

# The Word

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We chose to mainly use the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible for its modern vernacular touch while holding true to the original text of the old authorized King James Version (KJV) 1611. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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**Vital Force NZ Charitable Trust**  
**PO Box 11031 HASTINGS,**  
**NEW ZEALAND**  
**email: [info@vitalforce.org.nz](mailto:info@vitalforce.org.nz)**  
**website: [www.vitalforce.org.nz](http://www.vitalforce.org.nz)**

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# The Word

Have you read the Vital Force book called, "Who is God?"

If you have, then hopefully you have a true understanding of God the Father and His only begotten Son. With wonder, we have seen how Their divine relationship permeates all creation.

And in Their spiritual relationship there is no end. For in the divine life of God's Son, we are about to glimpse another wonder spiralling throughout the universe.

For you see, the Son was not born merely to fulfil the Father's need for companionship, the Father also intended His Son to be a gift of divine communication to all created life, even to you and I today.

Thus from the beginning, as the Father's representative and ambassador in the universe, the Son was "...the Word of life." 1 John 1:1

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." John 1:1-2*

*"...His name is called The Word of God." Revelation 19:13*

So as the ages of time unfolded with new created life, the Son of God conveyed the Father's love, knowledge, and purposes to intelligent beings of unfallen worlds, "...upholding all things by the word of His power..." Hebrews 1:3

And in the beginnings of Planet Earth, in His role as Mediator, the Son became the vital Communicator between fallen humanity and God the Father.

Thus the Father's and Son's communications of saving grace are recorded in our world's book of all books, the Holy Bible, for our benefit.

Breathed through their divine spirit, the Bible communicates God's word of salvation to human life. For the spiritual life of the Bible is the Spirit of the living Word - the Son of God. Through His Spirit of life, God gave words of hope, promise, love, vital instructions and often warnings to the prophets and writers of Old Testament times over some 4000 years.

*"Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow." 1 Peter 1:10-11*

Then at the appointed time, the Word, the Son of God, descended to Planet Earth and conceived in Mary's womb by God's Holy Spirit in ways we cannot understand, the Son's newborn life was the beginning of New Testament times.

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

A new era of communication dawned, enlightening the world with new hope, new life. For on earth, Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Communicator of the universe, conveyed a living example of who God is.

The Son's humility, the very nature of his lovely character, the gracious words He spoke to suffering humanity, revealed God's love, knowledge and truth to mankind. As His divinity flashed through His humanity, "The Word," "the Son of God," "the Word of life," was manifested to the peoples of the world.

*"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested..." 1 John 1:1-2*

*"Therefore, when He came into the world, He said...*

*"Behold, I have come—*

*In the volume of the book it is written of Me—*

*To do Your will, O God." Hebrews 10:5-7*

*"So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,*

*Because He has anointed Me*

*To preach the gospel to the poor;*

*He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,*

*To proclaim liberty to the captives*

*And recovery of sight to the blind,*

*To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

*To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.'*

*Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth..." Luke 4:16-22*

*"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power."*

*Luke 4:32 KJV*

*"And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority." Luke 4:32*

*"...No man ever spoke like this Man!" John 7:46*

And from the living example of this God Man, grew the writings of the New Testament, bearing the fruits of God's saving grace in the world.

Truly the Bible comes to us through Jesus' entire life as the "...*Son of God...*" *Mark 1:1* and, "...*the Son of man...*" *Mark 2:28*, He who is the Word in living origin.

Now let us explore the Bible.

## **The Bible's earthly beginnings**

In the Hebrew language, the word "Bible" means "little books," and rightly so. For the Bible is made up of 66 books and letters, which form the most powerful library in the world.

When all these books and letters were gathered together, 39 went in the first part of the Bible, called the Old Testament, and the remaining 27 went in the second part, called the New Testament.

The Old Testament books were written before Jesus Christ's birth upon earth, so Old Testament times are referred to as "BC" (Before Christ).

The New Testament books were written after the birth of Christ. From four years after His birth to our times are known as "AD." AD is the abbreviation for "anno Domini", Latin for "the year of our Lord."

We need to step off the path now, and ask the question: Why do the AD years begin four years after Jesus Christ's birth? In the year we call AD 532, a Roman abbot, Dionysius Exiguus, invented a new dating system. He divided the known history of earth into two sections, the years before Jesus Christ's birth (BC), and the years following Jesus' birth (AD). Before this Christian system, dating was reckoned from the building of the city of Rome - "ab urbs condita" or UC.

Using the best evidence available to him, Abbot Exiguus placed the birth of Christ four years later than the actual event. Unwittingly, he had placed Jesus' birth after the death of the Roman ruler, Herod, the very man who wanted the infant Jesus dead. By the time the mistake was discovered, the Christian dating system had become so well established, the mistake was never corrected.

And so with this correction set in our minds, we leave Roman history behind and return to the Bible.

Now when the original books of the Bible were written, they were called manuscripts. And as far as Biblical scholars can tell us, the original Old Testament manuscripts, in the Hebrew language and a little Aramaic, were written between 1500 BC to 400 BC, whereas the original New Testament manuscripts were written in Greek during the first century AD.

Under the tuition and inspiration of God's Spirit, a man named Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. These five books reveal the times from earth's creation when our world was, "...without form and void..." *Genesis 1:2* (approximately 4004 BC) to his own lifetime (1500 BC).

From 1500 BC, other Godly writers recorded the knowledge of God, and the messages God gave them for mankind, until some time in the first century AD when the final book of the Bible called, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, was written by a man named John.

The book of Revelation unfolds future events (prophecies) from the early Christian church in the first century AD, to the future time when Planet Earth will be recreated as a home for the saved believers of God.

John says, *"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." Revelation 21:1*

*"Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'" Revelation 21:5*

So this book we call The Bible, is an extraordinary history book and a book of prophecy, covering the full spectrum of earth's past, present, and new beginnings spiralling throughout eternity.

## **Copies of the Original Manuscripts**

Although the original Bible manuscripts have long since perished, thousands of accurate copies were laboriously hand-written upon papyrus, dried animal skin, or bark scrolls. Then the finished copies were stored in pottery jars.

From 1947 to 1956, nearly 900 Old Testament scrolls, were discovered in the Middle East, in caves near the Dead Sea. Some were reasonably intact, others have been carefully pieced together from hundreds sometimes thousands of fragments. These are now known as the "Dead Sea Scrolls" and are thought to have been written from 200 BC to 68 AD. What wonderful preservation! What a witness to the literal meaning of God's Word,

*"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."  
Isaiah 40:8*

## **The Word Translated**

As Old Testament times merged into New Testament times, copies of the Old Testament manuscripts were translated into Greek, the language of the day. And of course, added to these were the New Testament manuscripts also written in Greek.

Over time, as Christianity spread throughout the known world, the Word of God was translated into other languages, such as Latin, approximately AD 150; Aramaic approximately AD 200; Armenian and Gothic, AD 400; and Ethiopic, approximately AD 600. Still other translations continued to be produced.

Then for the first time, the word of God was translated into the English language by John Wyclif, and completed in 1382 just a year before he died.

About 1450, Johann Guttenberg of Germany invented the printing press, revolutionizing the circulation of the Bible. One of the first Bibles printed by Guttenberg survives to this day, and is on permanent display in a gallery in London, England.

In 1525, with the printing press in action, William Tyndale published the first printed version of the English New Testament Bible. His was not an easy work, he battled every step of the way against the opposing religious powers of the day.

At the outset of his work, Tyndale was debating with a well-educated doctor. Tyndale said:

"I defy the pope and all his laws; and if God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scripture than you do." - From Anderson, *Annals of the English Bible*, p 19.

But his life's work came at a price. On Friday 6 October 1536, William Tyndale was strangled at the stake, then burnt to ashes. His alleged crime was doing exactly what he set out to do, giving the word of God to the people, so all could read and learn of God's word.

Yet, no amount of killing could stop the progress of God's Word. Throughout the 1500's and early 1600's, a succession of complete English versions were printed, including the well-known Authorised King James version, published in 1611.

Since that time, many other versions have been published in modern English and multiple languages around the world.

The Bible used most in Vital Force writing, is the New King James version published in 1982 by Thomas Nelson Inc. The New King James is a modernised version of the Authorised King James.

Please read the following quotation from the preface of the Nelson New King James version:

"In the Preface to the 1611 edition, the translators of the Authorized Version, known popularly as the King James Bible, state that it was not their purpose 'to make a new translation...but to make a good one better.' Indebted to the earlier work of William Tyndale and others, they saw their best contribution to consist in revising and enhancing the excellence of the English versions which had sprung from the Reformation of the sixteenth century. In harmony with the purpose of the King James scholars, the translators and editors of the present work have not pursued a goal of innovation. They have perceived the Holy Bible, New King James Version, as a continuation of the labors of the earlier translators, thus unlocking for today's readers the spiritual treasures found especially in the Authorized Version of the Holy Scriptures...

...it is also universally understood that our language, like all living languages, has undergone profound change since 1611. Subsequent revisions of the King James Bible have sought to keep abreast of changes in English speech...

A special feature of the New King James Version is its conformity to the thought flow of the 1611 Bible. The reader discovers that the sequence and selection of words, phrases, and clauses of the new edition, while much clearer, are so close to the traditional that there is remarkable ease in listening to the reading of either edition while following with the other.

Readers of the Authorized Version will immediately be struck by the absence of several pronouns: *thee*, *thou*, and *ye* are replaced by the simple, *you*, while *your* and *yours* are substituted for *thy* and *thine* as applicable. *Thee*, *thou*, *thy* and *thine* were once forms of address to express a special relationship to human as well as divine persons. These pronouns are no longer part of our language. However, reverence for God in the present work is preserved by capitalizing pronouns, including *You*, *Your*, and *Yours*, which refer to Him."

You can rest assured, of all modern versions published today, the New King James is the most accurate and closest to the Authorized King James version of 1611. For this reason the New King James version has been carefully selected for Vital Force writings, with selected texts from the Authorized King James version, indicated by the abbreviation KJV.

May you gain a clear and easy understanding of God's word.



## The Bible Triumphs over Enemies

Now let us pause for a moment of reflective gratitude, for the Bible has come down the ages to us, at horrific cost to human life.

During the early Christian church and through the Dark Ages, to the dawning of the Protestant Reformation, believers who circulated and preached God's word were mercilessly persecuted and slaughtered in the millions by enemies of the truth.

In the first century alone (AD 100), an estimated three million men, women and children died for their belief in God.

At the hands of their oppressors, Christians suffered, *"...trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth."* Hebrews 11:36-38

Still others were brutally tortured, burned alive at the stake, beheaded with the axe, hung and crucified. Some were cast into amphitheatres and torn apart by lions or wild dogs, to the jeers and applause of spectators.

Yet when there was no life left, and the spectators ceased to jeer, the faithful dead won the victory over their enemies. For they lived and died believing in God's promise, *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* Revelation 2:10

The blood which flowed from these heroic men and women was not lost. Through the martyrs' courage and unflinching faith in God's word, many unbelievers were drawn to God. Seeds of truth were sown in their lives, germinating and springing forth with salvation. *"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."* John 8:31

Through the lives of the newly converted, God's word of liberty continued to prosper. Withstanding fierce opposition and the test of time, His word has triumphed over the consuming flame, the sword of adversity, and the silence of banishment.

His word has outlived centuries of non-believers, doubters, and the faithless. His word shall also break through the false teachings of our modern era.

God has promised,

*"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,  
And do not return there,  
But water the earth,  
And make it bring forth and bud,*

*That it may give seed to the sower  
And bread to the eater,  
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper  
in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11*

*"For the earth will be filled  
With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,  
As the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14*

## **The Bible - Written by Inspired Writers**

Many people's lives are portrayed in the Bible - men, women and children. But only 30-40 men, from all walks of life, were the inspired writers of God's choice.

Some were farmers, others were fishermen, one was a doctor and another a tax collector. One of the writers, a man named Paul, was once a member of a Jewish religious sect called the Pharisees. And so the list continues. Called from their occupations, these men became kings, prophets, evangelists, teachers and apostles of God.

*"The LORD gave the word;  
Great was the company of those who proclaimed it..."  
Psalm 68:11*

All the Bible writers had one thing in common - they were holy men living God's way. Their God-given work was to announce God's will and His word to the people of the world.

*"Holy men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21*

*""The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me,  
And His word was on my tongue."" 2 Samuel 23:2*

As, "...the Spirit of God..." moved upon the minds of these chosen men, they were inspired with God's truth, and in turn they became His penmen writing down His knowledge for human life. 1 Corinthians 2:14

*"All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God..." 2 Timothy 3:16*

So we see the true Author of the Bible is God's inspirational Spirit, flowing through the writers' lives. This is the reason for the remarkable consistency through-

out the books and letters of the Bible - even though more than 30 people, who lived at different times over a period of more than 1500 years, actually wrote down the words.

## **The Bible - A Book for All Times**

As well as consistency, there is an everlasting quality about the Bible.

*"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgements endureth forever." Psalm 119:160 KJV*

*"Forever, O LORD,  
Your word is settled in heaven."  
Psalm 119:89*

And believe it or not, the Bible's messages and teachings are relevant for us today, just as they have been to people throughout earth's entire history.

Comprehensive in content, embracing all areas of life, the Bible is the oldest book in the world, with an unbeatable record for being the best seller of our modern times.

Within its pages are moving compositions of poetry, prose and songs of love. The Bible is also a profound literary achievement, and records the most eloquent oratory ever spoken by human lips.

The apostle Paul, one of the Bible's inspired writers wrote, *"And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."* 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

## **Archaeology Proves the Bible**

In our modern times, God has guided and directed his chosen men in different ways. In one of these men's lives, we see remarkable archeological discoveries, proving the Bible is literally true.

Ron Wyatt, an American who passed to his rest in 1999, leaves us his proven motto, "The Spade Confirms The Book."

Wyatt's archaeological findings piece together Biblical times, places, events and past civilizations. These archaeological findings have been presented on DVD for viewing today. Let us enter the theatre of Biblical archaeology:

## **Noah's Ark Discovered (1977)**

The saga begins in 1977 upon the mountains of Ararat, eastern Turkey.

As we view the mountains of Ararat, we see an outline of a massive ship submerged in the ground. In the ship's vicinity, we study the great stone anchors which kept the ark stabilized through the most fierce deluge Planet Earth has yet encountered.

On screen, we watch Wyatt and his team use sophisticated metal detection devices to map out measurements, and we hear how these measurements correspond to the Biblical dimensions of Noah's ark.

*"So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.*

*And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

*'Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.*

*'And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.*

*'You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.'" Genesis 6:12-16*

We discover evidence of sophisticated alloy rivets, pitch (tar), laminated timbers, glue, and decks with stalls for housing animals, and we see an ancient sample of animal hair and dung.

Lastly, we walk the regions of Ararat and discover stone drawings, depicting the Biblical account of the flood and the saving of eight people.

## **Sodom and Gomorrah (1989)**

From Turkey, we journey with Wyatt into Israel and discover the lost cities of the plain, Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed some 3900 years ago.

Wyatt bypassed this ancient site a dozen times, until one day God opened Wyatt's eyes, to see buildings etched into the desert landscape.

We view the remains of city walls, statues of Sphinx, a tiered temple called a ziggurat, and walk through ashen streets connecting all parts of an ancient city.

Prepare for the eye opener, as Wyatt zooms in on sulphur balls (brimstone) embedded in the ash, resembling a pattern of falling rain.

*"Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens.*

*So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground." Genesis 19:24-25*

## **Joseph's Grain Pits**

On the next stage of our archaeological journey, we travel with Wyatt in Egypt, reliving the ancient times of the Pharaohs, and the life of Joseph, sent by God to save the world from famine.

*"Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.*

*Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.*

*So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them.*

*Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable" Genesis 41:46-49*

*"Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.*

*So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, 'Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do.'*

*The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt.*

*So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands." Genesis 41:53-57*

In the province of Saqqara, Egypt, we learn of Wyatt's discovery of eleven great storage pits, constructed deep within the earth and joined together by cleverly engineered chutes, which funnelled grain to a central distribution area. We stroll down the narrow corridor and view the alcoves used for payment booths, as the grain from Joseph's pits was sold to people of all nations.

Then we hear the recorded evidence of how Joseph was the architect of the first Egyptian pyramid. And amazingly, we see a replica of an ancient lifting apparatus, a mechanical device probably used to construct the pyramids.

## The Red Sea Crossing (1978)

From Joseph's lifetime, we journey some 400 years forward, to the miraculous deliverance of his descendants from Egyptian slavery.

We follow Wyatt and his two sons to the Gulf of Aqaba, in the Red Sea. There standing upright on the shore we see a Phoenician-style column inscribed with a memorial, honouring Yahweh (God) for His miraculous deliverance of the Israelites through the dry bed of the Red Sea. On the opposite shore, we see an identical column.

Both columns are believed to be the work of King Solomon, a descendant king of ancient Israel.

Diving in the crystal clear waters of Aqaba, we discover an assortment of spoked chariot wheels and cabs encrusted with coral.

We see the remains of horse and human skeletons, also preserved in coral. Now astoundingly, Wyatt reveals a raised underwater pathway, running through the Red Sea, connecting shore to shore.

Those involved with this discovery believe the underwater pathway was an act of God, built up as the waters receded from the earth at the time of the Great Flood. In other words, God prepared this pathway for His people, many centuries before it was needed.

The Bible declares,

*"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.*

*So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*

*And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.*

*Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.*

*And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.'*

*Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen.'*

*And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.*

*Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.*

*But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*

*So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.*

*Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses." Exodus 14:21-31*

## **Mount Sinai (1985)**

From the shores of the Red Sea, Wyatt leads us into the wilderness of Sinai, on the same route which God led His people towards the Promised Land.

We stop at the Rock of Horeb, where centuries ago God worked a miracle, causing fresh water to flow for a time from the rock's stony face. Cascading from the rock are channels worn by streams of water which ran down to the Hebrew encampment.

*"And the Lord said to Moses, 'Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.*

*'Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.' And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel." Exodus 17:5-6*

Now we brace ourselves to relive the majestic experience of God descending upon Mount Sinai:

*"Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.*

*And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.*

*Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly." Exodus 19:16-18*

Struck with awe, we look upon the blackened peak, scorched by fire. Truly, this is the Biblical Mount Sinai found in Saudi Arabia.

*"...for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia..." Galatians 4:25*

We gather still more evidence which corresponds to the Bible. For at the foot of the mountain stand the remains of boundary fence markers, erected by Moses at God's command, to stop the people venturing onto the holy ground of the mountain.

*"You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death." Exodus 19:12*

We discover the pagan altar which Aaron defiantly built for the people to worship the golden calf:

*"So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.*

*And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"*

*So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord." Exodus 32:3-5*

Then we see the holy altar which Moses built from unhewn stone. For God had commanded Moses:

*"And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it." Exodus 20:25*

## **The Ark of the Covenant**

Wyatt now takes us to Jerusalem City, and the excavation site of the Ark of the Covenant. We literally see history unfold before our eyes.

But first let's go back even further, and discover the background of the Ark of the Covenant. When God descended upon Mount Sinai with fire, He spoke the Ten Commandments, and later wrote those commandments on two stone tablets with His own finger.

God gave these tablets to Moses to take down the mountain.

But when Moses came down the mountain, alas, he saw the people in the camp worshipping a golden calf they had made. With righteous anger, Moses threw the precious stone tablets to the ground, smashing them to pieces.

After God disciplined the people for their idolatrous act, with loving mercy He said to Moses,



*"Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke." Exodus 34:1*

And so Moses climbed the mountain again, and God engraved the Ten Commandments upon the new tablets.

When Moses returned to the encampment with the engraved tablets, he followed God's commands to make a special chest covered with gold, and a lid with two gold cherubim positioned above. Inside the chest, Moses placed the Ten Commandments.

The chest containing the Ten Commandments, is called the Ark of the Covenant or the Ark of the Testimony. The Testimony is another name for the Ten Commandments.

By God's design, the Ark represents His throne, His divine presence, His saving grace toward fallen humanity, and the true standard for holy living.

The Ark was placed in a special tent called a tabernacle, together with other spiritual furnishings. For upon the mountain God had instructed Moses,

*"...let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it." Exodus 25:8-9*

*"Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 'On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.*

*'You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil.'" Exodus 40:1-3*

*"Thus Moses did; according to all that the Lord had commanded him, so he did." Exodus 40:16*

Centuries later in the city of Jerusalem, the Ark of the Covenant found a new resting place, in a magnificent temple built by King Solomon.

Then, approximately 600 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon marched upon Jerusalem. As the Babylonian army approached the city, Jeremiah the prophet, hid the Ark of the Covenant in a cave to prevent it from falling into enemy hands.

And so for centuries, the Ark of the Covenant remained hidden from the world. Then in the late 1980's, Wyatt received directions and guidance from God about the resting place of the Ark, containing the Ten Commandments. And so the excavations began. The digging was difficult and dangerous, taking longer than Wyatt and his team had ever imagined.

But a surprise lay in store for the weary diggers. For as they unearthed layers of old city ruins, they discovered what they believed to be the true crucifixion site of Jesus

Christ! Wyatt and his sons came back several times over the next few years and spent hundreds of hours digging at that location.

What follows is Ron Wyatt's account, as told to his friends, about what happened next as Wyatt continued to tunnel down, deep below the earth's surface.

"On this trip his two sons became sick and had to return home early. Wyatt continued working in the cave systems with only a young Arab boy as his assistant. He found a narrow vertical crevice in a rock wall, too narrow for him to fit in, but with a little work, it was "just right" for his helper. The boy squeezed into the opening. But before Ron could hand him a flashlight to look around with, the lad came scurrying out of that chamber as fast as he could, saying, 'What's in there? What's in there??' and he was scared to death! The young boy refused ever again to enter that cave system..."

Retrieved November 11, 2012 from <http://www.pinkoski.com/ark-of-the-covenant/aoc-flyer.html>

This was 2pm on January 6, 1982.

"Now alone in this vast cave system, he (Ron) took his hammer and chisel and enlarged the hole, crawling through. With only about 18 inches clearance, he had to lie on his stomach with nothing but his flashlight in his hand for light.

Shining his flashlight down through the massive pile of large rocks, his eye caught a glimpse of something shiny. He began slowly removing the rocks one at a time and discovered some dry-rotted wooden timbers just beneath the rocks, and then some also dry-rotted remains of animals skins that turned to powder when he moved them. The animals skins were covering a gold veneered table with a raised molding around the side which consisted of an alternating pattern of a bell and a pomegranate. It only took him a moment to realize that at the least this was an object from the first temple! But he was in such a confined space, he couldn't uncover the entire table. He later concluded, after closer examination, that this was the Table of Shewbread.

With great anticipation, he looked around to see what else he could see, which wasn't much. He shined his flashlight around the open area and then up to the ceiling. There, he saw something that caught his eye - it was a crack in the ceiling with a black substance within the crack.

Crawling slowly and painfully over the rocks to the rear of the chamber, he saw a stone case extending through the rocks. It had a flat stone top which was cracked completely in two and the smaller section was moved aside, creating an opening into the stone case. But the top was too near the ceiling for him to look inside. Yet he knew what was inside.

The crack in the ceiling was directly above the cracked part of the lid, where it was open, and the black substance had fallen from the crack into the case because some of it had splashed onto the lid.

It was at this time, as Ron recalls, as the instant realization of what had happened here dawned on him, that he passed out. When he realized that the crack in the ceiling was the end of the crack he had found in the elevated cross-hole many feet above him, and the black substance was blood which had fallen through the crack and into the stone case.

Ron then knew that the Ark of the Covenant was in the stone case: But the most overwhelming realization was that Christ's Blood had actually fallen onto the Mercy Seat." Retrieved November 11, 2012 from [http://www.wyatt-museum.com/arkofthecovenant.htm#the\\_ark\\_of\\_the\\_covenant](http://www.wyatt-museum.com/arkofthecovenant.htm#the_ark_of_the_covenant)

What a miracle of God! And so precise:

Firstly, by God's providence the Romans built the crucifixion site directly over the Ark of the Covenant, some 600 years after the ark was hidden in the cavern.

Secondly, Jesus' blood dripped on the very same Mercy Seat which the blood of sacrificed animals had been sprinkled on, long ago in Old Testament times.

Yes, the Old Testament sacrificial system - the acting out of Jesus' sacrificial death - had finally met with the blood of the True Sacrifice.

You see, once a year in a solemn Old Testament service given by God, blood of sacrificed animals was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat to make atonement for the people's sins, to blot out their sins before God. This special service was called the "...*Day of Atonement...*" *Leviticus 23:27*

Prior to the service, three perfectly formed animals, a bull and two goats, "...*without blemish...*" *Leviticus 4:3*, were selected by the High Priest. These animals were symbolic of Jesus' perfect life of righteousness. In the first part of the service, the bull was killed to atone for the High Priest's sins. Then one of the special goats was killed. Collecting some of the sacrificed goat's blood, the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place, the second compartment of the tabernacle. He sprinkled the blood upon the Mercy Seat, to make atonement for the peoples' confessed sins, and to cleanse the sanctuary from the pollution of sin.

*" Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.*

*So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins;..."*

*Leviticus 16:15-16*

God tells us that breaking His Holy law is sin, and He also tells us that only blood can make atonement for sin, or in other words, only blood can cleanse and pardon sin, " *'...for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*" *Leviticus 17:11*

*"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."* *Hebrews 9:22*

Yes, the death of the sacrificed animal represented Jesus' life sacrificed upon the cross, while the animal's sprinkled blood represented Jesus' blood, which was foreordained to cleanse and pardon humanity's sins.

And so the appointed time arrived, and Jesus died an agonising death upon the cross for our sins.

*"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split..."* *Matthew 27:50-51*

Later that afternoon, a Roman soldier thrust his spear into Jesus' side,

*"...and immediately blood and water came out."* *John 19:34*

Then, as we read earlier, Jesus' blood ran down the cracks in the rocks, dripping upon the Mercy Seat in the cavern directly below. And lying directly beneath the Mercy Seat were the stone tablets, engraved with the Ten Commandments.

Thus, here upon earth, as Jesus' blood dripped onto the Mercy Seat, over God's law of life, literal atonement was made to pardon sin.

And astoundingly, in Jesus' death and His blood sprinkled upon the Mercy Seat, we see a literal fulfilment and an end to the symbolic Old Testament sacrificial system.

The spiritual connection between Jesus' blood, the Mercy Seat and the Ten Commandments is profoundly this: It is Jesus' saving blood mingled with God's mercy, which pardons our transgressions of His law.

But this pardon for sin is granted only when we repent of our sins, and confess our sins to God, accepting Jesus as our Saviour, and Lord over our lives.

At this time, in 2012, the Ark of the Covenant still remains hidden in the cavern, deep below the earth's surface, and those involved with its discovery, believe all will be revealed in God's time.

*"Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
And righteousness shall look down from heaven."* *Psalms 85:11*

From the cavern, Wyatt takes us to a nearby tomb, and peering in, we see where Christ's body was laid to rest.

*"Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed." Matthew 27:57-60*

Captured on DVD, we see the massive circular stone door, 13 feet in diameter.

Further investigation reveals a groove, at ground level, running the width of the tomb entrance, with a stone stop block at one end.

After Jesus was laid in the tomb, faithful followers rolled the great stone over the entrance, until it rested against the stop block. Then they embedded a thick metal pin in the rock face, at each side of the stone. And so the massive stone was wedged tightly into position, sealing Christ's body in the tomb.

Now Wyatt draws our attention to the rock face, and to our amazement we see the remains of one metal pin, shorn off by incredible force.

*"Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it." Matthew 28:1-2*

The stunning realisation dawns upon our minds that the metal pin could only have been shorn off by the angel's supernatural strength, proving yet again the Bible's authenticity beyond a skeptic's doubt.

And this truth brings us to the close of these remarkable discoveries, captured on DVD. Thanks to Wyatt and his team, Biblical places and ancient history have been brought to life in our day, and the Bible is uplifted once again, as the true Book among all books. You can read about Ron Wyatt's work, and order DVD's on this website: <http://www.wyattmuseum.com/ron-wyatt.htm>

## The Bible reveals the Future

From the discoveries of the past, we move to the future exploring the meaning of Bible prophecy. Through prophecy, God reveals the future, so we humans may know the times we are living in and prepare for coming events.

*"...which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:19-21*

*""Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
And new things I declare;  
Before they spring forth I tell you of them."" Isaiah 42:9*

*" I have declared the former things from the beginning;  
They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it.  
Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass." Isaiah 48:3*

*"Remember the former things of old,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like Me,  
Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,  
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
And I will do all My pleasure,'  
Calling a bird of prey from the east,  
The man who executes My counsel, from a far country.  
Indeed I have spoken it;  
I will also bring it to pass.  
I have purposed it;  
I will also do it." Isaiah 46:9-11*

Like a road map of supernatural dimensions, Bible prophecies give definite direction, answering important questions that concern so many people today:

"Where are we going?"

"What is the world coming to?"

And, "How will it all end?"

Through God's prophetic eye, events of history have been foretold centuries in advance - the rise and fall of kingdoms and nations, the spiritual battles between the forces of good and evil, and much more.

To avoid confusion, we need to know there are at least two kinds of prophecy recorded in the Bible - conditional and unconditional. We especially see conditional and unconditional prophecies running side by side in the Old Testament.

For example, in Old Testament times, God chose the Israelite nation to reveal his salvation to the nations of the world. For encouragement and direction, He gave the Israelites prophecies which mapped out the future and the part the nation was to play.

But the prophecies would only be fulfilled if the Israelites co-operated with God, through willing obedience.

At various times they chose to depart from God and worship pagan gods, just like the nations around them. And so failing to meet the conditions of the prophecies, God could not bring His plan to fruition.

This is true of the prophecy recorded in the book of the Bible called Zechariah (Chapter 14). God's people failed to follow His plan and therefore the prophecy failed with them.

Perhaps certain spiritual aspects of the prophecy shall be fulfilled, but the literal application will never be fulfilled.

Had the prophecy come to pass, earth's history would have taken an entirely different course.

God wanted the conflict between good and evil to end much sooner, avoiding centuries of misery and suffering. But alas, God's chosen people failed their responsibility to Him - and to their fellow man.

Thankfully, the Bible is fortified with unconditional prophecies which have been fulfilled, are being fulfilled right now, and shall continue to be fulfilled throughout eternity. Unconditional prophecy is God's proclamation that certain events will happen, with or without man's obedience to His plan.

The two great prophetic books of the Bible, "Daniel" and "The Revelation of Jesus Christ," bear this truth out. These two books declare we are standing on the threshold of a global crisis, and the end to this sinful world.

*"...And there shall be a time of trouble,  
Such as never was since there was a nation,  
Even to that time..." Daniel 12:1*

Like a guiding light, these prophetic books take us into the future, and before our very eyes unmask the evil plans of Satan, demon spirits and wicked man.

At the same time, we clearly see God's plan of love, truth and salvation.

Our urgent need is to gain a knowledge of Bible prophecy, and if we choose, prepare ourselves for the Son of God's second coming.

Some people will be prepared to meet Him with joy and peace, but sadly, some will not - in either case unconditional prophecy will be fulfilled.

The apostle Peter's second letter to the early Christian church (AD 100 ), reminds you and I today that we are living in the prophecies of the end times.

*"Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.' For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.*

*But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

*Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*

*Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3:1-13*

Yes, the glorious fulfilment of prophecy takes us from this old sinful world, into a newly created earth. Be assured there is a better future - just around the corner of prophetic time.



## **The Bible tells of God's Love**

In the Bible, the changing drama of human life unfolds cultures, customs and lifestyles. And through it all, resonates God's merciful love for humanity.

This symphony of God's love finds its crescendo in the four gospels, the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These books reveal the Son of God's first coming to Planet Earth, and His mission to reunite fallen man with God.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."*

*John 3:16-17*

*"...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10*

Yes, God's yearning desire is for you and I to accept a saving relationship with Him, based upon His Godly character and knowledge of truth.

*"Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

*1 Timothy 2:4*

*"The entirety of your Word is truth." Psalm 119:160*

## **The Bible gives us Saving Knowledge**

Just as God is the true Source of love, He is also the true Source of saving knowledge. Just look at these Bible texts:

*"...for the Lord is the God of knowledge..." 1 Samuel 2:3*

*"For the Lord gives wisdom;*

*From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;" Proverbs 2:6*

*"Oh, the depth of the riches*

*both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" Romans 11:33*

*"Let us know,*

*Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord." Hosea 6:3*

*"...it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge..." Proverbs 19:2*

*"Search from the book of the Lord, and read..." Isaiah 34:16*

*"...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."*

*James 1:21*

## God's Word is Spirit and Truth

*"The entirety of Your word is truth..." Psalm 119:160*

*"...the Scripture of Truth..." Daniel 10:21*

*" the law is spiritual..." Romans 7:14*

*"...And Your law is truth..." Psalm 119:142*

*"God is Spirit..." John 4:24*

*"...the God of truth..." Isaiah 65:16*

God's word is His supernatural breath, exhaling His life and spirit into our souls. Yes, a spiritual, supernatural power emanates from God's word of truth.

Thus, Jesus, the Son of God said,

*"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63*

*" I am the way, the truth, and the life..." John 14:6*

*" 'God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'"  
John 4:24*

And by His Spirit God reveals His truth and teaches us His truth.

*"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man (worldly man) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:12-14*

*"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2:10*

As we ask God for spiritual enlightenment, by His Spirit He will open our minds to comprehend His truth in the Bible and receive His knowledge into our lives.

*"...Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;  
I will make my words known to you." Proverbs 1:23*

## God's Word gives us Understanding

*"The entrance of Your words gives light;  
It gives understanding to the simple." Psalm 119:130*

*"The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting;  
Give me understanding, and I shall live." Psalm 119:144*

As God's knowledge permeates our minds, we gain spiritual understanding about the true meaning of life. And this in turn gives us power to make good choices for our lives.

*"My son, if you receive my words,  
And treasure my commands within you,  
So that you incline your ear to wisdom,  
And apply your heart to understanding;  
Yes, if you cry out for discernment,  
And lift up your voice for understanding,  
If you seek her as silver,  
And search for her as for hidden treasures;  
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,  
And find the knowledge of God.  
For the Lord gives wisdom;  
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;  
He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;  
And preserves the way of His saints.  
He guards the paths of justice,  
Then you will understand righteousness and justice,  
Equity and every good path.*

*When wisdom enters your heart,  
And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,  
Discretion will preserve you;  
Understanding will keep you." Proverbs 2:1-11*

## God's Word gives us New Life

*"How can a young man cleanse his way?  
By taking heed according to Your word." Psalm 119:9*

*"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:21-22*

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12*

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me, and know my anxieties;  
And see if there is any wicked way in me,  
And lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24*

*"It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Luke 4:41*

Yes, we may eat the very best foods to sustain our bodies, but this alone is not enough to sustain our lives. If we want to have fullness of life in mind, body and spirit, we must receive and live by every word which comes from the mouth of God.

Like bread, God's word has a nutritive value, and to live spiritually, we must digest His word within our being.

As we digest and assimilate His knowledge, our lives are renewed, we begin to change for the better - intellectually, morally and spiritually. We begin to think pure thoughts, and our characters begin to assimilate God's holy character.

*"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him..." Colossians 3:9-10*

*"...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever." 1 Peter 1:23*

*"...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby..."  
1 Peter 2:2*

Yes, we would be wise to follow the example set by the people of Berea who personally searched and read the scriptures, daily enriching their lives with God's eternal treasures.

*"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
Acts 17:11 KJV*

Jesus, the Son of God, said:

*"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." John 5:39*

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, 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*

*"...my heart stands in awe of Your words  
I rejoice at Your word  
As one who finds great treasure."  
Psalm 119:161-162*

*"For Your word has given me life." Psalm 119:50*

## **God's Word gives us Saving Doctrine**

Blended with God's word of life, is doctrine - the teachings of the Bible - which lead us onward in truth to God's heavenly kingdom.

Like signposts, doctrine gives true direction for our lives, teaching us:

- how sin entered the universe;
- how God created earth;
- how evil came into our world through Satan and demon spirits;
- what sin is;
- the meaning of man's fallen nature;
- how Jesus saved our sinful lives by dying upon the cross, and how He sanctifies our lives through His priestly ministry in the heavenly temple;
- why keeping the Ten Commandments is so important and necessary for building Godly characters;

- what happens to our bodies and spirits when we die;
- the true meaning of baptism;
- why we pay tithe and give offerings to God;
- why we keep the seventh day Sabbath holy;
- how every person will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for their lives;
- about the second coming of Jesus as king of kings and Lord of Lords;
- about the resurrection of the faithful believers who have died the first death;
- why the saints reign with Jesus 1000 years in heaven;
- about the second resurrection and the second death;
- how evil and the wicked will be destroyed forever;
- and finally, how Planet Earth shall be made new for the saved.

Ultimately all true doctrine comes through Jesus who said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life..." John 14:6*

And do the scriptures tell us that Jesus taught doctrine? Definitely! Yes!

*"And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine..."  
Mark 4:2 KJV*

*"...He (Jesus) went His way. And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power." Luke 4:30-32*

*"Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, 'How does this Man know letters, having never studied?'*

*Jesus answered them and said, 'My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If any-one wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.'" John 7:14-17*

*"But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.' And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine." Matthew 22:31-33 KJV*

*"The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, 'I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.'" John 18:19-20*

Yes, Jesus spoke doctrine plainly and openly to all classes of people. Do other Bible writers speak about doctrine, the teachings of truth? Yes!

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son." 2 John 9*

*"For I give you good doctrine:  
Do not forsake my law." Proverbs 4:2*

*"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed." 1 Timothy 4:6*

*"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." 1 Timothy 4:16*

## **Doctrines of Demons**

Now the Bible opens before us a grave warning. For in opposition to God's teaching of truth which leads to eternal life, is an enemy called Satan who spreads his teachings of lies which lead into the abyss of death.

When Bible writers give warnings about doctrines of demons, they do not mean secret seances or pagan rituals of devil worship. They are warning us about demons infiltrating the very heart of Christianity, mixing some Bible truth with satanic error.

To get to the bottom of this demonic conspiracy we need to go back to the source. You can read about this in the Bible, in the book of Isaiah, chapter 14, verses 12-17 and the book of Ezekiel, chapter 28, verses 12-19.

These chapters reveal how Lucifer was the leading angel in Heaven, standing next in authority to the Son of God. Lucifer was a created being, noble and gifted with immense intellectual powers. But this wasn't enough for Lucifer. As time went by he began to indulge in thoughts about entering into the divine council of God the Father and His only begotten Son. But of course, this could never become reality. And so seething with envy Lucifer rebelled against God's authority. Conniving with the host

of heavenly angels he spread false doctrine about God. The Bible tells us Lucifer was a murderer from the beginning and there is no truth in him.

*“He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44*

Many angels were deceived by Lucifer’s false doctrines and joined his ranks. Although God offered reconciliation to Lucifer and the rebelling angels, the offer was rejected. There could be no compromise between God’s truth and Satan’s lies. So eventually war broke out in heaven. Could Lucifer win?

No. Lucifer and his army of angels were cast out of heaven. Lucifer became known as Satan, the adversary, and his angels, known as demons and demon spirits.

Satan’s next attack against God was in the Garden of Eden where he overcame Adam and Eve with his doctrine of lies.

Eating of the deadly fruit of good and evil, Adam and Eve changed the course of Planet Earth forever by opening the way for Satan and his demon forces to march in and lay claim to the newly created world.

Ever since, this enemy of God has enthroned himself as god over Planet Earth, and inspired by his spirit, evil continues to maim and destroy our world.

Make no mistake, Satan cares for no human being. His desire is to turn as many people as possible away from God, through death, disease, disaster and doctrines of deceit. Look in the history books, look around the world today, you can see Satan’s evil desires, his marks and scars in every corner of our world.

During His earthly ministry Jesus Christ faced Satan’s fierce attacks, and dying on the cross for our sins Jesus triumphed over Satan forever.

After Jesus returned to heaven He sent spiritual power to the first Christian church, and the church flourished with new converts. Enraged, Satan and demons made war upon the church persecuting Christians in the millions. Many Christians lost their lives to martyrdom yet still the church increased.

Now seeing their own demise, Satan and demons halted the bloodshed and in a cunning move they laid down a master plan to infiltrate the spiritual heart of Christianity. Satan would simply blend his pagan doctrine into the church.

In the days of the early Christian church, all was pure. The truth about God and His only begotten Son was cherished, along with the other truths as taught by Jesus Christ. Early Christians put God’s truth and living His way, ahead of their own personal gain or natural desires. But with the halting of persecution, the church was lulled into complacency and standards were lowered.



Now the door into the church was opened for Satan to infiltrate. People who wanted to keep their pagan beliefs as well as embrace some Christian teachings joined the church. These half converted Christians did not give up their pagan customs or activities and so slowly but surely Bible truth was diluted with Satan's doctrines of lies.

Thus through Satan's scheming spirit, during the early centuries AD, apostate Christianity was born.

Apostate Christianity teaches false doctrines, deadening Bible truth in the lives of the deceived.

In the first century AD the apostle Paul speaks of the early Christian church falling away from God's truth.

*"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.*

*Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the **man of sin** is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.*

*For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10*

Now believe it or not the man of sin, talked about in the Bible, is a prominent leader of a worldwide Christian church. But in reality, empowered by Satan's lying spirit, the man of sin leads false Christianity.

*"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." 2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing,  
but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.  
You will know them by their fruits.  
Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?*

*Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.  
A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.  
Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.  
Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” Matthew 7:15-20*

*“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20*

*“But their heart is far from Me.  
And in vain they worship Me,  
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” Mark 7:6-7*

*“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith (the truth), giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...” 1 Timothy 4:1*

*“For they are spirits of devils, working miracles...” Revelation 16:14 KJV*

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1*

*“And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you.  
For many will come in My name, saying,  
“I am Christ,” and will deceive many.’” Matthew 24:4-5*

*“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*

*For men will be lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” 2 Timothy 3:1-5*

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4*

*“‘You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.’” John 8:44*

Through their word of a lie, Satan and demons have tried to attack God’s word on all fronts. They are forever scheming to pull down Biblical signposts for true direction and raise up false signs pointing away from God’s heavenly kingdom.

In this way, Satan sets before the people a feast of false teachings, false salvation, and false worship inviting people to pick and choose whatever they desire. Parading himself before the universe Satan exalts himself as the god of this world, and through a false gospel, he receives worship as though he is God!

*“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV*

Yes, Satan the god of this world seeks to rise above God and establish his own throne in the midst of the universe.

*“For you have said in your heart:  
“I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;  
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
I will be like the Most High.”” Isaiah 14: 13-14*

So what is the solution to escaping Satan’s doctrines of deceit? The solution pulsates in the Bible: What the Bible says, is what we follow, searching the Bible daily, and studying the scriptures to find God’s unaltered truth for ourselves.

*“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” Acts 17:11*

By gathering Bible texts on a chosen subject and piecing them together, just as you would a jigsaw puzzle, very soon a clear picture of truth appears, with God the Father and His beloved Son always at the centre.

*“...not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Corinthians 2:13*

*“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.” Isaiah 28:10*

And so, our only safeguard against Satan’s wily deceptions is to heed God’s voice of truth echoing through His Word.

## **The Word is God's Voice Speaking to Us**

With full assurance God’s untainted Word is His voice speaking directly to each of us, answering our questions, enlightening our minds with truth, guiding us along life's pathway.

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path." Psalm 119:105*

*"Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer,  
The Holy One of Israel:  
'I am the Lord your God,  
Who teaches you to profit,  
Who leads you by the way you should go.'" Isaiah 48:17*

*"Direct my steps by Your word,  
And let no iniquity have dominion over me." Psalm 119:133*

*"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,  
'This is the way, walk in it,'  
Whenever you turn to the right hand  
Or whenever you turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21*

And, if we listen carefully, we may hear God's voice deep within our conscience communicating with us, as a friend communicates with a friend.

Sometimes in mercy, God's voice may sound like a trumpet blast, giving warnings and judgment. While at other times His voice of love speaks peace and comfort to our souls, soothing as a dove cooing in a summer's garden.

*"For I know the thoughts that I think towards you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil; to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you." Jeremiah 29:11-14*

*"Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent." Acts 13:26*

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." Colossians 3:16*

Let us pray,

Our Father in Heaven

We thank you for the gift of Your Word, reflecting Your holy character through the life of Your Son. May Your knowledge of truth begin to form Your likeness in our lives.

Please open our hearts and minds to comprehend and accept Your word of liberty.

Then we shall be free indeed from the entanglements of self and the world to serve You in true spirituality and the true meaning of life. To this end we ask in the saving name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen