earth at His Appearing?"

This question implies whether anyone made of Flesh, even a single soul would be here with eyes looking up and holy hands held high, expecting and looking for HIS return...when He comes.

It is a fair question for it has been a long time since He came. It has been a long time since man was able to walk by sight. Have you noticed not only the decay common to man, but the decay of natural systems all around you?

The immorality of people has increased exponentially and so it seems has nature as it begins to go out of control. Sin is increasing and abounding everywhere. We no longer establish Godly children to carry on the Faith. And those that do represent a minority within a minority as the tidal waves of immoral people and their children continues to grow swallowing up those that are Godly.

And so there are few on the face of this planet made of flesh that will be here to lift up their eyes and their holy hands to greet the coming KING.

But God in His wisdom not only created flesh, but also the natural world. I would like to introduce Gnarly Bob to you. He is a close friend of mine who lives at the back corner of my condo complex. Like Simeon he waits for His Messiah. Like Simeon he lives in a time when all the signs say that his promised Redeemer will come soon. He also waits for the RETURN of the KING of KINGS.

Gnarly Bob is very old, actually ancient by human standards. I was talking to him the other day about the bloodline of the human family. How mine being a Jew could be traced back to Abraham and even further back to Adam as a human being. How God had created us to populate the earth and have dominion over it as a caretaker.

Gnarly Bob looked seriously at me with his one eye then reached down with one of his crooked limbs and gently lifted me 20 feet in the air so we could talk one to one. He lifted me so gently through the air with such strength. After all, his trunk was almost 7 feet around and his roots went deep into the earth for support.

Gnarly Bob said he was hundreds of years old and had seen first limb the years of Mankind and his caretaking abilities. He said in the Garden of Eden God had given mankind dominion, but the stewardship in the Garden was still provided by God. Then when Adam and Eve left the Garden because of the Curse of Sin...we'll it's been nothing but down hill from there for the Earth and its Creatures.

Gnarly Bob agreed that God made man in His Image and that of course was a great honor. But God made many other things as well, all after their own kind.

He began recounting special times when God had chosen to use his relatives made of wood.

He spoke of the wood that Noah used to build the Ark that contained the remnants of human flesh and the animals. Many of his ancestors had given freely of themselves to be reshaped into a refuge that would carry Gods precious cargo to safety. And oh the honor to have the hand of God touch the mighty door of wood and then close it shut from the outside.

Then thousands of years later Moses was told by God to use Bob's relatives to make another Ark, the Ark of the Covenant. This was a precious Ark with precious cargo as well. The Ark contained things that God had called His people to remember Him by. It contained the budding staff of Aaron that Moses used to separate the waters for the Nation to cross over. It contained the Manna that the nation of Israel ate as God fed them for 40 years in the wilderness. And it contained the 10 Commandments, carved out of rock, with the very writing from the finger of God upon it. The Ark also had the Mercy Seat on it where the very presence of God sat when He visited the people in the Tent.

What an honor, Bob said to be able to serve the Living God in such a way.

But then tears began to flow from Bob's one eye. He was visibly shaken, for his limbs were creaking as deep shudders of emotion came over him. Sorry Ernie, but I cannot help but feel humbled when I think of our shining hour as a specie to whom God gave such an exalted honor too.

The Cross...the Cross Ernie...Bob choked up. My ancestors were able to support the Lord as He hung between Heaven and Earth. When they drove those nails into HIM ...they drove them into one of us.

Bob and I were silent for a while.

You see Ernie, my ancestors have been serving the LORD longer than yours. In fact one of mine IS the "Tree of Life". He was in the Garden of Eden. Like the rest of us he now waits in heaven for the new earth the Lord has promised us all.

My Kind have supported humans and given sacrificially to them since the very beginning.

In fact Bob said his Redwood relatives, have been on the earth since the time of Christ. They stand as a monument to the people living today of the Truth of Yesterday. You see their roots go down so deep they are actually rooted into the fossil layer of all those billions of people who died in the flood.

God has given your kind so many, many signs about who HE IS. Its hard for us to understand how dark and deep the blindness of the human race is.

But we just like those of you that believe look forward to His Soon Coming to make all things new again. We had been speaking for quite a while Bob and I. So he gently set me down and I went home to bed.

Every morning as I drive by work I wave to Gnarly Bob. I represent flesh and he represents nature. Both of us are watching the sky.

There was more I wanted to say to Gnarly Bob about the differences between us. His life so simple and mine was so very complicated. But then the other morning I was reading something by Charles Haddon Spurgeon a Great Saint from the past. It reminded that in some ways Gnarly Bob and I are the same because like him my roots go deep...

"May you be rooted and grounded in love. May your convictions be deep, your love real, and your desires earnest.

May your life be so settled and established that all the blasts of hell and all the storms of earth will never be able to remove you.

Why? So you will be established in HIM! Your roots will not grow deep if the storms were not to come. Those old gnarlings on the root of the oak tree and the strange twistings of the branches, all tell of many storms that have swept over it.

They are indicators of the depth into which the roots have forced their way. So the Christian is made strong and firmly rooted by all the trials and storms of life.

Shrink not before these tempestuous winds of trial, but take comfort believing that by their rough discipline God is fulfilling His plan for you. Which is to mold you ever more into His Image.”

(Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

**“There is a statue of Jesus
On a monastery knoll,
In the hills of Kentucky
All quiet and cold.**

**He’s knelling in the garden
As silent as a stone
And all His friends are sleeping
And He is weeping all alone.**

**And the Man of ALL SORROWS,
He never forgot,
What Sorrow was carried,
By the hearts He had bought.”**

(Lyrics by Michael Card)

And So we wait like Simeon and like Gnarly Bob for HIS return. But our faith has already been fulfilled because He Came already as promised the first time.

This is what Christmas is about ...waiting for the final Gift of Eternal Life He will bring for all those who believe. If you Believe then you will hear the Trumpet that announces His Coming. You will see the King of Kings together with the rest of us. We all will tremble with JOY and DELIGHT that day; as together forming a sea of upturned faces we will be bathed in endless light.

Many Blessings to you and those you love this **HOLY DAY** as we celebrate the Birth of our Savior...Jesus.

Merry Christmas from Ernie.

Merry Christmas from Gnarly Bob; of whom you could say, that he is a CHRISTmas Tree in the real sense.

AMEN and AMEN

God Hunters

The old ones day began early with the dawn. Clothed in animal skins he walked out from among his people; out from the inner recesses of his cave dwelling towards the Sun light.

He paused at the cave mouth and turned back to his people as they knelt to the ground. Then on their behalf he moved out of the shadows into the light to greet the gods they served.

The old one was the priest of his people. It was his responsibility to pray at the dawning of each day to the visible gods of the Sun, Moon, Stars, Rain, and Fire. Then he prayed to the unknown god; the Wind that came as it pleased and went without his knowledge. He could feel its touch, but the god remained invisible.

Look closely at this old one. He stands in the sunlight with arms raised to the sky, chanting and praising the creation, answering the shrill cry of an eagle overhead. Look behind him; there attached to his foot is the shadow of the darkness from the cave that clings to his body as he moves forward into the sunlight.

Man has come a long way since those days. Do we still worship the Earth and its elements? Not the way the Old One did, but yes we do. Are we still god Hunters? Yes, but now we do it more intelligently. Out of the depths of the darkness of our own minds we have created multiple major and minor religious systems with differing worldviews.

Yet with ONE Voice man says there is ONE god for all mankind. That all religions worship this ONE god. However, the god we find described within each religious system made by man is radically different from the god within each religion. Of the gods of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, and Mormonism; there are no common attributes that would lead you to believe they were one and the same god.

And so it is that man continues daily to strive towards the light, with the darkness never leaving him for it clings to his every step filling his soul with shadows, darkening his mind and reasoning abilities.

This Old One is part of the recorded History by man of mankind's early beginnings.

There are three records of History. Lets first look at the one that would be most familiar to everyone; the history of civilization according to mankind's records. Its pages go back only a few thousand years since

man began writing and recording names, places and events in the past. The balance of any information older than that comes from Archeological finds buried in the earth.

Archeology also confirms to an extent the names; places and events recorded in mankind's history books. The further back we go into time the less we can glean from its pages. It is like looking back into a tunnel. Instead of light illuminating its beginnings all we see is darkness.

Mankind's recorded history speaks volumes, not of God, but of who we are. Its records of events, actions of people and nations uphold the truth stated in the Word of God... "that man's heart is continually evil." These sad events in history are continually repeated throughout the centuries proving we never learn from our own mistakes.

Man has succeeded in making god in his own image. In so doing we worship our own knowledge. Knowledge tainted by the shadows that cling to us as we walk in the sunshine. Today we are no different than the old one-stepping out of his cave. Our past, present and future is covered by shadows.

There is a second record of history. It is the one given to us by God Himself. Its pages go back to the beginning not only of mankind, but also back to the beginning of our universe.

The opening words of this record states "In the Beginning...God." That means two things to all of us who can think. The first is that God existed before the beginning outside of time and space. Secondly it speaks of His being the Creator and us the creature that HE made as part of His Creation.

This historical record is the Bible. It is supported by History (names, events, people and places). Science (speaks of current scientific discoveries thousands of years earlier), Archeology (reveals history with every spade of sand from the desert). But the greatest substantiation of the Bible being the Word of God is through prophecies (prewritten history whose accuracy is verified with each new day).

The Bible is a time tunnel. But in this tunnel there is no darkness only light, for it began with the words from God..."Let there be LIGHT". This book reveals the past, present and future of Mankind without error. God Himself wrote every word of this book and HE is Creator of ALL and Knows ALL...for HE IS GOD.

The third recorded history is that of your personal life. It not only records everything you as an individual have done, but literally like an EKG test – it records every heartbeat of time you have been given by God to live.

This record of your life will not be found in any earthly book, or on the Internet. We are told it exists in one place only...in heaven. This book shows the road you have chosen to travel through your life. There are two roads in life with two ultimate destinations that represent your eternal forever home.

Your destination is determined as you travel by the choices you made. Each CROSS road is clearly marked by signs but the choices are yours to make alone.

This personal record began in the womb of your mother at your inception. It continues to record every action, every motive, every word you have ever spoken, and every inner thought you have ever had.

This record continues for as long as your heart beats. When your heart stops beating the record ends. This is a very important book for it is a record of your entire earthly life that you have lived out before the face of the God who created you. The God you will be accountable to for the time HE has given to you to live.

Only two of the three books I have mentioned will be opened before you as you stand before a Holy God to be judged. The book of the history of mankind will not be opened, for it has absolutely no value at all. It is only a record of darkness.

The Word of God says that the book of the personal record of your life will be reviewed by the penetrating eyes of God through the chronicle of the life HE gave you to live and what you did with it.

None of your recorded good works will have any bearing on your judgment. For nothing you can do is good enough to meet the standards of a HOLY GOD.

The other book that will be opened before you is the Bible. The Bible makes it clear that you need a Savior. It will condemn you to an eternity apart from God if you have chosen to ignore its warnings by choosing to live your life walking the wrong path, following the wrong signs...doing your will and not HIS.

I give out Bibles to people who show me that they are Truly Seeking to know and understand God. Here is the accompanying letter I write to the recipients:

The Journey will never end; His Mercies are new every morning. Here is some wisdom I have learned along the way:

As long as Jesus is one of many options, He is not an option.

As long as you can carry your burdens alone, You don't need a burden bearer.

As long as your situation brings you no grief, You will receive no comfort. As long as you can take Him or leave Him, You may as well leave Him, because He won't be taken half-heartedly.

*But, when you mourn, when you get to the point of sorrow for your sins, when you admit that you have no other option but to cast all your cares on Him, and when there is truly no other name that you can call on, then cast all your cares on Him... **for He is waiting in the midst of your storm.***

He is preparing a place for you. He is the architect of your heavenly home...its builder and interior decorator too. He knows your hearts desires, your favorite color, flowers, and your favorite views. He chose you before the foundations of the world were made.

He knows how to surprise you. He knows what you've always longed for. And in His infinite care for you, He is preparing the perfect place for you.

The book you are holding contains: *the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers.*

Its doctrine is Holy, its Precepts (laws) are binding, its Histories are TRUE and its Decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be Holy.

Within its pages heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design and the glory of God its end.

Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully, always asking for the Holy Spirits guidance in Christ's name.

It is given to you here, in this life and will be opened at the judgment and is established, unchanging forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward your greatest labor and condemn all who trifle with its contents!

*The Bible you own is **ONE** book. With **ONE** HERO... Jesus, with **one** villain....Satan, with **one** theme....Salvation (how you can get to heaven) and **ONE Purpose**....to Glorify GOD.*

Here is quote from one of the most intelligent and remarkable men that has ever lived. He was a product of his own reasoning. He chose his own path to walk before God, but never learned to walk with God.

“Everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe—a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble.”

—*Albert Einstein...a Jew who died not knowing His Messiah.*

“As reflected in the above quote by Einstein, unless we are anchored in the Word of God and its authority over our lives, we are adrift in mere “Spirituality”, recognizing a higher dimension to the world around us, but blind to its real message.”

—*John D. Morris...Psalm 146:5-6 Institute for Creation Research*

But Ernie, God loves me you say...the Bible is full of Gods Love and Mercy towards people...I hear it in my Church all the time!

You are hearing half of the Gospel...the half that makes you feel good.

Yes, God is the God of Love *but HE is also The God of WRATH.*

Because of His love for you He did two things.

First...He gave you a book whose soul purpose is to warn you of His Wrath and *how you can avoid it.*

Second...He loved you so much that He allowed His Only Son to come to Earth and Die on the CROSS-for you personally so that you may have Eternal Life in Heaven. (John 3:17...For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be **SAVED thru HIM.**)

The story of the Son of God is written down in a history book called the Holy Bible. The good news is that you can read it here while you have the time.

You on the other hand are a story in progress. You will write your own ending while your living. Then seal it with your death.

God Himself will read your life story to you as you stand alone before HIM. And then He will check to see if your name appears in the 4th Book we have not talked about in this message.

You can read about this 4th last Book within the pages of Gods Word to you in His Holy Bible. This 4th book is called “**Gods Book of Life**” in the **Old Testament** and “**THE LAMBS BOOK of LIFE**” in the **New Testament.**

The two books are really one. Just like the Old and New Testament together form one book. The books represent a listing of people from the Old Testament and from the New Testament and people from the future who have placed their faith in Jesus the Son of God for their Salvation.

A list of people who recognize that they are aliens in the world and look forward to a future City on a hill that is made by the hand of God Himself for HIS people.

**Like all good books I hope yours is worth the
read and has a happy ending.**

Half Empty or Half Full

It's winter, its cold, its dark and I am on my way to the airport at 5 am to pick up Kristopher and Danielle. The sky is clear and I can see stars as I drive down the road. Not a lot of stars because of the surrounding light pollution that hides them as I drive and look at the sky.

But there in the southern sky, hanging in mid air on nothing is the moon. It is exceptionally bright this morning. It is performing its function, which is to reflect the light of the sun so we might have some semblance of light in the darkness.

The moon of course cannot generate its own light but serves to reflect the light from a real source. So its light, the light of the moon at its best illuminates shadows within shadows.

The moon this morning is but a half moon. Simply stated its face is half lit or white and the other half is dark or black...non-existent to my gaze. When I look at the moon I think to myself is it half full of light or half devoid of light?

I am on the expressway and the road winds along its path to the airport. The only lights before me are from the headlamps of my car. Only the path directly in front of me is illuminated. So I need to focus and drive a little slower.

Every once in a while a group or clump of 3 to 5 cars encompass me. Then for a moment in time the darkness runs away from us as the light generated by 5 of us lights the road further ahead and I can speed up to go faster.

But then we break apart and once again I only see what is directly before me. In a very real sense I have just written about life, as we know it here on earth. Just as the road lit before you represents a journey...so to is the life we live. It is a personal journey to a special place along a winding road in the darkness with limited light to show the way.

And as the half moon is filled with both light and darkness so to are the days of our lives. But the question is whether you see your life half full or half empty?

If you have been with me for any length of time you know I see the hand of God in everything. I see him in tear drops that are filled with memories. I see Him in the leaves that clap with joy in the wind as they praise HIM with arms raised on high as they silently pray for our salvation and that Christ would return quickly.

I see HIM in raindrops that represent the tears of God that fell from HIS eyes to fill the oceans of the world. I see HIM in the fuel we burn in the form of fossils. Not dinosaurs and plant life but people too. Because the fossil fuel that moves our civilization is made up of the ancient world, its animals, flora and billions of people that died in Noah's flood.

I even see HIM in an ancient tree near my condo. A CHRISTmas Tree with great wisdom named Gnarly Bob. Yes I see God everywhere and at all times. It amazes me that He cares at all about what happens to me, to you...to any of us.

Yet, He does care. He care's so very much that he asked His Only Son to become a man and to die in our place so that we might have eternal life filled with light rather than eternal death encompassed in darkness you can touch.

You know Jesus did not have to do it. He could have said no to His Father's request. But He chose the nails because He could see into the future and it brought JOY to HIS heart knowing that you could, should you desire...choose to live with HIM in Heaven rather than without HIM in Hell.

So He said yes to the horror of the Cross-because He would rather die for you than live without you. It is impossible for us to understand His compassion for us. That Jesus would turn His gaze toward Jerusalem and begin to walk to a death He already knew intimately in eternity past.

His resolve to finish what He came here to do was equal to the rock foundation He would leave us to build upon in the future. And the memory of every detail of HIS PASSION Week would be recorded for all time in HIS New Testament. HIS New Covenant with you.

And so He Roared from the Cross..."IT IS FINISHED". And the beginning of the end that would have a new beginning with no end...began!

You and I are not worthy to even touch the hem of HIS garment.

Its also amazing to me that once you accept Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord; He actually comes to live inside of you. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter becomes the down payment to you of the promise of the fullness of eternal life to come in heaven, while you are here walking the dust of this earth.

Now you actually have within you a light, a conscience to guide you through the path you must walk in this dark world of shadows...all the way home. I spoke with a fellow believer today, someone with a strong faith in the Lord. We were talking about how our country is

slowly eroding our strength and sovereignty by sending jobs over seas to foreign countries. He mentioned that he had heard that somewhere in the Bible it eluded to a global economy coming and it would probably take till at least the year 3,000 to come together.

I told him indeed the One World Economy was coming along with a One World Government and a One World Religion and that it probably was more like 10 to 15 years tops (not setting dates). His face contorted in disbelief...that's NOT POSSIBLE...he angrily bellowed at me.

You see as long as it was in the distance, beyond affecting his life he was comfortable; but not if it was going to change his life here on earth. Two thousand years ago when Christ was crucified, died, rose from the dead, walked and talked on the earth for 40 days and then ascended into heaven; the disciples and the infant church anxiously waited for His Return.

For a number of years after, the Church thought the return of Jesus was immanent. They lived lives expecting His return during their life times. This kept the Church pure in the beginning.

Now two thousand years later, believers are horrified that He would come during their lifetime. God forbid that should happen. What about everything I own, my job, my family, my coming cruise, my plans for the coming year ...my...my...my. When did we get the idea that this life is worth anything?

When did we loose sight of the FACT that we are Aliens here, that this is not reality, that our citizenship is elsewhere, that we are residents of the New Jerusalem, that we are part of an entire New Universe that Jesus will make all new after He rolls the old one up like a scroll, never to be unwound again. That Jesus HIMSELF is personally building a home for each of us to enter into.

We grasp the things of this life in a death grip so that even death itself has difficulty opening the closed fist of our hands that fiercely hold onto to the things of this life as we pass from it.

Why as believers is there so much HELL left in us that controls our thoughts, emotions and turns our focus and might I add our love away from the coming KING...Our Sovereign LORD.

So for my friend life here is not half empty, but half full. He is happy and content with the reflective light of the moon that illuminates shadows within shadows. He is content to drive the highway roads in darkness with the light of 3 to 5 others whose opinions give credibility to his own. Opinions that make them feel better, but cannot be defended in Scripture.

For me life is half empty because I know what I have to look forward to. I am not interested in the accumulated light of opinion that can surround me. I only know that Jesus promised to light up the path before me so I can take one step at a time and focus on HIM.

The Word of God says that Jesus is the light of the world and the truth. His eyes when He comes back will be like flames of fire that will penetrate the souls of those who will stand before HIM. The only thing that will soften those eyes of fire and light as HE looks upon us will be hearts full of love for HIM and souls without shadows in them.

Why would you want the reflected light of the moon to lead you on the path of life down here? Why would you want to delay His coming by even one minute for anything you might gain here in this life?

Why would you want to live in the shadow land's when you can have the SON Light lead you home to an eternal life worth living?

Gods Honor Role?

Through the years I have spoken to many believers in Christ about their God Stories; how they came to know the Lord. More often than not they had accepted the Risen Lord early in life.

They cannot remember a time when they did not know Him. For them the words of Christ...”let the little children come unto me” became reality as they ran to His open arms and were embraced by the Living God as children. They were born again through a simple child like faith into the family of God.

Others came to know Him as teenagers or during their early college years. These were times when the influence of Godly men and women made a difference in their lives. When being part of a group was important and growing in grace and wisdom was enhanced by nurturing mentors.

They were blessed because people took the time to invest their lives into them and disciple them. The soil of a young heart and the thought process of a young person are much more open to the Gospel.

As we grow older we become jaded Adults. Sin has had many years to grow deep roots within our hearts. We have become accustomed to sin. Our hearts are calloused, our conscience has been seared, our reasoning is flawed and we no longer know how to blush.

As adults we do not come to know Him through a simple child like faith. We are not interested in taking the time to seek Him, to learn of Him or to be disciplined by those who offer to invest their time into us.

God has a special program to reach adults. It is called the storms of life. They come and swirl around us for a very long time...until they break us. No longer can we look inside for answers. Our eyes look up and we cry out to the heavens for mercy and beg for hope. We innately know someone or something greater than us is out there and so we reach up to the heavens.

God calls out to mankind daily and says...Why have you not returned to me? Believe in ME and I will give you refuge from the storms and hope for your future!

And so the relentless waves of famine, hunger, drought, natural disasters, pestilence, crop disease, physical disease turn into never ending insurmountable waves of sorrow. For those that don't know Him life at best is bitter / sweet.

Have you ever noticed the design of Gods Cross, how its beams represent two linear lines that intersect each other. The vertical beam is planted deep into the earth that He created. His Cross is rooted into the dirt, the same dirt that He made mankind out of.

Through the roots of His Cross the earth drank deeply of His Blood as it poured forth into the parched ground. In the days of Moses, God had come down to lead His people as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This pillar was so large that it could be seen by the entire nation of Israel for miles in each direction of its encampment.

But this time, it was more personal. God came down in the form of a man and so the vertical Cross beam rooted in the earth reached upwards to heaven; connecting heaven to earth. For 33 years God lived and walked among us. He came seeking those with a child like faith. He came seeking those who needed mentoring and discipleship.

God came seeking the lost and the broken hearted that live without hope; to personally walk with each of them in the cool of the day and offer each a cup of cool living water.

The top of the beam reaches out to the same heavens that He created by the words coming forth from His mouth. God said to creation “Let there be”, and out of nothing came everything. But when He made us, He said “Let US make man in our image”.

The top of the beam of the Cross reaches up to the US; to His Father and the Holy Spirit. This Comforter gave each person new life by taking up residence within the hearts of those who believe in the Son of God.

And so the vertical beam connected Heaven to Earth, but the horizontal beam was more personal.

The Cross beam reaches around the entire globe. His arms were held there by love. His arms enfold each of us, and comfort each of us that accept the hand of God that reaches down from His Cross to draw us up to Himself.

These two linear lines form a coordinate locked into time. They form an ancient prophetic symbol upon which heaven would meet earth and God would meet man. The story of the God / Man is contained in Gods Autobiography.

I am sure you have taken the time to read the stories of men. Their stories can touch our hearts and emotions. But their stories are fiction, not real...not truth.

Their stories remind us of a truth deep within us. Echo's of a time before time, when truth was planted deep within our hearts by God. And so we rally behind the stories in the novels when love wins the day and justice is served. Because inside each of us is this need for love fulfilled and the desire for justice.

This truth buried deep within us is like a dream that is so real. Yet when we wake up the images recede back into the mists of our minds. It is like trying to grasp water or watching a wisp of smoke as it disappears into thin air.

Why is the Truth that difficult to grasp and understand?

Have you taken the time this year to begin reading the True Story of a visible King who brought an invisible Kingdom with Him? THE KING who came to save you not from yourself but from Himself. This King whose sacrificial love is greater than anything we can imagine is also Holy and demands that His justice be satisfied as well.

This King has a Book of Life. It is like the honor role list that you tried to earn a place on during your elementary, high school and college years. This honor role was based on your achievements. You were honored by your peers and the titles you received built up your pride and your passion in your accomplishments. This honor role prepared you for this life here on earth.

But the Book of Life is Gods honor role and you and I do not qualify to get on it. There is nothing we can achieve to make it. For we are not honorable, only God is to be honored.

In truth our accomplishments will all fall short, our dreams will never be realized, our possessions will become the possessions of others.

Why... it's simple to understand...we will die. We will die either young or old, either today or tomorrow ...but we will die.

Every honor given us by men will die with us and the life we lived, our legacy will recede back into the dream we lived on earth. Like an echo from the distant past, barely visible, difficult to hear...then gone forever....remembered by no one———except God.

This life is but a dream. Your real life will begin when you die. Don't spend this short time you have seeking the praises of men. They can do nothing for you.

Instead seek to know the Living God who waits for you to let Him into your heart. Then and only then will your name be written into Gods Honor Role...His Book of Life.

A wise man once made the statement ...How sad it is to be alone in the world. There is much truth in that statement because most of us will do everything we can to fill our lives with people, whether family or friends or strangers. We fear being alone.

We need crowds of people because we truly are not comfortable with ourselves. I can admit that many times in my life I have felt most alone while surrounded by many people...but at least there were people around me.

What is sadder yet is the fact that without God we will be alone forever...without anyone around us. Gods Autobiography is the only book worth spending your time with. Your true story is there, your past is there, your present is there and your future is there.

If you know Jesus as Lord, then realize He is coming back as your King to hear from your lips how you served Him. He wants to know your account of the precious time He gave you and whether you made a difference for Him.

This life is not about you but about your King.

May every breath of life you take into your lungs go forth from your mouth as words of life to those around you. Tell people about your King and His Kingdom. Tell them why they need to be saved and from what.

Tell them about HIS Cross.

EARTH SONG ... to Sing is JOY

The Word of God speaks of a time in the future when all Heaven and Nature will sing a triumphant new song.

Take a moment to think about that. If your are like me I immediately think of my favorite artists and huge orchestral refrains creating a symphony of sound and joy created by instrument's that mankind has made.

We think like that because all we have known is Earth.

But that is not what this is about. This is about the Sound of Joy lifted up by creatures and nature before the God of Creation. In Psalm 96:1 it says... sing to the Lord a **new song**; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

When I was a small boy and I misbehaved my father, who always disciplined with reason said to me in his broken English; Ernie, you need to be a listen boy... you need to listen!

There is so much noise in the world that we have trouble listening to anything. Yet sound is all around us. In fact there are people and equipment within the scientific community devoted to recording the sounds of the living earth.

Think with me for a moment. I can mention types of sound and you will hear a sound bite in your mind. "Crickets chirping, frogs croaking, an eagles shrill cry, a dogs bark, a lions roar, whales calling each other beneath the sea, a baby laughing, leaves of trees rustling in the wind, running water, waves coming in onto the shore, sea gulls calling to each other, raindrops against windows in a storm, and the sound you hear but cannot ever see...the wind.

I could go on and on and on. Amazing is it not? All these sounds and millions more were created by God. They represent a daily worship chorus of one united voice that gives praise to the God that created everything for the purpose of Praising HIM.

What about the sounds of heaven? What comes to your mind? What is the most beautiful instrument created by God to Praise and Worship HIM?

Have you ever heard a choral ensemble, made up of voices only? Have you listened to a boy's choir singing hymns in a cathedral? Have you listened to acapella singing? Yes, beautiful pure sounds come forth from human voices.

But human voices are no match for the purity of Angelic Voices that are HOLY, and without sin. God created the HOLY Angels before us to worship and sing Praises to Him. Did you know the HOLY Angels provided musical accompaniment to the greatest voice of all...the Voice of God at the Creation when HE spoke the Universe into existence.

Job 38:6-8...“When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.”

Did you know that God also Sings?

Zephaniah 3:17 ...“For the Lord your God is living among you.? He is a mighty Savior.? He will take delight in you with gladness.? With his love, he will calm all your fears...and **He will rejoice over you with singing.**”

There are few recorded moments in Scripture where Joy burst out in Song from the lips of HOLY Angels. The night of the Saviors birth was filled with Angel song. The night sky literally tore open as darkness gave way to the light of millions of HOLY Angels as they sang Praises at the Birth of the Messiah of Israel, Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel...
God With US.

God became a HOLY human embryo. He became the God/Man in whom two worlds would forever be united as one in HIM. The MYSTERY of the Old Testament, took on FLESH in the New Testament.

Some would have you believe that today the HOLY Angels are silent. I don't agree. I know the songs of HOLY Angels are not silent because we are told that they REJOICE over one person who repents and comes to Salvation in Christ...the SON of the Living God.

Luke 15:6-8 ...“there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God...”

So maybe if you take seriously the call on your life as a Believer to share HIS Gospel; you will be there to plant the last seed. You will be there to see the lights come alive in someone's eyes as the HOLY Spirit ignites their heart, mind and Soul in faith in Christ.

When it happens listen closely and you might hear the Songs of HOLY Angels and feel the brush of their wings as they form a HOLY Hedge of Protection around the New Born Believer in Christ.

In 23 years of witnessing God has only honored me twice where I put the last seed into the heart of a true seeker of God...then watched in awe as JOY took over them.

For the most part the songs of HOLY Angels can be heard echoing in the wind that flows throughout the Earth and the Heavens. Their Song lingers, slowly building momentum for the Coronation day yet to come in the near future. The Day when the KING of KINGS and the LORD of LORDS takes HIS rightful place on the throne of Heaven and Earth.

The Angels with us wait for this day. It will be a day of Jubilation, of Praise, and Worship, of Singing and Pure JOY. It will be THE DAY when all the voices of Heaven and Nature sing a New SONG to the King of Men, the King of Angels, the KING of ETERNITY.

You and I love music, we love to watch musicals, and we all love to sing. This ability to sing is a gift from God to you and I. It is our way of expressing JOY. Here on Earth we communicate with words.

But I'll bet your life, that in Heaven we will communicate with Nature and the Angels and each other and with God... in Song.

D _ _ H O P _ O _ _ E _ S
_ _ _ I _ _ Y _

Have you ever wondered what stands out among all people as a common thread? This thread knits humanity together literally no matter where you live on the face of the planet.

There is a unifying view or event that every person, no matter where they live can agree on. The first thing that comes to mind is our common need to believe in a higher power than ourselves. We call this religion. In a sense this is true but religion actually separates us because there are so many different religious systems covering our earth.

You will not find unity of any kind between the religious systems of Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Mormonism, Judaism, Atheism or any other ism. Their common thread if asked would be their belief in God. However the God within each is not the same.

Many of you have had world religion courses in High School or College. All you truly can say is that you have learned about the many faces of different gods. You have not learned of the many characteristics of the ONE TRUE GOD.

So again I ask you what would you say brings the entire earth together? There is a hint in the last word of the letter puzzle above. I will give you that last word...its Holiday.

I believe we are all people of Joy and we all have Holidays within our cultures that we celebrate at different times during the year. It makes no difference where on the planet...every culture celebrates holidays.

But Ernie, you are thinking; the holidays are as different as their religious beliefs. Yes that's true, but we all want times of Joy and celebration don't we. Yet that still is not my point to this message. You'll notice that the letter puzzle still has two more words in it.

Let me give you the middle word in the puzzle. It is the word Prophets. So far you have Prophets Holiday. The more you think about it the less sense it will make to you. The reason is that you are missing a part of the puzzle that is not recorded in History up to this point. But it is recorded in the future events that God has written down in His Word to us.

This Holiday yet future will be the most unusual holiday ever celebrated by mankind. It will be a new celebration around the world that will last

for 3 days. A celebration of such joy that people in all cultures will exchange gifts to commemorate it.

So follow me, lets enter the time tunnel. You and I have traveled it before. Stay close because it is extremely dark. The reason is that time as been shrouded in darkness since it began. There is no light at either end of the tunnel, only the soft glow from the windows of the doors we will stand before and peer into.

Kind of eerie isn't it as you look in either direction all you see is blackness with millions of points of light. It almost looks like a starry night. The main difference is our night sky is filled with points of light everywhere you look. Down here the points are on a linear plane. One point follows another seemingly with no end or beginning; stretching in both directions into infinity.

The doors are all locked to the past and the future. Only those doors to the present can be opened, but our time seems to hold little interest to many of us.

Ah, here's the door. It's marked with a verse in the Bible...*Revelation ch. 11 vs. 3*. It is about two witnesses that God will provide to speak on HIS behalf to all mankind on the face of the earth. Rather than me telling it to you, I will let God tell it to you himself.

I (**GOD**) will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days (**3 ½ years**)."

4 These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lamp stands that stand before the Lord of all the earth. **5** If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. **6** ***They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.*** **7** When they complete their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit (**satan**) will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them. **8** And their bodies will lie in the main street of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called "Sodom" and "Egypt," the city where their Lord was crucified. **9** And for three and a half days, all peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will stare at their bodies. (**CNN**) No one will be allowed to bury them. **10** All the people who belong to this world will gloat over them and ***give presents to each other to celebrate the death of the two prophets who had tormented them.*** **11** But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, ***and they stood up!*** Terror struck all who were staring at them. **12** Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, "Come up here!" And they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched.

God gave the Apostle John a vision of the future while on the Isle of Patmos. John wrote this vision down in the book of Revelation. The latter is an excerpt from the book. What you read is a slice of time from the second half of the tribulation period where God allows Hell to reign on earth. These two witnesses for God will bring devastation to the earth for 3 ½ years. (*See verse 6 in bold again.*)

When they die the whole world will see it happen. The celebration by fallen mankind will be so ecstatic that they will declare a “*Dead Prophets Holiday*”; and all the people living on the earth will join together in celebration. The cameras of CNN will be focused on their dead bodies for 3 days as joy fills the earth. But then, these two witnesses to the world will rise from the dead while the CNN cameras are running.

It is obvious that I have a passion for Prophecy. Maybe you never thought about it but you have a passion for it as well. People for millennia have been interested in the occult, in magic, in Ghosts, in people who claim they can see the future or speak to the dead. We all are interested in what’s coming especially in relation to ourselves and those we love.

From the Magi in ancient times to Nostradamus, to magicians like David Copperfield and David Blaine to psychic’s like Edgar Cayce and Jean Dixon to whomever is the current prognosticators...we just want to know the future.

Well the record for people like those I named is less than 10 % correct on anything they predict. Also the predictions are so vague they are open to interpretation.

But GOD...on the other hand has a 100% accuracy rate of predictions. Plus, they are in such minut detail that there is no possibility of any vague interpretations.

You can go back into time to the most ancient of days and you will find HIS Word to be true and verified through trusted ancient historians. Or you can go back through archeology and sift the sands of time and find corroboration of every, name, place, city, and King.

The reason for disbelief in the Son of God and the Word of God has never been the evidence. There is insurmountable evidence for the veracity of the Bible. Yet people continue to live their lives completely ignoring God and His calling out in love to everyone to repent so He will not have to judge and condemn people.

So what will it take, obviously not the facts nor the truth. We tend as humans not to react to threats or words. We are motivated when things affect us or threaten our loved ones physically.

Since every one of Gods prophecies has come true from the past thru today. Be assured that the prophecies from today into the future will also come true. No other book ever written can tell you the future...but this one can and does.

It is prewritten history by the God who lives outside of time and sees the end back to the beginning.

So instead of seeking psychics, palm readers, magicians and reading your astrological signs by day.... wouldn't it make more sense to read about the future from the one who has already recorded it for you in a book filled with a trusted and true record of what's coming?

Especially since what is coming will affect you and those you love personally, physically and permanently. The Book has one purpose. It was written as a warning to you, so you can make an intelligent choice based on facts.

The book is waiting for you. Claiming ignorance later when you stand before its author will be no excuse. Don't cast your fate to the winds...for there is no such thing as fate...only a choice that will lead to an irrevocable decision...that will be made by your choice...not Gods.

Revelation 22:7...And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the **prophecy** (the predictions, and warnings) of this book.”

(Quoted from the lips of God)

Halloween from God's Perspective Revisited.

A simple question for you. If Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Gods Son, who came to die for our sins, then who are we celebrating at Halloween?

Have you been watching the new shows this year? Seems to me that the themes continue to glorify things that go bump in the dark. We have Ghost Whisperers, Vampires, even people with the ability to bring the dead to life; quite the comedy.

The nation of Israel in Isaiah's time didn't have television where people could live through the lives of others for entertainment. They actually lived their lives doing the things that we only watch on television.

They enjoyed walking in two worlds that can never combine into one. They walked in the light and walked in the darkness...they walked according to their will not the Will of God.

God questioned through Isaiah why the people of Israel chose to walk on the dark side:

When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God?

It seems that God would have you consult His Word regarding the dark side. The side where satan and his fallen angels exist, seems to be enticing, interesting...we like the dark, we like to live in the shadows... the occult fascinates us.

Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony!

Yes, it's plain that God wants you to evaluate this holiday of the living dead according to His Word.

If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.

The Apostle Paul warns us of the deception of those that roam the dark side that we are not to look into the lies spoken from the darkness but rather to the light of Gods word.

Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

God has prepared a special place for satan and his fallen angels. The horror of it all is that fallen men and women will join them there. As a society we continue to play with fire, expecting never to get burned.

BOO...No.... don't be afraid. This message is not a lecture about whether a Christian should be celebrating Halloween. Actually it's more of an introspective look into my own struggles as a believer and whether my own life and actions are true to my faith in God.

You know what I mean. Am I walking the talk or am I full of hollow words because my life does not exemplify the ONE I serve. I am called to walk in the light. The light of course represents daylight in which we walk awake with our eyes open seeing the path ahead. I fear that more often than not I walk in the dark, sleep walking in part of the shadow's that surround and pervade our world.

I am a believer, but sometimes I think like a non-believer because I want to run with the crowd. I know I serve a Living God who has called me to be a person who remembers Him. Too often I need to be reminded to remember Him.

I seem to forget that everything I do, I do before the eyes of God. To Him there is no darkness no shadows, only light. He will judge my every word, every deed, every thought, my very heart and my motives.

It is hard to relate to God daily because He is invisible, but He is invisible everywhere at the same time. He is Omnipresent. When I became one of His, He promised to get me safely home to Him. But the choices I make during this journey called life He left to me. Those choices all have consequences.

We all know Halloween is a holiday that everyone has really gotten into. It used to be just for the kids, now we dress up in costumes at the office, we decorate our bushes in front of our homes with little orange pumpkin lights. Put cute pictures in our windows, ghastly pumpkins on our porch. We go to parties in costumes, giving us all another excuse to drink a little too much, but of course as long as we have designated drivers...its ok.

Our kids love Halloween, they get to stay out later, collect candy, pretend they are witches, goblins, superhero's, a princess, Harry Potter...just

about anything they can imagine. Its fun to run around in the dark because no one really knows who you are, so you can be anyone or anything you want.

Every year at this time we are bombarded by Christian books, television and radio broadcasts that say its ok to celebrate this holiday with the world. Use it for God, it's a great time to witness and share your faith at the door. Throw a Christian tract about the Pagan roots of the holiday into the little ghost's bag along with the candy. God will use the tract to reach out to someone in their family, right?

As a believer in Christ again this year I will turn off my front porch light, dim my house lights, and send a message I think will be clear..."I choose not to endorse or support this holiday any longer, please pass my house by."

Last year I did the same, but do you think that stopped waves of little gremlins and teenage ghouls from coming up on my darkened porch, waving flashlights into my home, banging on my door, ringing the doorbell, disrupting my privacy? No, their parents, (who noticed the absence of light on my porch), encouraged them on to scream Trick or Treat, while the teenagers on my porch yelled other epithets!

It amazed me, but then Halloween is a dark holiday that appeals to those who have walked in the light and in the shadows. A tightrope walk, part of two worlds that cannot exist together...that will not exist together. So the kids and their parents were both drawn to the light on porches and also to the darkness, the absence of light, on the porches. They were all focused only on one thing; fulfilling their desires.

I chose not to take part in this holiday because for several years now I have been trying to understand God, His Word, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mankind and his coming end, Evil, Sin and Prophecy. Many of you have been part of my personal journey and growth through the stories I have written; sometimes get to be 3 - 7 pages long.

The point to all this is simply that when you read Scripture you realize that God's word has never changed. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He calls us to obey the words He wrote thousands of years ago that still ring true today and to walk in the light, not in the darkness.

He calls us to be separate from the world. Yes, we live among people, but we are called to walk differently, because of the one who died for you and me.

Yet more often than not, we choose to disobey His words by rationalizing our choices, trying to be part of the crowd and partake in everything our society does.

Instead of standing out and standing up for Gods principals, we choose to blend in. It's safer, no ridicule, no confrontation where we will have to stand alone and defend our Faith. Instead, we throw tracts in bags and let God do the work he called us to do.

What each of you chooses to do with Halloween is up to you. You do not have to worry about it till you stand before Him. Just be prepared to answer the questionWhy?

On Being Humble

There is an example for us in the Bible of a man who understood himself. He knew why he was born, how he was to live, what his purpose for living was, and who to rely on for all his needs.

This man according to Scripture was one of a handful of men that God Himself loved in a more personal way. What I have just stated makes most of us think of David of whom God said, “ he was a man after Gods own heart.”

David lived a life of extreme sin before his God and before his family and children. David was in a state of continuous need for forgiveness because of the horrible things he did. David relentlessly sought the heart of God and was granted Mercy because of his repentant heart for he knew every Sin he committed was before the eyes of God.

Or, maybe you thought of Noah, a man who lived his life in faith constantly preaching the coming Judgment of God to a world gone mad. Noah loved God and was not ashamed of HIS Name. He stood alone for God before an evil world. His pulpit for 120 years was the Ark of Salvation that God had asked him to build before a people who came not to listen but to Mock God.

Noah was an example to his family as he preached in faith of a coming storm that would bring the world something they had never experienced up to that time. A deluge was coming, a flood that would cover the entire planet. We know it as rain, but it was really the tears of God.

For God was sorry that He had created mankind.

Because Noah had faith in the unseen God and proclaimed HIM to a dying world, God gave HIM the lives of those he loved the most. His wife and children went into the Ark with Noah as the rest of humanity drowned in the tears of God.

It is not Noah, nor David that comes to my mind. Each was special as was Abraham, Moses, Job, Elijah, etc. But it is Enoch that God loved in a more personal way. For it is said of Enoch that, “he walked with God and then was no more”.

Enoch is the second person known in Scripture to have had the honor of a special personal relationship with the Living God. The first was Adam of whom Scripture says, “ God walked with Adam in the cool of the day”.

I cannot even imagine what it would be like to walk with the visible God; next to me, walking step for step with me. Adam's walk began in perfection but ended all too soon because of sin. His walk was supposed to last for eternity, but instead lasted but for a short time.

Enoch loved God with all his heart, mind and soul. Enoch walked in faith, in humility, in compassion for the lost around him, in righteousness and in humbleness. He did this in a time and among people who lived only for fulfilling their own passions and desires.

The name Enoch means, "Teacher". Enoch understood himself. He knew why he was born, how he was to live. He knew what his purpose for living was and who he could rely on for all his needs.

Enoch knew God intimately. Enoch walked with God, not in a perfect garden but in a fallen world that the Scripture said, was continually evil. A world so evil, that the heart and mind of every human being was focused on depravity all the time.

Enoch walked in a world without light, in utter darkness. Yet, the light of God lighted every step of the path that Enoch took as Enoch took the Hand of God and boldly walked into the darkness.

Enoch stood alone for God everywhere he went. You see Enoch was filled with the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of God and so his name defined him as a teacher. He was a teacher anointed by God to go forth and proclaim HIM to a fallen world.

So Enoch stood in the Gap for God at the office, at the client, in the restaurant, in the bar, in his neighbor's home, at the family gatherings but most of all, before everyone he loved.

Everything Enoch stood for had its foundation in the Truth about God. And so it should also be with each of us. We can be a little like:

David....a man after Gods own heart. Or Noah...a man of great faith, called to preach the word of God.

Or like Enoch, a gentle teacher called to impart the Truth of Gods Word to all those who would listen. Enoch still a sinner, received Mercy and Grace from His maker. He lived his entire life openly before all people sharing his faith in the God with whom he chose to walk all the way to heaven.

So this Thanksgiving **I am thankful that I try** but fail to be a man after Gods own heart. **I am thankful that I try** to tell people, even though it generally falls on deaf ears about the Truth of God and their need to prepare for the coming judgment.

I am thankful that I try to live everyday for God. More often than not I fail to do so. You see I am not a David, or a Noah and certainly not an Enoch.

But like them, I am a Sinner, saved by God's Grace, through Faith Alone, through Christ Alone.

What I am thankful for is God's Mercy to me and that He sent His Son to die on that Cross for me. He left me a helper who lives inside of me so when I am weak He is Strong.

And finally **I am thankful** that the passion that burns within me is to share the Messiah of Israel, the Christ of Christmas with all of you and anyone else that God brings me an opportunity to speak with.

I am truly humbled by Gods ability to use cracked pots of clay for His Glory. We do our best to derail HIS purposes. But still His Will gets done in our lives as He arranges meetings in time between His seed planters and the hearts of those whom He has pre-destined to receive the seeds.

May you all Praise God from whom all Blessings flow. May you all give HIM GLORY and HONOR this Thanksgiving Holiday Season because He is in control of it all...and for that **I am very thankful.**

HE IS....ALMIGHTY GOD.

If I could choose a person...

*“There are times when God sends Thunder to stir us.
There are times when God sends Blessings to lure us.*

*But then there are times when God sends nothing
but Silence as he honors us with the freedom
to choose where we spend eternity.*

*God voluntarily restricts His all powerful nature when it
comes to our privilege to choose or reject Him.”*

Anonymous

Elyse and I recently had some dear friends over to see our new condo. It was a pleasant evening. As friends do we spoke about our lives our kids, our families our jobs, even politics, religion and fears about world events.

A question was asked during the evening and we all took turns answering it.

“If you could choose 5 people living today to spend an evening with asking them meaningful questions, who would they be?”

These people had to be those you admired, who walked on the world’s stage....as leaders in some area of life, as role models.

As each person took their turn I listened to their answers. Then it was my turn to speak, but I passed still needing more time to make my choice. More names of people were called out. Now we were into the names of those who were no longer alive, people from history past.

My mind raced but remained blank and my lips never spoke one name. I actually began to panic within myself. The question was only hypothetical, and my answer was to be given among friends. So why couldn’t I come up with a name?

Elyse saw my plight and said how about John MacArthur or Billy Graham. Elyse knew that I greatly respected both of these men. Yet I heard myself say no.

Then the conversation turned back to current events in the Middle East. People in general stay away from topics like politics and religion. But

these two areas are tied together when you try to discuss answers to the looming shadow of an all out war in the Middle East and how it will affect our country.

The evening ended late as it will when good friends get together. We solved no problems in the world including peace in the Middle East, or global warming or the next President of the United States.

However, as I shut the light in our bedroom and pulled the covers over me in bed. I still had no answer to the question asked of me about naming 5 people from anywhere in the world alive or dead that I would like to spend an evening in conversation with.

That night my answer remained elusive as I stared into the darkness.

Several days have gone by since our gathering. It's midnight and I am sitting here writing and thinking ...and the answer has now become crystal clear to me.

Before I can decide who those people are I need to determine what question's I have for them that I need answered. What have these people done to impress me enough that I can give them special status among men?

Life is full of questions, but what questions do I truly want answered that have meaning to me. What questions if I received the answers to would change me and the way I live my life? Deep questions from within me that my very soul, the essence of who I am, cries out to understand.

The only questions that I need answers too are...Who am I? How did I get here? What am I to do here on this earth? Where am I going when I die?

Are there 5 people either alive or dead that I would want to spend time with? People I admire; people that have touched the world and me?

The answer is no. There is only one person who continues to come to mind that has touched the world and me personally.

Let me give you some of His accomplishments to consider.

...He spoke the universe into existence from nothing
...He created you and I
...He created Angels
...He parted the waters of the Red Sea
...He became a baby born of a virgin
...He became the God/Man

...He commanded a storm to be still and walked on water
... He healed the sick and the lame
...He healed the deaf, the dumb and the blind
...He created limbs where none existed
...He fed thousands from a child's sack lunch
...He commanded fallen angels / demons to come out of people
...He raised the dead and gave them life
...He is a real person
...He lived a real life and walked this Earth
...He died a real death on the Cross
...He came back from the dead

I do not know what the future holds ...But I do know who holds the future in His Hands ! And He is coming back again soon !

There is no one like Him. Only He commands my interest. Only He can answer those question's that used to torment my soul:

Who am I? I am a child of God; Jesus is my Lord, and my King. I was given to Jesus by God as a love gift. I am one of His sheep.

How did I get here? God said in Psalm 139 vs 13 that He knew me before I was in my Mothers womb in eternity past. God said in Romans 8 vs.29, that whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become a believer in His Son Jesus.

What am I to do here on earth? I am to live out the "Great Commission": To make disciples of all nations, teaching people about the word of God; telling all the Good News of John 3:16.

Where am I going when I die? Because Jesus died for my sins and He was resurrected, and He is alive today; I too will live forever with Him in heaven because I accepted Him as my Lord and Savior.

"Because He lives" are the 3 small words I base my entire existence upon. They form a foundation of how I should be witnessing to those all around me.

God is looking for those that seek Him. Today there are very few people that are truly seeking Him. Throughout the Old and New Testaments only one message clearly comes through.

That there have always been and always will be the many and the few, the lost and the found.

History is rooted in time, but the time is coming when time will be no more.

When I pray for people to witness too I ask God to bring those that are sincerely seeking Him. I am called by Christ to be able to defend my faith in this battle for the minds, hearts and souls of people. That battle usually comes when people attack my faith. I do not expect to win over people who attack my faith because their purpose is only to attack.

But by being able to defend my faith, standing in strength in front of those that attack me; those people around me listening and watching see and hear that I do not believe in myths, fairy tales or legends.

My faith is in someone real. Both His life and His *Death and Resurrection* are rooted in history. Explaining those documented facts is the only topic and the only point of witnessing. That is why Jesus asks you the question that echo's throughout time...“Who do **you** say that I am?”

So is there anyone in the world either alive or dead that I would want to have a conversation with...yes...the one and only person who fits both categories. The ONLY ONE who lived and died and now is alive again ...the Son of God, the God / Man...Jesus.

Never before had a king died only to succeed himself to the throne.

But Christ did:

Never before had a man been crucified and buried only to emerge bodily three days later.

But Christ did:

Never before had a man endured such human hatred in order to demonstrate such divine love.

But Christ did:

No other:

event in human history could be so aptly described as “old, *yet forever new*.”

No other:

single piece of good news has brought more comfort, more encouragement, and more peace to more people than the ringing declaration...

“HE is RISEN!”

**If we are not sharing the gospel with others
then we truly have not heard it ourselves.**

“In the Beginning God”

It is either All Gods Word or not gods' word at all!

The very first sentence of the Bible is very precious to me. In my early quest to know God I listened to many Pastors, Teachers, Family Members, Friends, Co-Workers. All had a view based on their own experiences.

But experiences and opinions have nothing to do with who God IS. God has revealed HIMSELF to us only within His recorded words contained in the Holy Bible. I appreciated the input of many, but have come to respect and trust only the pure Word of God.

At the onset of my journey I heard the word Apologetics. I thought why would their be a category based on apologizing for the word of God. I was ignorant and immature in the Faith. Later I understood that the word Apologetics meant the study of how to defend your faith in an ever-increasing hostile environment.

As a Believer I have found my greatest passion is to learn how to defend my faith. The more I have studied, the more I have tested my faith in battle the more I have understood beyond any doubt... that without the Judeo/Christian Bible we would have no Idea, and no Revelation of who God is. Man on his own could never know who God is. Instead God has chosen to reveal Himself in only ONE Book. This book is a gift kept pure throughout the centuries of mankind's earthly journey. This book will remain as a witness to the love, compassion, mercy and grace of our God for the coming epochs of eternity to the redeemed of all ages.

The Bible is the Autobiography of God in which He has revealed both Himself, humanities ultimate death sentence, His chosen Messiah / Redeemer / Savior, and the detailed history of mankind's past, present and future. As I have said before, you are part of the Bibles Pre-written History; because you are part of mankind.

The question is whether you will be part of the continuing history of the Son of God. For the history of man is coming to a close. But the history of the Son of God is just beginning. All history is ...HIS story.

The Bibles beginning account of Creation is as much historical fact as are the accounts of the people, places and events recorded in it. The Bible is unique in that it is the only book of its kind that uses pre-recorded history (prophecy), to substantiate that it is written by God through the inspiration of both the Jewish Prophets and Jewish Apostles.

Today we live by faith rather than by sight. It's difficult for most of us to do this. But God has given us a mind to think and reason with. It is my hope and prayer that you will be able to engage your mind and think thru the defendable prophetic and historical facts of Scripture.

When you do this, you will understand that:

Faith is trust based on evidence...We choose to believe.

GOD BECAME A MAN ...so HE could rescue "Some of us" that Believe.

No one has been left out of His invitation to come to Him...not even you.

The Bible IS the autobiography of God.

Yeshua / Jesus when He died on the Cross said "It is Finished"...but it is by NO Means the end of the story!

The "Greatest Story Ever Told" is about New Beginnings, a new Creation, a new Universe, a new Earth that will join with Heaven...and a new You.

Salvation is not about mans religion, but about a Personal Relationship between you and the SON of GOD.

"God has planted eternity in the hearts of all men"...if you but seek HIM and understand you will gain the assurance of your Salvation.

God is collecting all of His tears and all of humanities tears in a bottle. In the end there will be a new beginning. For now God sheds tears over you. Soon when He comes again there will be no more tears.

The fire in Gods eyes will have evaporated all the tears HE has shed over wayward people throughout time and history.

God gave us all free will. Everyone will go to the place they have chosen...He will grant their wishes forever.

You cannot pick and choose what you want to believe from Gods word. If you do then I question your faith and the road you are on.

To all who never believed the foundational statement by God when He wrote "**In the Beginning God**"...then you must question every word after that statement.

As you begin to question you will find that you have spent your life building your house of faith on shifting sand and not the rock foundation of Faith in God and His literal Word to us.

For you, His Mercy and Grace will be gone...as He comes back only in Judgment.

But if you know Him and have a personal relationship with Him, and believe in the complete council of God; then He comes to you in Song, with a smile in His heart that will light up your heart forever.

“He who was seated on the throne said **I am making everything new!** Then he said, “**Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”**

**“Look to Me ALL you ends
of the earth!**

**For I AM God
and there is no other”**

Fear No man...but Fear God.

It's SIMPLE...not hard!

Ask most people about the Word of God and the first thing you will hear is that it is too hard to understand. There are too many words, too many themes, and too many different concepts to wrap our minds around.

There are too many examples of imperfect people used to try and teach us about perfection. It just takes too much time to devote to reading it...and then who is going to interpret it for us?

And so they cannot get beyond the first 3 pages of any of the Bibles books, let alone take on the daunting task of reading the book in its entirety.

Many of these people have a passion for reading. In fact they read voraciously. They can read one novel after another with no problem. This happens because the novels appeal to their passions, their raw emotions as humans filled with lust, greed, arrogance, pride and a multitude of sins that filled the dregs of the cup that Christ drank and died for on the Cross.

But to read the only book that was written personally to each of them by the God of the Universe...well that's just too much effort; even though this book tells them who God is, who they are and the choice they have to make that will determine their future.

Its obvious to me that everyone has an opinion on the Book that God wrote and they are very vocal about that if asked.

Yet the opinions of these people were formed by someone else's opinion, whose opinion was formed by someone else's opinion, who never once opened the Book to see what was on its pages.

In the end most everyone is risking their eternal destiny on the opinions of others rather than taking the time to explore Gods Word for himself or herself. These people could care less about absolute truth or the consequences of ignoring this truth.

God has made His Word SIMPLE and EASY to understand not complicated and unknowable. He uses an economy of words that explain concepts of great depth so all people can understand what HE means. Rest assured that God always means what He says and says what He means.

With the latter said I am giving you 2 examples of writing that will take you through the entire Bible message in about 2 minutes each. Then I will end this by giving you a poem by anonymous (one of my favorite writers).

This will bring the point home that God is God and you are His Child and everything He has written to YOU in His Book is simple enough for His Children to understand.

YOU....WE ...are all without excuse!

A Selection from *God Came Near*, by Max Lucado

A sudden breeze, surprisingly warm, whistles through the leaves scattering dust from the lifeless form. And with the breath of fresh air comes the difference.

Winging on the warm wind is His image. Laughter is laid in the sculpted cheeks. A reservoir of tears is stored in the soul. A sprinkling of twinkle for the eyes. Poetry for the spirit. Logic. Loyalty. Like leaves on an autumn breeze, they float and land and are absorbed. His gifts become a part of him.

His Majesty smiles at his image, "It is Good."

The eyes open.

Oneness. Creator and created walking on the riverbank. Laughter. Purity. Innocent joy. Life unending.

Then the tree.

The struggle. The snake. The lie. The enticement. Heart torn, lured. Soul drawn to pleasure, to independence, to importance. Inner agony. Whose will?

The choice. Death of innocence. Entrance of death. The fall.

Tearstains mingling with fruit-stains...
(Then,) The Quest.

"Abram, you will father a nation! And Abram—tell the people I love them."

Moses, you will deliver my people! And Moses—tell the people I love them."

"Joshua, you will lead the chosen ones! And Joshua—tell the people I love them."

"David, you will reign over the people! And David—tell the people I love them."

“Jeremiah, you will bear tidings of bondage! But Jeremiah, remind my children, remind my children that I love them.”....

...God watching, never turning, ever loving, ever yearning for the Garden again...

(Finally,) Empty throne. Spirit descending. Hushed angels.

A girl...a womb...an egg.

The same Divine Artist again forms a body. This time His own. Fleshly divinity. Skin layered on Spirit. Omnipotence with hair. Toenails. Knuckles. Molars. Kneecaps.

Once again He walks with man. Yet the Garden is now thorny. Thorns that remain lodged, leaving bitter wounds. Disharmony. Sickness. Betrayal. Fear. Guilt...

And once again, a tree.

Once again the struggle. The snake. The enticement. Heart torn, lured.

Once again the question, “Whose will?”

Then the choice. Tearstains mingle with bloodstains. Relationship restored. Bridge erected.

Once again He smiles. “It is Good.”

“For just as death came by the means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with CHRIST”.

(1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

The Bible distilled down to 4 points, taken from Quiet Thunder, by Ernie Pahlek

Four simple points. These four points contain depths of knowledge beyond our comprehension. For who among those He has created can say they understand Him or even begin to know HIM.

Point One: God had a vision to create an ultimate Holy and Eternal World where God and man would co exist. This vision became reality when God said, “Let there be Light....” And so there was a place where God and man could walk together in a garden, in the cool of the day.

Point Two: Sin entered into this pristine world, twisting the relationship between God and man. This disease born on the dark wings of a fallen angel named Lucifer spread to every man and woman made in the image of God for all time.

Point Three: Two worlds now existed side by side. Two dimensions occupying the same space but not the same time. God in one and man in the other. But God promised to send His Son to redeem mankind and the world he lived in and re-unite both planes of existence...into ONE.

And so the God / Man was born into the world to die for the world and make it ONE again.

Point Four: In the beginning everything was made new. Then for a time everything new became old and life became a cycle of continuing birth and death. But just as God had created the beginning He also created the new beginning of the end.

God would bring forth new birth pangs that would ultimately give birth to a new blending of Earth and Heaven, a place where God and Man again would walk together forever.

I end this with a poem by Anonymous who also has used an economy of words to simplify a subject so deep...yet meant for even a child to understand.

Messiah Revealed

*Their faces I formed so that mine they would seek
Ears to listen for the Word I would speak
Eyes to see, minds to understand
All they required I made with my Hand*

*The Law and the Prophets for centuries foretold
The birth of a baby begotten of old*

*In words unencoded, with language so plain
That even the simplest could call on my name
Fathom mysteries confounding the wise
See the Messiah through a Child's eyes*

The Bible is the Greatest Non-Fiction Story Ever Written and your Father...Almighty God wrote it especially for you and to you. And I heard HIM say to me in my heart...

Ernie...remind my children that I love them.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem...Oh How I...

(Matthew 23:37)

Where do you worship, praise, pray and cry out to God? Yes, I know you do that in Church surrounded by fellow believers. But where is your prayer closet...your special place to meet with the living God. The place where He always waits ready to meet you face to face with no one else around.

Mine is in my car on the way to work and back. I close out the world from my thoughts and put on music that uplifts my heart and soul before His throne. There, everyday, I raise my voice in words and song to the living God to pray, to praise, to worship, to cry and just to talk.

Did you know that Jesus is waiting not only for all Christian believers to praise and worship Him from around the earth... but also for Jewish believers?

When Jesus entered Jerusalem as prophesied on the foal of a donkey thousands of Jews took up the branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him and began to cry out, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.

Then later Jesus cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem through both physical and verbal conflict with the Pharisees. Jesus exited the Temple and began His Lament over Jerusalem by saying the following recorded in Matthew 23:37-39:

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. (Speaking of the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in 70 AD...and the dispersion of the nation of Israel).

For I tell you, **you (The Nation of Israel) will not see me (Yeshua/Jesus) again until you say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”**

The first joyous entrance into Jerusalem happened because the people recognized Jesus as their Messiah and King. Out of all the miracles seen by the people, raising Lazarus from the dead was the most spectacular. Had the people not responded as they did to Jesus entrance into Jerusalem; God would have raised up voices from the very stones to proclaim His Son, King of the Jews, and King of Jerusalem, the City of God.

But later after His last Passover Supper and after He was Crucified and Resurrected from the dead outside the City of David (Jerusalem) you would have expected greater joy from the Jews...but that was not to be. Instead the Jews have never re-gathered in Jerusalem for 2,000 years to say, "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord".

Until... the year 1995 during the Jewish Holiday of Passover in Jerusalem.

The call went out to Messianic Jews (Jewish Believers in Jesus) all over the world for an ingathering. They met in the International Center in Jerusalem 3,000 strong from 14 nations for a Praise and Worship Service to Jesus...The Son of God...The Lord God of Israel...the King of the Jews.

A friend gave me the worship music CD. It is called "Shalom Jerusalem" by Paul Wilbur. Paul speaks in the middle of the CD and says:

"The Lord, at a Passover Meal said O Jerusalem, Jerusalem you will not see me again until you say Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord... Jerusalem whose foundations were laid by King David himself...God knew about this gathering since before the world was formed.

That one day in this very place there would be a people called out from every tribe and tongue and people and nation to be a priesthood of Nations unto the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah and a host of nameless others who would call out to the God of Israel.

2,000 years ago during this Passover season, Messiah Yeshua saw all of this and said How I long to gather you but you will not see me again until you say Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord....

Let us now invite Him to return and take up the Throne that belongs to HIM ALONE..."

YES...2000 years later there was a sign. A gathering in Jerusalem from every nation and tribe were Jews have been scattered throughout the world.

And so a celebration in the land of Israel in the city of Jerusalem the city of David by Born again Jews finally took place. Where voices, hearts and hands were lifted to heaven before the throne of God to glorify the Son of God. Singing together ...Blessed is He (Jesus) who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Since 1985 I have grown up in the Church with beautiful Hymns and worship songs that touch me deeply. But hearing this Messianic Jewish music and the lyrics with such rich meanings touches me deeper than anything

else. I am a Messianic Jew. My life is rooted in Christ for He holds me together with Himself on HIS Cross. The Cross-of wood whose roots go deep into the Judean earth into which it was planted 2,000 years ago.

If God had chosen music to be played in the desert when John the Baptist said BEHOLD...the Lamb of God who comes to take away the sins of the world. It would have been like this and would have lifted Johns Soul into the presence of God as it does mine.

Take the time to read the Testimony of John the Baptist (A Jew) in John 1: 19-34. John was the prophesied forerunner of the Messiah. John was an obedient voice crying in the wilderness and baptizing in the wilderness because God told him that one day he would recognize the Messiah in the Jordan River in the waters of Baptism.

Later John would be in prison awaiting his death by beheading. His faith had wavered not understanding that He too would have to carry His own CROSS-to follow Christ. He sent word to Jesus and asked (Matthew 11:2-6)...

“Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.”

Those words of Christ were good enough for John to face his death in peace. The same words representing the credentials of the Messiah of Israel should also be good enough for you to both recognize HIM and then choose to live your life for HIM.

God has blessed the nation of Israel in many ways. In turn those blessings have been shared with the nations of the earth. But the greatest blessing of all is that through the tiny nation of Israel God has chosen to bless the earth with their Jewish Messiah...The Christ...Jesus the Son of God.

And so there was a gathering of Jewish people in Jerusalem, the City of David, God’s Eternal City. On behalf of all Jews throughout time; from Abraham through today and into the future; they lifted Holy Hands to Jesus / Yeshua the Son of the Living God proclaiming ...Blessed is HE who comes in the NAME of The LORD.

God has promised that there will be a REMNANT of Jews throughout the years since Abraham who would come to know the Son of God. That as the time draws near for Jesus to come again more Jews will be accepting Him as their Savior and Lord.

The following are song lyrics from a Christian troubadour named Michael Card who sings Scripture so beautifully. The words reflect God and His love for His Jewish People...

“I’ll walk with them (the Jews) again as their own God.
He will come, my own Son, a Word faithful
heart’s cannot help hearing.
And by His Death and His last breath
a Father’s forgiveness starts flowing.
And they will know that I AM Savior,
I AM Redeemer and Friend.

Emanuel; the God who is with them.
The God who gives ALL He can.
He is Salvation,
He is the Kingdom,
To know HIM is Paradise.

And they will know that
I AM FATHER and LORD.”

Jewish Believers are growing in numbers daily. **More Jews have come to know Christ in the last 20 years than over the past 2,000 years.**

“**No other nation** on earth has been destroyed and scattered to the four corners of the globe, and then re-gathered as the focus of world attention.

No other nation declares by its re-emergence in time, that there is a God who deserves to be feared and loved and obeyed.

No other nation exists as a declaration to the world that in the records of her history, we find our roots and in the prediction’s of her prophets we find our future.”

Quoted from Mart DeHann...RBC Ministries

Jesus is coming again soon! He promised and He keeps His Word.

He will hear His Name lifted up on high by Jews when He arrives!

So I too raise my voice, my heart and my soul every day in my secret place singing to Him...”Blessed be the Name of the Lord.”

My letter to God

Lord this year more than the rest has caused me to reflect on my past. I have walked with you and done my best to serve you through the years but I am so very tired.

It's not that the battle is too difficult. You have armed me with the truth to defend you. As people come out of the shadows to attack my faith they immediately retreat when I defend you with your Truth contained in Scripture.

I watch as the intense light in their eyes grows dim as each of their half truths fall to the ground before them, never hitting their mark.

Why, because their words are lies that have no foundation to stand on. Deep inside them they know this for you have put within them a moral compass, their conscience. Even though it is broken and calloused within them the vestiges of the truth remain as echoes within their hearts.

When they hear your truth they shut their mouths before you.

I have pleaded with you for years to equip me to stand where the battle is hottest, in the forefront of darkness, so your light can shine the brightest. You have given me the privilege and honor, of being one of your light bearers.

Yet Lord I say again, I am tired, not of you, but of them. YOU have asked me to love them. I have watched them, listened to them, and had contact with them. But it seems that my heart, which at one time went out to them is now growing cold towards them...because they just don't seem to get it.

I have become ever more restless having no peace in my mind, my heart or my soul. I come home from work, turn on the TV, listen to the talking heads and look into the window of the world's dead soul.

It began ever so slowly many years ago, the Mocking of God. But the assault on you crystallized in my mind and heart on December 17, 1997. On an animated program called South Park a new Christmas character came alive and became so popular that you could buy it in stores and give it to friends.

It was called Mr. Hankey the Christmas Poo a piece of excrement with a Santa hat. To me this reflected the true commercialization of Christmas by the world. My anger was kindled in my heart against some of my own

family members as they laughed along with the world. It wasn't enough that your name is used as a common swear word...they had to go further.

People laughed, they openly mocked YOU. It seems life just goes on without interruption for those who mock YOU. They take your Mercies for granted not realizing that daily they are building up their "Divine Layaway Plan".

It is an account called "Sin now...pay later".

I am reminded of the time I went to a water park called the Schlitterbahn in Texas. They gave me an inner tube so I could float casually throughout miles of river. Although I thought I could stay dry during my trip, I ended up covered with water, soaked to my skin. Life is like that inner tube ride. We float on sewage, thinking we are above it all, but at the end of the ride sewage has permeated every pore of our being. We have become one with the sewage, because we want so desperately to belong to the group and not stand out.

You're Word says you will judge everyone according to their deed's, their words, their thoughts, and even the motives of their hearts. You have stated that no one is good enough to evade going to hell.

We continue to judge ourselves by our own standards. Standards of goodness and charity like Mother Theresa, Gandhi or today it would be Bono or Oprah or Angelina Jolie. But YOU have set the standard for entrance to YOUR heaven and it is HOLINESS, and PERFECTION.

You proclaim to us in Your Word that every human being has fallen short of this standard and is in need of a Savior. No one is righteous, not one!

People have created a world made in their image, exalting their image not yours. People are building the tower of Babel again. Your statement about when the end comes referring to "It will be as in the times of Noah" is coming true before our eyes. Even now we see the term of "Extreme Weather" all the time. The signs that Christ said we would be able to see prior to HIS 2nd coming are everywhere.

Yet we are like frogs in a pot that do not feel the heat being continually turned up slowly but inevitably taking us to our deaths and then your Judgment.

Why Lord do they have no eyes to see, no ears to hear? Their gaze is always inward and their hearts are cold as stone in the dead of winter.

The ACLU is winning its fight to eliminate Christianity and God from a country that was created for religious freedom with Jesus Christ as its Cornerstone.

The ACLU's attempts to restructure our society to protect the rights of those who are wrong; has given rise to a culture of relativism accompanied by the sound of silence from the moral majority who disagree.

(Maybe there is no moral majority any more?)

"The Truth has become the lie". Wrong has become right in their eyes. Evil has replaced good and the whirlwind of chaos is upon them as in ignorance they question why? The answer is that they are now reaping what they have sown. For every action there is a consequence. Even if we are sorry the consequences of our actions will remain to haunt us for life.

The world continues to celebrate new years one after the other. What I don't understand is why they call it new. The newscasts on television still feed me the same information on our human condition. Nothing has changed since the beginning of time and time began with the first bite of the fruit in the garden.

Some of us think that time began with the creation of the earth. Not true, for when YOU were finished creating the earth YOU said it was Good. We know the earth was created in eternity and will be re-created for eternity.

Time and Sin began together with the fall of Adam and Eve and time and sin will end together with the final fall of mankind. YOU have given us a chart to follow, a pre-written calendar of events to watch so we may know the time and the seasons of the coming end of time...and the new beginning of eternity for glorified mankind.

The signs of the end times are joined to the escalating deterioration of the morality of humankind. Our moral compass no longer exists and our diseased Sin nature is out of control as evidenced by our impurity and debauchery; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, and the like.

YOUR Word speaks of the attributes of humanity near the end as being sexually immoral, idolaters, witchcraft, adulterers, prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers, and swindlers.

To the Believer that is reading this: do you think that you are above all this moral chaos? Think again. We act like them in so many ways. Often people that do not know your Lord question whether we do; simply because they do not see any difference between us and them.

How often do we dive into the sewage thinking it doesn't stick to us?

God made us to exhibit love to one another in joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. He says the acts of sin are obvious and that those who live like that will not inherit the

Kingdom of God. If you are a true believer then you have REPENTED and turned 180 degrees from the path of Sin you have been on. You are a new person...you have changed.

Maybe it's time for you and I to realize what the Holiness of God is really about. Maybe it's time for you and I to begin respecting His Words in the Book He gave to us called the HOLY Scriptures.

Have you ever given any thought to the tears He will wipe from your eyes? Why are you and I going to be crying before Him? Maybe because as hard as I tried, the motives of my heart are always tinged with pride. Maybe because in my own way I too have Mocked God by trying to blend into the sewage around me like a Chameleon?

Maybe because I haven't taken His command to share the Gospel serious enough and He will show me the hundreds of times I **could have made** a difference in someone's life by planting a seed for the Holy Spirit to water.

I will stand before Him and use words to give an account of the life He gave me to live out before HIM. He will then give an account of the times He had given me words to speak, but I chose to remain silent.

To my shame my life is full of words never spoken. Words that were meant to give life by planting seeds into the hearts of people that God put into my path. Thousands upon thousands of words never spoken have filled my memory with If Only Moments. Only God knows the answer to "what If I...obeyed and spoke".

In the end when we stand before HIM and HE wipes the tears from our eyes; the lesson we will learn is that our lives will be measured not only by what we did, but also **by what we did not do**.

I know I am weak and I know I am not Holy. But, I also know He said my weaknesses will show His strength if I look to Him for help.

If you feel the need to... then ask Him to help you match up your walk with your talk ...**I have**.

CROSS Stitched into a Living Tapestry

In colonial days people would create quilts that served as a record of their families. These beautiful quilts would be made of remnant cloth patches. Each patch like a movie frame captured an event in the life of that family.

The patches would be embroidered with multicolored thread that provided the details of those scenes of life that told the story of the family. It became a tapestry of the life of one family's history.

Did you know there is another tapestry you may be part of? It is different from the tapestry of life created by people to record the past history of one single family.

The other tapestry is a living tapestry of the family that was Redeemed and bought by the blood of the Son of God. Jesus paid on the Cross for each member of His family throughout time...past, present and future.

It has been said by someone else that each believer is but one thread in a Grand Tapestry that is being woven throughout time by the very hand of God Himself.

Believers represent a multitude of colored threads that have been CROSS Stitched together with the one Crimson colored thread of the Lord Jesus Christ...forming a living tapestry of people who are eternal and will never die.

The embroidered story of our lives represents bitterness, sweetness; times when prayers go unanswered and we must trust in patience as we wait on the Lord. There are times of great sorrow and of great joy and worship of the Living God; all woven together to tell our story.

But then something else happens. God takes our thread and weaves it to create touch points with the threads of other people and then He CROSS Stitches the Crimson thread of His Son around two people at the same time.

These times in my life have been few, but when they happen my heart grows warm within me and I feel inexpressible joy. God weaves me together with another believer or a person who is a True Seeker of Christ forming a moment in time that is precious beyond words.

It is here that I have an opportunity to strengthen the faith of someone, or to defend the name of Jesus. Or it is a moment in time where I am humbled to hear the story of another believer and how the Lord

Jesus carries their Cross for them and they still through all the pain can have JOY in the Morning.

These are times when we share the story of our storms in life and realize HE is always with us. These are times He becomes so real to us that our walk by Faith almost becomes a walk by sight...we can FEEL HIS Presence.

This living tapestry we are members of in Christ is difficult to visualize. From our perspective at best all we see are the threads from underneath the tapestry. We cannot see the grandeur of the story being woven above.

So life gets the best of us more often than not in our journey of faith. We get disappointed; the brightness of our hope grows faint as we continue to look through a mirror dimly.

But then when we need it most, because He loves us and understand's our need...He CROSS Stitches two threads that believe in HIM with His own Crimson thread. Then the Scriptures become real again, because we can feel His Presence as He said..."For **where two** or three have **gathered together** in My name, I am there in their midst." *Matthew 18:20* .

As I said these moments of True Reality and clarity of Mind, Soul, Heart and Purpose have been rare. When they do happen Heaven melts into Earth, my Spiritual senses become heightened within me and I feel the touch of the Masters Hand...and am humbled.

I have asked permission of two dear friends to share a glimpse into their lives with you. Each of them knows the feeling of being CROSS Stitched, each knows the touch of the Masters Hand and each now has their Cross being carried for them by Christ.

No names are used, but their stories have rekindled in me the AWE and WONDER and MERCY AND GRACE of the LIVING GOD we serve. I am truly humbled to share the following with you.

"WE are ALL made in the IMAGE of GOD"...

"I liked this little story this week. I especially like the way you mention how you see God in everything around you, even Gnarly Bob. I understand that this wasn't the whole point of the story, but it hit a nerve with me that I wanted to share with you.

You once said something at work about me that will stay with me forever. You most likely will not even remember saying it, but it is something where you see God at work even in me. What you said made me feel so good and special. Talk about turning a lemon into lemonade. Are you curious as to what you said?

Well, let me set the stage of what happened. I was in the office and we were talking with ___ and ___ with just silly office chatter. The discussion somehow turned to our stature or lack of it and I mentioned that I would be taller if I were not so bent over and that is when you said those magic words....."**That's because you are just humble before God!**"

That hit me like a thunderbolt. It isn't easy to be a little physically deformed. I often forget about it until I catch my reflection in a store window or a passing mirror. I try to stand straighter and feel the pain in my back and spine as I toss back my shoulders and try to stand as upright as possible, only to slump over somewhat depressed about my inability to keep upright.

But now, after your words, I feel completely different about myself. I think God made me this way to remind me to be humble before Him. I know I certainly have forgotten to be humble in the past, but now I see things differently. I'm certainly less depressed about my physical problem and now wear my deformity as a badge of honor and to show respect to Him.

You certainly do see God in everything, even in your slightly damaged friends."

Jesus did not promise to keep us from the storms of life; He promised to be there with us...leading us through them...

"Just got back from spending the day with my oldest daughter up at U of M. What a great place! I would love to start over and be a college student living in Ann Arbor. My youngest ___ is doing great. Although she continues physical therapy two times a week after school, the pain is finally gone, and we are down to working on range of motion. She is stuck at 90 degrees, but is living a fairly normal life right now. Back to school for her senior year and finding herself more accepted now that there is no obvious handicap.

It is funny you sent me this e mail when you did because my wife and I were just discussing how we never would have made it through all of this without our faith.

In fact, so much good came from the trials we have faced over the last four years, that I am actually looking forward to what good will come out of my most recent flare up. We all need to face our share of suffering, and this is nothing compared to the suffering Christ did for me.

I was at a small group meeting last Sunday that my wife and I attend through church. It is a group of about 12 Christians who meet bi weekly and study different chapters of the bible. We have become very close over the last three or four years and are able to share in confidence many of our most troubling personal circumstances. There was a guest invited to this meeting, which is very unusual for our group.

When I was introduced, I shook his hand and felt this most powerful feeling go through my body. The hair actually stood up on the back of my neck.

He was a very peaceful fellow that was very easy to talk to and I felt very comfortable around. My friends who invited him had explained that I had just found out my cancer had returned and that I was facing an uncertain future.

He informed me that he was the retired Pastor of a non denominational Christian church and that he was currently undergoing his second round of chemo for terminal colon cancer.

He said ____, what we are facing is not suffering.... think of a civil war soldier that took a musket ball in the hip and then was given a sip of bourbon while they sawed his leg off, now that's suffering. Today, with morphine and all the pain drugs available to us, our pain is nothing.

Then he said, think how Christ suffered compared to what we are going through, and that really put it in perspective.

What a simple suggestion you make, pray for the strength to deal with the sickness and pain, that is what has really made us stronger. I pray selfishly like most I suppose, asking for God to make everything better.

Your message really hit home. Anyway, the cancer has returned in my upper chest and now the right lung.

Surgery and radiation is not an option at this point, so my only option is chemo. They can not cure it at this point, just see how long they can extend my life. If the chemo can get me back in remission, I have a chance to be around for a while longer.

There is one lady I go to chemo with that was sent home to die 10 years ago and has been kept alive all this time getting chemo 6 months out of each year so you never know.

I know that with the Lord directing that chemo to all the right places gives me the best odds. You ask about my support group, and that has been key.

Since I rediscovered Christ 4 years ago I have been surrounded by Christians. Between my church, small group and my Tuesday bible study group, I have met some of the most wonderful people you could ever imagine. I have also found people to be wonderful that I didn't think were so wonderful before. (funny how that works).

One of the best things about not working anymore is that I can choose who I want to be with everyday. I have found that I can't go to wrong

hanging with other Christians. Oh well, enough rambling. I would love to get together.... Call when you are around for a few days and we can have a coffee. I still feel pretty good.”

My dear friend went home to be with the Lord 4 months later.

Two stories shared. Two touch points in time. Their thread and mine CROSS Stitched together with the Crimson Thread of Jesus...how humbling it is to know these two people. Our burdens in this life are lighter when placed on the Lord...but still the pain remains...but we are never alone...and we are never given more than we can carry.

WE are a family...The Family of God...chosen by God from before the foundations of the earth were made. WE have been CROSS Stitched together by the very hand of God Himself at touch points in time...determined in eternity past.

When WE share our stories with each other, broken hearts are made whole, infirmities become easier to deal with because in the end of the coming beginning; it is LOVE that WILL Conquer ALL...His Love for US.

So keep your senses alert and wait for those times when you can feel the Touch of The Masters Hand.

Then reach out and uplift a fellow brother or sister in Christ...Reach out and touch the heart of someone for Christ.

Words of Comfort from The Lord:

“FEAR NOT.... for I have OVERCOME the World...I have RISEN from the Dead and I HOLD the Keys of ETERNAL LIFE.... I AM with YOU till the End of the Age...and YOU are part of MY Forever Family...a Living Tapestry of Remnant cloth patches; CROSS Stitched together to tell my story to the world.

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER...”

Jesus, The Son of the Most High GOD

One Lord of All

ADONAI Echad!

I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM
EI GIBBOR, (THE MIGHTY GOD),
THE RUACH HAKODESH, (THE HOLY SPIRIT)
AND
YESHUA HAMACHIACH, (JESUS THE CHRIST).
JESUS WAS NEVER CALLED JESUS WHILE HERE
ON EARTH.
HE WAS CALLED BY HIS HEBREW NAME YESHUA.

Jesus wore tassels on the hem of His tunic, attended weddings, and sat in the seat of Moses' in the synagogue.

He was born into a race of people chosen by God to bear His name to the entire world. This specific group of people made a covenant with God and then broke it.

Jesus lived like a Jew, talked like a Jew, acted like a Jew, looked like a Jew, and worshiped like a Jew. He was a Jew from Nazareth. His words, actions, and teaching methods were in keeping with the customs, traditions and religion of the Semitic culture into which He was born...

**HE IS THE WORLDS OLDEST
LIVING JEW...WHY?**

BECAUSE HE STILL LIVES!

Through the years as God has given me opportunities to speak at churches I have met Christians who reacted to me by exclaiming, "How special it must be", they say "I wish I were one of the chosen people!" My immediate reaction is to point out that if you know Jesus, the Bible says you **ARE** one of God's chosen people.

Being chosen has its burdens as well as its blessings. I am sure many Jews throughout history have raised up their voices and their fists to God imploring HIM to choose someone else.

Being the chosen people comes with a high price—persecutions, wanderings and broken dreams—while the benefits of being chosen remain illusive.

Others have struggled with the concept of “chosen people”. Some have gone so far as to ask, “What makes the Jews think they are so special, that God would choose them over all other people?”

Such questions thinly disguise the resentment that has often boiled up into vehement anti-Semitism. That resentment provoked a poet to write, **“How odd of God to choose the Jews, but not so odd, as those who choose the Jewish God and hate the Jews.”**

The Jewish people are not God’s only chosen ones. The Hebrew word for chosen, *bachar* reflects the more familiar New Testament concept of election. The True Church of Jesus Christ is made up of Born Again Jews and Born Again Christians who also are the elect of God (2 Timothy 2:10). If you have received Him as your Messiah and Savior, that means that God chose you!

God keeps His promises to both of His “Chosen Peoples”, for His name’s sake. Both of us experience the same resentment the world feels toward God’s chosen and elect people.

As a Christian all you have to do is tell the average person that Jesus Christ is the only way to have a relationship with God. People will resent you for being narrow-minded, just as they resent Jewish people for being exclusive.

Israel and the Church both represent the blessing of God’s choosing. Both demonstrate the truth of God’s love and faithfulness, His mercy and His grace.

Both Israel and the church may experience deep and abiding failure. Both may be resented, hated even persecuted by the world. Yet both are people of great destiny with a hope filled future.

That future is secure, not because of the strength or the goodness of those who were chosen, but because of the faithful, loving and all-powerful God who chooses, so that He Himself might receive the glory.

It is my prayer that you realize that my fellow Jewish Brethren who were chosen through physical birth need to be chosen again through the new birth available only through the belief in the death and resurrection of Yeshua Hamachiach (Messiah) / Jesus the Christ.

Why did Jesus weep in Luke 19: 41 – 44? Jesus wept for Jerusalem and the Jews. Scripture tells us it was, “Because you (the Jewish people), did not recognize the time of your visitation”. Gods people the Jews had missed the coming of their Messiah and Savior.

How many of you remember the Promise Keepers “Stand in the Gap” event in Washington D.C.?

That event represented a turning point in my life. I was in awe looking out into a veritable sea of people and faces. The Grace of God, shown in the diversity of HIS people, reminded me that ultimately we would share heaven with representatives of every tribe and nation on the face of the earth.

We stood together, over a million strong, people of every race. They were dressed in poor dirty clothes to expensive clothes. There were young boys with strong bodies and old men who needed help to walk.

There were men worshiping like the frozen chosen and there were some dancing before the Lord with abandon like King David must have.

The man next to me humbled me the most. He was dressed simply and had hair down his back to his waist and wore no shoes or socks. When I asked about his appearance he referred to the Old Testament book of Numbers 6:2- 5.

He said he had taken the Nazarite Vow and that such an assembly of believing men, were surely standing on HOLY GROUND...that is why he was barefoot and for the entire day never got off his knees.

How awesome the Love of God is for mankind. Gods promise, beginning with the Abrahamic Covenant to bless all nations was well on its way. But this Covenant promise of Salvation for the Nations of the world through the Jew was interrupted. Let me explain with an example.

One of the ceremonies at Stand in the Gap was to bring cultural representatives onto the stage to speak for their group. This was a true mission’s event because God has a remnant of believers in every race.

Even Native Americans were there in full-feathered regalia praising and thanking the Lord for HIS goodness, grace and mercy to their unique group of believers.

But, when a Messianic Jewish Rabbi came on the stage and fell on his face prostrate before the Lord, my heart broke. Then from his knees this born again Rabbi cried out and begged The Lord to forgive the Jewish Nation for turning away from not only the One True God, as represented by the Trinity, but also for failing to be HIS light of salvation to the nations of the world.

The life of the nation of Israel can truly be summed up by the phrase “IF ONLY”. There have been hundreds of “if only” moments in her disobedience to God throughout history.

But the one that took the Jews off the mission field was when they did not recognize their Messiah Yeshua / Jesus the Son of God. How different things might have been in our world today had the Jews recognized HIM.

Jews were not the chosen people because they were more special than any other group, Deuteronomy 7: 6. God chose them for the purpose of being a light for HIM in a dark world filled with man made religions from the pit.

Through the Jew the light of the one true God was to shine over the entire world. But they failed their mission assignment of evangelism to the world.

And as a result the flame of world evangelism turned into an ember awaiting the breath of GOD to ignite it again at Pentecost and then through a man named Paul (a Jewish Apostle). Through Paul God appointed the Ecclesia, the Church, the new “chosen ones”, to be the light to a dark world.

You need to understand that unlike the rest of the world whom satan (the ruler of this world) has blinded. GOD HIMSELF chose to blind the Jew’s in Isaiah 6: 9. Praise God He did, because it gave birth to Christianity through which God has chosen to evangelize the world.

Who then has God appointed to bring HIS message of Salvation to the Jews...who will God use to bring HIS people to CHRIST?

It’s all of you, the born again representatives of the Christian Church.

Believers are called according to Romans 1: 16 to witness to Jews and again in Romans 11: 11 to make the Jews Jealous for their Messiah.

It will take more than the Remnant of Messianic Jews in the United States to bring their 6 million brothers and sisters to Yeshua. Jewish believers in Christ are looked on as Apostate Jews and have many hurdles to overcome when witnessing to fellow Jews.

But not the Christian Church that has been grafted into the true vine of the Messiah! Those hurdles vanish when in obedience to the Lord’s command, a Christian believer witnesses to a Jewish friend, relative or neighbor.

It is people like you that the Holy Spirit would use to bring the Remnant of Pre-Destined Jews to faith in The Lord, **if you but choose to share HIS GOSPEL.**

Here is an email I received years ago from a friend. I want to share it with you.

A JEWISH FATHERS CONCERN:

A Jewish father was concerned about his son who was about a year away from his Bar Mitzvah but was sorely lacking in his knowledge of the Jewish faith.

To remedy this he sent his son to Israel to experience his heritage. A year later the young man returned home.

“Father, thank you for sending me to the land of our Fathers,” the son said. “It was wonderful and enlightening, however, I must confess that while in Israel I converted to Christianity.”

“Oy vey,” replied the father, “what have I done.” So in the tradition of the patriarchs, he went to his best friend and sought his advice and solace.

“It is amazing that you should come to me,” stated his friend. “I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian.”

So in the tradition of the patriarchs, they went to the Rabbi. “It is amazing that you should come to me,” stated the Rabbi, “I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian.

What is happening to our sons? Brothers, we must take this to the Lord,” said the Rabbi. They fell to their knees and began to wail and pour out their hearts to the Almighty.

As they prayed the clouds above opened and a Mighty Voice stated:

***“Amazing that you should come to ME!
... I, too, sent My Son to Israel.”***

During the coming Tribulation Period God will again use 144,000 Jewish missionaries to reach the world for Jesus. The Holy Spirit will seal them with the mark of God on their foreheads. They will have supernatural angelic protection until they finish their assignment from God.

At that time the Jews will then be officially re-established and re-instated to their original calling; that being Evangelists on behalf of the Living God and His Son Jesus to the entire world.

If you, my friend, but choose to plant seeds into the soul of a Jewish person (friend, or relative) you know...Then MAYBE...you will be helping the plan of God as you prepare them to be one of the 144,000 that will help give hope to people during a time when there will only be ONE WAY and only ONE HOPE for Salvation...

IN CHRIST ALONE, Thru FAITH ALONE,
BY GRACE ALONE !!!

Lord Won't YOU Hide Me?

I really do not like television. Most of the evenings I end up in front of it I fall asleep. The shows reflect the darkness that is overtaking our society. The programs and their dark content mimic the news you hear every night.

The term news is a mystery to me, for there is never any thing new that I hear and the news is always bad, rarely good. Yet, there are glimmers of beauty on television. You can find them in the programs like Extreme Makeover Home, where Ty Pennington weaves real life stories about the desperate needs of people and the joy we get from helping others.

American Idol in its own way also now has picked up causes around the world to help children. The show is a double-edged sword; making fun of people at their expense, but at the same time showcasing the beauty of Gods greatest instrument given to mankind, the human voice.

Then the other night on So You Think You Can Dance I witnessed one of the most moving dance segments I have ever seen. 3 African American male dancers using their bodies to portray a song called REVELATION moved my heart. The Song they danced too was created in the genre of an old time Gospel song. The recurring lyrics were "Lord Won't YOU Hide Me?"

The story was about the Underground Railroad during the Civil War Era and the slaves who ran and hid and traveled in fear so they could gain their freedom. The dancers were able to tell this story as they traversed the stage. I have never before been touched so deeply by the movement and story telling ability of the human body without words, tied to the intense music.

The song title, Revelation and the movement of the bodies along with the lyrics that made up the song...Lord Won't YOU Hide Me?...took me to another time and another place.

I understood the context of the dance and the music about runaway slaves during the Civil War. But, it reminded of a time yet future when people will run and hide. It will be a time when people will not be asking the Lord to hide them; but instead turn from the Lord, running everywhere, and anywhere ...to hide from Him.

This story is also titled REVELATION and can be found in the Book of REVELATION in the Bible.

People throughout the centuries have used dance to express themselves before God. Worship and Joy have come together expressing the love of true believers for the Lord throughout time.

There is a scene in 2 Samuel verse 6:16 where God returns the stolen Ark of the Covenant to the House of Israel and King David dances with abandon before the Lord God of Israel.

*“Then it happened as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw **King David leaping and dancing** before the LORD.”*

...**2 Samuel 6:16**

People have sought the Lord throughout Bible times to protect and hide them from their enemies and those that would do them harm. God has obliged them by hiding them under the shadow of His Wings. He has kept them in His secret place hidden from harm while placing them high upon a rock out of the reach of their enemies.

If you are one of HIS then HE has promised to cover you with Holy Angels and protect you, not necessarily from harm, but to be there with you through your storms.

*“Keep **me** as the apple of your eye; **Hide me** in the shadow of Your wings.”*

...**Psalm 17:8**

*“For in the day of trouble He will conceal **me** in His tabernacle; In the **secret place** of His tent He will **hide me**; He will lift **me** up on a rock”*

...**Psalm 27:5**

Yes, God indeed will protect you but the writer of Ecclesiastes has said plainly that this life we live will always be bitter / sweet...when he says:

*“There is a time to **weep** and a time to **laugh**; A time to **mourn** and a time to **dance**.”*

...**Ecclesiastes 3-4**

...*and a time to **die***.

The latter statement by the writer of Ecclesiastes has crystallized the story of Mankind...for it is the true story of our journey on the road home to Heaven.

*For those of us who have God living within us there will be Joy in the Morning...at the dawn of Eternity, when the Lord comes for us “**like a thief in the night**.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:2

But for others who know not the God of the Bible the day is coming when they will awake to a dawn without light. That is what this dance program reminded me of as the men danced beautifully but with chaotic movements.

They ran to and fro falling down to hide themselves, then quickly jumping up and running to another place to hide on their personal journey down the road to freedom.

As the Ark of Noah provided shelter during Gods Flood of wrath on humanity; and as Enoch the Prophet walked righteously as a friend of God and then continued walking with God into heaven, never having experienced death; and as Elijah stood strong for the True God in an Apostate religious world gone mad and then was taken out by an Angelic Chariot of Fire sent by God to bring him to heaven...having not died...

So too will God call forth every believer at the appointed time of the Rapture of the Church to be airlifted out of harms way. Holy Angels will carry us up to be with the Lord as He pours out His wrath on non-believing humanity here on Earth during the Tribulation time...soon to come.

God **will** hear the cries of His people...Lord Won't YOU Hide Me?...and **HE Will Hide** them!

The others left behind will not be calling upon the Lord to hide them!

They will be seeking to hide even in the rocks to avoid HIM; unlike the slaves of the Underground Railroad depicted by the dance; who were looking for their freedom in another land because they new they were made in the image of God.

People left behind without God will also in the end find the freedom they wanted so badly in this life. They will live alone while serving **only themselves** by becoming their own Slaves for Eternity.

*“and they (Those Left Behind) said to the mountains and to the **rocks**, Fall on us and **hide us** from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb (**The Lord Jesus Christ**).”*

Revelation 6:14-16

An Old Soul

I remember them well, past moments in time when God used the words, the looks, and the touch of people along with the strength, power and beauty of nature...to plant seeds of faith into my heart.

Seeds that grew deep into my heart in my early childhood; when my mind, heart and soul were open and innocent before God. Seeds that were watered by the Holy Spirit through the years to prepare my heart to accept the call from God to respond to HIS Words ...”Come—Follow Me!”

I wear glasses and recently I was caught in the rain. Water droplets collected on the lens. The droplets are like memories to me. They float before my eyes, containing events of the past. I can focus on each individually and go back to those moments in time captured by each drop and see the hand of God in my life. God used my unbelieving Jewish family to plant many seeds into me at a very young age. The following are a few, very few of those moments.

I was 12, just one year away from my Bar Mitzvah. I had caught a very bad flu that kept me home for over a week missing school. My Aunt brought me a picture book and a comic book to occupy my time.

The picture book was leather bound and sewn with an embossed padded cover. It was thick with pages and pictures of paintings by Renaissance artists...all with biblical themes. The book began in the Garden of Eden showing Adam and Eve leaving the Garden with an angel wielding a flaming sword at their backs.

The next page was a scene from the flood of Noah. The Ark was in shallow water with hundreds of naked people trying to hold on as the raging waves of water rose, and lightning filled the darkening skies.

Another was the view of what looked like the shape of a woman on a hill. Her posture was that of one looking behind her. It was Lot's wife whom God turned into a pillar of salt because she looked longingly back at the destruction of Sodom in the valley below. In front of her looking and walking forward were her husband Lot and their two daughters, leaving her behind.

Another was the scene of Moses and the Israelites walking through the midst of the Red Sea with walls of water rising on either side, filled with sea creatures. The sky was raging along with the sea and back in the distance were the pursuing Egyptian horsemen on chariots with the sea closing in on them.

This book of pictures helped my imagination begin to live out the Old Testament that later in life would become the foundational pillar of my faith in Christ the Messiah of Israel...the Son of God.

The paintings of major events in the Old Testament made it clear to me that God is not only a God of love, but also a God who is to be feared. He is a God who will chasten His wayward children to bring them back on course. He is a God to be feared, loved and obeyed.

The comic book I received was also very special to me. It was unusually thick and perfect bound. It was released prior to the Grand Opening of the Cecil B. DeMille movie called the "Ten Commandments" with Charlton Heston playing Moses.

This comic book was like a storyboard of the entire movie. I spent hours and hours reading and re-reading it. Weeks later my parents took me to see the movie. It was shown in a new theater with a giant screen. Moses was almost 20 feet tall as I watched from the first row seat of the upper balcony.

I was so small and the screen and characters so large that I felt like I was part of the movie. God ignited my heart, my mind and imagination at that movie. Even then I was able to understand how awesome and huge God is. My memories make HIM even more special to me today because I know He loved me back then. And now HE has called me to serve HIM in so very many unique ways that I truly am experiencing Joy in my journey.

Later when I was a teenager my Aunt visited our home. I do not recall what happened but she was extremely upset. She came to visit my Father. My Dad was a good, kind and gentle man. The family often came over to speak to him about their problems, to ask his advise.

My Aunt seemed calm as she prepared to leave. She came to me and said how much she loved my Father and that if I looked into his eyes I would be able to tell that he was a very **Old Soul**.

Her comment to me echoed in my mind the last time I saw my father alive. He was in the hospital. It was the day before he died. I visited him. His eyes were filled with tears as he looked at me. Tears that came forth from the eyes of an **Old Soul** formed water droplets filled with the memories of his life-gone bye. God truly had hammered him on an anvil of pain and suffering throughout his life. He lived through the Holocaust but lost his wife and children in the camps.

He knew he was dying and that he was going to leave me behind. He carried the guilt for the death of his former wife and children even up to these last precious moments of time. And in some strange way the thought now of leaving me was more than he could bear.

And so tears filled with memories came forth from those eyes. I looked deeply for the last time into the windows of this **Old Soul**. I was overcome with compassion and love as we talked and I watched the unfolding of the mystery of the end of life for his body. But I could see the light of eternity in his eyes.

Ironically this was to be the defining moment of my new beginning to seriously read the Old Testament. It would take the death of my father to spark the flame of life that God had started in my heart.

God through the years had been planting seeds in my heart. They were like glowing embers in a fire. The embers waited for over 30 years for just this moment to burst into flame and begin to illuminate my hearts yearning for God. The Light from the flame in my heart lit the darkness before me so I could see my way through the Messianic prophecies He left for me to follow in the Old Testament all the way to HIS home.

You and I are children of the living God, children of the King of the Universe. If you listen quietly you will hear His Call as He says to you...

**You may not know me, but I know everything about you
I am familiar with all of your ways
In me you live and move and have your being**

**My plan for your future has always been filled with hope
Because I love you with an everlasting love
My thoughts toward you are countless as the
sand on the seashore
And I rejoice over you with singing**

**I desire to establish you with all of my heart
and all of my soul
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me**

When we look deep inside ourselves through eyes that are windows to our soul we will find tears. They are water droplets filled with memories of precious moments in time that have gone by. Some of our souls are filled with Pure and HOLY eternal light. Others of us have eyes filled with a combination of both light and shadows...yet still eternal.

God has created every soul that has ever been. Ultimately He calls each one back to take residence within the place they have chosen to spend eternity in.

You and I ...**WE** ...are all **OLD Souls**.

When you look into your own eyes in the mirror...*what do you see?*

Every Tribe and Nation

Can you feel the energy? Here we are standing among 50,000 Christians in a stadium celebrating JESUS together. Its hard to understand until you've experienced it, but there is an electricity in the very air surrounding us as you hear the Name of Jesus called out in unison. HIS Name echoes all around us.

We have come **together** to worship the Name above all names. We have come **together** to praise HIM with music and our voices in song. Lifting our hearts **together** as one to sing HOLY...HOLY...HOLY is the Lord God Almighty.

We quiet down and then the speaker begins by starting the meeting in prayer. He asks everyone to turn to the person next to him or her and take his or her hand. After the prayer we would all listen as men of God rightly divide the Word of God so we could all be fed, learn and mature as Christians.

Then near the end of the meeting we all held hands again as the music began and we lifted our voices in unison to sing a song called ...we are one familywe are all one in Christ.

Still clutching hands we would hear drums beating out a marching cadence...we would hear trumpets sounding and waves of orchestral music. This symphony would heighten emotions as only music can.

Then the spotlights would begin randomly flowing over the throng of people and the speaker would call out groups singularly to raise their hands...

How many Baptists, how many Lutherans, how many Catholics, how many Methodists, how many Presbyterians, how many....how many... With each call of a denomination hands would separate and be lifted high indicating their affiliation and allegiance to their denomination.

Before the announcement the hands were connected one to the other. Their hearts all beat as One with The Lord their God. Then as their group was called they separated hands from one another and raised their hands independently into the air. It was like seeing the WAVE at a sports event. Everyone wanted to be counted among his or her special group.

I am reminded in the book of Acts how quickly Christ; the cornerstone of His Church; the Rock Foundation upon which we stand...began to become a distant memory as eloquent men began preaching.

1 Corinthians 1:10 - 17

*“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **all agree, and there be no divisions among you...** I have been informed concerning you...that **there are quarrels among you.***

*That each one of you is saying, **“I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, I am of Cephas and I am of Christ”.***

Has Christ been divided? Paul was not Crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?....

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, NOT in cleverness of speech, that the CROSS of Christ should not be made void.”

As you think about these God Inspired Words of the Apostle Paul, he is not referring to the Spiritual Unity we all have together as believers as part of the Universal—One True Church.

Instead Paul is talking about the Unity of Doctrine. Doctrine must be the foundation of church life. The commitment we have to Doctrine determines the strength of the church.

Go back to the stadium with me. When everyone had their hands joined together in worship and prayer THEY stood on the ONE foundation of Christ. The minute ranks were broken and individuals hands separated to be raised high into the air...our united mission to reach the lost was severely damaged.

Pick me...no not them...pick me...pick Paul...pick Peter... pick Apollos...pick Christ.... pick...pick. Now you have a church that has lost its identity. A church whose doctrines are no longer sound. A church whose doctrines have been compromised by thousands of men over two thousand years since the Cross.

Men who have bent doctrine to fit each new culture so that hearts are no longer pierced by the Truth. Truth then is watered down. People no longer understand their need to repent of their sins. Why?

Because the church is now based on shallow sentimentalism and superficial harmony; neither of which affords Salvation...but ends in Damnation. Jesus called us to ONE FAITH based on unchanging Doctrines forming the anchor of Unity within individual minds, external decisions, beliefs in standards, in behavior...in Doctrine...in the Word of God.

No individual leaders (or denominations) should be given the loyalty that belongs ONLY to the Lord Jesus Christ. By elevating men we breed contentions, disputes and a divided church.

Christ is not divided and neither is HIS Body... the True Church. Yet today there is a division within the church that did not exist at its birth at Pentecost. The souls in need of the harvest are as prevalent within the walls of the church as they are on the outside.

Within every fellowship, every person is either saved and in a process of maturing or in a process of self-deception and destruction. How horrific is it that people come into church with a desire to understand God; but never truly hear and receive the Gospel that saves?

Too many pulpits are not preaching sound doctrine, nor the Cross nor Repentance. Instead as Paul said they teach "the cleverness of men" and in so doing Mock God by making the Cross of Christ null and void.

The church is not a building, nor a denomination, nor a non-denominational group. The Church is made of people, living stones with hearts of flesh that beat as One with the heart of their Savior Jesus.

The Church is made up of children of all ages who have received their Faith as a gift...not by works; a free gift of faith from the Father of the Son of God. We are a family of brothers and sisters who will live in a forever place called heaven. There to experience forever both the joy and the purpose we were created for in the very presence of Almighty God.

There is only One Faith, One Hope, One Baptism...ONE GOD and Father of All.

There is only One Church, One Body, One Life in the Spirit.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd with only One Sheepfold that is Chosen and Elected by God from those who SEEK HIM within His revealed Word.

JESUS ALONE will build HIS True Church one Living Stone at a time. Based ONLY on the revelation given to HIS Prophets and HIS Apostles as recorded once and for all in the Old and New Testaments. Not by men, nor the words of men or the religions of men.

So stop waving your hands in the air, instead reach out and hold the persons hand on either side of you and form the True Circle of Life. Together we are strong...separate we are weak. Now more than ever those around you need to see God within you. If you know Christ then you bear the Image of the

One True GOD...

LET IT SHINE...

LET IT SHINE...

LET IT SHINE.

One Voice...One Heart... One Lord

If Jesus had only been a man, he would have stayed in the tomb. The earliest Christians could not stay silent about the fact that the ONE they saw hanging on a Cross dead; walked again on the earth and appeared to over 500 people; including those that saw HIM die on the Cross.

And I, two thousand years later cannot stay silent either.

He came back from the dead!!!

What other historical, verifiable fact do you need to know to believe? Is there any other leader known to mankind, from any religious system, who has claimed this truth? The answer is no. All the other tombs contain dead men who have remained dead to this day.

Is there any other religious book that stakes its authority on intricately detailed Prophecies written by Prophets 100's and 1000's of years earlier containing future history that all has come true? The answer is no.

Only the Judeo / Christian Bible ...Gods Autobiography containing the entire Past ...Present... and Future of Mankind...dares to provide prophecy as a means to prove it is the only revelation of the One True God.

God's voice flows throughout the Old Testament and New Testament.

His Voice spoke:

the Universe and Time into existence.

to Moses from a burning bush.

at Mt.Sinai to the nation of Israel out of Clouds, Fire and Thunder.

to Ezekiel out of a gentle wind.

and said be still to raging storm at sea and the sea stood still.

to Lazarus, a dead man who came back to life after 4 days of death.

cried and wept and sobbed over Jerusalem.

whispered from the Cross..."Father forgive them..."

ROARED from the Cross..."It IS FINISHED"

If you follow the creation account in the book of Genesis you will notice that God's Voice spoke into existence everything by saying "**Let there be ...**

Yet when He came to man, God said...**Let US make** man in **OUR** image.

Today His Voice Whispers your name. He waits patiently to be wanted. His heart yearns to beat as one with yours.

There are many signs that God has left for us in the Bible that are meant to remind us of Him and Him of us. The Rainbow that appears in clouds is one such sign. It represents a covenant between God and Mankind and every living creature on the face of the planet, including the planet itself.

When God sees the Rainbow it reminds him and us that the waters will never again rise to destroy all flesh.

When I became a believer in Jesus, I noticed that mankind also put a sign on the earth representing a new covenant, but not with God. This sign that met my gaze everywhere I looked was the telephone pole. It was mans covenant with himself. This covenant represented the future of Technology, Communication and Science. It allowed man to speak with himself but not to God.

Daily as I looked across the landscape I saw crosses everywhere. It was as if the world had become a grave yard with millions of crosses. Each cross represents a person and their inevitable appointment with death because of their sins.

You need to realize that heaven is for perfect people and you are not perfect, therefore you cannot get in. But if you understand the Cross of Christ and look closely, you will see HIM on your cross, in your place having already paid the price for your sins by dying for you.

Then if you but acknowledge that Jesus is Gods Son, that He died in your place for your sins, past, present and future, then you will gain entrance into heaven.

God has chosen to write His Word down for us to hear it. The Holy Spirit wants to live in your heart and to speak to your inner man and guide you through this temporary journey we call life into your eternal life.

Jesus came to earth to provide the Voice of God to speak words of life to those who will listen and believe in Him and be saved.

John 5:28 *“Indeed **the time is coming** when all the dead in their graves will hear the Voice of God’s Son”.*

God, stands outside of time and sees your entire life in one glance. The maker of the stars says to you in His Word that... you are my child and I love you. I am aware that someday you will turn from me and walk away. But I want you to know that I have already provided you a way back to me.

“Yes a day is coming when everyone will hear the voice of Jesus. A day is coming when all other voices will be silenced.

His Voice and His Voice ALONE will be heard.

Some will hear His voice for the very first time. It’s not that He never spoke; it’s just that they never took the time to listen. For these, God’s voice will be the voice of a stranger. They will hear it once and then never hear it again. They will spend eternity fending off the voices they followed on earth.

But others will be called from their graves by a familiar voice for they are sheep who know their Shepherd. They are servants who opened the door to their hearts when Jesus knocked.

Now the door will be opened again. Only this time, it won’t be Jesus who walks into our house; it will be we, who walk into His.”

Max Lucado

“Outside the Garden of Eden, God instituted His requirement for the covering of our sins through the blood sacrifice of an innocent lamb for the guilty sinner. It started with 1 innocent lamb for each person. Later in history during the holiday of Passover it became 1 innocent lamb for each family.

During the days of the Temple in Israel it became 1 innocent lamb for a nation of people.

But at the Cross, at the Cross Jesus the Lamb of God became THE 1 Innocent Lamb for the entire world, through all of time.”

John Barnett

God calls to you through His Son and says: There is more to your life than you have ever thought of. There is more to your story than the pages you have lived. I AM the author of life, the composer of hope and I have left the best for last.

A new beginning of a story we will write together on pages of a book without end....forever.

Jesus whispers your name every day from the pages of the New Testament. Hear the Voice of the God/Man, who came to earth from Heaven to offer you a way to come home, as He says to you ...the evidence is in the Bible, my voice is the Truth...there is but one way home...the other way is to be lost and never found. You must make a choice.

I am the Lord. My Heart yearns to beat with yours.
Hear My Voice, Choose Life, and Follow Me Home!

On behalf of Jesus, because He LIVES!

**One Voice... One Heart...
One LORD**

Perhaps Today

The word Anticipation defined means the action of anticipating...an expectation or prediction. That word seems to define my life. Every day I live is a gift from God with a purpose to fulfill. So many of us stumble through each day not knowing in our heart what His Will is for us this day.

I hear and read it often; people desperate to know the Will of God for their lives. The cry comes from the young as well as the old. Yet the answer has always been there before them. Everything in the Word of God has been put there so we would know what it means. It is not hidden or complicated. It was written for a child to understand. But first you must become His Child.

His Will first and foremost is that you should be saved. The first reason that Christ came to die on the Cross was to "Seek and Save the LOST". That is the first and most important order of business that you and God need to take care of.

Then His will for the rest of your days is to talk about the gift of faith in His Son that you have received and how it has changed your life. But even more important is for you to live in anticipation of His return while at the same time being ready to explain to those around you what it is you anticipate.

Anticipation to me is a word that represents both action and rest. The **ACTION** part is the need to share who I believe in with absolutely everyone I meet. That happens in two ways.

First is the silent witness of the life I live before the world and that is important. If my walk does not match up with my talk then my witness has no value and will become a stumbling block to that persons looking to Christ for salvation.

Second is my mouth. God gave us breath and lips to speak of Jesus to everyone that He places into our path. Seeing my life lived out before people is supposed to catch their attention but it is the words spoken to those people who ask why I am different that will bring life as the Holy Spirit uses them.

To be saved people must hear and for that to happen we must speak.

Do you take time during the end of your day after sundown to take a walk along side the Master? Do you listen quietly as HE reviews the events of your day and then puts them into the Biblical contexts of the Times and Seasons we live in?

Can you see Gods pre-written history of the world unfold before you on the television, radio, magazines, and newspapers and out of the mouths of people all around you?

Have you developed a Biblical Worldview through which you can filter not only your life but also the events around you?

I am acutely aware of the signs of the times as they relate to the 2nd coming of Christ. This most recent election and the world's economic crisis is a good indicator of the changes coming that will become the trends that will accelerate like the birth pangs of a women.

We live in a world that has turned its back on the triune God. In many ways the history of Israel represents the pattern and stages of the history of the world. The cry of the Nation of Israel has and will always be "Messiah...Come Now". The second cry has been for "Peace, Peace and Safety".

Today the world mimics the same cries including our country. The world is ready both for the coming ONE WORLD ruler bringing peace and safety and the apostate ONE WORLD religious leader who will usher in the ONE WORLD religion that will worship the god of this world.

The people within the nations want isolationism and protectionism as the means to solve their problems. However the leaders of the nations are committed to a ONE WORLD Global economy that will be controlled by a ONE WORLD ruler.

Now is not the time for fear; it is a time for discernment and action because of the anticipation, even the EXPECTATION of the event that every believer throughout history has waited for...the 2nd coming of Christ.

The time has come to begin looking up. The time has come not to hold on to the world's goods; they are all going away. You are a citizen of heaven, not earth. And it has been granted to you to know the mysteries of heaven...and to share them with those you know and love.

The time has come to hold onto the PROMISES of GOD.... and take comfort in the other word of the definition of anticipation which is the word **REST**.

To be able to rest you need to know for certain the positive outcome of your problems here on earth. You need to have the assurance of your salvation and the confidence that you will spend eternity in heaven after you die.

Since both issues must be solved for you by someone greater than you...you need assurance from God that the one in whom you place your hope and your faith can and will provide you rest.

Listen to the assurances that God gives His Children:

“If you use your mouth to say, “Jesus is Lord”, and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will have life even if they die. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” **John 11: 25**

“These two things cannot change: God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath.” **Hebrews 6:18**

Because of the latter words of God and many, many more written throughout the Old and New Testament, I can agree with and rest in the following statement...

“I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens...I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.” **Philippians 4: 6.**

Recently a phrase in a magazine called Acts and Facts published by the Institute for Creation Research caught my eye and has changed my perspective on everything. That phrase is **“Perhaps Today”**.

I had lived like you, focusing daily on my problems. I have done this so much that when people come to me with their problems I tell them “This Too Shall Pass”.... it has become my favorite answer. Why, because I can explain how the Lord Jesus is with me in all my troubles and sorrows and storms during this life.

This to a degree will help re-focus a believer during the storms, but it does nothing for the people who do not know HIM as Savior and Lord.

But now, because of my Biblical worldview I have a new phrase to talk about that does not focus on my problems but focuses on the hope I have in Christ and the place He said He is preparing for me in heaven.

This discussion is one that a non-believer will listen too, because deep inside them they too want assurance of where they will go after they die.

The phrase **“Perhaps Today”** is filled with a newfound joy. No other two words better illustrate for me the meaning of the word anticipation.

Remember the definition of the word anticipation means the action of anticipating...an **expectation** or **prediction**.

The word prediction in the definition is mans word and it misrepresents the Believers definition of anticipation. Prediction is often linked to the word prophecy. This is wrong, because the word prediction assumes probability that takes on error and associates itself with chance.

In God there is no such thing as chance. God has stated in His word that there is none like Him who know the end from the beginning. That statement sets the Bible apart from every other book of mans religion.

God does not predict. God has used His Word to give us Pre-Written History. Bible Prophecy is 100 % accurate in the past, the present and the future. So now our definition of anticipation must change to... the action of anticipating...an **expectation** or **prophecy (given to us by God)**.

Because Gods prophecies all come to pass and His prophecies are based on His Oaths and Promises and God cannot lie; then now I can rest or wait for His sure expected return for me. Why, because I am one of I AM's children.

Now every new day of life I have been given allows me to wake up and look up and say "**Perhaps Today**", Jesus will come for me.

Because the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, the Son of God. ...Jesus said:

"In My Father's house are many mansions (dwelling places); if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

"I will come again and receive you to Myself (personally); that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Heaven is a dwelling place

Heaven is a real place

Heaven is a place from which God looks down upon the earth

Heaven is the place from which Christ came down

Heaven is the place to which Christ ascended

Heaven is a City made by God for His Children

Heaven is an unimaginable place filled with Holy Angels

Heaven is a place of True Worship

Heaven is where the New Jerusalem, the City made by the hand of God is

Heaven is made of new materials within a new universe to explore for eternity

Heaven is inhabited by new people; some you have not seen for a long time

Personal knowledge continues in Heaven
Personal love continues in Heaven
Personal feelings continue in Heaven
Personal activities continue in Heaven

You were sown in dishonor, but **will be raised** in Power
You were sown in weakness, but **will be raised** in Strength
You were sown a natural body, but **will be raised** in a spiritual body

What will not be in Heaven:

There will be no night, no sun, and no moon
There will be no sea
There will be no old earth
There will be no death
There will be no crying
There will be no tears
There will be no pain
There will be no sickness
There will be no evil, or fallen angels
There will be no curse
There will be no Unbelievers

Heaven is where I am going... **“Perhaps Today”**... *will I see you there?*

PERSPECTIVE...

It's Everything!

Winter in Michigan is filled with gray days. The weather changes from one extreme to another, but the gray days seem to stay. This morning as usual I am up early. The shades are open and light begins to stream into the space. It's not going to be a gray day today. The sun with its light of gold has decided to pay us a visit.

I watch as the sunlight streams thru the windows and washes over the wall opposite to where I am sitting. I have written about one of Elyse's paintings a couple of years ago. The painting that clearly has the Cross of Christ and one thief on it. If you are new to this email list and would like me to send it to you just let me know.

The painting was created on its side with no theme, just a splash of colors like gold, cream, brown and rust. When we hung it vertically, to our surprise, there in the middle was the scene of the Crucifixion. It hangs behind me in my study and is one of my cherished possessions.

But this morning my eye is drawn to another painting on the wall. Interestingly it has the same colors. Think of a canvas with soft caramel colors as a backdrop. There is a bold line running through the center that vaguely looks like a city in the distance. The colors run together forming shapes that look like buildings along this slightly curving line. It's like looking through the heat at something in the distance in the desert. Sort of a mirage image. Soft and diffused, not in focus. Yet you know what it is. Everything all around this cityscape looks like sunshine.

Next to this 4' x 5' horizontal painting on canvas is a space of about 2 inches. Then there is another very small vertical strip of canvas about 4" x 4'. It has the same center image of the cityscape and sunshine above, below and all around it.

What caught my eye was that from the angle I was looking at these two pieces that were created to be together yet for now were apart; seemed to be joined as one. Why, simply because of the angle I was viewing them from. The light that washed across them eliminated the shadow of the space that separated them. From my perspective for a moment in time they were one canvas not two separate ones.

I stood up to investigate this unique joining of both images together. As I walked slowly to them the illusion of their unity disappeared as I stood in front of them. Now they were no longer together, but apart. I have been

spending time in the Book of Revelation. The Book has a Promise from God to everyone who takes the time to read it. It is the only Book of the Bible with a Blessing stated clearly to the reader..." Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; **for the time is near.**"

This Book is rich in majesty and drama, for it is the Revealing, the REVELATION of Jesus as the King of Kings, the Almighty God, and the Sovereign King who reigns over Angels and Men and the Universe that He created. The King of All who comes back to finally take what is rightfully HIS...this Earth.

Like the two paintings on the wall that are separated by the space filled in by the shadow; so to is the separation between Heaven and Earth today. There have been moments in time when Heaven and Earth have been joined for the specific purposes of God. The two that stand out in my mind are the Birth of Jesus when Star light, Moon light, Angel light and Candle light brought Heaven and Earth together as ONE.

The other moment in time was the death of the God / Man, Emanuel, the Messiah of Israel, The Christ ...the Son of the Living God...on the Cross before the City of God...Jerusalem.

The sky grew dark like night and the light from Heaven grew dim, unable to reach the Earth for 6 hours. In the darkness the earth was separated from Heavens light, like the two paintings with shadows between them. But then in the morning of the 3rd day, the one who was born to be the light of the world rose from the dead and left an empty tomb with an open door for all to see. Jesus has Risen from the dead...Yes...Risen in deed.

Death could not hold Him. He burst forth from the darkness into unapproachable light as light again would bring Joy in the morning for mankind. The promised Redeemer was alive, the first of those to be risen from the dead. The fact that HE lives means you will too.

Now mankind could put their HOPE in the TRUTH of His Resurrection and gain FAITH in the HOLY One of Israel... the God/Man who can Raise the DEAD to a new LIFE.

What did God mean when He said, ..."**for the time is near**"?

The Book of Revelation shuts the door to the story of the OLD World System and Opens the Door to the eternally unfolding story of Gods Love for HIS Creatures and Creation throughout all of Eternity. Many of Gods promises to mankind unfold and come to their conclusion in the Book of Revelation. The greatest would be His Son reclaiming the title deed to the Earth that is rightfully HIS and the final destruction of evil forever.

But this morning I believe one of the greatest joys of God and Christ will be the unification, the joining together of Heaven and Earth as ONE. I was reminded this morning that having a Biblical perspective gave me a glimpse into the future.

So when light overtook the shadow between the two paintings, they were united as one, just as in the future God will bring Heaven and Earth together as one.

But when I walked and stood before the two paintings that were created as one I could see the space filled with shadows that separated them as they stood apart from each other. That brought me back to the reality that the plan of God had a ways left to go before we would experience the end of this world system of time and the beginning of the new creation of a united Heaven and Earth in Eternity.

This painting on our wall of the City of God residing in Heaven filled with sunshine all around it is still separated from the Earth next to it. They are so close, yet still apart. Yet if your perspective is right before God, you can envision the future and see the two become one as described by God Himself in the Book of Revelation.

There is a very special heart beating on the earth today. It is the heart of the very last person that God has called from eternity past, before the foundations of the Earth were made, to believe in His Son Jesus. When that person in FAITH calls on the Name of Jesus to save him, all TRUE believers on Earth will be taken home simultaneously to be with the Lord in Heaven.

Every morning when I come humbly to meet with God and wait in prayer on HIM, I am reminded that Gods mercies are new everyday. He still stands before us with open arms. He still whispers our name as we walk by Him, ignoring Him. He continues to follow us patiently waiting for the moment we will turn our eyes and mind and heart towards Him.

There is no one on Earth that loves you like He does...He Loves you with all of your faults... and still holds out the hand of friendship to you. Can you not understand how awesome it is that the GOD of the Universe wants you to know who HE IS?.....It is Amazing.....It is AMAZING GRACE.

So this morning and every morning there is still joy in my heart as I start the day, because the sunshine is here to cover the gray day filled with shadows. But soon The SON will shine permanently everyday and the shadows will be no more and the City of God will be joined to Earth, and Earth and Heaven will become ONE as God intended from the beginning and God will again walk together with His people in the cool of the day in the Garden.

This time unlike the original beginning there will be no one around to darken the light of Eternity. The darkness and the shadows have had their day and will be no more. Both evil and good will go to their respective places never to meet again for all of eternity.

And God will say of His New Creation, both of the Earth and of YOU...
It is Good...**It is Very Good.**

Quiet Thunder

The voices, can you hear them? There were three distinct and separate voices talking to each other about a plan. I was there just like a fly on the wall listening. It was the strangest thing...I was there among three but somehow within only the ONE. I had no feeling of physicality or of being.

Did you hear, they used the term Birth Pangs...what did they mean? Somehow I knew it meant something specific yet it was more than that because I had the feeling that they were referring to me. Yet I was to find out later that I was but an infinitesimally, small part of the birth pangs.

Oh MY GOD...He knows I am listening to their conversation. His eyes turn inward towards me. His look is soft and loving...as He gazes upon me. I am confused, I don't understand where I am, but He knows. He calls my name...and then begins to explain the plan to me.

Ernie, you live for now in my mind, you are part of my being. I have given you the gift of conscience. You live for now within me. The day will come in the future when I will live within you.

You can hear me but not see me with your eyes. Soon you will be born into a body of flesh. You will have many gifts within you as you live out the days of your life in the flesh. You will have five senses that will feed information to you regarding your surroundings and the world I have created for you.

You will have eyes to see, ears to hear, hands to touch, taste buds to taste and a nose to smell with. These five senses will come together to help you on your quest to find the uniqueness that is you.

Yet there is another sense that you have within you. This sense will be greater than all the rest. But it will be buried deep within you and will not be quickened immediately. It will remain within you dormant for a while.

This sense will bring you back to me when it comes alive within your heart of hearts. Then and only then will you understand who you truly are, your purpose for living and you will begin to worship Me...The True God who created you and all that there is.

As you walk the Earth that I have created, your five senses will help you see Me in the Creation around you. Many others that have already had their new sense ignited will come to you on my behalf. They will help you to understand My plan and the part you are to play in it.

There is a book I have written just for you. They are the Words from My own mouth. When you find this book you will eat of it and it will feed your soul. This book will be both bitter and sweet to your taste. It will be sweet when you find ME within its pages. It will be bitter when you realize not all those you love or know have found ME within its pages.

Your tears will be great for those who do not know Me...your heart will break for them...but you in the end will have JOY in the MORNING. For I have given you a life that will never end. I also have given them a life that will never end. But you will know that the end of the journey is just the beginning of your life with ME.

And they will know that the end of their journey is but the beginning of their life without ME. Soon you will be born of flesh only to die in a short time. For I have said, life is like a wisp of smoke in the wind. It is seen for a brief moment and then it is gone and forgotten.

So prepare now for your birth in the flesh. I have already prepared you for your re-birth in MY Spirit.

I will begin telling you now of the plan as you leave the Light of My Presence to take your place within the womb of darkness that will open into a land of light and shadows.

Do not be afraid for I have promised to be with you always. I will never leave you nor forsake you because you belong to me. You are being prepared as a love gift for my Son...who loves you as much as I do.

His voice of soft thunder recounted to me the plan. It contained only four simple points. With the economy of words that only God could use; these four points contained depths of knowledge beyond our comprehension. For who among those He has created can say they understand Him or even begin to know HIM.

Point One: God had a vision to create an ultimate Holy and Eternal World where God and man would co exist. This vision became reality when God said, "Let there be Light...." And so there was a place where God and man could walk together in a garden, in the cool of the day.

Point Two: Sin entered into this pristine world, twisting the relationship between God and man. This disease born on the dark wings of a fallen angel named Lucifer spread to every man and woman made in the image of God for all time.

Point Three: Two worlds now existed side by side. Two dimensions occupying the same space but not the same time. God in one and man in the other. But God promised to send His Son to redeem mankind and

the world he lived in and re-unite both planes of existence...into ONE. And so the God / Man was born into the world to die for the world and make it ONE again.

Point Four: In the beginning everything was made new. Then for a time everything new became old and life became a cycle of continuing birth and death. But just as God had created the beginning He also created the new beginning of the end.

God would bring forth new birth pangs that would ultimately give birth to a new blending of Earth and Heaven, a place where God and Man again would walk together forever.

The words were now fading rapidly into the shadowy mist in my mind as I began to move out from my mothers womb into the light filled with shadows. My fists were clenched in rage as my lungs filled with air and I began to cry. I would forget all that I had heard from HIS lips. I would forget the voice of quiet thunder and those soft eyes that looked upon me with such love.

But hidden deep within the very heart of my being this new sense within me would gently echo the words of HIS one phrase..."I have already prepared you for your re-birth in MY Spirit."

<i>I knew you even before you were conceived...</i>	Jeremiah 1: 4-5
<i>I chose you when I planned creation...</i>	Ephesians 1: 11-12
<i>You were not a mistake...</i>	Psalms 139: 15-16
<i>For all your days are written in my book...</i>	Psalms 139: 15-16
<i>I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live...</i>	Acts 17:26
<i>I knit you together in your mothers womb...</i>	Psalms 139:13
<i>And brought you forth on the day you were born...</i>	Psalms 71:6

**The day will come in the future when
I will live within YOU.**

**I will never leave you nor forsake you
because you belong to me. You are being
prepared as a love gift for my Son
who loves you as much as I do.**

Through a Mirror Dimly

It has been a restless night...too much on my mind. I have been staring up at the ceiling watching the beginnings of daylight illuminate the shadows in the room, a time when darkness knowing its place bows down to the light.

There are so many things around me happening both at work and at home. Things I think I can control and things I cannot control. They are causing me to multi-task at a level that is difficult for me to keep up with.

Everything is so real to me and urgent.

When I was young the term used in situations that I could not control was to just say "uncle". This little word meant simply to give up because the opposition was too strong. In today's world saying uncle is not an option.

If you give up, your world will turn into darkness and it will envelope you and not let the light back in. So in a real sense the tension between peace and frustration never ends here while we live on planet earth.

When you spend time with God letting His Words become part of you; soon you begin seeing catch phrases. These phrases repeat themselves over and over. These phrases are found within the flesh and blood circumstances and life stories of people throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Their life stories become a window into their souls showing us their relationship with the God who revealed Himself to each of them in unique and wonderful ways. They have learned to rest on the promises of God in times of difficulty.

These phrases become like waves that keep coming to the shore constantly reminding us that God is in control of our circumstances...not us.

One of these phrases "This too shall pass" has become an anchor in the storms of life for me. It is a simple phrase that for me has come to mean ... just hang on during the storms. Don't change directions or give in, or turn away but simply perceive by trusting my anchor will hold fast.

I am not sure about you but my anchor is set firmly into the Cross of Christ. During the storms all I can see are the relentless waves coming at me one after the other. The onslaught continues to pound me, without any relief in sight.

What I don't see or feel are the arms of the Lord holding me steady, with my face set against the wind like flint...meeting any problem or issue

squarely while supported by HIS STRENGTH. I am holding on to the course ahead so I can remain true to His plan for me as I journey through this life led by HIM.

So I see “this too shall pass” moments everywhere on the pages of my story of life. They fill my days and my life and give me comfort because I am anchored in Christ. Whatever I go through is but a single moment in time...nothing more and by the Grace of God “this too shall pass”.

It is still dark and so I get up. There is just enough light so I can move around the shadows of objects in my path as I walk towards the shower. There are two lights in my bathroom. One in the stall shower itself and the other off to the opposite side of the bathroom.

As I have done a thousand times before, I turn the shower on as hot as possible then wait before the shower door, until I see the steam rise. So I wait patiently for the steam to begin filling the stall. Somehow this morning I notice something that must have always been there but eluded my gaze till now.

The steam fills the shower stall. The light inside is soft and gently illuminates the clear stall door that is now filled with steam. There before me is me. It is really not me but a soft image of me, a faded color image, yet with enough detail to recognize me...as if I was looking through a mirror dimly.

As I turned, my eye caught a glimpse of something shiny that came and went with the movement of my body. Sort of like a mirror off in the distance used to reflect light by someone sending a message to someone else far away.

I steadied myself at an angle that allowed this image to come alive. There it was standing out off of my body, clear and bright and solid against a faded image of me. It looked surreal because the image seemed solid while my body seemed almost spirit like. The image reflecting the light was the gold Cross that I wear around my neck.

When I first became a believer in Christ in May of 1985, Elyse bought me this Cross. I remember the emotions I felt as I humbly began to wear the symbol that brought together in One Person, All the Pain people will ever experience throughout time and ALL the Love that God gave to us by allowing His One and ONLY Son to die for each of us on the Cross.

Could you stand by and turn your back to the heart cry of your beloved Son as you hear HIM call out to you in desperation the words “My God, MY GOD, WHY have you Forsaken Me? I know I could not...yet God did, just for you.... because HE loves you...He allowed the Cross to happen.

It was interesting to see this portrait of me within the shower door. It brought to mind several thoughts like the statement that in this world we see through a mirror dimly. This world is not real. Sure it feels real, our bodies have been designed to experience this physical world by God. But the real us is the person inside our body. The essence of Ernie is spirit not the flesh of my body.

In a very real sense the faded image of me on the shower door is the true me. And the reflection of the Gold Cross that stands out of my image symbolizes one spirit claimed by the Lord on the Cross 2,000 years ago as HIS. For I carry His sign on my body. The sign that confirms I was bought and paid for by HIS Blood.

The only true identity I really have is in Christ; for without belonging to HIM I have no identity in the future. For every day I live here, with every year that passes; my image will continue to fade as the Cross continues to gain in strength as a beacon to all who know me.

To be a Christian, is to be a follower of Christ.

To be a Christian, is to be a light bearer of His Truth.

To be a Christian, is to be a reflection of the image of God to all you meet.

My faded image before me also reminds me of how God has painted word portraits of the Messiah in the Old Testament. Portraits that are shadows as seen in a mirror dimly of the coming promised Redeemer of Mankind. Even though the pictures are painted with rich and vibrant words, they still are like soft faded watercolors as compared to dynamic and vivid and bold acrylic paints.

And so just as it is hard to see my faded image in the shower door, it is also difficult to see Christ in the Old Testament...UNLESS you look for the signs of the shadow of HIS Cross and trace them through the Messianic Prophecies.

It begins with Genesis 3:15, then to Psalm 22, and to Isaiah 53, and into Daniel 9: 24-27, and finally into Zechariah 12:10. All are shadow portraits of the One to come, the One who exists as Spirit in the Old Testament; but not yet revealed in the flesh.

Then in Proverbs 30: 4... The Messiah is further identified as a son.

“Who has ascended into heaven or descended?

Who has gathered the wind in His fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is His name, and what is **His Son's name, If you know?**

The Messiah was identified as Gods Son in the Old Testament. Then this watercolor, faded image of the Son of God in the Old Testament took on Flesh and Blood and Bone and became real in the New Testament as Jesus. Back then you could use all your senses to experience Him for 33 years. You could have a real relationship based on sight rather than faith with the Son of God.

In 1 Corinthians 13:12 (Amplified Bible) it says:

For now we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim (blurred) reflection [of reality as in a riddle or enigma], but then [when perfection comes] we shall see in reality and face to face! Now I know in part (imperfectly), but then I shall know and understand fully and clearly, even in the same manner as I have been fully and clearly known and understood [by God].

When we get to heaven we will look back at all of life here and it will be like the song lyrics "misty water colored memories of the way we were". All of us are like the faded image of me within the shower stall door.

We exist on this plane of life, so real to us, yet it is nothing more than a world of shadow figures living in shadows.

The only way to become solid and real in the future is to have that bold, bright shining solid gold Cross within your body. He calls you home out of this dream into a world of real love and relationships that will never fail you. A world where there is no pain, no hunger a world beyond time...a world were you will no longer walk by faith but you will be able to walk with the Son of God by sight.

The next time you take a hot shower ...take a long introspective look at the faded image of yourself. When you look at you... in your shower door... will you see His Cross over your heart, within your spirit?

An Invitation to Live Forever

Recently both within my family and among my friends... death, seems to be drawing near. In years past it was much easier to deal with the end of life.

In the past when death came it was usually a surprise. Today modern science and technology has become the champion of extending our lives. Currently there is talk about organ and limb replacements that will potentially extend our lives up to 150 years...say the scientific community.

This changes nothing because our lives will still come to an end after 150 years of existence on this planet. Death is common to us all whether we are old or young, for our appointment is inevitable.

For most of us the date of our last day is unknown. We continue to live our lives daily without giving a moment's thought about our last day on earth. Death for us becomes an un-welcomed surprise.

But for two people I know and love this is no longer the case. They have heard from the lips of doctors that their struggle with disease is now terminal. They could have 2 months, 6 months, a year or maybe a little longer. They have been told to get their house in order; that they need to prepare for their death.

For them, unlike us, the approach of their last day is no longer a surprise. You and I never think about death. But for them the thoughts never leave their minds.

Anger, depression, heightened emotions and ultimately fear of the unknown overtake them; making the precious time they have left almost unbearable.

In the past I have written about the Big Questions. Who am I, Why am I here, What am I supposed to be doing? This message is about a special Invitation from God to each of us offering the gift of eternal life in Heaven with HIM.

The only catch is that you must accept the invitation of your own free will and then RSVP.

This invitation by God comes to us in two ways that reinforce each other. The first invitation comes to you by reaching out to your senses. Every one of the five senses you have; sight, touch, hearing, taste, and smell help you experience the creation all around you that God spoke into existence for you.

The song of a bird, the colors of the rainbow in the sky, the smell of flowers in the fields, the touch of the hand of someone you love and the taste of foods you enjoy eating. All these are part of the invitation to know God, for He has created everything for our enjoyment. Yet we take them all for granted, rarely seeing the evidence of the Hand of God all around us.

We ignore this painting of praise, this symphony of worship that the creation lifts up daily to its creator. Everything around us shouts that there is a God who loves; not just His Creation but also the crowning SPECIAL creation He made. That's...YOU...my friend; because you bear the very image of God.

Mankind knows not His Creator yet the Creation praises its maker every day as the heavens and earth sing praises carried on the winds up to heaven before the very throne of God.

The second invitation comes directly from the Lips of God Himself. It is His Special Revelation of Himself contained ONLY within His Word written down for you to read. His word speaks to your mind with words of eternal life that must take root in your heart. Why, because when you were born your heart was born dormant and needs to be quickened...to come alive within you.

So, please, find that quiet place, that prayer closet I have written about before. Get alone with God so you can contemplate what I am about to say to you. I want you to know that you can have assurance of going to heaven when you die. That you can literally take the nail pierced hand of Jesus and walk with HIM while you are here on earth and make plans for your future life after death.

We can have peace and assurance from someone greater than you and I. That peace comes from the Son of God, from Jesus ALONE. Put aside the words of religion, put aside the words of your denomination, put aside the words of your preacher, and put aside the comments, the opinions and words of family and friends...because none of them matter. All are hollow and empty words. unless they contain the TRUE Gospel that SAVES.

You have reached the point in your life when you must understand, that there is ONLY ONE TRUTH that you can place your faith and hope in for life beyond the grave. There is but one person...Jesus who has the words of life for you to hear. He said ...I AM the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE...NO one COMES to the FATHER but thru ME.

His Words contained in the New Testament are the very Words of God. His finished work of love just for you on the Cross open's the way for you to heaven. His Words are the ONLY Words that offer Heaven. If you accept them you have Eternal Security now on Earth before you die.

Eternal security is the work of God that guarantees that the gift of Salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost!

Those whom God has **chosen and predestined** will, without question, eventually be glorified, indicating their destiny is eternally secure (Romans 8:30).

Jude Stressed God's glorious and mighty power to preserve Christians: "Now to Him who is able to **keep you** from stumbling" (Jude 24). The Lord is sovereign over all things, and in His omnipotence, **He is able to deliver you** through your pilgrimage on Earth.

Jesus Christ guarantees our security in salvation: "He who hears MY word and believes in Him who sent Me **has** everlasting life, and **shall not** come into judgment, but **has passed** from death into life! (John 5:24).

Jesus also said, "All that the Father gives Me...**I should lose nothing**". (John 6:37,39).

Therefore, we are eternally secure. **Neither can anyone** (not even we ourselves) pluck us out of God the Fathers hand (John 10:28-29). Jesus said, " he who believes in the Son **has everlasting Life**" (John 3:36).

This means, the millisecond you received Jesus as your Savior you were Born Again, and **you received Eternal Life at that moment**, you put your Faith in Christ...thereby making you Eternally secure.

The Holy Spirit plays a key role in our eternal security. It is He who regenerates, or plants within us a new nature that is a new-life relationship with God (2 peter 1:4). The Spirit indwells Christians forever at the time of their new births (John 14:16). He also baptizes believers, placing them into the body of Christ at the moment of regeneration. We also are "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who **is the guarantee of our inheritance**" (Ephesians 1:13-14). The indwelling Spirit is a down payment, or pledge, of our complete redemption, indicating that we are eternally secure.

Ultimately your assurance rests on the Authority of the Word of God. "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know** that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

Jesus said "Do not marvel that I said to you " You must be born again" (John 3:7). Scripture teaches that once you are born again, you remain so forever.

The Father of Jesus says to you:

You may not know me, but I know everything about you
I know when you sit down and when you rise up
I am familiar with all of your ways
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered
For you were made in my image

In me you live and move and have your being
For you are my offspring
I knew you even before you were conceived
I chose you when I planned creation
You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live
You are fearfully and wonderfully made
I knit you together in your mother's womb
And brought you forth on the day you were born

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand
For I am your provider and I meet all your needs

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope
Because I love you with an everlasting love
My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore
And I rejoice over you with singing

I will never stop doing good to you
For you are my treasured possession
I desire to establish you with all of my heart and all of my soul
And I want to show you great and marvelous things

If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me
Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart
For it is I who gave you those desires

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine
For I am your greatest encourager
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles
When you are brokenhearted I am close to you

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes
And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love
If you receive the invitation of my son Jesus, you receive me
And nothing will ever separate you from my love again

HIS invitation to live forever requires an RSVP from you to Jesus. You need to accept His death on the Cross for your sins 2,000 years ago. You must believe that Jesus died, was buried and then rose again on the 3rd day as documented historical within the New Testament. You need to believe Him when He said He is coming back again to this earth very soon.

If your Doctor has told you that your days on earth are short, then I implore you...I beg you to please take the time to get to know Jesus. May the tears you will shed become tears of joy as you realize that God has written your name on the palm of His hand.

Become ONE of HIS and HE will never let you go. Death is not the end, it is only a door to go through ... into a new forever beginning.

May the door through which you must pass open before you as you BEHOLD the Lamb of God, slain just for you with His hand extended in friendship.

Jesus; who came to earth to die for you on the Cross...**Jesus**; who waits to meet you personally on the other side of deaths door and give you the best hug of your life. **Jesus**; as He gently wipes away the tears from your eyes and says to you...

SAY YOUR NAME HERE ..."WELCOME HOME" to the place I have been preparing just for you.

May God find you and give you a new heart ...before you die... and find HIM.

SEEKERS

How do we recognize them?

What do we feed them?

Christian Lite or the LIGHT of Christ?

As a believer in the Messiah of Israel, Jesus, there are only 2 foundational witnessing principals I want to convey to another person about my faith.

One is that Jesus is the ONLY Savior. This implies that there is a reason to be saved and something to be Saved from. It implies something is wrong with each of us and that Jesus is the ONLY Way...the ONE Way to Salvation.

Two, the Judeo Christian Bible is the ONLY True Authority given by the True God to Mankind. That the Words are the very Words of God passed on to us through Prophets and Apostles. And that this book, the Autobiography of God is made up of only 66 books and is now a Closed Cannon.

Any attempt to add books are a fabrication, a deception both human and demonic. They contradict the Word of God. No additional books have been or can be added.

Gods Words were given to us and we are accountable to them. 95 percent of the words are simple enough for a child to understand. The remainder that causes dissention among us cannot be understood this side of heaven. Rather than fight about its meaning we should be doing what we were told by the Lord...to proclaim His Gospel...which begins with our **Repentance** at the Cross.

There is a pattern for witnessing. God established it through John the Baptizer. John is the forerunner to the coming Messiah. John was appointed by God to bear witness of the True Messiah. John was the "Voice in the Wilderness" whose clarion call was to pave a road through the desert made up of broken and **repentant** hearts for the Messiah to walk on. "**Repent** for the Kingdom of God is Here!

The word **Repent** implies we have a problem. A problem based on the Gospel that we cannot of ourselves fix...ever!

Jesus when he trod the Judean dust said "**I will build MY Church** and the gates of hell will not stand against it." Neither Priests, Pastors nor any man can add one soul to His church. Jesus also made it clear that though

Salvation was for everyone; only the few, the Remnant throughout time would be saved. So what is it that we need to be saved from?

“People do not like to think about hell...especially those who are headed there! But that doesn't mean it isn't real.

We need to know that the Lord Jesus Himself often warned about the reality of hell. The Sermon on the Mount is a message often quoted because of its wonderful promises. We have a tendency to always look for what makes us happy. So we pick and choose portions of Scripture out of context ignoring the parts we dislike and do not want to think about.

Hell is also mentioned in the same Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:22 and 5:30. Jesus also stressed in that sermon that “broad is the way, that leads to destruction and many there be which go in there at”. (Matt. 7:13). He later warned that we should “fear HIM (God) which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell” (Matt 10:28).

The religious leaders of the day were not exempt. To them, speaking of their religious hypocrisy, He said, “You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape the damnation of hell?” (Matt 23:33). These are heavy words to those who lead us even today. Those who will be accountable for every sheep in their fold!

Depart from me he will say to lost souls both small and great...into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matt 25:41). They shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Rev. 21:8).

Hell will indeed be very real—eternally real both to those who have lead you astray and to those who like mindless sheep have been willingly lead to their slaughter.

Since Christ is both our Creator and our Savior and also will be our Judge; who died for our sins and defeated death by His Resurrection, it is foolish for anyone to reject His revelation about Hell.”

(Days of Praise...ICR, institute for creation research, Sat. 9/15 devotional.)

We are now upon the Jewish High Holiday of Yom Kippur...the Day of Atonement for the sins of the entire nation of Israel. It is a day of fasting and prayer for forgiveness from Almighty God. It is all about **Repentance**.

The nation of Israel's call to **repentance** is hollow, without meaning. God does not hear it because it still based on a works righteousness system where people think they can be good enough to stand before a Holy God at their judgment and earn their way into heaven.

Jewish people ignore the prophesied facts that their Messiah came 2,000 years ago as their One Time perfect sacrifice for their individual sin. They reject Him still today.

They follow a Rabbinical System of teaching that guarantees them Hell. Heaven is possible only if they acknowledged their Savior Yeshua and His Cross.

There are parallels within the false Rabbinical System in Judaism and the Seeker movement within Churches today. The Rabbi's mislead their followers by teaching that you can get to heaven through good works.

The Seeker Pastors focus on the love of Christ for all people and the good things He will give you. They ignore the statement "Take up your Cross and follow Me!" then teach a one sided Gospel, an incomplete Gospel, a non saving Gospel... a Gospel without **repentance**...that leads to the pit.

Both systems are wrong because step one to faith and heaven is **REPENTANCE**. Knowing you're a sinner in need of Salvation. Scripture warns that we do not want to be Sinners in the Hand of an Angry God. When you know God through Christ you understand that to Fear the Lord is to know Him and obey Him and then Love HIM.

But that begins with understanding that we need to Fear His Righteous Wrath and His Doctrine of Hell.

The Church today seems to be about a building and a huge crowd of people with a new vision to reach the lost. It seems the standard that was set by the Lord Himself is no longer viable. Today we must reinvent the methodology according to the culture in order to get the message of redemption out.

Sorry, but I don't think so. God's True Church is made up of individual people. WE are the living stones that make up His Church. The word Church is Eklesia. It is not a building. It means called out ones...people...Born Again Jewish and Gentile people who have experienced common Grace through Gods Son Jesus.

What is the call by God, the anointing by God for His Church, His called out ones? It is to Go Forth, into the neighborhoods, to your relatives, into your workplace...to Go Forth and Preach the Gospel of His Cross. One person at a time.

The Church is made up of BELIEVERS **not thousands** of Unbelievers. Church is a place where BELIEVERS gather to worship and to study the Word of God so they as individuals can go out into the fields that are ripe to harvest and witness.

Take a poll within these Seeker Churches and ask the people that come through their doors why they attend on Sunday's.

They are there because the Church is: Family friendly, with good people, moral people. A place that cares about them where they have a sense of community. A place where they learn about the Jesus who is good and kind and gentle. A Jesus who wants you healthy and wealthy who carries your burden for you.

I have nothing against a Seeker Church of 6,000, 30,000 or even 1,000,000. What I disagree with is the methodology. Their focus is preaching that satisfies itching ears. How many people do you think would stay in that Seeker Church if the Gospel was preached correctly, convicting them of their sins?

That God is HOLY and you are not. That His standard is Holy Perfection; one that you are not capable of reaching at all. That Hell awaits you unless you repent because you are a sinner by accepting His Sons death on the Cross as a personal exchange between you and HIM. That life is not going to be easy, but hard, that storms will come into your life like waves from a raging ocean. Yet, He will be there with you to give you Grace and Strength and Mercy to go through life's storms.

The reasons given above by Church attendees are the same you will hear from people that attend the Church of Scientology, The Mormon Church and yes the liberal Christian Churches everywhere. Actually from the perspective of unsaved people they do "Church" better than we do "Church".

These Seeker / Mega Churches or Seeker "Tiny Churches" provide a comfortable place to have a false sense of salvation. A safe and secure place in this life to launch off upon death into the pit.

The focus of the Seeker / Mega Churches or Seeker "Tiny Churches" is all about the Pastor. They garner the Glory, the Worship that belongs to Christ Alone. It's no different than what you find in the Book of Acts when Paul visited Churches with charismatic leaders like Apollos.....Paul had to set them straight. Its not about Apollos or even Paul ... **it's about Christ!**

It is not that you cannot hear the Truth at these churches; it's just that you never hear the whole Truth. You hear about a one dimensional Jesus promising you an abundant life with an easy yoke and all the peace and joy you want.

Wednesday nights are supposed to be the nights for solid Bible teaching where I assume you find out, what your not hearing on Sunday's; that you are a wretch, a sinner doomed to hell unless you repent. In the few

Seeker church mid week services I have attended I have heard no such thing...only a continuation of the Sunday Christian lite being fed to a church filled to the brim with unbelievers.

Recently two things appalled me while visiting Seeker Churches. One is all the people who brought in their food and latte's into Gods Sanctuary. The other was when a Pastor relinquished his Sunday Pulpit to a Christian Comic.

Some Pastors are on the bandwagon by taking materials developed by Bill Hybels or Rick Warren the current experts on how to build the Kingdom of God. The Pastors use these materials because they represent proven methods to build their small congregations into Mega Churches. Great vast machines that can crank out believers for the Lord.

I appreciate their pointing out to me that Jesus methodology needs revising, so we can reach the lost better. I guess the preaching of the whole council of God is wrong because the Gospel might cause someone to stumble or take it for foolishness.

You know Jesus told Peter 3 times FEED MY SHEEP. Maybe people don't realize that MY SHEEP are **repentant** True Believers not UN repentant Non Believers.

Pastors are supposed to feed their sheep with the Word of God so they can go out into the world and witness and then bring True Seekers who are **Repentant** into the Church and then equip and train them to go forth and plant seeds into the hearts of those they know and love.

Who is a Seeker....God will provide His own **repentant** seekers that will come to know Him as Lord.

Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from there you **seek** the LORD your God, you will find **him** if you look for **him** with all your heart and with all your soul.

1 Chronicles 28:9

For the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you **seek him**, he will be found by you; but if you forsake **him**, he will reject you forever.

2 Chronicles 15:2

The LORD is with you when you are with **him**. If you **seek him**, he will be found by you, but if you forsake **him**, he will forsake you.

Psalms 10:4

In his pride the wicked does not **seek him**; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Psalm 22:26

They who **seek** the LORD will praise **him**

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on **him** while he is near.

Acts 17:27

God did this so that men would **seek him** and perhaps reach out for **him** and find **him**, though he is not far from each one of us.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to **him** must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly **seek him**.

Matthew 7:8

“For everyone who asks receives, and he who **seeks** finds, and to **him** who knocks it will be opened.

What is a Pastor...a TEACHER of the **whole council of God** to His flock so they can go forth into the Battle for the Mind and the Hearts of those they know and have a relationship with to tell them about the Cross of Christ.

What is the Church...its not a building; it's the people, the living stones that worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth. People that realize that they signed a blood Oath (written in His Blood) to obey the Great Commission.

Does your church have a HIGH View of God? Does your Church exist to unfold God's glory? Does your Church exalt Christ? Is He at the center of everything your church does? Does your Church love Scripture? Does your church proclaim Gods word in a way that increases your appetite to learn more?

Or

Has your church designed their ministry around the felt needs of their target audience? (A marketing term you wont find in the Bible).Does your church downplay or neglect the person and work of Christ making Him a postscript? Do you sit under shallow teaching and preaching making you a spiritual anorexic without the ability to recognize the truth from a lie?

To All those who want to build Mega Churches ...relax...just wait a while longer. You can read about the Mega Churches that will unite as One World Church in the Book of Revelation. A Church focused on a One World Leader, the ultimate Charismatic Leader of the Largest Church ever to be established this side of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

This leader of the world will not use Christ's methodology to gain followers either. Yet he will build a world religion that will satisfy people's needs and wants.

Everybody will be extremely happy and entertained within his churches around the world....For he is the god of this world, the god of the unbelievers, the god who will stand for "have it your way".

This will happen simply because people will not hear that they are sinners, and that they need to **repent**. Instead they will be told they are saved. This is easy believism when **repentance** is ignored it is not salvation.

"Mental assent to certain facts about Christ is not true saving faith. Nor will it produce salvation for a person merely to be sorry for his sins and change his behavior if he did not really trust from his heart in the person and work of Christ.

One cannot truly **repent** (that is change his mind about Christ and His work, as well as his own life) without genuinely believing personally that Christ died for his sins and rose again to provide his salvation. Neither can one have genuine faith in Christ as Son of God and his own personal Savior without having his whole life and attitude changed.

The real "formula" for salvation is "**repentance** toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ". (Acts 20:21). Christ Himself preached "**Repent** and believe the gospel".

There is famous message by Jonathan Edwards called Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God. Most people I have talked to do not know who Jonathan Edwards is let alone his sermon. There is a CD copy of it dramatized by Max McLain. It is worth your getting and listening too.

I am sure you can see that I am a Literal Bible Believer. I believe it IS ALL the Un-changing Word of God....or not Gods Word at all.

I believe Gods Word means what it says and says what it means....

Do YOU?

Self Deception

Where you aware that the entrance to Hell will be from the Portal of Heaven? We can look at this statement at the end of the message because it will give everyone reading this, as it has me; pause for thought.

One of the most painful things you can do is tell the truth. We live in a world whose moral underpinnings are on the edge of disappearing forever.

When you speak the truth; it becomes difficult for people to hear, and difficult for people to tolerate and easy for people to shoot the messenger. I have been sharing my thoughts for a long time. In the beginning the topics were about God, Jesus, who they are and about the Bible and why it is TRUE and how to defend your faith.

The messages were generally upbeat about life here on planet earth. I have tried to creatively weave together in each message something of the three worlds relevant to us; the world around us, the world within us and the world to come.

I have tried to always take you to the foot of the Cross for only there can you find forgiveness of sin and eternal life in heaven.

You need to realize that; “we are redeemed for something far beyond our time, our space, our history, and ourselves. And that within us are planted the beginning seeds of the world to come, the indwelling King, and our commitment to the values and expressions of eternity.”

(Joseph Stowell...Eternity)

If we are not careful we can forget that we live in a fallen place in the midst of a fallen race. And loose sight of the FACT that all life was to be seen in the light of the world to come.

But today the vast majority of pulpits are silent in regards to telling the Truth. They do not want to alienate anyone by preaching the True Gospel. For if they did very few people would be in their congregations.

Now you are thinking here I go criticizing the current “Seeker” church movement. I really am not. I am more concerned with you having the assurance of your Salvation **and that you are not self-deceived.**

Before I add my own thoughts lets begin with Gods by looking at His Word. There are three sets of Scripture that clearly are linked together providing each Christian who claims faith in Christ to pause and read this last road sign carefully.

This sign appears at the end of our earthly road as we stand before an elevator to take us up to the throne room of God Himself. The sign simply asks you to consider the question “Are YOU Self Deceived?”... the question requires self examination to make sure you are not self deceived before entering the elevator door.

Initially the ride will be up, but bear in mind that elevators go two ways and you may be taking it back down...if you are self-deceived.

The question is whether you are a TRUE BELIEVER who **cannot loose their salvation**. If you are convinced that you are a true believer and you really are not and therefore self-deceived...then you are heading for a fall because you never were a TRUE BELIEVER.

Matthew 7:21-23 is perhaps the most profound and frightening words ever spoken by Jesus as a warning to professing believers.

Matthew 7 vs 21-23... I Never Knew You

21 “**Not everyone** who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22 On that day many** will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ **23** And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from me,** you workers of lawlessness.’” You and I are part of a country where 86% of the people claim to be Christian and go to church. Do you think they are all going to heaven?

2 Corinthians 13 vs 5... Final Warnings

The Apostle Paul wrote: “**Examine** yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test** yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—**unless indeed you fail** to meet the test!”

God is speaking through Paul again saying to you “Are YOU self deceived? Listen up...its not me challenging you...its God.

“People who claim faith will be immersed in church and ministry activities. They attend and possibly teach Bible Studies. They appear to produce spiritual fruit. They look and sound like authentic believers.

But exposure to and familiarity with the true gospel doesn’t guarantee true conversion. Knowing the facts of the gospel and having it penetrate your heart are two different things.

Scripture is clear on the matter: It is possible to have a perfect knowledge of the gospel and the Bible, and still not be saved. What is frightening is that people who are in that situation don’t even know it.” (John MacArthur...CD...Saved or Self-Deceived?)

This whole topic rubs us the wrong way. “ I am a good person, I give to charities, I go to church, I serve the community, I...”

What do you see wrong with the latter statement? Is it possible there is a tinge of pride? In case it is not obvious lets go to one more place in Scripture.

Isaiah 14:12-14

13 You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” (Quoted from the lips of SATAN).

Do you notice the **I ‘ s**. Possibly like satan before us we have the common desire to do everything our way. We want to be god...the captain of our own fate. But God has a reminder for us...

Isaiah 29:15-17... “What sorrow awaits those who try to hide their plans from the Lord, who do their evil deeds in the dark!?” “The Lord can’t see us,” they say. “He doesn’t know what’s going on!”? **16** How foolish can you be?? He is the Potter, and he is certainly greater than you, the clay!? **Should the created thing say of the one who made it,?** “He didn’t make me”?? Does a jar ever say, “The potter who made me is stupid?”

Whether we like it or not, you and I are not GOD. He is the POTTER, you and I are the clay. He said to each of us in **Psalms 46:10**: “Be **still**, and **know** that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

It will be HIS way not our way. Our sense of Justice and Fair Play has no place before the HOLY God of Creation.

So don’t let your own pride get in the way of Gods Truth. There is a war raging within you and its being fed by the culture and the many preachers out there who preach a simple gospel that will not save.

Today marketing programs are being used by churches to create mega churches. This methodology fills the churches with unbelievers but does not confront them with their sin and their need for a savior. Christ established the format for witnessing 2,000 years ago and has not changed it. We all are sinners on the way to Hell, desperately in need of a Savior.

That Savior is Jesus who died on a Cross-to provide a sure path through HIM ALONE to Heaven. You cannot work your way to heaven. Jesus said you must count the cost of your decision. People currently in these churches are not being told to count the cost or that saving faith means they will be given a Cross-of their own to bear in this life.

Then there are those that preach in the name of Christ, but speak only of prosperity, love and man's psychology...but have NO Biblical Discernment! They lead thousands of people away from Christ.

Interview by Mike Wallace of Joel Osteen, December 23, 2008 on Fox News Sunday.

Wallace: And what about Mitt Romney? And I've got to ask you the question, because it is a question whether I should be or not in this campaign, **is a Mormon a true Christian?**

Osteen: **Well, in my mind they are.** Mitt Romney has said that he believes in Christ as his savior, and that's what I believe, so, you know, **I'm not the one to judge the little details of it.** So I believe they are.

Wallace: So, for instance, when people start talking about Joseph Smith, the founder of the church, and the golden tablets in upstate New York, and God assumes the shape of a man, **do you get hung up in those theological issues?**

Osteen: I probably don't get hung up in them **because I haven't really studied them or thought about them.** And you know, I just try to let God be the judge of that. I mean, I don't know.

I certainly can't say that I agree with everything that I've heard about it, but from what I've heard from Mitt, when **he says that Christ is his savior, to me thats a common bond.** End Quote...from Pulpit Magazine
Posted: 23 Jan 2008.

If you do not understand how wrong Joel Osteen is, then you should take the time to understand why Mormons are not Christian.

This is in no way a political or religious statement by me regarding Mitt Romney. It is soul-ly (not misspelled) a statement about Joel Osteen and the fact that **he is a wolf in sheep's clothing** and is helping people follow himself into the elevator **that will go down not up.**

What is even sadder is that many are rising up in pulpits across our country doing the same thing. Why, because you can get a crowd into church and focus all the glory on yourself and away from the Lord.

The FACT is that the ONLY WAY to find HIM is at the end of the Narrow Road, a path you take by yourself; not along the path with all your friends down the wide road with everyone else by your side.

So lets go back to the beginning question. **Where you aware that the entrance to Hell will be from the Portal of Heaven?**

Do we really comprehend the fact that we will go up into heaven and stand before the Lord; and from that spot before the Lord in heaven we may be sent to Hell? You will feel great on the ride up; but you may be a candidate for the ride down!

This message is serious. It is about you and me. It is about hearing Christ say one of two things to each of us..."Well done my good and faithful Servant"...OR..."**I never knew you; depart from me**".

So take the Apostle Paul's advice... "**Examine** yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith."...if you are there will be evidence of your faith in the life you live daily before the face of God.

I have a CD message from Pastor John MacArthur on how to examine yourself according to Gods Word, not according to MacArthur's words. If you would like a copy I will be glad to send you one.

God speaks to you and I from **Psalm 46:10** when HE Says..."Be **still**, and **know** that **I am** God; **I will** be exalted among the nations, and **I will** be exalted in the earth."

Joel Osteen does not speak for GOD, but he does speak for the god of this world...satan. But GOD has a special word for Joel Osteen:

Jude 1 vs 12

"They (Osteen and all like him, past present and future) are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots.

They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness."

Don't follow men like Osteen down the elevator into the "blackest darkness"; for you will never see the light again. Ask for the CD it will not harm you, but it will challenge your thought process in relation to the Words of God.

Osteen's two Nationally acclaimed (Christian??) Best Selling book titles form a double negative when I add the word **not**. This is **NOT**- "Your Best Life Now." And "Mormons are (NOT) Christians Too."

"Joel Osteen will stand before Jesus and he will say Lord, but LORD, I DID THIS for YOU!...and Jesus will say...I Never....."

P.S.... Food for thought: God for now is leaving the wheat and the tares together.

When the Lord spoke about the wheat and the tares being left to grow together for this current age; and then to be separated by the angels during the final harvest of souls yet too come. HE did not mean that the wheat represented the members of the church and the tares represented the people of the world outside the church.

He meant self proclaimed Christians, that are the tares among the wheat of True Christians within the Church. If this were not what HE meant then the statement above from Matthew 7:23 would never have been made. The Church is growing...not in Faith but in Apostasy.

The final judgment will take place in heaven. It will be the separation of believers from non-believers; the sheep from the goats described in Revelation. The sheep will be all believers. The goats will be all non-believers including the professing false believers in Christ.

For now we worship together, both wheat and tare claiming to be one church with one god...how sad that the lack of discernment, the lack of biblical knowledge and misplaced hope will take many down.

Signs

Every morning I make a right turn onto South Commerce on my way to M-5 to get onto the expressway. On my way I pass a company whose building is empty. The grass is over grown; it is obvious that no one has been there for years. The company in its day made signs. The only reason I know this is because on the property there is a large sign with one large simple word printed on it.

The word is **SIGN**. I have been passing this lone sentinel 5 days a week every week for almost a year now. I see it on the way in to work and on the way home. I wonder how many of the people traveling the same path notice the **SIGN**?

Very few I am sure. They are all very busy in their cars being very important, talking on the phone, eating breakfast, drinking coffee, and looking in the mirror at themselves. It's a fast paced world you know. We have no time anymore, we multi-task because we have to in order to survive. An objective observer would swear that we seem to just run to and fro without really accomplishing much.

So no I really do not believe anyone notices the **SIGN**. Yet I do and it calls out to me two times everyday. It reminds me of Gods description of mankind in their sinful state. They have ears yet they do not understand what they hear. They have eyes but they do not see the **SIGNS**. They have hearts of stone that are insensitive to the needs of everyone around them.

They are blind, deaf and naked before God, and have no clue of their sinful condition. They do not need a Savior because they do not believe they need to be saved. Saved from what they ask me? When I tell them saved from the coming wrath of God and from their potential place of residence in Hell ...they laugh...they Mock God.

The **SIGN** I pass each day is truly like a sentinel. It stands as a reminder to everyone that passes it day after day that God has placed **SIGN'S** along the road of each person's journey though life. **SIGN'S** that if people would just follow would lead them into outer space all the way to the throne room of God.

God has given us Prophecies; 100's of them in the Bible. They are **SIGN'S** that tell us the future. They are **SIGN'S** that can be investigated and proven by Science, Archeology, and Past History.

We use **SIGN'S** to give us directions so we know where we are going and don't get lost. **SIGN'S** also tell us of danger ahead. God has given us **SIGN'S** in His Word that do the same thing.

So if your willing to slow your car down and pay attention to the **SIGN'S** I am about to give you from the Word of God; you will find your way safely to the home that God has prepared for you to live forever with HIM in His Heaven.

Ten Signs of Christ's Return

The following is taken from Pastor John Barnett's daily devotional called

"Living Hope for the End of Days".

"The sign of the Son of Man will appear...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" **(Matthew 24:30).**

1. Sign of Global Travel:

Daniel was overwhelmed when he caught a glimpse of the number of people and the speed with which they would be moving about the planet in the end days. So God told him,"...Daniel...seal the book until the time of the end; **many shall run to and from**, and knowledge shall increase" (Daniel 12:4).

The Bible said that there would be many involved in travel, and today the transportation industry is one of the largest segments of the global economy. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, few individuals traveled beyond their community. Until recently, horse, foot, and boat were the only modes of transportation. Ye, in our day, millions travel "To and Fro" great distances every year.

2. Sign of a Global Explosion of Knowledge:

God said that "knowledge shall increase" in the end days (Daniel 12:4). For example, we've recently seen the introduction of new generations of computer chips. Each generation has basically doubled its processing speed and power. However, the newest chip...the "Cell"...doesn't double; everything that the computer does the "Cell" multiplies by sixty times!

We live in a fast-paced world where many "run to and fro", frantically searching for what ever seems to be missing in their lives. Yet nothing satisfies: what is "hot" today is quickly "ho hum" tomorrow! God says that in the last days men will be ...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the

truth (2 Timothy 3:4-7). Do you know some people like that? Have you loved them enough to warn them of the judgment to come and to offer the only hope that can truly satisfy?

3. Sign of global Weather Gone Wild:

“all these are **the beginning** of sorrows” (Matthew 24:8).

Jesus predicted that there would be a time when weather would be so bad that not just a few but the whole world would be troubled and fearful as many thousands are killed by the prevalent chaotic weather. Jesus foresaw “the sea and the waves roaring” (Luke 21:25) in the last days, like the 2004 Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, and likened these trends to birth pangs...“the beginning of sorrows.” The Greek word *Odin*, often translated as “sorrows” in Matthew 24:8, literally means “birth pangs.”

Paul says that the Creation is under the curse of sin but it...will be delivered from the bondage of corruption...(Romans 8:21). While the Creation like wise awaits the coming of the Liberator, Christ the Lord, the universe itself will travail in intensity and frequency as the time of its delivery draws near: For...the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs...(Romans 8:22). Of course chaotic weather has always existed, but there are indicators that we are witnessing an unusual surge in strange and devastating weather around the globe.

4. Sign of Global Telecommunication and Television:

God’s Word explicitly specified that the whole world would simultaneously be able to see and hear globally: The...nations will see their dead bodies three-and –a-half days, and ...will rejoice over them...because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth (Revelation 11:9-10). In the Apostle John’s day, news traveled at “the speed of horseback.” But for the first time ever, due to the invention of television and the deployment of global satellite networks during the twentieth century, news can travel the world at the speed of light.

5. Sign of Global Evangelism:

Jesus has told us that before the end of days, the Gospel would be preached to all nations. We can now preach the gospel of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross anywhere on the earth through e-mail, radio or television waves. In fact, my little website alone has visitors from over a hundred different nations on earth!

The Christian Gospel is now being “preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come”. (Matthew 24:14). Portions of God’s Word or the entire Bible have been translated into over 2,300 languages and dialects, covering more than 90 percent of the world’s population.

6. Sign of Global Pestilences:

Despite an increase in scientific knowledge the Bible predicted that deadly diseases would still be prevalent in the end days: "...There will be famines, pestilences (deadly diseases), and earthquakes in various places". (Matthew 24-7).

Emerging diseases such as Aids, Ebola virus, Hanavirus, West Nile, SARS, Avian Flu and so forth, underscore this fact. Ironically, only a few decades ago, some scientists were forecasting that advances in medicine might soon eradicate deadly diseases.

7. Sign of Global Tracking and Positioning:

The Bible says there will be technologies capable of tracking the world's population and commerce: "He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name (Revelation 13:16-17).

"As an example of sophisticated tracking that has already existed for years, being recognized has never been easier for VIP patrons of the Baja Beach Club in Barcelona, Spain. Like a scene out of a science fiction movie, all it takes is a syringe injected microchip implant for the beautiful men and women of the nightclub scene to breeze past a "reader" that recognizes their identity, credit balance and even automatically opens doors to exclusive areas of the club for them. Conrad K. Chase, director of the Club , explains, "By simply passing by our reader, the Baja Beach Club will know who you are and what your credit balance is . From the moment of their implantation they will also have free entry and access to the VIP area."

8. Signs of Weapons of Mass Destruction:

The term "weapons of mass destruction" is commonly used these days, but often without the somberness that it warrants. God has warned us that at the end of the world mankind would be capable of destroying all life: "...There will be great tribulation...And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved..." (Matthew 24:21-22). When Jesus made this prediction, the armaments of His day were swords and spears. However, with our generation's nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, it is not only possible to wipe out all flesh on planet Earth, but it is plausible!

9. Sign of the Return of the Wandering Jews to the Promised Land:

Over twenty-six centuries ago, God promised that at the end of the world, Jews would gather together once again in Israel: "...Thus say the Lord God: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations...and will...bring them into their own land; and I will make them one Nation...; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be

divided into two kingdoms again: (Ezekiel 37:21-22), See also Ezekiel 38:8 and Jeremiah 31:7-10).

Since 1948 the world has witnessed the call of God deep within the hearts of 5.4 million Jews who have done everything they could to emigrate to the Promised Land.
More arrive each day!

10. Sign of Israel Building a Security Wall:

God told Ezekiel 150 years, after “Israel” had been captured, its cities destroyed and the population exiled to Assyria by Sargon, that Israel would build walls for security—even though there had been no “Israel” for 150 years!

For 2,520 years after the Assyrian conquest, there was no sovereign nation called Israel until 1948. Israel was an occupied land, captured and recaptured by various conquerors for twenty-five centuries. Listen to what Ezekiel was told to say: There would be a people gathered from across the world to Israel (38:12); they would be called Israel (38:18); they would dwell in a land where the walls have been taken down (38:11). Amazing!

Until 2002, this has always been spoken of as an allusion to defensive preparations. However, for several years now, in an effort to slow the flow of suicide bombers, Israel has been building the most notorious wall in the world. And that wall will be totally completed because Ezekiel saw it taken down when Israel accepts the European Peace Treaty through the Antichrist’s rule during the Tribulation, and thus trusts in a false peace and the final false messiah.(Daniel 9:27).

...*Quote from Pastor John Barnett closed.*

There is another small word I forgot to mention that is under the large word **SIGN** that I drive by every day. It is the word **Engraved**. **God** has engraved His law on your heart. He did this so you would understand deep within yourself that you are a sinner, a law breaker in need of salvation. The law contained within your heart, your conscience, your very being tells you that you cannot keep it. It is plain to you as Scripture teaches, that your heart is desperately wicked and that you were born with the universal disease of mankind...SIN.

If you can see yourself enfolded within the arms of Christ hanging together with HIM on His Cross and you understand that you were born a sinner and that He exchanged His life for yours ...then you are **Saved**.

Then words of Psalm 139: 15-16 apply to you when God says that all your days are written in His Book. Then the words of Revelation 21 vs 27 will have special meaning to you..."and nothing unclean (bearing sin), and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it (His Kingdom of Heaven), ...

**... BUT... *Only* those whose names
are written (ENGRAVED) in the
Lamb's (Jesus) book of LIFE.**

A Slice of Bread and a Kind Word

I went this past Saturday as I usually do to the Great Harvest Bread Company. Going there has become a ritual that my taste buds look forward to. I love bread and bread loves me and so it seems do the people there.

They love what they do and their enthusiasm for life reaches out to everyone who walks in through the door. They remind me of the old movie of Robin Hood...they are the Merry Men of the Forest. Or, they are the Happy Elves of Santa's Toy Workshop.

The place is all smiles and everyone has a kind word as they share a slice of bread with you...free of charge...just so you get a taste to enjoy.

These seemingly simple people earn their hourly wage selling bread for a living. I wonder what kind of existence that possibly can be?

Don't they know that there is much more to life than selling bread and sharing their enthusiasm and joy with everyone who comes to their table?

You see they are in love with their work providing bread for all who come in.

Do you smell something Biblical here?

You see God has asked each of us to both share a slice of bread...the living bread of life and to share a kind word...the word of life ...HIS Word...with all those who come to our table.

If we do then He has promised us Joy and Smiles as we live our lives in Honor of the One who gave us Life before the foundations of the world were ever made.

Who is this Bread of Life that we are to share with those who are hungry and come to our table?

If you have not succumbed to the disease of political correctness by referring to the coming season as a "Holiday"... If you know the Reason for The Season... If you understand that this holiday is really a celebration of The HOLY ONE who came to us on This HOLY Day, and you are not ashamed to speak His Name. Then you know the Bread of Life is Jesus.

People everywhere tell me how difficult it is to understand the word of God. They tell me we must have intelligent, learned men disseminate the information for us.

I have news for them. God's word is meant for even a child to understand. But like anything else if you don't read it or have a passion for it, if you are not seeking the ONE who wrote it; you will never understand it.

Are you aware that Jesus, the Bread of Life, was born in the city of Bethlehem? Were you aware that the word Beth...Lehem in Hebrew is translated the City of Bread, so that Jesus the Bread of Life was born in the City of Bread.

This is but one of hundreds of prophetic details that come together between the Old and New Testament to reveal the identity and person of the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God....the Christ of Christmas.

So God asks you to share a slice of life giving bread with those who come to your table. The only way you can do this is to speak on behalf of the one who bought you with His own blood on the Cross.

Tell them your story of coming to faith in HIM.

When you do this your very words will speak life to them; for their faith will only come through hearing the life giving words of God through your lips.

God has armed each of us that believe in Him with a slice of bread and a kind word to share with those we love. There is one more point to this little story. The reason has to do with the name of the company that makes the bread that I love.

It's the word HARVEST. Truly, Truly...the harvest is ripe all around you. The need is everywhere and the workers of the harvest have always been few. But, if you are one of them, He is now One with You. There is nothing you cannot achieve with the Lord of Hosts on your side, when you speak of HIM.

So go to the Great Harvest Bread Company, tell them Ernie sent you. Buy some bread and prepare your kind words. Then call someone over to your house and make some coffee while you both sit down and you share the bread and the words of life with them face to face.

God will honor your attempt to speak for HIM and you will feel the joy of His presence in your heart and the touch of HOLY angels wings on your cheek as they put a protective hedge around the two of you; as the Holy Spirit whispers their name.

I am, because He IS...

The Bema...the end of my beginning

There is a hymn with a short phrase that becomes a repetitive refrain. If you have worshipped in a congregation setting you will recognize it.

“I stand...I stand...in Awe of You, I stand...I stand in Awe of You...”

The melody and the words flow over me, much like a cool breeze on a hot summer day. The lyrics refresh my soul and warm my heart because they remind me of whom I serve.

I am reminded of the great lengths God went to reach out to me and to make me His own. To be singing this phrase among hundreds of believers while imagining encountering the Living God who saved us; brings emotions from deep within me I cannot explain. For there are no words.

But this morning as I write to you my imagination finds me not standing in a crowd but alone before the God of Creation. A moment in time yet future.

A moment in time when time will no longer be.

Think with me. You live your life out before the gaze of a Holy God. But there is only one time in your life that you will be able to speak to Him face to face. Choose your words wisely for they will reveal your destiny...forever.

So here I stand, suspended on nothing, naked before the Bema, before the God who is Holy, Holy, Holy. The God of Love, yes; but also the God of Justice. God, who required that my life meet not a standard of excellence but of perfection.

A life not one of us can even come close to living out before Him. Meeting His standard is required for entrance into His Perfect Heaven. Not our standard.

Just a millisecond ago I was in my body. Now my body has gone the way of all flesh, back to the dust it was made of. I am what is left. The essence of who I always was and will now continue to be; a soul and spirit.

The words and phrases of Scripture that have filled my mind on earth now swirl around me. “Absent from the body, present with the Lord”. A moment ago I lived in the physical world. My eyes watched as darkness overtook the world I knew.

Then Blazing light enveloped my being as I was drawn upward by a power not my own. My spiritual eyes now accustomed to this light found myself standing before the ONE who called me into existence from eternity past. The ONE who gave me life as He did you. Life yes, but with a purpose to fulfill.

His purpose, not mine or yours.

The hymn continued to wash over my mind like waves of the sea. "I stand, I stand in Awe of You". Never if I lived a billion years and studied the Word of God a billion years, would I be prepared to stand in the presence of our Holy God.

The word Awe, or for that matter any other word devised by mankind cannot come close to describe the ONE I now stand before. I stand before Him bathed in the light of His love. I feel love surround and envelope me for He is Love. He created me. I have never been loved like this, I do not want to go back to my body or to my life on earth.

No words have been exchanged at this point. Only a gaze between us that seemed timeless. Then, His eyes changed as He looked at me. They became eyes of fire. This light that pierced me, surrounded me, enveloped me became uncomfortable.

My mind brought up another hymn I loved to sing. "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty". This melody grew louder and louder and I found myself falling to my knees before Him and then further down until I lay prostrate before Him. Face down, with my arms outstretched, suspended in space...forming the Cross.

It was His great love that created us. The love that I bathed in a moment earlier I felt was now mine forever...I was wrong. A new feeling of emotion swept over me. I felt alone as I felt the penetrating gaze of His eyes of fire.

I was taught that He was the God of love and that is true. But the attribute that is more important to understand is His Holiness. Scripture speaks of the Fear of the Lord. To me that meant understanding and coming to the knowledge of who He is. I had learned to recognize His Great Love...but not His Holiness and the demands of His Justice.

The Book of Life was opened before me, His book, His Autobiography. Scriptures poured forth from it swirling around me. As my life unfolded before me, verses came forth and applied themselves to every scene of my life. The verses I had memorized came forth to join the ones that poured forth from His Word.

Then they attached themselves to scenes from my life. They condemned me, for my life did not uphold His commands. We are called to live for HIM, to Love HIM, to Honor HIM. The only way we prove that we are HIS is by obedience to His Word by applying it to our lives.

He had given me life. I was to live that life for HIM as His image bearer, for each of us are made in the image of God. Now it was Scripture, the very words of God that were judging my every act, my every thought...the motives of my heart.

Another verse came to mind "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, what God has prepared for those that love Him." I knew this referred to Heaven and Eternal life. But what if I truly did not love Him?

Then this verse would change and mean.."No eye has seen, no ear has heard, what God has prepared for those that **do not** love Him."

The reality of all that was happening hit me at once. I realized that like my Lord I had died and like my Lord I am now alive and will live forever more.

My life was now being reviewed. Ernie Pahlek, my words, scenes of life, thoughts of my heart and mind towards loved ones, my circumstances, my choices, my actions and more continued to play out before me...then everything stopped.

Up until now no words had come out of my mouth. I only watched this shared vision of my life before God. Then I heard His voice speak. His words lifted me upright before HIM. It was now my turn to speak on my behalf.

Have you ever taken the time to think about what will come out of your mouth when you stand alone before the God who is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY? Scripture makes the details of this face to face encounter crystal clear for us to understand.

Here I stand before the BEMA, the Judgment Seat of The Messiah of Israel and the Christ of the Church. My mind was overwhelmed. What could I, should I, WOULD I, say to the Lord God Almighty?

I remembered the Lords story of this encounter we would all have in Matthew 7:21 thru 23.

The answer of people recorded there ran through my mind. "Lord...Lord, **I did** this for you, **I did** miracles for you, **I did**...**I did**...for you...for you."

I kept hearing **I did** and **for you** as they echoed and reverberated in my mind.

Then I remembered the Lords response to the people. **I never...I never.....I never.....KNEW YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Had I deceived myself while physically alive? The words continued to haunt me as the people replied to the Lord....**But Lord.....But Lord...but Lord.**

The words descended in strength as the realization that the gift of life they each received from God was wasted and counted for nothing.

Up till now, no words came out of me. But the words had been forming in my mind and soon would come forth from me.

This was not the Babe of Christmas, nor was it Emanuel (God With Us)...but the Risen Lord, wrapped in Light, with fire in His eyes. I had claimed Him in life as my Savior and Lord.

I thought, ...it's me Lord, Ernie...a Jew one of your chosen people. Ernie...the one who wrote Jewish Evangelism Tracts, the one who recorded two CD witnessing messages, the one interviewed by two Christian Radio Stations, the one who wrote a book full of thoughts about YOU, the one who does battle for you...the one....the one....the one....

God gave each of us a mind to reason with, to think deeply before we engage our mouths. He gave us eyes to see and ears to hear and feet and hands to explore our world. All with one purpose; to SEEK HIM, and to come to the knowledge of the One True God.

Doubts came into my mind. I began to compare myself, and my life to others in the Bible. Abraham was righteous, yet he was liar. But he was willing to sacrifice his only son in obedience to the command of God.

David was an adulterer and a murderer, yet God said that he was a man after Gods own heart. Job lived what seemed a perfect life. He did nothing wrong, yet God allowed Satan to test him. Job lost everything precious in life to him. In the end he began questioning God until God took him on a verbal tour of creation.

Job shut his mouth at the end of the tour. No one, no creature has the right to question the Creator...to question God or His purposes.

The words now formed in my mind describing my life, my deeds, and my achievements. I began to mouth...But Lord...I did this....then I stopped.

I realized I was not worthy. I dropped to my knees, then to my face, sprawled out before Him in the shape of the Cross...suspended on nothing.

Every accomplishment, every deed I did in my life began with the letter **I**.

Did I truly do it all for HIM? Or, was it for me and the praise, honor and glory others lavished on me.

Was I really humble? I claimed to know Jesus as Lord with my mouth. I tried to prove it with my actions and deeds. But God judges only the Heart and its Motives. Do I look forward to His Second Coming for what it means to HIM? Or do I look forward to the Second Coming for what it means to me?

As the world continues to dishonor His name and person, do I defend His name for His sake or for mine?

Can I even begin to feel His pain when His name is dishonored?

NO.

My journey has been all about me...not HIM. Nothing I have ever done entitles me to enter His Heaven. Comparing myself to others or to people in the Bible will not justify me. Isaiah said we are all un- righteous before a HOLY GOD!

The standard is impossible. All the thoughts of my life, my deeds have now fled from my mind. Only 3 words come forth from my mouth.

Lord, Forgive Me.

The thief on the Cross and I have much in common. I tried to live my entire life for Christ. He lived only the last few minutes of His life for Christ. Neither of us are worthy, each of us is equally guilty of Sin before God.

It is only His Grace to each of us that allows mercy to flow to us so we can be forgiven and then enter His Perfect Heaven.

It is all a gift from God. Through Faith alone by Grace alone do we hear Him whisper our name and then turn, respond and accept HIM as Lord. Strength comes back into my body as I rise up to a kneeling position. I feel His hands around me lifting me up before Him.

He says, "My sheep hear my voice. I knew you before the foundations of the world were made. The Good work I began in you; I have now completed. You are one of mine and I love you with an everlasting love.

Come; let me show you your new home."

Oh...My God...My Lord...thank you. He takes me to the place He prepared for me. There is a door before me. I turn back and look to Him. I am overwhelmed with emotion and I burst in tears and great sobs. These were tears of great sorrow, and of pain.

I looked behind HIM...faces were everywhere before my eyes. My children, my grand children, my parents, my relatives, my neighbors, my dear friends....all whom I loved in my life. All there before my eyes in one moment of time.

I reached into the air behind Him trying to touch them. Sobbing and choking back the tears I cried with a loud voice to HIM. But what about them? What will happen to them?

He spoke softly to me. This ONE who spoke the Universe into existence.

“Ernie, I stood at the door of your heart for 38 years waiting to be invited in. Then I whispered your name and you heard my voice and you opened the door to your heart and let me in.

The decision to open the door to your heart was yours not mine. The same decision is theirs as well. I will continue to knock on the door of each one of their hearts for as long as they live in time. I will wait patiently as I did for you, to be wanted by them.

They too as you have, in a yet future moment; will stand before me. They will have to answer my question...“Who do you say that I am?” They too will be held accountable to my Standard of Perfection.

Then the same hands that formed me in my mothers womb, gently wiped the tears away from my eyes. He opened the door before me and said, “Welcome to my home, to your future...for you, the past is gone forever.”

“As for them...they have the Law and the Prophets

(Luke 16 verse 30 -31).

Their future is up to them.”

Angels Praise HIM for His Holiness...for that is all they know.
Believers Praise HIM for His GRACE... for that truly is all they know.

His love is great, for He is Love. But His Holiness demands Justice.
Yet,... His Grace and Mercy are greater than His love and His Holiness.

“Open my eyes and open my heart
And grant me the gift of your grieving.

And awaken in me the compassion to weep,
Just One of Your tears for the world.”

(Song Lyrics by Michael Card).

Peace and the Grace of the Lord Jesus the Christ be with you all.

P.S. When God walked among us in the fullness of time,
He wept tears as old as the world.

“Jesus wept them ...for you”

Stop the World... I want to get off!

Lord this New Year more than the rest has caused me to reflect on my past. I have walked with you and done my best to serve you through the years but I am so very tired.

It's not that the battle is too difficult. You have armed me with the truth to defend you. As people come out of the shadows to attack my faith they immediately retreat when I defend you with your Truth contained in Scripture.

I watch as the intense light in their eyes grows dim as each of their half truths fall to the ground before them, never hitting their mark.

Why, because their words are lies that have no foundation to stand on. Deep inside them they know this for you have put within them a moral compass, their conscience. Even though it is broken and calloused within them the vestiges of the truth remain as echoes within their hearts. When they hear your truth they shut their mouths before you.

I have pleaded with you for years to equip me to stand where the battle is hottest, in the forefront of darkness, so your light can shine the brightest. You have given me the privilege and honor, of being one of your light bearers.

Yet Lord I say again, I am tired, not of you, but of them. YOU have asked me to love them. I have watched them, listened to them, and had contact with them. But it seems that my heart, which at one time went out to them is now growing cold towards them...because they just don't seem to get it.

I have become ever more restless having no peace in my mind, my heart or my soul. I come home from work, turn on the TV, listen to the talking heads and look into the window of the world's dead soul.

It began ever so slowly many years ago, the Mocking of God. December 17,1997 on an animated program called South Park a new Christmas character came alive and became so popular that you could buy it in stores and give it to friends. It was called Mr. Hankey the Christmas Poo a piece of excrement with a Santa hat. It reflected the true commercialization of Christmas by the world.

People laughed, they openly mocked YOU. It seems life just goes on without interruption for those who mock YOU. They take your Mercies for

granted not realizing that daily they are building up their “Divine Layaway Plan”. It is an account called “Sin now...pay later”.

I am reminded of the time I went to a water park called the Schlitterbahn in Texas. They gave me an inner tube so I could float casually throughout miles of river. Although I thought I could stay dry during my trip, I ended up covered with water, soaked to my skin. Life is like that inner tube ride. We float on sewage, thinking we are above it, but at the end of the ride sewage has permeated every pore of our being. We have become one with the sewage, because we want so desperately to belong to the group and not stand out.

You're Word says you will judge everyone according to their deed's, their words, their thoughts, and even the motives of their hearts. You have stated that no one is good enough to evade going to hell.

We continue to judge ourselves by our standards. Standards of goodness and charity like Mother Theresa, Gandhi or today it would be Bono or Oprah or Angelina Jolie. But YOU have set the standard for entrance to YOUR heaven and it is HOLINESS, and PERFECTION.

You proclaim to us in Your Word that every human being has fallen short of this standard and is in need of a Savior. No one is righteous, not one!

People have created a world made in their image, exalting their image not yours. People are building the tower of Babel again. Your statement about when the end comes referring to “It will be as in the times of Noah” is coming true before our eyes.

Why Lord do they have no eyes to see, no ears to hear? Their gaze is always inward and their hearts are cold as stone in the dead of winter.

The ACLU (**A**ntichrists **C**ivil **L**iberty's **U**nion) is winning its fight to eliminate Christianity and God from a country that was created for religious freedom with Jesus Christ as its Cornerstone.

The ACLU's attempts to restructure our society to protect the rights of those who are wrong; has given rise to a culture of relativism accompanied by the sound of silence from the moral majority who disagree. (Maybe there is no moral majority any more?)

“The Truth has become the lie”. Wrong has become right in their eyes. Evil has replaced good and the whirlwind of chaos is upon them as in ignorance they question why? The answer is that they are now reaping what they have sown.

The world has just celebrated the beginning of yet another new year.

What I don't understand is why they call it new. The newscasts on television still feed me the same information on our human condition. Nothing has changed since the beginning of time and time began with the first bite of the fruit in the garden.

Some of us think that time began with the creation of the earth. Not true, for when YOU were finished creating the earth YOU said it was Good. We know the earth was created in eternity and will be re-created for eternity.

Time and Sin began together with the fall of Adam and Eve and time and sin will end together with the final fall of mankind. YOU have given us a chart to follow, a pre-written calendar of events to watch so we may know the time and the seasons of the coming end of time.

The signs of the end times are joined to the escalating deterioration of the morality of humankind. Our moral compass no longer exists and our diseased Sin nature is out of control as evidenced by our impurity and debauchery; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, and the like.

YOUR Word speaks of the attributes of humanity near the end as being sexually immoral, idolaters, witchcraft, adulterers, prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy, drunkards, slanderers, and swindlers.

To the Believer that is reading this: do you think that you are above all this moral chaos? Think again. We act like them in so many ways. Often people that do not know your Lord question whether we do; simply because they do not see any difference between us and them.

How often do we dive into the sewage thinking it doesn't stick to us?

God made us to exhibit love to one another in joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. He says the acts of sin are obvious and that those who live like that will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Church humor can be pretty funny, check it out, I received it as an email.

THE STORY OF ELIJAH

"The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times "Now, said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?" A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied David. "How could he, with just two worms?"

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

MOSES & THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

CHURCH SMILES

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke, To get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folk!"

It was fun wasn't it to laugh a little?

Did you laugh, I did too...maybe it's time for you and I to realize what the Holiness of God is really about. Maybe it's time for you and I to begin respecting His Words in the Book He gave to us called the HOLY Scriptures.

Have you ever given any thought to the tears He will wipe from your eyes? Why am I going to be crying before Him? Maybe because as hard as I tried, the motives of my heart are always tinged with pride. Maybe because in my own way I too have Mocked God by trying to blend into the sewage around me like a Chameleon?

Maybe because I haven't taken His command to share the Gospel serious enough and He will show me the hundreds of times I could have made a difference in someone's life by planting a seed for the Holy Spirit to water.

I will stand before Him and use words to give an account of the life He gave me to live out before HIM. He will then give an account of the times He had given me words to speak, but I chose to remain silent.

To my shame my life is full of words never spoken. Words that were meant to give life by planting seeds into the hearts of people that God put into my path. Thousands upon thousands of words never spoken have filled my memory with If Only Moments. Only God knows the answer to "what If I...obeyed and spoke"

In the end when we stand before HIM and HE wipes the tears from our eyes; the lesson we will learn is that our lives will be measured not only by what we did, but also by what we did not do.

It's the beginning of March, 2 months into the New Year. I know I am weak and I know I am not Holy. But, I also know He said my weakness will show His strength if I look to Him for help.

If you feel the need to... then ask Him to help you match up your walk with your talk this year...**I have.**

The Awakening

Listen. Can you hear the beating of two hearts that now beat as one? If you have been born again then the heart of God and your heart now beat as one. You have joined the circle of life. A circle with no beginning, like a wheel within a wheel; ever spinning never ending.

People think in terms of life and death, but in truth even in death there is life. You will continue your existence...you will forever be you.

As a new believer The Lord of the Harvest has come to you personally in your darkness and whispered your name. He whispered my name in 1985 and for the first time at the age of 38 my heart beat as one with HIS heart.

I responded in Faith to the God / Man in whom both worlds (heaven and earth) were blended. It did not just happen, my coming to faith in Christ. I had heard His whisper my entire life, for God has said that He placed eternity in the hearts of every person. He did this so we would be without excuse as to who He is when we stand before Him after we die.

There is but one important question we must answer in this life. Jesus asks each of us "Who do you say that I AM?" You cannot answer this question without going to the source of knowledge about God and His Son Jesus. The answer can only be found in His Autobiography...the Holy Bible of the Judeo/Christian Faith.

The Bible calls this Savior of mankind Immanuel, which means God with us. There have been times in my life when I have felt His presence. Times of Joy, times of sorrow, times of pain; but most of all during times of storms.

He said..."I will always be with you. I will never forsake you."

Yet there have been times when I could not feel His presence. They were times in the desert, when He seems to be silent.

These were the times I had let go of His hand, times when I did not call on His Name. Yet even then I knew He is there, always waiting patiently to be wanted. Always with an extended hand reaching out for me to take hold of.

Even people of Faith can get lost sometimes during this journey called life. Although we cannot loose our Salvation, we can decide to stray from the path and let go of His hand for a while.

That is why it's been so important for me to reflect on life and the past. It has been said that hindsight is 20/20. As a non believer I have faced storms alone. These were the times when I experienced the Silence of God.

The waves of the sea grew up before me like mountains. The tears that continually flowed from my eyes were dried back by the howling winds. The thunder absorbed the cries of my heart. The lightning shown around me only to illuminate the darkness that surrounded me with no escape...I was alone.

These were the storms of life I faced before I knew God. People think when they become a believer that the storms end. For me they only grew worse. But now I was no longer alone in the storm.

God wipes my tears not with the howling wind but with the gentle touch of His hands. He hears my heart cries and reminds me that He never promised there would be no storms, only that He would be with me in the storms. When the lightning flashes it does not illuminate the darkness around me but shines on the path I need to walk on to get through the storm.

As in the poem Footprints, when I look back on the path through the storm I only see one set of footprints. They do not belong to me, they belong to my Savior who has lovingly borne me up and carried me through the storm.

So I encourage all of you to keep a journal of your thoughts about this journey called life. As you do so you will see HIM there with you. Your faith will continue to be strengthened and as you look forward to each new day...you will see Crosses Everywhere.

Jesus has whispered your name from eternity past. He is your Soul Whisperer. He spoke to you throughout your entire life through the words of others, through life's challenging situations, through the majesty of His Creation and His Word.

You have heard His laughter on the wind. You have seen the clapping of the leaves of the trees as they lift up holy hands to praise and give worship to their God and Creator.

Mankind in his attempt to speak to himself both nationally and globally erected telephone poles to carry mans voice throughout the nations of the earth. And so the globe was populated by Crosses supporting the lines of communication. What a paradox that the image of communication had imbedded into it the message of the Cross.

Today and everyday, I live in the expectation that some day I will go home to be with HIM. So I live one day at time in the Shadow of His Cross; the Cross of Immanuel, God with us, the uncommon man, the God / Man who came to seek and to save the lost.

I look forward to a different time, a different place, a place before time; to be with family forever. Because Jesus the one who calls forth the living from the dead; whispered my name and awakened my soul and gave me eternal life.

Demons Tremble

The dead speak to us from beneath the desert sands of time in the Middle East. Ancient artifacts and ancient scrolls written in ancient tongues come back to life through Archeology. Archeology speaks to us of pre-historic cultures and events that support the Old Testament record of the history of mankind starting in the book of Genesis...the book of beginnings.

The New Testament is the written record of men who were eyewitnesses to the life of Jesus; His birth, His life, His death, His Resurrection from the dead and His Ascension into heaven.

The New Testament also contains the pre-written history of His coming back from heaven to deal with fallen humanity and finish the beginning of the end of the story of time and to bring with HIM the end of physical death.

Contained within the pages of the Bible are many testimonies of lives lived out before the face of God, in anticipation of the coming Messiah, the Son of God. In the Old Testament you learn from the lives of Moses, Job, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and many more who lived by faith. Then in the New Testament you can read the first hand accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul and many others who lived their lives by fulfilled faith... which is by Sight.

They could see the Messiah with their eyes, hear His voice with their ears, speak to Him with their mouths, taste the same meal with Him as they shared food together and most of all embrace HIM and touch the warm flesh of God; for HE came among us as Emanuel... "God With Us".

In the accounts of the Prophets and the Apostles you will find the Messiah, the Son of God. For 3 short years during the time of the Apostles man could walk with God by sight. But for the rest of time, until time is over, man has been left to walk with God by Faith.

In Gods Word He has given us the testimony of men to strengthen our faith but it seems that the testimonies of men are never enough for us. Gods Word is simple enough for a child to understand. Yet to adults it seems so very complicated.

Why is it so complicated? Why is it so confusing? The Truth can only be one thing...The Truth! There are no shades to the Truth...it is Black and White.

Learned men and women schooled in life with diplomas of importance speak with their own authority about the subject of God. God is not a subject and humanity, without the Revelation of God in His Word has no real knowledge of who God IS.

The words of our political and social leaders and the words from the myriad of differing religious leaders are nothing more than noise if they are not based on the Word of God alone. None of them can truly say they agree with each other, for in reality they form points of view that only agree with themselves.

So the Truth is never heard and the sound of silence is deafening. These opinions do but one thing. They surround the Truth so in essence we cannot see the Truth. It is like the familiar statement that we cannot see the Tree for the Forest. This happens because of our lack of knowledge and most of all discernment.

The Truth remains hidden before our very eyes. We spend our time arguing amongst ourselves about everything that doesn't matter. There is no communication, only the battle of individual pride yearning to be recognized. We listen only to ourselves and in the end we will have lived our life for nothing.

We continually, by our own choice, are being bathed in the sound of relentless waves of religious opinions. They are the sound of noise caused by whirlwinds that swirl around us, never letting the sound of Truth; the Words of God penetrate our deaf ears.

Yes the words of men are the sound of silence and their words are deafening. And so mankind continues to Mock God, because to him the Bible is nothing more than a story, which at best only touches the mind.

God in His wisdom has not left the testimony of Himself with just the words of men. Mankind has been equipped to find the Truth but most have no desire to search for or to know the Truth. God has given mankind the gift of existence and the gift of free will to make choices.

Yet there are other creatures that have been spoken into existence by the mouth of God who were given the gift of existence and of free will. They exist in another dimension, and have lived by sight before the face of God in eternity past. They are eternal creatures that had the choice of accepting or rejecting God...they chose to reject HIM.

For them the Truth remains an elusive echo within their hearts. For them there is no Salvation only Condemnation. They know their fate, and they know the LORD. They tremble at HIS Name, they Fear His Coming...their Destiny is already sealed and they know where they will be spending eternity.

They are the Fallen Angels, who live in the shadows of darkness in our world. God has included their testimony in His Word. It is the testimony of those already condemned. And it substantiates the existence of Jesus the Son of God who existed...before the foundations of the world were made. It is the eyewitness testimony of creatures that have walked with God in eternity past.

Come with me as we open the Word of God and hear from the very lips of these ancient dark angels for whom the Fear of God is just that...the Fear of His Coming.

You and I are fortunate. For us, if we know God through Jesus, the fear of God is only the beginning of knowing and loving HIM. We have something the fallen angels cannot ever again attain. We are FORGIVEN.

Matthew 8:27-29

27 The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!"

Jesus Heals Two Demon-Possessed Men

28 When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They lived in a cemetery and were so violent that no one could go through that area.

29 They (Fallen Angels...demons) began screaming at him, "Why are you interfering with us, **Son of God**? Have you come here to torture us **before God's appointed time**?"

Mark 5

The Gerasene Demoniac

1 They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes.

2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him,

3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain;

4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him.

5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones.

6 Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him;

7 and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, **Jesus, Son of the Most High God**? I implore You by God, do not torment me!"

8 For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

9 And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

10 And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

11 Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain.

12 The demons implored Him, saying, “Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.”

13 **Jesus gave them permission.** And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.

Mark 1

Jesus Preaches in Galilee

14 Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of God,

15 and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

16 As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen.

17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets.

20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.

21 They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach.

22 They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out

24 saying, Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? **I know who you are—the Holy One sent from God!**”

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

26 Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him.

27 They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

Mark 1:33-35

33 And the whole city had gathered at the door.

34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, **because they knew who He was.**

Mark 3

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

1 He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered.

2 They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

3 He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!"

4 And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

5 After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

6 The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

7 Jesus withdrew to the sea with His disciples; and a great multitude from Galilee followed; and also from Judea,

8 and from Jerusalem, and from Idumea, and beyond the Jordan, and the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, a great number of people heard of all that He was doing and came to Him.

9 And He told His disciples that a boat should stand ready for Him because of the crowd, so that they would not crowd Him;

10 for He had healed many, with the result that all those who had afflictions pressed around Him in order to touch Him.

11 Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "**You are the Son of God!**"

12 **And He earnestly warned them not to tell who He was.**

Acts 19

Miracles at Ephesus

11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "**I recognize Jesus,** and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

You just heard testimony from the mouths of angelic creatures recorded by Apostles who were eyewitnesses. There is no doubt that Jesus was recognized as **the Son of God, the HOLY One sent by God...they knew HIM...and they Fear HIM.**

These angels existed before time began. They walked the streets of Heaven in eternity past communing with the God who created them. They too were made by our God and were given freedom to choose eternal life or eternal death.

This minion, this band, this group, this cadre of angels decided to follow their leader Lucifer (Son of the Morning) into a revolt against the Most High God. These angels were the elite force that went with satan and stood near as satan orchestrated the fall of mankind whom God created in His Image in the garden.

As mankind was evicted from the home God had prepared for them....this group of dark angels became as it were a pack of wolves following and feeding on the human family and their generations to follow.

These dark angels are creatures of the night, living in the shadows in desperate fear of the coming dawn of eternity when the ONE who is light will come to Judge the living and the dead of humanity and the fallen angels who are already condemned to eternal death without hope in the lake of fire in Hell.

These beings tremble at the sound of the name of the Lord. They know Jesus is real. They walked with HIM by sight before man existed. Unlike us they have no second chance, there is no Salvation for them.

They are still here among us whispering lies to those who would listen, to those people who do not care for the Lord, and choose to Mock the God who created them.

People with hearts of stone incapable of beating with new life unless they repent and BELIEVE in the Son of God and accept HIS free gift of Salvation.

Yet God loves them all and continues daily to whisper to them about a new life that is theirs for the asking. If you believe in Christ then you know you are called to share your God Story about your faith in Christ. You are called to share it through your own fears, because when you do the Holy Spirit will support your efforts with His Power and His Words.

All you need do is to show up, the rest is up to HIM.

You know the song “This Little Light of Mine”. When we come to Christ He gives each one of us ... one little light. Each of us is made from the dust of the earth. We are vessels made by and for the Master. We are clay pots.

When we begin our journey of faith many of us are afraid to share with others and our light remains hidden. But when we begin to share through our fear we gain His strength. Soon we find ourselves joined in the Battle for the Minds and Hearts of everyone we know and love.

We were not meant to keep our light hidden.

As we get older with use we begin to crack from wear. That’s when the little light inside of us really begins to show more.

This little light sheds just enough light for taking one step of faith forward at a time so we can follow the Lord who said to each of us “Come Follow Me”.

Sometimes the steps are hard to see, but if we focus our eyes ahead towards the ONE who IS Light then we will always be able to take one more step of faith that ultimately leads each of us through the surrounding darkness all the way home.

Keep shining your little light because the world continues to get darker all the time, but that only makes your little light glow all the more brightly; so let it shine and be prepared to tell your story to those the Lord of the Harvest brings to you.

Why, because you know what you were SAVED from...and you have been FORGIVEN.

The Door Only YOU can open

Dictionary definition of Door...a movable, usually solid, barrier for opening and closing an entranceway.

I'll explain the Door at the end of this message; let's first identify which group you belong too?

Is your heart towards God soft or hard, do your eyes see Him all around you. When you're still but the noise around you is deafening...can you hear Him whisper your name?

I wonder occasionally about who is more fortunate those who have all five senses (touch, taste, smell, hearing, sight), or those who are impaired. What about those who are handicapped either mentally or physically versus those who remain healthy and mentally whole?

What about those who face debilitating illnesses like cancer or have been told they have days or months to live? Is it better to know the time of your appointment with death, or would you rather not know of that day and hour?

Through the years God has brought many people into my life to share my God Story with. I have found Group 1 people have all their senses, they are healthy and with sharp minds, they are the ones with the hardest hearts. They have no humility, nor humbleness, no fear of God; in fact many mock God rather than thank God for their next breathe of life.

The day will come for all of us when we desperately will gasp for that last breath of air. At that moment of your life...God will finally have your attention.

For Group 1 people the doors of this life are open. They have no barriers to fulfilling their desires. Their lives are focused on themselves. For them life is good as they traffic in the ways of this modern society. They give no thought beyond this life, which is currently contained in their ever-decaying bodies. They have become rich in the worlds goods, they prosper making this life, as Joel Osteen's (TV. prosperity gospel preacher) best selling book title exclaims..."YOUR BEST LIFE NOW".

Joel Osteen does not speak for the same Lord I know and love. Jesus made it clear that... "This is **NOT** your best life now!".

If you spend any time at all in the Psalms you quickly understand that fearing God is the beginning of all wisdom and knowledge. When you come to Love God, you understand that the word fear means to know that He is Holy and you are not. You also understand that wisdom can only come from pain.

Humility and humbleness and wisdom and knowledge of God are developed when you are placed before the door labeled “loss, grief, pain, suffering...”. You go in alone and while there come to an end of yourself. Then you can understand what Jesus meant when He said to “take up your Cross and follow Me”.

Only when you seek God with all your burdened heart, will you find Him. God has always been near you, waiting patiently to be invited through the open door of your heart.

God has proclaimed to **Group 1 people** that the wisdom of this world is null and void and that they are desperately in need of salvation from His HOLY Wrath.

1 Corinthians 1:19-21

“For it is written: I Will Destroy the Wisdom of the Wise, and the Cleverness of the Clever I Will Set Aside.

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

1 Corinthians 1:25-27

“ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men...

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things, which are strong... “

Group 2 people are made up of the meek, the weak, the impaired, the disabled, the handicapped, and the diseased. They are the broken ones He came to repair. They are the ones that cry out for help, because they cannot help themselves.

For them the doors of this life are closed and barriers they cannot overcome block their desires. Their lives are dependant on you and on the outstretched hand of kindness you might give them.

God as “the least of these” refers to group 2 people. Their hearts are soft and their minds are open to God’s Truth. The lives they live before

us, struggling with the burdens they must carry are an example to each of us. In their weakness they have become strong because they rely not on themselves, not on you, but on God to provide for them.

Their hope is placed in the future, not in today. They look to the One who has the future in HIS Hands. They understand what it is to take up their Cross and follow HIM. They willingly have chosen the Nails.

Where am I going with all of this? God chastened the Nation of Israel through the Prophet Isaiah. These Words of God echo from the foundations of time to reach all people with HIS never changing message, regardless of the times we live in. This message from the Prophet is not just for the nation of Israel, but for all people thru time.

**“God said, Go, and tell this people:
‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive;
Keep on looking, but do not understand.
Render the hearts of this people insensitive,
Their ears dull, And their eyes dim,
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
Hear with their ears,
Understand with their hearts,
And return and be healed.”**

The words of God through the Prophet Isaiah to those living today are clear. Our senses are dulled and calloused for we do not hear nor see. Our ability to reason is flawed for we are people without understanding and our hearts are insensitive.

It is difficult to reach **group 1 people** described earlier with the message of God’s Truth. They have all they need and are blinded to what’s coming in the future both physically and eternally.

Presenting God’s Truth to **group 2 people** is a joy. They have nothing. They realize because of the burdens they bear in this life, that their hope is in the life to come. They drink deeply from the well of Gods Truth and look forward to God’s promise to wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Are you in **group 1** made in the image of yourself, prospering through this life physically alive for a short time, but not realizing you will be forever alone, without God, spiritually dead for eternity?

Or are you in **group 2** realizing that your now broken body was made in the Image of God. And that this life you live physically for a short time is not your real life. But that your real life will begin when you are spiritually Born Again and you will be in the presence of God, spiritually alive for eternity.

I have said many times in the past that the Word of God is just that...the Word of God. That He has substantiated this as FACT through His use of Prophecy. No other religious system, or holy book based on the words of men has dared to use Prophecy (foretelling future events) to prove its truth.

Religious lies are ground into the dust under the weight of Gods Truth substantiated by His foundation of Prophecy.

If your life is representative of **Group 1**, my prayer is that God will bring into your life whatever is necessary so that you will realize that you need to become a **Group 2** person; one of those who believes in the foolish message of God ...and be saved.

Here is the definition from the mouth of God of a **Group 2** person:

“For since, in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the ***foolishness of the message*** preached to ***save*** those who ***believe***.”

There is a ***crimson thread*** that is woven throughout recorded history that knits history together and gives it meaning. The thread is the ***blood of Christ***.

The Messiah’s identity was revealed over thousands of years through written prophecy representing signposts of the events of His life, yet future.

Most of the world’s people have a problem with the following facts of the life Jesus lived on earth. These New Testament facts can be verified by eyewitness accounts as recorded History.

Christ is the only person ever born into this world whose ancestry, birth time, forerunner, birthplace, birth manner, infancy, manhood, teaching character, career, preaching, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection and ascension were all prewritten in the most marvelous manner centuries before He was born.

Who could draw a word picture of a man not yet born?

Only God and God alone! Nobody knew 500 years ago that Shakespeare was going to be born; or 250 years ago that Napoleon was to be born. Yet here in the Bible we have the most striking and unmistakable likeness of a man portrayed, not by one, but by twenty or twenty-five artists, none of whom had ever seen the man they were painting.

The inspiration of that portrait came from the heavenly gallery, and not from the studio of an earthly artist.

Nothing but divine prescience could have foreseen it and nothing but divine power could accomplish it. It is obvious that... "Prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1 vs 21)".

The Door in the title of this message is the door to your heart.

Jesus knocks on that door every day, hour, and minute of your life. The door was made especially for you. It cannot be opened from the outside for the handle to open it is on the inside.

It was made that way on purpose because God gave you freedom to choose HIM or not. He can't open the door...only you can open the door to your heart...and let HIM in.

So which group do you belong to?

The Lords Savant

There are two definitions of Savant that are applicable to this message. But I will explain that at the end of this message.

Have you ever sat down and thought through the responsibility we all have as True Believers in Christ, to witness, and to share our faith with others? Are we called to say something to people? Or is it the Holy Spirit that lives within us who will speak through us?

If it is the Holy Spirit then you and I should not be afraid to seize the opportunities that God brings to us to open our mouths for HIM. Think of life as a tapestry that God is weaving. You are one of HIS threads and He chooses **the Day, the Time and the Circumstances** in which to cross your thread with another's that He wants you to witness too.

From the very earliest days of being a believer I have had a passion for prophecy and evangelism. I remember finding out that the church I attended had an outreach / evangelism committee. I was really excited and went to join the group.

When I got there I became the 4th member of the group. The church had a few hundred members at the time. As the evening wore on we discussed many ways to put feet to the Gospel in our community.

I left the group sorely disappointed after 5 months, simply because all we ever did was talk...but never walk. It's not that we are ashamed of the Gospel. It's that many of us are afraid to talk about the Gospel...with just about anyone...friend, neighbor, family or foe.

Years later I realized that taking the Gospel to the world begins one person at a time. There are several "one persons" within the reach of my hand, the hearing of my mouth, and the vision of my eyes. God had given me this gift of eternal life and this burning in my bones to share it. I am to be the Hands, the Voice and the Compassionate Eyes of my Savior to everyone around Me.

I did not have to go to Uganda, or France, or the Arab world to be a missionary. And so I began to be open to God cross stitching my thread into a specific **Day, and Time and Circumstances**; whereby He brought someone pre-destined into my path. I was called to plant a seed...that's all. The rest was up to the Holy Spirit, not me.

Even though I was relatively new to the faith I began wearing something that others could instantly identify my faith with. Kind of a conversation starter with people of like interests or as life happens we can attract opposites as well.

I found a lapel pin of the sign of the fish to wear on my suit to work every-day. I figured this was the real Christian sign of the early church. I found that very few people knew what it meant or stood for. There was no action happening for a long time until I met Isaiah.

Isaiah was an African American Man that was a guard in the then Renaissance Center owned by the Ford Motor Company. I passed by him daily for months. Isaiah noticed the fish and I noticed the Jewish Star on his lapel.

When he heard I was Jewish Believer he got excited and said he was an Israelite that worshiped the Jehovah of the Old Testament but not Jesus. He wanted to know why I worshipped Jesus instead of Jehovah.

Over the course of 7 months we witnessed to each other. It caused me to get deeply into the Word of God, because he also used the Old Testament to say things to defend his position. It seemed that near the end the Holy Spirit was penetrating his heart. I say this because Isaiah mentioned that his pastor wanted to speak to me.

And guess what, his pastor was the guard at another of the Renaissance Towers within sight of us. The week before, I had taken the time to write by hand 10 pages about Messianic Prophecy in the Old Testament and why Jesus is the Son of God.

Isaiah had given it to his pastor and asked the pastor questions that only a beginning seeker of the truth would ask. When I saw this pastor coming towards me I smiled and stretched out my hand.

The glare and demeanor from this mans eyes was intimidating to me. With people all around us, he began to angrily attack every point I had written down for Isaiah to read, in the presence of Isaiah. How could I pervert the Truth to one of his flock...he said? That was a turning point in my life. The battle between us went on for about 8 minutes.

Back and forth we exchanged points of Scripture before Isaiah. Then the pastor went back to his guard station. Isaiah said he was amazed that I stood strong and tall before his pastor and never backed down.

He hugged me and promised that he would keep asking God for the Truth. I walked away from that encounter amazed at the statement from Isaiah's lips. When his pastor began spewing biblical verbiage at me, time seemed to slow down and became a blur to me.

If you asked me to repeat what I said I could not. I had no written script, no preparation for this encounter...I was totally blind-sided. Yet the words that came out of my mouth evidently planted seeds into the heart

of Isaiah. They were not my words, but truly the words of the Holy Spirit that were intended for Isaiah on **this Day, at this specific Time and under these Circumstances.**

All I did was show up.

We tend to put many stumbling blocks into our own path when it comes to sharing our faith. I could list hundreds of reasons we all rationalize with so we can let opportunities pass us by.

The reasons all point to the same questions we need to ask ourselves. Are we ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Of course not we say! Do we believe in a literal Heaven? Yes, of course we say! Do we believe in a literal HELL, **yes... of... course... we... say.....**

Then the question becomes why we do not witness, when opportunities come from God?

Let's look back into Scripture for a moment. Let me give you 3 instances where God has proven He can use you and I to witness if we just can understand that He is there with us...and we have nothing to fear at all.

Exodus 4: 10-16...

The excuse of Moses:

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, **I have never been eloquent**, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for **I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.**"

11 The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

13 But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."

Aaron to Be Moses' Mouthpiece

14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

15" You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; **and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do.**

16 "Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and you will be as God to him."

Moses lost his opportunity for Joy in the service of God because he doubted not only himself but also His God. Yet God still used him for His purposes for that **Day, that Time and those Circumstances.**

Numbers 22: 22 - 35

Then there is the Angel and Balaam and His Donkey

22 But God was angry because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey and his two servants were with him.

23 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off from the way and went into the field; but Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back into the way.

24 Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path of the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

25 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed herself to the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall, so he struck her again.

26 The angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn to the right hand or the left.

27 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick.

28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

29 Then Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a mockery of me! If there had been a sword in my hand I would have killed you by now."

30 The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I ever been accustomed to do so to you?" And he said, "No."

31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground.

32 The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me.

33 "But the donkey saw me and turned aside from me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, I would surely have killed you just now, and let her live."

34 Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you were standing in the way against me. Now then, if it is displeasing to you, I will turn back."

35 But the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but you shall speak only the word which I tell you."

God will use even a donkey to do His will for a **specific Day** at a **specific Time** and **Circumstances**.

The amazing thing in this passage is not that God used a Donkey but that

Balaam spoke to the Donkey.

Isaiah's names sake is the Prophet Isaiah.

God's word will always accomplish its intent, which is to pierce the heart and soul of sinful men and women and plant seeds of life.

Isaiah 55: 11-12

11 So will My work be which goes forth from My mouth; **It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire**, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

12 "For you will go out with joy? And be led forth with peace; **The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.**

Not only do the Holy Angels rejoice over one sinner that comes to know Christ, but also ultimately the stones will cry out as the leaves of the field clap their hands in the future on a specific **Day** at a specific **Time** and **Circumstances**.

As I said to you in the beginning there are two definitions of Savant that are applicable to this message.

First the Worlds Definition of Savant:

A savant is respected by the world. They are a learned person, a distinguished scientist, and a knowing person.

Second...Gods Definition of Savant:

One who is disrespected by the world otherwise known as an Idiot Savant. They are a person who is considered to be mentally handicapped but displays brilliance in a specific area, especially involving memory.

May I suggest to you that we are like the idiot Savant's. We too contain someone within us who when given the chance displays brilliance in a specific area (the Word of God), especially involving memory...it's the HOLY SPIRIT.

Every once in a while I see tee shirts that boldly make the statement "NO FEAR". That is who we should be in Christ.

There is no reason to fear...with God for uswho can be against us?

Even in the Tribulation Time the Martyred Saints will have no fear, because of the promises of God to take over for them at that time:

Mark 13:11

11 “When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; **for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.**

Luke 12:11-12

11 “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say,

12 **for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”**

Jesus already told us ahead of time, so we really have no excuses:

John 14:29

29 “Now **I have told you before it happens,** so that when it happens, you may believe.”

John 13:19

19 “From now on **I am telling you before it comes to pass,** so that when it does occur, **you may believe that..... I Am He.**

Most of us will not be called to die for HIM, but we are called to show up for HIM...He promises to do the rest.

The Unforgiven Sin

Do you Know About Him OR Do You Know HIM PERSONALLY?

WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS GOD?

“Many people peer back through the darkened pages of history and see a rather obscure picture of Jesus. They have heard of His 2,000 year old claim that He was God, but they don't quite believe it.

They find it hard to accept the idea that a small – town Jewish carpenter could have been the creator of the world. They prefer to believe other, less sensational theories about Him. Here are some of those beliefs.

Jesus is a man who achieved great things....this view is held by the Mormon Church. They teach that Jesus was a preexistent spirit—but they believe that about everyone.

Jesus is a created being who was given the status of second-in-command....this view is held by Jehovah's Witnesses. They teach that Jesus is a created individual who is the second greatest personage of the universe. He is a god, but not the Almighty God.

Jesus is a man no better than we are....this view is held by the Unification Church . They teach that Jesus' value is no greater than that of any other man.

Jesus' existence began at His conception....this view is held by the Way International. They teach that God created Jesus' soul life in Mary at His birth.

Jesus is a prophet and messenger of God....this view is held by Islam. They teach that Jesus was only a messenger of Allah.

Jesus is less than most people think He is....this view is held by the Atheist. Most Atheists' place Buddha or Socrates on a higher plane than Jesus.

Jesus is a great moral teacher....this view is held by the Unitarian Church. They teach that Christ was sent to earth as a great moral teacher rather than as a mediator.

Jesus is a mystic medium....this view is held by New Agers. They teach Jesus is a Channeler. One of many ancients who give New Age adherents a glimpse at the past.

Jesus is a projection of our needs...this is the view of today's psychologist's and psychiatrist's. Jesus is a culture hero who regardless of His historical existence, embodies the myth of the divine man.

One thing is for sure. Somebody is wrong! These people can't all be right about Jesus. He cannot be exactly who all these people say He is. Many who think they know, don't know. If He is only a prophet or a medium, then those who insist He is God are wrong.

If on the other hand He is God, then those who insist that He is only an exceptional man are wrong. Some might wish to have it both ways. In science and investigative journalism, we pursue truth passionately.

Why should it be any different in this important realm?"

Anonymous

There is only ONE UNFORGIVEN SIN

Which of the following is the One Un-Forgiven Sin that will not let you into God's Heaven?

Murder, Adultery, Fornication, Thief, False Witness, Slander, Idolatry, Prostitute, Homosexual, Greed, Drunkard, Swindler,...LUST...PRIDE...

Do you find yourself in the list? Maybe you've committed none of the above, but I know you have gone there in your mind, because I have. Christ said committing any of the later in your mind is enough to condemn you... but not enough to sentence you to hell forever. All are sin, but all can still be forgiven. How bad must you be for the Gates of Heaven to remain shut before you?

It's not about your actions...

It's about recognizing your sin

and your need of a Savior.

It's about unifying your Mind and Heart in Faith.

It's about Believing that

Jesus is who He said He IS.

Christians and the Church today, in growing numbers, no longer have a Biblical Theistic World View. The Godless culture all around us is winning the battle for the minds and hearts of people and their children.

People still want a close relationship with God; they want to make a difference in their world. Their interest is not in question. But the question is **“How are they forming their view of God? And what brand of religion are they adopting?”**

In WHO’s Image are you being made?

People will say to you:

“God is still important to me; I just believe some *different things* from you.”

What are these differences?

They don’t believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God.
They believe all faiths teach equally valid truths.
They don’t believe Jesus rose from the dead.
They don’t believe Satan is a real entity.
They don’t believe the Holy Spirit is a real entity.

In other words they have departed from the **ONE TRUE Faith that Saves and believe in another Gospel!** What they believe about Christianity, Truth, Reality, and the Church comes from a distorted view they have gleaned from the world around them. They have listened to the Religions based on the words of men; not the words of God.

Their version of Christianity is not built on the True Foundation of Biblical Christianity revealed to us by God HIMSELF in His Holy Scriptures.

So what is the ONE UNFORGIVEN SIN?

It is ONLY knowing ABOUT Jesus ... and

NOT Knowing JESUS as Your Personal SAVIOR!

If you do not understand that you are a Sinner in Need of a Savior. If you do not connect your mind and heart together in Faith in the Only Savior God has revealed and given to us...Jesus His Son:

Then at the end of your days, you bought a one-way ticket in the wrong direction.

It’s not a matter of proving who He is...there are mountains of proof. It’s about you taking the time to investigate the proof...and then asking the Living Lord to help you Believe He is who He said He Is.

One person has said, in the end everyone will be a Believer in JESUS.
Hell is filled with Believers in Jesus, but for them it's too late.
They chose to meet the Judge...not the Savior.

God is Omnipresent. He will shower His children with inexpressible
Joy forever in heaven. He will also watch over those in hell forever in
Judgment...who never claimed Jesus in life...as their Savior.
People who knew of HIM ...but never Knew HIM.

*Either way you will never be able to escape
the God who Created YOU
and you Will bow before the Son of God
and proclaim that
Jesus IS Lord.*

Trees Never Bury Their Dead

It has always been interesting to me that mankind is continually warned to read and understand God's Book. Yet, God says that it is His Creation, not mankind that continually groans to be rid of the curse of Sin. It is Creation that is anxiously waiting for the Second Coming of Christ.

Mankind seems to care less about the topic. Jesus questioned if there would be anyone left on the entire planet when He comes back that would be anxious for His appearing.

I am looking out my condo window. As always when I write it is early, often the beginning of dawn. The light of dawn is breaking and casting shards of light over the scene before me.

The water in the pond looks almost like a soft rainbow rippling along the surface of the water, driven by the wind. The trees of the forest area before me are rich and lush, full of growth and of the deepest color of green.

As the sun rises there is more illumination of details within the forest. Just like the reflection off something shiny in the distance, light seems to reflect sporadically within the grouping of trees before me.

It becomes clearer. Light is reflecting off of smooth white surfaces within the tree line. These trees stand out in bold relief from among the lush green trees that surround them.

They are dead trees without any garments. Their foliage and bark are completely gone. They stand among their kind naked in death. The dead trees remind me of Christ's comments to the misguided religious people of His day. They were clothed in unique religious garments.

Religious people to whom Jesus said, "You are white washed tombs (seemingly pure on the outside), filled with dead men's bones (not knowing they were already dead).

Man throughout the centuries has ignored the God that created him. God in turn has stated that there will only be a Remnant (the few) throughout ALL of history who will find Him and gain Salvation.

Man, to whom God gave a mind to reason with, Man who bears the Image of His Creator...is blind, naked, and deaf and unable to see, touch or hear the words of God because of his arrogance and pride in himself and his accomplishments.

But the Creation, having not been made in the image of God, having no ability to reason, or to think...KNOW their Creator. The Creation as God Himself has said, groans bearing the weight of the curse, and anxiously awaits its removal and the recreation of a new earth promised by God.

When one of us dies a memorial service is held. Pleasant words are spoken about us by loved ones and friends. Our life is portrayed by photographs that surround our coffin. It is an event for the living, not the dead.

Then solemnly we bury our dead. The dead are remembered but for a short time, then forgotten by generations to come. They are lost behind the veil of time.

Not so with Trees. For the Trees never bury their dead. In life the trees are wrapped in garments of leaves that God decreed would reach up to the heavens and worship Him.

From the very beginning, from a seedling, the trees focus is upward to its Creator. In life trees performed their job, their role, their calling before their Creator in loving obedience.

They provided cover and homes for animals. They provided the coolness of shade, and bore fruit for mankind. They provided oxygen for the earth, so we would have an atmosphere conducive to life. And they sacrificed their very essence for the benefit of their appointed caretakers.

Yes, mankind was given dominion over the trees and over all creation by God.

But the main calling of trees was to lift up HOLY hands and clap in worship to their Creator when the Holy Spirit moved them by the wind.

They know the story that is written in the Word of God. They know the story that man continues to ignore. They know its beginning because they were there. They live in hope because they know its ending as they groan and wait for their Redemption.

And they do for us what we are too ignorant to do for ourselves or for others.

They pray that our eyes would be opened and we would catch the vision of our Lord lifted HIGH up upon HIS Throne. You see God has not only planted the knowledge of Himself in each human being, but also within the trees, the birds, the animals. The knowledge of the Creator is within everything He has created.

So here before me this early morning stand the dead trees among the living. They remind me of mankind to whom the Lord has said you must

be born again. One writer wrote a book called “Waking the Dead”. Interesting but insightful title, for in Truth all who in this life do not know their Creator are ...the walking dead.

God says to each of us that we had a physical birth and we all will have a physical death. But that physical death is not the end, but the beginning for us all. We will stand before Him to be judged. The judgment is a pass or fail grade based on the merit of another.

If we pass, we enter the realm of His Kingdom. If we fail we will experience a second death. We will be given a new spiritual body to replace the old physical one. A body made specifically to endure being apart from God our creator in hell forever.

Unlike mankind the trees do not bury their dead for they still serve a purpose among the living. Their naked bows still provide a place of rest for birds on their journey through life.

Their trunks with crevices and holes provide safety and homes for small animals. They no longer have leaves to clap in joy and worship their Lord. But their arms still reach up to the heavens to their Creator and bend in the wind when the Holy Spirit moves among them...causing the dead to worship the Living God of Creation.

When will we realize that in life where we are going isn't as important as how we get there? That how we look, is not as important as who we are inside.

Remember, God said we are “white washed Tombs, filled with dead men's bones”. He has put the knowledge of Himself into each of us. He also promised that His word, His Bible is alive and able to change our heart towards HIM.

He is Lord of the Living and Lord of the Dead.

He is Lord of the FOUND and Lord of the LOST.

Both the Living and the Dead, will bow down before their Creator by the power of the Holy Spirit and give HIM PRAISE for who HE IS.

There are **no** NON Believers in Heaven or in Hell.

The Narrow Gate

Do you love trips, especially those that go to exotic places? The world is huge with so many destinations and cultures. We could go to Africa, it's really a big zoo filled with animals to see.

Or, to Europe, where you can see architecture hundreds of years old and practice multiple languages and study history as depicted through the art of the masters.

Or, to Brazil where you can visit the Rainforest. It is a special place containing every color and combination of colors ever created by God on the feet and beaks and wings of exotic birds and creatures. The Rainforest contains Gods color palette that He used to color our world.

Or to Asia with its mountains and valleys and its people steeped in the supposed oldest place of human wisdom and traditions in the world.

Or to the Middle East, where you will find the cradle of civilization, the hotbed of man's religion and the Birthplace of God.

The Middle East is a sandbox where men for ages have played like children digging into the sand at nighttime. In the moonlight they look for clues to the meaning of life. As they dig they find skeletons of people like themselves with shovels in their hands.

People frozen in time holding shovels with bony fingers. They are former seekers covered by the sands of time, seeking but never finding their answers to the questions that haunted them while alive.

These people continued to dig intensely, never noticing the howling winds that built up the sand around them until they too were buried in the sand and became part of the mystery of time.

Taking a trip to any of the latter places will take planning, study, investigation, and research. You will want to know the culture, review the places of interest, and even learn the language if possible. You have to admit taking a trip to those places would be an adventure of a lifetime.

But there is another trip you will be taking. It is much greater than any of those. In a very real sense this trip will take you back to your future. You will be going back in time to when time didn't even exist. Back further into the very mind of God.

Were you aware that you've been on Gods mind for a very long time? You could say He has been waiting forever to introduce Himself too you. He Said that He knew you before He created the foundations of the earth.

There are three words of extreme importance that God wants you to understand and come to grips with while you live here on Earth. For when you understand these three words and how they fit together you will gain a ticket to ride to the destination HE wants you to travel too.

The problem is that the majority of people who have died before you and the majority of people alive today have not taken the time to investigate how these three words fit together. As a result they have not gained a ticket to the destination that God has chosen for them. Instead they have gained a ticket that they have chosen for themselves to a different location.

I realized that the biggest trip I would ever take in my life is when my life was over. Yet I had never planned or studied or investigated or researched the destination I would spend eternity in.

My study of the Bible took me on a three-year journey. At the end I proclaimed that Jesus is my Savior and Lord and the Messiah of Israel. In the 23 years since that proclamation I have learned to study the Word of God in the light of the following 3 words. Holy...Faith...and Truth.

Those 3 words are building blocks that are interwoven. If you study them they will reveal to you how the Mystery contained in the Old Testament became Flesh (The God / Man) in the New Testament. Your understanding that Mystery will enable the Holy Spirit of God through Grace and Mercy to give you the Gift of Salvation. Then you will become a New Person in Christ.

Like me, some of you brought a lot of baggage with you as you walked the road ahead as part of the herd. The road was wide and we could take suitcases filled with our special belongings of Traditions, Superstitions, Rules and Regulations, Pride, Arrogance, Materialism and much more.

Not sure about you but my suitcases meant everything to me in the beginning. But as I began to study the Word of God my views became narrower. Slowly as my focus became sharper, the bags that weighed me down fell away. No longer was I on a wide road with friends and relatives carrying everything with me. In fact my road ended between two cliffs with barely enough place for one person to pass through at a time.

I had one bag left of Jewish Traditions I wanted to take with me. It looked like I could if I just held the bag behind me and walked further. But there before me was a turnstile. I could no longer move forward with the last bag. I had to make a choice, to count the cost. There was only room for me to go through alone, without the bag.

I stood before the turnstile, undecided, frozen in time, but understanding that this decision was going to influence my eternity. So I reviewed in my heart and mind what I had learned during my three year journey about the words HOPE...FAITH...and TRUTH. I counted the cost, knowing I could lose my family; then dropped the bag behind me and passed through the turnstile for one.

That narrow road I had walked for 3 years opened up into a view of the vista of the universe. There before me was the Throne Room of God. The Celebration and Joy I witnessed through the eyes of my heart was overwhelming as I heard Him say to me...will you go on our behalf and share with them?

Gladly I said. He gave me my purpose for the time I have remaining. That purpose is to share HIM with YOU.

So let me break down the 3 words as I did for myself so long ago.

HOPE: who or what do you place your hope in? There is only one place that hope belongs and that is in the TRUE God. Without the TRUE God you can define your life as hopeless. For only through Gods plan for your life will you find hope for your life here and hope beyond the grave.

H God is **Holy**. He is the Creator and I am the creature. He is set apart. He is a self existent Being and He is to be feared. I cannot gain righteousness by comparing myself to others around me. God is HOLY and HIS Standard of perfection must be met to gain entrance into Heaven. I cannot be Holy. I therefore have a problem.

O God is **Omniscient** and **Omnipresent**. He knows all and is everywhere at the same time. Everything I do and say is before His face. Everything I say, do and think is recorded in Heaven within the personal biography of my life. My life will be judged first by His Scriptures and secondly from my biography.

P God is **Personal**. He wants you to know Him One to One. He wants you to know Him personally. He desires a relationship of friendship with me. Imagine, the God of the Universe wanting me to know HIM heart to heart.

E God is **Eternal**. He has no beginning and no end. You have a beginning because He created you, but you too are Immortal with no end, you will live forever somewhere.

FAITH: who or what do you place your faith in and why? This is your ultimate quest. To find out who to place your faith in!

F **Faith** comes as a gift from God to each of us based on His unchanging promises to all who will seek Him with all their heart, mind and strength.

A Faith is **available** to everyone who seeks and asks to believe. "God help my unbelief and fill my heart with Faith."

I Faith when accepted grows in strength daily and lives inside all who believe. We have the Holy Spirit living **inside** of us to guide us and purify us daily.

T Faith will **take** you on this great journey called life. Faith will give you joy in the journey and peace in the storms because the ONE in whom you believe promises to never leave you or forsake you.

H Faith will take you **Home** when your journey ends here so you can begin the greatest adventure of your life when you step onto the shores of Heaven and look out at HIS Universe waiting for you to explore.

TRUTH: is acknowledging the answer Jesus gave to Pilates question “what is truth?” Jesus said...”For this I have been born and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the **TRUTH**, everyone who is of the **TRUTH** hears my voice.”

T The Word of God is made up of **testimonies** of eyewitness both here on Earth and those Prophets who have been allowed to see into Heaven itself.

R The Word of God is **real** documented History. It is verifiable by Archeology, Science and Pre-written History called PROPHECY.

U The Word of God will **uplift** your Spirit because you Believe in The ONE True God; who chose to communicate with you through His Autobiography.

T The Word of God will **Test** you to prove your faith is real. We are all called to evaluate ourselves by HIS Word to see if the Truth is IN Us.

H The Word of God proclaims only ONE WAY to be **SAVED** and get into **Heaven**. The Word of God condemns all who do not accept its Truth to a place apart from God to a destination other than Heaven.

As True believers who belong to The ONE True Church of Christ who have studied the Bible and plumbed the depths of the Mind and Heart of God; we have True **HOPE**. Why, because it is sustained by **Faith** and stands on the rock foundation of the **Truth**.

Salvation means our souls are anchored in Heaven because all our past, present and future sins have been nailed to the **CROSS** of **CHRIST** and will be remembered no more.

These 3 words, **HOPE**, **FAITH** and **TRUTH** and how they are inter-

related and apply to your life will lead you to God's purpose for mankind whom He formed from the dust of the earth and then breathed life into. That purpose is to share the Gospel with the lost in confidence and with great boldness.

In confidence because:

“God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that **whoever believes in** (trusts in, clings to, relies on) **Him** shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.”

John 3:16

In boldness because:

“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses of his majesty**. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” **we ourselves heard** this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For **no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**”

2 Peter 1

*SEEK the seeds of TRUTH,
and God will plant them in your heart.
Read the Word of God and let the words water
the seeds until they grow and FAITH is born
anew in your heart of hearts.*

*Then as you walk before the
ONE TRUE GOD in faith,
His promises will fill your days here with JOY
and give you everlasting HOPE for your future.*

NO longer Two but One in HIM

How many of you consider yourselves to be Christians? How many of you think of yourselves as Messianic Jews?

Scripture contains in the book of Acts 11: 23 the first reference we have for the word Christian. “and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch”.

Christian is a name given to the disciples or followers of Christ. So to be a Christian means that you are a follower of Christ. Then that is the definition of each of us who call ourselves Christian, right?

Please stay with me and hold onto your seat because we’re going on a short journey to check out our roots, your real heritage as found in Scripture. Have you ever thought about asking yourself, could it be that I am Jewish? Could it be that everyone that calls themselves a Christian is actually Jewish?

Sounds strange but give me a fair shot, just listen. What does the title Christ mean? The word Christ is the Greek word for Anointed One. For the longest time I thought that the last name of Jesus was Christ because everyone refers to Him as Jesus Christ. But that is not correct. His name is Jesus, His title is Christ.

If I were to ask you who the oldest living Jew is in the world today, what would your answer be? If you’re thinking Jesus, you’re correct. Jesus, is the oldest living Jew because He is still alive today.

Today we in America and the world call Him Jesus. Back then 2,000 years ago His parents, His brothers, His sisters, His disciples and His enemies called Him by His Hebrew name.....Yeshua.

The word Messiah translates to Anointed One. Both the Greek word Christ and the Hebrew word for Messiah mean Anointed One. So when you claim you’re waiting for the second coming of Christ and our Jewish friends claim they are waiting for the first coming of the Messiah; both waiting for the coming of the Anointed One. The words Christ and Messiah are the Greek and Hebrew equivalents of each other. But notice friend we are both waiting for the Jewish Messiah or Christ because Jesus the God/Man was and is a Jew.

Another question: Were the Christians the original messengers of God to a fallen world? No, it was the Jews.

How many of you remember the Promise Keepers “Stand in the Gap” event in Washington D.C. a few years ago?

That event represented a turning point in my life. I was in awe looking out into a sea of people and faces. The Grace of our God, shown in the diversity of HIS people, reminded me that ultimately we will share heaven with representatives of every tribe and nation on the face of the earth.

We stood together over a million strong, people of every race. They were dressed in poor dirty clothes and new expensive clothes. There were young men with strong bodies and old men who needed help to walk. There were men worshiping like the frozen chosen and there were some dancing before the Lord with abandon like King David must have.

The man next to me humbled me the most. He was dressed simply and had hair down his back to his waist and wore no shoes or socks. When I asked about his appearance he referred to the Old Testament book of Numbers 6 : 2-5 and said he had taken the Nazarite vow and that such an assembly of believing men, were surely standing on HOLY GROUND.....that's why he was barefoot and for the entire day never got off his knees.

One of the ceremonies at Stand in the Gap was to bring cultural representatives onto the stage to speak for their group. This was a true mission's event because God has a remnant of believers in every race. Even Native Americans were there in full feathered regalia praising and thanking the Lord for HIS goodness, grace and mercy to their unique group of believers.

But, when a Messianic Jewish Rabbi came on the stage and immediately fell on his face, prostrate before the Lord, my heart broke. Then from his knees this born again Rabbi cried out and begged The Lord to forgive the Jewish nation for turning away from not only the One True God, as represented by the Trinity, but also for failing to be HIS light of salvation to the nations of the world.

The life of the nation of Israel can truly be summed up by the phrase "IF ONLY". There have been hundreds of if only moments in her disobedience to God throughout history. But the one that took the Jews off the mission field was when they did not recognize their Messiah Yeshua / Jesus. How different things might have been in our world today, had the Jews recognized Him when He came.

The recognition of the Son of God at that time was not what God had planned!

As a result the flame of world evangelism turned into an ember awaiting the breath of GOD to ignite it again at Pentecost. That ember became the very fire of God through a former Jewish rabbi who became the Apostle Paul. Through Paul God appointed the Ecklesia, the Called Out Ones, the TRUE Church to take the Gospel of Good News to every corner of the

known world via the Roman roads.

Could this Ecclesia, the Church actually be Jewish? You could argue that point since the beginning Church was made up mostly of Jews. Is being a true or real Jew a matter of bloodline and circumcision of the flesh? Or, does God define a true Jew differently?

I frequently meet Christians who react to a Born Again Jew by exclaiming, "How awesome and special it must be ", they say "I wish I were one of the Chosen people!" While I appreciate their love of the Jewish people, I always point out that if you know Jesus, the Bible says you **are** one of God's chosen people.

Then I might add, just remember that being chosen has its burdens as well as its blessings.

If you've seen Fiddler on the Roof, you will remember Tevye the dairy man. Tevye dryly suggested that maybe "for once, just for once God, could you choose someone else".

From Tevye's perspective, being the chosen people had a high pricepersecutions, wanderings and broken dreams....while the benefits of being chosen remained illusive.

Others have struggled with the concept of "chosen people". Some have gone so far as to ask, "What makes the Jews think they are so special, that God would choose them over all other people?"

Such questions thinly disguise the resentment that has often boiled up into vehement anti-Semitism. That resentment provoked a poet to write, **"How odd of God to choose the Jews, but not so odd as those who choose the Jewish God and hate the Jews."**

The Jewish people are not the only chosen ones. The Hebrew word for chosen, *bachar* reflects the more familiar New Testament concept of election. The Church of Jesus Christ is the elect of God (2 Timothy 2:10). If you have received Him as you Messiah and Savior, that means that God chose you!

God keeps His promises to both of His "Chosen Peoples", Israel and the Church...for His names sake. Both of us also experience the same resentment the world feels toward God's chosen people. All you have to do is tell the average person that Jesus Christ is the only way to have a relationship with God. People will resent you for being narrow-minded, just as they resent my Jewish people for being exclusive.

Israel and the Church both represent the blessing of God's choosing. Both demonstrate the truth of God's love and faithfulness, His mercy and His grace.

Both Israel and the Church may experience deep and abiding failure. Both may be resented, hated even persecuted by the world. Yet both are people of great destiny with a hope filled future.

That future is secure ONLY for those who name the name of Christ, not because of the strength or the goodness of those who were chosen, but because of the faithful, loving and all-powerful God who chooses, so that He Himself might receive the glory. God chooses those who will believe in Him!

Did you know that before the foundations of the world were ever made, in eternity past.....the Lord knew me! I truly believe we can never understand the depth of that statement. How awesome and comforting to know that He who began a good work in you will complete it in HIS timing.

Spend some quiet time with The Lord and study how many times throughout history the blood line of the Messiah came down to just one small life that God miraculously protected from being snuffed out, so His Son Jesus would be born in Bethlehem on schedule.

I propose to you that God does the same for each of His Chosen and Elect children. My mother, a Holocaust Survivor told me the story of arriving at Auswiche with her sister and her sister's 9 year old son and 11 year old daughter. The four of them were in one line and a Nazi soldier pulled my mother from the line and put her in a separate line by herself. My mother left that line 3 times to go back to be with her sister and kids. Each time she was beaten and thrown into the other line. The last time she was beaten with clubs and physically could not get back.

She didn't know that the line her sister and children were in meant death and the other line meant life...but God did! You see my mother, years later was going to have me. God knew me from eternity past and graciously provided me with the gift of faith in His Son so I might have Salvation and some day go home to be with The Lord.

So let's get back on track with our main question. Who is a REAL Jew....is it the person who is born into a Jewish family of flesh like me? Does God define a real Jew by his bloodline? Is a real Jew a Christian?

God stated in Deuteronomy 30:6 that a real Jew is one whose heart has been circumcised. Paul in Romans 2:28 says, "He is not a Jew who is one outwardly, neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh....but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit not by the letter and his praise is not of men, but from God".

It has to do with the Holy Spirit in you, not the flesh that surrounds you. The word Jew comes from the word Judah which means to praise GOD. What God has wanted all along is to choose for HIMSELF a people who will praise HIM. Yes, it began with the Nation of Israel and they have a separate and distinct historical purpose and position within the plan of God.

So, based on what I have just told you, how many of you think you're a real Jew? According to Scripture everyone who names the name of Jesus as their Lord and Savior is a real Jew according to the definition of a real Jew as one who praises God. **Yet, this is not really who you are or really who I am...keep reading were almost there.**

I want to close with a little story:

A Jewish father was concerned about his son who was about a year away from his Bar Mitzvah but was sorely lacking in his knowledge of the Jewish faith. To remedy this he sent his son to Israel to experience his heritage. A year later the young man returned home.

"Father, thank you for sending me to the land of our Fathers," the son said. "It was wonderful and enlightening, however, I must confess that while in Israel I converted to Christianity."

"Oy vey," replied the father, "what have I done." So in the tradition of the patriarchs, he went to his best friend and sought his advice and solace. "It is amazing that you should come to me", stated his friend. "I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian."

So in the tradition of the patriarchs, they went to the Rabbi. "It is amazing that you should come to me," stated the Rabbi, "I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian. What is happening to our sons? Brothers, we must take this to the Lord," said the Rabbi.

They fell to their knees and began to wail and pour out their hearts to the Almighty. As they prayed the clouds above opened and a Mighty Voice stated **"Amazing that you should come to Me. I, too, sent My Son to Israel...."**

So who is a true Jew, are Christians Jewish?

NO... Our identity is no longer Jew or Christian...you and I are now Born Again CHILDREN of a new family...the TRUE Family of the ONE and ONLY GOD. There is no Jew, no Gentile at the foot of HIS Cross. Only Born Again Jews and Born Again Christians. Together we share a new family, formed to Worship and Praise only ONE KING...the Coming King of men and angels. No longer the lamb who was slain; now the King of Kings, the LION of the TRIBE of Judah.

Would you pray with me... Father, thank you that you sent your Son, Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah. Help each of us to hunger to know not only Him but our Jewish Heritage as well. Father you have concealed Jesus in the Old Testament and Revealed Him for us in the New Testament.

Don't let us forget that the foundation upon which Jesus stands are the Messianic Prophecies contained in the Old Testament. Jesus said to the men on the Emmaus road that the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms all speak of Him.

Thank you that our names are written in the Lambs Book of Life. Help us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the Nation of Israel from whom our Heritage comes.

Let us never forget that:

No other nation on earth has been destroyed and scattered to the four corners of the globe and then re-gathered as the focus of world attention.

No other nation declares by its re-emergence in time that there is a God who deserves to be feared, loved and obeyed.

No other nation exists as a declaration to the world that in the records of her history, we find our roots and in the predictions of her history, we find our roots and in the predictions of her prophets we find our future.

May the Almighty, the Ancient of Days, the Lord God of Israel and His True Church; the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, grant each of us and our loved ones a hedge of Holy Angels; that are strong and awesome and mighty in the power of the Holy Spirit, in protecting us and our families from all evil, till Christ comes again.

May the One who spoke Light into existence and the One who came to be the Light of the World bless and keep you and provide you His Shalom and Refuge as you remain under the shadow of His Wings throughout 2009.

Because HE Lives
Because HE Cares
Because HE Call's
BECAUSE HE IS COMING BACK!

Two Gardens...and One Bitter Cup

The Garden of Eden made Holy and perfect by God was spoiled by the disobedience of Adam. The creature was not willing to submit his will to the will of God his Creator.

So began the Fall of Mankind and Original Sin. Mankind, intended to display grace, mercy and love, would now love himself first. He would have...

- A need to satisfy fleshly desires (lust)
- A natural resourcefulness (self-sufficiency)
- A careless embracing of worldly wisdom (capitulation)
- A fear of failure or rejection (inferiority)
- A bent toward self-preservation (fear)
- A stubborn insistence for control and recognition (pride)
- A refusal to separate from family or friends (dependency)
- A bottomless appetite for comfort and ease (materialism)

This is only the beginning of a long list. The point is, that left to ourselves; we always rationalize reasons to please ourselves rather than God.

God would now relentlessly remind Man throughout time that actions always bring consequences. That physical life is but a vapor. That God holds eternity in His hands. That this life is not about us...but about HIM!

In God alone reside Love, Mercy and Grace...and True Pity and Compassion for us because He knows we are but dust.

Later in time, in another garden called Gethsemane; Gods pity and compassion for us was embodied in His Son. In Eden Adam lived for himself and lost life with God for all of his descendants. From that day forward the sins of mankind would begin filling a cup. A cup that the second Adam, Jesus, would drink in full, taking the worlds sins upon Himself on the Cross satisfying the wrath of His Father towards us; opening by faith a way for us to regain paradise lost and have life with God.

Ken Gire wrote in... *"Intense Moments with the Savior"*:

"And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray.
(Mark 14:35)

The verb in the Greek phrase translated “fell to the ground” is in the imperfect tense, suggesting a continual action. In other words, Jesus literally kept falling to the ground in prayer, crying out to His Father, then rising to His feet, only to fall again to the ground in prayer.

Portraits of a serene Jesus kneeling beside a rock, crowned in moonlight, mislead us. Mark described a Jesus wrestling with His destiny, pacing, falling to the ground, desperately petitioning the Father for relief, and entreating Him as a young son would his daddy: “Abba / Daddy! Father!” vs. 36

“Jesus pushes himself up from the ground and lifts his eyes towards heaven.

“Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

His hands are no longer clutching the grass in despair. They are no longer clasping each other in prayer.

They are raised toward heaven.

Reaching not for bread or for fish or for any other good gift. Not even for answers. But reaching for the cup from his Father’s hand.

And though it is a terrible cup, brimming with the wrath of God for the ferment of sin from centuries past and centuries yet to come....and though it is a cup he fears....he takes it.

Because more than he fears the cup, he loves the hand from which it comes.”

Chuck Swindoll...*“Insight for Living Ministries ...wrote:*

“Lord, I know that sometime, somewhere, some type of Gethsemane awaits me. Just as it did you. I know that someday a dark night will fall upon my soul. Just as it did yours. But I shudder to think about it, about the darkness and the aloneness and the despair.

Prepare me for that dark night. Prepare me now by helping me realize that although Gethsemane is the most terrifying of places, it is also the most tranquil.

The terror comes in realizing I am not in control of my life or the lives of those I love. The tranquility comes in realizing that you are.

Help me when it is dark and I am alone and afraid. Help me to put my trembling hand in yours and trust you with my life. And with the lives of those I love.

Someday I know I will wrestle with the circumstances that are beyond my control, that some sort of suffering will pin me to the cold, hard ground.

When that happens, help me to realize that the victories of heaven are the defeats of the human soul. And that my strength is not found in how courageously I struggle but in how completely I surrender myself to you.”

Remember this *remarkable Fact*, not even Jesus, the Lord of the universe, could skirt the necessity of prayer to ready Himself for the grueling responsibility of the Cross. The Cross that Jesus chose voluntarily because He loved you and I before the foundations of the world were made.

God always waits to hear from His children. His hand is always extended towards you, for you to reach up and hold as He walks with you through the storms of life.

There is no me, only Him. I have no will except to do His will only. I trust not in myself but in His Love and care for me...I receive all things from His hand and am glad and rejoice in His Mercy.

I am precious in His sight as are all His children who respond to the call of His Son Jesus to “come, follow me”.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

One of the most thought provoking statements in the Bible did not come from the lips of any prophet or an apostle or even the Lord Himself.

The statement I am referring to came from the mouth of Pontius Pilate at Christ's trial. The Lord said "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice".

Pilate's reply was "What is Truth?".

Today in the 21st century, mankind considers himself all knowing. Man has made himself the center of his universe. We live in a relativistic world where your opinion is as valuable as the next persons. Truth, no longer stands alone as the standard. Nothing has really changed since Pilate uttered that statement.

Scripture states that as believers we must always be ready to give a defense of our faith. Many of us forget that our Christian faith stands on the foundation of History. I am sure you have heard the statement that History is really HIS STORY. We as Christians do not place our faith in myths, fairy tales or fables. Our faith is verifiable by science, archeology and most of all pre-written history which you and I know as prophecy.

How precious is that Truth you know, the Good News of Jesus death and Resurrection? I am sure you believe in Heaven and that you will be there with the Lord. Well, just as real is the promise of Hell for all those who die without the Lord. People we love will stand before Christ alone in judgment; people who will wonder why we said nothing, as they are condemned to a Godless eternity.

I know many of the tears the Lord will wipe from my eyes will be tears of remorse for the times I had an opportunity to say something to someone, and to my shame I did not.

I know witnessing is tough, if it were easy the world would be Christian already. It's a confidence thing. People don't feel confident because they are afraid they will not know the answer to the questions people will ask.

It can also be confrontational. To face that situation you really need to understand your faith and have answers ready for whatever comes. You are called to have an answer for the faith that is in you.

Despite your fears you need to choose people to witness too. Your objective is to begin a discussion or an intelligent controlled argument. The key is to get a reaction. As long as there is discourse, there is hope.

No, conversation means no hope.

Pray for the person you will be witnessing to, that the Lord will soften their heart. Your words need to be gracious and loving, because at worst, you are preparing them for the next person who will witness to them. Their Salvation is not up to you. Only the Holy Spirit can give them that free gift. A side benefit of witnessing is that you will become a better student of the Bible.

In talking to people I have found that I need to tickle their ears. By that I mean you need to find out where their faith is placed. Are they an Atheist, Mormon, Hindu, Jehovah Witness, Jewish, New Age, Muslim etc? There are specific questions that you can ask people in each of the latter faith systems that will cause them to think if in fact they truly are SEEKING God.

Once you know, then you can adjust your witness...that might even mean you have to talk about aliens. We tickle their ears to gain their interest, but your ultimate responsibility is to bring them to the foot of the Cross.

Since Scripture is THE STANDARD to use as our proof of THE TRUTH, the question of whether the Bible is the Word of God becomes all important.

The Scripture is alive, it was written by God to reveal Himself. It is the only authoritative and absolutely reliable record of mans origin, dilemma, salvation and destiny. It serves as man's only moral and spiritual standard. God inspired every word of the original manuscripts, and they were without error in every detail.

God says what HE means and means what HE says!

The Bible is the only completely trustworthy source of knowledge about God. Man cannot learn all he needs to know about God from human reason, philosophy or even experience.

God alone is the source of the knowledge about Himself, and He has chosen to reveal Himself in the Bible and in no other book.

This last point becomes critical when discussing "What is Truth" with Christian cult members. So how do we go about proving our faith in the Bible as The Word of God?

There are two distinct ways to do this. The first is to let Scripture speak for itself.

2 Tim 3:16, *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"*. The word used for inspiration in Greek is Theopneustos, which means God breathed. So

we can say that the Bible is the product of God breathing out His words so what He wanted written down, got written. The Scriptures are the product of divine breath assuring us that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the very words of God.

In the Old Testament phrases such as “thus **saith** the Lord, the word of the Lord came and God said” are repeated 3,800 times.

Hebrews 1:1, “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners **spoke**”....He is a God who speaks.*

1 Corinthians 2:13 Paul said” *We speak, not in the words which mans wisdom teaches, but which the **Holy Spirit teaches.**”*

John 17:8 Jesus said to the father “*I have given unto them the words which you gave me*”.

Galatians 1:11-12, Paul said “*I make known to you brethren that the gospel which was preached by me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the **revelation** of Jesus Christ.*” Paul got the gospel from God, not man.

Exodus 4:12, “*God said to Moses “I will be with thy mouth and **teach it what to say.**”*

Then 40 years later Moses said to Israel in Deuteronomy 4:2, “You shall not add to the word which **I command** you, neither will you take anything from it, that you may keep the commands of the Lord your God, which **I command** you”.

God alone defends His Words as truth in the Bible; the Bible literally substantiates its own claims. In the New Testament Jesus God’s Son defends the Old Testament. So now you have God speaking through the Old Testament by His Prophets and then God the Son corroborating its statements as truth.

Words spoken by God are not to be taken away from or added to. This point will be very helpful in talking to Mormons or Jehovah’s Witnesses. Disobeying Deuteronomy 4:2 in the Old Testament and Revelation 22:18 in the New Testament are what all Christian cults do.

The second way to prove our position that the Bible is the Word of God is by bringing supportive evidences into your discussion. This for me has proven to be a better method. Most people have never read the Bible. For them, as it was for me, witnessing must begin using logic and deductive reasoning. It starts as a mind issue and the Holy Spirit ultimately makes it a decision of the heart for those who have been chosen / elected before the foundations of the world were ever made.

Supportive evidences refer to Science, History, Archeology and most of all pre-written history, which is Prophecy that you can prove statistically beyond any shadow of doubt.

You have been called to fight, so prepare well and join those who have gone before you who looked forward to each day's battle as the ultimate adventure of life.

Where are the Teachers?

The King called for a volunteer. Note the sentence structure...”Who will go for US?” The King stood up before the armies of Heaven. His eyes like flames of fire gazed across the realms of the Earth, the Universe and finally Heaven.

As God stood all the Host of Heaven kneeled before His presence; yet only one man, a self-proclaimed person of unclean lips fell flat on his face in utter fear, unable to speak or move.

Isaiah the prophet recognized that among the host of heaven all were Holy and pure and sinless with the exception of himself.

Isaiah lay prostrate awaiting an unknown fate. The latter is from the Book of Isaiah in the Bible. Through the inspired words of Isaiah you and I get a glimpse into heaven. Isaiah was a prophet called by God to live for one purpose and one purpose only.

That was to serve and speak for God by confronting his generation with the TRUTH of God.... to awaken the living that are DEAD...which was the will of God for his life.

Whether you can relate to this or not makes no difference. However if you are a true believer in Christ then you also live here for but one purpose. That being to serve the living God only according to His will for your life. You too are called to reach out to the living dead all around you with the TRUTH of God.

You are an ordinary person called forth by an extraordinary God to do great things. HE is your strength until your eyes finally see His Kingdom. He grants you HOPE and FAITH for each day because of His great and everlasting LOVE for you.

When the eyes of the Lord look down on the sons of men to see if any seek HIM; He sees you...His very own child. You who have a heart that seeks after God. Like King David you are a person after Gods own heart.

You have a Restored Soul, reclaimed from the darkness that surrounds you.

There is no greater time in history than the time you now live in. All the signs are converging together quickly; Christ, The LORD is coming soon. He comes with a Rod of Iron to judge the hearts of men and women and then to rule the nations. The beginning chapter in the book of Revelation is about to begin.

This is the story of the revealing of the King of kings, the King of angels and the King of men. The last chapter of the book of the story of physical mankind will soon quickly come to a conclusion.

It can be said of Isaiah as it can be said of each of us...everyone was born for such a time as this! Each of us was called from beyond the mist of time in eternity past to come forth from the mind of God to live and to make a difference in the lives of people that surround us. The people within the sound of our voice, within the reach of our touch, within the sight of our eyes; this is our purpose.

This is our only purpose!

Now I ask you is it possible to serve God without knowing and understanding who He is as revealed in His word contained in His Bible? Have you come to the understanding of what it means to be His disciple?

As a Christian you already responded to His call to "Come and Follow Me". Have you spent time with Him so you can be of value in this war between Light and Darkness that continues all around you? A war of Truth verses lies a war that only the understanding of sound doctrine can prepare you to fight in.

A war where the line between the Truth and the Lie requires biblical discernment taught by true men of God who know how to divide the Word of God rightly.

Listen to the inspired words of the Apostle Paul from Hebrews 5 verses 7 to 11:

"There is much more we would like to say about this. But you don't seem to listen. So it is hard to make you understand.

You have been Christians a long time; and you ought to be teaching others. Instead you need to re-learn the basics."

Do those words apply to you?

The Apostle Paul is addressing a problem within the newborn church in Christ. The same problem exists today. It translates into the development of weak believers, who have no foundation, who have no discernment, who are tossed by every change in the wind of doctrine. It continues to create weak pulpits, it continues to produce shallow preaching and worst of all it changes the Gospel that saves to another Gospel that is hollow and condemns people to an eternity in Hell.

Christ charged Paul to be the Apostle to the Gentiles. Paul spent his life on earth building the newborn Church. He nursed it, he fed it, and he took its hand as a child and taught it doctrine so the cornerstone and the foundation of the Church would be built on Christ ALONE.

Later near the end of Paul's life when in jail, tired and alone knowing that death was coming. He questioned if his work for Christ was going to stand, had he labored his whole life for Christ in vain? Paul lamented about the church. The church that was newborn was already dying. The Church had let in heresies; and very quickly was on the road to apostasy.

The early church of 2,000 years ago is a far cry from the church we know today. With the exception of the fact that it still is filled with heresies and apostasy. The churches today in the United States of America, not all but most, are no different than in the days of Paul.

I have been struggling to find music in churches that took me deeper and closer to the heart of God. I yearn for modern day Hymn's that tell the story of Christ, of Hope, of Faith and the Love of God. Stories crafted with Lyrics from the word of God. I found 3 albums on the RBC Ministries website (www.rbc.org).

They are called: Pressing On (songs inspired by the journey of the Apostle Paul); David (songs inspired by the life of David) and Be Still (psalms for the Soul).

There is a song on the Album Pressing On whose lyrics express the pain of Paul. Paul at the end of his life recognized that the bright light of Christ that burned within him; the light that he personally planted in the heart of the early church; now had turned into a candle in the darkness.

The very soul of the newborn church had become a soul filled with shadows.

On the RBC website you can hear the song on the album called "Dying Churches" sung by Travis Cottrell. He has captured the anguish, the torment, the pain and the roar of agony in the last heart cry from the Apostle Paul's fear that his beloved churches are dying...listen quietly and it will bring tears to your heart.

When you read Paul's lament in Scripture, listen closely to his words and you will hear him say between the lines that are written...if you have ears to hear... the lyrics of this song:

Lyrics from the song Dying Churches:

“The clouds are graveyard gray
Winter settles in my bones
News that comes is colder still
Than these chains and prison stones.

You walk in shadow, turn from light
Weak and faltering, chasing lies.

I have given you my all
Weary, broken, bruised and spent
Now there is word you have gone astray.

Any joy becomes lament
The freedom that Christ died to win
You have perverted into sin.

I have poured out my life in Jesus’ name
Has all my labor been in vain?

**Oh, my churches
Dying churches
Are you not the chosen bride?**

**Oh, my churches
Dying Churches**

How could you ABANDON CHRIST?

Listening to this song...at first I heard it as a whisper, then as a quiet plea, but then it grew louder until it became a roar out of the mouth of Paul at the end as he wrote to Christians who claimed to believe in the Risen Lord...

....”Why have you abandoned The LORD.”

The title of this message is “Where are the Teachers?”

So I ask again...

”Where are all the teachers today...

who teach the ***TRUTH of God?***”

WHERE IS THE LAMB?

How special it is to be Chosen. How special it is to be Elect. Both words mean the same thing. The word Chosen is Hebrew from the Old Testament. The word chosen was used to refer to the Nation of Israel.

God chose Israel to be the nation that would introduce Him to the world. He chose them not because they were great among the nations of the world, but because they were small.

Being small began the concept of the least of these, the few, the narrow path...the REMNANT. There are two threads that tie the Old and New Testaments together. Two threads that are woven together forming the very fabric of a grand tapestry made of time and history.

One is the Scarlet thread of the Blood of the Lamb, the Messiah, the Christ. The other is the thread of the Redeemed throughout time...the thread of the Remnant...the few who Believed.

You have heard God say that He wishes (hopes) that ALL should be saved. But ALL cannot be saved because of their free will. In fact most will not be saved. Most will perish by their own choice because they refused to know God and Believe in His Son Jesus.

There was a civilization before the flood that did not acknowledge their Creator. God sent preachers / prophets to them like Enoch and Noah. The world of that time did not listen. As a consequence a loving, caring God destroyed all but 8 people out of an estimated 4 to 6 Billion people.

He showed them mercy through Noah's preaching that lasted for 120 years before the flood came. Today God says He will bring fire to reform this planet, to purge it of Sin and make a new Holy Earth. He warns us that at the time of this purging the culture will be the same "as in the days of Noah"; a time when all men did what was right in their own eyes. A time when men refused to believe in the God who created them.

So again the underlying threads bind time and history together, the thread of the least of these, the few, the narrow path...the REMNANT intertwined with the Scarlet thread of the Blood of Christ. Only a remnant of the people will be saved.... **how many will be in your family?**

When the Messiah Jesus came to be among His people the Jews He taught them not only about being Chosen but also of the Elect, those who would be adopted, grafted into the root of the Messiah. While here Jesus opened the door of salvation through His Cross to the Gentile World and then chose the word Elect; which is the word chosen in Greek.

No longer would it only be Jews that could go to heaven through faith in the Blood Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. When Jesus gave up His life and cried out ...It Is Finished; His Father took His finger and tore open the veil to the Holy of Holies. Behind that veil the Ark of the Covenant was now open and the Mercy Seat of God was now directly approachable by YOU ALONE!

The door of FAITH in the Living God was now open to all people to come to HIM through His Son. All that was and still is required is to Believe in HIS SON. You need no rabbi, no reverend, no priest, no pope, no pastor, no apostle or prophet to walk before you leading you in.

The Nation of Israel learned about their God in the Old Testament. The identity of the Messiah was hidden in Messianic Prophecies. They told of a Messiah to come and so the people looked for their Messiah in all the wrong places. This amazes me because God has spoken plainly about every detail of the coming Messiah's life, death and resurrection and the fact that the Messiah would be HIS SON.

And so the Jewish Nation continued to pray to the God of their Fathers. Their fathers referred to as the Patriarch's: Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses etc. Their prayers kept missing the mark. They prayed to the One God not knowing that their God was somehow more than ONE... this is a mystery, revealed only by the Holy Spirit to Born Again people.

There are two very telling Scriptures in the Old Testament about God that every person needs to think about and take deep into their own hearts.

The first is Isaiah 55:9..."for as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

The second is Psalm 53..." The fool says in his heart, **there is no God.**" They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good. God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; **there is no one who does good, not even one.**"

Later Jesus came to walk this earth not just before HIS fellow Jews but among all HIS people. He taught us how to pray in a new way.

No longer was the Nation of Israel to pray to the God of their fathers. But now all people, Jew and Gentile alike were to Pray to the Father of our God through HIS SON.

God had revealed Himself as One, yet more than One to the Jews. Now He was living before them in the flesh as One God represented by 3 individual Persons: Jesus the Son of God, the Holy Spirit of God and now and forever God the Father.

The Jewish Nation has been crying out “Where is the Lamb?” for over 3,500 years. God upon casting Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden instituted the sacrificial system for the Remission of individual Sins by the shedding of the innocent blood of a substitute.

Every week throughout a Jewish persons entire life he would be constantly searching for the best lamb he could get for the sacrifices he needed to make for himself and his family.

When Abraham made the trip with Isaac to Mt. Moriah to sacrifice his son on an alter to the Lord, Isaac asked the question that would echo throughout the corridors of time by the Jewish people...”Where is the Lamb?”

Rabbis today are discussing how and when to re-institute the Sacrificial System. They know they need a Temple. We know from the book of Revelation that the Temple will be rebuilt without the Court of the Gentiles. The dome of the rock now occupies that area. The area has been designated by God for His Temple, and it will be built in Gods timing.

The Rabbis want a Temple to be prepared for their coming Messiah. **SOON, the Nation of Israel will again be saying...”Where is the Lamb?”**

The God of Israel made it clear that the Lamb had now come when Jesus approached John to be baptized. John exclaimed: “Behold...The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

The question of “where is the Lamb?” was answered once and for all time by the Jewish Prophet John who himself exclaimed “I am The Voice of one crying in the Wilderness; make ready the way of the Lord”. It was John’s purpose to announce the coming Messiah to the Nation of Israel.

The Nation of Israel had cried out to God for 400 years, yet God was silent...UNTIL the Jewish Prophet John the Baptizer broke the silence with Behold, The Lamb of GOD... and GOD replied from the Heavens above...”This is MY beloved SON in whom I AM well pleased.

In the Book of Revelation the Lamb of God is identified as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Y’shua the Messiah / Jesus the Christ, The Lamb of God who was “worthy to be slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.

To HIM who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, Be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever...AMEN”.

The God you know is the God of Love and Mercy and Grace and Peace. Yet, at the same time He is HOLY and His Holiness demands JUSTICE and will not tolerate or look upon sin. He said in the book of beginnings (Genesis) that His Spirit would not dwell with men forever.

The God of patience who also created time has proclaimed an end to His patience and an end to time.

It won't be long now!

Why did God SAVE You?

What kind of answers do you think we would hear from Christians if we asked them that question?

To show Gods Love to others, To give to Charities, To help people, To protect the poor and the widows and orphans....

All of these reasons represent the **results** of your Salvation; they reflect your Christian walk before the world, **but that is not why God saved you.**

Most people who claim to know the Lord **do not witness** to their friends, neighbors and family. They feel it is someone else's responsibility.

Or, they say faith is a personal concern. It is really not my business to ask other people who they believe in and trust for their eternal life. **Besides, what if I am asked a question I can't answer. I'll let my life speak for the Lord.**

Most people walk the talk, but few know how to talk during their walk. People are not saved seeing your walk. They are saved, through the work of the Holy Spirit by **hearing your TALK...** your God Story.

Jesus promised us all a Cross to bear. He said the Cross was both a stumbling block and foolishness to the world around us.

Faith only comes by hearing and we are called to be witnesses to a lost and dying world.

The Cross that Jesus promised, is never more real to us than when we obey Him and begin witnessing to the world.

WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS GOD?

Many people look back through the **darkened pages of history** and see a rather obscure picture of Jesus. They have heard of His 2,000 year old claim that He was God, **but they don't quite believe it.**

They find it hard to accept the idea that a small – town Jewish carpenter could have been the creator of the world. They prefer to believe other, less sensational theories about Him.

Here are some of those beliefs.

Jesus is a man who achieved great things....this view is held by the Mormon Church. They teach that Jesus was a preexistent spirit—but they believe that about everyone.

Jesus is a created being who was given the status of second-in-command....this view is held by Jehovah's Witnesses. They teach that Jesus is a created individual who is the second greatest personage of the universe. He is **a god**, but not **The Almighty God**.

Jesus is a man no better than we are....this view is held by the Unification Church. They teach that Jesus' value is no greater than that of any other man.

Jesus is a prophet and messenger of God....this view is held by Islam. They teach that Jesus was only a messenger of Allah.

Jesus is a mystic medium....this view is held by New Ager's. They teach Jesus is a channeler. One of many ancients who give New Ager's a glimpse into the past and their future.

One thing is for sure. These people can't all be right about Jesus. He cannot be exactly who all these people say He is. **Many, who think they know, don't know**.

If He is only a prophet or a medium, **then those who insist He is God are wrong**.

If on the other hand He is God, then those who insist that He is only an exceptional man are wrong. **Somebody is wrong!**

Jesusa **real** person.

Jesus.... who lived a **real** life.

Jesus....who died a **real** death on the Cross.

Jesus... who **came back** from the dead.

Jesus...who **is coming back** again.

Many of you have friends and families that don't believe the Bible is Gods Word, or that Jesus is Gods Son.

Next time you see them you tell them that your Christian faith isn't based on fairy tales, or legends, or myths...but on the Inerrant, Word of God, and YOU can defend the Bible through History, Archeology and Science and most of all... **PROPHECY!**

The Bible you have is made up of two parts, 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament.

It was written over a 1600 year period, covering 60 generations by over 40 different authors.

It was written on 3 different continents, in 3 different languages, discussing hundreds of subjects involving a variety of literary styles including history, poetry, law, biographies and Prophecy.

Yet, the Bible you own is **ONE** book. With **ONE** HERO....Jesus, with **one** villain....Satan, with **one** theme....Salvation and **ONE** Purpose....**to Glorify GOD.**

There's a war going on between Heaven and Earth; between God and Satan. God isn't looking for you to be bold and strong when you're with your Christian friends.

God is looking for people who are willing to stand in the gap for HIM. Someone who will **Stand Alone** in a crowd and **make a difference for HIM.**

If you claim to know Jesus, then He claims you as one of His own. Your assignment is to learn how to defend Him. Because He has called **YOU...** to do Battle for HIM.

According to author John Eldredge there are 3 Eternal Truths:

Things are not what they seem to be.

An unseen battle has been under way since the Garden of Eden.

We (you and I) have a crucial role to play in Gods plan.

He says it like this; **"you are not what you think you are.** There is a glory to your life that you're Enemy Fears. He is Hell-Bent on destroying that glory (Christ's light) **before you realize you have it and act on it.**"

We are called to be Light Bearers...don't hide your light, but shine it boldly into the darkness that surrounds you.

Before you can go out and begin to tell others the Truth about Jesus, you first have a responsibility to answer a question that Jesus ask's you.

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

This is a question that too many people answer too quickly. **Before you can answer Christ's question** you have 4 personal questions to answer first. Who am I? How did I get here? What is my purpose here on earth? And lastly, where am I going when I die?

The answer to these questions can only be found in the Truth. Where do you search to find the Truth It's found in our Bible, both Old and New Testaments.

Christianity, our faith in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Messiah is based on **FACTS**, facts that are affirmed in History, Archeology and Science.

So, first you must study the Bible from an Evangelistic point of view. That means you have to learn the Truth and how to defend **THE TRUTH that you Believe!**

Then you will understand **your Faith in your Lord and** will be able to go back to those 4 personal questions and answer them intelligently.

Who am I? I am a child of God; Jesus is my Savior, my Lord, and my King. I was given to Jesus by God as a love gift.

How did I get here? God said in Psalm 139 vs 13 that He knew me before I was in my Mothers womb. God said in Romans 8 vs.29, that whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become a believer in His Son Jesus.

What am I to do here on earth? I am to live out the "Great Commission": To make disciples of all nations, teaching people about the word of God; telling all the Good News of John 3:16.

Where am I going when I die? Because Jesus died for my sins and He was resurrected, and He is alive today; I too will live forever with Him in heaven.

Now, like the Apostle Peter, YOU too will be able to answer Jesus' question.....**Who Do You Say That I Am ?**

LORD...You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

You have all heard the saying:

“The King is Dead; long live the King.”

With those words, many a monarch has passed from the scene, only to be succeeded by another. But in the case of Christ, the King of the Jews, the phrase takes on added significance.

Never before had a king died only to succeed himself to the throne.

But Christ did:

Never before had a man been crucified and buried only to emerge bodily three days later.

But Christ did:

Never before had a man endured such human hatred in order to demonstrate such divine love.

But the Son of Man did:

No other:

single piece of good news has brought more comfort, more encouragement, and more peace to more people than the ringing declaration...

“HE is RISEN!”

Three Who Wait for Me

(In Honor of Teddy, Lillian & My Sister with NO Name)

The clouds of war blocked the sun over Europe. Evil given permission by God was now going to have its day. This day of shadows was to last 4 years. The master planner of this horror, satan, was going to get his fill of souls for a short time. For satan, like an unruly dog is on a leash, held by the Hand of Almighty God.

During this time satan would destroy millions upon millions of people branded by Hitler unfit to live; including 6 million Jews. Many Jews in the thousands escaped by leaving Europe in the years before the doors were shut. But not my parents.

They could not believe nor envision the evil that human beings with black hearts were capable of doing to their own kind. And so they stayed, and were ensnared. They not only lost things they cherished, but the precious lives of loved ones.

Armin and Margaret my parents were never the same. My mother lost her entire family; my father lost his wife and two children. Teddy, a boy, was nine years old and had deep chocolate eyes. Lillian, a girl, was eleven years old with eyes the color of the sky and hair like wheat in the sunlight.

After the war was over both my parents were re-united in the immigration camp. My father formerly my mothers brother-in-law, and my mother formerly the sister of my fathers wife.

It took 2 years for them to regain their health. They married in the camp. Their mutual loses drew them together into a marriage built on a foundation of pain and suffering. But God in His Mercy brought them comfort in each other and blessed them with me; a new life to cherish into the future.

Prior to immigrating, Jews who lost homes were allowed to go back to the cities where they had lived and reclaim their homes should they want to. Most found nothing left to come home too and so they immigrated all over the world.

In the case of my father the people occupying his home allowed him to go into the backyard and dig up a box that he had hidden in the earth. A box filled with treasures, jewelry, and money. These things had no value to him...but the pictures...OH Dear God, the pictures...the images of love and life lost; he gently held close to his heart and brought them with him.

Armin had walked his own “Via Delarosa”; his road of suffering. At its end he found only misty memories of the past. He had lived through hell on earth just to be able to touch the hands of his children and hold his wife once again. But they ...were no more.

His hands shook and all the pent up anguish came out in great sobs and tears as he held 3 pictures of 3 hearts gently against his breast...Teddy, Lillian and the only remaining picture of his wife as they stood bride and groom together looking forward to a bright future.

And so he walked forward into a new life clutching the old life...crying out to God...WHY?...but only hearing the sound of silence. He never understood till his dying day that it was satan who robbed him...not God.

For the last month my wife Elyse has been recreating our family’s visual journey of life, by redoing all our photo albums. For weeks now I could not understand why we keep pictures. Rarely will anyone ever look at them. There are people I don’t remember, others I would like to forget.

But now I understand why she has so tenderly and carefully created the journey that is our life; in the precious books of memories I now can review.

I am staring at Teddy and Lillian. I have the pictures my father once held in his hands. They are with me here as I write. All that’s left of them I now hold in my hands. In a very real sense I now hold their hearts and my fathers heart.

They are the brother and sister I never had a chance to know.

What about you? Do you have a brother or sister that have died young that you never got a chance to know? Are you a parent who has lost children at a young age and now like me; you hold precious photographs in your hands that represent the hearts that once lived in bodies you could hug and kiss?

Look closely at their pictures and you will see eyes filled with light and life. If you look long enough you will be able to see deep into their souls. Teddy and Lillian just like your brother or sister, or your child still live today, just as you do. Not as memories, but as who they are. Each a unique person created by the Living God to live for eternity. Each has been given a new body to replace the old; no longer a youth but a young person with a new strong body free of pain or any form of weakness. A body fitted to live for eternity.

No, neither Teddy nor Lillian or my father Armin has spoken to me from the dead. All three have moved onto another dimension we cannot see or hear from.

I know this is true because the recorded Word of God through HIS Prophets tell me where they are and what they are doing; even now as I write this to you.

Yeshua, Jesus the Son of God, affirmed the words of the Prophets in history.

Yeshua, Jesus died on the Cross, was buried three days in a tomb and then rose from the dead and walked this earth again before witnesses. He spoke of heaven; He spoke of hell and the coming Kingdom of God to this earth in the future.

Yeshua, Jesus is the only person to die, come back physically from the dead and speak about it to the same people who watched HIM die!

Teddy and Lillian died a horrible death. Their mother stood with the two of them clutching each other among a packed room of strangers. They were all naked in a shower room. There was silence as they all heard the hissing sound together at the same time. No water came forth, just the sound of gas, then the sound of choking, then the screams of pain from their eyes and the burning in their lungs.

They clung together Lillian, Teddy and their mother. They fell together with the rest of the people. And they were buried together in a mass unmarked grave.

My tears flow as I write this for here on my desk are both Teddy and Lillian, captured in a moment of time gazing at me. Their eyes so filled with life. Anger burns in my soul, yet I hear the whisper of God calling to me..." ernie, the actions of mankind are no longer human, but the result of a disease all humans have called Sin. A disease for which I have provided a cure. People who choose not to take the cure will be dealt with individually when they stand before me. Revenge and Justice towards all evil is mine alone, Ernie...**justice and revenge will be served by ME!**"

Teddy and Lillian live today in heaven before their Lord. No more tears for the Lord has wiped them from their eyes. They wait patiently for me in paradise to come to them and I look eagerly to that day of reunion.

I have one more sibling that died young; to be exact after 4 months of life. My Aunt Bella a strong willed woman ruled this family of immigrants here in Detroit. One day Bella came by and took my mother for a ride to her son's business. My mother was not feeling well; she seemed to have gained some weight.

My mother never recovered mentally from her experience in the camps. She was timid, shy, meek and quiet. My father was not home at the time. And so Aunt Bella took my mother to her son the doctor. He was a very

prominent doctor, so prominent that he specialized doing favors for the Jewish mob in Detroit. The favors were abortions for their daughters when they became pregnant.

So it happened that two heartless people teamed together to bring an unsuspecting woman onto an examination table and then proceed to abort, to murder my sister. She too cried out in agony, the silent scream from my mother's womb that only God could hear.

I learned of this a few months after the death of my mother when I was in my thirties. My father, very ill himself needed to confess this atrocity that he kept hidden in his heart for years. Aunt Bella died a forgotten old woman alone; she took her own life with an overdose of sleeping pills.

Her son while butchering an unborn child in the womb of his crime boss's daughter, made an error and she died. He ended up in prison. One year later he was found in his cell with a rope around his neck, hanging from the ceiling.

Yes my sister with no name died a horrible death within the womb of my mother at the age of 4 months. The one with no name was cheated out of life and I was cheated out of knowing her, just as I was cheated out of knowing Teddy and Lillian. But all three are alive waiting for me to come home.

What's that you say, where is my father, his first wife, my mother...won't they be waiting for me as well. The answer to that is NO. The NO is not my opinion, it is not an assumption, and it is not even a guess.

It is FACT, based on the Words of God in the Bible. God has said there is ONLY ONE WAY to heaven and that is through the Cross of HIS SON. The Old Testament speaks of this in the Prophecies of the coming Messiah. The New Testament speaks the same from the very mouth of Gods Son, the Promised Messiah.

Lillian, Teddy and my Sister, were too young to understand the Gospel of Christ. They had no ability to make a decision one-way or the other. They are the little ones that Christ refers to when He said "let the little ones come to me...". For them God provides mercy and brings them home to be with HIM in Heaven. For a child to die it means instant heaven.

Everyone else either has taken the time to investigate the claims of the Bible or they have not done so. If you have chosen not to believe after truly examining The CASE for Christ, that's your decision and you will live with it forever. If you have chosen not to investigate the topic and you do not believe then you have made the same decision and you will be granted your desire, which is to be where God is not ...for eternity.

The deaths of Lillian and Teddy and My Sister are a blessing from God. Is it better to die before the age of understanding and go to be with the Lord in Heaven? Or, is it better to walk this earth for 75 years and never come to know the Risen Lord and then die in your sins and spend an eternity in Hell?

I sit now and look through this treasure of my family's life journey contained within the moments of time captured on the photographs and my heartbreaks. You see my family is Jewish and died not knowing Christ.

I hold pictures of my dead relatives; pictures of those who have taken a different road to a different place. God has honored their decision at the end of their journey through this life.

But if you have, like I have, people you love, children and grand children that are alive and with you; then please continue to share your faith in the God who came bearing the name Immanuel, (God With Us)...Jesus whose name Yeshua in Hebrew means Salvation.

There is no hope for the images of loved ones captured on the photographs that represent memories of the past. But for those who are alive there is still HOPE.

My prayer for you and I is that there would be many more than 3 who wait to greet us at the end of life's journey home.

May God honor our prayers for the Salvation of those we love so they will find their way home to us; should we go before them.

WHY 3 Crosses ?

You've seen them haven't you the grouping of 3 crosses? I have seen them in fields along the highway, on the sides of Churches, worn around people's necks, tattooed on arms and on letterheads and business cards of multiple Christian organizations.

When I was searching for God in the beginning of my journey, I would ask Christians what these 3 crosses represented. More often than not I would be told they represented the Cross of Christ who came to die for my sins.

Occasionally a well-meaning but ill informed Christian would tell me they represented the Father – the Son – and Holy Spirit...the Trinity. I asked, why was the one cross higher than the other two? This seemed to always be the case when I saw the symbol. "That's the Cross of Christ that is elevated above the rest", I was told...its because Jesus is the Son of God.

We tend as humans to associate words with images and then over time the ones we deem important actually become a symbol. The symbol through the years is supposed to bring the imagery and the words to the front of our minds so we can **remember the story**.

When I was searching for the TRUTH, no one when I asked why 3 crosses, gave me **the story**, except for the statement that Christ died for my sins. That statement at first had no relevance for me because I had no understanding of sin or my need for a savior. I did not understand the HOLINESS of GOD or the abject wretchedness of mankind. And I had no concept of the Trinity.

My point is that when witnessing to others who have no understanding of **the story**; the words we choose have more meaning to us than to them. We often feel good about what we say whether it gets the point across or not. As long as we use key Christian phrases we rationalize that the Holy Spirit can use them to save a person and we have completed our mission.

But understand that you have a responsibility to give out quality seed that can take root. Do you remember the parable of the 4 seeds in Matthew 13: 18-23? The first seed had no quality within it.

Matthew 13:18:

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and **does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.** This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.”

As a SEED Sower you are part of the battle with the evil one. People must have an understanding of what we are talking about, they need the word of God planted into them with understanding so the Holy Spirit has something to work with. When speaking on behalf of Jesus you have a responsibility to prepare well so your seeds do not fall beside the road and perish.

So you must plant the very best seeds you can so they will take root and grow. It has taken almost 23 years for the Crucifixion to impact my mind, my heart and my soul. Every time I approach the Cross and read **the story** more light comes into my soul. So again I ask you **“Why 3 Crosses”**, since when we think about Jesus we only see and recognize the one cross.

We see the one cross because we understand that Jesus came and died on that Cross-for each of us. We think of His Deity but somehow forget His humanity. Come with me back in time as we look at the reality of this Symbol of **3 crosses** that echo's throughout time saying to each of us...**remember the story.**

The Cross-was anchored into the ground of Mt. Moriah. The term means Chosen of Jehovah. The very ground upon which the Cross-was anchored was pre-destined by God for a HOLY purpose.

It was here one thousand years after Abraham that King David built an altar and offered sacrifices to God. Those sacrifices were a portrait of the death of the innocent for the guilty and the one who would come to make the once for all ultimate sacrifice for the sins of every one past, present and future.

It was here that King Solomon's temple was built, on the spot that had been the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite. A threshing floor was where the wheat and the chaff were separated. The wheat would be taken into the granary and the chaff to be dispersed forever by the wind. This is another portrait of Christ who one day will separate believers from non-believers.

It was two thousand years later, on the very same mount; the Son of God would offer Himself as the final sacrifice for sin.

Notice as we approach HIS Cross. It is not higher than the rest on the road as we approach HIM. The two flanking crosses are at the same height as HIS. If we did not know it was HIM, we would have walked by not noticing HIS Cross. The only thing that was different was the sign over HIS head that read...

“This IS the KING of the JEWS.” Luke 23:38.

Jesus looked like every other Jew hanging on a cross along the road. There was nothing unique about HIM visually. It was the words that He spoke that drew attention and the miracles that He did that gave HIM credibility. But here on the Cross-he did not stand out for He came to die as one of us...so He blended in.

If you did not know **the story** you would not know that God was hanging there before you. What of the two Crosses on either side? They remind us that we have a choice to make. For the one thief accepted Christ and went to be with Christ in Heaven; while the other went to hell condemned by the original sin he carried to his death. Scripture makes it clear...there is a Heaven and a Hell.

The Judgment...Matthew 25: 31-41...

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

“All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; **and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.**

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.

Have you given any thought to the two Crosses, one on His right hand and one on his left? Like me you probably don't pay much attention to the two thieves. But please understand that the two crosses only have meaning when there is one in the middle. And the one in the middle only has meaning when flanked by the two, because Jesus came to earth to die for both thieves. But like them, He gives you the choice of accepting His gift of death that brings you eternal life; or His gift of life that brings you eternal death...for you will never die.

There is yet another person in this story who benefited from the death of Christ. His name is Barabbas. His name means Son of Abbas. This day

the Son of Abbas would be spared because another Father would ***not spare His Only Son*** but instead let HIM die.

Barabbas was to die on the same Cross that Christ died upon. Instead Barabbas was set free from his jail cell. Jesus took his place on that cross; the innocent was to die for the guilty. A sacrifice planned before time in eternity past.

THE SACRIFICE that would end Gods sacrificial system of Old Testament prophetic portraits of the coming “Seed of the Woman” of whom God wrote in Genesis 3:15; Gods coming Redeemer, Messiah – the Christ...Jesus the Son of the Living God.

Barabbas was fortunate that day because he was given another chance at life and freedom. Every day of life is a gift filled with Gods Mercy and Grace to those who do not know His Son as Savior and Lord.

We like Barabbas go free to live our lives while we have breath. Most ignore the Cross of Christ their entire lives; and they do that at extreme peril because they could die at any moment without accepting Christ as Savior and Lord and then find themselves in a crowd looking at Christ standing before His Throne...facing them.

At first they will feel safe and comfortable among the many surrounding them. They will look at Christ before them and make the mistake of seeing what they thought to be His right hand facing them, was really is HIS left hand...and they will hear “Depart from Me...”.

So you see there is a lot to **this story** to tell. The better you know it, and the more familiar you are with its intimate details, the greater the quality of the seeds will be that you plant...giving the Holy Spirit more to work with to reach those you love and others God brings to you.

Luke 10:2...

And he said to them, “The **harvest** is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the **harvest** to send out laborers into his **harvest**.”

The Gospel and the harvest are tied together with words. It is the quality of your words that will have a direct impact on the harvest. So when you explain the importance of the Cross of Christ to someone make sure you tell them the rest of **the story**...

”Why there are 3 Crosses”.

One last thought to leave with you this Easter. When I became a believer in Jesus I recognized HIM on the Cross and accepted His death in exchange for mine.

Later I understood that in order to be HIS Follower I needed to take up my own Cross in this life filled with storms. Then, as I looked at the **3 Crosses** I saw myself on the Cross next to HIM.

In *Matthew 11:29-30* Jesus says to us ...

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls...

...For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

When I finally understood that He said that to me, I realized I am never alone and He is with me always, even to the end of the age.

So now when I see the **3 Crosses** I see myself there in the center held tightly in the arms of Jesus. I have become part of **HIS Cross** and I no longer carry mine.

He ... knew my name !

He... knew my story !

I ... was on **His** mind when **He** Died !

He IS RISEN !

...Remember and Share The Story !!!

Wind SONG

Hush...be still...and listen. Did you hear it? Listen carefully again; there it is...just a few notes ...trumpet sounds carried by the wind. Yes, it's the Angel Gabriel practicing the notes of the trumpet call that will precede our going home to be with the Lord.

It's unsettling to think that this trumpet blast will be the loudest ever known to mankind yet heard by so very few people all over the world. Before you can hear the sound you first have to see with the eyes of faith and hear with a heart that has been prepared to hear the notes. It will be your heart that hears not your ears.

The Bible says the people of God are sojourners here. That word simply means aliens. We long to go to that city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. This world is not our home; we truly are the Aliens here.

It has been the same throughout the centuries for all those who live by faith in God as exemplified by Abraham before us.

For those that "Seek God with all their hearts and minds", God has given prophetic signs in the Old and New Testaments. These signs describe the coming Redeemer, the Messiah who would come to save us from our sins. The identity of this Messiah is hidden in the Old Testament within the Messianic Prophecies.

In the New Testament the Messiah is revealed, and it becomes clear that Gods Messiah, Redeemer is Jesus.

Jesus said "My Sheep Know MY Voice". You can tell if you are His Sheep because you are holding His hand and your feet follow in His footsteps in Obedience to His call..."Come Follow Me". Jesus said Faith in Him is the only way home. Believe in me He says and I will give you a personal ticket so you can finally go home to be with Me when you hear that trumpet call.

Believe in Me, He said.....why should I believe in Him? He hasn't come again as promised. I cannot use any of my senses to touch Him. Today you and I are physical beings; we live by taste, touch, smell, hearing, and sight. Yet the Bible says if we are real believers we have a 6th sense that quickens our spirit within us.

We are physical beings for only a very short time, but the spiritual part of us is forever, because we are really Spiritual Beings. That means we are capable of believing in something or someone we cannot see through the

eyes of faith. But God has not left us merely with faith. No, He has also left us the very Words from His Mouth...HIS Holy Scriptures.

Have you ever tested your faith? I mean ...wondered if your beliefs are real...and if they can be proven beyond a doubt. You know the Apostle Paul does warn believers to do just that!

When I say proven I mean proven to you and no one else. What you believe in becomes an intense personal choice and should direct the rest of your life here on earth.

Turning my back on Rabbinical Judaism was the hardest decision I have ever made in my life.

The choice I made back in 1985 cost me my family for ten years. For the first two years after my accepting Christ as my Lord and Savior I was haunted by the thoughts as to whether what I believed was real.

I felt that way because the pain of my decision was almost too great for me. I had not counted the cost before my decision. The cost was overwhelming to me in the beginning. Yet I could not go backwards, only forwards. You see the old way made no sense to me anymore.

As I reflect back this was a blessing for me. I had a passion to share my faith with the lost. This passion put me into situations that caused me to defend my faith in the Lord and in the only Book that revealed HIM to us.

I learned when you have the TRUTH and take a stand in a verbal conflict that the ears of those around you open and seeds are planted in the hearts of many...not just the one you are waging war with.

Finally at the end of the two years I knew I stood on solid ground. I did not believe in legends, myths or fairy tales. I believed in proven historical facts that were defensible...I believed in The ONLY Truth.

The Holy Spirit had taken me through the refiners fire into situations so dark that I could feel and almost taste the darkness around me. I had gone forward to stand in the battle for the minds and hearts of people but not by myself...for He was always there with me.

When I reviewed the battles within my mind, I realized when I had no answer...The Holy Spirit took over. You see it is HE that fights for us if we bravely step out in faith to witness and make a difference.

So if you want to grow in wisdom, knowledge and faith; then go on the journey I did that will bring you to spiritual maturity and give you discernment between the lie and the TRUTH.

This is what the Lord wants for you. Only then can you become a witness who has withstood the refiners fire and now reflects His Image of light in the darkness that surrounds you.

If you research the Messianic Prophecies you will gain a strong Biblical Worldview that will give you first and foremost **Assurance** of your Salvation.

Then following that you will receive the **Peace** that passes all understanding, and **Joy** as you realize each day is a day of Adventure, a new day filled with His **Mercies**.

As you then live for HIM...not for you... you finally will have assurance of the ONLY Truth that matters in this life...

That ***Jesus IS the SON of God*** who **was** and **is** and **IS to Come**.

Listen carefully, pay attention and every once in a while you **will** hear a trumpet note carried on the wind.

Gabriel is practicing for his Solo ...(**Sou**l-o).

Voice Recorder:

I have a small recorder that I have spoken into for years as thoughts come into my mind regarding the Word of God. I carried it because the ideas seem to come to me when I am driving to work or home. The other day I lost it. I cannot seem to find it anywhere.

Someone will be surprised when they find it because the messages on it are all geared towards witnessing. So now as silly as it seems my hope and prayer is that God has a special person out there who will pick it up and hear the short messages. That seeds will be planted in a heart for someone else to water.

In Matthew Jesus mentions the importance of words and that every word we speak throughout our lives is being recorded.

Matthew 12: 36-37 *“But to you I say, every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account there of in the Day of Judgment. For by their words they shall be justified, and by their words shall they be condemned”*

I love trips, don't you? I remember going on many trips with my parents up north when I was small. We did this pilgrimage year after year; always going to the same City of Mackinaw; touring the same 3 cities near by.

Every year we stayed at the same bed and breakfast. It seems we had standing reservations at the Bauer residence. We vacationed there from the time I was 7 to 14 years of age. I have two memories of those years.

The Bauer's were Christians and I was Jewish. The bedroom I slept in for those 2 weeks for 7 years had a picture of a smiling Jesus opposite my pillow. I stared at Him and He smiled at me each night as I fell asleep.

The Bauer's house was along the shore of the Straits of Mackinaw. Sunday mornings I was awakened early by the sound of Church Bells mixed with the sound of ships passing each other sounding their foghorn's. Being there was so comforting and peaceful with the cool breeze coming off the lake through my bedroom window.

Then there are the people who went with me on this pilgrimage, this journey each summer. Uncle Henry. He left Czechoslovakia early in life to come to America. He missed out on the concentration camps; but he served 4 years in the United State Army. He was awarded the Purple Heart for Valor. His sweetheart was going to wait for his return, but married someone else. He was distraught and never let another woman into his heart.

Other than our family he had no one. He lived in a room 10 ft x 12 ft, upstairs in the home of an elderly couple, much like the bed and breakfast at the Bauer's. He was lonely, bitter and cried easily all the day's I knew him. He died while at lunch in a Sander's restaurant. Just had a heart attack...he was gone.

Then there was my Uncle Alex a very proud man. Alex along with his wife Madge and my father and mother stayed too long in Czechoslovakia. They knew in their hearts that the evil of Hitler's Germany would pass. So they stayed and were taken along with millions of Jews into the camps. Neither you nor I can ever imagine the horrors that met them there for four years.

After the war Uncle Alex and Aunt Madge immigrated to the U.S. Alex always felt the world owed him a living. At the end of his life I went in to visit him in the hospital. He had cancer. I came to him and sat on the bed next to him. He looked at me and broke down and cried like a baby...uncontrollably. He told me how afraid he was to die, that he knew there was nothing out there. No God. That he would no longer exist. He was terrified. I had no words to comfort him. I did not know the Lord at the time, so all I could do was cry with him....it wasn't enough for him or for me. He died a few months later.

Aunt Madge has continued her life to the time of this writing. She is bordering on 90. She has been a bitter widow for almost 25 years now. God took her husband and she never forgave HIM. She was the one responsible for throwing me out of the family when I came to know Christ and let them all know about my faith.

I would not have believed that a 4' 10" woman would have so much power. That event was almost 23 years ago. Time has healed much between us. Fifteen years ago I was invited back into the family. I visited with Aunt Madge who hugged me with open arms. I told her it was ok and that I understood why she gave me so much grief. But she was old and didn't even remember what I was talking about. I tried witnessing to her, but she could not understand what I was saying. Her ability to reason is now gone.

She lives in the past in a world where the dead still live in her mind.

My Dad. What can I say? He could have left with his first wife and two kids, but he chose to stay in Germany. That choice cost the lives of his wife (my mother's sister) and their two kids (9 and 11 years old). He lived with that burden all the rest of his life. He was an Orthodox Jew who turned to God rather than away from God after the camps. I am sure he prayed for God to give him strength for each day to go through his personal living hell.

My last memory of him was visiting the hospital the day before he died. He too cried uncontrollably. I asked him what was wrong. He said he felt he was going to leave me soon and that I would be all alone and that broke his heart. He was right. When He died, I have never felt so alone in my life.

I spent my whole life trying to live up to the memory of two dead children that had a special place in his heart.

I had no idea that there was a special place for me in his heart as well until it was too late.

And my mother; a sweet, loving, gentle soul whose entire life after the camps focused on me. She mentioned God a lot to me. She always prayed for me that God would keep me. My father always read his Bible daily. But my mother always praised God out loud before me.

The greatest regret I have carried all these years is when my Dad was in the hospital just having had a heart attack and my mother was near death at the same time in a nursing home. The doctors asked me if I wanted to put a feeding tube into her to keep her alive. I couldn't ask my Dad, this was my decision alone. I selfishly said yes. She lived another 6 months as one of the living / dead. She could not speak nor move. But her eyes came alive and followed my every move in her room. Her eyes still haunt me to this day.

People, we are all just people with stories to tell. Uncle Henry, Uncle Alex, Aunt Madge, My Father, and My Mother all tried to continue life in their own way as best they could. Each had deep emotional baggage to carry their entire lives. The problem is that they tried to carry their burdens alone without knowing the true God.

Where are they today? I know they are alive because there is life after death. I know where they are as well and that the chasm between us is infinity. We will never be reunited, I will never see them again...its very sad. I think of them often with a broken heart.

How different it would have been for each of them had they rested in the assurance of the Salvation offered by their Messiah who died for their sins on the Cross at Calvary. I have thought often about why God saved me at the age of 38 after the deaths of those dearest to me. To be honest I am not happy about it.

Being older now and understanding their lives, although I did not live their lives, I cannot help but wish I could have introduced them to their Savior. Then I could have offered peace to their trembling hearts as they were near death.

Do you have people that you love that need to hear about your Savior? Do you really love them enough to risk everything in your relationship to tell them about Jesus?

The Scripture verse at the beginning of this writing speaks about words, your words that will have the power to either justify you before God or condemn you before God.

There is much more to this passage than what I want to point out to you here. I just want you to know that Gods Word has the power to give life to a dead soul. For each of us is born with a dead soul. That God has chosen you and your mouth to be that vehicle to give His words of Life to someone you love.

A Believers life is a journey to life. A Non Believers life is a journey to eternal death. If you read and understand Gods word and the times we live in and the fact that you only have today, not tomorrow. Then how can you not have compassion for those you know who are lost and the fate they have chosen that awaits them?

There are many regrets in my life represented by words and actions that I would take back if I could go back in time but I cannot.

Living with emotional burdens is more than any of us fragile human beings can bear. As they rise up before us, they tend to cripple us. I have learned to give them to the one who came along side me to help me carry them. He never promised to carry them for me as taught through the prosperity gospel.

But the burden within my soul to share the Gospel is the greatest of all. This burden is the one that I will carry all the way with me to when I stand before HIM. As He reviews each time He opened a door for me to witness that I did not go through I will shed uncontrollable tears.

Tears that His hands will wipe away, so that final burden will be released. I will enter His Kingdom leaving behind the memories of all those people I loved that never knew Him.

But for now I am here, and I am constantly reminded that Today is the Day of Salvation. I cannot do anything for those I love that have died without knowing their Savior.

But today is mine....

And today is yours...

And today belongs to those you love...

My prayer for us is that we use the day well...for HIM...

As a child of 7 I would impatiently ask my earthly Father during that 6 hour car ride to Mackinaw..."Are we there yet, are we there yet...."

The same is now true of me as an impatient Believer, as I see pre-written history unfold before my eyes exactly as predicted. I watch the road signs fly by faster and faster during my journey home. Each sign announces His Second and Final coming with anticipation to those that know HIM.

The last Words...Gods Words...spoken of in this monumental epic story from the Book of Genesis (the Book of Beginnings) through to the last Book of Revelation (the Book of **New** Beginnings) are all true; from the first Words "**In the beginning**" to the last Word "**AMEN**".

Revelation 22:20

"**He** (Jesus) **who testifies to these things** (the end times revelation of the sequences of prophetic events) **says...Surely** (there is no doubt) **I AM coming quickly**". **AMEN** (let it be so)

Even so (just as you described), **Come** (Quickly), **Lord** (My Sovereign KING) **Jesus** (HIS name means SALVATION).

Have you been SAVED?

The End of the story? By no means!

The “Greatest Story Ever Told” has always been about New Beginnings. A new Creation, a new Universe, a new Earth that will join with heaven...and a new You.

No more souls filled with shadows. BEHOLD, the God / Man, the Lamb of God comes with the dawn of Eternity in His Hands.

Thank you for taking the time to read **Crosses Everywhere**. Hopefully you and I have been able to share a journey together looking into the windows of each others souls.

If you know Jesus your soul is full of His light, and you look up in Joy to the Heavens and you say, “even so, come Lord Jesus.

But, if you don’t know Jesus as your personal Savior your soul is full of shadows and Jesus is coming to acknowledge your own choice to live without Him forever.

Think with me. The Bible is the Word of God and the only True revelation of who God is and who you are. It was written by God to you. It is the Autobiography of God and He has written you into its pages.

If you believe the words of men you believe in a religion not the Word of God that offers you Salvation. Neither the words of men, nor your good works will save you from the coming judgment. There is only One Name by whom humanity can be saved...that name is Jesus. He is the only door to Heaven through which you must pass.

Salvation is not about mans religion, but about a personal RELATIONSHIP between you and the SON of GOD.

When Adam and Eve sinned they lost the privilege of living by sight in a relationship where they could walk and talk with their Creator.

Now God would become the God who asked them and each of us to remember Him by Faith alone, because as sin and time progressed we would no longer be able to live by sight. For only the righteous can live by sight and see God. Humanity no longer was righteous.

With the passing of time sin began to run its inevitable course and humanity changed; until every thought they had was evil among them all. And they soon forgot the God who had created them; causing God to

say, "I will not dwell with mankind forever". The day had now become night, their minds and hearts became darkened. They were focused only on themselves and their own desires.

Their Souls became filled with shadows.

They had become followers of the god of this world, a fallen Angel of Light named Lucifer. The darkness soon became so addictive and thick that humanity could taste it and drink it as they now lived within the womb of Sin. They waited, nourished by the umbilical chord of mankind's deceiver. They waited to be born into their forever 2nd death.

Humans living in this Lost World now lost the potential for love, kindness, righteousness and the goal of Holiness. Their reflections of Gods character were now gone forever.

So God said it is enough and tears that were older than the rain came from fallen eyes and mixed with the flood of tears from the eyes of God. And the world that began became the Lost World and was no more.

God in His Mercy and Grace to our kind saved 8 people in a building called an Ark that could float. When the water receded they emerged onto dry land and the Brave New World was given one last chance.

God through His Pre-written History, called Prophecy, said the time will come again when He will say enough and deformed humanity will no longer exist. The greatest story ever told will come to its final ending. Everyone will go to the place they have chosen. Everyone will receive a new body, one that is fitted for living eternally in either Heaven or Hell.

Those that have lived their lives by faith on Earth will now live by sight before a Holy God forever in Heaven.

Those who lived without faith on Earth will see God only once by sight to be judged for their sins. Then they will live without sight, alone, in darkness forever...outside the presence of God in the place prepared for the devil and his fallen angels.

Today as in the days of Noah, the echoes of the worlds original heart cry are faint. The memory of a place somewhere and a need for forgiveness to go back home placed by God in every heart, is now gasping for air on its death bed, barely still alive.

The patience of God and time are now running out. Souls that were born with light are now souls full of shadows waiting the coming night.

Our Brave New World is in serious trouble. God, not me, has made it clear that judgment is coming again because God will not be mocked, nor does He have any more tears. He will not spare the un-godly.

When He comes, will you be standing outside the Garden as Adam and Eve did with their children; staring at an Angel of Light with a flaming sword of fire barring your entrance into heaven?

When He comes will you be standing outside the door of the ARK as you watch the invisible Hand of God close the door barring your entrance into heaven as the population of the Lost World did?

There is an end to Gods Mercy and Grace...and He is coming to judge all those whose souls are full of shadows.

Mark 8:36 (in context Mark 8:35-37) Amplified Bible. **“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world (and its goods), yet forfeit his soul (his life in the eternal Kingdom of God).**

This is His Promise to all His children...to all those precious in His sight.

The Promise of the Living God is that He is still on the Throne and He is involved in every detail of your life. He IS coming back, not as a baby in a manger but as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah with judgment in His hand.

Reach up and take hold of His nail pierced hand while
He still reaches out to you in Love. Go ahead. . .
PLEASE, I beg you. . . take His Hand and He will guarantee
you a place in His forever Kingdom.

**The Ancient of Days, The Lord of Lords, The King of Kings,
The Lord God of Israel and His Church says to you
through His Prophet in Isaiah 45:22. . .**

**“Look to Me ALL you ends of the earth!
For I AM God and there is no other”**

Amen and Amen

