

ENDNOTES



“Teach me what I do not see.”

(Job 34:32)

PROLOGUE

¹ Sahel: the semi-arid transition zone that separates Africa’s Sahara from its tropical rainforests. This band of sand and scrub-brush stretches from Senegal to Sudan.

² *Monotheists* believe in one God, *polytheists* believe in many gods and goddesses, *pantheists* view everything as part of god, *secular humanists* exalt man instead of God, and *atheists* claim there is no God.

CHAPTER 1: BUY THE TRUTH

³ In ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE, this phrase and more than 1,000 other quotes from the Scriptures of the prophets come from the Bible. Sometimes only a portion of a verse is quoted, as is the case here. Proverbs chapter 23, verse 23, in its entirety reads: *“Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.”*

⁴ Barrett, David B., George T. Kurian and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Survey of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*. London: Oxford University Press, 2001.

⁵ “Today, Scriptures are available in no less than 2,403 languages, with the complete Bible having been translated into at least 426 languages, and the New Testament into some 1,115. In addition, parts of the Bible have been made available in a further 862 languages.” (United Bible Society, 2007, www.biblesociety.org) See also: www.wycliffe.org/About/Statistics.aspx

⁶ Foxe, John (edited by G.A. Williamson). *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*. Toronto: Little, Brown & Company, 1965.

⁷ It is inaccurate to speak of any country as a “Christian nation” since Christ said, *“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”* (John 18:36)

⁸ Wurmbrand, Richard. *Tortured for Christ – 30th Anniversary Edition*. Bartlesville, OK: Living Sacrifice Book Co., 1998.

⁹ *The Way of Righteousness* radio series has been or is being translated into some 80 languages for broadcast worldwide. www.twor.com
www.one-god-one-message.com

¹⁰ The full Qur'anic verse states: "*And in their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: Therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: A guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah.*" (Sura 5:46) Unless otherwise indicated, the English translation of the Qur'an used in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE is by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. *The Qur'an Translation*. New York: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., 2003. **Note:** The Qur'an is divided into chapters called *suras*. Verse numbers may vary slightly depending on the Qur'anic translation. When looking for a verse, it may be necessary to search surrounding verses.

¹¹ Who is the "We"? In the Qur'an, Allah often refers to himself in first person plural. In the Bible, the LORD also sometimes refers to Himself in the plural. **Note:** Arabic speakers use the word "Allah" in two ways: 1) "Allah" is the generic term for "God" used by Arabic Christians, other non-Muslims, and Muslims. When used this way it is *not* God's proper name. Among Arabic speakers, no one group owns the generic term *Allah*. 2) Muslims use "Allah" as God's primary proper name. More about this in chapter 9.

¹² E-mail excerpts in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE are presented anonymously to protect the identity of those who wrote them.

¹³ "p.b.u.h." stands for "peace be upon him," often added by Muslims after writing or speaking the name of a prophet. The Arabic formula Muslims use after Muhammad's name is: *Salla Allahu Alaihi Wa Sallam* (s.a.w.), which means: "the prayers of Allah be upon him and peace." They base this practice on this Qur'anic verse: "*Lo! Allah and His angels pray upon the prophet. Oh ye who believe, pray on him and salute him with peace.*" (Sura 33:56) The use of this formula is inconsistent with the Bible which says: "*It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*" (Hebrews 9:27) Once a person has died, his or her eternal destiny is fixed. No amount of praying can change where or how he or she will spend eternity (Revelation 22:11).

¹⁴ [*sic*] is Latin for "thus" and "so." It is used in brackets following a printed quotation to show that the original has been quoted accurately even though it contains an apparent error. **Note:** Except for condensing and correcting spelling and grammar (to make them more easily understood), e-mail quotes used in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE are presented as they were received. For example, this particular e-mail from "Ahmed" had virtually no capital letters. This has been corrected.

¹⁵ *The Meaning of the Glorious Koran: An Explanatory Translation* by Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall. New York: Meridian, 1997.

¹⁶ For example, the Qur'an says in sura (chapter) 40, verses 70-72: "*Those who reject the Book and the revelation with which We sent Our apostles: but soon shall they know, —when the yoke shall be round their necks, and the chains; they shall be dragged along—in the boiling fetid fluid; then in the Fire shall they be burned....*" Also: "*In their footsteps We sent Jesus the son of Mary, confirming the Law that had come before him: We sent him the Gospel: Therein was guidance and light, and confirmation of the Law that had come before him: A guidance and an admonition to those who fear Allah.*" (Sura 5:49) "*O ye who believe! Believe in Allah and His Apostle, and the scripture which He hath sent to His Apostle and the scripture which He sent to those before him. Any who denieth Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Apostles, and the Day of Judgment, hath gone far, far astray. ... We have sent thee inspiration, as We sent it to Noah and the Messengers after him: We sent inspiration to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob and the Tribes, to Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David We gave the Psalms.*" (Sura 4:136,163) For more such Qur'anic statements, see first page of chapter 3 and accompanying footnotes.

¹⁷ Proverbs 23:23. Instead of "buying" the truth, many people "sell" it for fear of what family or friends might think of them if they are caught studying the Bible (even though it is the world's best seller and contains the ancient Scriptures, which the Qur'an commands Muslims to believe).

CHAPTER 2: OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

¹⁸ Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *Treasury of World Masterpieces: The Celebrated Cases of Sherlock Holmes*. R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company, 1981, p. 17. (First published in Great Britain in 1891.)

¹⁹ Romans 14:1-15:7; Matthew 7:1-5

²⁰ Doyle, p. 16

²¹ Numbers 12

²² 2 Kings 5

²³ Jonah 4

²⁴ See these books in the Bible: Daniel, Ezra and Esther

²⁵ John 4

²⁶ "The Greatest Journey," *National Geographic Magazine*, Mar. 2006, p. 62.

²⁷ Psalm 90:1-12; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:18; James 4:13-15

²⁸ In human history, God has permitted and/or sent a variety of catastrophic events upon the earth. In Noah's generation, after a hundred years of patience and warning, God sent a worldwide flood in which all but eight

souls were exterminated (Genesis 6-8). (Many view this universal flood as a myth even though the geological and fossil record corroborate it.) In Abraham's day, all but three souls perished in the fire that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah. During and after the time of Moses, God ordered the Israelites to destroy the Canaanite nations (Joshua 1–10). These battles were carried out under specific commands from God and often included miraculous interventions from heaven, such as Jericho's wall falling outward (confirmed by archaeology) after the Israelites had marched around the city seven consecutive days. God waited hundreds of years before judging these nations, giving them time to repent and turn from their idolatry, immorality, and human sacrifice (Genesis 15:16; Exodus 12:40), yet they ignored the witness of godly men like Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. Only a few Canaanites repented and believed in the one true God who had sent ten supernatural plagues on Egypt and opened a path in the Red Sea. When God used His ancient people to carry out His judgments, He remained fair and impartial. For example, the Torah records that God first punished the Israelites (due to their idolatry and adultery) with a plague in which 24,000 Israelites died (Numbers 25-31). Only after God had judged Israel did He send them to execute His judgment on the surrounding corrupt and evil nations. It is false to assume these nations were innocent. The Scripture tells us that they were so grossly corrupt that *"the land vomited out its inhabitants."* (Leviticus 18:25 NIV) God's goodness and patience are great, but His wrath is also great and His judgment sure.

²⁹ One reason God does not instantly judge evil is to give sinners time to repent and accept His provision of salvation: *"Do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:8-9 NIV)

³⁰ Chapters 8, 12, 28 and 29 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE provide answers to these three supposed contradictions.

³¹ Matthew 7:1-20; Compare Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 6.

³² Several websites continue to post a long list of *"101 Clear Contradictions in the Bible,"* even though, for many years now, another article has been posted called: *"101 Cleared-up 'Contradictions' in the Bible."* www.debate.org.uk/topics/apolog/contrads.htm

³³ Two rules for correctly interpreting any verse in the Bible:

- 1) Read the surrounding context.
- 2) Compare Scripture with Scripture.

To illustrate, in Deuteronomy (5th book in the Bible), Moses spoke this prophecy to the children of Israel: “*The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear...*” (Deuteronomy 18:15) What did Moses mean when he said to the Israelites that God would raise up a Prophet “*from your midst, from your brethren*”? Some say Moses was talking about the Ishmaelites; others say the Israelites. The surrounding context provides the correct answer (e.g., Deuteronomy 17:15,20; 18:2,5, etc.). Who was this special “*Prophet*” God promised to “*raise up*”? While many try to make this prophecy fit the founder of their particular religion, the correct interpretation is clearly stated later on in the Scriptures. Read John 5:43-47, John 6:14, and Acts 3:22-26.

³⁴ BC = Before Christ / AD = *Anno Domini*, meaning, “*In the year of our Lord.*” Many today now use BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era) which removes “Christ” from the abbreviation, even though the dividing point in history is still the birth of Christ.

³⁵ If you have ever borrowed money from a bank, then you signed a kind of testament—a legal document. The bank’s part in the covenant was to give you the promised sum; your part was to pay back the loan over a specified period of time. To fail to respect your part of the contract would result in unpleasant consequences. Similarly, the Bible spells out the covenants our Creator provides for mankind—promises that make it possible for people like you and me to enjoy His eternal blessings. God making “*a covenant*” (Jeremiah 31:31) with people is unique to the Scriptures of the Bible.

³⁶ We will consider this divine hallmark of Scripture in chapter 5. One powerful example of God announcing history before it happens is found in the book of Daniel chapters 7 to 12. Daniel describes the history of world empires from 400 BC to the time of Christ, and goes on to describe events yet to take place in the last days. Daniel wrote it all down between 600 and 530 BC.

CHAPTER 3: CORRUPTED OR PRESERVED?

³⁷ Additional examples of Qur’anic references which tell Muslims that the biblical Scriptures are inspired by God: Sura 2:87-91,101,136,285; 3:3-4; 4:47,54,136,163; 5:43-48,68; 6:92; 10:94; 20:133; 21:105; 28:43; 29:46; 32:23; 40:53-54,70-72; 45:16; 46:12; 57:27, etc.

³⁸ Down through the centuries, the Old Testament Scriptures have been jealously guarded by the Jewish religious community. Think about it. Would they have allowed anyone to tamper with their Holy Scriptures, books for which many were willing to die? There is no other known

case in history where one religious community (Christians) has based its faith on a book (Old Testament) that is revered and protected by another religious community (Orthodox Jews). Would not this fact alone have made it impossible for anyone to alter the Old Testament Scriptures?

³⁹ *The Holy Qur'an*. Translated by M.H. Shakir. Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., Electronic version, 1993.

⁴⁰ Metzger, Bruce M. and Michael D. Coogan. *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1993, p. 754.

⁴¹ See footnote number 37.

⁴² We have no verifiable Qur'anic or Islamic documents before AD 750 (more than 100 years after Muhammad's death). <http://debate.org.uk/topics/history/bib-qur/qurmanu.htm>

⁴³ Metzger and Coogan, p. 683.

⁴⁴ Here is an example of apparent variants found in ancient manuscripts. In the Old Testament book of Second Kings, we read: "*Jehoiachin was **eighteen** years old when he became king.*" (2 Kings 24:8) Meanwhile, the book of Second Chronicles states: "*Jehoiachin was **eight** years old when he became king.*" (2 Chronicles 36:9) How can such differences be explained? Some scholars suggest that it was at the age of 8 that young Jehoiachin's father took him into *partnership* in the government, and that he began to *reign* at 18 following the death of his father, which is possible. However, a more likely explanation is that this numerical variation is simply the result of an early-century scribe penning "8" instead of "18." If this were the case, that wrong number would be transcribed into all the manuscripts which "descended" from that scribe's copy. Whatever the case, such variations do not affect or alter God's message to us in any way. In most cases, the sheer volume of ancient Bible manuscripts allows scholars to determine the correct rendering by comparing the various texts.

⁴⁵ The Hadith records: "*Uthman then ordered Zaid bin Thabit, 'Abdullah bin Az-Zubair, Sa'id bin Al-'As and 'Abdur Rahman bin Hari-bin Hisham to rewrite the manuscripts in perfect copies... They did so, and when they had written many copies, 'Uthman returned the original manuscripts to Hafsa. 'Uthman sent to every Muslim province one copy of what they had copied, and ordered that all the other Qur'anic materials whether written in fragmentary manuscripts or whole copies, be burnt.*" (Hadith, Sahih Bukhari, VI, No. 510) (The *Hadith* ["Sayings"] are ancient writings by Muhammad's wives and acquaintances. Muslims base many beliefs and practices on the Hadith.)

⁴⁶ Even before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scroll, which proved the Scriptures had remained unchanged, one could simply compare

the present day Old Testament Scriptures with the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament completed around 270 BC). The Septuagint substantiates the claim that the Old Testament Scriptures are uncorrupted and preserved.

⁴⁷ Abegg, Martin Jr., Peter Flint and Eugene Ulrich. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*. San Francisco: Harper, 1999, page xvi.

⁴⁸ McDowell, Josh. *A Ready Defense*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993, pp. 42-48. www.debate.org.uk/topics/history/bib-qur/bibmanu.htm

⁴⁹ The New Testament Scriptures are translated from a few primary Greek texts (Majority Text, Textus Receptus, Alexandrian Text). The NKJV translates the New Testament from the Majority Text, while the NIV translates from the Alexandrian Text. Where “significant” variations occur between Greek New Testament texts, most Bible translations include a note in the margin indicating those variations. The lengthiest passages in question are Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11, each 12 verses in length. While these passages are absent in a few of the oldest surviving manuscripts (Alexandrian Text), they are found in the hundreds of others (Majority Text). Keep in mind that *older* does not necessarily mean *more accurate*, since the various texts descended from different ancient copies. It is most likely that a distracted copyist omitted these selections by accident. Whatever the case, all truths taught in these omitted passages are also taught elsewhere in Scripture. God’s message remains unaffected. Is it wise to reject God’s message because a few ancient copies are missing a few sections—sections which in no way change God’s message?

⁵⁰ In recent times, books have been published and movies produced which are calculated to cast doubt on the Bible. Some Bible critics point to contradictory, “alternative gospels.” All such “gospels” were written long after the time of Messiah and lack historical corroboration.

⁵¹ This statement is also found in Matthew 11:15; 13:43; Mark 4:9,23; 7:16; Luke 8:8; 14:35; Revelation 2:7,11,29; 3:6,13,22;13:9.

CHAPTER 4: SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

⁵² *Webster’s New World College Dictionary*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. See: *science*.

⁵³ Bucaille, Maurice. *La Bible, le Coran et la science*. Paris: Seghers, 1976, p. 35. In response to Dr. Bucaille’s book, Dr. William Campbell has written *The Qur’an and the Bible in Light of History and Science*. Second Edition; Middle East Resources, 2002. Dr. Campbell’s carefully-researched rebuttal can also be read online in six languages. <http://answering-islam.org/Campbell>

⁵⁴ Biological evolution suggests that the population of life forms such as *algae and apes*, when spread over millions of generations, can change into populations of *plants and people*. According to evolution, man, monkeys, and minnows share a common ancestry. The truth is that neither random evolution nor purposeful creation can be proven by modern science. Both require faith.

⁵⁵ http://www.gma.org/space1/nav_map.html

⁵⁶ Additional verses that affirm the hydrologic cycle: Psalm 135:7; Jeremiah 10:13; Ecclesiastes 1:7; Isaiah 55:10

⁵⁷ www.artsci.wustl.edu/~landc/html/cann; *Newsweek Magazine*: “a trail of DNA...led [scientists] to a single woman from whom we all descended.” *Newsweek*, January 11, 1988, pp. 46-52.

⁵⁸ *Time Magazine*: “...there was an ancestral ‘Adam’ whose genetic material on the chromosome is common to every man now on earth.” *Time*, December 4, 1995, p. 29. **Note**: Scientists claim that our common male ancestor does not date back as far as our common female ancestor. Their claim lines up with the Bible, which shows that we all descend from Noah. But our common mother is Eve, since Noah had three sons and *three daughters-in-law* from which all people come.)

⁵⁹ www.pbs.org/wnet/redgold/basics/bloodletting.html

⁶⁰ www.bible.ca/tracks/matthew-fontaine-maury-pathfinder-of-sea-ps8.htm **Note**: Maury discovered that the paths of the seas are so fixed that the navigator can literally “blaze his way” across the ocean. (Rozwadowski, Helen M. *Fathoming the Ocean*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005, p. 40); When David wrote of “*the paths of the seas*,” the only seas known to him and his people were the Mediterranean, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and the Red Sea. These bodies of water did not have “*paths*” or significant observable currents.

⁶¹ *World Book Encyclopedia* 1986; Stars.

⁶² “On a clear dark night, a few thousand stars are visible to the naked eye. With binoculars and powerful telescopes, we can see so many stars that we could never hope to count them. Even though each individual star is unique, all stars share much in common.” (Cornell University Astronomy website: <http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/stars.php>) The Bible also states that the number of stars cannot be counted. (Genesis 15:5; 22:17).

⁶³ Ramsay, Walter M. *The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1953, p. 222.

⁶⁴ Josephus, Flavius. *Josephus: The Essential Works*. (Paul L. Maier, editor) Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1988. pp. 268,277. The book includes photos of the Pilate-inscription stone and Herod’s theater.

⁶⁵ Bruce, F.F. *Archaeological Confirmation of the New Testament. (Revelation and the Bible.* Edited by Carol Henry) Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1969.

⁶⁶ Josephus, Flavius. *Antiquities* 18: 2, 2; 4, 3

⁶⁷ Photo and details on Caiaphas' burial box: <http://www.kchanson.com/ANCDOCS/westsem/caiaphas.html>

⁶⁸ Glueck, Nelson. *Rivers in the Desert.* NY: Farrar, Strauss & Cudahy, 1959, p. 136. Glueck specialized in Middle East digs.

⁶⁹ Mormonism is a religion followed by millions of people worldwide. Unlike the Bible, the Book of Mormon is not confirmed by archaeology. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC concluded: "Smithsonian archaeologists see no direct connection between the archaeology of the New World and the subject matter of [the Book of Mormon]." (Martin, Walter. *The Kingdom of the Cults.* Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1997, pp. 200-202.) See also footnote 91 on the same subject in chapter 6. For a comparative view of archaeology as it relates to the Bible and Qur'an, see: <http://debate.org.uk/topics/history/bib-qur/contents.htm>

⁷⁰ Free, Joseph P. and Howard F. Vos. *Archaeology and Bible History.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992, p. 294.

⁷¹ Both Muslims and Mormons claim that one of the greatest proofs that their holy books are from God is seen in the literary style in which they are written. *A Muslim website* states: "The Great Challenge...of the Holy Quran: ...Ever since the Quran was revealed, fourteen centuries ago, no one has been able to produce a single chapter like the chapters of the Quran in their beauty, eloquence, splendor..." (www.islam-guide.com/firm-ch1-2.htm). *A Mormon website* makes a similar claim: "Book of Mormon Challenge: ...You must write your record using a number of ancient Hebrew poetry and writing styles which will not be rediscovered and announced to the English speaking world until years after you publish your record..." (www.greatlakesrestorationbranches.org/newpage34.htm).

⁷² Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, provides an example of the intricate types of literary construction found in the Scriptures. Psalm 119 is an alphabet acrostic, composed of 22 sections with 8 verses each. All 8 verses of each section begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In section 1, each verse begins with *Aleph* (first letter of the Hebrew alphabet). Section 2, all eight verses begin with *Beth* (second letter of alphabet), and so on through the entire Hebrew alphabet. Try to duplicate that! No, don't. Instead, read Psalm 119 and immerse yourself in the power of its words.

CHAPTER 5: GOD'S SIGNATURE

⁷³ Wallenfels, Ronald and Jack M. Sasson. *The Ancient Near East*. Volume IV. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2000; also see: Carl Roebuck. *The World of Ancient Times*. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1966, p. 355.

⁷⁴ "Alexander the Great reduced the city after a siege of nine months (332 BC), though he did not completely destroy it. From this blow Tyre never fully recovered..." (Avery, Catherine B. & Jotham Johnson. *The New Century Classical Handbook*. NY: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1962, p. 1130.)

⁷⁵ Matthews, Samuel W. "The Phoenicians Sea Lords of Antiquity," Washington, DC: *National Geographic*, August 1974, p. 165.

⁷⁶ Genesis 26:3; 28:15 **Note**: The land God promised to give to the nation descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was strategically placed "*in the midst of the nations*." (Ezekiel 5:5) See also Acts 1:8; 2:5.

⁷⁷ Josephus, Flavius, *The Complete Works of Josephus*. (William Whiston) Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1967, pp. 566-568, 580-583, 588-589.

⁷⁸ To illustrate, before World War II, countless Jews in Hitler's Germany did not want to be recognized as Jews. They spoke German, paid German taxes, and fought for Germany in World War I. Yet the Nazis labeled them as Jews. And within a few years, 6 million were exterminated in "the Holocaust...called history's best documented crime." (Phillips, John. *Exploring the World of the Jew*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1993, p. 109) See also headline article: "Nazis Admit Murdering 6 Million Jews in Europe." Bourne, Eric. *The Palestine Post*, Sunday, December 16, 1945.

⁷⁹ Isaiah 44:18; Jeremiah 5:21; John 5:39-47; 2 Corinthians 3:12-16; Romans 9-11. **Note**: About 2600 years ago, God revealed to Ezekiel that Israel's rebirth would happen in three distinct stages. He compared Israel to a valley littered with *dry bones*, which would *come together* as a body and ultimately have *life breathed into them* (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

⁸⁰ Compare Genesis 37-50 with the life of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. Recommended reading: *Joseph Makes Me Think of Jesus*, by William MacDonald. Grand Rapids, MI: Gospel Folio Press.

CHAPTER 6: CONSISTENT WITNESS

⁸¹ "**What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.**" (Romans 1:19-20 NIV) Even people who do not have the Scriptures, "*show the work of the law written in their hearts, their*

conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them ...” (Romans 2:15). Yet, instead of seeking for more truth, most people pursue falsehood.

⁸² By computing the ages of the genealogies recorded in the Bible, we learn that Adam didn’t die until Noah’s father (9th generation after Adam) was more than 50 years old (Genesis 5).

⁸³ “*Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, ‘This is the finger of God.’*” (Exodus 8:19) See also Exodus 12:30-33. For full story: Exodus 5–14.

⁸⁴ While Moses wrote the first section of Scripture, it is likely that the book of Job was written before the Torah (around the time of Abraham), making it one of the oldest pieces of finished literature in existence. If this date is correct, then the Bible was written over a period of about 2,000 years.

⁸⁵ DeHaan, Dennis. *Our Daily Bread*, May 6, 2006. Grand Rapids, MI: RBC Ministries.

⁸⁶ Some ask, “Why would God allow false prophets to proclaim their deceptive messages?” Moses answered that question in the Torah. “***If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.***” (Deuteronomy 13:1-3)

⁸⁷ 1 Kings 18; 1 Kings 19:18; Romans 11:14

⁸⁸ Smith, James E. *What the Bible Teaches about the Promised Messiah*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993, pp. 470-474; Also: Phillips, John. *Exploring the World of the Jew*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1993, pp. 80-81.

⁸⁹ Taylor, John. “Jones Captivated San Francisco’s Liberal Elite,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 12, 1998.

⁹⁰ Smith, Joseph. *Pearl of Great Price*. Joseph Smith – History; 1:15-16.

⁹¹ Unlike the Bible, which is confirmed by history and archaeology, the book of Mormon is unsubstantiated. Professor Thomas Stuart Ferguson founded the Department of Archaeology at Mormonism’s own Brigham Young University for the sole purpose of discovering confirming evidence for their “holy book.” After 25 years of dedicated research, the department found nothing to confirm the flora, fauna, topography, geography, peoples, coins, or settlements described in the Book of Mormon. Ferguson concluded that the geography of the Book of Mormon is “fictional.” (Martin, Walter. *The Kingdom of the Cults*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1997, pp. 200-202)

CHAPTER 7: THE FOUNDATION

⁹² The Bible contains 66 individual books—39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. Later in history, the Roman Catholic Church (which, like many Protestant churches, elevates their church traditions above the Word of God) decided to include 11 additional books between the Old and New Testaments. These books, known as the *Apocrypha* (or *Deuterocanonical* books), were written primarily in the era between the Old and New Testaments. While they contain interesting historical and legendary material, Hebrew believers never accepted them as inspired Scripture. Many of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 are commentaries, which comment only on the 39 Old Testament books and not on the Apocrypha. When the Messiah was on earth, He frequently quoted from the Old Testament, but never from the Apocryphal books. The Apocrypha is never quoted in the New Testament. The 39 books contained in the Old Testament were written by prophets to whom God spoke directly and to whom He confirmed His word, “*bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.*” (Hebrews 2:4) As for the New Testament, believers who lived in the time following Christ’s visit to earth accepted the apostles’ authority and New Testament Scriptures as equal to the Old Testament prophets and Scriptures. This could not be said of the Apocrypha.

⁹³ Luke 24:25-48; John 5:39-47. For resources that present God’s message chronologically: www.goodseed.com / www.one-god-one-message.com

CHAPTER 8: WHAT GOD IS LIKE

⁹⁴ Cosmologists’ attempt to figure out the history of the universe is based on a “combined observational and theoretical effort.” (Loeb, Abraham. “The Dark Ages of the Universe,” *Scientific American*, November 2006) While their knowledge is based on *observation and theory*, the knowledge of those who believe the Bible is based on *observation and revelation*—revelation that bears the divine signature (as observed in chapters 5 and 6 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE). God has revealed His truth in such a way that we can *know* it is true.

⁹⁵ The book of Job 38:6-7 indicates that the angels were observing and rejoicing when God created the earth. Job is a poetic book, thus angels are described as “*morning stars*” and “*sons of God.*” These two expressions do not indicate different beings. This double description is an example of parallelism, a characteristic of Hebrew poetry. See also Job 1:6; 2:1.

⁹⁶ More than half of the Bible’s 66 books refer to angels. For example: Genesis 3:24; 16:7-11; 18:1-19:1; 1 Kings 19:5-7; Psalm 103:20-21; 104:4; Daniel 6:22; Hebrews 1:4-7,14; 12:22; Matthew 1:20; 2:13,19-20;

22:30; 26:53; Luke 1 & 2; 2 Thessalonians 1:7, Revelation 5:11; 18:1; 22:6-16, etc. (Revelation uses the word “angel” or “angels” 70+ times).

⁹⁷ Deuteronomy 10:14; 2 Corinthians 12:2,4; John 14:2; Psalm 33:13; 115:3; 1 Kings 8:39

⁹⁸ Vine, W.E., M.A. *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revel Company; 1966, p. 229.

⁹⁹ God’s six days of creation and the seventh day of rest initiated for mankind a divinely appointed time cycle which is observed around the world to this day. Unlike days, months and years, *the week* is unrelated to astronomy. It is ordained by God.

¹⁰⁰ Proponents of the “big bang” hypothesis theorize that light preexisted the sun and earth by 9,000,000,000 years! (Loeb, Abraham. “The Dark Ages of the Universe,” *Scientific American*; November 2006, p. 49.)

¹⁰¹ Next time you take a drink of water, you might want to tell your Creator, “Thank You!” Besides the fact that H₂O (water) quenches our thirst and keeps us alive, it is truly amazing. Water is the only liquid that expands when frozen, thus it becomes less dense and floats. If water behaved like other matter and condensed when frozen, it would sink to the bottom of the seas, lakes and rivers. Much of it would not melt and eventually our fresh water would be locked up, frozen at the bottom. Good thing our Creator thought of this!

¹⁰² The moon’s dark side was first seen by man on December 24, 1968, when the Apollo 8 spacecraft orbited the moon. Interestingly, on that same day, the three astronauts read Genesis chapter 1, which was televised to earth from space. (Reynolds, David West. *Apollo: The Epic Journey to the Moon*. NY: Harcourt, Inc., 2002, pp. 110-111)

CHAPTER 9: NONE LIKE HIM

¹⁰³ Additional examples in the Bible where God refers to Himself as “*We*” and “*Us*”: Genesis 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8 (Note: In the Qur’an, “Allah” constantly speaks in the plural form. The Qur’anic verses quoted in chapter 3 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE demonstrate this.)

¹⁰⁴ Genesis 1:1-3 While the opening section of Genesis does not explain God’s existence as a tri-unity, the way it is worded is in perfect harmony with explanations later revealed in the Bible. The Scriptures make it clear that all three Persons of the Godhead were involved in creation.

¹⁰⁵ When David became King over Israel, the Scripture narrates: “*The children of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became a unit [echad], and took their stand on top of a hill.*” (2 Samuel 2:25) The same word used to declare: “*the LORD is one*” is used to describe a unity in which there is plurality.

¹⁰⁶ Many Old Testament verses affirm God's complex oneness: Genesis 17:1-3; 18:1-33 God appeared to Abraham in bodily form. These were face-to-face encounters and not a dream or vision. Genesis 35:9-15; Exodus 3:1-6; 6:2-3; 24:9-11; 33:10-11. Compare Exodus 33:11 with 33:20. Moses spoke face-to-face with One of the Persons in the Godhead (the Son), but he was not allowed to see the face of the other Person in the Godhead (the Father). Complex? Yes. God is God. See John 1:1-18. Here are more Old Testament passages that cannot be rightly understood apart from the concept of God's plural oneness: Psalm 2; Psalm 110:1 (compare Matthew 22:41-46); Proverbs 30:4; Isaiah 6:1-3 (compare John 12:41); Isaiah 26:3-4; Isaiah 40:3-11; Isaiah 43:10-11 (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7); Isaiah 48:16; Isaiah 63:1-14; Isaiah 49:1-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Daniel 7:13-14; Hosea 12:3-5; Micah 5:2; Malachi 3:1-2, etc.

¹⁰⁷ Luke 15:11-32; Read also the First Epistle of John.

¹⁰⁸ Read Psalm 2 in which the prophet David refers to the Messiah as *God's Son*. Consider too some of the Son's other names and titles. He is called: "*the door*," (John 10) but that does not mean He is a door of wood or metal. He is also called: "*the Bread of Life*," (John 6) but that does not mean He is a loaf of bread. Nor does "*Son of God*" imply that God took a wife and had a son. Read John, chapters 1, 3 and 5.

¹⁰⁹ *Le Soleil*, March 14, 1984: «Bienfaiteur sincère, il considérait ses 2.000 employés **comme ses enfants** et partageait leur problèmes, leur soucis et leur joie. Le 'Vieux' comme l'appelaient familièrement et tendrement son personnel, était **un grand fils du Sénégal**.» (Translation: "A sincere humanitarian, he considered his 2000 employees **as his children**, sharing their problems, cares, and joys. The 'Old Man,' as his personnel tenderly called him, was **a great son of Senegal**.")

¹¹⁰ Like God Himself, the Holy Spirit will not be forced into our preconceived mold. One of God's prophets, who was given a glimpse of Heaven, beheld the Holy Spirit as "*seven lamps of fire...burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God*." (Revelation 4:5) Another prophet described Him as the One who imparts seven qualities that come from God alone: "*The Spirit of the LORD...the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD*." (Isaiah 11:2)

¹¹¹ When on earth, the Son of God promised His disciples, "*The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you*." (John 14:26) These words display the perfect unity that has always existed between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is a Personal Being ("*He...*"). For more about the Holy

Spirit, see chapters 16, 22, and 28. Better yet, read *the Epistles* and *Acts* in the Bible, paying close attention to the role of the Holy Spirit.

¹¹² The Gospel documents the Son speaking to the Father of “*the glory which I had with You before the world was.*” We also hear the Son saying: “*Father... You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*” (John 17:5,24) See also Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6. As for the Holy Spirit, one of His titles is “*the eternal Spirit.*” (Hebrews 9:14)

¹¹³ Exodus 20:22; Hebrews 12:25; Luke 3:22; 5:24; John 1:1-18; 3:16-19; 17:22; Acts 5:3; 7:51; Galatians 4:6; etc.

¹¹⁴ In the Arabic language, the term *Allah*, in its original meaning, is the Arabic equivalent of the English term *God*. Whether in an Old Testament verse like Genesis 1:1: “*In the beginning God created...*”, or a New Testament verse like John 1:1: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*”, the generic word for *God* in Arabic is *Allah*, meaning *the Supreme Being*. It is important to understand that the Supreme Being has personal names by which He wants to be known. “Allah” is not God’s proper, personal name, although many believe it to be so. Neither is “God” His proper, personal name, though some may think it so.

CHAPTER 10: A SPECIAL CREATION

¹¹⁵ Guinness, Alma E. *ABC's of The Human Body*. Corporate Author: The Reader’s Digest Association, 1987, p. 22.

¹¹⁶ Gates, Bill. *The Road Ahead*. NY: Penguin Group, 1995, p. 188.

¹¹⁷ To illustrate a greater spiritual truth, the Bible describes the harmonious system of the human body: “*...the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body....*” (Ephesians 4:16)

¹¹⁸ These thoughts are adapted from John Phillips’ superb commentary on Genesis (Phillips, John. *Exploring Genesis*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1980). **Note:** The Scripture distinguishes between spirit, soul, and body. See 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12-13; John 4:24.

¹¹⁹ The notion that Eden was located in the region of Iraq is based on the geographical information of Genesis 2:13-14. **Note:** Some refer to the Garden of Eden as *the garden of paradise*, though the Scripture does not. The earthly Eden must not be confused with the heavenly Paradise.

¹²⁰ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1960, p. 7.

¹²¹ Adam (*Adamah*) is the Hebrew word for *man*, literally meaning “red earth” because he was taken from the ground. Eve (*chavvah*) means “life”—“*because she was the mother of all living.*” (Genesis 3:19-20)

CHAPTER 11: EVIL'S ENTRANCE

¹²² *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!”* (Isaiah 14:12) In this verse, the name “Lucifer,” meaning “light bearer,” does not appear in the Hebrew text. It is a Latin translation of the Hebrew word *helel*, meaning “shining one.” Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 provide an example of the law of double interpretation. On the surface, these passages refer to earthly kings. Isaiah refers to the “*king of Babylon*,” and Ezekiel writes of the “*prince of Tyre*.” Yet both passages make statements that cannot apply to mere men. When studied in light of other Scriptures (Luke 10:18; Job 1:6-12; Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8; etc.), it becomes clear that these passages are commentaries on the fall of Satan—the instigator and influencer behind these wicked kings.

¹²³ Revelation 12:4

¹²⁴ Matthew 10:28; 23:33; Mark 9:43-48

¹²⁵ Revelation 20:10-15

CHAPTER 12: THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

¹²⁶ A common question: What happens to babies and little children that die? Will they be judged for their inbred sin nature (Psalm 51:5; 58:3)? The Righteous Judge will do right (Genesis 18:25). He does not condemn a person for that which he or she is incapable of understanding. He holds people accountable for what they know and *could have known* had they made an effort to seek God’s truth (Romans 2:11-15; Psalm 34:10; Isaiah 55:6). A human becomes accountable before God once he or she is mature enough to make moral choices (Deuteronomy 1:39; Isaiah 7:16; 2 Samuel 12:23; Matthew 18:10; 2 Timothy 3:14-17). Only God knows at what age an individual becomes accountable for his or her sins and choices. Whatever the case, God’s message to each of us is: “*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

¹²⁷ Revelation 20:14-15; 2:11; 21:8; Matthew 25:46

CHAPTER 13: MERCY AND JUSTICE

This chapter has no endnotes.

CHAPTER 14: THE CURSE

¹²⁸ “Pythons and boa constrictors...have nub-like legs beneath their skins and tiny, half-inch claws that protrude out above the nubs but nestle close to their bellies near the anus. Actually, even the nubs are not legs but rather a remnant of upper-leg (thigh or femur) bones. The males still use the spurs—but only during courtship and fighting—not to walk.

No other snakes have legs.” (www.wonderquest.com/snake-legs.htm / includes photos). Some interpret this biological fact as support for their evolutionary hypothesis. The point to be grasped is: the anatomy of snakes is in harmony with what Scripture recorded thousands of years earlier.

¹²⁹ Also: Revelation 20:2; Luke 10:18 and 2 Corinthians 11:3,14: “*As the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness,*” so “*Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*”

¹³⁰ Exodus 29:7; 1 Samuel 10:1; 2 Kings 9:6; Psalm 45:7

¹³¹ Chapter 18 presents three reasons why God encoded His rescue plan. One of the delights of studying the Scriptures chronologically is to discover the unfolding drama of God’s plan to deliver sinners from Satan, sin, and death. God, in His wisdom, revealed His plan progressively, “*line upon line, here a little, there a little.*” (Isaiah 28:10)

¹³² In a comic strip entitled, “You Call That Intelligent?” *Time Magazine* belittles the concept of an Intelligent Designer (God): “Couldn’t aging have been handled with more flair and dignity? For instance: What if old people instead of getting wrinkly and decrepit, just sort of poetically faded away?” (Handy, Bruce and Glynis Sweeny. *Time*, July 4, 2005, p. 90) Also, the book *The Improbability of God*, in a chapter entitled *Neither Intelligent nor Designed*, states: “Is it any more than an overweening human ego that proposes Intelligent Design for such a poorly designed creature?” (Bruce and Frances Martin in *The Improbability of God* by Michael Martin and Ricki Monnier. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2006, p. 220)

CHAPTER 15: DOUBLE TROUBLE

¹³³ Associated Press, May 20, 2006

www.abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=nation_world&id=4189656

¹³⁴ Ceremonial washings were a part of Old Testament law (see Leviticus). They were intended to teach sinners their spiritual uncleanness before God. Since He has provided full cleansing and righteousness through the Messiah, such rituals are no longer required by God. Read Acts 10 and Colossians 2. To this day, many religions emphasize outward rituals of cleansing. This e-mail came to me from a Muslim in London: “All non-Muslims including Christians are dirty...Muslims are so clean and near to Allah because they wash....”

¹³⁵ After God announced the Commandments orally (Exodus 20), He called Moses up into the mountain and gave him two stone tablets on which the LORD Himself wrote the Commandments (Exodus 24:12; 31:18). “*The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.*” (Exodus 32:16)

¹³⁶ See Luke 18:9-14; Ephesians 2:8-9.

¹³⁷ The Messiah is the only One who kept all of God's laws and could say, "*I delight to do Your will, O My God, Your law is within my heart.*" (Psalm 40:8) The Law points us to Him. "*The Law was our **tutor** to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified **by faith.***" (Galatians 3:24) God's solution for man's sin is powerfully outlined in Romans 3:20-27.

CHAPTER 16: THE SEED OF A WOMAN

¹³⁸ "*For as in Adam all **die**, even so in Christ all shall be made **alive.***" (1 Corinthians 15:22); read also Romans chapter 5; Galatians 4:4-5.

¹³⁹ Neobirth Pregnancy Care Center: www.neobirth.org.za/development.html

¹⁴⁰ "*Bethlehem Ephrathah*" was an older name for Bethlehem, the town south of Jerusalem (Genesis 35:16-19; 48:7). King David was born in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1,18-19; 17:12), as was his Greater Descendant (Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:1-12). Jews who lived in Jesus' day were confused since He grew up in Nazareth, Galilee (John 7:41-42).

¹⁴¹ For biblical references, see the list of prophecies in chapter 5.

¹⁴² For more on the meaning of "Messiah" see chapter 14, under subheading: THE TWO "SEEDS."

¹⁴³ Genesis 1:2; The Holy Spirit of God is not to be confused with Gabriel. The angel Gabriel was a created being. The Holy Spirit is the uncreated, ever-active Spirit of God Himself. See chapters 9 and 28.

¹⁴⁴ After Jesus was born, Mary lived with her husband Joseph as any normal couple would, and together they had sons and daughters (Matthew 13:55-56; Luke 8:19; John 7:3-10).

¹⁴⁵ The prophets foretold that the Messiah would be conceived of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14; He would be a descendent of the family line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah: Genesis 17:18-21; 26:3-4; 28:13-14; 49:8-10; He would be of the royal line of King David: 2 Samuel 7:16; He would be born in Bethlehem: Micah. 5:2.

¹⁴⁶ Matthew 2. King Herod was jealous at the thought of another "king" being born and attempted to destroy Jesus by ordering the execution of all male children in and around Bethlehem, from two years old and under. Satan was behind it all. His goal was to destroy *the Seed of the woman* who had invaded "his territory!" However, God preempted Satan's attempts to kill Jesus by warning Joseph and directing him to take Mary and the young child to Egypt for refuge. These events had also been foretold by the prophets (Matthew chapter 2; Micah 5:2; Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15). After King Herod died, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned to Nazareth where the boy Jesus grew into manhood.

CHAPTER 17: WHO CAN THIS BE?

¹⁴⁷ Adapted from Jayyusi, Salma Khadra. *Tales of Juha*. Interlink Books. Northampton, MA, 2007, p. 19.

¹⁴⁸ Here are some of the ancient, non-biblical historical writers who made reference to Jesus of Nazareth: Tacitus, Roman historian (AD 55-120) [*Tacitus* 15:44]; Josephus, Jewish historian (AD 37-101) [*Antiquities* 18:3]; the Talmud, rabbinical commentary on the Torah [*The Babylonian Talmud*. Sanhedrin, 43a]; a Greek named Lucian [*The Death of Peregrine*, p. 11-13 in *The Works of Samasota*, translated by H.W. Fowler and F.G. Fowler, 4 volumes. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1949; Suetonius (AD 69-122), the chief secretary to Emperor Hadrian [*Claudias*, 25]. **Note:** J. Oswald Sanders wrote: “To contend that the Christ of the Bible is the offspring of mere human imagination and had no historical reality, would make the gospels as great a miracle in the realm of literature as the living Christ in the realm of history. Ernest Renan remarked that it would take a Jesus to invent a Jesus. J.J. Rousseau contended that it is more inconceivable that a number of persons should agree to write such a history, than that one should form the subject of it.” (Sanders, J. Oswald. *The Incomparable Christ*. Moody Press. Chicago, 1971, p. 57.)

¹⁴⁹ Matthew 13:55-56. Jesus grew up in Nazareth (Matthew 2:22-23; Luke 2:51-52), working as a carpenter alongside His legal father, Joseph (Mark 6:3). Jesus’ lowliness offended those who wanted a conquering hero, not a humble Servant.

¹⁵⁰ “Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph....” (Luke 3:23)

¹⁵¹ Jesus frequently referred to Himself as “*the Son of Man*,” a Messianic title meaning, “Son of Mankind/Humanity” (Greek: *Anthropos*). What a title! Whether we like it or not, we are all “sons (kin) of mankind.” But in the case of the exalted Son of God, He *chose* to become *the Son of Man* and identify Himself with the human race. Thus, this title emphasizes Jesus’ divinity as much as it does His humanity, since it points to God’s personal intervention in humanity. Read Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 8:20; Luke 5:24; 22:69-70; John 5:27; 13:31; Revelation 1:13-18; 14:14.

¹⁵² For example, this Old Testament verse Jesus quoted (in Luke 4:4) is from the Torah of Moses: Deuteronomy 8:3.

¹⁵³ Because of man’s sin, Satan had indeed become “*the ruler of this world*” and “*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.*” (John 12:31; Ephesians 2:2) The Son of God had come to restore man’s lost dominion due to sin, but He did not do it Satan’s way. He did it God’s way.

¹⁵⁴ Psalm 110 and Psalm 2; Matthew 21:41-46

¹⁵⁵ Qur'an 19:19; Contrast this with 48:2; 47:19

¹⁵⁶ Qur'an 19:19; 3:45-51; 5:110-112; 19:19

¹⁵⁷ Qur'an 4:171

¹⁵⁸ The ultimate sin in Islam is "*shirk*" (Arabic for *association*). *Shirk* is the sin of regarding anything or anyone as equal to God.

¹⁵⁹ Notice the titles ascribed to the promised Messiah:

Wonderful = A title used for God alone. It means "*Out of the ordinary.*"

Counselor = The Messiah would be the *Personification of Wisdom*.

Mighty God = *God Himself* would take on a human body.

Everlasting Father = He would be the *Possessor of Eternity*.

Prince of Peace = He would provide for all who trust in Him: *peace with God* (Romans 5:1), *peace with others* (Ephesians 2:14-18), *inner peace* (Philippians 4:7), and ultimately, *universal peace* (see chapter 29).

¹⁶⁰ The prophet David foretold the LORD's coming to earth in Person: "*Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of Me.*" (Psalm 40:7) Malachi prophesied that God would send a forerunner to prepare people for the arrival of "*the LORD.*" (Malachi 3:1)

¹⁶¹ Is it below God's majesty to come down to our level? Imagine you and your friend talking about two respected spiritual leaders, whom we'll call Omar and Aaron. Your friend says, "Aaron plays with toy cars, but Omar does not." As one who has great respect for Aaron, you respond, "Never! Far be it from Aaron that he should play with toy cars!" Initially such a reaction sounds reasonable and right. Then the story unfolds that both Omar and Aaron have young sons who love for their fathers to get down on the floor and join them in playing with their toys. Now what if we learned that Aaron was happy to spend time with his sons in this way, while Omar refused to do so because he thought it below his dignity? Who would be the better father, man and leader, Omar or Aaron? Similarly, when people say, "It is below the majesty of the Almighty that He should appear on earth as a man," their intentions may be good, but instead of magnifying God's majesty, they are marring it.

¹⁶² John 13 tells of Jesus washing His disciples' feet—the job of a servant! To read the Gospels is to meet the ultimate Servant: the Lord Himself.

¹⁶³ Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6

¹⁶⁴ Jesus the Messiah was declaring His *eternal* existence. If He had wanted only to say that He existed before Abraham, He would have said, "Before Abraham was, *I was,*" instead of "*Before Abraham was, I am.*" See chapter 9 about YHWH (Exodus 3:14).

¹⁶⁵ The word used for "worship" regarding those who worshiped Jesus is the same word used for those who worship God. (Compare Matthew 8:2 with Revelation 7:11. In both cases, "worshiped" is the Greek word *proskneo* meaning "to prostrate oneself in adoration, worship.")

¹⁶⁶ If you still cling to the unsubstantiated notion that the Scriptures of the Bible have been tampered with, reread chapter 3, which is entitled: “Corrupted or Preserved?”

¹⁶⁷ Lewis, C.S. *Mere Christianity*. NY: Macmillan-Collier, 1960, pp. 55-56.

¹⁶⁸ For a review on God’s complex oneness, reread chapter 9.

¹⁶⁹ Many stumble over another aspect of this story of Jesus and the rich young ruler. The man came running to Jesus and asked, “*Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*” (Matthew 19:16; Mark 10:17; Luke 10:25) To the crowd, the young man’s question seemed good, but not to the Lord. Jesus knew that this religious man had not yet grasped the foundational truths about God’s infinite holiness and man’s utter sinfulness. This self-righteous man imagined that he could earn his way into paradise; that he could somehow be good enough. He was like a child holding out a grimy fistful of copper coins to the world’s wealthiest man and asking him, “How many shall I give you that I may inherit your estate?” How did Jesus answer the man? He directed him back to the Torah and the Ten Commandments to show him that he could never, in his own strength, satisfy God’s standard of perfect righteousness. There is *no “eternal life”* for those who think they can merit it by doing some “good thing.”

¹⁷⁰ Jesus also said: “*Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ... I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ... He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? ... Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*” (John 14:1,6,9-11)

¹⁷¹ Isaiah 53:1; John 12:28; Luke 1:51; See also: Isaiah 40:10-11; 51:5; 52:10; 59:16; 63:5; Jeremiah 32:17.

¹⁷² While God empowered two prophets (Elijah and Elisha) to raise a dead person back to life, no prophet ever claimed to be *the Source of Life*. Jesus alone could say, “*I am the resurrection and the life.*”

¹⁷³ Before the Messiah came to earth, He was in heaven. He was there when Lucifer was cast out. Thus, Jesus said to His disciples: “*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*” (Luke 10:18)

CHAPTER 18: GOD’S ETERNAL PLAN

¹⁷⁴ Hebrews 11:6; Jeremiah 29:13; Isaiah 29:11; Matthew 11:25; 13:13-14; Luke 8:4-15; John 6. Many of God’s truths are revealed with a certain intentional indefiniteness—so that only those who search for His truth will find it. God will not force people to listen, understand, and believe.

Those who are *willing* will discover His truth. Those who are *willfully blind* will not.

¹⁷⁵ Did you notice that many prophecies were written in the past tense even though they were written hundreds of years before the event? God's plans cannot be thwarted. When the Creator says something will happen, it is as good as done. That is also why the Messiah is called "*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*" (Revelation 13:8)

¹⁷⁶ Read Psalm 2, written 1000 years before the Messiah's first coming to earth. Elsewhere in Scripture, the Messiah, at His second coming (described in chapter 29 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE), is likened to a massive stone falling from heaven. That "*stone*" will "*grind to powder*" all who have refused to submit to Him (Daniel 2:34-35; Matthew 21:33-44).

¹⁷⁷ For more words of Peter, read Acts chapters 2–5; Acts 10; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2:21-25; 3:18; etc. Also consider these words written by the apostle Paul: "***The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ...the weakness of God is stronger than men ...God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.***" (1 Corinthians 1:18,25,27)

CHAPTER 19: THE LAW OF THE SACRIFICE

¹⁷⁸ How did Abel know to do all this? God had told him. Hebrews 11:4 tells us that he brought the sacrifice "*by faith*"—faith in what God had commanded and promised. Later, the Scriptures would provide in written format God's detailed laws concerning the substitutionary sacrifice, which Abel had obediently presented long before. Genesis 4:4 states that Abel brought "*the firstborn*" (compare Exodus 13:12-13), a lamb "*of his flock*" (see Leviticus 5:6), and offered "*of their fat*" (see Leviticus 3:16). It is not stated that Abel offered his lamb on an altar, but it is likely he did so, just as the believers who came after him did. Genesis 8:20; 12:7; 13:4,18; 22:8-9; Exodus 20:24-26; Leviticus 17:11; etc.

¹⁷⁹ Daniel 6; Esther 3:8-15; 8:7-17

¹⁸⁰ Strong, James. *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. NY: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1948, p. 57. Compare Genesis 6:14 ("*cover*") with Leviticus 5:18 ("*atonement*"). The same Hebrew word *Kâphar* (atonement) is used in these verses.

¹⁸¹ Leviticus 5:7

¹⁸² More than 50 times the Scriptures declare that the sacrifice had to be "*without blemish.*" For example, "*If his offering is of the flocks—of the sheep or of the goats—as a burnt sacrifice, he shall bring a male without blemish.*" (Leviticus 1:10)

CHAPTER 20: A MOMENTOUS SACRIFICE

¹⁸³ *Eid al-Adha* is the most significant Islamic holiday of the year. It points back to the event when God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice in place of his son. According to widespread Muslim belief the son to be sacrificed was Ishmael, not Isaac—although the Qur’an itself never states that it was Ishmael, and the Bible clearly shows that it was Isaac. The sacrifice of Eid is carried out by Muslims worldwide. It is also performed as a final ritual in the pilgrimage (*Hajj*) to Mecca. Pilgrims complete the Hajj by shedding the blood of an animal (usually a sheep or a cow) after the morning Eid prayer. Most Muslims believe these rituals provide them with a kind of “new birth” and that if they perform them correctly their sins are washed away. However, Muslims also acknowledge that these rituals cannot provide assurance of salvation since they immediately begin to accumulate more sins after the Hajj and sacrifice of Eid. (For the biblical perspective, read Hebrews chapter 10 and John chapter 3.)

¹⁸⁴ At first, Abraham’s name was Abram. Due to space constraints, this part of the story is not explained in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE. See Genesis 17. For Abraham’s full story, read Genesis 11 to 25; also read Romans 4, Galatians 4, and Hebrews 11.

¹⁸⁵ Deuteronomy 7:6-7; 14:2

¹⁸⁶ Here are a few examples in which God used the nation of Israel to bless non-Jewish people: Joseph saved the lives of millions of Egyptians (Genesis 37–50). Naomi, a daughter of Abraham, was a blessing to two Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth (Book of Ruth in Old Testament). The prophet Elijah was a blessing to a Sidonian widow (1 Kings 17; Luke 4:26). Jonah, though reluctantly, delivered a message of salvation to the Ninevites (Jonah). King Solomon was a blessing to Queen Sheba of Arabia (1 Kings 10; Luke 11:31). Daniel blessed the Babylonians (Daniel 1–6). Esther and Mordecai brought blessing to the Persian Empire (Esther), etc.

¹⁸⁷ Genesis 12:2-3; 22:16-18; Hebrews 6:13-20; John 4:22; Acts 1–10, etc.

¹⁸⁸ *“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called, concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.’”* (Hebrews 11:17-19)

CHAPTER 21: MORE SHED BLOOD

¹⁸⁹ I started counting the “sacrifice stories” in the Old Testament, but stopped counting after reaching the 200th story! The four words: “blood,” “sacrifice,” “offering” and “altar” are found more than 1400 times in the Bible (NKJV).

¹⁹⁰ Genesis 15:13-14 “*Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them **four hundred years**. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; **afterward they shall come out with great possessions.**’*” The fulfillment of God’s promise is recorded in Exodus 1:1-12; 12:35-41. God is sovereign. His plans always happen.

¹⁹¹ Exodus 5-11

¹⁹² Some time earlier, from within the burning bush on Mount Sinai, God had promised Moses: “*I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.*” (Exodus 3:12)

¹⁹³ Exodus 13-17; “*He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it ran in the dry places like a river.*” (Psalm 105:41)

¹⁹⁴ Exodus 28:9-19; Later, when the Messiah was on earth, He said, “*I am **the door**. If anyone enters by Me, he will be **saved**.*” (John 10:9) Every element in the tabernacle pointed to His Person and work.

¹⁹⁵ “*And he shall **lay his hand** on the head of his offering, and **kill it** at the door of the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron’s sons, the priests, shall **sprinkle the blood all around on the altar**... and Aaron’s sons shall **burn it on the altar.**” (Leviticus 3:2,5)*

¹⁹⁶ The Tabernacle presented a kind of picture of the Savior who would come from heaven to earth. To those who really know that Savior, “*He is altogether lovely*” (Song of Solomon 5:16)—like the inside of the tabernacle. To those who don’t know Him, “*there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*” (Isaiah 53:2-3)—like the outside of the tabernacle.

¹⁹⁷ *Adam (Adamah)* is the Hebrew word for “man” and literally means “red earth,” because God formed Adam’s body from the earth’s soil.

¹⁹⁸ Numbers 3:23-39

¹⁹⁹ Leviticus 16; Today Jews call the Day of Atonement *Yom Kippur*, but the Day is devoid of its original meaning since they have no temple, no priesthood, and no sacrificial lamb. Ironically, one of the symbols of Judaism today is a wall (the Western Wall; a retaining wall built by Herod the Great to enlarge the Temple Mount area). Jews stand before it daily and pray for the Messiah—who has already come—to come! As foretold by the prophets, the Jewish nation is spiritually blind (Isaiah 6:10; 53:1; Jeremiah 5:21; Ezekiel 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6). One day their eyes will be opened to understand that Jesus (*Yeshua*) is the One who fulfilled the symbolisms of the temple, priesthood, and sacrifices (Hebrews 8–10; Ephesians 2). The wall of spiritual blindness will come down (Ephesians 2:14; Romans 9-11). See chapter 5 in this book, under subtitle: PROPHECIES ABOUT A PEOPLE. Also read the endnotes.

²⁰⁰ 2 Chronicles 3:1 compare with Genesis 22:2. It was on this same location that Muslims built the Dome of the Rock mosque in the 7th century.

²⁰¹ 2 Chronicles 7:5

CHAPTER 22: THE LAMB

²⁰² One of the LORD's titles in Scripture is *Immanuel*, meaning literally, "*With us (is) God.*" (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)

²⁰³ 2 Corinthians 5:1-4; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Peter 1:13-14; Ephesians 2:21

²⁰⁴ Isaiah 40:3-9; Malachi 3:1; Luke 1; John 1

²⁰⁵ Throughout the Bible, whenever a man was chosen by God to be a priest or king, an authorized person such as a prophet would anoint him with oil to show that he was selected by God for a specific task. God anointed His Son with the Holy Spirit Himself. In Scripture, oil is often used to symbolize the Holy Spirit. **Note:** Just as all three Persons of the Godhead were involved in the work of *creation*, so the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were also involved in the work of *redemption*.

²⁰⁶ "*The righteous will live by his faith.*" (Habakkuk 2:4) While the sacrifice Jesus came to offer would be sufficient to "*take away the sin of the world,*" it would only benefit those who believed that Jesus' sacrifice was for them. This truth can be illustrated by our "Way of Righteousness" radio programs in Senegal (www.twor.com; www.lesprophetes.com). On many broadcasts, listeners are offered a free copy of the Scriptures. All who write and ask for it, receive it free of charge. Is this offer valid for *all* the millions of people who tune in? *Yes.* Do *all* listeners write to us to request their free copy of the Scriptures? *No.* Most do not take advantage of the offer. Similarly, through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His Son, God has provided forgiveness and eternal life for all. However, only a small percentage of Adam's offspring accept God's offer. See Luke 14:15-24.

CHAPTER 23: FULFILLING SCRIPTURE

²⁰⁷ Isaiah 53; Psalm 22. See also Daniel 9:24-27, which outlines God's plan of the ages. Part of this total plan was: "*Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.*" (Daniel 9:26)

²⁰⁸ Matthew, chapters 21 to 25

²⁰⁹ Betrayed: See Psalm 41:9; Zechariah 11:12-13 and Matthew 26:14-16; 27:3-10.

²¹⁰ As the Jews were celebrating their yearly Passover feast, Jesus would become the final and perfect Passover Lamb, delivering believers from God's wrath against sin. "*For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*" (1 Corinthians 5:7)

²¹¹ The Gospel of John, chapters 13 to 17.

²¹² What Jesus said to those who came to arrest Him was simply, “*I AM.*” The phrase “*I am He*” is the way the English translators have rendered it, but the word “*He*” is not found in the Greek text. Jesus was declaring who He is: the Eternal Self-Existent “*I AM*” who came down from heaven. It is no surprise, therefore, that when Jesus answered, “*I AM,*” the religious leaders and soldiers backed away and fell to the ground.

²¹³ “*I was watching in the night visions, and behold, **One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven!***” (Daniel 7:13) **Note:** The tearing of one’s clothes was a customary way of showing extreme grief or anger. Interestingly, the law God gave to Moses stated, “*He who is the high priest among his brethren... shall not...tear his clothes.*” (Leviticus 21:10) By this act (Matthew 27:65; Mark 14:63), Caiaphas disqualified himself as high priest. The new eternal High Priest was Jesus Himself who had come to earth to offer up His own body as the sacrifice. He is the Only One who can truly reconcile sinful man to a holy God (Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-16; 7:26; 8:1; 9:11,25; 10:19-22).

²¹⁴ John 18:38; 19:4,6; John 19:15; Luke 23:21

CHAPTER 24: PAID IN FULL

²¹⁵ If you have not yet grasped chapters 8 and 9, and 16 and 17 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE, you may find this statement blasphemous. I have even heard some sarcastically say, “So while ‘God’ was in the virgin’s womb, and later on the cross, who was taking care of the universe?” This question reveals a defective view of the Scriptures and of the God who gave them. “*Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.’*” (Matthew 22:29) Since God has always existed as a complex tri-unity, being on earth and in heaven at the same time poses no problem. If the sun can be in outer space at the same time its sunlight and heat are with us on earth, why cannot the Creator of that sun be in heaven and on earth at the same time?

²¹⁶ *Calvary (kranion)* is the Greek name for the Hebrew *Golgotha*, meaning *the place of a skull* (Matthew 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17). This hill where Jesus was crucified, located outside old Jerusalem and rounded like a bare skull, is a part of the same mountain ridge where Abraham offered up the ram in place of his son.

²¹⁷ The historian Josephus reported that before the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, the Roman soldiers “caught every day five hundred Jews; nay, some days they caught more.... The soldiers, out of the wrath and hatred they bore the Jews, nailed those they caught, one after one way, and another after another, to the crosses, by way of jest; when their multitude was so great, that room was wanting for the crosses, and crosses wanting for the

bodies.” Josephus also wrote the victims “were first whipped, and then tormented with all sorts of tortures...” (Josephus, *Antiquities* 11:1, p. 563)

²¹⁸ The Jews calculated time beginning at 6:00 in the morning. “Now it was the third hour (6:00 + 3 hours = 9:00), and they crucified Him... Now when the sixth hour (12:00 noon) had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour (15:00).” (Mark 15:25,33)

²¹⁹ Genesis 8:20; 22:2-8; Exodus 29:18. The phrase “burnt offering” is found 169 times in the Old Testament. Jesus became the final burnt offering for sin. Mark 12:33; Hebrews 10:6-14. **Note:** To further understand why God turned away from the Lord Jesus as He hung on the cross, read Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. In the same Psalm where David predicted that the Messiah would say, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Psalm 22:1), David tells us why God turned away from His Son. “**You are holy!**” (Psalms 22:3) God turned away from Jesus, because God is perfectly holy and “cannot look on wickedness.” (Habakkuk 1:13). During those hours of darkness, the sinless Son of Man was suffering in the place of the wicked as God lashed out against Him as though He were the sinner. Jesus, the holy Lamb of God, became the Sin-Bearer (without becoming a sinner). The song-writer expressed it well: “‘Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies! Who can explore His strange design?” (*Amazing Love*, Charles Wesley, 1707–1788)

²²⁰ Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. 1883, p. 614.

²²¹ Read Hebrews 9 and 10. **Note:** As stated in chapter 22 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE, the glory of God which once dwelt in the Holiest Place of the tabernacle and temple was no longer behind the veil. It was *in Jesus*.

²²² John 19:31-37; Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20; Zechariah 12:10;13:6

CHAPTER 25: DEATH DEFEATED

²²³ Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; 1 Corinthians 15. **Note:** Many who set out to disprove Jesus’ resurrection have ended up writing books proclaiming the overwhelming evidence that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. For example: Morrison, Frank. *Who moved the Stone?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1987; McDowell, Josh. *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1993; Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.

²²⁴ Not only had Jesus said that He would “**be raised the third day,**” (Matthew 16:21) but He also said, “**As Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**” (Matthew 12:40). Many understandably argue that if Jesus was put in the tomb on Friday night

and was in the tomb only until Sunday morning, that is not three full days. However, the period during which Jesus was to lie in the grave is expressed in round numbers, according to the Jewish way of speaking, which was to regard any part of a day, however small, as a full day (e.g., Matthew 27:63-64; Genesis 42:17-18; 1 Samuel 30:12-13; Esther 4:16-5:1). Here is another point: The Scripture does not state that Jesus was crucified on Friday. While many are quick to shout, "Contradiction!" there are many good explanations to resolve such apparent "contradictions" in the Bible.

²²⁵ Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16

²²⁶ Acts 5:41 "...rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name." Peter imprisoned and beaten: Acts 5; see also Acts 12. Jesus predicted Peter's death as a martyr: John 21:18-19.

²²⁷ Some quote what Jesus told a Gentile woman, "*I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*" (Matthew 15:24), but they don't tell you that Jesus proceeded to heal her daughter! (For more examples of Jesus' ministry and compassion to non-Jews, see Matthew 12:41-42; 21:33-43; Luke 9:51-55; 10:30-36; 17:11-19; John 4; 1 John 2:1-2; Luke 24:45-48.)

²²⁸ Psalm 68:18; 110:1; Psalm 24

²²⁹ Jesus "**sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**" because "*He had by Himself purged our sins.*" (Hebrews 1:3) "*Every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God....*" (Hebrews 10:11-12) See also Hebrews 8:1; 12:2; Revelation 3:21.

CHAPTER 26: RELIGIOUS AND FAR FROM GOD

²³⁰ James 2:18; Matthew 5:13-16; Hebrews 11

²³¹ While God grants governments the right to defend their people, and assigns them the responsibility to use the "sword" as "*God's minister; an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil*" (Romans 13:1-4; Genesis 9:6), the use of violence to spread God's truth is in absolute opposition to the example and teaching of Jesus, who said, "*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'* But I say to you, **love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others?" (Matthew 5:43-47)**

Contrastively, the Qur'an says: "*Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Apostle, nor acknowledge the Religion of Truth, even if they are of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya [a special tax for non-Muslims] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.*" (Qur'an, sura 9:29)

²³² "*This is the message you heard from the beginning: **We should love one another.** Do not be like **Cain**, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. **And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.**" (1 John 3:11-12 NIV) Two driving forces that inspired Cain to kill Abel were the devil and envy (Compare Matthew 27:18).*

²³³ How to meet the skeptic's classic challenge: "Where did Cain get his wife?" Genesis 5 provides the answer. Adam and Eve had other "*sons and daughters.*" (Genesis 5:4) Evidently, Cain married one of his sisters—which would not yet have produced any harmful effects genetically. Later, God would forbid such intermarriage. And what happened to Abel after he was killed? Abel's body returned to dust, but his soul and spirit went to Paradise, since God had forgiven him of his sins and declared him righteous on the basis of his faith. Hebrews 11:4

²³⁴ Moses and other prophets describe the universal flood and geological upheavals of Noah's day: Genesis 7–8; Psalm 104:6-8; Job 22:16; Matthew 24:37-39; 2 Peter 2:5-6.

CHAPTER 27: STAGE 1: GOD'S PAST PROGRAM

²³⁵ In one way or another, every section of the Bible relates to one of three themes:

- I. What God has done
- II. What God is doing
- III. What God will yet do

In theological terms, these three themes of Scripture are classified as:

- 1) *Justification* = When you believe the Gospel, God declares you perfectly righteous in your **position**. (Romans 3–5)
- 2) *Sanctification* = As a believer, God is at work in your life to help you live righteously in your **practice**. (Romans 6–8 and 12–15)
- 3) *Glorification* = In heaven, you will be **perfectly righteous** in both your position and practice. (Revelation 21–22)

²³⁶ Richardson, Don. *Lords of the Earth*. Oxnard, CA: Regal Books; 1977, pp. 354. (For another classic cannibal-conversion story by Don Richardson read: *Peace Child*. Oxnard, CA: Regal Books, 1975.)

²³⁷ Acts 26:9-11; 7:58-60; 8:1-3; 9:1-2

²³⁸ Acts 9:1-31; also Acts, chapters 11; 13-14; 16-28. In Acts, chapters 22 and 26, Paul tells his conversion story. See also Galatians 1:13,23; Philippians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 15:9; etc.

²³⁹ A “saint” in biblical terms is one who is *set apart* for God; one who has been *declared holy* by God through faith in His way of forgiveness and righteousness. The man-made tradition of “canonizing” certain deceased people and thereby making them “saints” is completely contrary to what the Bible teaches (see Deuteronomy 33:2-3; Psalm 30:4; Proverbs 2:8; Daniel 7:21-27; Matthew 27:52; Acts 26:10; Ephesians 1:1, 2:19, etc.).

CHAPTER 28: STAGE 2: GOD’S PRESENT PROGRAM

²⁴⁰ What most do not realize is that they are siding with the enemy when they use such methods for protection. Deuteronomy 18:10-14; Isaiah 47:13; Acts 19:19; Galatians 5:19-21

²⁴¹ 1 John 2:1; John 14–16

²⁴² In chapter 1, we quoted an e-mail from Ahmed in which he wrote: “...there are predictions in your Bible, the original one, and in the Old Testament as well, to the coming of Muhammad (pbuh), even now...” One of the key passages to which Ahmed was referring is John 14 to 16.

²⁴³ Pentecost means *fiftieth*. It was an Old Testament celebration in which the Israelites thanked God for His blessings (Leviticus 23:16). From the beginning, God planned to send down the ultimate blessing on this day: His Holy Spirit.

²⁴⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:21; 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7-9; 22:17; John 3:29

²⁴⁵ 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1-2; Romans 6–8

²⁴⁶ The moment you repent of your wrong thinking and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for your sins and rose again, you are “*baptized into Christ*” (Romans 6:3), not with water (that happens later), but by the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-5; Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13). “*Baptized into*” means “united with, identified with.” When you believe, you become a part of God’s own family—made up of all who “*have been united together*” with His sinless Son (Romans 6:5). Your new, eternal position is “*in Christ*.”

²⁴⁷ Acts 24:15; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:6, 11-15; Revelation 22:12

²⁴⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:10. The Scripture speaks of no fewer than five special crowns (trophies/awards) believers can receive: 1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Peter 5:4; James 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:8. These crowns will not be for our own glory, but for His (Revelation 4:10). The Lord will not forget any good work that His redeemed people have done in His name and for His glory (Matthew 10:41-42; Hebrews 6:10).

²⁴⁹ Sheikh, Bilquis. *I Dared to Call Him Father*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1978; p. 53.

²⁵⁰ 1 John 2:27; John 4:14; 14:26; 16:13; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Ephesians 4:21

²⁵¹ There is a critical difference between mechanically reciting a prayer and truly connecting with God and receiving God's answers to our prayers. Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 6:18; 1 John 5:14-15; John 14:13-14; 15:7; Philippians 4:6-9

²⁵² Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4

²⁵³ 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6; 3:20-21

CHAPTER 29: STAGE 3: GOD'S FUTURE PROGRAM

²⁵⁴ A few pages from now we will read several verses from the Old Testament in which the prophets foretell the Messiah's second coming to earth and describe the events that will accompany His return. Some of the passages we will consider are Zechariah, chapter 14, Daniel 7:13-14, Psalm 72, and Isaiah 9:6-7.

²⁵⁵ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

²⁵⁶ See chapter 28, under subtitle: TWO JUDGMENT DAYS.

²⁵⁷ Read Ephesians 5:27 and surrounding verses. This astounding theme is touched on in chapter 10 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE. The Scriptures consistently picture the Lord as the "*Bridegroom*" and His people as His "*Bride*." Marriage, in its ideal form, was designed to give us a faint idea of the close, spiritual relationship the Lord God plans to enjoy with His people throughout eternity (Isaiah 54:5; 62:5; Psalm 45; Song of Solomon; Hosea 2:16,19,20; Matthew 9:15; 25:1-13; John 3:29; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 21:2,9; 22:17).

²⁵⁸ Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14; The most complete description of the Tribulation is found in Revelation, chapters 6 to 19.

²⁵⁹ Romans 11:26-27. **Note:** This event is prefigured in the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-45. Amazing parallels!

²⁶⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:45-47; Romans 5:12-21. Terms such as "*First Adam*" and "*Last Adam*" are also mentioned in chapter 16 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE. Just as Adam's sin caused all men to die, so Jesus' righteousness and shed blood restores eternal life to all who believe.

²⁶¹ 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 19:6-14; Jude 14; Zechariah 14:5

²⁶² Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29; Revelation 5:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; John 3:17-18; 12:47; Daniel 9:24-27; Compare Isaiah 53 with Zechariah 14. Also consider the contrasts between "*suffering*" and "*glory*" in these passages: Luke 24:25-26; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Hebrews 2:9; Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 22; etc.

²⁶³ Psalm 72 is titled: “*A Psalm of Solomon.*” It appears that Solomon wrote this Psalm, although it concludes with this statement: “*The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.*” (Psalms 72:20) This verse signals the end of the second of the five-book division found in the Psalms. David was the primary writer of the second section of the Psalms.

²⁶⁴ Who will be forever condemned? “*The cowardly [and the] unbelieving,*” that is, those who never believed God’s message because they were afraid of what their family and friends might say or do. When Jesus was on earth, He warned His listeners plainly, “*Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ... Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*” (Matthew 10:28,34-37)

CHAPTER 30: A PREVIEW OF PARADISE

²⁶⁵ Matthew 13:24-30. This parable of Jesus declares that the mix of good and evil will only be around for a limited time.

²⁶⁶ The remainder of the first chapter of Revelation provides an awe-inspiring description of the Lord Jesus—a stunningly different portrayal of Him than seen in most books, movies, and religions.

²⁶⁷ Mark 3:14-19; John 19:26-27; John penned the following books of the Bible: *the Gospel of John; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John* and *The Revelation*.

²⁶⁸ The Jasper stone comes in many colors. The Carnelian stone is generally of a translucent red color. Its color is deepened and enhanced when exposed to light.

²⁶⁹ Look who is on the throne. Compare Isaiah 6 (Isaiah’s vision, also presented in chapter 15 of ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE) with John 12:36-41.

²⁷⁰ Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 1. (For more on God’s promises to Abraham, review chapter 20 in ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE.)

²⁷¹ For example, the classic fairy tale of Cinderella, first told in China, also comes in versions for Europe, America, Persia, Iraq, Egypt, Korea, India, etc. Each country has its version, but the themes are similar. A longing for redemption and eternal life is embedded in the hearts of people worldwide. Solomon wrote: “[*God*] *has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV)