



MY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ABOUT GOD!

Answers to the meaning of life!

The down-to-earth answer book for real questions! Find the answers to over 200 timeless questions about God, the Bible, and life!

Colleen McLean

MY ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD

In her book “My Answers to Questions about God,” McLean supplies answers to the questions she has been asked and the questions asked throughout the generations. How did the dinosaurs fit on the Ark? Should I attend a church? Where did Jesus go when He died? What about the Second coming of Jesus? Are war and killing justified? What is the purpose of my existence? Are miracles possible? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does God allow suffering and evil? These questions are among the most popular questions in every age. Unfortunately, there are no easy answers. However, McLean aims to bring the interested reader's understanding to a light bulb moment through her down-to-earth and straightforward answers.

Find the answers to these timeless questions and others like them on the pages of this book.

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colleenmclean@mail.com

info@colleenmcleanauthor.com

www.colleenmcleanauthor.com

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Contents

INTRODUCTION 17

Chapter 1 21

 Does God Exist? 21

 Can you prove that God exists? 21

 Who Made God?..... 21

 Who made the world? 21

 What is God like? 22

 Who created God?..... 22

 How did God create the universe? 22

 Does God sustain the universe? 22

 How does God sustain the universe?..... 23

 Did God send Jesus, His only Son, to the earth to suffer and die? 23

 How does God communicate with us? 23

 What do we know about God? 23

 Does God know everything? 23

Chapter 2—Jesus 24

 Was Jesus God and man? 24

 What did Jesus look like? 24

 What is Jesus like, then?..... 24

 How old is Jesus? 25

 What did Jesus show us? 25

 How is Jesus relevant today? 25

 How did He achieve salvation for humanity? 25

Why did Jesus give His life for us?	25
Why did God raise Jesus from the dead?.....	26
How did the coming of Jesus change human history forever?	26
Why is the Name of Jesus the only Name by which people are saved?	26
Where did Jesus go when he died?.....	27
Chapter 3—Holy Spirit.....	28
What about the Holy Spirit?	28
What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?	28
What is speaking in tongues?	28
What is the Trinity?	28
Chapter 4—All About You	30
Has everyone sinned?.....	30
Should I go to Church?.....	30
So why have Church?.....	30
What did Jesus do for me?	30
What does "the new and living way" mean?	31
How do I live a new life?.....	31
What happens to my old life?.....	31
What is the meaning of life?.....	32
What is God's plan for my life?.....	32
What is the purpose of my existence?.....	32
What does the Bible say about me?	32
Does Baptism as a baby make you a Christian?	33
If I am a Christian, do I get to control my life?	33

What now?	33
Do I become an angel in heaven when I die?.....	33
Chapter 5—Life.....	35
Why does God allow suffering and evil?	35
Why do people hurt each other?	35
Why do some people have so much hate?	35
Why do bad things happen to good people?	36
Does everything happen for a reason?	36
Does God make people sick for a reason?	36
Does God punish people for doing bad things?	37
Why are there incurable diseases in the world?.....	37
Why does God seem so quiet now compared to the stories in the Bible?	37
Why is God so difficult to understand?.....	38
Chapter 6—Heaven	39
Can you get to heaven by being good and obeying the Commandments?	39
How can I get to heaven?	39
What is heaven like?	39
My Dad does not believe in God. Will he get to heaven?	40
Does God take your life so you can be with Him in heaven?	40
Chapter 7—Hell	40
What about hell?	40
What is hell like?.....	41
Chapter 8—What Do Those Big Words Mean?	42
What does being justified mean?	42

What does redemption mean?	42
What is the resurrection?	42
What does being born again mean?	42
What is Repentance?	43
What Does "Passover" mean?	43
What is Water Baptism?	43
Why get baptized?	43
What is forgiveness, and do I have to forgive?	44
What about the Second Coming of Jesus?	44
What is the Kingdom of God?	44
What is hope?	45
Chapter 9—The Gospel.....	45
Who wrote the Bible?	45
How is the Gospel different from any other religion or philosophy?	45
What is the good news?	45
What is the purpose of the Gospel?	45
What does the Gospel do for me?	46
How is the Word of God like food?	46
What can I discover from the Bible?	46
What am I to do with the Bible, sometimes called the Word of God?	46
What does God want the Word of God to become in my life?	46
What will happen to me if I humbly accept the Word of God (Bible) and allow it to affect how I think?	47
How should I respond to the Bible?	47

What does the Word of God give me?.....	47
Why should I have the Word of God as an absolute foundation in my life?	47
Chapter 10—The Christian Life?	48
How should a Christian live?.....	48
What happened when the first Christians declared the resurrection of Jesus?.....	48
What is grace?	48
Is grace important?.....	48
What is faith?.....	49
Why is it so easy to lose faith?.....	49
Is Faith Seeing and Believing?	49
Is it easy being a Christian?.....	50
Is it ok to hate?	50
Why is sin bad?	50
Has everyone sinned?.....	50
Why is sex only for marriage?.....	51
What is wrong with sex outside marriage?.....	51
Is the act of homosexuality wrong?	51
How should I respond to my gay friend?	52
Chapter 11—Eternal Life.....	53
What is eternal life?.....	53
How do I get eternal life?	53
What happens to me if I believe in Jesus when I die?.....	53
Chapter 12—The Devil.....	54

Who are the devil and demons?	54
Do demons have power?	54
How can believers defeat the devil's schemes?	54
Who is Satan?	55
Are angels real, and what do they do?	55
Chapter 13—Prayer	57
What is prayer?	57
Does God hear my prayer?	57
Does God answer my prayers?	57
Chapter 14—EXTENDED VERSION	58
To Take You Further!	59
Why believe?	61
Chapter 15—The Bible	61
Why study the Bible?	61
Why is the Bible the best seller all over the world?	62
Who wrote the Bible?	62
The Bible has two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament..	62
Why are Some Epistles Called "The General Epistles?	63
Why do some churches interpret some passages differently?	63
Is the Bible the inerrant Word of God?	64
How do you know the Bible is true?	65
Taking the Bible literally	68
CONTEXT	69
Culture	69

Genre.....	69
What is Doctrine?	70
What is Religion?	70
How should we study the Bible?.....	70
What is Judaism?	71
Chapter 16—Knowing God	72
How is God knowable?	72
If God is a spirit, why does Scripture say, "May His face shine upon you?"	72
How can we say God has a personality?	73
Is it possible to define God? How would you describe Him?	73
What do you mean by saying that God is personal?.....	73
What proof is there that God is personal?.....	73
What does the infinity of God mean?	74
What proof is there that God is infinite?	74
Why do some scriptures teach that you cannot know God?	74
What does Yahweh or Jehovah mean?.....	75
Are the unique names of God of human origin?.....	75
Is the name 'Father' applied to God in the Old Testament?	75
In what different senses is the name Father used in the New Testaments?	75
Can God do everything and anything He wants?	76
Did the people who killed Jesus make a choice, or were they not responsible because it was God's plan?	76
Are angels real, and what do they do?	77
Are demons evil angels?	78

Who is Satan?	79
Chapter 17—Genesis and Evolution	80
Is Genesis believable?	80
What is creation?.....	81
What is the theory of evolution?	81
What does the term evolutionist mean?	82
Has science proved evolution to be true?	82
So do you believe the scientists or Genesis?	82
Does the New Testament refer to Genesis?	84
Should the Book of Genesis be taken literally?.....	85
Prove it	85
Did God create the whole world in six days?	86
Does it matter how many days God took to create the whole universe?..	86
Genesis chapters 1 and 2 have different accounts of creation. Which one do you believe?.....	87
In the Garden of Eden, were tigers, lions, wolves, and other meat-eaters gentle vegetarians?	88
Is God still interested in His creation?	88
Can you believe in God and Evolution?	89
What do atheists believe?	90
How old is the earth?.....	91
Did dinosaurs and humans co-exist?	91
Who was Cain’s wife?	92
How can this be, because a child of a brother and sister can have serious health problems?.....	93

How did the animals fit on Noah’s Ark?.....	93
How did dinosaurs fit on the Ark?	94
Chapter 19–Male and Female Made in God’s Image.....	94
Does a person’s gender affect their relationship with God?.....	94
Does God use women in leadership?.....	95
Were the women in leadership in both Testaments appointed because there were no good men?	96
Do women need a male covering?	97
What did a woman’s head covering have to do with the angels?.....	99
What about 1 Timothy 2:12-14, where Paul writes he does not allow a woman to teach or have authority over a man?.....	99
How, then, can Paul or anyone argue for the subjection of women based on the one sin of Eve?	101
Why do some churches take 1 Timothy 2:12 and 1 Timothy 5:23 universally when it was only Paul’s instruction to Timothy?	101
Was Paul saying women can’t teach men for all time?	102
Is Paul forbidding women to teach or preach authoritatively only in church services?	102
Who determines that a sermon on Sunday is more authoritative than a message delivered at a women’s group meeting?.....	103
Is God against women holding any position of authority?.....	104
Is Paul against women holding any position of authority?	105
What did Paul mean? Did he want women to be invisible and silent?	106
Was it just women who were false teachers, or were men also teaching false doctrines?.....	107

What about 1 Corinthians 14:34, which demands women be silent in churches?.....	108
The Context	109
Is it true that a believing wife sanctifies her unbelieving husband?	110
Should a husband rule his wife?	111
What about Genesis 3:16 - it says a husband shall rule over his wife.....	111
Why have women been considered just the husband's helper and secondary?.....	113
How should I serve my spouse?.....	114
Who is your model?.....	114
Is work a curse, as in Genesis 3:17-18?.....	114
How do I make sense of these different scriptures concerning men's and women's equality?.....	115
What was going on when Paul wrote of the restrictions on women?	116
Why does Paul seemingly restrict women?.....	120
What is a Jezebel?.....	122
Does the Bible promote a two-class environment?.....	123
What does it mean 'created in God's image?'	123
Chapter 20—War and Killing	124
Are the Ten Commandments for today?	124
If The Law says, "You shall not kill," how do you explain how the Old Testament people of God commanded Israel to kill everyone in an enemy city?	124
Is there a difference between murder and killing?	124
When the Israelites killed people in war, were they violating the commandments?.....	124

Did the Israelites ever show mercy to the neighboring nations they were to conquer?.....	126
Why would God order the destruction of the Canaanites?	127
Did God keep His oath to the forefathers of Israel?	127
Are there reasons for war?	128
Are war and killing justified?	129
What about Jesus and war?.....	129
Chapter 22—The Social Sins.....	131
Why should I forgive those who have hurt me badly?.....	131
Does God approve of polygamy?	131
Does God approve of divorce?	132
What does the Bible say regarding Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide/Mercy Killing?	133
Why is abortion wrong?.....	133
Homosexuality?	134
What is the Christian response to a gay person?.....	136
What about same-sex marriage?	137
Did the Apostle Paul support slavery?	137
Chapter 23—Last Days.....	140
The Rapture	140
Will Christians be present during the tribulation period?.....	140
The antichrist and the false prophet.....	141
The ‘mark of the beast.’	141
THE RETURN OF JESUS.....	142
It will be unexpected, but we will not be surprised.	142

Jesus will appear like lightning.....	143
In the same way, He left	143
It will be with great power and glory	143
Every eye will see!	143
Events that will take place	144
Signs of the second coming of Jesus.....	145
We are to be alert and ready.....	145
According to 2 Thessalonians Chapters 1, 2 and 3.....	146
The judgment of the wicked at Christ's coming and encouragement for the believers	146
Rapture.....	146
The Day of the Lord comes with two conditions—	147
Mystery of Lawlessness at work and yet restrained by the Holy Spirit....	147
Lawless one to appear in the tribulation period	148
Believers established in salvation and the Word of God	148
Believers established in prayer and the love of God.....	149
Believers—not idle and willing to work	149
Looking forward.....	150
Chapter 24—Meanings of Words	151
Agnostic.....	151
Analogy.....	151
Anthropomorphic	151
Anthropopathic.....	151
Apocryphal.....	151

Apostasy	152
Atheism.....	152
Atheist	153
Canon.....	153
Covenant	153
Creationism	153
Deism.....	153
Deuterocanonical	153
Empiricist.....	154
Euphemism.....	154
Gap Theory	154
Gnosticism	154
Hedonism.....	154
Hermeneutics	154
Humanism.....	155
Monism.....	155
Monotheism	155
Pantheism.....	155
Philosophy	155
Pluralism	156
Pre-existentialism	156
Progressive Creation.....	156
Racism	156
Secular Humanism	156

Septuagint	157
Theism	157
Theistic Evolution	157
Traducianism	157
Vulgate.....	157

INTRODUCTION

"My Answers to Questions About God" was written for everyone. It is a handy reference and a guide for anyone who deals with children and teenagers from a grandmother's perspective. It contains short, uncomplicated answers. It will help your walk with God, and I hope to make some things more apparent. It has taken me years to produce a book like this, and in that time, some of my answers changed as I discovered more about God and His ways, so I trust you will find it helpful.

I was a Scripture Teacher in State Schools on the Central Coast of NSW, Australia, for over ten years, and I found that there were always one or two students who sometimes had simple and occasionally tricky questions for me. Sometimes the best times I had were when I asked my class if they had any questions. There was always one smart kid who would put his hand up and ask me, "Miss, Miss ss, what is the meaning of life?" Knowing this was a setup, I would have my answer ready, and in my best teacher voice, I would say, "Thank you for asking me this question. I am about to give you the answer. Are you ready for this?" Anticipation would be building, and I would glance around at their eager faces and begin my reply. "Many people would say that the meaning of life is to be happy. But the real purpose for your life is Jesus Christ inside you because your life has its significance in the

One who created it, so having God in your life gives it great meaning."

It was not the answer they were expecting, but it was an answer that contained a great truth. The purpose of every life is to be like Jesus, and it starts with an invitation to the Lord Jesus Himself to come and live in you and allow Him to guide you.

Acts 17:28 NIV

'For in him, we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

So, we all come from God, and when we believe in Him, we live in Him, and when we die, we return to Him. So, the meaning of life is God in you.

I have found that religion has complicated some elementary truths and made Christianity boring and hard to understand. It is not hard to understand that Our Father God is good. He is a million trillion times better than you think He is. It is not hard to understand that His love will make all of you a million times better. It is not hard to understand that there is no strategy of the devil, that there is nothing in existence right now in heaven or on earth that can separate you from the love of God (Romans 8:35–39). It is not hard to understand that Jesus bought your sin, not to bring it up again, but to

destroy it, so you don't have to think about it anymore. (1 John 1:7). It is not hard to understand that if we think of ourselves as sinners and always recall the terrible things we did, it will stop us from stepping into the healthy Christian life God has planned for us.

We misunderstand at times because cares and concerns blind our eyes and rob us of the time we need to really sit down and fully understand the beautiful truths of the Gospel. So let this publication make life easier for you. When questions arise, you have the answer ready, or you can say I will look that one up and get back to you.

I have provided you with over 200 answers, which are suitable for all ages. But please don't take my word for it; check the answers yourself. The Bible says to have an answer ready when someone asks you about your hope in your salvation.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

“In your hearts revere 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.”

In Chapter 14, you will find the Extended version. It answers the hard grown-up questions! It is for the person who reads the Bible.

Enjoy the answers to the timeless questions that get asked.

Chapter 1

Does God Exist?

Yes! He created the universe as well as the complicated people that we are. God created everything, including gravity and DNA, which gives Him the right to have a say about life, and that makes your life important because all life has its foundation in the One who created it. (Genesis 1:1; Ephesians 2:20).

Can you prove that God exists?

God proves His existence through His good deeds (Acts 14:17). His great love, power, and wisdom are seen in everything He made. Just look at the wonder of the world, the moon, and the stars He has made. He is excellent and all-powerful. God created the day and the night, the summer and winter, spring and autumn (Psalm 74:16–17), and He cares about us, and we can know Him personally (John 17:3).

Who Made God?

God has always existed. He has no beginning and no end. The first sentence in the Bible is "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). So God was always there and always will be.

Who made the world?

God made the world (see Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3). He created humans and placed them on the earth. The Bible says

He knew us before we were born (see Psalm 139:13–14). He has no beginning and no end.

What is God like?

The Bible reveals that God is: All-powerful (see Genesis 17:1), all-knowing (see Psalm 139:1–6), and everywhere (see Psalm 139:7). Furthermore, God is eternal (see Psalm 90:2), holy (see Psalm 99:9; Isaiah 5:16), He is The Truth (see John 17:3), God is love (see 1 John 4:8), and God is Spirit. (John 4:24).

Who created God?

The Bible defines God as eternal (see 1 Timothy 6:17). He always was. However, the Bible says that God created the universe and everything in it, so everything else had a beginning (see Genesis 1). But God has no beginning and no end. He always existed.

How did God create the universe?

By His Word! (see Genesis 1; Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3).

Does God sustain the universe?

Yes! He is in charge! He is Lord of Heaven and earth (see Act 17:24), giving life, breath, and all things to all.

How does God sustain the universe?

By His Word! He spoke it into existence and has never unspoken it (see Hebrews 1:3).

Did God send Jesus, His only Son, to the earth to suffer and die?

Jesus came to earth to show you the Father's love and how to live a life pleasing to the Father. The death of Jesus was the only thing that satisfied God's judgment on your sin (see Luke 24:26; Acts 17:3).

How does God communicate with us?

God created Adam and Eve with a language. So, likewise, God speaks to us in our language or by a thought in our minds (John 10:3).

What do we know about God?

We only know about God from the Bible and by thoughtfully observing what God has created. Put the two together and add faith, and then you know the meaning of life. True!

Does God know everything?

Yes, God knows everything. He knew you before you were born. He knows the secrets of your heart (see Psalm 44:21) and what you are thinking (see Psalm 94:11). God knows what you need before you ask him (see Matt 6:8). God is all-knowing (see 1 Corinthians 2:10).

Chapter 2—Jesus

Was Jesus God and man?

Jesus was a man like you and me. He was born and grew up just like every other person. But he was no ordinary man as He was God, the Son of God (see Luke 1:26–38), and the Word of God (see John 1:14). He was called The Son of the Highest, and God gave Him the Name above every other name. Jesus is now on the Throne, seated at the right hand of the Father. He reigns over all, His kingdom has no end (see Luke 1:32–33), and He is still God.

What did Jesus look like?

Nobody today knows what Jesus looked like because people have never seen Him as a man. Instead, the Bible says Jesus was the perfect image of God (see Colossians 1:15) and that He took the form of a person (servant) just like you and me (see Philippians 2:6–7).

What is Jesus like, then?

Jesus is exactly like God (see Colossians 1:15). We also know what Jesus is like by knowing what He did—Jesus was born in a stable, lived and walked among people, and spoke as no man ever spoke before. He performed miracles that showed His authority over nature as its Creator and Ruler. Jesus suffered and died, paying the penalty on our behalf, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven. He lives and reigns there

and is coming again to create a new heaven and earth. He lives in those who believe in Him by His Spirit.

How old is Jesus?

Scripture says that Jesus existed eternally before He took on human nature (see Philippians 2:6–7).

What did Jesus show us?

Jesus showed us His Father's love, holiness, wisdom, and power. He taught us about His Father (see John 14:10, John 14:31, John 15:15).

How is Jesus relevant today?

During His life on earth, Jesus experienced all the troubles we face and understands how we feel (see Matthew 8:17; Hebrews 4:15). He suffered death, was buried, and God raised Him from the grave, then He ascended into Heaven. Jesus is alive today and vitally interested in your life as He was with His disciples when He walked around with them.

How did He achieve salvation for humanity?

He gave His life as a payment for you (see Matthew 20:28).

Why did Jesus give His life for us?

So you could know and have a personal relationship with our Creator Father without sin stopping us or getting in the way.

Jesus was sent into the world to fulfill the excellent plan of God, who had you on His mind right from the start (see Genesis 3:15).

Why did God raise Jesus from the dead?

The resurrection of Jesus proved that all sin is forgiven, and a new life is available to whoever would believe. When Jesus died, God counted us dead, and when Jesus rose from the dead, God counted us alive in Him (see 1 Corinthians 15:17; Romans 4:25; 8:34; 1:4; Ephesians 2:4–6).

How did the coming of Jesus change human history forever? Jesus changed lives when He walked the dusty roads and is still doing it. How? He destroyed Satan's works (see 1 John 3:8). He made it possible for you to choose a fresh start as His adopted child (see John 1:12; 3:3). He opened the door to heaven (see John 10:9; Romans 8:34), so you could know a loving Father God (see 2 Corinthians 5:18; Romans 5:1–2, John 1:3). He gave you the gift of eternal life. (see 1 John 5:11–12; John 3:15–17), and forever forgiveness (Colossians 2:13). All you have to do is believe it is for you. Now you can be a history maker!

Why is the Name of Jesus the only Name by which people are saved?

The death of Jesus on the Cross dealt with sin, which was the barrier between you and God. Jesus is the only way to God.

You can't get to heaven any other way (see Acts 2:21, Acts 4:12). Jesus said he was the only way to Heaven "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

Where did Jesus go when he died?

He went into the depths of the earth (see Ephesians 4:8–9) to the place of the unbelieving dead—Hades. Satan thought he had destroyed the Son of God, but three days later, God raised Jesus back to life.

Chapter 3—Holy Spirit

What about the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third Divine Person of the Trinity who works in the life of a believer today, empowering, equipping, and strengthening them. The Holy Spirit gives the Baptism of the Holy Spirit—the power to witness (see Acts 1:8).

What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

God desires that every believer experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for personal growth so you can help others (see Ephesians 3:16, 20). Just like the 120 people did on the Feast of Pentecost. They were filled with courage, spoke different languages, and 3,000 people were saved (Acts 2).

What is speaking in tongues?

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural way of communicating with God in an unknown language (see 1 Corinthians 12:4–11). The disciples of Jesus used tongues on the day of Pentecost (fifty days after the death and resurrection of Jesus), and the people understood what they were saying. It is available to every believer today.

What is the Trinity?

Trinity is a word not found in Scripture but used to describe One God with three distinct Divine Persons. There is One God, who is Father God and true God; there is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is true God. There is the Holy Spirit, who is true

God. Don't try to figure it out. Like the law of gravity, you can't figure it out, but you go with it because it holds the universe together.

Chapter 4—All About You

Has everyone sinned?

Yes! Except for Jesus, He never sinned (Romans 3:23; Hebrews 4:15).

Should I go to Church?

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian. You can attend church daily, but that does not make you a Christian. God's grace or goodness saves you through faith because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8). So attending a church does not save you, nor does anything else you could ever do. Next question why have church?

So why have Church?

The Scriptures teach that the Christian life is sociable (Ephesians 3:4–15; Acts 2). Therefore, we should get together on Sundays (Hebrews 10:25). Throughout the history of God's people, they have gathered to worship Him. God does not need our praise; we need to worship God together because God has built that into every human being. There is an inbuilt need for us to adore something bigger than ourselves. Praise and worship in Church express our gratitude and love for all He has done!

What did Jesus do for me?

Romans 6:23 says, "the punishment for sin is death." Jesus took your punishment for you. He died in your place. The

Bible says that you have salvation if you say you believe and believe in your heart. In other words, you are saved from facing the punishment for sin (Romans 10:9–13). Jesus died, came alive, and is alive today! God's gift to you is life in Jesus, which lasts forever, the forgiveness of your sins, and a fresh new start in life. And you cannot get to heaven without Jesus.

What does "the new and living way" mean?

You can now live in the New Testament, the new way Jesus made for you by his death on the cross. Jesus canceled the old way of living according to the Old Testament, and now there is a new and living way much better than the former (see Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 10:19–20; Romans 6:4).

How do I live a new life?

First, you receive it as a fact by faith. Then, when you accept, believe, and welcome Jesus, you become a new creation and begin a new life with Him (see Galatians 2:20).

What happens to my old life?

On the cross, God dealt with your past life once and for all. The Bible says the life you lived before you met Jesus is dead and gone (Romans 6:6; Galatians 5:24). All that is left is the memory of it.

What is the meaning of life?

Every human knows that they will die one day and that while they are alive, they must make themselves happy. Many people would say that this is the meaning of life. However, the real meaning of life has its foundation in the One who created it. God is the author of your life, so having God in your life gives it meaning (Hebrews 5:9; 12:2).

What is God's plan for my life?

God created you to show others His goodness, holiness, and love. God plans that you become the person He designed you to be and grow into the likeness of Jesus (Ephesians 4:13). God is the supreme ruler over creation. He's appointed humans who bear his image to represent him and rule on his behalf. So God's plan for your life is enormous.

What is the purpose of my existence?

Many would say their reason for living is to be happy. But there is so much more. The purpose of your existence is that you become like Jesus, just like he was when He walked the earth, then you can do the things He did. Therefore, you have great purpose and meaning (see Ephesians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Colossians 3:10).

What does the Bible say about me?

God knew you before you were born. He knows your heart better than you do. He fearfully and wonderfully made you;

His eye has always been on you, and you are precious in His sight (see Psalm 139). And a whole lot more!

Does Baptism as a baby make you a Christian?

No, because God has given every person an incredible ability to choose (see Colossians 1:13; Galatians 4:35; Galatians 5:1; Romans 8:15; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 8:32). Therefore, living your life with God or without God is a choice you are free to make.

If I am a Christian, do I get to control my life?

Yes, you always have a choice. Your new life with God is real, but you are still in control because God gave you a spirit of self-control (see 2 Timothy 1:7), and you can maintain it with the help of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. This new life takes a journey from infancy to youth and maturity (see Ephesians 4:13; 1 John 2:13–14).

What now?

Stand fast in it (Psalm 119:45; Galatians 5:1), and most importantly, worship God with other believers.

Do I become an angel in heaven when I die?

No! God created all the angels simultaneously; therefore, we do not become angels when we die and go to heaven. Angels are God's servants and do many things that help people but only at God's command. For example, an angel rolled the

stone away from Jesus' tomb, but it was Jesus who destroyed the power of death by God, raising Him from the grave to life.

Chapter 5—Life

Why does God allow suffering and evil?

Suffering and evil are consequences of someone's choice. So God has to allow suffering and evil because people are free to choose and responsible for those choices. The Bible explains that sin has passed to all humankind through Adam and Eve's poor choice. Every human after that was born under the consequences of that choice. This dismal situation took a dramatic turn when God gave His Son to die and take those consequences on our behalf (see Romans 5:12), making it possible for us to escape God's wrath.

Why do people hurt each other?

It is a part of life, and no one misses out. We all hurt; the key is not to give that hurt significance. It is what you do with the hurt that matters.

Why do some people have so much hate?

Some people hate and fight because they are selfish and give in to it. But the Bible says God is full of mercy and loves us greatly (see Ephesians 2:3–4). He gave us the Holy Spirit, who brings love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control; against such things, there is no law (see Galatians 5:22–23). So, live your life under the rule of the Holy Spirit.

Why do bad things happen to good people?

Bad things happen to everyone! They just happen! God makes the sun rise on the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust (see Matthew 4:45). What you do with those things determines how you come out the other end. The Bible says to cast all your anxiety onto God, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). He didn't say He would remove every trial and spare his people from any opposition. But Jesus did say that God would be watching over us through it all.

Does everything happen for a reason?

Things happen for many reasons, including our poor choices and bad decisions. Scripture says in Galatians 6:7, "what you plant will always be the very thing you harvest." In other words, whatever we give out, we will get back. However, a promise is found in Romans 8:28—"God works all things together for good." All things mean all your problems, cares, trials, and worries.

Does God make people sick for a reason?

No! God cannot make people sick because He does not have a single sickness to give away. People get sick; it is a fact of life. But Jesus overcame every illness, infirmity, and disease on the cross, so healing is freely available to us (see Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24). God does not make you sick to cause you to pray for your recovery or to get you to see a Doctor. God

does not make you sick to teach you a lesson, either. That's silly!

Does God punish people for doing bad things?

No! God lovingly tries to correct those who have accepted Him and Jesus as their Father and Saviour, just as any father would (Hebrews 12:6). However, other people do an excellent job at criticizing and punishing.

Why are there incurable diseases in the world?

We live in an imperfect world. However, when God created the world, it was perfect and perfectly good, then the man and woman He designed to be perfect sinned and messed up God's ideal plan. As a result, sickness and disease became a part of life on earth. But the Saviour Jesus came at precisely the right time, and everything changed because of His death on the cross. He took our sins, sicknesses, and diseases; now healing is available (see John 2:12; John 10:10). The Bible says the beatings and death that Jesus suffered were for our healing and wholeness (see 1 Peter 2:24; Matt 8:17).

Why does God seem so quiet now compared to the stories in the Bible?

God seems quiet today because we don't hear the good news, only the bad news. Also, the Bible spans 4000 years. There was a period recorded in the Bible of 400 years where God was silent. Some Bible stories were spectacular, like the

parting of the Red Sea and feeding 5000 people with five loaves and two fish. However, the greatest miracle ever is that God Himself became a man. He died, was buried, and rose again so that you and I could have a brand new life in Him today. That's a mighty miracle!

Why is God so difficult to understand?

Religion has complicated some elementary truths that make God difficult to understand. Nevertheless, it is not hard to follow God. Jesus did some spectacular miracles, but some religious people could not understand because they wilfully closed their hearts against the truth (see Matthew 12:14; 15:1–4). That is why some might find it challenging to understand even today.

Chapter 6—Heaven

Can you get to heaven by being good and obeying the Commandments?

There is no way you can obey the commandments for a lifetime. No way can we make ourselves right before God; we need a Saviour to do that for us (see Romans 3:20). You can never be good enough by your efforts. It is too high for you alone (see Acts 7:53); however, by accepting that Jesus paid the price for you to be made right with God and believing it with all your heart, you receive God's forgiveness and the power to choose not to sin (see 1 John 2:1).

How can I get to heaven?

By believing and accepting what Jesus did for you! Easy! (John 3:16).

What is heaven like?

The Bible tells us that the streets in heaven are made of gold and jewels. We also know that heaven is where God is (see Matthew 6:9), where believers go when they die (see 2 Corinthians 5:1), and that there is no evil there. Heaven is where the throne room of God is (see Psalm 103:19; Isaiah 66:1); it is where Jesus sits at the Right Hand of God the Father and where the glory of God is (Act 7:55).

My Dad does not believe in God. Will he get to heaven?

You need a Saviour to get you into heaven. Jesus is the only way in; there is no other way. Father God knows and loves your Dad, His eye is on him all the time, and God does not want your Dad or anyone else going to hell. So God does many things to convince your Dad to accept Jesus. You may never know for sure until you get to heaven.

Does God take your life so you can be with Him in heaven?

NO! No way! Never! It is not God's will for anyone to die before their time. Tragedies, diseases, disasters, and accidents happen. Jesus told us that God is light and doesn't have any darkness in him (see 1 John 1:5). The Bible says in Hebrews 2:14–15 that Jesus died and set us free from the fear of death—there is nothing to fear here! God sent Jesus to die, so we all could be healed and made whole.

Chapter 7—Hell

What about hell?

Hell is the other place the Bible talks about (see Matthew 5:29), and it is also eternal. For all the people who do not believe that Jesus was God's only begotten Son and who do not believe that God sent Jesus to save them from going to hell and so refuse God's offer of salvation, well—they end up in hell (see John 3:17–21). Jesus said in Matthew 25:41, "Hell was prepared for the devil and his demons." God created hell

for the devil, not for people. It is God's will that everyone makes it to heaven.

What is hell like?

Hell is a place of torment and a pit of darkness (2 Peter 2:4) because God is not there.

Chapter 8—What Do Those Big Words Mean?

What does being justified mean?

It means you have peace with God (see Romans 5:1), your sin record has been wiped clean, and you can stand right before God, just as if you never sinned (see 1 Corinthians 6:11).

What does redemption mean?

To redeem means to "buy back." The blood of Jesus shed on the cross was the price God paid to repurchase, rescue, and save you from the punishment for your sin, which was death (see 1 Corinthians 6:20).

What is the resurrection?

The resurrection of Jesus was when He rose from His death on the cross, making it possible for us to have a whole new beginning again. Jesus is alive today, it is a fact, and He is alive forever, never to die again. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, Christianity is a lie (see 1 Corinthians 15). His lifeless body was raised to life again by the power of God, which proves that He was who He said He was, the Son of God.

What does being born again mean?

You are born again when you accept and believe that Jesus is God, what He did on the cross was for you, and your new life begins.

What is Repentance?

Repentance is a decision you make, a turning away from the world's ways, to face God and change your mind about how you behave.

What Does "Passover" mean?

When God rescued the people of Israel from Egypt, He commanded them to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts (see Exodus 12:13). When God saw the blood of the substitute lamb on the doorpost of a home, He passed over them and did not judge that household.

The Passover is a picture of the coming sacrificial Lamb of God—Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 5:7).

What is Water Baptism?

To be "baptized" means to be immersed (covered) in water. When you believe in Jesus, you should decide to be water baptized. It is when you bury your old life in the water, the life you had before Jesus came into it, and come out of the water ready to start your new life (see Colossians 1:21, 2:11–12; 1 Peter 3:21).

Why get baptized?

So you can make your salvation a sure thing, show the world that your past life against God is dead and gone, and now you have a new experience to live in victory (see Romans 6:4–6).

What is forgiveness, and do I have to forgive?

Yes, you have to forgive if you want peace in your heart. You are back on the right track when you forgive others or ask for forgiveness. Now you can live happily ever after! It is mercy and grace in action because Jesus first forgave you.

What about the Second Coming of Jesus?

Nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus promised his disciples that he would come again with power and great glory (see John 14:1–3; Matthew 24:30). Jesus will come to gather His people to Himself and complete their salvation. When Jesus returns, He will dismantle the structure of Satan's kingdom (see Isaiah.24:21–22; Revelation.20:2–3).

What is the Kingdom of God?

Jesus said His Kingdom was not of this world. It has no buildings or walls. Jesus knocked down all the barriers and opened the gates for everyone. He said, "Follow me, and repent (change your mind) for the kingdom of God is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). The kingdom of God is in Jesus, who Jesus lives in you. The Bible says the kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (see Rom 14:17).

What is hope?

If you don't hope for something, you cannot believe or have faith in it to happen. Faith, hope, and love work together (see 1 Corinthians 13:13).

Chapter 9—The Gospel

Who wrote the Bible?

God inspired 40 authors to write 66 books that make up the Word of God. It took 14 centuries to complete it. Jesus never wrote a single word of the Bible, although He was called the Word of God.

How is the Gospel different from any other religion or philosophy?

It focuses on a single person, Jesus Christ.

What is the good news?

God sent His son to suffer the agony of the cross instead of you because you were powerless to save yourself or change yourself. The essence of the Gospel is by the cross of Jesus Christ; God has done what you and I could never do.

What is the purpose of the Gospel?

The purpose of the Gospel is to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ and His salvation. Your mission is in Him.

What does the Gospel do for me?

It introduces you to Jesus and teaches you how to live the life of a follower of Jesus (see Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 4:12).

How is the Word of God like food?

It is likened to food in the Bible (see Matthew 4:40) because it causes you to grow spiritually or grow in the things of God.

What can I discover from the Bible?

The Bible reveals God's nature and how the Holy Spirit can change you into the person God created you to be (see Romans 8:29). You will discover that Jesus did not come to improve your life. Instead, he came to change it entirely so you could become like Him (see 2 Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 3:10).

What am I to do with the Bible, sometimes called the Word of God?

You are to receive it, humbly accept it, obey it and allow it to take root in you, and do not merely listen to it but do what it says (see James 1:21–22).

What does God want the Word of God to become in my life?

When received, God's Word becomes a daily reality in your life (Joshua 1:8).

What will happen to me if I humbly accept the Word of God (Bible) and allow it to affect how I think?

When Jesus' teachings become a part of you, you have God's Word in your heart, Jesus is a reality in your life, and God answers your prayers (see John 15:7).

How should I respond to the Bible?

With faith!

What does the Word of God give me?

According to Psalm 19:8, the Word of God gives light to your eyes.

Why should I have the Word of God as an absolute foundation in my life?

Because you will no longer be immature, no longer be able to be tossed back and forth, and blown here and there by every kind of doctrine or teaching that is in the air (see Ephesians 4:14–15). Because the Word of God is influencing your life, you can grow up and mature in Jesus.

Chapter 10—The Christian Life?

How should a Christian live?

We live by faith and by grace. We are to live by faith all the time in a new and living way, a life of excitement and victory. Of overcoming, pressing in, and running the race set before us (see 1 John 4:4, 1 John 5:4; Philippians 3:14; 1 Corinthians 9:24; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 2:8; James 2:24; Galatians 2:20). We must understand that we can only love others because God first loved us, we can only forgive others because God first forgave us. We can only give to others because God first gave to us.

What happened when the first Christians declared the resurrection of Jesus?

They turned the world upside down (see Acts 17:6; Acts 4:33).

What is grace?

God gives you grace; it is an undeserved gift, enabling you to live a Christian life. More grace comes to you when you believe what the Bible says about you and empowers you to say no to sin (see Acts 4:33; Titus 2:11–12).

Is grace important?

Grace is essential; otherwise, we would feel obliged to save ourselves. Then we would boast about how good we are and live the Christian life in our strength, which does not work and does not please God (Romans 11:6).

What is faith?

Faith is a gift from God, and it opens the door, so we can be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). We can hear and read the Gospel. Still, unless we mix what we learn with faith, it will not be helpful for anything (see Hebrews 4:2). Our words carry the faith to get the work done (see James 2:17). It worked for Jesus, and it works for us as well. True faith is not blind; it's the discovery that you were blinded to the things of God, but now you can see what God is all about! And faith isn't wishful thinking; it's the knowledge that you are in touch with God and that He is real.

Why is it so easy to lose faith?

We cannot lose faith. If you have accepted Jesus and believed that God raised Him from the dead and that His death on the cross has gained your forgiveness, then you have received the measure of faith (Romans 12:3). All you have to do now is use it, get it working by trusting in God. But, on the other hand, it may require you to step out because genuine faith is faith in action (see James 2:17).

Is Faith Seeing and Believing?

We have faith in the chair to hold us when we sit down. We believe the car will start or the fridge will keep our food cold and fresh. Active faith has confidence that things perform as

they should. Faith is trust; we trust that the sun rises and sets every day. However, faith in a Creator God takes knowing the God in whom we put our faith.

Is it easy being a Christian?

Yes and No! No,—Because God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. Yes, because the Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control (see 2 Timothy 1:7). And no, because God did not choose us to be sinful but pure and holy (see 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7), and that's not easy but possible.

Is it ok to hate?

The New Testament tells us to hate evil, not evil people. We are to be devoted to one another. Romans 12:9–10 says, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good, Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Why is sin bad?

Sin is bad because it is not good for you; it hurts others, makes you feel guilty, and gives the devil a reason to annoy you (see Ephesians 4:26–27). And it makes your life messy!

Has everyone sinned?

Yes! Except for Jesus, He never sinned (see Romans 3:23; Hebrews 4:15).

Why is sex only for marriage?

God's ways are the best, the safest, and it is to your advantage to do things His way. God means for sex to be a gift for marriage because it is an intimate part of a relationship between a husband and wife where the two become one, emotionally and spiritually. In marriage, it is a bond a husband and wife share, strengthening their friendship and love.

What is wrong with sex outside marriage?

A successful relationship is built on unconditional love first. But some people cry out for love and find it in the wrong places; they may feel that having sex is real love. We must learn to separate love and sex. Saving sex for marriage is the best way; it keeps you safe from messy love affairs, disease, unwanted pregnancy, and heartache. Your purity is worth fighting for; it is a beautiful gift for your marriage partner. The Bible says it is better to marry if you can't manage your sex drive and because God is the One who designed us, it follows that He knows best.

Is the act of homosexuality wrong?

Everything that people use for the purpose God did not intend is wrong. Remember, all sin is wrong—lying, stealing, cheating, and adult sins are equally sinful. But there is forgiveness, new life, and abundant peace when we first turn to Jesus.

How should I respond to my gay friend?

Love them as you want to be loved; treat them as your friend. Honor them above yourself; Jesus did! He was friends with prostitutes, adulterers, thieves, liars, and drunks and the religious people hated Him. Romans 12:9–10 says, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Chapter 11—Eternal Life

What is eternal life?

The Bible answers this for you. Eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ, which starts now (see John 17:3).

How do I get eternal life?

Eternal life with God cannot be inherited nor obtained by works. Just believe! (see James 2:26, John 3:16).

What happens to me if I believe in Jesus when I die?

Your body will be buried or cremated, and the real you—your heart and soul—will be with God forever in Heaven (see 2 Corinthians 5:8, Hebrews 9:27). Jesus said that if anyone believes in Him, they have everlasting life (John 6:47).

Chapter 12—The Devil

Who are the devil and demons?

The devil is real. He is known as Satan, he is a spirit, and he seeks to destroy the faith of every believer (see Genesis 3:1–15; Matthew 4:1–13; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; John 13:2). Jesus cast out demonic spirits and confronted demon powers. He destroyed the works of the devil (see 1 John 3:8).

Do demons have power?

No, they are powerless by themselves because Jesus defeated Satan through His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension (see Colossians 2:14–15). However, the only power demons have is what people give them. Unfortunately, some people don't understand how the devil works (see Hosea 4:6; 2 Corinthians 2:11). The devil is a thief, a liar, and a murderer, and he wants to distract every Christian from focusing on Jesus (see 2 Corinthians 11:2–3; Hebrews 12:2).

How can believers defeat the devil's schemes?

By understanding what the Bible says and remembering that the devil's schemes only work through their ignorance. The devil attacks through discouragement, temptation, and all kinds of ways. The Bible says we can get victory by submitting to God, resisting the devil, and then the devil will flee from us (see James 4:7).

Who is Satan?

Satan was one of the princes among the angels; he was the leader of those that turned away from God (see Matthew 26:41; 9:34; Ephesians 2:2). Satan and his demons try to destroy the work of God; they try to mislead people and encourage them to sin. Satan does not have the attributes of God. God is all-knowing. The devil is not; he does not know everything and cannot read your mind. He does not know what you think until you open your mouth; he can only tell what is in your head and heart by what you say. Satan is not all-powerful—he cannot devour anyone he likes, cannot be everywhere at once, is also a liar (see John 8:4), and is defeated (see Col 2:15), in other words, a loser. The devil has not grown extra teeth, so he must roar to frighten us. Therefore, nothing is going for him compared to what we have in Christ. There is nothing to fear here!

Are angels real, and what do they do?

The Bible speaks of cherubim and seraphim. Cherubim reveal God's power, majesty, and glory. They guarded His holiness in the Garden of Eden, the tabernacle, and the temple. Seraphim stand as servants round about the throne of the heavenly King, sing His praises, and are ready to do His bidding (see Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18; 2 Samuel 22:11; Psalm 18:10; 80:1; 99:1; Isaiah 37:16, Isaiah 6:2, 3, 6). The Bible says they are worshipers of God, messengers, guardians, and warriors; they protect God's people and fight His

enemies. There are many stories in the Bible of how God's angels destroyed entire armies and struck down individuals who harmed God's people and denied God's glory.

Chapter 13—Prayer

What is prayer?

Prayer is when we express our burdens and tell God how wonderful He is (see Psalm 34:1–4). It is when we admit our failings, give thanks (see Ephesians 5:4, 20), declare His goodness, praise His Holy Name (see Matthew 6:9), and make our requests. Jesus said to pray in our secret room, and the Father will reward us (see Matthew 6:6). Jesus taught his disciples to pray, and one of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to guide us in prayer (see Romans 8:27).

Does God hear my prayer?

God hears every prayer ever prayed and the prayers of every person in the whole world.

Does God answer my prayers?

The Bible says that when you pray, you must believe and decide what is best to pray for because we can pray for things God cannot give us (see James 1:6–7). Wisdom is the best thing to pray for because God promised that He would give it to you, then you will know the right thing to pray for (see James 1:5). Then, when you read and meditate on God's Word, Jesus becomes real to you, you will know what to pray for (see John 15:7).

EXTENDED VERSION

To take you further!



This extended version answers the hard
questions?

The questions that generations have
asked!

It is for the student, the daily Bible reader,
and those who want answers!



To Take You Further!

This Extended Version answers the hard questions! It is for the person who reads the Bible and wants to know more. But please don't take my word for it. Check the answers out for yourself. The Bible says to have an answer ready when someone asks you about the hope you have in your salvation.

1 Peter 3:15

“Honour Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.”

I have found that religion has complicated some elementary truths and made Christianity boring and hard to understand. For example, many people question God's existence and His nature. So that is a good reason to know why you believe there is a God.

Hebrews 11:6 says

“It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists. And that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”

It is not just in knowing that God exists. It is in knowing He is present, here and now. This knowing is the result of sincerely seeking Him.

When asked to explain what it means to be a Christian, most believers will tell me that it means belonging to a church, having their sins forgiven, or getting a ticket to heaven.

True, our sins have been forgiven but becoming a Christian is more than that. Jesus came to do more than provide forgiveness. Not only are our sins forgiven, but our lives are transformed as well, and we have His Divine Life in us (John 10:10). He came from heaven and into humans. We can fall short of our potential if we fail to understand this. It is all by faith.

You would not be convinced if I gave you ten reasons why God is real. If I proved to you beyond a shadow of a doubt that God created the world, you would not be convinced. However, if you encounter the Creator, you know He is real, yet there must be more than experience to base belief. We are not asked to believe in a fairy story, and God does not leave us wondering what it all means. Instead, he sent Jesus to show us what the Father is like, and all that Jesus did, He did as a man full of grace and truth (John 1:17), which was God's ability at work in Him. The answer to the age-old question "who am I, and what am I doing here?" is found in the One who created you.

Why believe?

Because God did not design our lives just to be lived morally, He created us with a spirit in His image. God is Spirit, and we are born again to worship Him in Spirit and truth (see John 4:23–24). Jesus spoke these words to a Samaritan woman. The Samaritans started their own religion and invented a form of worship. Jesus informed them that now He had come, it would be possible for them to draw near to God through Himself in true and sincere worship by the Holy Spirit. Every person has an inbuilt desire to worship something bigger than themselves, and Father God is seeking such to worship Him. So it makes great sense to believe in the One we worship.

Chapter 15—The Bible

Why study the Bible?

- First, we get to know God better and adore him more
- Second, we find who we are in God and how God sees us
- Third, we study the Bible to discover the truth of things and what they mean for our lives
- Fourth, we find God's way of salvation by understanding and embracing it
- Fifth, we have a defense against Satan's lies so that we will not be fooled or misled
- Sixth, we better delight in God's glory and give him the honor he deserves

Why is the Bible the best seller all over the world?
It is the only Book translated into every language.

Who wrote the Bible?

God inspired 40 authors to write 66 books that make up the Word of God. It took 14 centuries to complete it. It is interesting to note that Jesus never wrote a single word of the Bible, although He was the Word of God who became flesh. The Pentateuch, attributed to Moses (see John 7:19–22), containing the first five books of the Old Testament, was a template for life for the Israelites. However, the epistles are God's specific instructions to a particular person or Church, written by Paul, Peter, James, John, and Jude. The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, were written to give us an account of the life and death of Jesus.

The Bible has two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

- There are 252 commands, and laws in the Old Testament
- The New Testament has two commands: love God and your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27).

In 373 AD, Church Fathers assembled the epistles, the four gospels, and the Book of Revelation into one Book that we call the New Testament. However, a first-century congregation

derived their doctrinal understanding of the Kingdom not from the New Testament but from a combination of the Old Testament, a letter from an apostle, and the teaching of an apostle, prophet, pastor, elder, or teacher.

Why are Some Epistles Called "The General Epistles?"

Most of the New Testament epistles addressed specific people or churches. The exceptions are called the General Epistles, which include the following—

The Book of

1. James
2. Jude
3. 1 John
4. 2 John
5. 3 John

Why do some churches interpret some passages differently?

The problem is—the context of an epistle is either misunderstood or ignored, and then well-meaning people take God's situational counsel and try to enforce it universally.

Context determines the meaning, and we should not take things out of Scripture and then universalize it. Instead, we do well if we understand the problems the letters address. Also, we have to remember to apply Scripture in a way that empowers and honors the hearers. Ignoring the full counsel

of the Word of God by taking a verse out of context undermines the purpose of the cross of Jesus.

It would have been common for letters addressed to one church to be copied and passed to other churches. Still, it is essential to understand that no first-century church would have possessed anything close to what we now term the New Testament. Nor would most of them have had the privilege of reading more than one or two letters from an apostle. The Church at Thessalonica probably would not have read the message to the Corinthians or the Galatians and vice versa. Paul did not write a letter to tell the disciples to copy it 500 times and send it to all the churches in the known world. Instead, his letters addressed specific situations in specific locations.

Is the Bible the inerrant Word of God?

Scripture is accepted today as the inerrant Word of God. The Pentateuch was a template for life. However, the epistles are God's specific instructions to a particular person or Church. The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, were written to give us an account of the life and death of Jesus. We gain God's insight into dealing with certain issues in a specific setting from the epistles. Likewise, Paul's letters addressed particular situations in particular locations. Today, millions of copies of these letters, directed to a particular person or church circumstance, are available to most

believers in the world, giving us insight into the ways of God in certain situations in their context.

The Word of God, the Bible, is not just the words of men. As Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV, "when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God." Proverbs 30:5–6 NKJV says, "Every word of God is pure ... do not add to His words, lest He reprove you and you be found a liar." The Bible is not just an exceptional literary work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

How do you know the Bible is true?

There are probably about 7–13 manuscripts of Plato and about 120 manuscripts of Aristotle, which we accept as accurate. The New Testament is better established than any book. It is unique.

The Jews in the Old Testament, the nation of Israel, and the twelve tribes received the Old Testament books as coming from God, and we received it from them. The Old Testament

comes from God through the people of the Old Testament; they sorted through the writings using specific criteria.

They questioned books such as Ezekiel because Ezekiel talks in chapters 40–48 about the temple structure being too big for the temple mount. The solution is to ask to which temple Ezekiel is referring. Is it for the future? They also questioned the Book of Esther because the Book never once used the name of Jehovah. They also had a problem with Ecclesiastes because the message is "vanity, vanity all is vanity." There are eleven chapters of "all is meaningless." However, chapter twelve says, "Fear God, keep his commandments; this is the whole duty of man." They also questioned the Song of Songs.

How do we know it is God's Word and that it is true? A careful reading will reveal that God is involved in every event with a single theme, God's personal involvement in His people. Moreover, the Bible itself claims to be the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

The prophets and other writers confirmed that God spoke through them. "The Word of the Lord came to me" is a phrase that frequently recurs in the Old Testament. For example, David said, "The Spirit of the Lord speaks through me...."

2 Samuel 23:2–3

"The Spirit of the LORD speaks through me; his words are upon my tongue. The God of Israel spoke. The Rock of Israel said to me: 'The one who rules righteously, who rules in the fear of God.'"

Jeremiah wrote in Chapter 1:9

"Then the LORD reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look, I have put my words in your mouth!"

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:37

"If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself."

In Matthew 5:18 NLT, Jesus said,

"I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved."

Jesus unrolled the scroll and read an 800-year-old document—Isaiah 61:1–2. There are many fulfilled prophecies, and Scripture clarifies that fulfilled prophecy is one of the pieces of evidence of supernatural origin (Jeremiah 28:9).

Taking the Bible literally

The term *literal* needs to be defined because of the different forms and figures of speech used, such as poetry and prose.

In hermeneutics (the science of interpretation), the word *literal* means seeking a literal sense of the text instead of a nonliteral or allegorical (symbolic) sense. So, for example, when the bible speaks of the eyes of God, it should not be taken literally. God does not have physical features—He is Spirit (John 4:24). Furthermore, when Jesus said, “I am the true vine” (John 15:1), we understand this as a figure of speech—meaning a spiritual vine.

Jesus often used Parables that we do not take literally. For example, the parable of the sower (Matthes 13:3–9) and the parable of the weeds (Matthew 13:24).

The literal approach is the usual way we understand language. All secondary allegorical meanings depend on it. A plain reading of Genesis indicates that when God created Adam in His image, He gave Adam the gift of intelligible speech to communicate with his Creator and Eve (Genesis 1:26; 11:1,7). God chose language to reveal the truth. Therefore, we should rightly handle the “word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Unfortunately, interpretation is influenced by pride, politics, and prejudices. We must allow the biblical text to reshape our biases and presuppositions. Every word in the bible is part of

a sentence, every sentence is part of a paragraph, every paragraph is part of a book, and every book is part of the whole of the Bible. So the interpretation of a specific passage must not contradict the teaching of Scripture.

CONTEXT

An example of the importance of context can be found in Matthew 24:34, “I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place.” Did Jesus mean that the end-time prophecies would be fulfilled in the first century? To answer the question, a thorough reading of the whole chapter reveals that it would be the generation who witnessed the signs Jesus spoke of in the previous verses.

Culture

Understanding the culture of the day is essential when interpreting Scripture. For example, knowing the Jewish history, social structures, religious practices, slavery, and the patriarchal culture, allows for a better understanding of the context.

Genre

The Bible has history, poetry, wise sayings, apocalyptic writings, prophecies, and instruction. So we should approach our studies by determining the category or genre.

What is Doctrine?

A doctrine is a set of beliefs. It states what the whole Bible teaches about a particular topic.

What is Religion?

The word religion is found only four times in the modern translation of the Bible (see Galatians 1:13–14; James 1:26–27). Historically, the word religion is used to describe the practice of relating to God or gods. Today it is a term used to describe Christianity without life and power—2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

How should we study the Bible?

- If you have one passage and you know what it means, you should work from the known to the unknown
- Methodology is a procedure by which the unclear is made clear. If you don't know what something is, look at other places where it may be clear, bringing the clear to bear on the less clear.
- If there is conflict in the Bible, we should look at the culture of the day and the context
- Ask the question—What is the author's intention?
- Who is the author addressing?
- What is the context because context determines the meaning and the definition?

- Remember that when we apply Scripture in a way that is, disempowering, oppressive, or dishonoring, it violates the nature of God.

What is Judaism?

First-century Judaism was much more restrictive than the Old Testament Law.

- Judaism had 613 commandments and laws and was entirely different from the Old Testament.
- God was silent for 400 years between the last Book of the Old Testament, Malachi, and the New Testament
- During this time, religious leaders called Scribes and Pharisees began to reinterpret the Old Testament, adding their traditions, laws, and opinions to the Bible (Torah).
- What they came up with became known as Judaism.

Chapter 16—Knowing God

How is God knowable?

God is knowable because God has revealed Himself. We are born with the capacity to know God and with an inborn knowledge of God,

Romans 1:19–20 says,

"Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

We also know God by learning from Scripture and revelation. However, God is unknowable because "God is Spirit." His qualities are perfect and perfectly upright.

If God is a spirit, why does Scripture say, "May His face shine upon you?"

Moses, the writer of the Book of Numbers, in chapter 6, verse 24, expressed God's favor, goodness, and friendship. Scholars explain that the metaphor "light of God's face" (Psalms 4:6) is found in royal letters from the Egyptian city of Amarna in Ugaritic correspondence and Mesopotamian documents and inscriptions from as early as the 12th century BC. A metaphor

is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.¹

How can we say God has a personality?

The following scriptures show us the personality of God (see Gen 1:1; Deuteronomy 1:34, 35; 1 Kings 8:23–26; Job 38:1; Psalms 21:7; 50:6; 103:3–5; Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:1). From them, we know that God is the Creator, He is love, He forgives, and He keeps His promises.²

Is it possible to define God? How would you describe Him?

It is not possible to define God; the Bible does not give a specific definition of Him. However, I can describe Him based on what the Bible says. "He is a pure Spirit, personal, infinitely perfect, and God and His perfections are One. Simplicity is one of the fundamental characteristics of God; this means that He is not composed of different parts and that His being and attributes are one."³

What do you mean by saying that God is personal?

The God of the Bible is a personal God, which means, He talks with people and listens to them, and they can put their trust and hopes in Him. He helps them in their trouble and fills their hearts with joy and peace.

What proof is there that God is personal?

God revealed Himself in the form of Jesus Christ

What does the infinity of God mean?

He is free from all limitations and imperfections; He is boundless and limitless. He is above all His creation in moral perfection and glorious majesty.

What proof is there that God is infinite?

He is majestic—the children of Israel sang of the greatness of God after they passed through the Red Sea—

Exodus 15:11

"Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you--majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

Why do some scriptures teach that you cannot know God?

A scripture often quoted is Job 11:7–10

"Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above—what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below—what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea. "If he comes along and confines you in prison and convenes a court, who can oppose him?"

We do well to understand that this passage of Scripture was part of a conversation Job had with a friend named Zophar the Naamathite, where he accused Job of being a hypocritical liar.

What does Yahweh or Jehovah mean?

Exodus 3:13–16 sheds light on the meaning of the name Jehovah Yahweh. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Yahweh was the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God's name forever. It includes all time, past, present, and to come; Jehovah–Yahweh means God is always the same, unchangeable, and faithful.

Are the unique names of God of human origin?

No! God has given names for himself.

Is the name 'Father' applied to God in the Old Testament?

The name 'Father' is found in the Old Testament to express God's special relationship with Israel (see Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 63:16).

In what different senses is the name Father used in the New Testaments?

The New Testament points to God as the Father of all believers. Sometimes it designates God as the creator of all (see 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:14; Hebrews 12:9; James

1:17), and sometimes the first Person of the Trinity as the Father of Jesus (see John 14:11; 17:1).

Can God do everything and anything He wants?

That God is omnipotent does not mean that He can do everything. The Bible teaches us that there are some things that God cannot do. For example, he cannot lie, sin, or deny Himself (see Numbers 23:19; I Samuel 15:29; 2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 6:18; James 1:13, 17). However, it does mean He can bring to pass the impossible and do whatsoever He has decided to accomplish (see Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:27; Zechariah 8:6; Matthew 3:9; 26:53).

Did the people who killed Jesus make a choice, or were they not responsible because it was God's plan?

The Bible insists they were entirely responsible for doing what they did. Yet it was also God's plan. The Bible says that Jesus was "handed over by God's set purpose and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23). The authorities responsible for the crucifixion "did what God determined would happen" (Acts 4:28).

God knew how to arrange evil men and their choices to serve his purpose of offering his Son as a sacrifice to pay for human sin. But, of course, God also knew how to raise his Son from the dead, not through human actions but through the direct intervention of divine power.

Are angels real, and what do they do?

The Bible speaks of cherubim and seraphim. Cherubim reveal the power, majesty, and glory of God. Cherubim guard the holiness of God in the Garden of Eden, the tabernacle, and the temple and the descent of God to the earth. Seraphim are mentioned only in Isaiah 6:2, 3, 6. They stand as servants round about the throne of the heavenly King, sing His praises, and are ready to do His bidding (see Genesis 3:24; Exodus 25:18; 2 Samuel 22:11; Psalms 18:10; 80:1; 99:1; Isaiah 37:16).

Two angels are mentioned by name in the Bible

1. The first is Gabriel (see Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26). He announced the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11) and Jesus, the Messiah (Luke 1:26). He describes himself in words, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God" (Luke 1:19). It was his task to convey divine revelations to man and interpret them.
2. The second is Michael (see Daniel 10:13, 21; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7). In the Epistle of Jude, he is called the archangel. He is the fearless warrior fighting the battles of Jehovah against the enemies of the people of God and the evil powers in the spirit world.

The angels praise God continually (see Psalm 103:20; Isaiah 6; Revelation 5:11). They serve those who inherit salvation (see Hebrews 1:14), rejoice at the conversion of sinners (see Luke

15:10), watch over believers (see Psalm 3:7; 91:11), and protect the little ones (see Matthew 18:10).

They are present in the Church (see 1 Corinthians 11:10; Ephesians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:21) and convey believers to the bosom of Abraham (see Luke 16:22). They also frequently bear special revelations of God (see Daniel 9:21-23; Zechariah 1:12-14). They communicate blessings to His people (see Psalms 91:11, 12; Isaiah 63:9; Daniel 6:22; Acts 5:19) and execute judgments on His enemies (see Genesis 19:1, 13; 2 Kings 19:35; Matthew 18:41).

The Bible says they are worshipers of God, messengers, guardians, and warriors. They protect God's people and fight His enemies. There are many stories in the Bible of how God's angels destroyed entire armies, conquered nations, and struck down individuals who harmed God's people and denied God's glory.

Are demons evil angels?

Besides the good, some evil angels delight in opposing God and destroying His work. Demons were once angels created by God to serve Him. However, they did not retain their original angelic position (see 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Instead, they rebelled against God and aspired to divine authority (see cf 2 Thessalonians 2:4, 9); thus, they were cast out of heaven and became demons on the earth.

Who is Satan?

Satan was one of the princes among the angels, recognized as the head of those that fell away (see Matthew 26:41; 9:34; Ephesians 2:2). He and his hosts seek to destroy the work of God, to blind and mislead even the elect, and encourage the sinner in his evil way.

Chapter 17—Genesis and Evolution

Is Genesis believable?

Sometimes the wisest thing we can do is humbly confess that there is much we do not know, and when we're uncertain, to trust the words of God. So instead, we watch TV documentaries and read science books where scientists insist there's no way God made the world as Genesis records, or there is no way there was a worldwide flood (Genesis 7). Yes, it makes you wonder if Genesis is believable. Well, it makes me wonder if science is credible!

For example, in 1874, a scientist found a dinosaur skeleton, but the skull was missing. He found a skull some distance away, put it on the skeletal remains, and introduced the brontosaurus to the world. Brontosaurus became famous until somebody pointed out that the head matched one dinosaur species and the skeleton another. "Now scientists are saying that Brontosaurus did exist, ending a debate which has rumbled on for more than 100 years."⁴

"Nebraska Man was a name applied to *Hesperopithecus haroldcookii*, based on a tooth found by rancher and geologist Harold Cook in Nebraska in 1917. It was heralded as the first higher primate in North America. Although Nebraska man was not a deliberate hoax, the original classification proved a mistake and was retracted in 1927."⁵

Piltdown Man later proved to be a counterfeit. Scientists put together a fake fossil using a human skull cap and an orangutan's jaw. Piltdown Man lasted 40 years before it was exposed. "The Piltdown Man was a paleoanthropological fraud in which bone fragments were presented as the fossilized remains of a previously unknown early human. The falsity of the hoax was demonstrated in 1953. An extensive scientific review in 2016 established that amateur archaeologist Charles Dawson was its likely perpetrator."⁶

Fossils indicate that there have been apes and men, but there have never been ape men.

What is creation?

Creation is the work of God by which He produced the world by speaking it into existence. It is represented as a work of the triune God (see Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; 38:4; Psalms 33:6; Isaiah 40:12, 13; John 1:3; 1 Cor 8:6; Colossians 1:15–17). The word creation is found many times in the New Testament. For example, Mark 10:6 says, "But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female."

What is the theory of evolution?

We should realize that there is no such thing as "the theory of evolution;" various theories of evolution often contradict each other. This is because evolutionists want to substitute their view of the origin of things for the Scriptural doctrine.

They believe the simplest forms of matter and life, including humankind, the existing species of plants and animals, intelligence, morality, and religion, all developed by a natural process. However, it conflicts with the narrative of creation found in the Bible.

What does the term evolutionist mean?

An evolutionist believes that evolution—in the sense of time, chance, and the struggle for survival—is responsible for life rather than the God of the Bible. On the other hand, atheists believe in a materialistic theory of evolution which says that life somehow emerged from non-life without God.

Has science proved evolution to be true?

Bias determines what you do with the evidence. Scientists, therefore, are not neutral when they start with beliefs that determine what they do with evidence. Evolution is, however, not a scientific theory; it is a belief system about the past, describing how some people think the evidence came to be in its present state. We only have the present, so everything exists in the present. We cannot test the past using scientific methods, which involve repeating things and watching them happen since all evidence is present.

So do you believe the scientists or Genesis?

Yes, you can believe Genesis. It is accurate as God is truthful, Jesus is God's Son, and the whole Bible is God's Word. Nothing

about good science makes it impossible to believe in creation. Many of history's most outstanding scientists believed in God the Creator, and still today, many believe in the Genesis account of creation. Belief in God does not prevent good science. Scientists can always do their valuable work by observing and recording their findings.

There is a final authority we can always believe—the Bible! Because it comes to us from God himself, starting with the very first chapters of Genesis. If we reject Genesis, then we have to reject Jesus, also. Jesus quoted from the first two chapters of Genesis in

Matthew 19:4–6,

“And He answered and said to them, Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning "made them male and female," and said, For this cause a man shall leave father and mother and shall cling to his wife, and the two of them shall be one flesh? Therefore they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Jesus also said that the time of His Second Coming would be like the time of Noah.

Matthew 24:38–39 says,

"For in the days before the flood," said Jesus, "people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man."

So Jesus taught the reality of Noah, the existence of the ark, and the fact of the flood which swept over the earth as God's judgment against human evil. The Abraham story begins in Chapter 12, and Jesus said, "Before Abraham was born, I am" (John 8:58). So if Jesus Christ existed as the Son of God even before Abraham, it means he was there during the events described in the first eleven chapters of Genesis.

The Bible says in Colossians 1:16-17, "All things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

We were not there to see what happened, but God was there. Genesis gives us God's account of how He created the universe, humanity, and the animal kingdom. It comes down to "In the beginning, God," or "In the beginning, what?" You can believe Genesis for sure!

Does the New Testament refer to Genesis?

The New Testament refers to Genesis over 200 times.

Should the Book of Genesis be taken literally?

The Genesis account of creation is believable if we apply the standard principles of biblical exegesis (ignoring pressure to make the text conform to our prejudices). Genesis is the only Book that accounts for the origin of life and the universe. Including life, man and woman, government, marriage, culture, sin, clothing, etc. The Gospel depends on the origin of the problem for which the Saviour's death as the solution was necessary.

Genesis properly understood is without error. So we have to examine our understanding of the Bible to make sure we have not been reading something into it that is not there. The Bible and science are more in harmony than they are at odds. ⁷

Prove it

Unless the events of Genesis are real history, the Apostle Paul's explanation of the Gospel in Romans 5:19 and the resurrection of Jesus in 1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 45 has no meaning. The historical truth of the record concerning the first Adam guarantees that what God says in His Word about the last Adam (Jesus) is also true. Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith, we understand that the universe was formed at God's command so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." We understand where everything comes by faith, and we begin to understand its true meaning. Trust in the

Creator is foundational for making sense of who we are and who we are to be like as human beings.

Did God create the whole world in six days?

Were the days of creation ordinary days or not? Geologists speak of them as long periods. However, the word 'day' does not always denote twenty-four hours in Scripture (see Cf. Genesis 1:5; 2:4; Psalm 50:16; Ecclesiastes 7:14; Zechariah 4:10). Yet the literal interpretation of the word 'day' in the creation narrative is the Hebrew word '*yom*' which denotes an ordinary day. This holds in over 400 cases without exception. So *yom* as one 24-hour period should be understood unless the context demands another interpretation. However, the repeated mention of morning and evening favors this interpretation. It was an ordinary day that Jehovah set aside as a rest day. In Exodus 20:9–11, Israel is commanded to labor for six days and rest on the seventh because Jehovah made heaven and earth in six days and rested on the seventh day.

Does it matter how many days God took to create the whole universe?

If we believe that there were millions of years between each of the creation days, then it is logical to think that bloodshed, disease, and suffering arrived before the fall of Adam and Eve. However, the Bible tells us there was no bloodshed before Adam and Eve sinned. The Lord God made clothing from

animal skins for Adam and Eve because they realized they were naked after eating the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:21). By accepting the days as ordinary days, we have no problem making sense of the rest of the bible.

Genesis chapters 1 and 2 have different accounts of creation. Which one do you believe?

Genesis chapter 2 is not a different account of creation. Instead, it is a more detailed account of day six of creation. Chapter 1 is an overview, and chapter 2 details the creation of the garden, the first man, and his activities on day six.

Between the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve, the KJV Bible says in Genesis 2:19,

“Out of the ground, the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every fowl of the air.” Giving the impression that God created the land beasts and birds between the creation of Adam and Eve. However, the NIV translation says that God “**had formed**” all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. We do well to understand that in Hebrew texts, the correct tense of the verb is determined by the context. Therefore, it is clear from chapter one that God created the land beasts and birds before Adam.

Genesis 2:19 NIV

“Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.”

In Matthew 19:3–6, Jesus quotes from both Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24 when referring to the same man and woman teaching the doctrine of marriage. Jesus saw them as complementary accounts.

In the Garden of Eden, were tigers, lions, wolves, and other meat-eaters gentle vegetarians?

On day six of Creation, God said, in

Genesis 1:30,

“Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so.”

So, according to scripture, tigers, wolves, and lions were gentle vegetarians.

Is God still interested in His creation?

Yes! God's glory and power are so vast that he could undo it all in a moment with a breath or a touch. Psalm 135:6 says,

"The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths." God is still in charge; He directs and sustains His creation. God is sovereign over all things all the time, and He owns the lot. Deuteronomy 10:14 says, To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it." All created things, from galaxies to goldfish, declare the glory and joy of God and the excellence of his beloved Son, through whom all things were made.

Can you believe in God and Evolution?

Most people think that evolution is change over time, but it is deceitful. "The 'General Theory of Evolution' (GTE) was defined by the evolutionist Kerkut as 'the theory that all the living forms in the world have arisen from a single source which itself came from an inorganic form.'⁸. He continued: 'the evidence which supports this is not sufficiently strong to allow us to consider it as anything more than a working hypothesis.'⁹

Creationists' main objection to GTE is not that changes occur through time; neither is it about the size of the change. Instead. The critical issue is the type of change required to change microbes to men, which requires change that increases the genetic content.

Evolution is a religious philosophy based on the words of men, who try to explain how everything originated without an intelligent designer—God.

Webster's Dictionary defines religion as follows: "Cause, principle or system of beliefs to with ardour and faith." Biblical Creation and evolution are religious views of life. Therefore, the issue is not science versus religion but religion versus spirituality.

We have the Word of the One who created it—the One who made it all happen and still directs the universe today. So the only way to know who founded the earth is to take the word of the one who did it and accept by faith what he says.

What do atheists believe?

Atheists believe that matter and energy somehow exploded into existence without God. Yet atheists also know that each human cell contains enough DNA information to fill 1,000 books of 500 pages each, but they believe this came about accidentally.

However, if you don't believe in a creator, there is no designer. If there is no design, then there is no sense of purpose. If there is no sense of purpose, there is no sense of eternal destiny. If there is no sense of eternal destiny, there is no accountability. If there is no accountability, there is no fear

of The Lord. If there is no fear of The Lord, there is no wisdom. If there is no wisdom, then there is foolishness. The evidence of intelligent design is overwhelming. Therefore, there must be a Creator, or everything is foolishness.

How old is the earth?

We don't know! The Bible does not say! The Bible teaches in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." That is, at the beginning of all temporal things. You can't prove everything. Something has to be taken as a given, as the place to begin.

Did dinosaurs and humans co-exist?

The Book of Job in the Old Testament speaks of a creature called '*behemoth*.' God said to Job, "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox" (Job 40:15). The behemoth sounds like one of the giant dinosaurs such as Apatosaurus or Brachiosaurus. The Book of Genesis says that on the fifth day, God created every living creature according to its kind; cattle, creeping things, and beasts of the earth. (Genesis 1:24). Then, on the sixth day, God created man (Genesis 1:26). So, a day being 24 hours, humans and dinosaurs coexisted. Remember that death and bloodshed are the consequence of sin, and in Genesis 1:29–30, God gave Adam and Eve and the animals, plants to eat, so they did not need to eat each other to survive. Also, the first animal was killed by God to provide a covering for the

nakedness of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). So what I am saying is that according to the bible, no living thing died, so there cannot be a fossil record before Adam and Eve sinned.

In 1841, Sir Richard Owen invented the word dinosaur from Greek words meaning 'terrible lizard.' So you will not find the word dinosaur in the bible. However, the term 'dragon' appears in the Old Testament 30 times (Jeremiah 31:54, Malachi 1:3). There are other bible passages about dragons that lived in the waters (Psalm 74:13) and the sea (Isaiah 27:1). Job 41 describes a large animal that lived in the sea and even breathed fire. These could refer to what we call dinosaurs.

Who was Cain's wife?

If it is unlawful to marry your sister, then who did Cain marry? Only one man was created at the beginning, and God made him from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). God created Eve from Adam's rib; she was the mother of all living. (Genesis 3:20). The first man was Adam, and the first woman was Eve. This means that Cain's wife was a descendant of Adam and Eve. She could not have come from another race of people. Cain was the first child of Adam and Eve, then Abel and Seth. Scripture records that Adam fathered many sons and daughters (Genesis 5:3). The bible does not tell us how many children were born to Adam and Eve. However, there would have been many descendants, considering their lifespan.

Adam lived for 930 years (Genesis 5:5). God commanded them to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28), so brothers had to marry sisters at the beginning of human history, or we would not be here.

How can this be, because a child of a brother and sister can have serious health problems?

We all know that the more closely related two people are, the more likely they will have similar mistakes in their genes, and a child of such a union could inherit the same bad genes and have severe defects and health problems. However, Adam and Eve did not have accumulated genetic mistakes. Instead, they were created physically perfect (Genesis 1:31). So brothers and sisters could have married with God's approval and bear children with no deformities.

How did the animals fit on Noah's Ark?

Firstly the Bible states that the animals came to Noah (Genesis 6:20). We do not know how this happened or what the earth's geography was like at that time. We cannot go back in time to check what happened, so whatever we come up with will be deficient.

The Ark measured 300 x 50 x 30 cubits and had three levels. To put this in perspective, the Ark was the equivalent volume of 522 standard rail carriages that could hold 240 sheep each. Noah's family also needed room. Experts say that even if you

allow for stacking one cage on top of another to save floor space, there would still be enough room, including food storage and water.

How did dinosaurs fit on the Ark?

They were probably young dinosaurs. Even the enormous dinosaurs were small when they first hatched. The most significant dinosaur egg found is about the size of a football.

10

Chapter 19—Male and Female Made in God’s Image

Does a person’s gender affect their relationship with God?

No! God created males and females equally in His image. Humans invented a two-class core value system concerning men and women. Paul the Apostle wrote in Galatians 3:26–28 NIV—“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

There were Jews and Greeks in the Old Testament and separation between circumcised and uncircumcised. But In Christ, there is no separation; there is no difference. We are not slaves and free; we are equally brothers and sisters in Christ.

Does God use women in leadership?

Yes! God appointed Deborah as judge, prophetess, and leader of the nation of Israel. It is wrong to say Deborah was the exception because the exception shows that the rule doesn't work.

- God chose Deborah to lead Israel (Judges 4:4–5)
- Phillip's four daughters were prophetesses (Acts 21:9)
- Priscilla functioned as a pastor-teacher with her husband Aquilla (Acts 18:26; Romans (16:3–5)
- Phoebe was a minister or deacon, and a leader or patron, in the church at Cenchreae (Romans 16:1–2)
- Junia was an apostle (Romans 16:7)
- Euodia and Syntyche were involved in gospel ministry (Philippians 4:2–3)
- Lydia ran a house church (Acts 16:40)
- Nympha's house was a place of worship (Colossians 4:15)
- Apphia in Colosse (Philemon 2)
- And "the chosen lady" (2 John 1), "the chosen sister" (2 John 13)

Were the women in leadership in both Testaments appointed because there were no good men?

There were women in leadership in both Testaments, and it was not because there weren't any good men. It is wrong to say that God only used a woman because there wasn't a good man. Good men abounded in the time of Deborah. Huldah was a prophetess in the Old Testament when Jeremiah was alive. Jeremiah wrote the largest book in the Old Testament. So, who are we to contradict God? God chose Deborah as a leader; here's what it says—

Judges 4:4-5

“Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.”

Deborah was a prophetess; she was married, she led Israel and people came to her to decide court cases. She told men what to do, and God commissioned her. God makes you a prophetess, and prophetesses speak for God, which Deborah did. She said, “Thus saith the Lord.”

So to say that God uses women because there are no good men is demeaning to men and women, and I don't accept it. Competence and gifts are the issues. Also, in the New

Testament, women functioned as apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor-teachers.

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Do women need a male covering?

I cannot find any rule in the Bible that says women leaders must be single or married or that a man or a husband must assume an umbrella or cover of authority over them. 1 Corinthians 11:5 says, "Every woman who has her head uncovered while praying and prophesying disgraces her head." Paul tells the Corinthians that a woman should cover her head while praying and prophesying. He goes on to say that the covering is a symbol of authority worn for the sake of the angels. 1 Corinthians 11 exhorts the believers at Corinth that men and women are not independent of one another. Neither man nor woman can go it alone or claim priority, and everything comes from God.

1 Corinthians 11:3 Paul says, “God is the head of Christ.” Two things should stand out here:

1. The Father and Jesus are both equal and equally God,
2. Just as importantly, it involves what God did as the head/source of Christ. Paul puts it

Ephesians 1:20-21

“Which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”

God used His authority to raise Jesus even above Himself. But wait, it gets better; Ephesians 2:6 says, God raised us together, and made us sit in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. God promoted Jesus to the highest position in all creation, and then He seated men and women with Christ together in Him!

Furthermore, Jesus made it clear that the greatest among us is to be the servant of all (Luke 22:26). Therefore, power and authority from God can flow from both a woman and a man.

And concerning the levels of authority and covering. Paul concludes his thoughts in 1 Corinthians 11:11–12 “Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.” Therefore, men and women should both be empowered to pray and prophesy publicly. Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

What did a woman’s head covering have to do with the angels? Today, most Christians accept that this passage pertains to a specific cultural issue in the First Century Church in Corinth.

What about 1 Timothy 2:12–14, where Paul writes he does not allow a woman to teach or have authority over a man?

Please consider that with 40 authors writing the Bible over 1,450 years in several countries and cultures, only one writer seems to restrict women from leadership and teaching. The great Apostle Paul wrote the most restrictive passage about women in the Bible.

1 Timothy 2:12–14

And I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed

first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

This passage has become the cornerstone for limiting women in leadership in the church for hundreds of years. The critical issue is that a woman may not “exercise authority over a man.”

The Greek word in question is—*authentein*, translated as “usurp authority over.” The word occurs only once in the entire bible. Originally it meant “to murder with one’s own hand” or “to commit suicide.” As time passed, the word evolved to mean “to originate something with one’s own hand.” Hence the terms ‘author’ and ‘authentic.’ Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul chose this unique word, ‘*authentein*.’

It could mean (according to Kroeger and Kroger) that 1 Timothy 2:12 translates, “I do not permit a woman to teach nor to proclaim herself ‘author’ of man.” Which makes sense given that the next sentence of the passage, Paul is reassuring the original order of creation. Verse 13 “*For Adam was formed first, then Eve.*” Keeping in mind that those influenced by the Artemis cult believed that Artemis appeared first and then her male consort. In the Artemis cult in Ephesus (Acts 19), the feminine was elevated above the masculine such that

some women would try to assert their status in Christianity. Paul was correcting the myth.”

If Paul was not correcting a myth, then we have a problem with the following phrase: Verse 14 “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.” Essentially Paul would be linking women’s silence and submission to original sin. Yet the New Testament makes it abundantly clear that the sacrifice of Jesus has defeated original sin and death itself.

How, then, can Paul or anyone argue for the subjection of women based on the one sin of Eve?

Paul’s restrictions on women were congregational rules solely for the Church in Ephesus.

Paul offered further evidence from the biblical record to counter Greek mythology and its influence in the Ephesian church. In the other nine locations he wrote to, he does not call for women to be subjection.¹¹

Why do some churches take 1 Timothy 2:12 and 1 Timothy 5:23 universally when it was only Paul’s instruction to Timothy?

1 Timothy 2:12 says, “I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.”

1 Timothy 5:23 says, “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.”

These verses were a personal message to Timothy. The context of a verse determines its definition. If we take 1 Timothy 5:23 as a literal universal command to the whole church, then it gives ministers the freedom to drink alcohol. No, it was a personal message from Paul to his son in the faith.¹²

Was Paul saying women can't teach men for all time?

No! 2 Timothy 1:5 Paul commends Lois and Eunice for teaching Timothy the Bible.

Jesus gave His Great Commission to all His male and female disciples, which commands us to teach His gospel throughout the world (Matthew 28:19–20). In Acts 18:24–26, Priscilla and her husband Aquila offered biblical teaching and correction to Apollos.

Is Paul forbidding women to teach or preach authoritatively only in church services?

No, Paul never limited the gift of prophecy to males only! Both men and women will “prophesy” in the New Testament age (Joel 2:28). Numerous women in the Bible held positions of considerable spiritual authority. The Bible has many accounts

of women who taught, prophesied, and delivered authoritative messages from God. The Bible challenges men and women to the Great Commission to “go and teach.” There is no reason to assume that Jesus intended only males to evangelize.

Who determines that a sermon on Sunday is more authoritative than a message delivered at a women’s group meeting?

Who is the judge of a sermon’s level of authority? This is a good question that should be answered authoritatively. If we want to have a biblical perspective on women in leadership and preaching with power and authority, we need to have a broader perspective on the Scriptures and a good look at their context. More extensive than just the Apostles Paul’s few restrictive verses on women. Otherwise, we misunderstand scripture. Much of Paul’s letters to Timothy deal with how to guard against the false/strange teaching of both men and women (1 Timothy 1:3).

So who is the judge of a sermon’s level of authority? The prophet Joel predicted that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on the church one day, and as a result, “*sons and daughters would prophesy*” (Joel 2:28). During the New Testament age, both men and women would be empowered, and commissioned to carry the gospel to the world. The Holy Spirit would no longer rest on isolated individuals as under

the Old Covenant. With the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, all believers, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or social status, would have full access to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Is God against women holding any position of authority?

No! God is not against women holding any position of authority, and the bible is not against it either. The Apostle Peter wrote to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in 1 Peter 1:23—“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.” God has ordained that we are all born again of the same incorruptible seed. There is no inferior seed for women; it is the same in men and women. Numerous women in the New Testament held positions of significant spiritual authority. The Great Apostle Peter also said in Act 10:28, "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. And in Verse 3, Peter continues, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism." Peter now realized that God does not respect a person's nationality, whether a Jew or a Gentile, a slave or free, a male or a female, a girl or a boy, etc. God has no favorites!

Is Paul against women holding any position of authority?

Paul wrote to 9 different churches or church leaders but only restricted women in Corinth, Ephesus, and Crete. Paul wrote 16 chapters to the Romans and did not write a single verse prohibiting women from teaching or having authority over men. The first person he greets in the book of Romans is Prisca and her husband, Aquila. He calls them “fellow workers,” which is the exact phrase he used for the apostles Timothy and Titus and Doctor Luke and Mark. Paul’s letter to the Galatians requires no restriction on women. He writes in,

Galatians 3:26-28

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

He called both men and women sons of God. In Ephesians 2:14–16, Paul writes that God has made us equal through our union with Jesus. And in Ephesians 2:18–16, Paul writes that we are united in Christ and each other, we all have equal access and direct access in the Holy Spirit to come before the Father, and we are all connected to the Head Jesus Christ Himself.

In Ephesians 2:21-22, Paul writes that God is transforming us and that we are a new race of humanity.

He writes, “To Timothy and God’s holy people, to the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ” in Colossae (Colossians 1:1-2).

Colossians 1:21

“God has reconnected you back to himself. He released his supernatural peace to you through the sacrifice of his own body as the sin payment on your behalf so that you would dwell in His presence. And now there is nothing between you and Father God, for he sees you as holy, flawless and restored! So now continue to advance in faith, assured of a firm foundation to grow upon.”

What did Paul mean? Did he want women to be invisible and silent?

No! Paul was calling women to listen and learn. He was not telling women to shut up and be invisible; he invited them to learn to be active followers of Jesus. He was not commanding them to shut their mouths and fade into the background of the church, and if he was calling women to learn, then surely he fully expected them to teach and preach what they had learned when the discipleship was complete. Instead, Paul wanted women to learn with reverence and a submissive attitude. But unfortunately, their culture excluded women

from learning and approaching the scripture. Humility is the only position a disciple can take if they want to be a friend of the Master.

1 Timothy 2:11 “Let a woman learn in silence with all submission” was a liberating message to First Century women. At last, women were allowed to learn; they were no longer viewed as sex objects, ignorant inferiors, or the property of their fathers or husbands. Instead, they were to be disciples of Jesus and learn at His feet, and they, too, were also called to teach His gospel throughout the world (Matt 28:19–20).¹³

Was it just women who were false teachers, or were men also teaching false doctrines?

1 Timothy 4:7; 5:13 Paul mentions that women spread these false teachings. In addition, some rebellious women were disrupting worship services to teach their strange gospel. Paul also writes of certain men who were teaching false doctrine, dominating church services, usurping the authority of the church leaders, and proclaiming themselves teachers (1 Timothy 1:3ff). Paul names these men but does not name the women. 1 Timothy 1:20—“Among these are Hymeneus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

So Paul called for an end to the madness. Paul had to bring severe discipline to the situation quickly. So he commanded all women in the congregation to be submissive so they could learn correct doctrine, and he delivered Hymeneus and Alexander to Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme. The seriousness of the problem demanded a severe response, and it got one.

What about 1 Corinthians 14:34, which demands women be silent in churches?

1 Corinthians 14:34 says, “Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.” If this directive applied to today’s Church, women would have to be silent, no singing, no talking, not even to their misbehaving children. No Sunday school teaching, no announcements, no praying out loud, just silence. No leading worship, prophesying, reading scripture, chatting afterward, or while cleaning up and packing up.

Some lift this passage out of context and use it to reason that the Bible does not allow women to teach or speak in church. And if these are the only verses Paul wrote on the subject, it would be hard to argue against them. Fortunately, that is not the case.

Paul writes 1 Corinthians 14:26

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

Also, when Paul gives instructions for the use of prophecy in the church in 1 Corinthians 14:31, he does not limit the gift to men. Instead, he says that all can prophesy one by one.

The Context

1 Corinthians 7:1a

“Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me:”

It is very likely that Paul is quoting a question the Corinthians posed to him and that he is answering their concerns in the pre-and post-text surrounding these verses. Remember, Paul wrote to the Corinthians in response to a letter he had received from them

- The trouble with this is that Paul does not always stick to the format of quoting the question before he gives them an answer, as you can see by reading the entire book.
- This leaves us with a couple of dilemmas:
- We are not always sure what question Paul is answering and

- Sometimes it is unclear which part of the text is the question. ¹⁴

Is it true that a believing wife sanctifies her unbelieving husband?

A believing wife sanctifies her unbelieving husband. A woman's relationship with God consecrates a husband who does not know God. And *the* unbelieving wife is sanctified by her husband. The great apostle also states a wife has authority over her husband's body equally just as a husband has over his wife's body.

It is important to note that 1 Corinthians was written to a congregation of men and women. Paul instructed women and men about their issues (1 Corinthians 7:1-6, 1 Corinthians 7:12-16).

Notice here that the most radical statement ever written about wives in the first century was written by a former Pharisee who, for most of his life, would have believed that women were possessions owned by their husbands and thought of as slaves. Let me make this clear Paul is saying that a husband does not have authority over his own body; this statement is radically counter to the day's culture.¹⁵

Should a husband rule his wife?

No! Rulership over people is for God alone. We are to rule over the powers of darkness. (Ephesians 3:10, Ephesians 6:11–12). God’s desire for marriage is that husband and wife rule together, not over each other, as the two are one. Grace, faith, hope, and love abound to husband and wife, and true love does not dominate and is not conceited; true love is kind, patient, and not envious (1 Corinthians 13:4).

Ephesians 5:22. Says, “Wives submit yourselves to your husbands.” Some have used this to say, “wives, you have to be obedient to their husbands and submit to them.” But the preceding verse 21 says—Ephesians 5:21, says, “submit to one another out of reverence to Christ.” So, husband and wife should “submit to one another out of reverence to Christ.”

What about Genesis 3:16 - it says a husband shall rule over his wife.

God comes to Adam and Eve, and “To the woman, He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain, you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.”

Before we discuss this, we must realize that this is a consequence of sin, and we will do well to recognize that Jesus submitted to the agony of the cross and made sin for us so that He might redeem us from the consequences of sin. We

have inherited the blessings of Abraham. Now, grace and faith, hope and love abound to husband and wife, and true love does not dominate, is not conceited, true love is kind, patient, and not envious (1 Corinthians 13:4), just as it was before the fall of Adam and Eve.

However, let's look deeper into the story of Cain and Able because it has the same structure. God comes to Cain and says in Gen 4:7, "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Sin crouches at the door like a lion, ready to devour Cain, but he must hold it in place. God told Cain to rule over sin. Does sin master Cain? Yes, he killed his brother. So what is this saying about the relationship between men and women? "Her desire will be for her husband," as sin desires to overpower Cain, so the woman will want to overpower her husband. The husband then must rule over her. But they should rule over it because sin is nullified by grace for New Testament believers. We inherited original sin, but now we are the redeemed in Christ, and we resist evil. The power and dominion of the husband and the submissive secondary wife conflict in marriage is a consequence of the original sin, and we fight against it. We do not let it rule us.

God's desire for marriage is that husband and wife rule together; the two are one. Grace and faith, hope and love abound to husband and wife, and true love does not

dominate and is not conceited; true love is kind, patient, and not envious. (1 Corinthians 13:4).

Why have women been considered just the husband's helper and secondary?

- Firstly in God's eyes, females are not considered this way. Therefore, males and females are equal in God's eyes.
- Secondly, women have been considered the helper and secondary to the man because of the word "helper." In Hebrew, it is 'Ezer.'

Genesis 2:18

And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

It is God who is called "the helper." The word comes from Ebenezer. Eben means "stone"; ezer means "help." It means "stone of help." God calls Himself the 'Ezer.' He is a helper, a deliverer, the one who saves us. Therefore, you cannot use the fact that a woman is secondary or subservient to her husband because God would also have to be submissive and secondary, which we know He was not. So that argument doesn't work!

How should I serve my spouse?

What happens to the power struggle then in light of serving each other? You fight against the consequence of sin by giving up power, not grabbing for control. Grace and faith, hope and love abound to husband and wife, and true love does not dominate, is not conceited, true love is kind, patient, and not envious (1 Cor 13:4). The two are one!

Who is your model?

Jesus did not come and say, “I am the king of the universe. You men and women are my mere servants and lowly helpers; I am the king of the Universe.” No! Jesus washed their feet, prayed for them to be one with His Father, and empowered them to do what He did. He commissioned them and sent them out to change the world and serve each other. The power struggle is over! Jesus is the servant King. Husbands and wives are to empower each other to do what Jesus did. So the question for husbands and wives is, how can I serve my spouse and release them to do what Jesus commanded?

Is work a curse, as in Genesis 3:17-18?

No! To answer this question, let’s look at Genesis 3:17–18, but before we do, go back to before the fall; Adam was given a task to do. He had to take care of and work the garden. Adam and Eve were to have equal dominion over every living thing. So work is not a curse. The curse is the futility of work. It is devastating when you put your life, heart, and soul into

something; then watch it fall apart. It's the futility of work that is the problem.

Genesis 3:17–18

"Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

How do I make sense of these different scriptures concerning men's and women's equality?

- If there is conflict in the bible, we should look at the day's culture and the context.
- If you have one passage that you know what it means, you should work from the known to the unknown.
- If you don't know what something is, search for it in other places where it may be more precise, and you bring the clear to bear on the less clear. This is called methodology.
- Ask the question—What is the author's intention?
- What is the context? Because context determines the meaning and the definition.

- Realize that it violates God's nature when you apply scripture in an unredemptive, disempowering, oppressive, or dishonorable way.

16

It is important to note that 1 Corinthians was written to a congregation of men and women.

1 Corinthians 14:34

Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

What was going on when Paul wrote of the restrictions on women?

- God was silent for 400 years between the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, and the New Testament
- During this time, religious leaders called Scribes and Pharisees began to reinterpret the Old Testament, adding their traditions, laws, and opinions to the Bible (Torah)
- What they came up with became known as Judaism
- Judaism had 613 commandments and laws and is entirely different from the Old Testament
- First Century Judaism was more restrictive than the Old Testament Law especially concerning women.

- In First Century Israel, women were the most oppressed people group; they were considered second-class citizens akin to slaves.
- They had no rights, no respect, and no voice; they were the property of men
- They received no education, were forbidden to speak to men in public, and were required to veil their faces when they left their homes
- Their fathers arranged their marriages; the best they could hope for was someone who treated them better than their fathers.
- Polygamy was legal for a man but not for women, so they had to share their husbands with other women, and they could be divorced if the husband was sick of them
- They had no vote and no political influence; they could not even be a witness in court
- Most Gentile women were much more powerful and respected in their cultures than women in Judaism were
- Macedonian women built temples, founded cities, engaged armies, and held fortresses. In addition, they served as regents and co-rulers. (A Macedonian businesswoman, Lydia founded the church at Philippi Acts 16:14-15).
- In Egypt, women were legally equal to men

- Roman women were more restricted than Macedonians or Egyptians; the father's authority was paramount.
- A Roman girl was “sold” into the hands of her future husband; they were not permitted to vote or hold office; however, they were heads of their household.
- In Corinth, they worshipped strong female deities—Aphrodite
- In Ephesus, they worshipped Artemis or Diana
- In Egypt, they worshipped Isis
- In all First Century Gentile cultures, men and women exercised leadership equally in religious worship.

Paul wrote to nine people or cities, but he restricted women in three locations. Corinth, Ephesus, and Crete, and these cities had cultures where the people worshiped female deities.

1. The first book Paul wrote to the city of Corinth
2. The first letter he wrote to Timothy, the leader of the church at Ephesus
3. His letter to Titus, who was the leader of the church on the island of Crete

The Historical Context for the City of Corinth

In Corinth, it was Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Corinth had a reputation for immoral activity. Worshipers of the

female deity incorporated orgies and wild sex into their worship services.

The Historical Context for the City of Ephesus

Ephesus was home to the Greek goddess Artemis, or Diana. Artemis had a crown on her head, signifying female rulership. She also had eggs surrounding her midsection, which many think are a symbol of fertility. Acts records the powerful influence of the Greek goddess in the days of Paul (see Acts 19:24-28).

The Historical Context on the Island of Crete

In Greek mythology, Crete was the birthplace of Zeus, king of the gods. The Cretan goddess Diktynna was supposedly born at Kaino. The nymph Calypso, a female deity, lived on the island of Gavdos. According to a dramatic story in Greek mythology, Calypso took King Odysseus captive for seven years because she loved him. Finally, Zeus stepped in and set the king free. Female deities were a significant part of the Cretan culture. Paul was not impressed with the goings-on. He wrote to Titus concerning them

Titus 1:10-13

“For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for

the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁷

Why does Paul seemingly restrict women?

Paul only restricted women in Corinth, Ephesus, and Crete as those cultures worship female deities; however, he also encouraged women to learn and prophesy. Consider that with 40 authors writing the Bible over 1,450 years in several countries and cultures, in various situations, only one man seems to restrict women from leadership and teaching—the great Apostle Paul. If God wanted to restrict half the population from leading or teaching men, why are 39 authors silent on the issue?

The questions to consider—

1. Why does Paul write to nine different churches or church leaders but only restrict women in Corinth, Ephesus, and Crete?
2. Why does Paul inform Timothy, the Church leader at Ephesus, that he does not allow women to teach or exercise authority over a man? However, Paul writes sixteen chapters to the Romans and does not make a restrictive comment about women. The first person he

greeted in the book of Romans is Prisca and her husband, Aquila. He calls them “fellow workers,” which is the exact phrase he used for the apostles Timothy and Titus, Mark, and Doctor Luke.

3. Why does Paul instruct women in the Corinthian Church to be silent when there is no restriction on the women in the Galatian church?
4. Why does Paul say that there is no gender distinction in Christ? He called both men and women “sons.”
5. Why does Paul say in Ephesians 2:14–16 that God has made us all equal through our union with Jesus?
6. Why does he say in Ephesians 2:18–16 that we are united to Christ and each other, we all have equal access and direct access in the Holy Spirit to come before the Father, and we are all connected to the Head Jesus Christ Himself?
7. Why would the Apostle Peter write to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in 1 Peter 1:23 “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,”
8. Why does Paul write God is transforming each one of us? And we are one new race of humanity. (see Ephesians 2:21–22). There is no male and female; we are all one in Christ Jesus (see Galatians 3:26–27).
9. Why does Paul write in Colossians 1:21 TPT that God sees us all as holy, flawless, and restored? “God has reconnected you back to himself. He released his

supernatural peace to you through the sacrifice of his own body as the sin payment on your behalf so that you would dwell in His presence. And now there is nothing between you and Father God, for he sees you as holy, flawless, and restored! So now continue to advance in faith, assured of a firm foundation to grow upon.”

If we want to have a biblical perspective on women in leadership, we need to have a broader perspective on the Scriptures and their context. More extensive than just the Apostles Paul’s few restrictive verses on women. Otherwise, we misunderstand scripture.

What is a Jezebel?

Jezebel was a personification of evil. In 1 Kings 18–19, we read that she wielded tyrannical power over Israel through her spiritual ties to the cult of Baal. Her strategy was to intimidate the righteous followers of God while promoting Baal worship. Jezebel was responsible for the murder of many of Israel’s true prophets from her position as Queen, sitting beside King Ahab. Her strategy was to intimidate the righteous followers of God while promoting Baal worship. In the New Testament, her name was a metaphor for sexual immorality and occult deception (see Revelation 2:20). To call someone a Jezebel or pin a Jezebel label on a woman of God is a blatant attempt at character assassination, in my opinion. It is wrong to compare Jezebel to godly Christian women who are teaching and

preaching the truth of the gospel. It is offensive to suggest that a woman who loves Jesus Christ, walks in personal holiness, and upholds the Word of God with integrity is influenced by a “spirit of Jezebel” just because she is female.

18

Does the Bible promote a two-class environment?

No! It is ridiculous to suggest that the Kingdom of God has a caste system. Every member of the Body of Christ is an empowered citizen of the Kingdom. Unfortunately, misinformed believers have ignored the context and applied the epistles universally, which has resulted in unimaginable consequences such as slavery and gender prejudice. The Word of God tells us that all people are equal in Christ (see Galatians 3:28–29).

God creates males and females in His image. God’s purpose in creating us is to be like Him. The Bible says, “God created male and female in his image (see Genesis 1:27).

What does it mean ‘created in God’s image?’

Most significantly, it means that all people are equally important. God is great and majestic, so anyone created in his image also has a kind of majesty (see Psalm 8). Everyone is significant! The psalmist says we’re “crowned with glory and honor” and that God is mindful of us and cares for everyone. We are created in God’s image and crowned with glory. That

makes us worthy and provides the key to making sense of who we are.

Chapter 20—War and Killing

Are the Ten Commandments for today?

Moses received the law from God; it did not originate with Moses. On Mount Sinai, it became the legal code for the nation of Israel; but the moral principles it embodies are eternal.

If The Law says, “You shall not kill,” how do you explain how the Old Testament people of God commanded Israel to kill everyone in an enemy city?

I don’t know what the answer is, but there are explanations.

Is there a difference between murder and killing?

Does the Bible say, “You shall not kill?” Or “You shall not murder” (see Exodus 20:13—“You shall not murder”).

When the Israelites killed people in war, were they violating the commandments?

God told them, in some instances, to go to war. Murder is where there is malice and forethought.

Joshua 6:21

“They devoted the city (Jericho) to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it--men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.”

They spared Rahab, the harlot at Jericho, but everyone else perished. In Japan, during World War 2, America dropped a bomb, killing every man, woman, child, and animal.

Deuteronomy 7:1

“When Jehovah your God shall bring you into the land where you go to possess it, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you.”

Deuteronomy 20:17

“But you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; as Jehovah your God has commanded you.”

The Hebrew word Herem is devoted to the Lord, where dwellings, men, women, and children were burned and utterly destroyed. Jericho was doomed for destruction by God, including the livestock and all people except for Rahab.

The silver, gold, bronze, and iron were saved for the treasury of the Lord. No one could take anything for himself (see Joshua 6:19)

Israel only did ‘Herem’ three times—Jericho, Ai, and Hazor. Ai was the second Canaanite city to be destroyed entirely. Hazor was a stronghold of the Canaanites; it was taken and occupied by the Israelites. However, the extermination of these tribes was never thoroughly carried out. Jerusalem was finally conquered during the reign of King David (see 2 Samuel 5:6–7).

Did the Israelites ever show mercy to the neighboring nations they were to conquer?

War was, at times, tempered with mercy. Moses reminded the people of their history and The Law as they entered the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 20:10–11 says, “When you come to a town, before attacking it, make an offer of peace. And if it gives you back an answer of peace, opening its doors to you, then all the people in it may be put to forced work as your servants.”

Moses urged the Israelites to give peace a chance. The problem is when you read the Book of Joshua, you never see them doing this, but this does not mean they did not do it; it just means that there is no record.

Why would God order the destruction of the Canaanites? Scripture tells us that God spared the Amorites for 400 years; He let the iniquity of the Amorites keep rising. "The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full" (see Genesis 15:16). God sent Israel to destroy them. So, Israel became an instrument of God to destroy their culture because it was wicked. God also judged Sodom and Gomorrah in the same way.

God chose Israel to be a people separated to Himself; therefore, He did not want them to be like the other nations (see Leviticus 18:3). He chose them because He loved them, and He wanted them to obey Him in all things; so that the Saviour Jesus would come through them for our sakes. A thousand generations mean forever (see Deuteronomy 7:2–9).

Did God keep His oath to the forefathers of Israel?

Genesis 12:2–3

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

God sent Joseph in slavery to Pharaoh's house to preserve a remnant on earth and to save Israel's lives by a great deliverance (see Genesis 45:3–15). God brought them out of

Egypt with a mighty hand and redeemed them from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh, king of Egypt (see Deuteronomy 7:7–11). He established Israel as His own forever and became their God (see 2 Samuel 7:22–24). God appointed Judges, and the role of the Judge was a deliverer, a kind of “savior,” to save Israel from the hands of their oppressors.

Are there reasons for war?

God told Joshua to cross the Jordan River to take the Promised Land. So, land acquisition was a reason for Israel going to war. God commanded them to go and wipe out the Canaanites because the iniquity of The Amorites had gone on for 400 years. It was time for judgment on that culture.

There was a shocking incident concerning a woman's rape, murder, and mutilation. People went to war in retaliation, and the tribe of Benjamin was almost wiped out. David went to war over an insult from the Ammonites. The Moabites, Ammonites, and the Philistines frequently attacked Israel (see Judges 2:16). The Israelites were oppressed and commanded to pay taxes to the Moabites, so they rebelled. Israel went to battle to help another group fend off oppressors. Another good reason—is you strike first to avoid them defeating you.

What about an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?

Lex talionis—the punishment is equal to the crime. Remember, they did not have prisons in ancient times, or at least very few, but only the king had prisons. (Joseph did time in prison).

Are war and killing justified?

Most people would agree that when Hitler was killing 6 million Jews, he needed to be stopped, and therefore this would be a good cause to go to war. So you have to ask the question—What constitutes a good cause?

When Joshua crossed the Jordan River to take the Promised Land, he waged war. He took Jericho, Ai, and Hazor by force at God's command. Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 says there's a time and a season for everything. There is a time for peace, and there's a time for war. There's a time for love, and there's a time for hate (the New Testament tells us to hate evil).

God Himself portrays himself as a warrior (see Exodus chapter 15). In addition, God uses warrior imagery (see Psalm 18).

What about Jesus and war?

Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hurt you," and "Turn the other cheek." The Book of Revelation 19:15 ff portrays Jesus with a sword coming out of His mouth, slaying his enemies in the battle of Armageddon. When Jesus

comes again, He comes as The King of kings to rule and establish His reign by destroying His enemies.

Chapter 22—The Social Sins

Why should I forgive those who have hurt me badly?

Joseph's brothers hated him and sold him as a slave. He endured imprisonment after doing the right thing and was forgotten by the person he helped. All this weighed heavily on Joseph, but he did not sink into self-pity, unforgiveness, or bitterness. Instead, he put his faith in God's plan. When he finally had a chance to get back at those who hurt him, he forgave them, knowing that God used the evils of those who betrayed him to bring about something good.

Does God approve of polygamy?

No! God's design for marriage is one man and one woman, where two become one (see Matthew 19:5; 1 Corinthians 6:16). But people in ancient times had polygamous relationships. Jacob with Rachael and Leah, Bilhah the handmaid, David, etc.

We see polygamy first with Lamech, who took two wives (see Genesis 4:19). It seems that polygamy prevailed in the patriarchal age; we see it in Genesis 16:1–4 with Abraham and Hagar. It was acknowledged in the Mosaic Law but discouraged. Divorce was only recorded once in Genesis 21:14, where Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away.

Deuteronomy 21:15

If a man has two wives, one greatly loved, and the other hated, and the two of them have had children by him; and if the first son is the child of the hated wife:

This law protected the unloved one, as well as her children. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines and was the wisest man ever. But he worshipped other gods. The things he warned the young men against (adulteresses and going after other gods) are the same things he participated in himself. Sadly, Solomon turned his back on God.

Does God approve of divorce?

Jesus said, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning" (Matthew 19:8). God allowed divorce because of the hardness of their hearts, and yet He does not like divorce, but he also values life. If he had not allowed it, they might have killed each other.

Malachi 2:16 NIV says,

"The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful."

Moses probably divorced his first wife, Zipporah (see Exodus 18:2-3), and Abraham divorced Hagar (see Genesis 21:14ff).

God said He divorced Israel because of her infidelity (see Jeremiah 3:8). Under Ezra's leadership, the Jews divorced their pagan wives (see Ezra 10:2-3). In the New Testament, Joseph planned to divorce Mary because of her supposed infidelity (see Matthew 1:19). Divorce is heartbreaking and involves whole families. In the prophet Malachi's day, the men of Israel were dealing treacherously or violently with their wives by divorcing them. We could say that God hates the violence of divorce.

What does the Bible say regarding Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide/Mercy Killing?

I cannot find any provision in the Bible for compassionate murder, even at the person's request. All human life belongs to God, so our lives are not ours (see Psalm 24:1).

Exodus 30:13 says, 'You shall not murder' (see also Deuteronomy 5:17).

Why is abortion wrong?

A human embryo is always a human from conception; it is never anything else. Therefore, the unborn baby is a tiny human child (see Psalm 139:13, Genesis 25:21–22, Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 1:41–44).

Homosexuality?

We have to understand that the act of homosexuality is using sex in a way God did not intend. The Bible says in

Leviticus 18:22-23,

“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal to defile yourself.”

Notice it says the act is an abomination, *not* the person who does it. Look closely at

Romans 1:26–27—

“For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

1 Timothy 1:10

“For the sexually immoral, for those practising homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.”

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ‘And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Stay with me here! The sexually immoral, the adulterers, those practising homosexuality, slave traders, liars, perjurers, wrong-doers, idolaters, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, thieves, greedy, drunks, slanderers, and swindlers are exposed equally, not just those practising homosexuality. So do not be deceived; they are all sinners. Please note also that is what the Corinthians were before they became Christians. There is hope for all of us similarly. Anyone trapped in sin of any kind can be set free, washed clean, and continually washed through the Word of God and the Blood of Jesus. The Corinthian believers were reckoned righteous before God no matter what sin they committed; they were sanctified by the Holy Spirit and set apart from the world to God. God now sees them as holy, restored, sinless, and righteous. Paul called the Corinthians saints or holy believers even though they participated in immorality. The

Good News is—healing to the brokenhearted, freedom to the captive and the prisoner, and recovery of sight to the blind. Forgiveness forever! 1 Corinthians goes on to say in the next verse—

1 Corinthians 6:12

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"--but I will not be mastered by anything."

You can get away with anything, providing it is lawful. You have the right to do anything, but not everything is good for you, and Paul is writing that no sinful thing will master him. Liberty to do anything is not a license; you have a conscience and the ability to choose.

What is the Christian response to a gay person?

Love them as you would want to be loved, treat them as your friend and honor them above yourself. Jesus did! He was friends with prostitutes, adulterers, thieves, and drunks and the religious people hated Him. So love unconditionally; it must be sincere!

Romans 12:9–10

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves."

What about same-sex marriage?

We have to understand that the foundation for marriage comes from God. In Genesis, God ordained marriage and declared it between one man and one woman for life. Jesus echoed the Genesis message that the Creator made humanity male and female. That marriage makes the two of them one flesh. "Therefore, Jesus said, "what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matthew 19:4–6). Two people of the same sex can't become one flesh. Another critical scripture for marriage between a man and a woman for life is Malachi 2:15, which says that God created the two to be one so they could produce godly offspring. God instituted marriage at the very beginning when he created the first humans; it is not merely a human invention or something people should easily disregard.

Did the Apostle Paul support slavery?

No! Paul did not support slavery. He spoke of "slave traders" as "ungodly and sinful" (see 1 Timothy 1:9–10). We have to understand the culture of the day. If slaves ran away, they were captured and killed, and the Roman Empire would have persecuted Christians more fiercely. So Paul addressed the culture which allowed it. Galatians 3:28–29—“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the

promise." He told slaves, "If you can gain your freedom, do so" (see 1 Corinthians 7:21). If slaves were offered freedom, they should accept it, and if they could buy their freedom, they should do it.

In two of Paul's letters, he wrote, "Slaves obey your earthly masters" (see Ephesians 6:5 and Colossians 3:22). Slaves were not the only ones Paul instructed; he told the masters not to threaten their slaves (see Ephesians 6:9). Instead, Paul ordered, "Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you have a Master in heaven" (Colossians 4:1).

Paul taught the Christian slaves to care more about the salvation of their masters than about their slavery. Paul wrote that Christian slaves should "show that they can be fully trusted so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive" (Titus 2:9–10).

Paul urged Christian slaves to focus more on the privilege of belonging to Christ than on the problem of being in slavery. It is crucial to view scripture in the context of the entire bible. Jesus came to set free, not to enslave. In Luke 4:18, Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,"

The slavery laws in the Old Testament protect the worker; remember, it was a different culture in those days.

Deuteronomy 15:12–13

“If one of your countrymen, a Hebrew man or woman, becomes your servant for a price and does work for you six years, in the seventh year let him go free. And when you make him free, do not let him go away with nothing in his hands.”

Every seventh year a Hebrew slave was released (see Deuteronomy 15:12–18). But he was not to be sent away without provision. God provided abundantly for His people when He brought them out of slavery in Egypt (see Exodus 12:35–36), and for this reason, a freed slave should not go away empty-handed.

Historians point out that in the second and third centuries, setting slaves free was more frequent in urban households led by Christians than anywhere else. The official act of liberation usually occurred in church with a bishop looking on.

Chapter 23—Last Days

The Rapture

According to the Bible, the rapture will be part of something noisy enough for all to hear and obvious enough for all to see. For example, in 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, Paul writes—

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.”

Every Bible translation I researched does not use the word rapture, which means “caught up,” and the Greek word *harpazo*, meaning “to snatch away.” The Rapture does not appear in the Old Testament.

The rapture comes at the beginning of the tribulation. The 'mark of the beast' occurs after 'the rapture' halfway or 3.5 years into the tribulation. During the tribulation, two individuals will gain incredible power. Satan empowers both.

Will Christians be present during the tribulation period?

The rapture takes place before the seven-year tribulation period. This church age will last until the church is raptured

off the earth—the dead in Christ will be resurrected, and all living believers on the planet will be translated into their resurrection bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:13–17; 1 Corinthians 15:50–58). But many who remain will be saved after believing in Jesus Christ. We can only assume that people will listen to past recorded sermons, read books, including the Bible, and watch videos. But many will also die during the tribulation.

The antichrist and the false prophet

The first is a political leader (2 Thessalonians 2:1–4; Revelation 13:1–10) called the antichrist. He is the leader of a future world government.

The second beast is called the false prophet (Revelation 13:11–18; 19:20–21). He is a religious leader. He will force people to receive the mark 666 to buy or sell (Revelation 13:16–17). Those who refuse will be threatened with death.

The ‘mark of the beast.’

In Revelation, the "mark of the beast" is not a medical procedure. Most likely, it's not even a physical or visible mark at all. Contrary to some of the more fear-inducing theories which have become popular. The "mark" cannot be accidentally taken or administered. Why? Because the ‘mark of the beast’ (Revelation 13:16–18) is associated with worshiping the false prophet (13:12, 15; cf. 19:20; 20:4). Thus,

it is a mark of loyalty and devotion to the beast/religious leader.

Moreover, when you compare passages concerning the 'mark of the beast' with Revelations 7 and 14, it is reasonable to think that the mark is most likely a sign that identifies you as a person of the dragon. I say this because Revelations 7:1–8 and 14:1 speaks of the 'seal of the God' and 'the Father's name' written on the foreheads of God's people to identify and protect them. They get the mark of the Lamb through their union with the Lamb.

The 'mark of the beast' is most likely a spiritual, non-visible mark; it's a mark of loyalty and worship and is not something you could accidentally accept.

THE RETURN OF JESUS

The Bible tells us clearly how Jesus will return

It will be unexpected, but we will not be surprised.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–3

"Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don't really need to write you. For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. When people are saying, "Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a

pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape. But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief."

Jesus will appear like lightning

Matthew 24:27 Jesus said,

"For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes."

In the same way, He left

Acts 1:10–11

"As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

It will be with great power and glory

In Luke 21:27, Jesus said,

"Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory."

Every eye will see!

Revelation 1:7

“Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!”

Events that will take place

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will mark the end of this "present age" and the commencement of a new age (1 Timothy 6:19). At the Second Coming, several dramatic events will take place:

- The mystery of the ages will be completed (Revelation 10:6–7; Romans 16:25–26).
- The Bride of Christ will be revealed to the world (Revelation 19:7; 21:2–11).
- We will enter our full glory (Romans 8:19–21; 1 Corinthians 15:35–53).
- The dead in Christ will be raised (2 Corinthians 4:14; John 6:40; 11:25).
- Living believers will be caught up (Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).
- Creation will be set free (Romans 8:19–22; Isaiah 35:1–7).
- Every enemy will be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:24–25; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10; 2:8).
- Satan will be bound (Revelation 20:1–3, 7–10).
- Judgment will be meted out (2 Thessalonians 1:6–9)

Signs of the second coming of Jesus

Jesus gave His disciples clear signs of His return:

- Worldwide war, earthquakes, and famines (Mark 13:8).
- False Christs and false prophets (Matthew 24:23–24).
- Ecological disasters (Luke 21:25)
- Signs in the sky (Luke 21:25–26; Matthew 24:29–30).
- The return of Jerusalem to Jewish hands (Luke 21:24).
- The rise of the "man of sin" (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4).
- An abomination in the temple of God (Matthew 24:15–16).
- The Gospel is preached to every tribe and nation (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10).

We are to be alert and ready

In Luke 21:25–28, Jesus said to His disciples

“And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”

According to 2 Thessalonians Chapters 1, 2 and 3

The judgment of the wicked at Christ's coming and encouragement for the believers

2 Thessalonians 1:8–12

“In flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don’t know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power. When he comes on that day, he will receive glory from his holy people—praise from all who believe. And this includes you, for you believed what we told you about him. So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

Rapture

2 Thessalonians 2:1

“Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him.”

The Day of the Lord comes with two conditions—

1. A great rebellion or falling away
2. The man of lawlessness is revealed

2 Thessalonians 2:2–4

“Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.”

Mystery of Lawlessness at work and yet restrained by the Holy Spirit

2 Thessalonians 2:6–8

“And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the

breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.”

Lawless one to appear in the tribulation period

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12

“This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.”

Believers established in salvation and the Word of God

2 Thessalonians 2:13–17

“As for us, we can’t help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth. He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and

God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say.”

Believers established in prayer and the love of God

2 Thessalonians 3:1–7

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you. Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we are confident in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we commanded you. May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ. And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don’t follow the tradition they received from us. For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you.”

Believers—not idle and willing to work

2 Thessalonians 3:8–15

“We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: “Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.” Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people’s business. We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good. Take note of those who refuse to obey what we say in this letter. Stay away from them so they will be ashamed. Don’t think of them as enemies, but warn them as you would a brother or sister.”

Looking forward

2 Peter 3:13–15

“But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. And remember, our Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our

beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him”

Chapter 24—Meanings of Words

Agnostic

A person who holds the view that God is unknown and unknowable!

Analogy

Analogy means similarity. As long as we read and interpret the Bible correctly, we will understand Scripture as God intended.

Anthropomorphic

Portrays God in human terms. For example, scripture says, “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth.”

Anthropopathic

Portrays God with human emotions, like love, compassion, and hate. For example, Genesis 6 says, “and the Lord grieved because he had made man,”

Apocryphal

Means hidden or spurious. Apocrypha refers to sections of the Bible that are not sanctioned as belonging to official canons. It appears between the Old and New Testaments.

Apostasy

The word apostasy comes from the Greek word *apostasia*, which means “falling away.” The Bible refers to a falling away from the truth in 2 Timothy 3:1–8.

Atheism

Darwinist Professor William Provine equates “modern science” with atheism and states five basic principles:

First, modern science implies that mechanical laws strictly organize the world. There are no purposive principles whatsoever in nature. There are no gods and no rationally detectable designing forces.

Second, modern science directly implies that there are no inherent moral or ethical laws and no absolute guiding principles for human society.

Third, human beings are marvelously complex machines. The individual human becomes an ethical person using two primary mechanisms: heredity and environmental influences. That is all there is.

Fourth, we must conclude that when we die, we die, and that is the end of us.

Fifth, free will does not exist as it is traditionally conceived. There is no way the existing evolutionary process can produce a truly free being to make choices.

In short, atheism says there's no God, no supreme standard of right and wrong, no rewards in heaven or punishments in hell, and no free will or personal choice whatsoever. Provine calls these things "modern science," but they are not scientific findings; they are atheist doctrines.

Atheist

A person who does not believe in God!

Canon

Inspired Word of God

Covenant

A covenant is an agreement between two parties

Creationism

Creationism holds that each soul is a direct creation of God, of which time cannot be precisely determined.

Deism

Deism believes that God exists but is not directly involved in the world.

Deuterocanonical

Books forming a second opinion. They are the books of Scripture in the Septuagint but not in the Hebrew canon.

Empiricist

An Empiricist is a person who supports the theory that all knowledge is based on experience derived from the senses. They believe in experience only.

Euphemism

Euphemism is when you say something good about something that's not good.

Gap Theory

The Gap Theory is a theory where Christian scholars placed many years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 to avoid conflict between the Book of Genesis and Science!

Gnosticism

Gnosticism is the belief that all matter is evil and that emancipation comes through esoteric (mysterious/difficult to understand) knowledge.

Hedonism

The doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief goal in life

Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is the science of interpretation.

Humanism

Humanism is a doctrine, attitude, or way of life centered on human interests or values. It usually rejects the supernatural and stresses an individual's dignity, worth, and capacity for self-realization through reason.

Monism

A viewpoint or theory that reduces all phenomena to one principle

Monotheism

The doctrine or belief that there is but one God

Pantheism

Pantheism is a doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of the universe. God is the universe! New Age spirituality is pantheistic. But most Christian thinkers reject it because it makes God too impersonal, doesn't allow for any difference between the creation and the creator, and doesn't seem to enable humans to make meaningful moral choices.

Philosophy

A search for a general understanding of values and reality by speculation rather than observational means

Pluralism

Pluralism is the belief that people of different social classes, religions, races, etc., should live together in a society. A theory that there are more than one or more than two kinds of ultimate reality.

Pre-existentialism

Some advocated the idea that the souls of men existed in a previous state and that something happened that accounts for their present condition. In this, a few found an explanation that man is born as a sinner. However, this view finds no favor now.

Progressive Creation

Is the belief that God supposedly intervened in the processes of death and the struggle for survival to create millions of species at various times over millions of years!

Racism

A belief that racial differences produce the superiority of a particular race.

Secular Humanism

Is where people chart their course without God!

Septuagint

Means seventy LXX. It is the Greek translation of the Old Testament. The Syriac version is written in Aramaic.

Theism

Belief in the existence of one God viewed as the creative source of the human race

Theistic Evolution

Theistic Evolution is the belief that God created through the evolutionary process over millions of years. Creation is not sudden or miraculous but is a seamless, continuous process that happens per observable laws of nature. It runs itself!

Traducianism

According to this view, men derive their souls and bodies from their parents. This view either makes the parents creators or assumes that the soul of man is divided into various parts. Moreover, it endangers the sinlessness of Jesus.

Vulgate

Latin translation of Scripture by Jerome

ENDNOTES

¹ The Doctrine of God and Creation, by Louis Berkhof

² The Doctrine of God and Creation, by Louis Berkhof

³ The Doctrine of God and Creation, by Louis Berkhof

⁴

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/dinosaurs/11519933/Brontosaurus-raised-from-dead-as-scientists-rule-dinosaur-did-exist.html>

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska_Man

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piltdown_Man

⁷ Adapted from David Feddes—Back to God Ministries International. Used with permission

⁸ Kerkut, G.A., Implications of Evolution, Pergamon, Oxford, UK, p. 157, 1960

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¹⁰

<https://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/anatomy/Repro.shtml>

¹¹ Kris Vallotton *Fashioned to Reign*, chapter 7

¹² *10 Lies the Church Tells Women* © 2000, 2006 Lee Grady
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Card Number 00109254 International Standard Book Number 978-1-
59979-678-9

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ “*Fashioned to Reign*,” 2013 © Kris Vallotton Published by Chosen
Books 11400 Hampshire Avenue South Bloomington, Minnesota
55438).

¹⁵ *.ibid*

¹⁶ “*Fashioned to Reign*,” 2013 © Kris Vallotton Published by
Chosen Books 11400 Hampshire Avenue South Bloomington,
Minnesota 55438.

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ “*Fashioned to Reign*,” 2013 © Kris Vallotton Published by
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Minnesota 55438.