

# DEFENDING The FAITH

*“Prepared to give an answer...” I Peter 3:15*



**Home School Family Retreat**  
**Camp Sankanac**  
**April 29 – May 2, 2008**

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# HOME SCHOOL RETREAT

## ***DEFENDING THE FAITH***

***“Prepared to give an answer...” I Peter 3:15***



	<b>TUESDAY</b> <i>April 29</i>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <i>April 30</i>	<b>THURSDAY</b> <i>May 1</i>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <i>May 2</i>
8		<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>BREAKFAST</b> <small>8:50 Group Picture</small>	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
9 Adult		Answering <b>ISLAM</b>	Answering <b>HINDU (New Age)</b>	Answering <b>JUDAISM</b>
9 * Child		How do we know God exists?	How do we know the Bible is true?	How do we know Jesus is God?
10	<b>ARRIVE</b> Unpack & Set Up Cabins	Free Time (Basketball clinic)	Free Time (Basketball clinic)	Free Time (Basketball clinic)
11	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
12	<b>LUNCH</b> Picnic lunch	<b>LUNCH</b> International Leftovers	<b>LUNCH</b> Sandwiches	<b>LUNCH</b> Leftovers
1	<b>Unpack</b> Settle In, Free Time	<b>WOMEN'S SESSION</b> Training children so they don't leave the faith when grown.	<b>MEN'S SESSION</b> Training children so they don't leave the faith when grown.	<b>Clean Up, Pack Up</b>
2	<b>Answering Other Belief Systems</b>	<b>WOMEN'S PRAYER TIME</b>  Free Time	<b>MEN'S PRAYER TIME</b>  Free Time	
3	Free Time (Basketball clinic)	Free Time (Basketball clinic)	Free Time (Basketball clinic)	
4	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	
5:30	<b>SUPPER</b> International food	<b>SUPPER</b> Hot Dog Roast	<b>SUPPER</b> Pizza & Salad	
6	Free Time	Campfire Roast Marshmallows	Free Time	<b>FREE TIME ACTIVITIES:</b> Canoe, row boat, fish, hike, rest/nap, sports, nature walk/study, basketball, game room, soccer, talk with others, play piano, scavenger hunt, read, draw, whatever you bring or want to do, with whoever
7	Free Time Campfire Sing-along	<b>ICE CREAM SOCIAL</b>	<b>CAMPFIRE</b> 6:30 'Talent' Show	
8	Free Time <b>8:00 Teen Session</b> Answering <b>WICCA</b>	Free Time <b>8:00 Teen Session</b> Answering <b>ZEN, REINCARNATION</b>	Free Time <b>8:00 Teen Session</b> Answering <b>SCIENTOLOGY</b>	
9	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	
				<i>you want to do it. It's FREE time!</i>

\* Older children taught by teens who have attended World View + (younger children will study what we know)

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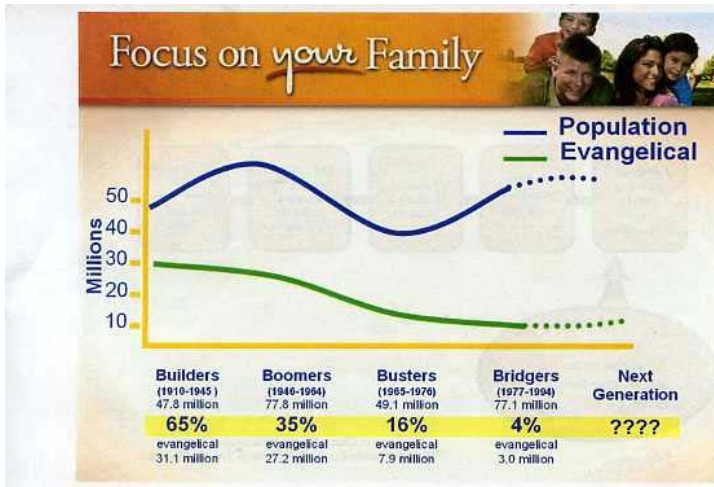
# Tuesday, 2 PM

## GENERAL SESSION

### ANSWERING OTHER BELIEF SYSTEMS

#### I. THE MANDATE GIVEN

##### OBSTACLES IN STANDING UP FOR OUR FAITH



*are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."*

**2. ARROGANCE** *But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

**3. IGNORANCE** *15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

**1 Peter 3:15-16** *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

## II. THE MANDATE CARRIED OUT

A CULT IS ANY RELIGIOUS GROUP THAT CLAIMS TO BE CHRISTIAN (OR MAY NOT BE) IS DISTINCT AND HAS DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES THAT CONTRADICT THOSE OF THE SCRIPTURES AS INTERPRETED BY ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY. THOSE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN UPHELD IN HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY.

### A. MARKS OF A CULT, FALSE RELIGION

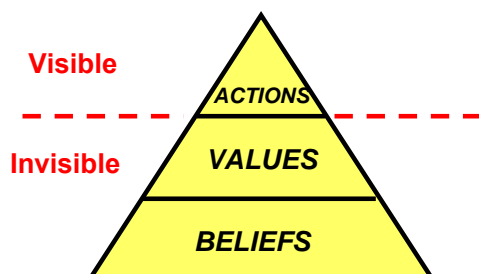
#### C.U.L.T. Distortions

#### 1. Christianity rejected.

#### BASICS OF WORLD VIEW

3 QUESTIONS on poster, flannel, sign to use, cardboard (lay on floor)

	<u>BIBLICAL WORLD VIEW</u>	<u>NONBIBLICAL WORLD VIEW</u>
1. <u>WHO AM I?</u>	CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE	RESULT OF CHANCE, ANIMAL
2. <u>WHAT'S MY PROBLEM?</u>	SIN	MAN OK SOCIETY NOT OK
3. <u>WHAT'S MY SOLUTION?</u>	REDEMPTION (JESUS)	CHANGE SOCIETY



**2. Use a new truth.**

**3. Look for salvation apart from Christ.**

**4. Teach another Jesus.**

## **B. WITNESSING TO A CULT, FALSE RELIGION**

### **I. BE PREPARED MENTALLY** (Jude 17-19)

*But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.*

*They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.*

### **II. BE PREPARED SPIRITUALLY** (Jude 20-21)

*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

### **III. BE PREPARED OFFENSIVELY** (Jude 22-23)

*Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-- hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*

# **Tuesday, 8 PM**

## **TEEN SESSION**

### **THE BIBLE AND WICCA**

The Bible is very clear about its condemnation of witchcraft and its various forms. Following is a partial list of passages from the Bible concerning witchcraft, seances, necromancy, and other such occultic practices.

#### **1. Divination and magic**

Lev. 19:26, *'You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor practice divination or soothsaying.'*

Isaiah 44:25, *"Causing the omens of boasters to fail, making fools out of diviners, causing wise men to draw back, and turning their knowledge into foolishness."*

Acts 8:9,18-22, *"Now there was a certain man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city, and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great . . . <sup>18</sup> Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." <sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup> "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you."*

Acts 13:6, *"And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus."*

#### **2. Mediums**

Lev. 19:31, *"Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God."*

Lev. 20:6, *'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.'*

Lev. 20:27, *'Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.'*

Isaiah 8:19, *"And when they say to you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter," should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? <sup>20</sup>To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn."*



### **3. Necromancy - contacting the dead**

1 Sam. 28 where Saul uses a medium to contact the dead.

### **4. Sorcery - attempting to influence people through occult means**

Exodus 22:18, *"You shall not allow a sorceress to live."*

Isaiah 47:12-14, *"Stand fast now in your spells and in your many sorceries with which you have labored from your youth; Perhaps you will be able to profit, perhaps you may cause trembling. <sup>13</sup> You are wearied with your many counsels; Let now the astrologers, those who prophesy by the stars, those who predict by the new moons, stand up and save you from what will come upon you. <sup>14</sup> "Behold, they have become like stubble, fire burns them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame; there will be no coal to warm by, nor a fire to sit before!"*

Rev. 19:21, *"and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts."*

Rev. 21:8, *"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

Rev. 22:15, *"Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying."*

### **5. Witchcraft**

Deut. 18:10-14, *"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, <sup>11</sup> or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. <sup>12</sup> "For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God will drive them out before you. <sup>13</sup> "You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. <sup>14</sup> "For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do so."*

2 Kings 21:6, *"And he made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord provoking Him to anger." (see also 2 Chron. 33:6)*

# **WICCA**

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## **FOUNDER**

Started by Celts of Western Europe and people on the British Isles in ancient times (Stonehenge)

## **NAME**

Wicca, or wikke, is an old Anglo-Saxon word that is the origin of two better-known English words, wicked and witch.

## **AUTHORITY**

Wicca believes you can do what you want as long as you don't hurt anyone else. There is no absolute authority (Bible not inspired). Similar to humanism and New Age today

## **VIEW of GOD**

The existence of a supreme divine power known as "The One," or "The All" The All" is not separate from the universe, but part of it. That from "The All" came the god and goddess. Male god or divine principle is a horned god, the god of the hunt. Female goddess or divine principle is the Moon Goddess, the maiden. Females are especially important since they bring forth new life (babies) This 'god' is manifested in various ways in the universe, including the deity indwelling each person alive. Nature is worshipped for it also is 'god.'

## **VIEW of the TRINITY, HOLY SPIRIT**

No such thing

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Not God any more than any of us are god

## **VIEW of SATAN**

No such thing, don't worship Satan

But the power they find and tap into is from Satan and demons even if they don't recognize it as such. Wicca is not Satanism – no blood sacrifices, orgies, etc.

Use white (good) magic, not black magic

## **VIEW of SIN**

No such thing as sin, no absolutes to break, nothing is 'wrong' unless it hurts another.

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

No need of salvation because nothing to be saved from. There are many ways to recognize god, so any religion can be a path to god.

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

They believe in reincarnation and karma, no heaven or hell.

# WITNESSING TO THOSE IN WICCA

Witnessing to those who are in Wicca can be a difficult undertaking. Wiccans are involved in the occult and such involvement brings a definite spiritual affect. There is a darkness that hides behind a veil of through which Wiccans step each time they practice their spells and incantations. The more they dwell in the darkness, the less they recognize the light. In fact, the brightness of truth often repels them. This is why Christians must be careful when dealing with Wiccans because in your endeavor to win them to Christ, you must overcome many hurdles as well as fight a spiritual battle. This is not easy to do.

**Pray** Wicca is deeply entrenched in occult practices. This means that Wiccans are unwittingly involved and in contact with demonic forces. Wiccans will dismiss this as nonsense, but the Christian needs to understand what he is up against. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you pray for the binding of any demonic activity, for the truth to be revealed, and that you would be both protected as well as used while you witness.

**Be respectful** Just because the Wiccan is deceived and involved in the occult, does not mean that he or she should be insulted, maligned, or injured. The truth is that every human is made in the image of God and by default deserves proper treatment. You should show respect to Wiccans, not based upon their theological perspective, not because they are lost, but because they're made in the image of God. Show them respect as you would any other human being.

**Learn what he/she believes in by asking questions.** There are different traditions within Wicca and what you learn from one may not necessarily agree in every aspect with another Wiccan. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you ask questions. There's nothing wrong with learning what it is that they do and why they believe what they believe.

**Don't call them cultists** This is equivalent to name-calling. It is one thing to write an article about cults and provide a list of various groups, but it is another thing to look some in the face you trying to witness to call them cultists. It puts up walls and breaks down communication.

**Don't call them Satanists** Calling a Wiccan a Satanist is also counterproductive. Since Wiccans did not acknowledge the existence of Satan all you will accomplish is irritating and alienating them.

**Wicca cannot be proven false** After dialoging with several Wiccans and reading countless pages from Wiccan authors concerning their various traditions, I have come to the conclusion that Wicca is not falsifiable. In other words, Wicca cannot be proven to be false -- or true. Falsifiability is an important part of evidence and even of belief. Let me explain.

Years ago in San Diego there was a UFO cult called Heaven's Gate. About 40 members simultaneously committed suicide. They believed that on the other side of the approaching Hale-Bopp comet was a UFO. The members of this cult believed

that if they were to die in a simultaneous manner coordinated with the arrival of that comet, their souls would be delivered from this earth plane by the aliens in that space ship. Now, how do you prove their belief false? Can you go to the other side of the comet and see if there's a UFO there or not? No, you can't. This means you cannot prove their belief system to be false because there is no method of verifying their theological position. This is very important because the implication is that their theology does not rest in reality.

It cannot be proven to be false because there is nothing in it that can be examined so as to demonstrate that it is true or false. But, Wiccans may say that it *can* be shown to be true because their spells and incantations bring results. But the problem with that explanation is that other reasons can be given to account for these so-called results. For example, the spell or incantation could be coincidental with the result. It could be that there are demonic forces behind these occult practices and these demonic forces bring the results so as to deceive the Wiccans. It could be that the Wiccans are misinterpreting what they see as results in a hopeful self-fulfilling type manner, etc. \o.

**Christianity is falsifiable** Christianity on the other hand is falsifiable. It can be proven to be false if, for example, the body of Christ was discovered and it was conclusively demonstrated that it was his body. The difference between Christianity and Wicca is that Christianity is based upon an actual person in history who performed many miraculous deeds in front of eyewitnesses, died, was buried, and rose from the dead. Christianity is based upon an event in history. Wicca, on the other hand, is not. It is based on subjective experiences and contact with powers that no one knows for sure what they are. Wiccans are definitely in contact with something and their theological system is arranged in such a way that its underlying theological premises cannot be verified or shown to be good or bad. And this, of course, is dangerous.

## Questions for Wiccans

1. Do the gods and goddesses of Wicca actually exist?
2. If they actually exist, how do you know they exist?
3. If your tradition contradicts the tradition of another Wiccan, can they both be objectively true?
4. How do you feel about believing in the religious system where you cater your religion to your desires?
5. If you cater/construct your religion according to our desires, then isn't it nothing more than your own invention?
6. Is Wicca able to be shown to be false or is it all non-verifiable ideas?
7. If your spells and incantations produce results, how do you know that the power behind the results is good or not?
8. How do you know that there is something more sinister behind Wicca?
9. Why do you think that rituals dealing with candles, knives, and such are able to affect nature?

**Wednesday, 8 AM**

**GENERAL SESSION**

# **ISLAM**



What does 'Islam' mean?

Where is Islam found?

How many Muslims are there?

Is Islam growing?

Does Islam vary?

What is the difference between Shit'ite Islam and Sunni Islam?

What are 'Black Muslims'?

Are all Muslims radicals?

Where do Muslims meet?

When did Islam begin, and who founded it?

How did Islam grow?

What do Muslims believe?

It sounds as though Islam is much like Christianity, is this true?

What is their holy book?

Where does Abraham fit in with Islam?

What do Muslims believe about God?

<b>GOD</b>	<b>ALLAH</b>
God is knowable	Allah is unknowable
God is personal	Allah is impersonal
God is a Spirit	Allah is not a spirit
God is one existing in three persons, not three gods, but one God	Allah is not a Father, nor Jesus the Son of God
God cannot go against His immutable nature e.g. God cannot lie.	Allah can do anything with no limitations
God is trustworthy	Allah is capricious
God loves man	Allah has no feelings towards man
God came incarnate to bring about man's salvation.	Allah doesn't personally enter human history.
God provided a Saviour through His manifold grace.	Allah provides no saviour or intercessor. You're on your own. No concept of grace.

What do Muslims believe about angels and demons?

What do Muslims believe about Jesus?

What do Muslims believe about the Holy Spirit?

What do Muslims believe about the Trinity?

What do Muslims believe about women?

What do they believe about heaven and hell?

What do they believe about sin and salvation?

What does it mean to 'do the will of Allah'?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

5.

Do Muslims have any guarantee of heaven?

Is Islam a 'peaceful' religion?

What is a Jihad?



Why do Muslims oppose the Jews?

Will the Muslims ever be able to destroy the Jews?

Why do the Muslims now hate the United States, too?

Does this mean that Islam might defeat Christianity?

Do Muslims understand what Christianity is all about?

How do Muslims view Christianity?

Is much being done to convert Muslims to Christianity?

How can we reach Muslims we know?

What lessons can we learn from the current crisis?

# **ISLAM**

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## **FOUNDER**

Mohammed (570-632) in Mecca, claimed Abraham was the founder, through Ishmael

## **NAME**

Islam (the religion) = in Arabic "escape danger by submission to Allah"

Muslim, Moslem (the people) = those who submit to Allah

Mohammeds = don't like being called this, say they worship Allah and not Mohammed

## **AUTHORITY**

GOD-INSPIRED BOOKS: 1. Torah (Pentateuch: Genesis through Deuteronomy)

2. Zabur (Psalms of David)

3. Injil (Gospel of Jesus)

4. KORAN - final word, supersedes & overrules all others

114 chapters, scrambled & confused, sayings of Mohammed gathered after death

Contains precepts & laws (religious & civil), admonitions to unbelievers, histories, etc.

Contradicts Bible: Jesus NOT God (Surah 4:171), not die on cross (Surah 4:157)

## **VIEW of GOD**

ALLAH (Only monotheistic religions are Judaism, Christianity and Islam)

God impersonal (to call Him "Father" is blasphemy), could not beget a Son!

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Believing in the Trinity is the unpardonable sin

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Good teacher only, one of the prophets, will return to preach Islam doctrine until world Muslim

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

No such thing

## **VIEW of SIN**

Work off own sin, no assurance of forgiveness

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Earn by keeping the 5 pillars: 1. Daily recite "There is one God, Allah, & Mohammed is His prophet."

2. Pray 5 times a day (dawn, midday, midafternoon, right after sunset, 2 hours after sunset)

3. Fasting during days of Ramadan (9th month) during daylight hrs; hear or read Koran once

4. Give 25% to poor and needs

5. Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

HEAVEN: oasis in the desert where served wonderful meals by wide-eyed virgins

HELL: burning desert where drink boiling water forever



## COMPARISON CHART: ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

BELIEF	ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
<b>God</b>	Only one god - called Allah	Only one God - a triune being called God or Yahweh
<b>Jesus</b>	A prophet who was virgin-born, but not the Son of God	Divine son of God who was virgin-born. He is God's Word and Savior to humanity
<b>Crucifixion</b>	Jesus was not crucified. Someone was substituted for Jesus and He hid until He could meet with the disciples	A fact of history that is necessary for the atonement of sin and the salvation of believers
<b>Jesus' Resurrection</b>	Since Muslims do not believe in the Crucifixion, there is no need to believe in the Resurrection	A fact of history that signifies God's victory over sin and death
<b>Trinity</b>	A blasphemy signifying belief in three gods. In Islam, the Trinity is mistakenly thought to be God, Jesus, and Mary	The one God is eternally revealed in three coequal and coeternal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
<b>Sin</b>	Sin is disobedience to the established law. Sin does not grieve Allah.	Sin is rebellion against God. Sin grieves God
<b>Man</b>	Man is created by Allah and is sinless	Man is created in God's image and is sinful by nature
<b>Salvation</b>	Salvation is achieved by submitting to the will of Allah. There is no assurance of salvation - it is granted by Allah's mercy alone	Salvation is a gift accepted by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ on the Cross and provided through God's grace
<b>Bible</b>	Muslims accept the Bible (especially the Pentateuch, Psalms, and Gospels) insofar as it agrees with the Qur'an	The Bible is the inspired Word of God that is complete and not to be added to
<b>Qur'an (Koran)</b>	A later revelation that supersedes and corrects errors in the Bible	Not accepted as divine revelation
<b>Muhammad</b>	The last in the line of prophets and, therefore, the final authority in spiritual matters	Not accepted as a prophet or legitimate theological source
<b>Angels</b>	These divine messengers are created from light and are not worshipped. Satan is a fallen angel	Angels are defined in the Bible as heavenly servants of God who act as His messengers
<b>Last Days</b>	There will be bodily resurrection and final judgment with final destination. All Muslims go to heaven, though some must be purged of their sins first. All infidels are destined for hell	There will be bodily resurrection in the last days. Final judgment and eternal destination (heaven or hell) will be decided based on acceptance of Jesus as Savior and His removal of the sin which separates each person from God

## About the religions themselves:

NAME OF THE RELIGION:	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
Meaning of the name:	Believer in Christ (a Greek word meaning Messiah).	Submission to the will of God.
Name of a believer:	Christian.	Muslim.
Date of founding:	circa 30 CE. 1	622 CE. 2
Name of founder(s):	Yeshua of Nazareth (aka Jesus Christ, (pbuh) 3 & Paul.	Most religious historians credit Muhammad (pbuh) as the founder. 3 However, Muslims generally regard Islam as dating back to the time of creation
% of world's population as followers:	33%.	20%.
Worldwide growth rate in numbers of members 4	2.3%/year.	2.9%/yr.
Growth rate: % of world's population:	About 0.0%. Numbers have been steady for decades.	Increase of about 0.6%/yr.
Estimated year when Islam will become the most popular world religion:	2023 CE (if above numbers are valid) to beyond 2200 CE (as estimated by some religious futurists)	
% of U.S. population as followers:	2001 ARIS study estimates 76%, declining about 0.8% a year.	2001 ARIS study estimates 0.5%; some Muslim groups estimate 6 million (2%).
Internal divisions:	Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant, and others.	Shi'ite, Sunni, Sufi. Sufi is a mystical tradition.

## Beliefs:

NAME OF THE RELIGION:	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
Concept of deity:	Most believe in the Trinity; three persons in one Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	God (Allah) is one and indivisible. They believe in a strict monotheism. "Allah" means God in Arabic.
Status of Yeshua of Nazareth (Jesus Christ):	Generally considered the Son of God, worshiped as God; part of the Trinity.	Very highly respected as the second-last prophet.
Birth of Yeshua:	Conservatives: virgin conception. Liberals: conventional birth.	Virgin conception.
Death of Yeshua:	Executed by Roman Army circa 30 CE.	Was not killed, crucified, or suffered death. Muslims believe that he ascended alive into heaven. 2
Yeshua's location	Ascended into Heaven	Ascended into Heaven

Identity of "another helper" or "comforter" (John 14:16)	Holy Spirit	Muhammad
Second coming of Jesus	Conservatives: expect in near future. Liberals: varied.	Anticipate the second coming in the future.
Status of Adam:	Disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.	Free from all major sins and faults. Some regard him as a prophet.
Holy book:	Bible.	Qur'an.
Original languages:	Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek.	Arabic.
Status of the holy book:	Conservatives: the inerrant Word of God. Liberals: a historical spiritual document.	God's word and final revelation, dictated by angel Gabriel.
Additional guidance:	Writings of the leaders of the early Church. For Roman Catholics: church tradition.	The Hadith -- sayings of Muhammad (pbuh).
Ethic of reciprocity (Golden rule):	"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matthew 7:12	"Not one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." Fourth Hadith of an-Nawawi 13
A baby's status at birth	Conservatives: A baby is born with a sin nature, separated from God. God needs to give him grace so that he may be saved.	All babies are born in a pure state of submission to Islam. However, as they mature they are often taught other beliefs.
Life after death:	Either Heaven or Hell. Catholics believe in Purgatory as a third state.	Heaven or Hell.
Basis of determining destination after death:	There is no consensus in Christianity. Different faith groups hold various diverse beliefs: trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior, good works, church sacraments, baptism, avoiding certain actions.	Once they reach puberty, his/her account of deeds is opened in Paradise. To attain paradise, at death, their good deeds (helping others, testifying to the truth of God, leading a virtuous life) must outweigh their evil deeds.
Confessing sins:	Roman Catholic: to a priest; Others: to God or Jesus	To Allah
Probably the most misunderstood term:	Immaculate Conception: Roman Catholics believe that the conception of the Virgin Mary, circa 20 BCE, was without sin. Many incorrectly relate it to Yeshua's conception.	Jihad: internal, personal struggle towards the attainment of a noble goal. Many incorrectly equate it to "holy war."

## Practices:

NAME OF THE RELIGION:	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
Current interpretation of the Holy Book:	Ranges from statements of the Pope in Roman Catholicism to resolutions at conventions among Protestants.	Learned scholars in various countries. There is no single spokesperson or authoritative group.
Name of worship center:	Church, cathedral.	Mosque.
Main worship:	Sunday; Saturday for some.	Friday.
Church and state:	Largely considered separate. Most Christian countries are democracies	Integrated. Most Muslim countries are dictatorships with restricted human rights.
Law	Generally restricted to legal matters.	Covers both moral and legal matters.
Legislation	Prerogative of the people	Prerogative of God
Main holy days:	Most Christians celebrate Christmas, Easter, and associated holy days.	New Years, Ashura, Mawlid, lunar month of Ramadan, Id al-Fitr, Id al-Adha.
Status of women:	Variable. Conservatives & liberals differ greatly.	Strongly affected by cultural traditions. Severely oppressed in some countries.
Marriages forbidden:	Inter-faith marriages, in the Eastern Orthodox church. Marriages between conservative Christians and others, within conservative Christianity.	A Muslim woman may not be married (or remained married) to a non-Muslim man.
Reaction to apostasy (leaving the faith due to religious conversion):	Prior to 1792, the end of the "burning times," execution was possible.	Traditionally, death to the apostate. Rarely practiced in the 21st century.
Historical treatment of Jewish people (Prior to World War 1):	Prolonged and widespread anti-Judaism, anti-semitism, oppression, and mass murder.	Additional taxation, but otherwise general tolerance.
Recent treatment of Jewish people:	Lessening of anti-semitism from historical levels, and gradual support of Israel, particularly since World War II.	Massive opposition and physical attacks since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 and the occupation of Palestine.
Relations with state of Israel since 1948	Widespread support for Israel among religious conservatives. Criticism among liberals. Abandonment of historical anti-semitism.	Widespread rejection of Israel. Discrimination, suicide bombing, etc. practiced.

# **Wednesday, 1 PM**

## **WOMEN'S SESSION**

### **DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLD VIEW IN YOUR CHILDREN**

*Deut 6:4Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. a 5Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

**How can you help your children grow in the faith?**



# Wednesday, 8 PM

## TEEN SESSION

### QUESTIONS I'D LIKE TO ASK BUDDHA



1. **If there is no personal God**, and if one can attain nirvana only as a result of the destruction of thirst (*tanha*) / desire, therefore the destruction of attachment, therefore the destruction of existence--from whence, do you suppose, did personality (or even the *sense* of personality) ever come? Exactly what is it, and where does it go when one ceases to exist?
2. **Without a personal God**, on what basis can there ever exist any human moral standard or ethic--and therefore, in what sense do you mean for us to understand the terms *noble* and *truth*, i.e. The Four Noble Truths, or the term *right* in the eight-fold path of right views, resolve, speech, conduct, occupation, efforts, awareness, and meditation?
3. **If your teaching**, which came on the scene in the sixth century B.C., alone represents truth and liberation--what provision was there for the millions who lived previous to the advent of your enlightenment and teaching? Why do you suppose that you, of all humankind, were the one to come on this insight when you did?
4. **If, as you are reported to have said**, *nirvana* is "beyond...good and evil", then, in the ultimate sense, there is really no difference between Hitler and Mother Theresa, or between helping an old lady across the street and running her down--correct?
5. **Thich Nhat Hanh, bodhisattva (holy man) and author of Living Buddha**, Living Christ © 1995 by Riverhead Books, attempts to homogenize Buddhism and Christianity. Though you never knew of Jesus Christ, it would seem that you too might suggest that one could conceivably be a "Christian Buddhist". Yet how could that ever be possible given Christianity's categorical differences with Buddhism on matters like the nature of sin, reincarnation, and salvation--to name just a few. Jesus claimed to be the Truth. The Christian Scripture says that "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12
6. **How do you feel about the many variations** of your teaching that have evolved down through the years? Please comment on Theravada (38%), Mahayana (56%), Tantrism or Vajranaya, Tibetan (6%; Dalai Lama), and Zen Buddhism?
7. **Chuck Stanford says**: "Like cloudy water, our minds are basically pure and clear, but sometimes they become cloudy from the storms of discursive thoughts. Just like water, if we let our minds sit undisturbed the mud and muck will eventually settle to the bottom. Once this happens we can begin to get in touch with our basic goodness. It is through this basic goodness that the Buddha discovered that we can lead sane lives." But, Mr. Gautama, what if you are wrong about our being basically good? The Bible says that we're conceived in sin. *What if there is a personal God to whom we will all one day answer?* What if your enlightenment (awakening) was really only a dream?
8. **How do we reconcile the Dalai Lama's** observation that "Every human being has the potential to create happiness", with your own teaching that suffering is caused by desire? If one sets out to resist desire, why would one ever then entertain the desire for happiness, and thus work to create it?

# ***BUDDHISM***

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## **FOUNDER**

SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA, 600 BC (time of Ezekiel)

Hindu, left rich family & son for monastery, very humble & religious, concerned for humanity

Protest against rigid life & caste system of Hinduism

Strong in Ceylon, Thailand, Tibet, India, China & Japan

## **NAME**

Siddhartha Gautama called BUDDHA ("enlightened one") because of quest for and finding of Nirvana

## **AUTHORITY**

Buddhism: clear, firm rules (Hinduism: hard, vague teaching)

VEDAS (Hindu book) no help in finding way of salvation

TRIPATAKA ("Three Branches of Wisdom") is its holy book (sermons, rules for priests, doctrines)

Some written by Buddha, others by later writers

## **VIEW of GOD**

No personal god, but deify Buddha (he never claimed to be God, just searching for God)

After death followers said he was God manifested in the flesh (as we say of Jesus)

Panthiestic (god in all nature); Polythiestic - many gods (one for every person)

Atheistic - deny existence of creator or any being superior to man and the world (god limited to nature)

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Own version of the Trinity:

BUDDHA: god overall

VISHNU: god, revealed self 10 times (giant turtle, Guatama Buddha, Rama, Krishna, etc.)

SHIVA: same as Caananite god of fertility

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Good teacher, less important than Buddha (not God in any way)

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Disbelieve

## **VIEW of SIN**

Anything which hinders man's progress - up to man to overcome sin

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

NOT from sin (no forgiveness, redemption, etc.)

Live life of self-denial to rid self of suffering (life = suffering)

Suffering comes from selfish desiring, eliminate suffering by eliminating cravings, thus self-denial

Karma - escape cycles of endless reincarnation, absorption into passionless, painless & impersonal state of existence - Nirvana

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

No hell or heaven - search is for Nirvana (painless, passionless, impersonal state of existence)

Buddha: "I never tried to solve the question of eternity. My message is to show man the way of escaping the suffering of life, not to describe what he would find once he had been liberated."



# *Reincarnation*

## *What is reincarnation?*

Reincarnation, the teaching that a soul moves from body to body in a birth-death-rebirth cycle, is a development of the Hindu-Buddhist teaching of soul transmigration. Transmigration includes the possibility that a soul can be born into the body of an animal. The status of the body is born into, ranging from the house fly to a well-to-do person, is an indication of the quality of life that soul lived in its previous body. A good life brings rebirth into a higher form; a bad life brings rebirth into a lower form. This upward and downward graduation fulfills the Law of **Karma**, a central tenet of Hinduism. Karma teaches that good deeds are rewarded and bad deeds are punished. Hinduism's goal is for the soul to break out of the Karma cycle and become one with the universe.

## *What is its appeal?*

The most obvious appeal that reincarnation holds for Westerners is its **promise that life goes on and we get as many chances to get it right** as we need. Reincarnation goes hand in hand with **pantheism**, the belief that everything is God and God is everything, including each human. The doctrines of pantheism and reincarnation are the cornerstones of Hinduism and occultism, which have grown popular in the Western world.

On the surface, the doctrine of reincarnation sounds appealing. It seems an honest attempt to answer the problem of "God's relationship to evil." (How could a good God allow innocent people to suffer?) When I am suffering, reincarnation does a good job of answering my questions: "Why?" or "Why me?"

## *What is the evidence for reincarnation?*

The most common defense for reincarnation is the phenomenon of "past-life recall" - the ability to remember details of apparent previous lives. It can be achieved through hypnosis and spontaneous or intuitive recall, which sometimes is called *deja'vu*.

But this could be due to forgotten childhood experiences brought out by hypnosis or by demons supplying the thoughts within the person's mind.



## **What does the Bible say about reincarnation?**

We only die once.

***And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, (Hebrews 9:27)***

There is no second chance, only one chance

***If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. (Matthew 18:8)***

***"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)\***

***"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (Matthew 25:46)***

The dead do not return to the land of the living.

***"When a cloud vanishes, it is gone, So he who goes down to Sheol does not come up. "He will not return again to his house, Nor will his place know him anymore. (Job 7:9-10)***

***While still growing and uncut, they wither more quickly than grass. Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless. (Job 8:12-13)***

***Before I go-- and I shall not return-- To the land of darkness and deep shadow; (Job 10:21)***

***But man dies and is laid low; he breathes his last and is no more. As water disappears from the sea or a riverbed becomes parched and dry, so man lies down and does not rise; till the heavens are no more, men will not awake or be roused from their sleep. (Job 14:10-12)***

***"For when a few years are past, I shall go the way of no return. (Job 16:22)***

## **Why is reincarnation not true?**

### **I. Reincarnation is Unworkable**

The goal of reincarnation is to work off all **bad** karma until the "sound of silence" (the primordial state of the universe) returns once more. But there is a problem here. To believe that souls are working off their bad karma and gathering good karma, assumes that people are **learning** and **improving**. Things are getting **better** and each succeeding life is more **enriched**. By every rotation of the wheel, souls are getting closer to Nirvana. That is **false**.

## 2. Reincarnation is Illogical

In reincarnation there are **no** answers. And **where** is the proof? The explanations that it offers us are totally lacking. The brain just cannot logically accept some of the things it teaches. For example, reincarnationists teach:

\*That the world's population is basically stable. One Hindu writer said, "As one dies, another is born to take his place."

\*Even when war or natural disaster reduces the population in one place, other places are experiencing prosperity and population growth. Thus overall, the world's population remains stable.

\*There will, therefore, always be just enough souls to be reborn into all infant bodies, for there is a corresponding number of deaths and births.

\*The human soul is not created but is eternal. Thus no new souls are being created to enter the cycle of rebirths.

\*When a soul is sufficiently purified, it is absorbed back into "being" (out of our world into Nirvana).

The problems in such teaching are obvious: First, if no new souls are being created, yet the number of old souls are being absorbed back into "being," it should follow that the world population is **decreasing**. This is **not** true. Instead there are more people alive in this present generation than in any previous one.

## III. Reincarnation is Unjust

Adolf Hitler ordered the deaths of at least six million Jews in his lifetime. It could be said that he was responsible for the death of 60 million people all over the world; not to mention the evil he inflicted on those who survived. When he died in 1945, can you imagine the karma built up against him? Perhaps he has 60 million reincarnations of suffering to go through before getting back to where he was before he killed the Jews or started World War II.

Let's assume that in 1960 (after a few short lives as a bug, a snake, three mice and a dog) Hitler is reincarnated as a crippled baby girl in New York City named Ruth Jones. Ruth has no idea that she is really Adolf Hitler reincarnated or that she is suffering for the crimes of the Nazi Fuhrer. It is at this point that karma justice breaks down completely. Hitler is gone, and his personality actually ceased to exist in 1945. Little Ruth now bears the massive burden of Hitler's karmic debt. She did **nothing** wrong, but karma strikes here anyway!

And little Ruth is only the **first** in a series of 60 million miserable lives spawned by the evil of Hitler. Ruth has to die in distress to let the next body pay for more karma. Now Hitler has affected the lives -- not just of 60 million who died in the war, but 60 million reincarnated people who are paying for the past deeds of their predecessors.

We are up to 120 million people now, and that is not even considering the sins committed by these 120 million that they must pay for later. And where is Hitler in all this? He hasn't paid for anything. Do you begin to see the **injustice**?

Reincarnation says that, in life, each of us is responsible for our own actions. Yet we are not. In death, the personality is extinguished, and a new personality comes back into the world to pay the burden or karma. The **new** personality knows nothing, but has to **pay** for everything. This is unjust.

Here is Ruth -- the poor child born with a horrible defect that will limit or shorten her life. Let's go into her room. We walk over to the bed where she lies. We look at her and then at her mother suffering along with Ruth. We offer a good word of comfort: "This child is working off Hitler's karma." Ruth has no chance because she cannot do any good or evil. Ruth dies without knowing what she did or how to improve. This is totally unjust.

#### IV. Grace Destroys Reincarnation

If he agrees that Jesus is truly the Christ -- the anointed one sent by God, then finally, reincarnation for him is finished. Why? Because Jesus died to save him and make him **perfect** before God. He has gone his **last** round on the wheel of life, and he has been perfected! He has no more work to do. If he is perfected by the blood of Jesus, never again will he be reincarnated for there is no **need**. He can go from this life into eternal rest.

#### V. Reincarnation Destroys Grace

Those of us who have been saved by this wonderful grace of God, are taught immediately to show that same grace (undeserved kindness) to others around us. By doing so, we make this world a better place in which to live by showering our path with sweetness and goodness. If there is one who is suffering, we must comfort and help him.

But in the view of reincarnationists, such kindness should **not** be practiced. The people who are suffering in this world are "working out their karma." Whatever suffering they experience in this life is due to the evil of a past life. They **deserve** their fate. This is based on the Hindu concept of *Dharma* which may be roughly translated, "the inevitability of what must be," or "doing what is set before you."

So what about being kind and helping that poor, suffering soul? Why not feed that hungry man? Why not clothe the naked or heal the sick? Because it is wrong to **disturb** the process of karma. That poor fellow has to pay for his evil some day, so let him suffer in silence now. Helping him is not wise. In fact, interrupting his karma could be a sin that you yourself will pay for in a next life.

#### VI. Reincarnation is not Vital

A Christian was studying with a Hindu a few years ago in Guyana. As they discussed the two religions, the Christian asked, "What difference does your religion make?" "What do you mean?" asked the Hindu. "Well," answered the Christian, "if your religion had never existed, how different would the world be? If you discovered today that your religion had totally disappeared -- that you and no one else believed it any more; what difference would it make?" The Hindu thought for a while and then admitted, "It wouldn't make a bit of difference." If there is nothing

"out there" beyond the grave except another reincarnation, all the rotations of all the souls in all the history of the world do not matter one whit. The earth is no better, no soul is saved, and no good is done.

## **VII. Reincarnation is Not Pleasing**

People who choose to believe in reincarnation usually do so because they don't like the concept of a hell for the wicked. They would much rather think of going through another life, and making good their old mistakes. A person would much rather meet himself than his Maker on the other side of death. But in choosing reincarnation, people never stop to think what a lifeless and sterile thing it is, both in life and in death.

### **What damage does reincarnation bring?**

Disappointment is facing millions of devotees of reincarnation. If one plans on re-living hundreds of lives, but dies to find that there is no reincarnation, his life is **wasted** and his soul is **doomed**. If we plan for 50,000 lives in reincarnation, but discover at death that our journey is over, what a **shock** that will be! What a **deadly** mistake!

### **What can I say to someone who believes in reincarnation?**

It is good to use two main principles of sharing when talking with someone who believes in reincarnation.

#### **1. Ask questions to sow doubt**

2. Communicate and bring any clear examples and illustrations that will help develop the subject you are talking about. Some will try and get away with one line answers - follow the issue up.

3. Share the truth in a way that will be understood

The type of questions you can ask, to make the reincarnationist think are:

**If everyone is a reincarnation from a previous life why is the world population increasing and not decreasing?** A secondary question which might come out of this is; **If there are new souls and not reincarnated ones, where do they come from?** And of course very importantly; **Where did the first person come from - he or she could not have been reincarnated.**

**The vast majority of people have no pre-life recall. How then can they break out of the karmic circle when at first they don't know what evil they have done and therefore they don't know what they should alter in their lives.**

Some might say to this question that we are purposely separated from our past lives as it is the new life that matters. Develop it further by asking; **Who decided that the past would be erased from our memory and who has the power to do it?** Further if there is a 'person' able to do that, a simple law of fate could not, ask them; **Why doesn't this powerful 'person' help us by showing what is the right way and enabling us to get there instead of leaving us to thrash around by ourselves to find the best way?**

**Since each soul should be progressively purified of evil through their many reincarnations why isn't the world becoming a better place to live in?** If they answer that the world isn't really getting better but everyone is having a chance to get better, then point out; **The world is made up of individuals and if**

**the world is not getting better, neither are the individuals and so many lives are not leading to a balanced karma.**

**Why is there so much human misery in Eastern countries where karma and reincarnation have been accepted for years?** This question certainly has to be asked with tact and not hateful of the Eastern lifestyle, but help them to see that reincarnation has not produced a better world.

**The Bible and its teachings have been shown to be true through archaeology, geology and many other sciences. Where is there any scientific proof for reincarnation?** Do be ready to bring some simple examples to prove the point you are making.

In witnessing do not look for the opportunity to destroy the person but build a loving relationship and not a condemnatory hatred. Share the reality of the personal relationship that you have with God. Do not use 'evangelical jargon' but instead give a simple to understand presentation of the truth.

Concentrate especially on the debt that Jesus Christ paid. In reincarnation we are seeking to pay off our 'karmic debt' so that we can receive our 'heavenly reward.' However, are we told anywhere that we can pay off our karmic debt? Has anyone ever shown a way that man can go to do it himself? No, the only way that has ever been shown is through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ - He paid our debt.

Emphasise the grace of God. He does not wish man to strive; He wants man to rest in what He has done for us, why should we complicate things? Didn't He lovingly warn us that after one life, there is one death and then one judgement? We cannot move the goal posts that he has placed and so we should follow His sure way.

**Thursday, 8 AM**

**GENERAL SESSION**

# **Hinduism, New Age**

## **I. HINDUISM**

### **FOUNDER**

No distinct founder or definite date of origin, emerged with development of India

### **NAME**

“Hindu” = “Religion of Persia”

### **AUTHORITY**

VEDAS (2000 BC – time of Abraham) hymns to nature gods, guides for priestly & sacrificial ceremonies

MAHABHARATA – most loved, influential & widely read Hindu work “Song of the Lord” in this book

Many others, very lengthy and very inconsistent

### **VIEW of GOD**

Impersonal – “Brahma is formless, abstract eternal being without attributes”

Pantheistic (so old it has influenced many others to pantheism) – anything & everything is god

Polytheistic – everything is a god

### **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Disbelieves in our trinity, has own counterfeit

BRAHMA = Father-figure with 4 heads, creator, lives on Mt Meru with peacock-riding wife Sarasvati

VISHNU = Jesus-figure, preserves all, rides thru heavens on garuda (man-bird), sometimes incarnate as a porpoise or fish (was Buddha, Krishan, Jesus [some say])

SIVA = Spirit-figure, promotes self-mutilation & starvation, destroyer; wife blood-thirsty goddess

### **VIEW of CHRIST**

Good man, teacher (not God or Savior)

### **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Don't believe in at all

## VIEW of SIN

All is relative, whatever helps is good, whatever hinders is vice. Can't help stumbling sometimes. If can't succeed in this life, can try again in next.

All is ultimately one: good & evil, truth & falsity, etc., so no real belief in sin

No absolutes, no right or wrong, 'do your own thing' mentality

## VIEW of SALVATION

Deliverance necessary, not from sin but from endless cycles of reincarnation (transmigration of souls)

Everything with breath has a soul which is part of the "world soul"

- goal is soul reabsorption in Brahma

- then will cease to exist (usually takes about 9 million incarnations to make it)

That's why they don't kill animals – bubonic plague from rats which aren't killed

If you kill a cow you will rot in hell for as many years as there were hairs on the cow

Karma = every responsible decision must have its determinate consequence

Way of escape cycles of reincarnation

- Works (Marma Yoga), studying Vedas, hospitality, etc.

- Knowledge (jnana yoga) deep meditation

- Devotion (bhakti yoga) worship

## VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL

No heaven or hell, just reincarnation until absorption (Hell symbolic of life now, not literal place)

## OTHER DISTINGUISHING BELIEFS

Caste system very strong, harsh, binding (priests, warriors/noblemen, peasants, slaves)

# II. NEW AGE MOVEMENT

## DEFINITION

New Age Movement: A loosely knit group of individuals and organizations that fundamentally believe that persons will all evolve into God and achieve a global unity that will transcend religious, racial, cultural and political ideologies.

## DEVELOPMENT

New Age beliefs are not new. They are as old as man. In the current form they go back to Humanism and Unitarianism with a lot of spiritism sugar-coated and thrown in. In the current religious vacuum it has moved in as Satan's lie of the last days, to set up his world empire.

## BASIC PRINCIPLES

**A. MONISM (ALL IS ONE)** *"In J. D. Salinger's short story, 'Teddy,' a spiritually precocious youngster recalls his experience of immanent God while watching his little sister drink her milk.... 'All of a sudden I saw that she was God and the MILK was God. I mean, all she was doing was pouring God into*



God.'" Marilyn Ferguson, 'The Aquarian Conspiracy' Therefore all mankind is one big brotherhood. "We are one!" they say (as mankind did at the Tower of Babel, too). "We" here refers to man, animals, rocks, nature, etc.

**B. PANTHEISM (ALL IS GOD)** *"All boundaries and dualism have been transcended and all individuality dissolves into universal, undifferentiated oneness."* Fritjof Capra, 'The Turning Point' Trees, snails, books, people are all of one divine essence -- all are 'God'. This is pure Hinduism. Thus today we worship "Mother Earth."

**C. HUMANISM (MAN IS GOD)** *"Each soul is its own God. You must never worship anyone or anything other than self. For YOU are God. To love self is to love God."* Shirley MacLaine, 'Dancing in the Light' This is what Satan promised Eve: "You will be like God" (Genesis 3:5). Reincarnation part of this (remember past lives - really is demon speaking, remembering). New Age teaches that Lucifer is light and the one who brings unity & wholeness into life. He is actually superior to Christ.

**D. A NEW WORLD ORDER** A coming one-world government (Age of Aquarius) will bring world peace. This is Satan's counterfeit to the Millennial kingdom of Jesus.

**E. MAYA - ALL IS ILLUSION (MAN CREATES HIS OWN REALITY)** *"If I created my own reality, then -- on some level and dimension I didn't understand -- I had created everything I saw, heard, touched, smelled, tasted; everything I loved, hated, revered, abhorred....I was my own universe."* Shirley MacLaine, 'It's All in the Playing' They say we determine reality by our mind, so each mind can determine what is real and what isn't, what is absolute and what isn't, what is good and what is evil. Thus abortion & homosexuality aren't 'wrong.' Consciousness-raising & positive thinking seminars.

**F. CONTACT WITH KINGDOM OF DARKNESS SOUGHT** *"My own out of body experience...served to validate the answers to many questions -- the surest knowledge being derived from experience."* Shirley MacLaine, 'Dancing in the Light' Out of body experiences and altered states of consciousness are done by demons. It is opening ones self up to be demonized. Channeling by spirit guides is the same thing.

### **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THIS**

*Let no one be found among you ... who practices divination, or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or one who casts spells, or who is a medium, or spiritist, or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord..." Deut 18:9-12 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. I Timothy 4:1 The Devil ... is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. II Cor 11:14*

## **THE PROBLEM WITH MAN - AS NEW AGE SEES IT**

*"The tragedy of the human race was that we had forgotten we were each Divine."* Shirley MacLaine, 'Out on a Limb' They say man's problem isn't sin but ignorance -- ignorance that we are each God.

## **THE SOLUTION FOR MAN - AS NEW AGE SEES IT**

**A. SEEK HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS** *"spiritual disciplines are designed to attune the brain to ... a wider sensory realm and the mystical dimension by altering the brain's biochemistry. Meditation, breathing exercises, and fasting are among the common technologies for shifting brain function."* Marilyn Ferguson, 'Aquarian Conspiracy' The powers one tunes into in this are all demonic!

**B. AWAKEN THE GOD IN US** *"The goal is to awaken the god who sleeps at the root of the human being."* Theodore Roszak, 'Unfinished Animal'

**C. CULTIVATE QUESTIONS** *"A teacher in the traditions of direct knowing encourages questions, even doubts. This spirituality asks the seeker to drop beliefs, not add to them."* Marilyn Ferguson, 'The Aquarian Conspiracy'

**D. USE SPIRIT GUIDES** *"In my own far-out experiences...I have come upon two guides....They may be entities in other spaces....They may be representatives of an esoteric hidden school....They may be members of a civilization a hundred thousand years or so ahead of ours."* John Lilly, 'Center of the Cyclone'

## THE DANGERS OF NEW AGE THOUGHT

**A. AN IMPERSONAL, FINITE GOD** New Age turns God into a mere impersonal energy source and crowns mankind with deity. This is a lie (Romans 1:25), God is distinct from the universe (Genesis 1:3 - 2:3), He is an independent person who communicates with man (Exodus 3:13-14).

**B. DEIFIED HUMANS** The Bible condemns men thinking of themselves as God (Genesis 3:2-7; Daniel 11:36-37; Acts 12:21-23). God, not man is in control (Colossians 1:15-17).

**C. NO SIN** The Bible clearly says that man is dead in sin (Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-24; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Ephesians 2:1-3).

**D. LOSS OF INDIVIDUAL UNIQUENESS** Man will never merge into blissful cosmos oneness for man is a distinct individual from the rest of creation (Jer. 1:5; Psalm 139:13-16)

**E. NO TEST FOR EXPERIENCES** When the person himself is the final authority there are no absolutes. God warns against Satan's deception (Revelation 12:9; 20:7-10; II Corinthians 11:14).

**F. ETHICAL STANDARDS ABANDONED** When there are no moral absolutes anarchy reigns. History has proven that (Nazism, etc.). God has given moral absolutes in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and Sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7).

**G. FAILURE IMPORTED** India has believed and practiced this same thing for 2,000 years and it is destitute

## SHARING TRUTH WITH NEW AGERS

1. LOVE is the language of all effective evangelism. Don't try to win arguments but reach souls
2. PRAYER is essential for all outreach - This is spiritual warfare
3. DEFINE TERMS that we & new agers use, Both use terms like "personally experience God" and even "born again"
4. SHOW THERE MUST BE A GOD OUTSIDE OF AND BEYOND MAN (handouts "How we know there is a God")
5. TURN THEM TO THE BIBLE as the source of truth
6. KNOW THE BIBLE better than they do

# CHRISTIAN VRS NEW AGE BELIEFS

	BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY	NEW AGE PANTHIESM
God	Father Personal Only God Created all things	Force Impersonal Good & evil Is all things
World	Created out of nothing Temporal, finite	Emanated out of God Eternal
Man	Made like God Is evil Spirit/body Resurrection	Is god Is good Spirit only Reincarnation
Jesus Christ	Same Person  God-Man Death/resurrection	Different persons (‘Jesus’ & ‘Christ’) God Spirit in man Death/reincarnation
Man’s Problem	Sin against a holy God	Ignorance of innate divinity
Sin	Rebellion against holy God	Ignorance of personal divinity
Source of evil	Free choice in this life	Free choices in past lives
Solut-ion	Trust in finished work of Christ in cross	Become conscious of one’s innate divinity
Salvat-ion	From moral guilt By grace Victory over sin	From disharmony By human effort Victory over fear
Faith	In Jesus	In man
Power	Resides in Almighty God, uses it for man	Resides in man
Jesus Cross	Provides deliverance from sin	Example of man perfectly united w/God
End of evil	Removed by God	Reabsorbed into god, eliminating distinction between good & evil
Holy Spirit	God, 3 <sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity, personal being	Energy that can be used creatively or physically
Faith	In divine power Objective focus To see God’s will done	In human potential Subjective focus To see man’s will done
Miracle	At God’s command Supernatural power (of the Creator) Associated with good	At man’s command Supranormal power (of creatures) Associated with evil
Bible	Inspired Word of God	Incomplete Inadequate
Basis of Ethics	Grounded in God as revealed in Bible Absolute	Grounded in man own choices & decisions Relative
Death	Separation of soul/spirit from body to live forever in heaven or hell	Time of merging with the energy force of the universe if enlightened (if not reincarnated)
Ultimate Destiny	Fellowship with God	Merge with God
Satan	Top created angel, real being but not a god	Man existing in his state of unrealized potential
Heaven Hell	Real eternal states of being after death	States of consciousness in this life
Last Things	god-appointed end naugurated when Christ reigns on earth as king	Human-realized end inaugurated when humankind realizes its inherent divinity

# ***NATIVE AMERICANS***

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## **AUTHORITY**

Traditions passed on from generation to generations, enforced by shamans/witch doctor

## **VIEW of GOD**

A spiritual force that is the source of all life, a formless power manifested by the sun (sign & symbol)  
Seen as light & life-power (sun); or as fertility & strength (earth); or as wisdom & power (jaguar, bear, snake)  
Panthiestic - man, animals and plants not really different -- all dependent on life-giving source  
(similar to Hinduism and New Age - which is why popular today)

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

No such thing

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

No knowledge of Him

## **CONTACT WITH GOD**

God contacted by hallucinogenic plants (peyote), fasting, singing prayers, pain, exposure - until in  
trance and attain spiritual vision (to be a man spirit-guide often found this way)  
Private prayer & public ritual common  
Symbolic dances, processions & feasts (Sun Dance, etc.)  
spring: crops & fertility; autumn: thanks for harvest  
Long-stemmed pipe to blow tobacco-smoke incense to symbolize the power of the Almighty  
Totems (poles or jewelry) to contact demons  
Talismans and amulets used: Kachina dolls (idol), fetishes (feathers, crystals, plants, etc), medicine  
pouches worn (power focus)

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

God is Spirit ("Great Spirit") - very spirit-oriented  
See 'spirits;' in nature, weather, animals, trees, etc. - tried to appease them  
Demons counterfeit angels as "angels of light" (II Cor 11:14)

## **VIEW of SIN**

No such thing

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

No such thing

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

Little interest in an afterlife, assume souls of dead go to another part of the universe to have a pleasant  
existence carrying on everyday activities  
Souls of unhappy or evil persons may stay around their former homes, causing misfortunes

# Thursday, 1 PM

## MEN'S SESSION

### **DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLD** **VIEW IN YOUR CHILDREN**



*Deut 6:4Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. a 5Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

**How can you help your children grow in the faith?**

# **Thursday, 8 PM**

## **TEEN'S SESSION**

# **SCIENTOLOGY**

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## **FOUNDER**

L. RON HUBBARD, late 1940's, said "writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."

Fought depression and suicidal tendencies whole life

Dianetics - name of church he started,

Claims to have visited Venus twice (where all life in universe first started)

## **AUTHORITY**

Not Bible, but Hubbard's writings, especially book on "Dianetics"

## **VIEW of GOD**

God a myth

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

No such thing

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

A god, not God Himself, not equal with God (same as Michael in Old Testament)

Working his way up levels of self-knowledge

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

No such thing

## **VIEW of SIN**

All is relative, no absolutes. If there is more constructive than destructive a thing is good

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Clear mind from all past reincarnations (charges to do this, very rich), work way back to total godhead

Goal is to evolve to a higher state, free from cycle of birth and death (reincarnation)

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

Hell = annihilation ('Bible' hell is total myth, vicious lie invented to make people unhappy)

## **REACHING OTHERS**

Use any method, promise anything, to get people in for 'counseling' - reveal all facts about self & past, isolate from any other help, made totally reliant upon Scientology for everything, charge huge amounts for each hour, prey on lonely and anxious people (multinational racket masquerading as a religion)

## **WITNESSING TO THOSE IN SCIENTOLOGY**

1. Have a clear understanding of your faith and the Bible.
2. Ask appropriate questions to determine the person's level of involvement in Scientology and/or Dianetics. Many people involved do not understand its philosophical, spiritual, and scientific problems, nor its incompatibility with historic Christianity. In some cases, you may need to provide documentation to show the Scientologist that L. Ron Hubbard was not what Scientologists believe him to be and expose the controversial history of the Scientology movement. (See Brent Corydon, *L. Ron Hubbard: Messiah or Madman* [Barracade Books, 1994] and Russell Miller, *Bare-Faced Messiah: A Biography of L. Ron Hubbard* [H. Holt & Co., 1988].)
3. Seek to establish a personal, friendly relationship with the Scientologist.
4. Establish the sole authority of the Bible. You may need to give the Scientologist a marked Bible to highlight basic Christian doctrines.
5. Clearly define all terms of Scientology and historic Christianity.
6. Show the Scientologist how Christian doctrines are incompatible with Scientology. Focus especially on contrasting ideas about God, sin, salvation, and life after death.
7. Share your personal testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and the benefits you derive from knowing Him as Savior and Lord.
8. Share the plan of salvation and sensitively seek to lead the person to faith in Jesus.

# Friday, 8 AM

## GENERAL SESSION

### FOUNDER

God, through Abraham, began the Jewish nation

Purpose:

1. Reveal God to the world
2. Give the world a book, the Bible
3. Give the world a Savior, Jesus

Reform (liberal): when Jews emerged from ghetto life in latter 1700's in western Europe they adjusted their beliefs so they could better integrate into modern society (2 million, 35%)

Orthodox (old traditional): reaction to reform Judaism 1800-1850, start in Europe (-1 million, 14%)

Conservative (compromise): middle ground between reform & orthodox (1850-1900), started in US & Europe (2.5 million, 40%)

## JUDAISM

### NAME

"Jew" after "Judah," son of Jacob and name of the southern kingdom

### AUTHORITY

Reform & Conservative: Old Testament not inspired, just human writings, must adapt them to today

Orthodox: Old Testament, especially the Torah (Gen-Deut), basis of all daily life

### VIEW of GOD

Reform & Conservative: Impersonal, if He exists at all; may just be the force of nature

Israel is basically an atheistic nation today ("dead bones" of Ezekiel 36-37)

Orthodox: same as we see God

### VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT & TRINITY

All groups reject the idea, saying God (if He exists at all) is One

Creed of Judaism: *Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

### VIEW of CHRIST

Not the Messiah, not God, just a good man.

Reform & Conservative: no literal Messiah, prophecies will be fulfilled by man bringing in utopian age

Orthodox: still look for Messiah, who will be a superhuman man (not God) and bring Jewish world rule

### VIEW of SIN

All groups say there was no fall and therefore no sin nature

Reform & Orthodox: sin is the ills of society

Orthodox: sin is breaking the law

### VIEW of SALVATION

Reform & Conservative: no need, man is just to better self and society

Orthodox: by repentance for breaking the law, prayer and good deeds

### VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL

Reform & Conservative: None, souls merge into a "life force"

Orthodox: the righteous (law keepers) will exist forever with God in Eden, others suffer forever





# THE PLAN OF SALVATION

## In The

# OLD TESTAMENT

**JEREMIAH 17:9** -man's heart is wicked (heart worse than pork!)  
*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

**ISAIAH 64:6** - our righteousness' like filthy rags (what are our SINS like?)  
*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

**ISAIAH 59:1-2** - holy God separates from sinful man, man can't reach God; can only be contact if God reaches down to man  
*Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

**LEVITICUS 17:11** - only innocent blood shed can make a person sinless  
*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*

**ISAIAH 53:1-12** - Messiah must sacrifice self as atonement for sin (focus on the fact that innocent must be shed to pay for sin by Messiah, don't focus on fact that Jesus fulfilled this, that isn't the issue at this point)  
*3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7*

**DANIEL 9:26** - Messiah is the one who must pay for sins, be 'cut off' (if open, can show this also tells when for was fulfilled on Palm Sunday exactly when 69 years counted off)  
*After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.*

**PSALM 22:1-31** - Shows how this sacrifice of the Messiah will take place

*1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**GENESIS 15:6** - Abraham believed long before law, circumcision, etc.  
Belief is key to relationship with God

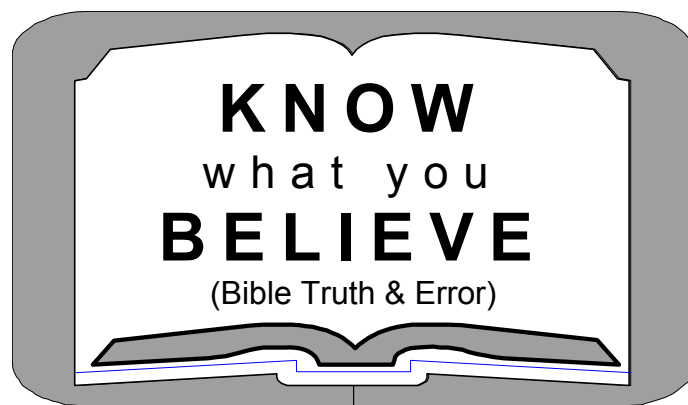
Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness



KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT

# GOD'S EXISTENCE

By Jerry Schmoyer      Copyright © 1997



"If we have full employment and growth--if we have cities of gold and alabaster--but our children have not learned to walk in goodness, justice and mercy, then the American experiment, no matter how gilded, will have failed. In modernity, nothing has been more consequential, or more public in its consequences, than large segments of American society privately turning away from God, or considering Him irrelevant, or declaring Him dead. Dostoyevsky reminded us in *Brothers Karamazov* that 'if God does not exist, everything is permissible.' We are now seeing 'everything.' And much of it is not good to get used to." -- William J. Bennett, *The Washington Times Pulpit Helps*, March 1996, p. 10.

When people discount the fact that there is a God, the repercussions of that affect every area of their life. Without God there are no moral absolutes, no ultimate accountability, nothing beyond ourselves. Man becomes his own God and anything goes. In fact, many deny the existence of God just so they won't have to be accountable to a higher power or submit to His will. They want to live their own lives the way they want, totally unhindered. They say the idea of 'God' is just something emotional cripples use for a crutch to escape reality. Is this so? How can we be sure there is a God? What 'proof' do we have that God exists? How can we answer sincere doubters (1 Peter 3:15), or still our own unbelief?

**NO SCIENTIFIC PROOF** In the last article we saw proof that the Bible is indeed God's inspired Word. The Bible does claim the existence of God (assumes it, never tries to prove it). Still, to use God to prove the Bible and the Bible to prove God is circular reasoning. What proof is there beyond the Bible? First of all, you can't prove God by a scientific method any more than you can prove Napoleon by the scientific method. Neither can be seen, touched or contacted with our senses. They can't be put under a microscope to be analyzed. They each are accepted on the basis of dependable evidence. There is rational proof for God, though. We do have much dependable evidence, if we choose to accept it.

## **1. THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT (Cause & Effect)**

**Cause:** There must be an uncaused cause or necessary being for each effect. No effect can be produced without a cause. When you see a tennis ball lying on the floor you assume (and rightly so) that someone created it and someone placed it there. It didn't just appear on its own out of nowhere. The same is true of the universe, us, love, hate, etc. -- each of these effects had to have a cause behind it equal to or greater than it.

**Motion:** If you would see that tennis ball rolling across the floor, you would then assume (and rightly so), that some power outside the ball and greater than it started it moving. The universe is full of motion. Something cannot start and sustain itself. An external agent or force is required. There must be a being who is the ultimate source of all motion.

**Interrelationships:** Now our tennis balls hang in a large circle by string, each one swinging and hitting the one next to it. The motion keeps going around and around the circle. Each ball is dependent on the others for the system to work. There must be a final being or force who is above these and independent of them to cause it to start. While some evolutionists might have said that the 'big bang' caused the motion and interrelationships, this is being less and less accepted as the answer even among atheistic evolutionists.

**Perfection:** There is a pyramid of beings, from insects to men, in an ever-increasing degree of perfection. There must be a final being who is absolutely perfect, the source of all perfection. This ultimate perfection is the start, not the finish produce, of all else. Things don't build from less to greater, as the second law of thermodynamics states. It says that everything is winding down (entropy) and points back to a starting time. It shows that things now are moving away from perfection, not toward it as evolutionists would say.

**2. THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT (Order & Design)** Look at your wrist watch. The order and design there causes you to assume that some intelligent being was behind its creation. If God isn't behind everything, then 'chance' is. If God didn't create this world, then 'chance' did. If God isn't in control of everything, 'chance' is. It takes more faith to believe in chance than in God! What 'chance' is there of finding a watch just naturally formed of the materials in ground? What chance is there of the Gettysburg Address resulting from an explosion in a print shop? What chance is there that all the universe and life in it would just come about by chance? What chance is there for a liver, or heart, or reproduction system to just come about by chance (and it would have to be completely formed, for a species could not continue if any of these were only partly evolved)? What are the chances of everything working out so perfectly: gravity, the tilt of the earth, freezing temperature of water, rotation of the earth, proportion of water to land, distance from the sun, etc., just working out? All that is in the universe, the human body, or an individual cell tells us there is order and design. The 'chance' of it all happening is too great to even be considered! God created nature to show that He exists (Psalm 19:1).

**3. THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARGUMENT (Moral)** Suppose our tennis balls, or our wrist watch, all of a sudden developed a moral nature when nothing else around it did, what would this signify? Man, and man alone, has a moral nature. All peoples in all times and places have had moral standards of right and wrong. While they haven't been the same, they have all know there were such standards and that was such a thing as right and wrong (Romans 2:14-15). All people have an innate understanding of these. There is something built into everyone which cries out for justice, for reward for good and punishment for evil. We naturally look forward to a future time when this is so. Where does this come from? Many naturally looks to an afterlife to have these settled. We all know there must be something more to life than existing for one's self then dying and being buried like a dog or a leaf. A restless is built into man showing there must be something more to life, something from without to live for. All of this points to God. All of this also shows there is a God who built it into all men. Where else could it have come from? How could something like love and hate evolve? If so, why just in man? These strong emotions had to be created by a greater being than man, then passed on to man. They couldn't come from 'chance.'

**4. THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT** Man everywhere and in all time has naturally known there is a power greater than and outside himself that he has worshipped. Satan usually counterfeited and took the worship, but it is naturally in man to believe God and seek Him. Those today who deny God's existence often have to shout so loud and long that one wonders if it isn't the voices inside they are fighting against. When the infidel Robert G. Ingersoll was delivering his lectures against Christ and the Bible, his oratorical ability usually assured him of a

large crowd. One night after an inflammatory speech in which he severely attacked man's faith in the Savior, he dramatically took out his watch and said, "I'll give God a chance to prove that He exists and is almighty. I challenge Him to strike me dead within 5 minutes!" First there was silence, then people became uneasy. Some left the hall, unable to take the nervous strain of the occasion, and one woman fainted. At the end of the allocated time, the atheist exclaimed derisively, "See! There is no God. I am still very much alive!" After the lecture a young fellow said to a Christian lady, "Well, Ingersoll certainly proved something tonight!" Her reply was memorable. "Yes, he did," she said. "He demonstrated that even the most defiant sinner cannot exhaust the patience of the Lord in just 5 minutes!" Another man added, "As I was coming downtown today, a belligerent little fellow came running out of an alley, daring me to hit him. Do you suppose I actually struck him, just because he challenged me to do so? In the same way, our Lord will not strike everyone dead who defies Him. We should be thankful that in this age He is still operating in grace and desires to show His love rather than His wrath." (Romans 9:22)

**5. SUBJECTIVE INNER AWARENESS** Inside each one of God's people there is an inner voice that says "Yes!" when the question of God's existence comes up. Demons try to flash thoughts of doubt through our mind, but whenever those questions pop up realize it isn't our minds but Satan's trick to take away our peace. When a Christian praises God in song or worship or prayer, something inside says "YES!" When we talk to others about Jesus there is that "YES!" in our spirit. When we heard a godly speaker or read a special passage in the Bible the "YES!" is clearly there. That is God's Spirit confirming the truth of God's existence (Galatians 4:6).

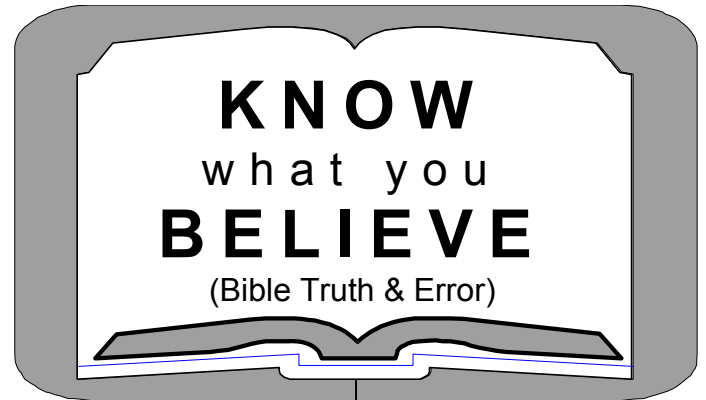
**WHY DOES MAN DENY THE EXISTENCE OF GOD?** Man doesn't want to be accountable to God. Man is basically self-centered and prideful, and like Satan, wants to be independent of God. Man wants to be his or her own God with no other higher power to be accountable to. Thus man must convince himself that there is no God in order to accomplish this. The fact of the matter is that God does exist and will reveal Himself to any and all who are open to seriously seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

**ANSWERING DOUBTERS** There is no answer for those who aren't open to consider the possibility of a God. Arguments won't force anyone to believe something they don't want to believe. But for serious seekers the above answers should help. Actually, against this evidence it is up to them to prove to you that there is no God. They are going against the majority opinion for all the ages. Point out to them that if they are right and you are wrong, you have not lost anything, for your believe has at least given you a more peaceful and humane existence. But if you are right and they are wrong, then not only is their quality of life in this existence at stake, but so is their eternal destiny. Are they so sure there is no God they that they are willing to bet eternity in hell on it if they are wrong?

**SO WHAT?** This is more than an academic exercise for us Christians, too. Have you ever thought how your life would be different if there was no God? What if this life was all there was, everything happened by chance, and there was no God (and therefore no Jesus or Bible)? Thinking about this for even a short time should help us feel compassion for those who face life this way, and also cause us to thank and praise God all the more for His existence and His so clearly revealing Himself to us! That is certainly reason to thank and praise Him!

# KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT THE **BIBLE**

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Roy Whetstine purchased a stone "from an amateur collector at an Arizona mineral show for \$10,000," according to Newsweek, Nov. 24, 1986. It has since been "valued at as high as \$2.28 million" and declared to be the world's largest sapphire.

Western-world Christians have in their possession a precious gem of far greater value which many treat just as cheaply. They fail to avail themselves of the joy such wealth could bring them, fail to share it with their own families, and even fail to carry it with them to the house of God. They leave it lying wherever it happened to be the last time the furniture was dusted under newspapers and magazines. If it were stolen, they probably would not miss it.

There are multitudes in many parts of the world who would gladly give a month's salary, go for days without food, and walk great distances to get one copy of the Bible to share with their entire fellowship. Let's not be too quick to cast aspersions upon the intelligence of the amateur gem collector. Often we are just as bad in attributing the true worth to the Bible.

**GOD REVEALS HIMSELF** God has revealed Himself to man in a general way in nature (Romans 1; Psalm 19) but in a very specific way in the Bible. The Bible (which means "book" in Greek) is composed of 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The Old Testament focuses on the Jews and law. The New Test focuses on Jesus & grace.

**POSSIBLE & NECESSARY** While some doubt God could or would reveal Himself to man, it is entirely possible that God would reach out and contact man in this way. Since He is sovereign He can certainly do this if He so chose. Not only is this possible, it is also necessary, for if God had not contacted man, then man would not know God. Thus a revelation from God, like the Bible, is possible and necessary.

**INSPIRATION** The Bible claims to be God's Word (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21). Jesus considered and spoke of the Old Testament as inspired by God (Mt. 22:29; 24:37; Mk. 7:13; Lk. 24:44). "**Inspiration**," meaning "God-breathed" in Greek, refers to God working through the 40 men who wrote the Bible (over 1500 years) to insure that what they wrote is without error. Without taking away their individual personality and its contributions to their writing, God showed them what to include, what to omit, and made sure all was accurate. God **revealed** some parts of the Bible, things man wouldn't have known on their own (creation, Revelation, etc.). Now God **illuminates** the Bible for us, showing us the truth of His Word.

**MULTIPLE AUTHOR THEORY** It isn't uncommon today to hear someone say that Genesis is composed of material from 5 different writers or that two men wrote Isaiah. That isn't true. It just undermines inspiration, and makes the books younger than they really were. Thus prophecies in the books can be said to be written after the event. This takes away from the greatness of the Bible. Liberal scholars for years said Daniel had to have been written after the fantastic events described in it, for they could not have been prophesied. The discovery of the

Dead Sea Scrolls has contradicted this. It isn't surprising that, despite the discovery in 1947, Daniel still hasn't been released to the public! Scientific study shows the books weren't written by different authors.

Researchers in Israel, after subjecting the first five books of the Bible to exhaustive computer analysis, came to a different conclusion than expected. The Torah, or Books of Moses, had long been assumed by skeptics to be the work of multiple authors. But Scripture scholar Moshe Katz and computer expert Menachem Wiener of the Israel Institute of Technology analyzed the book's material through sophisticated computer analysis. They discovered an intricate pattern of significant words concealed in the canon, spelled by letters separated at fixed intervals. Mr. Katz says that the statistical possibilities of such patterns happening by chance would be one to three million. The material suggests a single, inspired author -- in fact it could not have been put together by human capabilities at all. Adds Mr. Wiener, "So we need a non-rational explanation. And ours is that the (Torah) was written by God through the hand of Moses."

**OLD TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS** Some are quick to point out that no Old Testament manuscripts from before the Massoretic text in AD 900 exist, and that leaves open the possibility of errors in transcribing the Bible from generation to generation. The truth is, though, that the Jews were very careful in copying the Bible. They would count each letter in each line, even in each column, total them up, and make sure every letter was exact. If not the whole page would be burned. Also, comparing the Massoretic text with translations in Latin, Greek, Syrian, etc., which have been passed down from generation to generation in their own countries and languages, and which have not been influenced by other translations, show that they all say the same thing. This shows there haven't been errors from when they were originally translated hundreds and hundreds of years earlier.

Archaeological discoveries are disproving those who question the Bible's accuracy and supporting its inspiration. A recent archaeological report in the science magazine Discovery contained amazing findings about the Old Testament. Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, the oldest Hebrew manuscripts dated about AD 900. The Dead Sea Scrolls, in startling agreement with the Masoretic text, dated to about 150 BC. Whole or parts of almost every Old Testament book are present. When these are compared to the Massoretic text over 1,000 years later, they are both the same! Perhaps one word per large document differs, and these are small things like spelling changes (like 'honor' for 'honour'). None affect the meaning of the passages they are in.

There is also the Septuagint (LXX), a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, made in Egypt in 200 BC. It, too, agrees with the other translations and manuscripts. Remember, these all were passed down over hundreds of years, in different parts of the world, without being compared to each other until recently. Yet all say the same thing!

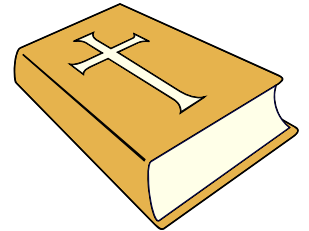
Now archaeologists have discovered a pair of tiny silver scrolls that date back to about 600 BC! While digging at the site of a 5th-century church in Jerusalem, researchers found a Roman legionnaires' cemetery. Exploring still deeper, they found a small burial cave containing the scrolls. Very carefully, less than a hundredth of an inch at a time, the scrolls were unrolled. On each of them appeared an excerpt from the book of Numbers that included the word Jehovah. These scrolls date back to the days before the exile to Babylon, earlier than liberal scholars said Pentateuch was written.

**NEW TESTAMENT MANUSCRIPTS** There are many more New Testament manuscripts than Old. There are about 4,000 manuscripts of the New Testament available to use today. The earliest ones date back to the time of contemporaries of Jesus (early 100's). Excellent manuscripts date from the 300's. (For more information about this see # 14 in "18 Reasons From Outside The Bible Proving It Is God's Word" later in this paper). In addition, there are hundreds

of Bible verses quoted by early writers, and these help support the other manuscripts. As with the Old Testament, the New Testament was translated into many other languages (Syriac, Egyptian, Latin, etc.). They also were copied and passed on for hundreds of years without comparison to others, and when recently compared all support each other. There are minor changes (spelling, punctuation, etc.) but nothing that affects any doctrine.

**THE CANON** The term 'canon' is given to the collection of 66 books in our Bible. How do we know the right books were included? Could some uninspired books have been included and/or some inspired ones left out? Again, if it is possible and necessary for God to reach out to man and let His will be known, that it is also possible and necessary that He could make sure the right books are included, and that they come down accurately to us today.

The New Testament canon developed over many years and much prayer. In various locations many godly men found certain books to be helpful and used of God above other books. Gradually the same group was used in many places and in a series of meetings and councils, after much prayer and seeking God's leading, it was affirmed that the 27 books we have today were the ones God wanted in the New Testament. By comparing them to the books not included one can easily see a big difference in literary style, spiritual value and historical accuracy.



**CHAPTERS AND VERSES** When originally written, the Bible didn't have chapters or verses. Chapters were formed by Stephen Langton in 1228 and verses by Robert Stephanus in 1551. These were added to make it easier to find and identify places in the Bible. Because they were added by men, they aren't always 100% accurate in where they are placed.

**ERRORS AND CONTRADICTIONS** Some say the Bible has contradictions. It is way beyond the scope of this article to consider each one, but there are well-written books available that consider each seeming contradiction and clearly explain how these passages do not contradict.

**18 REASONS FROM OUTSIDE THE BIBLE PROVING IT IS GOD'S WORD** Anyone can write a book and claim that it is from God. Thus to really pin down the authority of the Bible we need to look at supporting evidence from outside the Bible. These are given below:

1. The Bible is **theocentric** (God-centered), not anthropocentric (man-centered). If man wrote the Bible, he would be the leading character. In the Bible God is sovereign and absolute authority (1 Chronicles 29:11; Isaiah 43:7). Man's highest good is submission to His will. The purpose of all we do is for His glory (Revelation 4:11). All other 'holy' books focus on man and build up man, not God.

2. The Bible is **monotheistic** (one God), not polytheistic (more than one god). 'Scholars' say that man started with many gods and eventually evolved to having just one. The Bible, at the beginning of man, says there was just one. If man were writing the Bible he would have one God evolve out of many. Even the fact that the Jews were worshipping the golden calf and other gods at the time the first commandment was written (which say God was the only god, Exodus 20:1-6) show that even they believed there was more than one God.

3. The fact of the **Trinity** helps prove man didn't write the Bible. Would natural man write about something that he could not understand, something with no parallel or analogy in nature? No finite mind has ever comprehended how 3 separate persons could form one essence/substance. If man wrote the Bible he would NOT write about a Triune God.



4. If man wrote the Bible, would he say that the world was **created** from nothing (Hebrews 11:3)? Nothing is a state man has never known. He would come up with some rational explanation, as evolutionists try to do today.

5. If man wrote the Bible would he say his basic nature is evil and **sinful** (Romans 3:23)? Would man say there was nothing he could do but accept God's cure for sin (Ephesians 2:8-9). Every religion man has developed or 'holy' book man has written has something man must do to earn/deserve removal of sin, but not the Bible.

6. The **extent of revelation** in the Bible shows it is beyond what man could or would write. How could man write of things beyond his own senses and experiences? Yet the Bible speaks authoritatively about heaven, hell and eternity without hesitation (I Corinthians 2:9-12; II Corinthians 5:8; Luke 16:19; Revelation 19:20-21).

7. If man wrote the Bible, its **ethics** would be based on individual, relative decisions (Judges 17:6) rather than absolutes. Because man is a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:3) by nature his ethics would be corrupt (as they are today apart from the Bible) and would end in chaos. One example: the Bible tells us to use things (I Cor. 7:31) and love people (Rom. 12:10). Man's ethics are the opposite.

8. It is humanly impossible for **44 authors** over a period of **1500 years** unknown to each other and from vastly different backgrounds and cultures to arrive at 66 books so internally systematic and consistent as the Bible. It would be like 44 men each tossing a stone on a pile over 1500 years and the finished product being a modern hospital. There must have been one Author behind it all.

9. The fantastic number of **fulfilled prophecies** in the Bible show that it is no book authored by mere man. Experts in probability give these statistics concerning the following prophecies:

7 prophecies against Tyre in Ezekiel 26:3-4,7-8,12,14,21 coming true: 1 in  $7.5 \times 10^7$

5 prophecies against Samaria in Hosea 13:16 & Micah 1:6 come true: 1 in  $4 \times 10^4$

5 prophecies against Gaza & Ashkelon Amos 1:8, Jer 47:5, Zeph 2:4-7: 1 in  $1.2 \times 10^4$

3 prophecies against Moab & Ammon in Ezek 25:3-4, Jer 48:47; 49:6: 1 in  $10^3$

9 prophecies against Edom Isa 34:6-15, Jer 49:17-18; Ezek 25:13-14; 35:5-7: 1 in  $10^4$

8 prophecies against Babylon in Isa 13:19-22; 14:23; Jer 51:26,43: 1 in  $5 \times 10^9$

9 prophecies about Jerusalem in Jeremiah 31:38-40: 1 in  $8 \times 10^{10}$

7 prophecies about Palestine in Lev 26:31-33; Ezek 36:33-35: 1 in  $2 \times 10^5$

9 prophecies about Petra & Edom in Isa 34:6-18; Ezek 25:13-14; 35:5-7: 1 in  $2 \times 10^5$

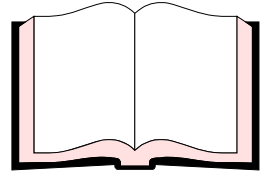
4 prophecies about Thebes & Memphis in Ezek 30:13-15: 1 in  $10^3$

4 prophecies about Nineveh in Nahum 1:8,10; 2:6; 3:10,13,19: 1 in  $10^2$

The probability of these 11 prophecies coming true is 1 in  $5.76 \times 10^{59}$ ! This is almost impossible to visualize. Suppose this number were silver dollars. There would be enough to fill  $10^{28}$  suns! Or think of it like this. In the universe there are about 2 trillion galaxies, each containing about 100 million stars. From our  $5 \times 10^{59}$  we could make all of the stars in all of the galaxies  $2 \times 10^5$  times! Only one silver dollar in all of these stands for the chance a writer could have guessed all these prophecies correctly! Even more astounding is the fact that these are only 11 prophecies. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of others which have already come true. (For more information about this see "Evidence That Demands A Verdict" by Josh McDowell).

10. The exceptional **literary value** of the Bible cannot be attributed to the natural ability of human writers. How could such unlearned men write such a surpassing piece of literary genius beyond their own ability? The Bible far exceeds the intellectual and moral qualifications of other books being written in its time such as the Talmud (Jewish), Apocrypha (Christian) and





Koran (Islamic). The living quality of the words, reaching to all ages and social positions of people for century after century show its uniqueness. The Bible is deep enough for the most gifted scholar to spend a lifetime in one small part of it and never get out all there is, but also simple enough for a young child to read and understand. One of the greatest truths expressed is just 7 monosyllables, each 3 letters or less: "You in me and I in you" (John 14:20). The Bible stories are never hurried or cramped, neither are they drawn out and boring. The Bible does not gloss over the sins of its heroes, neither does it overemphasize them. The values and opinions of the writers are not the focus, just their.

11. Another proof for the Bible not being written by man is its **enduring freshness**. Voltaire said 150 years ago: "Within 100 years the Bible will be obsolete." It has not happened, in fact his home now houses a Bible society! The Bible never grows old. No other book in the world not only invites but sustains a ceaseless re-reading. Other books come and go, but the Bible has remained for thousands of years. It remains a fresh, up-to-date book, not an old book.

12. If man wrote the Bible would he say to further spiritual ends by love & reliance on divine **power** or by political force? The Inquisition and Crusades in Christianity as well as the history of Islam, Shintoism, Nazism, etc., all show man used political force to spread their beliefs. The Bible commands to do it in a way that is not natural for man, the opposite way.

13. No human **scientist** has been able to avoid being obsolete in a later time. Science is always changing but the Bible is scientifically infallible in all ages. The Bible spoke accurately of scientific truth thousands of years before man 'discovered' them, while the very writers often believed the opposite of what they were writing. For example, the Bible says the life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11) yet until recent times doctors bled people to cure them. The Bible says the physical world is basically non-physical in its ultimate essence (Hebrews 11:3; Colossians 1:16-17), something no human writer could or would have guessed at. The Bible has always said the earth was round (Isaiah 40:22), rotates (Job 38:12,14), has gravity (Job 26:7), and the whole solar system orbits in the universe (Psalm 19:16). Man believed the moon was greater than the earth for many centuries but the Bible says opposite (Genesis 1:16). Even atomic energy and its results is found in II Peter 3:10-12 (the Greek word means to "loose" or "set free" as what happens when atoms are released). The laws of thermodynamics are there, too: #1 (Genesis 2:1-2; Hebrews 4:3,10) and # 2 (Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 1:10-12; Romans 8:20-22). There are many other examples.

14. The number and accuracy of the **ancient manuscripts** of the Bible that have come down to us today show God's work in giving and keeping the Bible for us. Of Caesar's "Gallic Wars" we have only 9 manuscripts, the oldest 900 years after the original. Of the "History of Thucydides" and "History of Herodotus" we have only 8 manuscripts each, from 1300 years after they happened. Yet of the Old Testament we have 1,700 manuscripts, the oldest 100 years after the original. The variation percentage between them is one minor difference every 2,000 words! Evidence for the New Testament is even greater: 13,000 manuscripts with the oldest portion 10 years after the original and the variation percentage being only one minor difference every 200,000 words! Manuscripts have come down in many different languages and large portions come to us quoted in the works of hundreds of authors. The recent discover of the Dead Sea Scrolls pushed back the date of the earliest Old Testament manuscripts 1,000 years, yet there was no difference between them later manuscripts.

15. The study of **archaeology** continues to prove there are no historical inaccuracies in the Bible. William F. Albright, one of the greatest archaeologists ever, said, "The Bible's incredible historical memory has been many times validated by the process of discovery. No

archaeological discovery has contradicted a Biblical reference." For many years scholars thought the Bible in error about the Hittites for no trace of that vast and great civilization had ever been found. In recent years, though, much has been found validating the Bible.

16. The preservation and regathering of the **nation Israel** after 2,000 years is proof of the greatness of the Bible. It has never happened, nor was it ever thought possible to happen, for a group of people to survive 2,000 without a homeland yet stay a separate cultural unity. That has happened with the Jews. Where are the Ammonites? Philistines? Hittites? Not only that, but the Jews are now back in their homeland, a sociological miracle!

17. The **inner testimony of the Holy Spirit** inside His people gives us assurance that the Bible is true. He gives us peace and assurance within that the Bible indeed is God's book.

18. The **life and resurrection of Jesus** also give validity to the Bible. If everything about Him, His deity and His resurrection is true, then the Bible is true. If it is not true the Bible cannot be from God. This will be considered in the next article about the deity of Jesus.

### **BIBLE: A MIRACLE BOOK**

1. It is miraculous in its origin -- coming to us by divine inspiration.
2. It is miraculous in its durability -- outlasting the opposition of its critics and surviving the attempts of its enemies to exterminate it.
3. It is miraculous in its results -- transforming the lives of those who read and believe it.
4. It is miraculous in its harmony -- agreeing in all its parts, even though written over a period of 1600 years by about 40 different authors.
5. It is miraculous in its message -- telling of many occasions when God supernaturally intervened in the affairs of men to accomplish his redemptive purposes.
6. It is miraculous in its preservation -- maintaining its accuracy and reliability down through the centuries.

Yes, the Bible is God's Miracle Book!

If you are cold, let it WARM you,

If you are asleep, let it WAKE you,

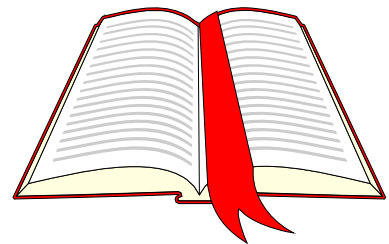
If you are a backslider, let it WARN you,

If you are defiled, let it WASH you.

If you are disobedient, let it WHIP you.

If you are uncertain, let it WITNESS to you.

If you are unsaved, let it WIN you.

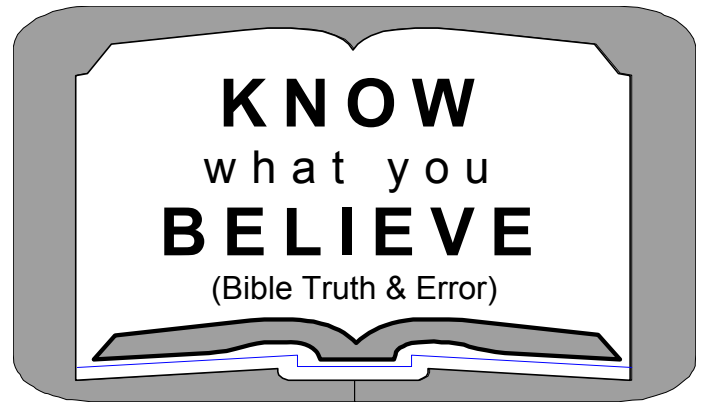


**THEY WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE BELIEVE?** If there is this great body of evidence, why do so many deny the Bible as being God's Word? Let me answer that with a story. Many years ago, while on a visit to England, a wealthy man was fascinated by a powerful microscope. Looking through its lens to study crystals and the and the petals of flowers, he was amazed at their beauty and detail. he bought one and took it home. He thoroughly enjoyed using it until one day he examined some food he was planning to eat for dinner. He discovered tiny living creatures were crawling in it. He was especially fond of this food and didn't know what to do. Finally he concluded there was only one way out of this dilemma: he smashed the microscope to pieces. That is what man tries to do to the Bible when it shows up his sin. Like bugs under a rock run from the light when the rock is turned over, so man in sin runs from the light of God's truth about him. That is what many do with the Bible because it reveals their sin. What a privilege we have in owning and reading God's written message!

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT

# JESUS GOD & MAN

(& AN EVALUATION OF HARE KRISHNA &  
UNIFICATION [MOONIES])



By Jerry Schmoyer Copyright © 1997

Did Jesus really live? Was there REALLY a historical person by the name of Jesus, from Nazareth, who lived in Palestine early in the first century AD? Can you prove it?

**JESUS THE MAN** There is so much historical proof, in the Bible and by secular historians alive at the time, that no one doubts that Jesus lived as a man. Its a proven historical reality. Ralph Waldo Emerson has said, "The name of Jesus is not so much written as plowed into the history of the world." Was there really a person named Jesus? It's not even questioned.

**JESUS THE GOD** However, was this human Jesus also God? Was He divine? That's where many people, not wanting to admit to any God to whom they are accountable, deny Jesus is God. Still, there is proof, abundant proof, that Jesus is God. Let's look at some of it.

**I. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD** Some try to say Jesus never claimed to be God, but that just isn't true. *"Before Abraham was, I Am" (John 8:58) "Father, Glorify me with the glory which I had with You before the world was." John 17:5 "I and the Father are One." John 10:30* He accepted worship as if He were God. He claimed to be able to forgive sin (Mark 2:5). Look at the following list:

**Claimed Equality With God** Matt. 28:19; John 5:17-18; 12:45; 13:20; 14:1, 9

**Claimed Oneness With God** Matt 4:7; Luke 4:12; 8:39; John 10:30, 36-38; 17:11, 21-22; 20:28

**Claimed To Be Sent By God** Jn 4:34; 5:37; 7:16-29; 8:16; 9:4; 11:42; 14:24; 16:28; 17:18,23

**Claimed To Be The Son of God** Matt 16:17; 22:42-45; Mark 12:35-37; 14:61-62; Luke 20:41; John 9:35-37; 22:69-70 ("Son" does not mean He is inferior to His "Father" but of the same substance, equal in right and position. God is called the ETERNAL Father, thus Jesus the eternal Son. Thus they both always existed. It's not that the Father came first! This Father-Son reference is just to show family closeness and equality. Reading in inferiority for the Son is way beyond the limits of legitimate interpretation.

**Claimed To Be From Heaven** John 6:33, 35, 51

**Claimed Attributes of God** John 8:42; 16:15

**Omniscience** Matt 11:21-22; Luke 10:13

**Omnipresence** Matt 18:20; 28:20

**Omnipotence** Mark 14:61-63; Luke 22:69-70; John 2:19, 10:18; 11:25-27

**Forgive sin** Mark 2:5,9,10; Luke 5:20-21; 7:48-49

**Divine Authority** Matt 7:21-23; 28:18

**Honor** John 5:22-23

**Pre-Existence** John 8:58; 17:5; 1:1f

**LORD, LUNATIC or LIAR** Many people try to write Jesus off as just a nice man, a good teacher, a fine example. That could have been if it weren't for His claims of deity. When someone goes around saying He is God, can forgive sin, and accepting worship as God, then those who would follow Him must deal with these claims. While claiming to be humble, Jesus said over and over He was God. There are only three possibilities, and a good teacher isn't one of them: **LORD**: He could be right and really God. **LUNATIC**: He could be deluded, mixed up mentally, or demonized and really think He is God but be mistaken. **LIAR**: He could know He isn't God but just be trying to deceive people. You see, either He is God or He isn't. If He is then He is much more than just a good teacher, He is Lord. If He isn't, then He cannot be a good teacher for He is either a lunatic or liar and no matter which not worthy of being followed, for what about Him can really be trusted? Lord, Lunatic or Liar -- which do you say He is?

**II. PROOF HE WAS GOD** Not only did Jesus claim to be God, but there is abundant proof that His claims were true. Consider there:

**A. PROOF FROM REASON** For one thing, His character coincided with His claims. When some goofball claims to be God, his character doesn't agree with the claims. But Jesus lived a sinless, perfect, other-centered life. Even Pilate recognized this (Mt. 27:54).

For another thing, Jesus demonstrated a power over natural forces. Nature responded to His every word: storms, water to wine, fish and bread multiply, even demons submit.

Also, He shows the Creator's power over sickness, making the lame to walk, dumb to speak, blind to see, and bringing people back to life.

Finally, others felt He was God. Those who knew Him, lived with Him day in and out for 3 years, called Him Lord, Son of God, Father, Master, etc. Even his enemies, who had spies investigating His every action looking for a slip, could find nothing imperfect about Him.

Certainly there is proof from reason that Jesus is God. There is more proof, too:

**B. PROOF FROM FULFILLED PROPHECY** Old Testament prophecies were all fulfilled, in Jesus Christ and Him only. Here is a partial list of the prophecy and fulfillment.

1. Born of the seed of woman: Gen 3:15; Gal 4:4, Matt. 1:20
2. Born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18,24,25; Lk 1:26-35
3. Son of God: Ps 2:7 (I Chron 17:11-14; II Sam 7:12-16), Mt 3:17; 16:16 (Mk 9:7; Lk 9:35)
4. Seed of Abraham Genesis 22:18 (12:2-3); Matthew 1:1; Gal 3:16
5. Son of Isaac: Genesis 21:12; Lk 3:23,34 (Mt 1:2)
6. Son of Jacob: Num. 24:17 (Gen 35:10-12); Lk 3:23,34 (Mt 1:2; Lk 1:33)
7. Tribe of Judah: Genesis 49:10; Lk 3:23,33 (Mt 1:2; Heb 7:14)
8. Family line of Jesse: Isaiah 11:1, 10; Luke 3:23,32 (Mt 1:6)
9. House of David: Jeremiah 23:5 (II Sam 7:12-16; Ps 132:11); Lk 3:23,31 (Mt 1:1; 9:27)
10. Born at Bethlehem: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1 (Jn 7:42, Mt 2:4-8; Lk 2:4-7)
11. Presented with gifts: Psalm 72:10 (Isaiah 60:6); Matthew 2:1,11
12. Herod kills children: Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16
13. His pre-existence: Micah 5:2 (Isa 9:6-7; Ps 102:25); Col 1:17 (Jn 1:1-2; 8:58; Rev 1:17)
14. He shall be called Lord: Psalm 110:1 (Jere 23:6); Luke 2:11; 20:41-44
15. Shall be Immanuel (God With Us): Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 7:16
16. Shall be a prophet: Deut 18:18; Matthew 21:11 (Luke 7:16; Jn 4:19; 6:14; 7:40)

17. He shall be a priest: Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 3:1; 5:5-6
18. He shall be a judge: Isaiah 33:22; John 5:30; II Timothy 4:1
19. He shall be a king: Psalm 2:6 (Zech. 9:9; Jer 23:5); Matthew 27:37; 21:5 (John 18:33-38)
20. Special anointing of the Holy Spirit: Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17; 12:17-21 (Mk 1:10-11)
21. His zeal for God: Psalm 69:9; John 2:15-17
22. Preceded by messenger: Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1-2; 3:3; 11:10
23. Ministry to begin in Galilee: Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12,13,17
24. Ministry of miracles: Isaiah 35:5, 6a; 32:3,4; Matthew 9:32,33,35; 11:4-6 (John 5:5-9)
25. Teacher of parables: Psalm 78:2; Matthew 13:34
26. He was to enter the temple: Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12
27. He was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey: Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:35,36,37a (Mt 21:6-11)
28. "Stone of Stumbling" to the Jews: Ps 118:22 (Isa 8:14; 28:16); I Peter 2:7 (Rom 9:32-33)
29. "Light" to Gentiles: Isaiah 60:3; 49:6; Acts 13:47,48a; 26:23; 28:28
30. Betrayed by a friend: Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14; Matthew 10:4; 26:49-50; Jn 13:21
31. Sold for 30 pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15; 27:3
32. Money to be thrown in God's house: Zechariah 11:13b; Matthew 27:5a
33. Price given for potter's field: Zechariah 11:13b; Matthew 27:7
34. Forsaken by His disciples: Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:50 (Mt 26:31; Mk 14:27)
35. Accused by false witnesses: Psalm 35:11; Matthew 26:59-61
36. Dumb before accusers: Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-19
37. Wounded and bruised: Isaiah 53:5 (Zech 13:6); Matthew 27:26
38. Smitten and spit upon: Isaiah 50:6 (Micah 5:1); Matthew 26:67 (Luke 22:63)
39. Mocked: Psalm 22: 7,8; Matthew 27:31
40. Fell under the cross: Psalm 109:24-25; John 19:17; Luke 23:26; Mt 27:31-32
41. Hands and feet pierced: Psalm 22:16 (Zech 12:10); Luke 23:33 (John 20:25)
42. Crucified with thieves: Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38 (Mk 15:27,28)
43. Made intercession for His persecutors: Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34
44. Rejected by own people: Isaiah 53:3 (Ps 69:8; 118:22); John 7:5,48; 1:11 (Mt 21:42,43)
45. Hated without a cause: Psalm 69:4 (Isa 49:7); John 15:25
46. Friends stood afar off: Psalm 38:11; Luke 23:49 (Mk 15:40; Mt 27:55-56)
47. People shook their heads: Psalm 109:25; 22:7; Matthew 27:39
48. Stared upon: Psalm 22:17; Luke 23:35
49. Garments parted and lots cast: Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24
50. To suffer thirst: Psalm 69:21; 22:15; John 19:28
51. Gall and vinegar offered Him: Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34
52. His forsaken cry: Psalm 22:1; Matthew 26:46
53. Committed Himself to God: Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46
54. Bones not broken: Psalm 34:20; John 19:33
55. Heart broken: Psalm 22:14; John 19:34
56. His side pierced: Zech 12:10; John 19:34
57. Darkness over the land: Amos 8:9; Matthew 27:45
58. Buried in rich man's tomb: Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60
59. Resurrection: Ps 16:10; 30:3; 41:10; 118:17 (Hosea 6:2); Acts 2:31(Lk 24:46; Mk 16:16)
60. Ascension: Psalm 68:18a; Acts 1:9
61. Seated at right hand of God: Psalm 110:1; Heb. 1:3 (Mk 16:19; Acts 2:34,35)

Note: no one else in history has ever come close to fulfilling even a few of these. No one ever can, since all Jewish records of lineage were destroyed with Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Note also: the probability of just 1 through 8 coming true would be 1 in 10 with 16 0's. (If each chance is a silver dollar and they were laid down side-by-side on state of Texas they would

cover whole state 2 foot deep! One is marked, all others not. Blindfold a man and let him walk anywhere, the chance he'd pick right one is the same as first 8 prophecies just happening!

**C. PROOF FROM THE RESURRECTION** Another line of reasoning deals with the resurrection. It's quite a claim to say one is going to come back to life, and then to have it claimed to have happened! If Jesus really did come back to life, this alone would prove His deity. If not, He can make no claims of deity. What about the resurrection?

If Jesus didn't come back to life, how are we to explain the empty tomb? Well, some say the disciples stole His body to make it look like He came back to life. But then how do we explain His 10 appearances to a total of over 500 people? Also, if they knew He didn't come back to life, where did they get the courage to all of a sudden be willing to die for Him?

OK, others say, it was His enemies who stole the body. That still doesn't explain His many appearances. Also, when people started thinking He was alive the enemies would have produced the body to prove He wasn't alive, and they never even tried to do so.

Finally, some say Jesus never died, that He just swooned and then revived. Think about what that means, though. First, He was pronounced dead by experienced Roman executioners, then a sword shoved in His side up into His heart. He was wrapped cocoon-like, head to foot (no way to breathe), covered with 100 pounds of spices, sealed in a dark, damp tomb for 3 days. Somehow He would have to revive, slip out of his wrappings (the Greek says they were undisturbed, like a cocoon after the butterfly leaves), with hands and feet ruined by nails He'd have to move a thousand-pound stone uphill from the inside (no handholds), overpower many Roman soldiers, and travel many miles to Emmaus where He'd convince everyone that He has a glorious, superior, eternal body!

There are just too many proofs to the resurrection to doubt it. He appeared 10 times to 500 witnesses. Without the resurrection being real, would could account for the spread of the early church, the conversion of Paul and millions others, the willing martyrdom of so many? How would the Lord's Supper have gotten started (why worship the body and blood of a dead person)? Why even bother with baptism, which is a picture of Jesus dying and coming back to life? There is no reason staunch Jews would change their day of worship from Saturday to Sunday unless something really momentous, something greater than the creation of the world (which is what the 7th day celebrates) really happened. Then, too, there is the whole Easter celebration of the resurrection. Why would that have started and continued if people then knew He didn't arise?

Also, there is external proof of Jesus. Many secular historians recorded what they heard about Jesus and the claims of His followers to have come back to life. Pliny the Younger wrote to the emperor Trajan in 112 about these things. Tacitus, a very anti-Christian historian, recorded what was believed and happening. Thallus, another historian, wrote about the resurrection but personally disbelieved it. So did Josephus, a famous Jewish historian of the time period. Since these men didn't personally believe, but honestly recorded the facts of history, we know they weren't part of any plot nor did they have any personal gain in recording these things. Obviously the belief in the resurrection of Jesus in the first century was well accepted and well recorded.





One final interesting fact is that Tiberius Caesar, the Roman emperor, obviously heard about the claims of Jesus' resurrection and the impact it was having in his empire, for he had a marker erected in the Nazareth cemetery (probably because he heard that Jesus of Nazareth arose but didn't learn that it was in Jerusalem) saying that anyone robbing a grave would be put to death. While none of these alone can prove the resurrection, all of them together do add up!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Without it the believer has no hope for this life or for the life to come. The apostle Paul wrote, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain" (1 Cor. 15:17). Our belief in this great teaching is not based upon some religious feeling or upon an unfounded idea about what may have happened in the past. Nor are we talking about an isolated rumor, but about a historical fact with solid evidence to support it.

In the early part of this century, a group of lawyers met in England to discuss the biblical accounts of Jesus' resurrection. They wanted to see if sufficient information was available to make a case that would hold up in an English court of law. When their study was completed, they published the results of their investigation. They concluded that Christ's resurrection was one of the most well-established facts of history!

In his little book, *Countdown*, G. B. Hardy has given us some thought-provoking questions about the resurrection. "There are but two essential requirements: 1. Has anyone cheated death and proved it? 2. Is it available to me? Here is the complete record: Confucius' tomb -- occupied. Buddha's tomb -- occupied. Mohammed's tomb -- occupied. Jesus' tomb -- empty! Argue as you will, there is no point in following a loser."

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a reality. Countless changed lives testify that it's a fact -- not a fable!

**D. PROOF FROM FULFILLED EXPECTATIONS** Let's look at this important subject from another angle. You know, if God became man, there are certain things you would expect. For example, IF GOD BECAME MAN, THEN YOU WOULD EXPECT HIM TO:

**1. Have an unusual entrance into life.** What entrance could be more unusual than to be born of a virgin? This is fully attested to by Bible writers as well as early church leaders. Why would someone make up such a preposterous beginning if they wanted to get people to believe and follow them? Unless this was true it wouldn't be claimed!

**2. He without sin.** Jesus claimed to be without sin (John 8:46). Those who lived with Him as well as His enemies all attested to this.

**3. Manifest the supernatural in the form of miracles.** Jesus claimed to be able to do miracles and many claimed to have witnessed them. The Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Jude) and early church writings all affirm these claims.

**4. Have an acute sense of difference from others.** Jesus saw Himself as unique, different. Others saw Him that way, too. Even those who didn't follow Him attest to that: the Koran, Roman and Jewish writers and leaders, and historians and scholars throughout the centuries.



**5. Speak the greatest words ever spoken.** Jesus said: "My words will not pass away" (Mt. 324:35). Roman officers: "Never a man spoke this way" (John 7:46). He is more quoted by secular teachers and philosophers than anyone else ever.

**6. Have a lasting and universal influence.** Historians agree Jesus is the most influential life who ever lived on this planet.

**7. Satisfy the spiritual hunger in man.** These needs were met individually in Matthew, Peter, Nicodemus, Zachaeus, the woman at the well, and millions of others from then to today.

**8. Exercise power over death.** He claimed to conquer death. He brought back to life a widow's only son at Nain, the Centurion's servant and Lazarus. He Himself came back to life.

**CONCLUSION** If Jesus were not God, then He deserved an Oscar!

Two infidels once sat on a railroad train, discussing the life of Christ. One of them said, "I think an interesting romance could be written about him." The other replied, "and you are just the man to write it. Tear down the prevailing sentiment about His divinity, and paint Him as a man - a man among men." The suggestion was acted upon and the romance written. The man who made the suggestion was Colonel Ingersoll, the noted atheist. The writer was General Lew Wallace, and the book was called "Ben Hur." In the process of constructing the life of Christ, Gen. Wallace found himself facing the greatest life ever lived on earth. The more he studied, the more he was convinced Christ was more than man. Until one day, he was forced to cry, "Verily, this was the Son of God!"





# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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## FOUNDER

MARY BAKER EDDY, born 1812 NH, Congregationalist, saved in teens, devout family

Frequently ill, experiments with various kinds of healing (emotional, unstable)

P. P. QUIMBY, faith healer, laid hands on, convinced person not really sick, called it 'Christian Science'

She claimed to be healed by him, then stole his ideas

Became spiritualist medium, good at influencing people and getting money

1866 founded Christian Science, claimed it was the 2nd coming of Christ

taught her 'science' for \$300 (12 lessons), they called selves "Dr" and charged others

## NAME

Not Christian or Science!

## AUTHORITY

Christian Science the revelation, MB Eddy the revelator. Can't know the revelation without knowing her.

She was the way to God

"Science and Health" (given her by God) very poor and inaccurate until edited by Unitarian minister

Bible is God's Word, but not inspired, has 300,000 errors

## VIEW of GOD

Impersonal "it" - just 'mind,' not personal

Pantheists (God is all, all is God) no god apart from creation, we are all part of 'god' (like Hinduism)

God is mind, what He created is mind, not matter (matter is unreal, doesn't really exist)

## VIEW of the TRINITY

No such thing, whole idea "suggests heathen gods"

## VIEW of CHRIST

No virgin birth (Mary conceived idea of God & named it 'Jesus') Jesus = Mary's spiritual thoughts

Not God, just human man who demonstrated the Christ principle (ideal truth)

Did miracles by realizing there was no material, nothing wrong - not really sick, just think so

Didn't die (realized there was no such thing) and hid in grave

## VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT

No such thing, substitute "Life, Truth and Love"

Mary Baker Eddy the "Comforter" - fulfilled prophecy of Christ to send Comforter

## VIEW of SIN

No sin, Satan, evil - just wrong belief in mind; man really perfect, sinless, unfallen; no right or wrong

## VIEW of SALVATION

"Blood of Christ shed on the cross is no more good to cleanse from sin than when it was flowing in His veins."

Salvation = progression to perfection (following Jesus' example in doing this)

## VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL

No heaven or hell, death just an illusion

Can't say "I am sick," like saying "God is sick." "Truth set you free from illusion of sin, sickness & death"

# ***CONFUCIANISM***

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## **FOUNDER**

Confucius (Chinese: K'UNG FU-TZU) (551-479), Chinese philosopher  
Perhaps person most influential in all China history

## **NAME**

Named after the founder, Confucius

## **AUTHORITY**

Lun Yu (Analects) - principles of his philosophy handed down by disciples  
Confucius revered the study of ancient books and classics

## **VIEW of GOD**

Little personal belief in the supernatural by Confucius himself

## **PRINCIPLES & BELIEFS**

More a social and political structure, how people are to live and get along, than a religion  
Not a religion, not trying to start a religion - a philosophy of life instead of a religion  
Never existed as established religion with church, priesthood, etc.  
Confucius seen as great teacher & scholar, never honored as God or claimed deity

Public edifices designed for annual ceremonies, esp. Confucius' birthday

Followed in China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, etc.

## **DISTINGUISHING BELIEFS**

Principles & teachings were practical & ethical rather than religious  
Saw himself as a restorer of ancient morality, transmitter rather than creator  
Focused on five virtues: kindness, uprightness, decorum, wisdom and faithfulness  
Reverence for parents, living and dead, very key concept

# ***EASTERN RELIGIONS***

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## **ZEN BUDDHISM**

“This is the most irrational & inconceivable thing in the world.” No logical analysis

Not something you understand but something you do

Hui-Neng (700 AD), Chinese monk, stressed simple life & self-discipline

Concentrate on nonsense, free mind from normal, rigid pattern of thinking

(How do you get a goose out of a bottle; think of sound of one hand clapping)

Goal: to free the will so that all things bubble along in one interrelated continual flow

No personal, living God - Pantheistic

Can obtain Nirvana NOW through meditation, drugs, etc. (Buddhism & Hinduism say it takes many reincarnations)

## **YOGA**

Part of Hinduism, but taught on its own today

Union with divine through concentration & meditation,  
aided by Yoga's well-known body postures.

Demands intense effort to free the self (god) within

## **TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION**

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (pupil of 'god' Guru Dev)

New method for an old Hindu result (after MM spent 2 years in cave to discover TM)

1960's: Mia Farrow, Shirley MacLaine, Beatles, Rolling Stones, etc.

Claims not to be a religion but is

Goal: spiritual growth, peace & happiness through a system of deep meditation  
expand consciousness through levels of consciousness

Receive own personal Mantra (sounds without meaning) for meditation

Purpose: to easier contact inner self ('spirit guide')

Repackaged under many names today (SCI = Science of Creative Intelligence, etc.)

Taught to all big businesses and in most elementary schools

# **HARE KIRSHNA**

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## **FOUNDER**

Caitanya (incarnation of Krishna) - devotional yoga as a way to worship Krishna, 16th cent India  
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada - to USA in late 1960's (Greenwich Village)

## **NAME**

ISKCON = International Society of Krishna Consciousness  
(Not just a belief system; whole way of life)

## **AUTHORITY**

Any religion all right if it makes sense and gives you peace  
Bible accepted, but inferior to Hindu scriptures

## **VIEW of GOD**

Lord Sri Krishna is original personality of the Godhead (Brahma, Siva, etc., just expansions of him)  
He is everything and can be present in anything, including images, wood, marble, etc.  
Krishna - mischievous, happy, loving God with 16,000 wives

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Do not believe in the Trinity

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Krishna's son - loved by God but not God  
Great spiritual leader but not Savior, just a guru

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Called Paramatma; it is to Krishna as rays are to the sun

## **VIEW of SIN**

Man not sinful  
'Cleansing' comes by personal sacrifice & discipline, eating foods sacrificed to gods, etc.

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Soul trapped in body by previous lifetimes' actions (Karma). Reincarnation, thus they are vegetarians  
Escape reincarnation's cycle by chanting Krishna's name & acknowledging his presence in everyone  
Through proper worship of Krishna, Karma is destroyed & soul is liberated  
Life's main goal is to overcome our ignorance and develop Krishna consciousness by chanting the Hare Krishna ("Hail Krishna") - ant praise to Krishna 1,728 times a day  
Bypass mind, go into trance-like condition devoid of senses (like TM)  
Tithe their time to worship Krishna (2 1/2 hours a day)  
Noninvolvement in world affairs & social issues, concerned only with own liberation

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

Those very sinful have to undergo different kinds of temporary punishment on different planets  
No heaven or hell, cycles of reincarnation

# ***JEHOVAH'S WITNESS'***

## **FOUNDER**

CHARLES TAZE RUSSELL - born 1852, Pittsburgh; became a pastor (uneducated)  
said all other churches wrong, only he was right, all other churches 'anti-Christ' (egotist)  
1879 started Watchtower (wrote 7 books) - guilty of fraud, perjury, etc.

## **NAME**

"Russellites" at first, changed to Jehovah's Witness' to be more acceptable  
Jehovah's Witnesses = see under View of God

## **AUTHORITY**

WATCHTOWER PUBLICATIONS, including own translation of the Bible (1961)  
"Studies in the Scriptures" by Russell, claims inspiration  
Bible - use own translation, say it is their authority but twist it badly, can't understand it without Russell  
"People cannot see the divine plan by studying to Bible itself, need Russells writings."  
"Better to leave the Bible unread and read his books, than read the Bible & neglect his books"

## **VIEW of GOD**

Unrevealed and unknown  
Jehovah only God (sovereign, not omnipresent, limited to heaven but His power reaches everywhere)

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Doctrine of Trinity not of God but of Satan, not believed by Jesus or early Christians  
Complicated, freakish-looking three-headed god

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

"Michael" come to earth in the flesh ; No virgin birth, just human like us  
Not God, merely a man (God's first creation) - John 1:1 "Word was A God."  
No resurrection - man Jesus dead forever (annihilated, cease to exist) spirit materialized in different body during the 40 days (recreated)

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Invisible, inactive force of nature; not a person, more like a radar beam (never capitalize 'spirit')

## **VIEW of SIN**

Inherited can be removed, willful can't be removed  
World so evil must withdraw, not try to influence (don't even vote, just ignore world)  
Sin paid for by annihilation  
Jesus to earth for selfish reasons, to vindicate His name (prove He is sovereign), not provide salvation

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Christ died only as a man, for sins done in ignorance (no redemption from willful, known sin)  
Works (proclaiming Jehovah's sovereignty - why JW go on so many visits) may earn salvation  
past: trying to be one of the 144,000 (Body of Christ); others who make it in 'Paradise'  
No assurance of salvation, don't know until they die

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

No such thing as hell; annihilation after death (body & soul cease to exist)  
1874 was to be Second Coming, didn't happen, so said came to 'Heavenly Tabernacle'  
Second chance after Armageddon, dead recreated (easier to make it then than now)

# ***LIBERALISM***

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## **FOUNDER**

Unitarianism to Humanism, which influenced Christianity, starting in European seminaries in late 1800's and early 1900's. Higher Biblical Criticism undermined authority of the Bible. Affected all mainline denominations, all but Missouri Synod Lutheran and SBC. Formed National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches

## **NAME**

'Liberal' summarizes their beliefs and positions

## **AUTHORITY**

Bible just a collection of writings which represent man's best efforts & strivings after God  
Much of it out of date and useless, some possible harmful; must separate helpful from rest  
RSV translation by them, change "blood" to "sacrifice," weaken atonement, inspiration, etc.

## **VIEW of GOD**

Not a person but infinite & eternal energy, the First Cause, no existence apart from creation

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Use the term, but don't believe in 3 divine persons (barely believe in 1); redefine it entirely

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Good man, probably best man who ever lived (master product of evolution)  
So good his deluded followers superstitiously thought He was a god!  
No resurrection, no miracles (legends which got exaggerated); just good principles and teachings

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

"Force" of God

## **VIEW of SIN**

Sin is the product of the environment, not personal responsibility  
Sin = man failing to live up to his full capacity (will outgrow/evolve past this)  
Evil = not a principle at war with good but whatever doesn't satisfy

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

No real need of for eventually a loving 'god' will save all (nothing to really be saved from)  
Live by Golden Rule and do your best, that is enough  
'Universal Fatherhood of God and common brotherhood of man'  
Evangelical Christians: "slaughter-house religion of the dark ages," "gospel of gore"

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

No hell, not sure of heaven or immortality (just do your best and don't worry about it)  
"A God without wrath brought men without sin into kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross."

# **MODERN PROPHETS**

## **OLD TEST. PROPHET**

1. Chosen by God, not a volunteer
2. Belong to God, "My anointed ones"
3. Servant of God - most common title, take orders only from God, accountable only to Him
4. Patriot and reformer
5. Fight sin, speak out against sin
6. Turn men to God - revivalists
7. In God's confidence, God revealed secrets to them
8. Visions by God (not occult means)
9. God speaks to them, "Thus says the Lord"
10. Revelation from God passed on to men
11. Mouthpiece of God, not focus on self
12. God's message given, not just human opinion or advice
13. Used preaching and parables to communicate
14. Controlled by Holy Spirit, who spoke through him
15. Did miracles to prove his message was from God
16. Character was very godly
17. Quality of message was to uplift, edify
18. Effect on hearers was to lead to holy life
19. Must agree 100% with Bible and other prophets
20. 100% Fulfillment proved the prophet true

## **FALSE PROPHETS**

1. Immoral life, especially compared to a true prophet
2. Religious opportunists, say what people want to hear to benefit self
3. Prophecy comes from self or Satan, not God
4. Proclaim optimistic message of false peace and prosperity
5. Lie and deceive to mislead (by Satan)

## **TEST of a PROPHET**

100% TRUE PREDICTIONS - Deut 19:20-22

GODLY INFLUENCE ON OTHERS - Deut 13:1-5

IF NOT: STONED TO DEATH - Deut 13:6-11

## **FRUITFUL FIELDS for FALSE PROPHETS**

1. Sinfulness
2. Seared conscience
3. Ignorant of sound Biblical truth
4. Don't stick to sound doctrine
5. Those open to deception
6. Those who willfully reject the truth
7. Those discouraged, lack patience & faith to go God's way

***1 Tim 4:1-3 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.***

# MORMONISM

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## FOUNDER

Joseph Smith (born in Vt., 1805; found & translated the 'plates' in NY in 1827; killed in Ill. 1844)  
Brigham Young was his assistant and replaced him

## NAME

Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints  
Mormons (after Book of Mormon)

## AUTHORITY

Book of Mormon = translation of golden plates Joseph Smith found in New York, record of immigration of Jews from Jerusalem to North America about 600 BC, who became one of the ancestors of American Indians. Says Jesus visited them after resurrection. Full of religious teachings complimenting the Bible  
Doctrine & Covenants = things revealed to Joseph Smith and the Prophets: celestial marriage, Negroes rejected, polygamy, etc.

Pearl of Great Price = missing pieces of Old Testament by Abraham, found by Smith in an Egyptian tomb and translated from papyri

Bible = use their own translation of it, give it secondary importance

## VIEW of GOD

"A man is, God once was. As God is, man may become." (Adam was a Mormon from another planet who came here with his wives and, after starting human race, went to heaven and became 'God')

Polytheistic = many gods

Polygamy = to populate planet they go to ("celestial" marriages now)

Pre-existent souls = Adam & wives mated in heaven to create souls which await earthly bodies  
(whites only, blacks inferior, create own souls, can't be in priesthood or in heaven)

## VIEW of the TRINITY

Strongly disbelieve in the Trinity

## VIEW of CHRIST

1st soul of Adam & wife = Jesus (2nd soul was Satan, so they are brothers)

No Virgin Birth, just our 'elder brother' (sinful like us, died for Adam's sin, not ours)

Wedding at Cana was when he married Mary, Mary & Martha, had many children  
(disciples polygamous, too) - this was the real reason He was persecuted

## VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT

"Fluid" - not a person (obtained by laying on of hands) - only one place at a time

## VIEW of SIN

Adam's sin started the human race, therefore it was necessary and all right

No sin nature, only acts of 'mistakes,' sin downplayed - paid for by good works

## VIEW of SALVATION

By works, especially for LDS church

ALL will be saved, but to be a 'god' must work your way up in this life (baptism for the dead)

## VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL

No heaven or hell (all saved, just different degrees of reward)

Christ rule 1,000 yrs in Independence, MO ("New Jerusalem") then second chance for all



# ***PENTECOSTALISM***

## **FOUNDER - PENTECOSTALISM**

MONTANISTS, SHAKERS, ERVINITES and other isolated groups in history practiced tongues  
JACOBUS ARMINIUS: reacted against Calvinism and elevated free will, saying salvation could be lost  
JOHN WESLEY: followed Arminius, salvation not unconditional, perfection (free from sin) possible  
METHODIST & HOLINESS CHURCHES: carried the beliefs of John Wesley  
NEGRO HOLINESS CHURCH, Los Angeles, 1906: revival that brought in speaking in tongues

## **FOUNDER - CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT**

EPISCOPALIANS in VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA: soon spread to Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and all other denominations, even Orthodoxy and Catholicism  
Charismatics are less extreme and dogmatic than Pentecostals, less legalistic and emotional

## **NAME**

HOLINESS: John Wesley's sinless perfection possible, all can be totally 'holy'  
PENTECOSTAL: referring back to Pentecost, which they say is the norm for all Christians today

## **VIEW of BIBLE, GOD, TRINITY, CHRIST, HEAVEN & HELL**

Same as traditional, conservative Christianity from the Reformation to today

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Much more focus on the Holy Spirit than traditional conservative Christianity  
Instead of Holy Spirit a means to an end (being Christlike), He is focused on, worshipped, prayed to  
'Getting more of Holy Spirit' often emphasized over giving more of self in submission to God  
Elevated above God and Jesus, seen as power source to enable person to attain perfection/salvation

## **VIEW of SIN**

Often more legalistic, focusing on certain outer acts of sin  
Weaker view of sin, feeling that man can overcome it and live above it

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

SALVATION: by grace, freely accepting the work of Jesus on the cross  
SANCTIFICATION: a second act of grace whereby the process of perfectionism begins  
Speaking in tongues is the visible proof that this has taken place ("Baptism in the Holy Spirit")  
Often this holiness (or sanctification) is essential to salvation  
Also characterized by emotional worship, healing, slain in the spirit, interpretations, prophecies

## **MAIN GROUPS**

### **PENTECOSTAL DENOMINATIONS & GROUPS**

Church of the Nazarene (574,000 members)  
Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) (215,000 members)  
Church of God in Christ (425,000 members)  
Assemblies of God (354,000 members)  
Anything with "Full Gospel," "Pentecostal," "Holiness," etc.

CHARISMATIC GROUPS -Stay in own denominational or religious group

# ROMAN CATHOLICISM

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## FOUNDER

Constantine made Christianity state religion in 313 AD, under protection & authority of the government  
Bishop Leo declared himself heir of Peter's 'keys' and 'pope' over bishops in other cities in 445 AD  
Pope Gregory established self and bishopric of Rome as sovereign over all churches in 590 AD

## NAME

"Roman" = Bishop of Rome asserted self as supreme over all other bishops  
"Catholic" = "Universal" - see self as the one world church

## AUTHORITY

1. Bible (as interpreted by the church, people unable to interpret or understand the Bible)
2. Church traditions and beliefs from the past - on par or above Bible
3. Rulings of the Popes

## VIEW of GOD

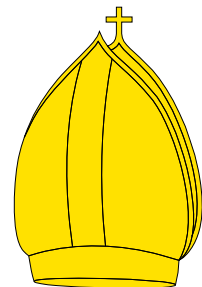
Distant, unapproachable - so contacted through the 'saints' (those with more good works than sins)  
Mary closest to God ("mother of God") best interceder - 'Co-Redeemer' suffered with Jesus to redeem

## VIEW of the TRINITY

Yes, same as us

## VIEW of CHRIST

God come to earth, same as us  
Pope is equal to Christ  
Mass is the literal sacrifice of Jesus each time it is offered



## VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT

Yes, same as us, but not emphasized

## VIEW of SIN

Original sin - same as us; Removing sin - very different from us, not just removed by Jesus  
Venial sins - don't lose salvation but cause sickness of the soul; Removed by repentance  
Mortal sins - sins after baptism cause you to lose forgiveness of ALL previous sins & lose salvation  
Removed by Confession (to a priest), Penance (good works to buy extra 'grace' to cover sin)

## VIEW of SALVATION

Faith and good works (sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders and Matrimony)  
Many are saved, but most deal with much guilt (stress God's unconditional forgiveness & Jesus' love)

## VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL

Purgatory - while remaining sins being paid for

# **SATANISM**

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## **FOUNDER**

Satan Himself; 1966 "Church of Satan" founded in USA, started by Anton LaVey ("Black Pope")

## **NAME**

After Satan

## **AUTHORITY**

Satanic Bible

Traditions and beliefs passed from generation to generation in secret

## **VIEW of GOD**

Good, better than Satan, but weak, unable to keep His promised, not as powerful as Satan

God is too distant, doesn't get involved and care as Satan does

Satan is in control of the present world, so worship and serve him!

God is more powerful, but Satan is more personal and available

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Recognize Christian belief in it, but choose to worship Satan as more powerful

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Recognize Christian belief in Him, but choose to worship Satan as more powerful

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Recognize Christian belief in Him, but choose to worship Satan as more powerful

## **VIEW of SIN**

Man has a sin nature which he must affirm and indulge

Ten commandments ineffective, only cause guilt, must reverse them to remove the guilt

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Not needed, no merit in Jesus' death on the cross

Name written on "Book of Death"

Deny Christian faith, Rebaptism in Satan's name

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

Worship hell as the throne of Satan, desire to be with him, not with God in heaven

## **OTHER DISTINGUISHING BELIEFS**

Black Mass the central ritual, dress like priests but with goat symbol (picture of Satan), use upside down cross, parodies & inversions of Christian prayers and creeds, animal sacrifices, ritualistic orgies,

black host, real blood for juice, pray to Satan backwards, conclude with vows of special service to Satan

Promise to pay annual tribute to Satan

# ***SECRET SOCIETIES***

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## **FOUNDER**

800 different secret societies in America (nearly half people in USA associated with one or another)  
OLD LINE: Masons, Odd Fellows, Klu Klux Klan, etc. (Masons first, oldest, all others modeled after)  
FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS: Elks, Moose, etc.  
LODGES started in Arabia, later revived in Egypt; 1st modern one in bar in London in 1713  
They claim started Noah & Enoch started lodge, Solomon organized it, Jesus a Mason  
Appeal to ego, pride, social status, business connections, etc. (Often bigoted) (Mt 23:5-12)

## **AUTHORITY**

Bible seemed to be elevated, but use Koran in Arab countries, etc. (Bible no better than Koran, etc.)  
Add own stories from 'tradition' to Bible (Bible just collection of fables)

## **VIEW of GOD**

Composite of Jehovah, Baal, Osiris - called J.B.O. (secret name, never pronounced) often called Allah  
One God, one universal religion (similar to Unitarianism & what Antichrist will use in Tribulation)  
Feel they alone are right, superior to others which lack their secret knowledge; superior to church

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Great moral example like Buddha, Mohammed, etc. - different labels for same idea  
Never use Jesus' name even in Scriptures they read out loud; prayer never in Jesus' name  
All world religions worship the same God (claim to be "religious" but never claim to be "Christian")

## **VIEW of SIN**

No such thing, man not sinful nor in need of salvation;

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Hope of eternal life based on good works (live up to lodge obligations), deny blood atonement of Jesus  
False security, no real salvation  
False security allows them to often live in sin, immorality, etc. (Reputation of conventions)

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

Promise resurrection to members, special private funeral service at coffin)

## **BROTHERHOOD SUPPORT**

Committed to helping each other in business, helping each other even if wrong or criminal  
Loyalty to lodge and brothers there comes before church and home (secrets not shared with wife)  
Oath to have throat slit and die if break rules or secrets of lodge  
Secrecy forbidden by Jesus (Jn 18:20; Eph 5:11-12; Mt 10:26-27)  
Unequal yoke wrong (II Cor 6:14-18)  
Jesus against taking secret oaths: Mt 5:33-37; James 5:12; Ex 20:7  
Gospel is FREE, no joining or paying dues or oaths to get way of salvation: Rev 22:17  
Jesus is the ONLY way to God, salvation, heaven John 14:6

# ***SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS***

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## **FOUNDER**

WILLIAM MILLER (born 1782) deist, saved in 2nd great awakening, Baptist minister, zealous Bible student, focus on prophecy, return of Christ

Oct 22, 1843 Jesus to return (didn't, said off by one year) then said he was wrong  
never became Seventh day Adventist or shared their beliefs, his error was setting a date  
Some of his followers left to start Seventh Day Adventists, got new leader

HIRAM EDSON - said Jesus came Oct 23, 1844, but just to heaven to finish His work of atonement  
Jesus now in heavenly sanctuary investigating all unrepentant/unforgiven sin & blotted out

ELLEN WHITE - followed Miller as a little girl, very sickly & poor health, nervous system wrecked  
Neurotic, had visions which she claimed were divine

JOSEPH BATES, emphasized Sabbath worship, said only 144,000 would be saved  
(7th Day Baptists - Ephrata Cloisters)

2 groups above merged in 1855, changed names to "Seventh Day Adventists" (many split-off groups)

## **NAME**

SEVENTH DAY = when they worship (Saturday, not Sunday)

ADVENTISTS = focus on second Advent of Christ

## **AUTHORITY**

Writings of Ellen White (she claimed inspiration for herself) - much of her writing plagiarized  
SDA today say don't see her writings as inspired, but she did, and they believe her teachings

## **VIEW of GOD**

Same beliefs as evangelical Christianity

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

Same beliefs as evangelical Christianity

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Partook of our sinful, fallen nature by inheriting a sinful nature (therefore couldn't be God)

"Michael" another one of his many titles

Atonement not finished, goes on in heavenly sanctuary

Virgin birth, resurrection, etc. - same beliefs as evangelical Christianity

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

Same beliefs as evangelical Christianity

## **VIEW of SIN**

Forgiveness of sin at salvation, blotting out not until after investigative judgment (can lose forgiveness) -  
Arminian - can lose salvation

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Emphasis on good works: tithing, Sabbath worship, dietary laws, etc. (144,000 applies to them)

Keeping the Sabbath important to earn/keep salvation - used to mislead poorly instructed Christians)

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

No hell (annihilation) - Soul Sleep - soul not separate from body

Resurrection = recreation

# **WHY WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, NOT SABBATH**

## **I. SABBATH IS CEREMONIAL LAW**

1. Sabbath wasn't known before the law was given at Mt Sinai (Nehemiah 9:13-14)
2. Sabbath worship commanded as a special covenant (Ex 31:12-17; Dt 5:15; Ezek 20:12,20)
3. Sabbath observance not written in the heart like moral law (Rom 2:14-15) - The ceremonial law was only a shadow to teach spiritual truth - Col 2:16-17; Gal 4:9-11
4. Sabbath observance was only given to the Jews in Palestine who were under God's rule, like
  - Death by stoning for breaking the Sabbath Ex 35:2
  - No fires or heat in house on Sabbath (Palestine is in a warm climate) Ex 35:3
  - Must stay in home on Sabbath, can't gather together Ex 16:29

## **II. JESUS REPLACED THE SABBATH WITH SUNDAY**

1. Christ broke the Jewish legalistic Sabbath observance often (John 5:17-18)
2. Eighth day is really first day of a new week = new day for new beginning of new people belonging to a new creation (II Cor 5:17)
3. Sabbath only one of the Ten commandments not reaffirmed in the New Testament by anyone
4. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week (John 20:1)
5. Jesus appeared to the 10 disciples on the first day of the week (John 20:19)
6. Jesus didn't appear after Sunday until the following Sunday (John 20:26)

## **III. THE EARLY CHURCH WORSHIPPED ON SUNDAY**

1. The Holy Spirit came on the first day of the week (Lev 23:16 - Pentecost)
2. Peter preached on that same first day, many were saved (Acts 2:14)
3. Three thousand converts at start of church on first day of the week (Acts 2:41)
4. Baptism administered for first time that same first day (Acts 2:41)
5. At Troas believers gathered worship on first day of the week (Acts 20:7), Paul, who was trained in the law, broke the Sabbath there and others times
6. Paul preached on the first day of the week (Acts 20:6-7)
7. Paul told the believers at Corinth to make contributions on first day of the week (I Cor 16:2)
8. The early church, in exercise of Christian liberty (Rom 14:5-6) voluntarily chose first day for fellowship and worship (Acts 20:7; I Cor 16:2)
9. Sunday observed in memory of Christ (Mt 28:9), service (Mt 28:10) & spiritual rest (Heb 4:9-10)
10. Early church warned not to submit to bondage of legalistic day observance Col 2:16; Gal 4:9-11

## **IV. THE LATER CHURCH WORSHIPPED ON SUNDAY**

1. Barnabas, companion of Paul, wrote in 100 AD, "We observe the 8th day on which Jesus rose."
2. Ignatius, follower of John, wrote in 107 AD, "We no longer the Sabbaths but keep the Lord's Day."
3. John the disciple called Sunday the "Lord's day" (Rev 1:10)
4. Justin Martyr testified to Sunday worship (145-150 AD)
5. Irenaeus' testimony was to Sunday worship (155 - 202 AD)

# ***SPIRITISM***

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## **FOUNDER**

Oldest and most deadly cult, hated by God & destroyed by Jews  
In America founded by the Fox sisters in New York in 1848

## **NAME**

After the 'spirits' which they seek and which empower them

## **AUTHORITY**

Bible same as all other religious books  
Revelation today comes directly to mediums - teachings of the spirits supersedes and advances upon the teachings of Christianity

## **VIEW of GOD**

"Great Spirit," impersonal, Pantheistic - not very concerned with God, focus on contacting the dead

PRINCIPLES:

1. Fatherhood of God
2. Brotherhood of man
3. Continuous existence
4. Communion of spirits and ministry of angels
5. Personal responsibility
6. Compensation & retribution hereafter for good or evil done on earth
7. A path of endless progress

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Not divine, never claimed to be, no virgin birth, no atoning value in His death  
An outstanding Jewish medium, 'one' with God by being a medium  
"Materialized" after death, no bodily resurrection, not the founder of a religion  
Christ-spirit on many teachers & mediums besides Jesus; Any just and perfect being is a 'Christ'

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

No such thing

## **VIEW of SIN**

No sin, fall, sin nature; sin is relative, evil does not exist (evil is a necessary part of God's plan & OK)  
Deny evil spirits, divine justice, punishment

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Not necessary or possible, not even by works  
Man becomes own Savior, becomes better by communication with spirits, not by submission to God  
Man makes his own happiness by how he lives.  
'Salvation'= returning to God-consciousness by reincarnation, occult arts, spirit communication, etc.

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

No evil spirits, hell, heaven, resurrection, judgment, etc.

# ***UNIFICATION*** *By Jerry Schmoyer Copyright © 1997*

## **FOUNDER**

Sun Myung Moon, born 1920 in Korea

Told by Jesus he would complete work of salvation Jesus failed at when on earth (he is 2nd coming)

Said transported to hell, defeated Satan in battle, both Satan and Jesus bowed & worshipped him

## **NAME**

"Moonies" = names after Moon

"Unification" = unite all religions & people of the world, all saved & perfected, earth restored

## **AUTHORITY**

Bible not God's Word, not for us; not accurate, just symbolic; quote it to sound 'Christian' but are not

Moon final authority, truth revealed to him by visionary chats with Jesus, Moses, Buddha, John Baptist

"Divine Principle" main book, say Moon wrote it but written by Yee Hye Wen, a follower

## **VIEW of GOD**

Dual qualities: spirit and energy; God not omniscient, not omnipotent

Man is visible form of God; God is invisible form of man (God and man are one) [Mysticism]

"Father" they pray to is Moon

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

No such thing

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Not God, just a man in whom God dwelt; "Christ" conditional title that must be earned (Moon did it)

Jesus same as us except without original sin, to start new human race but killed before had children

Satan invaded Jesus' body, John the Baptist responsible for crucifixion of Jesus (not God's will)

No physical resurrection or return, Moon is the Second Coming

Not accepted as Christian group by anyone

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

"True Mother" (God is Father, needs mother to give birth to life)

## **VIEW of SIN**

Adam & Eve put in Eden to develop into perfection & form Trinity with God

Failed: Eve sinned (fornication with Satan)

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

WW II paid world's indemnity for sin, paving way for Messiah (Moon, started ministry in 1946)

1st & 2nd Adam failed, 3rd Adam (Moon) will succeed by starting perfect race with own perfect children -

1960 married 2nd wife Hakja Han and now have 8 children

## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

No eternal hell for anyone; Earth will become heaven when perfect

Big push to recruit disenchanted middle-class whites, isolate & brainwash them



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## FOUNDER

ARIUS (300 AD) - condemned by the early church at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD by Nicean Creed  
Continued and spread, reaction to Reformation and revivals  
Merged with Universalists in 1959:      Universalists (God too good to damn man)  
   Unitarianism (man too good to be damned)  
Humanism and New Age an outgrowth, similar ideas (dignity of man, relative ethics & morals)

## NAME

UNITarians - if there is a God, He is one (not 3 as in the Trinity)

## AUTHORITY

Bible one among a number of equally good books (by Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, etc.)  
Bible is “myths and legends”  
No authority of their own, say “believe anything you want.”

## VIEW of GOD

Believe anything you want about God. At best He isn't a person but a force, at worst He doesn't exist.  
40% of Unitarian pastors don't believe God exists, therefore no prayer, etc.

## VIEW of the TRINITY

UNITarians - if there is a God, He is one (not 3 as in the Trinity)

## VIEW of CHRIST

Deny His deity, not Lord and God, not Messiah, just a good man like Buddha  
No virgin birth, resurrection, atonement, return; just set a good moral example  
Not recognized at a Christian group - any way the same (Christianity not superior)

## VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT

## No such thing

## VIEW of SIN

Man not sinful, only 'imperfect,' education key to man's problems  
Man is not condemned, he is essentially good and can save himself by improvement  
Ethics relative - whatever you want to do is OK, no absolute right or wrong

## VIEW of SALVATION

Character development, good works, "God helps those who help themselves"  
Be own Savior, don't look to 'God' for help  
'Salvation by faith' = repulsive, offensive, unBiblical, immoral

## VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL

No heaven, hell - idea repulsive & unacceptable

# ***UNITY***

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## **FOUNDER**

Developed from Rosicrucianism (occult) and New Thought (transcendental), Christian Science added "Word for Today" - Unity Village  
Charles Fillmore, 1854, log cabin in Minn, captured by Indians (demonized), into spiritism  
Myrtle Page (wife) Christ Science 'faith healer' - started Unity

## **NAME**

Unity of soul with God, all life, all religions, all men in truth (Myrtle said Jesus Himself gave her name)  
Unity School of Christianity full name - not 'Christian' group but use the name (fast-growing!)

## **AUTHORITY**

Writings of Fillmores - not inspired, but 'best thing available so far' (truth every changing)  
Bible = allegory, search for hidden meaning (OK for those not in direct communion with God)

## **VIEW of GOD**

Panthiestic (God is all, in all), principle, not personality; only exists in man's consciousness  
The love in everyone IS God (doesn't exist apart from this)  
Prayer emphasized greatly: "tapping the free energies of the universe" (TM, metaphysical)  
Positive thinking, prosperity thoughts

## **VIEW of the TRINITY**

No personality, no Trinity

## **VIEW of CHRIST**

Not God, only son of God as are all of the rest of us  
Perfect man indwelt by Christ-consciousness present in every one of us (we must just cultivate it)  
Didn't die on cross, matured to place where did not need material existence anymore, one with divine

## **VIEW of the HOLY SPIRIT**

The spirit of truth lying latent within everyone, ultimate authority is the 'spirit of truth' within

## **VIEW of SIN**

No truth in Satan, evil, sin, sickness, death, etc. -recognition of one's own deity releases from these  
sin = falling short of demonstrating our divine nature  
Overcome 'sin' by reprogramming mind to realize there is no such thing!  
Similar to Christian Science about sickness - deny it for it doesn't exist

## **VIEW of SALVATION**

Nothing to be saved from! Just must realize we are part of God  
Say over & over: "I am that I am. I am life. I am the Christ. I know no evil. I deny all sin and sickness.  
I have all power. I am God manifest in the flesh."

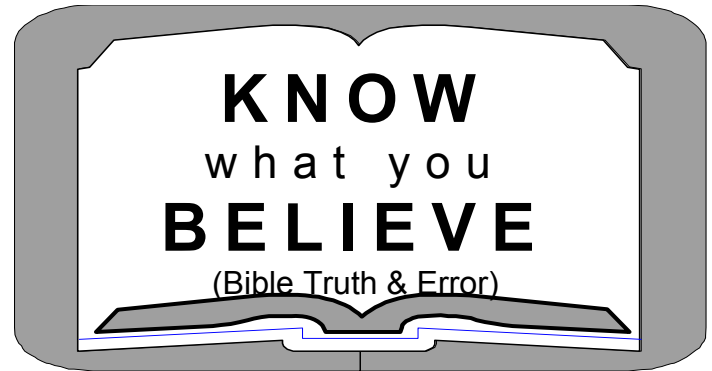
## **VIEW of HEAVEN & HELL**

No heaven, hell (refuse to believe in loss of life/death)

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT THE

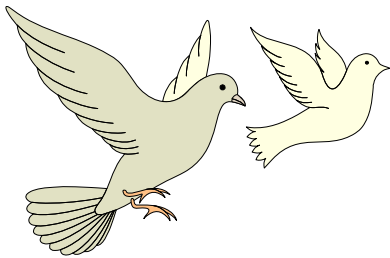
# GIFT OF TONGUES

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**BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT, SECOND BLESSING, TONGUES & SUCH MATTERS** What a land-mine this subject is! It gets so divisive. I'm sure God hates to see that among His children. I don't write this to be divisive, but God does require each of us to come to our own conclusions on this matter, based on the Bible. I don't try to explain how or why others feel led as they do, I don't in any way judge or condemn them, I only know how God is leading me from His Word. I have thoroughly studied this whole issue with as open a heart as possible, even wishing there were some higher form of spirituality and victory that would take me to a higher plane. Still, I feel totally convinced God is showing me through His Word that these things are not for me nor the people I shepherd. What is happening in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles I do not know. I only know how He leads me.

The Bible teaches that each believer is **filled with the Holy Spirit** at the moment of salvation (I Cor 10:1ff; 12:3; 6:19; Eph. 4:5; Rom. 5:5). One cannot be saved without the Holy Spirit indwelling them (John 7:37-39; 14:16-17; I Cor 6:19-20). From there on it is not a matter of getting more of the Holy Spirit but of the Holy Spirit getting more of us! As we totally submit and live a holy life He fills and works through us.



Then what about Acts 2, 8, 10 and 19, when the Holy Spirit came on those who were already believers? **Acts 2** is a one-time, non-repeatable experience (not even repeated in Acts 8, 10 or 19). Just like the Second Person of the Trinity made a unique, one-time entrance into the world through a virgin in a stable, so the Third Person made His entrance in a unique, one-time way. When Jesus came back to earth after the resurrection to the apostles, Paul or John on Patmos, He never repeated the virgin-in-a-stable entrance. Acts 2, also, is non-repeatable.

Acts 2 is a transition, from Old Testament law when the Holy Spirit only indwelt some believers some times, to New Testament grace, when the Holy Spirit indwells all believers for their whole life. The apostles had already accepted Jesus' claims and were saved in the old dispensation, then when the new dispensation started and the Spirit came they naturally would be the first to receive Him in that way. That is non-repeatable, too. In **Acts 8** we see this same truth applied to half Jews and half Gentiles, in **Acts 10** to Gentiles in Palestine, and in **Acts 19** to Gentiles outside of Palestine. They were similar to Acts 2 to show that Jews and Gentiles were now equal in the same Body, that the same thing happened to each. Each one showed the changeover from Old Testament law to New Testament grace. There had to be a definite time of change, showing the transfer had been made and those believers accepted. Still, what happened was different enough to show that it wasn't Acts 2 repeated again. Those were the only times anything even resembling Acts 2 happened in Acts, and it only happened once for

each new group as the gospel spread from Jerusalem. All others received the Holy Spirit immediately at salvation.

**Tongues is not proof of Spirit baptism.** Many received the Holy Spirit but not tongues: 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41), early church believers (Acts 4:31), Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Paul (Acts 9:17-18), John the Baptist (Luke 1:15-16), Jesus (Lk. 3:21-22; 4:1,14,18,21) and many others (Acts 4:8,31; 6:5; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9,52). Speaking in tongues is never mentioned in the leadership qualities in Titus or I Timothy. The Bible makes it clear that obedience is the proof of the Holy Spirit's indwelling, not tongues (Eph 5:18f).

**Tongues in Acts and Corinth were the same.** The same Greek word ('glossa' meaning 'tongue, to speak, language') is always used of known foreign languages and is used in both Acts (2:6-11, etc) and Corinth (I Cor 14:21; 12:10). In Acts it is obvious that the listeners heard known languages spoken by those who had no previous knowledge of the language. There is no indication that what Corinth experienced was different. It is only the church at Corinth that is mentioned as using tongues, and then many corrections were needed because it was a very carnal church (I Cor. 3:1-3).

**The purpose of tongues** was to show Jews that God's judgment was on them. They were to spread God's message to Gentiles but failed. God would show He was judging them for that by bringing His word to them by Gentiles in Gentile languages. This was prophesied in Isa. 28:9-12; 33:19f; Deut 28:49; and Jer 5:15. Paul said tongues fulfilled those prophecies (I Cor 14:21-22). When the Jews didn't heed this sign and repent, God's judgment came upon them in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed. After 70 AD there is no instance of tongues being used in the early church. Signs are placed before what they are to mark, not after! Paul said (I Cor. 13:8-12) that tongues "will be stilled." The Greek word, 'pauo,' is in the middle voice; they will stop by themselves and not start again. History records only a very few, very isolated, very minor outbreak of tongues from Acts to the present. These groups were often heretical in some or all of their other beliefs. Obviously tongues did stop. There is nothing to indicate that they would ever begin again, for their purpose has been fulfilled. When Joel 2 talks about the Holy Spirit coming back after the Tribulation, there is no mention of tongues!

Then what about those with the gift of interpretation? First, the Greek word for this refers to someone who interprets known languages, like from Spanish to German. The use of foreign languages was to show God's judgment to the Jews present. The content of the message was God's good news, which the Jews should have been spreading. Since speaking in an unknown language would mean nothing to Gentiles present, Paul said there had to be an interpreter present when the gift was used (I Cor 14:26-28). This was necessary for the weak and immature Corinthian believers (14:20-22) who were ignorant of God's truth (12:13). It was to be kept to a minimum (14:6-12) because it was an inferior gift (I Cor. 14:4). Paul himself only used his ability to speak in unknown languages in Jewish synagogues, not Jewish services (14:39).

Applying these criteria to tongues today (known foreign language, showing God's judgment on the Jews, used only with Jews present, sees as a lesser/minor gift whose use was to be kept to a minimum, etc.) shows that what is happening today is different from what happened back then.

**Tongues are not a heavenly language.** The Greek word makes it clear they are a KNOWN language (Acts 2:6-11; I Cor 14:21; 12:10). This is different than the 'groanings' of Romans 8:26 for those are clearly said to be unutterable (not able to be spoken). The "tongues of angels" (I Cor. 13:1) is a hyperbole (overemphasis to make a point) like "faith to move mountains." Besides, when angels spoke in the Bible, it was always in the known language of those to whom they were speaking.

**Tongues are not a private prayer language.** All spiritual gifts are given for the sake of others, not the one having the gift (I Cor 12:7, 12f; 14:19,27), that's why an interpreter had to always be present in Corinth (I Cor 14:26-28). Every time the gift of tongues was given in the Bible it was given to a group, not an individual. It was always used in a group, too, no instance of private use is recorded. The tongue is to be controlled by the speaker, not beyond his control (I Cor. 14:28-33). Plus, tongues were to be a sign to unbelievers, not believers (I Cor 14:22). Jesus Himself warned about praying words we don't understand (Mt 6:7). Paul said he always understood what he said when he prayed, even in tongues (I Cor 14:15). When asked how to pray Jesus gave the Lord's Prayer, not tongues.

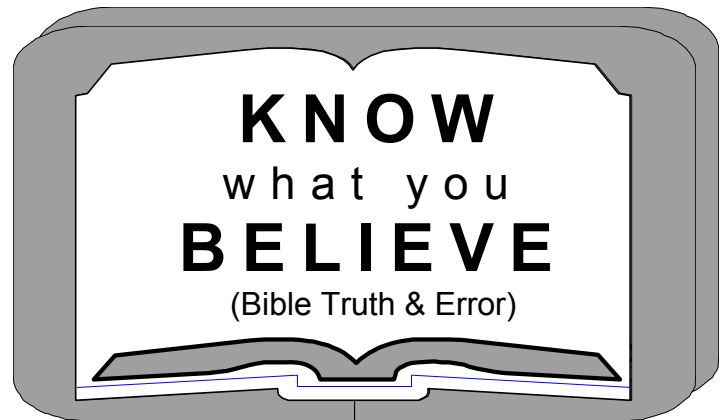
**Dangers of speaking in tongues today.** Paul warns about Satan's ability to counterfeit this (I Cor 12:2-3) as he has in other religions and cults today. Tongues is said to be an inferior gift because it is self-centered (I Cor 14:4) and leads to emphasis being put on emotions which can lead people astray (II Cor 6:11-12; Rom 16:17-18). We are told to pray with understanding (I Cor 14:13-17) and control our spiritual gift (I Cor 14:28-40). God arbitrarily chooses which gifts to give to whom (I Cor 12:7,11,18,28). We are told to not seek any particular gift (I Cor 12:31; 14:1-4). Tongues speaking can become a substitute for spirituality (I Cor 14:26-28). Worse of all, it can produce a false security by those who put faith in it as proof that God loves and accepts them. Most who practice tongues-speaking do not believe in eternal security of salvation, so their speaking in tongues becomes their proof of acceptance by God. Our faith must be in Jesus' work on the cross, not in our ability to speak in 'tongues.' Those without the gift can feel pressured to fit in with the rest of the group.

**Arabic • Bulgarian • Czech • CHINESE • DANISH**  
**Dutch • FARSI • finnish • Flemish • French**  
**German • GREEK • Hungarian • Italian • Japanese**  
**Korean • NORWEGIAN • Malay • Polish**  
**Portuguese • Romanian • Russian • Slovak**  
**Spanish • Swedish • THAI • Turkish • Vietnamese...**

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT THE

# ‘FAITH HEALING’

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There are those today who believe that Jesus not only paid for sin on the cross, but that He also paid for our sickness. They say that each is received by faith, if you have enough faith to receive it. Loss of faith, then, causes the loss of these benefits of faith. They claim some are especially gifted in healing and can heal those who come to them. They say God did miracles in the Bible and he is still a miracle-working God today.

What about this? Is this true? This is not just one peripheral issue, but stands very central in our salvation and Christian life. Is God's sovereignty or man's free will the final and ultimate deciding factor? It must be God's sovereignty. The motive for living for Jesus should not be fear of losing our salvation. The goal of living for Jesus should not be a problem free life. Pain and suffering isn't to be faced by whipping up enough 'faith' so that God removes it (or living with the feelings of failure and guilt if it isn't removed and we believe that is our fault by not having enough faith). What about these claims of 'faith healers'? What does the Bible say?

# Rx

**IS THE GIFT OF HEALING FOR TODAY?** While it's true that Jesus and the Apostles healed, it was done as a sign to authenticate that they were from God (Mt 12:39). This was God's way having people listen to them instead of all the counterfeits around. When they were fully authenticated, there was no longer any reason for the sign. In AD 35 all were healed but by AD 60 some were not (Epaphroditus, Paul's thorn in the flesh). Then by AD 67 very few were being healed (Trophimus was left at Miletus sick, Timothy's stomach was unhealed, etc.). Jerusalem, the scene of many early miracles, had not one miracle done in it after Stephen was stoned. The people had the evidence but rejected it. James, the oldest book in the

Bible, says that if someone is sick we are to pray for them (James 5:14).

**SHOULD WE SEE MIRACLES TODAY LIKE IN BIBLE TIMES?** Actually if you list all the miracles in the Bible you will find almost all of them fit three time periods. They aren't evenly spread out throughout history but cluster in the times of Moses/Joshua, Elijah/Elisha and Jesus/apostles. In each of these times a new mess had developed so God sent a new message through a new messenger whom He authenticated by miracles ("signs"). One more time of miracles is coming, called the Tribulation.

**IS FAITH A PREREQUISITE FOR HEALING?** Jesus didn't make faith a requirement for healing. Many that He healed didn't have faith. The impotent man at the pool didn't even know who He was. The man with the withered hand and the man with dropsy were healed as a sign to religious leaders who were present, they didn't ask to be healed. The cripple that Peter and Paul healed outside the temple didn't exercise any faith. Of course the demoniacs who were delivered and those brought back from the dead didn't exercise faith. Then there are others who had strong faith but weren't healed: Stephen, Paul, Timothy, Job, David, Elisha, etc.

**IS 'HEALING' TODAY THE SAME AS IN BIBLE TIMES?** Today's 'healers' must meet the same characteristics of Jesus and the apostles to claim they are doing what was done then. Jesus and the apostles healed with a word or touch wherever and whenever. There was no special place or time, no chants or music, no gimmicks, nothing. Do today's faith healers walk down the hall in a hospital and empty every room? That's how Jesus and Peter did it. Also, Bible miracles were done instantly, not gradually or slowly. There was no healing to 'claim' or lose. Healing was then done totally, not partially, and it was never lost. Everyone was healed. There was no screening done. 100% of every one, no matter the need, was healed. Organic diseases were healed: limbs grew back instantly, strong enough to walk on, eyes were open, leprosy instantly gone and healthy flesh grown. Then, too, the dead were raised. Today's faith healing doesn't nearly meet these characteristics.

**DOES GOD NOT HEAL?** Yes, a sovereign God can always heal. He is always able to heal, but He is not always willing. Healing isn't guaranteed. Healing isn't based on our having enough faith. Miracles by Jesus and the apostles were done as a sign to authenticate the One who could heal an unseen soul. God can and does heal, but He doesn't gift others to do it, nor does He say that is the recommended norm for His people.

**WHAT ARE WE TO DO WHEN SICK?** When we are sick it's good to first make sure it isn't for sin or disobedience. If there is sin that God is using the sickness to point out, confess it and God will forgive and then use that illness for good (Romans 8:28). It's fine to pray, asking God to heal if that is His will. We are to submit to His will, not demand He do what we want. Ask Him to use the pain and suffering for His glory (that we and others can see His greatness through His provision and peace) and our growth (make us trust Him more and become more like Jesus). Use the best available resources: diet, rest, exercise and medical help. Realize that all healing does ultimately come from God. Leave the results to His will, though.

Granted, this whole subject of faith and healing can be a confusing and guilt-producing area. Specific verses can be found to seemingly support most any view. However an overview of the Bible and its teaching about these things definitely seems to substantiate the above view of healing. Always remember, our faith must be in Jesus. HE is the object of our faith, never a human person or group. Put faith in Jesus, not faith in your faith! HE is the one we are to look to and glorify. Always keep your eyes on Him. Trust and serve Him no matter what.





# WORLD VIEW BASICS



## 1. WHO AM I?

CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW	NONCHRISTIAN WORLD VIEWS
Creation - sovereign loving God	Evolution - chance
Man basically sinful, can't save self	Man basically OK, not need saving
Dr Jeckel & Mr Hyde	Frankenstein
God is the final absolute	Man is the final absolute
Bible based	Human reasoning based

## 2. WHAT'S MY PROBLEM?

CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW	NONCHRISTIAN WORLD VIEWS
MAN: sinful, fallen, can't save self	MAN: OK, getting better, independent
Man basically sinful, can't save self	Man basically OK, not need save
Satan, sin, evil exist	no such thing as sin, evil - outgrow it

## 3. WHAT'S MY SOLUTION?

CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW	NONCHRISTIAN WORLD VIEWS
<b>REDEMPTION</b> - salvation by Jesus	<b>CHANGE SOCIETY</b> , man already OK
<b>GOD</b> : transcendent, sovereign, involved Theism: 1 God	<b>GOD</b> : no supernatural power involved Pantheism: all is god Polytheism: many gods Atheism: no gods
Personal, sovereign God separate & above man	Impersonal force at most or Man himself as 'god'
Creation - sovereign loving God	Evolution – chance
Absolute right & wrong: Bible from God	No absolutes, man decides for self
<b>TRUTH</b> : absolutes, revealed by God in Bible	<b>TRUTH</b> : relative, individual
Absolute right & wrong: Bible from God	No absolutes, man decides for self
<b>SUFFERING</b> : purpose for man, God	<b>SUFFERING</b> : no purpose, luck
<b>PURPOSE OF LIFE</b> : serve God, do His will	<b>PURPOSE OF LIFE</b> : pleasure now
see this life in light of eternity	this life all there is, focus on it only
high regard for life: in God's image	little regard for life: like an animal



## What constitutes a 'biblical' worldview?

Belief in absolute moral truth as defined by Scripture

Acceptance of 6 core Biblical beliefs:

1. accuracy of biblical teaching
2. sinless nature of Jesus
3. literal existence of Satan
4. omnipotence and omniscience of God
5. salvation by grace alone
6. personal responsibility to evangelize



### A Tongue-in-Cheek View of Worldviews

Capitalism - He who dies with the most toys, wins.

Hari Krishna - He who plays with the most toys, wins, hari hari.

Catholicism - He who denies himself the most toys, wins.

Anglicanism - They were our toys first.

Presbyterianism - Never mind the toys; let's just read the manual!

Greek Orthodoxy - No, they were OURS first.

Branch Davidians - He who dies playing with the biggest toys, wins.

Atheism - There is no toy maker.

Polytheism - There are many toy makers.

Evolutionism - The toys made themselves.

Church of Christ, Scientist - We are the toys.

Communism - Everyone gets the same number of toys, and you go straight to hell if we catch you selling yours.

B'Hai - All toys are just fine with us.

Amish - Toys with batteries are surely a sin.

Taoism - The doll is as important as the dump truck.

Mormonism - Every boy can have as many toys as he wants.

Voodoo - Let me borrow that doll for a second.

Hedonism - To heck with the rule book!? Let's play!

Hinduism - He who plays with bags of plastic farm animals, loses.

7th Day Adventist - He who plays with his toys on Saturday, loses.

Church of Christ - He whose toys make music, loses.

Baptist - Once played, always played.

Jehovah's Witnesses - He who sells the most toys door-to-door, wins.

Pentecostalism - He whose toys can talk, wins.

Existentialism - Toys are a figment of your imagination.

Confucianism - Once a toy is dipped in the water, it is no longer dry.

Non-denominationalism - We don't care where the toys came from, let's just play with them.

Agnosticism - It is not possible to know whether toys make a bit of difference.

# ABSOLUTE TRUTH

Can't ACT like Jesus if don't THINK like Jesus  
Can't THINK like Jesus if don't have Biblical World View

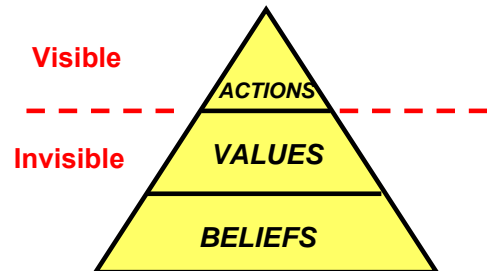
## **WORLD VIEW PLUS!**

*Understand, Defend & Share Your Faith*

### **I. TRUTH & RELATIVISM**

Does believing something make it so? Why or why not?

***"Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." Judges 17:6***



### **I. TOLERANCE & INTOLERANCE**

#### SCIENCE NOT TOLERANT

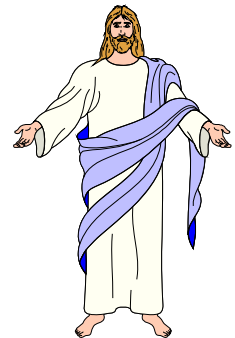
Water boils at 212 degrees and freezes at 32 degrees at sea level  
Heavier object pulled down, attracted to center of earth

#### MATHEMATICS NOT TOLERANT

2 + 2 always 4  
straight line shortest distance between two points

#### ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS to get to some place

-or just take any road you want, they all will get you there! - not so!



### **JESUS WAS INTOLERANT**

#### ABOUT ANY OTHER WAY OF SALVATION

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one come to the Father but by me  
Enter by narrow gate

He who is not with me is against me

He who has the Son has everlasting life and he who does not believe the Son  
shall not see life but the wrath of God abides on him

Peter: nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven

Paul: there is one god and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ

#### ABOUT HYPOCRISY

'Woe' to religious leaders over and over

Pilgrims Progress: Hypocrisy & formalist seeking shortcut to Mt Zion

When got to hill called Difficulty took other way, never heard from again

#### ABOUT SELFISHNESS

If anyone came after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me

Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake

#### ABOUT SIN

Woman in adultery: go and sin no more

## **II. ABSOLUTES:**

ABSOLUTES ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

It is not self-righteous to say that others are wrong, unless in the process we believe that we have become right by our own efforts.



***JN 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."***



### **JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY**

***JN 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."***

***John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."***

***Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."***

***1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,***



***Jesus  
is the  
only way***

## **SPIRITUAL WARFARE BIBLE MEMORY VERSES**

**GOD'S LOVE & ACCEPTANCE** The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. Psalm 103:8

**THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD** The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

**GOD'S TRUTH FREES** "If you hold to my teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

**LIVE IN HOLINESS** Therefore, I urge you, brothers in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your spiritual act of worship. Rom. 12:1

**SUBMIT TO GOD, RESIST SATAN** God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. James 4:6-8

**GOD IS GREATER THAN SATAN** The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. I John 4:4

**GOD WILL MEET ALL OUR NEEDS** My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

**RENEW YOUR MIND WITH CHRIST** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

**PRAYER** The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

**AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS** Jesus replied: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." Luke 10:18-19

**RESISTING SATAN** Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:23

**SIN AS OPENINGS TO DEMONIZING** Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

**CURSES** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Galatians 3:13

**ANCESTRAL & CHILDHOOD OPENINGS** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! II Corinthians 5:17

**OCCULT OPENINGS** Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:31

**NEW AGE OPENINGS** Such men (who preach a Jesus other than the Jesus I preached) are false prophets, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. II Corinthians 11:13-15

**DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONIZING** Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God ... This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. I John 4:1-2

**DELAYED DELIVERANCE** The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ... For when I am weak, then I am strong. II Corinthians 12:9-10

**CONTINUING VICTORY** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith. I Peter 5:8-9

## **PROMISES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE:**

Our Adversaries Will Be Defeated: Deuteronomy 32:43; Philippians 1:28; Deuteronomy 33:27

Victory is Promised: I Corinthians 15:57; I Chronicles 29:11; Proverbs 21:31; I John 5:4, 18; Rev. 12:11; 15:2; Romans 8:37; II Corinthians 2:14; John 16:33

God Promises To Fight For Us: I Samuel 14:47; Jeremiah 1:8

No Weapon Formed Against The Believer Can Prosper: Isaiah 54:17

Jesus Is Constantly Praying & Interceding On Our Behalf: I John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25

God Is Always With Us: Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 18:20; John 14:16, 21; Revelations 3:20

Confession Means Cleansing & Forgiveness: I John 1:8-9; Thessalonians 5:23-24; I Timothy 4:5; Luke 11:13; II Timothy 2:21; Jude 1; Romans 8:33-39; Titus 3:4-5

God Hears & Answers Prayer: Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:9; Jeremiah 33:3

We will never Be Separated From God: Romans 8:35-39; John 10:27-29; 3:36; 5:24

God Will Meet All Your Needs: Philippians 4:19; Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:32; I Samuel 12:24

There Is No Need To Worry: Matthew 6:25,34; I Peter 5:7; Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 5:38-39; Psalm 37:1-9; Jude 24

God Promises His Care & Protection: Deuteronomy 33:27; Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 23:24; 32:7

Everything Will Work Out Right In the End: Romans 8:28

You Won't Ever Face Anything You Can't Handle With God's Help: I Corinthians 10:13

Peace Is Available No Matter What: John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 11:28-30; II Timothy 1:7

Trials Are Allowed To Bring Spiritual Growth: Psalm 119:67,71,75; 94:12; Isa. 48:10; Rom. 5:3

The Believer Has Nothing To Fear: Proverbs 3:25; Isaiah 14:3; Psalm 34:4; Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35,40-41

We Are Assured Of Eventual Triumph Over Our Adversaries: Acts 2:39

Victory Is Guaranteed Us: I Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; I Chronicles 29:11; I John 5:4, 18; II Chronicles 32:8; Revelation 3:5; 21:7

God Will Help Us Carry Our Burdens: Nehemiah 4:10; Matthew 11:30; Psalm 55:22

God Promises Comfort: Psalm 23:4; Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 5:4; 11:28-30; John 14:16, 18; John 14:16, 18; Romans 15:4; II Corinthians 1:3-4; II Thessalonians 2:16-17

God Will Give Us Courage: Proverbs 38:1; I Corinthians 16:13; II Timothy 1:7

Guidance Is Promised: Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; 58:11; Luke 1:79; John 15:13

God Will Help In Your Sorrow: Proverbs 10:22; Isaiah 53:4; John 16:22; II Corinthians 6:10; I Thessalonians 4:13; Revelation 21:4

Wisdom Is Promised Those Who Ask: James 1:5; 3:15-17; Luke 16:8; 21:15; I Cor. 2:5; 3:19

Rejecting Wrong Thoughts: II Corinthians 10:5; Psalm 139:23-24; 141:3-4; Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:18-21

Power of the Word of God: Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11; 59:21; Psalm 119:81, 105, 111-112; Proverbs 30:5; Lamentations 2:17; 3:37; Matthew 24:35; John 5:24; 8:51; 15:7; Romans 10:17

God's Promise of Angelic Intervention: II Kings 6:17; Psalm 34:6-7; Psalm 91:11; Daniel 6:22; 10:5-14; Acts 12:15

## **PROMISES**

### **ALL OUR NEEDS MET**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. Ps. 84:11

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name sake. Ps. 23:1-3

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Mt. 6:33

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19

I will never leave you or forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

### **ANSWERED PRAYER**

Ask & it will be given to you; seek & you will find; knock & the door will be opened to you Mt. 7:7

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Mt. 21:22

will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. John 14:13

You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it John 14:14

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him. John 5:14:15

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

You will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will hear you. Jeremiah 29:12

### **BLESSING THROUGH TRIALS**

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. Ps. 126:5

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem. Isa. 66:13

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

You know the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:3

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield. Ps. 91:4

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble I will deliver him & honor him. With long life will I satisfy him & show him my salvation. Psalm 91:14-16

## **FAITHFUL WITNESS**

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. Mt. 10:32

I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me forever. But now the LORD declares: Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. I Samuel 2:30

## **FEAR**

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? Ps. 118:6

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me. Ps. 23:4

Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." Gen 15:1

"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. Ex. 14:13

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isa. 41:10

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid. Mt. 14:27

## **FORGIVENESS OF SIN**

If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you Mt. 6:14

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me. Jeremiah 15:19

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **GUIDANCE**

For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end. Ps. 48:14

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name sake. Ps. 23:1-3

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Prov. 3:5-6

I will instruct you & teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel & watch over you Ps 32:8

I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. Isa. 42:16

## **NEVER ALONE**

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Gen. 28:15

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future nor any powers, neither height

nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:38-39

My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. Exodus 33:14

## **PEACE**

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7

## **REST**

Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Mt. 11:28

My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. Exodus 33:14

## **REWARD FOR PATIENCE, FAITHFULNESS**

But those who hope (wait upon) the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isa. 40:31

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Ps. 40:1-3

## **SECURITY IN CHRIST**

I am the gate: whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. John 10:9

## **STRENGTH FOR WHATEVER COMES**

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Phil. 4:13

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Cor. 12:9

Your strength will equal your days. Deut. 33:25

He gives power to the tired and worn out, and strength to the weak. Isaiah 40:29

## **VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION**

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Cor. 10:13



## **TOPICAL INDEX of BIBLE VERSES**

**Abortion** is murder: Exodus 21:22-25; Psalm 139:13-15; Romans 14:22-23; Jeremiah 1:5; Genesis 2:7; 9:6

**Angels, creation** of: Colossians 1:16; Job 38:6-7; Jude 6; Hebrews 12:11

**Angels, ministry** to believers today: Hebrews 1:14; Acts 12:7; 27:23-24; I Corinthians 4:9; I Timothy 5:21; Luke 15:10; 16:22; Acts 8:26; Jude 9

**Angels, nature** of: Hebrews 1:14; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:36; Psalm 8:4-5; II Peter 2:11

**Annihilation** at death doesn't happen: Matthew 17:1-3; 22:32; John 11:25; Genesis 35:18; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23; John 3:36; Luke 23:43

**Assurance of salvation:** John 3:16; 5:24; 6:37, 44; 10:28-29; Romans 8:1, I 29-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; Colossians 1:12-14; I Peter 1:3-4; I John 2:1-2; I John 5:13

**Atonement for sin:** Exodus 12:13; Matthew 26:28;; 28:5-7; Luke 24:39; John 1:29; 19:33; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20

**Believe,** what does that mean? Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; I Corinthians 15:1; Colossians 2:6; II Thessalonians 2:10

**Bible, importance of studying** it: Luke 6:40; John 5:39; Acts 20:32; Ephesians 6:17; II Timothy 2:15; James 1:21-22; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 1:2

**Bible, inspired Word of God:** II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:19-20; I Corinthians 2:13; II Peter 3:15; Hebrews 1:1; 2:3; 4:12; I Peter 1:10-12, 25; II Samuel 23:1-2; Matthew 24:35; John 10:35; 17:17

**Bible, reliable & trustworthy:** John 19:35; I John 1:1; II Peter 1:16; Luke 1:1-4; Acts 2:22

**Capital punishment** ordained by God: John 8:1-11; Romans 13:1-17; Genesis 9:6

**Conscience** used by God: Acts 24:16; Romans 14:14, 23; II Timothy 1:5; Titus 1:15; Matthew 6:22-23; Romans 1:14-15; 9:1; I Corinthians 10:27-29

**Creation is by God:** Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 24:1; 8:3; Exodus 20:11; I Samuel 2:8; Psalm 33:6; 146:6; Isaiah 40:12; Jeremiah 51:15; Acts 14:15; Ephesians 3:9

**Creation shows God:** Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-2

**Demons, activity** of: Daniel 10:10-14; Revelation 16:13-16; 12:3-4; Ephesians 6:11-12; Matthew 4:24; 9:33; Luke 3:11, 16; Mark 5:13; Colossians 2:15; I Timothy 4:1

**Demons, possession & deliverance:** Matthew 4:1-11; 17:19-21; 18:20; 28:18-20; Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30; 10:17; 18:1; John 14:14; 15:7; Ephesians 5:18-20; 6:10-18; Colossians 1:20; 3:16-17; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; James 5:14-16; I John 1:9; 4:1-8

**Don't judge others:** Romans 14:3-13; 2:1-6; I Corinthians 2:14-15; 4:5; but do evaluate/discern: Matthew 18:15-18; 6:2, 5, 16; 7:1-12, 16-17; I Corinthians 5:12-13; John 7:24; Luke 12:57;

**Eternal life:** Mark 12:25; Luke 16:19-31; John 11:25-26; I Thes 4:16-18; James 2:26; I John 5:11-13

**Euthanasia:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; 7:17; Job 3:11; Jeremiah 20:14, 18; Romans 14:7-8; Philippians 1:21-24; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 9:6; Luke 7:11-18; Matthew 9:18-26; John 11:43

**Evil and suffering**, why exist: John 9:1-3; II Peter 3:9; Revelation 21:1-8; Romans 8:28

**Evolution** wrong, God created all: Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 24:1; 8:3; Exodus 20:11; I Samuel 2:8; Psalm 33:6; 146:6; Isaiah 40:12; Jeremiah 51:15; Acts 14:15; Ephesians 3:9

**Faith**, what does it mean: Psalm 118:8; Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 26:3; Mark 11:22; John 3:16-17; Romans 5:1; 4:3-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

**False Teachers**: Matthew 7:13-27; Jeremiah 23:16, 32; Deuteronomy 18:20-22; Matthew 24:4-5; 11, 24; II Peter 2:1-3

**Free will** of man: Proverbs 1:23; Isaiah 31:6; Ezekiel 14:6; 18:32; Matthew 18:3; John 6:29; 19:1; I John 3:23

**Freedom from law, legalism**: law a unit, go by all of it or none (Matthew 5:19); law given only to Israel (Leviticus 26:46; Romans 2:14; 9:4); law fulfilled by Christ (Galatians 3:13); law done away with (Romans 6:15)

**God judge** those who have never heard? Romans 1:18-25; 2:1, 14-16; Acts 14:15-17; Hebrews 11:6

**God, a Trinity**: Matthew 28:19; 3:16-17; Genesis 1:26; 11:7

**God, above** & separate from creation: John 4:24; Hebrews 1:3

**God, creator**: Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 24:1; 8:3; Exodus 20:11; I Samuel 2:8; Psalm 33:6; 146:6; Isaiah 40:12; Jeremiah 51:15; Acts 14:15; Ephesians 3:9

**God, existence**: Genesis 1:1-3; Romans 1:20

**God, grace**: Romans 3:24; 11:5; Ephesians 2:8; II Peter 3:18; Genesis 6:8; Psalm 51:1; John 1:16; Romans 5:2; II Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 4:16

**God, holy**: Exodus 15:11; Leviticus 19:2; Habakkuk 1:13; Revelation 4:8

**God, personality**: personal (John 4:24; Hebrews 1:3); Remembers (Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:20; Hosea 8:13); Speaks ((Exodus 3:12; Matthew 3:17; Luke 17:6); Knows (Jeremiah 29:11; II Timothy 2:19; I John 3:20)

**God, seen in creation**, nature: Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-2

**God, sovereign**: Exodus 18:11; 15:18; Matthew 6:10, 13; 11:25; Deuteronomy 4:39; I Chronicles 29:11; Daniel 6:26; John 7:17; Ephesians 1:11; I Tim 2:4; 6:15; Rev 19:6

**Heaven**: Matthew 22:30; Luke 20:34-38; 23:43; Revelation 7:9; 8:1; I Corinthians 13:12; 15:42; Philippians 1:23; I John 3:2; II chronicles 2:6; Mark 16:19; Deuteronomy 26:15; Job 3:17; Psalm 17:15; 73:24; Matthew 3:17; 5:3; Luke 16:19-31; 12:32; John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:17

**Hell & punishment** are real: Revelation 20:15; 14:9-11; Matthew 5:22; 8:11-12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; Mark 9:44-48; Luke 3:17

**Holy Spirit indwells believers**: I Corinthians 1:21; 5:5; I John 2:20, 27; John 3:3-8; 7:37-39; 14:16-17; Romans 5:5; 8:9; I Cor 2:12; 6:17-19; 12:13; John 7:37-39

**Holy Spirit**: John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 20:22; 16:8-14; I Corinthians 2:10-15; Matthew 1:18; 3:11, 16-17; 10:20; Isaiah 63:10; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:29; 13:2; Luke 12:12; John 16:7-18

**Homosexuality** is sin: Romans 1:26-32; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Leviticus 20:13; Genesis 2:18-22; I Timothy 1:8-10

**Hypocrisy** doesn't invalidate Christianity: Matthew 23:23-36; Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 7:23; Proverbs 26:23-26; Titus 1:16; I John 1:8, 10

**Israel, God's special protection** of: Isaiah 11:11-14; 19:19-25; Genesis 12:3; Jeremiah 48:12-15; Ezekiel 29:9-10; 35:1-5

**Jesus, Deity** of: John 1:1, 34; 5:17-23; 10:30, 36-38; 12:45; 13:20, 45; 14:1, 9; 17:11, 21-22; 20:24-31; Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:6-10; Hebrews 1:18; Matthew 1:23; 3:17; 8:29

**Jesus, fully human**: Galatians 4:4; Luke 2:52; 19:10; I John 1:1; Matthew 26:12; 4:2; Hebrews 4:15

**Jesus, the only way to God**: John 14:6; 8:24; 3:16-18; 10:30; Matthew 26:63-64; Acts 4:12; Galatians 1:8; I Corinthians 3:11; I John 2:23; Luke 10:16

**Jesus' resurrection**, physical & literal: Luke 24:39-44; John 20:27-28; Mark 16:14; I Corinthians 15:15

**Jews, God's chosen people**: Deuteronomy 14:2; 7:6-7; 10:14-15; Ezekiel 22:17-22

**Jews, God's special protection** of: Isaiah 11:11-14; 19:19-25; Genesis 12:3; Jeremiah 48:12-15; Ezekiel 29:9-10; 35:1-5

**Law, legalism** – believers free from: law a unit, go by all of it or none (Matthew 5:19); law given only to Israel (Leviticus 26:46; Romans 2:14; 9:4); law fulfilled by Christ (Galatians 3:13); law done away with (Romans 6:15)

**Life after death**: Matthew 17:1-3; 22:32; John 11:25; Genesis 35:18; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23; John 3:36; Luke 23:43

**Life**, only God can create: Jeremiah 10:16; Col 1:16-17; Job 33:4; Gen 1:26; Ps 8:6

**Marriage**, believers only marry other believers: II Corinthians 6:14-18

**Materialism**, attitude to money, accumulating money, uses of money, etc: see pages 137-141 in WV+ notebook

**Materialism**, attitude to: Proverbs 30:8-9; 10:15; 28:22; Matthew 19:23-24; II Corinthians 9:8; II Thessalonians 3:10; Ecclesiastes 10:19; Acts 8:20; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Mark 8:36-37

**Mercy killing**: Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; 7:17; Job 3:11; Jeremiah 20:14, 18; Romans 14:7-8; Philippians 1:21-24; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 9:6; Luke 7:11-18; Matthew 9:18-26; John 11:43

**Miracles** really happened: Matthew 8:14-15, 26-27; 9:2, 6-7, 27-30; Mark 1:32-34; John 2:1-11; 6:10-14

**Miracles** really happened: John 10:24-25; 20:30-31; 3:2

**Money**, attitude to: Proverbs 30:8-9; 10:15; 28:22; Matthew 19:23-24; II Corinthians 9:8; II Thessalonians 3:10; Ecclesiastes 10:19; Acts 8:20; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Mark 8:36-37

**Money, materialism**, attitude to money, accumulating money, uses of money, etc: see pages 137-141 in WV+ notebook

**Nature** shows God: Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-2

**Occult, spiritism** wrong: Leviticus 19:31; 20:6-7, 27; Exodus 20:27; 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:10-12; I Chronicles 10:13-14; Isaiah 8:19-20; Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8

**Prayer, promises:** Matthew 18:19; 21:22; Mark 11:24; Isaiah 65:24; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 7:7-8; John 14:13; I Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 8:18; Hebrews 4:16; Philippians 4:6-7; I Timothy 2:1

**Resurrection of Christians:** Psalm 49:15; 16:9-10; Luke 14:14; II Corinthians 4:14; Job 14:12-15; 19:25-27; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15; Philippians 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:16-18; John 11:23-26

**Resurrection of Jesus,** physical & literal: Luke 24:39-44; John 20:27-28; Mark 16:14; I Corinthians 15:15; I Corinthians 15:1-19; Matthew 27:62-66; 28:1-17; Mark 16:9-14; John 20:19-31

**Salvation by faith** only is too easy: Matthew 19:16-26; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 20:31

**Salvation only through Jesus** John 14:6; 8:24; 3:16-18; 10:30; Matthew 26:63-64; Acts 4:12; Galatians 1:8; I Corinthians 3:11; I John 2:23; Luke 10:16

**Salvation, a free gift:** Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12-13

**Salvation, Atonement for sin:** Exodus 12:13; Matthew 26:28;; 28:5-7; Luke 24:39; John 1:29; 19:33; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20

**Salvation, available** for whoever comes: Ezekiel 33:11; Romans 10:13; I Timothy 2:4; II Peter 3:9; Matthew 12:50; 18:4; 10:32

**Salvation, can't be lost:** John 3:16-18, 36; 5:24; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; 20:30-31; Romans 8:14-16, 28, 37-39; 14:8; II Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 3:12; Hebrews 6:4-6

**Salvation, man can't save self:** Psalm 49:7; Luke 11:24-26; I Peter 1:18-19; II Peter 2:20-22

**Salvation, man's need of:** Isaiah 64:6; Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27; I John 1:10

**Salvation, not earned by good works:** Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:20, 27; 4:4-5; 5:8; 6:23; 11:6; Galatians 3:11; James 2:10; I Peter 2:24; Titus 3:5

**Salvation, not everyone** will get to heaven: Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; John 3:18, 36; 5:28-29; 6:37-40; I John 3:10; Revelation 20:10-15

**Salvation, provided by Jesus:** John 3:15-18, 36; 14:7; 10:10; Isaiah 53:5-6; I John 4:10; 5:12; Romans 5:6-8; I Peter 2:24; 1:18-19; II Corinthians 5:21; I John 5:11-13; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:7

**Salvation, received by faith:** Romans 10:13; John 5:24; Acts 17:31; Galatians 3:22; 5:6; John 3:16

**Satan, defeating:** Matthew 4:1-11; John 15:7; 17:15; Ephesians 6:10-18; II Thessalonians 3:3; James 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9; I John 4:4; 5:18; Romans 8:28; II Corinthians 2:7; Jude 8-9

**Satan, fall of:** Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-20; I Timothy 3:6

**Satan, nature of:** Ezekiel 28:12-14; Ephesians 6:11-12; Job 1:12; John 8:44; I John 3:8; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10; II Thessalonians 3:3

**Sex, outside marriage** forbidden: Matthew 5:27-32; 19:9; I Corinthians 6:9-10, 18-20; Hebrews 13:4; Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; 24:1-4; Luke 18:20; James 2:11; II Peter 2:14; I Corinthians 5:9; Ephesians 5:3; Leviticus 20:10; I Thessalonians 4:3

**Sex, to show love** in marriage: Genesis 3:16; 18:12; 26:8-9; 2:23-25; Deuteronomy 24:5; 34:7; Proverbs 5:15-19; Song of Solomon 7:6-10; Hebrews 13:4; I Corinthians 7:3-4

**Sin defined**: Romans 3:23; 14:23; Galatians 5:19-21; James 4:17; I John 3:4

**Sin paid for by Jesus**: Exodus 12:13; Matthew 26:28;; 28:5-7; Luke 24:39; John 1:29; 19:33; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20

**Sinfulness of man**: Mark 10:18; Isaiah 53:5-6; 59:1-2; Romans 3:10-12, 23; 6:23; James 2:10; I John 1:8-10; 3:4; 5:17

**Sins of believers**, forever gone: John 3:18, 36; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Romans 8:1; II Peter 3:9-14; Revelation 20:11-15

**Soul sleep** wrong: Matthew 17:1-3; 22:32; John 11:25; Genesis 35:18; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23; John 3:36; Luke 23:43

**Spiritism, occult** wrong: Leviticus 19:31; 20:6-7, 27; Exodus 20:27; 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:10-12; I chronicles 10:13-14; Isaiah 8:19-20; Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8

**Spiritual warfare** promises, memory verses: see pages 50-51 WV+ notebook

**Suffering and Evil**, why exist John 9:1-3; II Peter 3:9; Revelation 21:1-8; Romans 8:28

**Suffering, attitude** to: Philippians 1:29; 3:10; I Peter 2:19-21; 5:10; John 15:2; 13:7; Hebrews 12:7; 11:25; Revelation 3:19; Romans 8:18, 28; II timothy 2:12; I Peter 4:12-19; Hebrews 2:10; 5:8; II Corinthians 4:17; Matthew 5:45

**Suffering, reasons** for: Job 1 – 2; Hebrews 5:8; II Corinthians 12:7; I Peter 1:7-8; John 16:33; II Corinthians 4:8-11;; 1:3-24; II Timothy 2:10-13

**Trinity**: Matthew 28:19; 3:16-17; Genesis 1:26; 11:7

**Truth**: Psalm 51:6; 25:5; John 14:6; 16:13; 1:17; 8:44; 14:17; 17:17; Matthew 5:33-37; John 8:31-36; Ephesians 4:25





# **SPREADING THE TRUTH**

**1 Peter 3:15** *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

## **I. THE NEED OF SALVATION**

*Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## **II. THE PROVISION OF SALVATION**

### **ALL BY GOD** Eph 2:8-9

*Eph 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.*

#### **Completely finished Heb 1:3 Jn 19:30**

*John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

*Heb 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

#### **Received by faith Rom 3:28 Jn 3:16**

*Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.*

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

### **PROVIDED FOR BY JESUS**

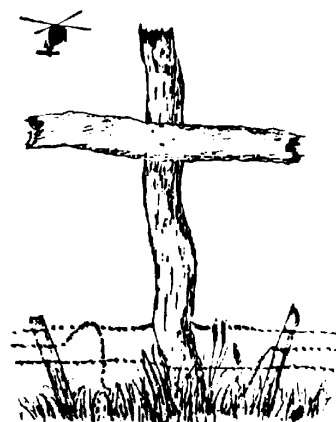
*1Thes 5:9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

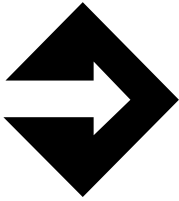
*2 Tim 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.*

*2 Tim 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

### **IF NO SALVATION** under wrath of God Jn 3:36

*John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."*





## **THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS**

Have you heard of the four spiritual laws? Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws that govern relationships with God.

### **\* LAW 1: God loves you, and has a wonderful plan for your life.**

\* God's love: ***God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).***

\* God's plan: [Christ speaking] ***I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly (John 10:10).***

\* Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because...

### **\* LAW 2: Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.**

\* Man is sinful: ***All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 2:23).*** Man was created to have fellowship with God, but because of his own stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is sin.

\* Man is separated: ***The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).*** A great gulf separates the Holy God from sinful man. Man may try to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion - but he inevitably fails.

### **\* LAW 3: Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.**

\* He died in our place: ***God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8).***

\* He rose from the dead: ***Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred...(1 Cor. 15:3-6).***

\* He is the Only Way to God: Jesus said to him, ***I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me (John 14:6).*** God has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place.

### **\* LAW 4: We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.**

\* We must receive Christ: ***As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12).***

\* We receive Christ through faith. ***By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast (Eph. 2:8-9).***

\* When we receive Christ, we experience a new birth: Read John 3:1-8.

\* We receive Christ through personal invitation: ***Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him (Rev. 3:20).***



# **THE ROMANS ROAD**

**Rom 3:10** NO ONE IS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;*



**Rom 3:23** EVERYONE IS SINFUL IN GOD'S SIGHT  
*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

**Rom 5:12** SIN BRINGS DEATH AND JUDGMENT

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-*

**Rom 5:8** JESUS DIED FOR US

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Rom 6:23** SIN BRINGS DEATH BUT JESUS BRINGS ETERNAL LIFE

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

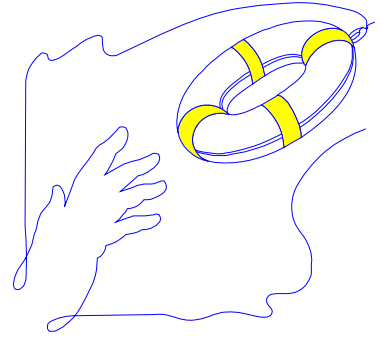
**Rom 10:9-13** JUST ACCEPT JESUS' FREE GIFT OF SALVATION

*9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

# **SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY**

## **I. LIFE BEFORE CHRIST**

Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ, and how did that affect you - your feelings, attitudes, action, and relationships?



## **II. HOW I CAME TO KNOW CHRIST**

What motivated you to invite Christ to be your Lord and Savior? Specifically, how did you receive Christ and His forgiveness? If a church played a part in your conversion, tell how you came in contact with that church and who or what you remember from your first visits.

## **III. HOW LIFE IS DIFFERENT AFTER CHRIST**

How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ? What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian?

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