JESUS, THE KING OF GLORY

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JIM HARWELL



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Scripture

"Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory" (Psalm 24:7-10).

"Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!
Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
For the Lord Most High is awesome;
He is a great King over all the earth.
He will subdue the peoples under us,
And the nations under our feet.
He will choose our inheritance for us,
The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. Selah
God has gone up with a shout,

The Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with understanding.
God reigns over the nations;
God sits on His holy throne.
The princes of the people have gathered together,

The people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; He is greatly exalted" (Psalm 47:1-9).

"For the Lord is the great God, And the great King above all gods" (Psalm 95:3).

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King'" (Matthew 5:33-35).

"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son . . ." (Matthew 22:2).

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: . . ." (Matthew 25:31-34).

"The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out:

'Hosanna!

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

The King of Israel!'

Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

'Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt''' (John 12:12-15).

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen" (1 Timothy 1:17).

"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms

of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15).

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself . . . Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:11-12,15-16)

The only true God is the Father of glory. He has given everything to His Son. Jesus Christ is the King of glory and infinitely more.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of glory.

What is God like?

He is the most wonderful, most beautiful Person in the universe.

Introduction

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!" (Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29).

The Lord is one.

He is the only true God.

He has revealed Himself as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Father and Jesus Christ are in heaven.

The Holy Spirit fills heaven and is on and throughout all the earth.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father, the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

The Father God is on the highest throne in the universe.

He is the Father of glory, the Lord God Omnipotent, the great and awesome God of the universe.

At the right hand of His power is His Son, Jesus.

The Father has given and delivered all things to His Son.

Jesus is the exact representation of God's nature.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God.
God's beloved Son is the King of Glory.
The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of glory.
Man's supreme purpose is to know God.
How does someone know Him?
Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

ONE

God on His Throne

The only true God sits on the highest throne in the universe.

He is the Father God Almighty.

The Father's glory proceeds from His throne and fills the universe.

The heavens and the earth are filled with the glorious splendor of His majesty.

Jesus is at the right hand of His Father's power.

He is with and alongside the Father.

Jesus was with the Father before the foundation of the world. He is now at that same place.

God has given His glory to His Son, Jesus.

Jesus and the Father are one.

At times, Jesus proceeds from the throne to visit and minister to His people. Though He is God, forever He will be robed in glorified flesh.

Through the Holy Spirit, the Father and Jesus Christ fill the heavens and the earth.

In heaven, saints are in God's wonderful presence. His presence is His glory. The Holy Spirit is in and with them, forever.

Saints can see God on His throne, at the highest place in heaven.

Some try to approach the throne. As they get closer to the throne, the glory is so strong and powerful, they fall down on their faces.

The angels sometimes will assist them. The angels might give them fruit to give them strength, so that they can withstand His glory and continue on towards the throne.

God's glory is on and over all the earth. His glory is available to every person.

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:5).

"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one . . ." (John 17:22).

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:24-26).

TWO

The Glory of the Lord

"On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, will I meditate" (Psalm 145:5).

"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold/gaze at/see the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire/seek Him in His temple" (Psalm 27:4, various translations).

Some translations, in place of beauty, say "splendor, delightfulness, sweetness, perfections, graciousness, goodness."

For Lord, some translations are "Lord Jehovah, Jehovah, Yahweh."

The only true God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the most wonderful, most beautiful Person in the universe.

His presence is . . . the glory of the Lord.

"On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, will I meditate" (Psalm 145:5).

Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matthew 13:44).

"The riches of the glory of the mystery" (Colossians 1:27).

The glory of the Lord is . . . the presence of Jesus Christ, the presence of God, the presence of the Father.

He is indescribable.

Amazingly, His presence, His glory, is everywhere on the earth.

His glory fills the heavens and the earth.

He is available to every person, all the time, everywhere they go . . . even for all eternity.

To Him we ascribe . . . glory . . . majesty . . . beauty . . . splendor . . . magnificence . . . delightfulness . . . sweetness . . . perfections . . . graciousness . . . goodness . . . honor . . . blessing . . . wisdom . . . understanding . . . salvation . . . redemption . . . freedom . . . riches . . . strength . . . power . . . might . . . dominion . . . authority . . . holiness.

THREE

Jesus, the Exact Representation of God's Nature

"... His Son ... [is] ... the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person" (Hebrews 1:3).

The Lord Jesus cannot be expressed fully in words.

The same is true for the Father. His glory is so powerful and strong, no man can see Him and live (Exodus 33:20). He told Moses that he, Moses, cannot see His face, for no man can see Him and live.

God set up the perfect plan.

He sent His only Son to the earth to save and redeem mankind. He sent Jesus to offer life to the world. Then, He sent the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of the Father and of Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful, perfect, glorious plan!

Jesus: the Exact Representation of God's Nature

Again, when we try to "express" or "explain" Jesus Christ, there are no words to express Him fully, neither His Person nor His glory.

Jesus is an eternal revelation, just as the Father is an eternal revelation.

The New Testament letters are an attempt to "summarize" or "explain" Jesus Christ, our most holy faith, and much more.

A great concise summary is found in Hebrews 1:3.

Notice that there are two parts to the short "explanation: or "summary" of Jesus:

Jesus is:

- 1. The brightness of God's glory
- 2. The express image of God's person

Therefore, there is the glory of Jesus. And there is His Person.

The glory of Jesus Christ is inexpressible. The Person of Jesus Christ is inexpressible.

Jesus, the Son of God

He is the Son of God.

God so loved the world He gave His Son, that whoever believes in Him shall find eternal life.

Jesus spoke and taught very clearly about His Father and their relationship.

He will forever be the Son of God.

The Father even spoke from heaven, twice, audibly saying, "This is My Beloved Son."

Amen, and amen.

Jesus Christ, God Almighty

Jesus Christ is also the Lord God Almighty.

The Holy Spirit reveals this wondrous, glorious, eternal revelation . . . that Jesus Christ is God.

This revelation is also beyond human words.

A great man of God (John Wesley) summarized Jesus in this way:

God came to earth as a man and justified Himself to the world.

God Loves the World

Someone may ask, "Why is it all about Jesus?" The answer is of course an eternal revelation and mystery.

God is love. Jesus is love.

God so loved the world . . .

He sent Jesus to save mankind . . . to die for the world.

The gospel is God's love story to and for the world.

The gospel is beyond human words or explanation.

What God the Father and His Son have done and are doing – and will do for eternity – is beyond human comprehension.

The revelation that God is one – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and yet they are separate and distinct Persons . . . is truly beyond our limited understanding.

He is beyond us . . . He is an eternal revelation.

Some Translations

Some of the various translations of Hebrews 1:3 are below.

Some examples of translations include: Jesus is the exact imprint of God's nature He is the exact likeness of God's being.

Other translations:

"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature" (ESV).

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature" (Berean Study & others). "His Son . . . [is] . . . the radiance of His glory and the exact expression of His substance" (Berean Literal).

"God's Son has all the brightness of God's own glory and is like him in every way" (Good News).

"Who being the brightness of his glory" (KJV)

"For he is the Brilliance of his glory" (Aramaic Bible)

"His Son is the reflection of God's glory" (GWT).

"He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact likeness of his being" (ISV).

"The Son is the radiance of his glory and the representation of his essence" (NET).

"He brightly reflects God's glory and is the exact representation of His being" (Weymouth).

God . . . has in these last days spoken to us by His Son . . . who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person (Hebrews 1:1-3).

FOUR

Jesus, the Image of the Invisible God

One of the most famous summaries of Jesus is in Colossians 1.

It is a very anointed explanation of who Jesus is.

A highlight: Jesus is the image of the invisible God.

He is the visible representation of the unseen God.

God is so powerful, He Himself could not come to the earth to save man.

From the foundation of the world, He had the perfect plan: He would send His Son, who is the exact representation and image of Himself.

Jesus reveals in John 17 that He was with the Father before the world was.

The Father Gave Jesus His glory, before the World was.

Jesus is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

14 Revelations of Jesus Christ in Colossians 1:15-20:

- 1. He is image of the unseen God.
- 2. He is the beginning of all creation.
- 3. He is the creator of all things in heaven.
- 4. He is the creator of all things on earth.
- 5. All things were created through Him and for Him.
 - 6. He is before all things.
 - 7. He is the sustainer of all things.
 - 8. He is the head of the church.
 - 9. He is the beginning.
 - 10. He is the firstborn from the dead.
 - 11. He has the preeminence in all things.
 - 12. He is the reconciler of all things on earth.
 - 13. He is the reconciler of all things in heaven.
- 14. He has made peace through the blood of His cross.

"He is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15).

Other translations:

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God" (NLT).

"Christ is the visible representation of the invisible God" (Weymouth).

"He who is the image of The Unseen God" (Aramaic Plain).

"Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God" (Good News).

"Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen" (CEV).

FIVE

The Glory of Jesus

"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:5).

Main points of John 17:1-5:

- 1. The hour had arrived. The hour of Jesus' passion, death, resurrection and ascension was close at hand.
 - 2. The Father glorifies Jesus.
 - 3. Jesus glorifies the Father.
- 4. The Father has given Jesus authority over all flesh.
- 5. Jesus gives eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him.
- 6. The Father has given the church, the saints, to Jesus.
 - 7. Eternal life is knowing the Father, the only

true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

- 8. Jesus glorified the Father while on the earth as a man.
- 9. Jesus finished the work which the Father gave Him to do.
- 10. After Jesus' passion and resurrection, the Father glorified Jesus together with Himself, with the glory which Jesus had with the Father before the world was.

Jesus was with the Father before the world was.

Before the foundation of the world, Jesus was with the Father of glory.

Their relationship is . . . unspeakable . . . and too wonderful for us to understand.

The Holy Spirit reveals the mystery of the Father and His Son's relationship.

The Father loved Jesus before the foundation of the world.

The Father gave Jesus His glory.

The Father gave Jesus work to do on the earth as a man. Jesus did and finished that work.

The Father gave Jesus certain men out of the world.

The mystery is that the Father did these glorious things . . . before the foundation of the world.

Jesus is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

The book of life was written before the foundation of the world (Revelation 17:8).

The kingdom for God's children was prepared before the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34).

Eternal Mysteries

Within these glorious truths and revelations, there are eternal mysteries.

Jesus was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.

Yet, He of His own free will chose to fulfill the work His Father gave Him to do.

He fulfilled the ministry the Father gave Him to do.

He gave His men, His disciples, the words the Father had given Him. And He did eternally more.

He chose to suffer and die for the world.

The following is very holy, and eternally important: Jesus could have not died for the world.

He prayed three times that His Father might allow His passion not take place.

But He did fulfill His passion.

He shed His blood seven times for humanity.

He died for the life of the world.

Jesus was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world, to save and redeem mankind.

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

SIX

Jesus' Glory which the Father Gave Him

"That they may behold My glory which You have given Me" (John 17:24).

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

"My Glory which You have Given Me"

Before the foundation of the world, the Father gave Jesus His glory.

Before the world was, Jesus was with the Father.

The Father and Jesus are one.

God is a giving God. He gave His glory to Jesus.

"You Loved Me before the Foundation of the World" (John 17:24)

Before the world was, the Father loved Jesus. God is love.

The Father loved Jesus.

The Father gave Jesus His glory.

"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father" (Matthew 11:27).

"All things that the Father has are Mine" (John 16:15).

The Father has delivered, given and entrusted all things to His Son.

The Father has given all things to His Son. The Father has given His glory to His Son.

God is Love

"God is love" (1 John 4:8)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The gospel is one big love story.

God loves the world.

He loves the world so much, He sent His only Son to die for the world.

The gospel is . . . indescribable, marvelous, wonderful, inexpressible, unutterable, indefinable, ineffable, unimaginable, inconceivable, unthinkable, unheard of, beyond words, beyond description.

The gospel is . . . priceless, exceptional, inimitable, transcendent, unmatched, unparalleled, beyond compare, excellent, ideal, matchless, paramount, peerless, perfect, preeminent, second to none, sovereign, superior, supreme, surpassing, towering, ultimate, unequalled, unmatchable, unrivalled, unsurpassable.

SEVEN

Jesus in His Glory

Jesus is alive.

Jesus is now in glory.

He is at the right hand of the Father's power.

He is in the Father's glory.

There are descriptions of Jesus in His glory in the Bible.

Some descriptions include: the Transfiguration; the second coming of Jesus Christ, in Matthew 24; and John's vision of Him, recorded in Revelation 1.

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And be hold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:1-5)

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30).

... One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters . . . and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength (Revelation 1:13-16).

EIGHT

God Gave and Gives Jesus and the Holy Spirit

"... how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever" (John 14:16).

God is a giving God. He gives beyond what we can comprehend. He gives abundantly, infinitely and eternally. He gave His Son to the world.

He gave and gives the Holy Spirit to the world. He is always giving.

He Gives in the Natural and Spiritual

God gives all the time, both in the natural and spiritual worlds.

He gives to everyone, including those who do not believe in Him. He is even kind to the unthankful and evil.

Just as He is giving good things in the natural, He is always giving wonderful things in the spirit realm.

The tragedy is that most people do not receive His gifts in the spirit realm.

His greatest gift is His Son, Jesus Christ.

He Gives Every Good and Perfect Gift

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights . . ." (James 1:17).

The Father of Glory

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world" (John

17:24).

He is the Father of glory. He gave His glory to His Son. Jesus is the King of glory.

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you (John 14:16-17).

NINE

Jesus Gives Us His Glory

"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one" (John 17:22)

- 1. The Father gave Jesus glory.
- 2. Jesus gives us His glory.
- 3. Jesus gives us His glory, that we may be one, as the Jesus and His Father are one.

God gives.

Before the foundation of the world, He gave Jesus His glory.

Jesus has given His people, the church, His glory.

He gives us His glory that we might be one, just as He and the Father are one.

TEN

Five Glorious Revelations

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him (John 17:1-2).

The above Scripture and the summary below are too wonderful for us to comprehend.

- 1. "Glorify Your Son" (v. 1)
- 2. "that Your Son also may glorify You" (v. 1)
- 3. The Father has given Jesus authority over all flesh (v. 2).
 - 4. Jesus gives eternal life to as many as the Fa-

ther has given Him (v. 2).

5. The Father has given Jesus the church, the saints, the children of God (v. 2).

God Gives

Five Glorious, Eternal, Unspeakable Gives:

- 1. The Father glorifies Jesus. The Father gives Jesus glory. For all eternity, the Father will give Jesus glory.
- 2. The Son glorifies the Father. Jesus gives glory to the Father. For all eternity, Jesus will give the Father glory.
- 3. The Father has given Jesus authority over all flesh.
 - 4. Jesus gives eternal life to God's children.
 - 5. The Father has given Jesus the church.

ELEVEN

Matthew: Jesus, the King

The Gospel of Matthew reveals Jesus is the King.

The four gospels contain four revelations of Jesus Christ:

Matthew – King Mark – Son of Man Luke – Messiah, the Savior John – Son of God

Jesus is the...
King we obey.
Son of Man we identify with.
The Savior who died to give us life; who saved us.

The Son of God we worship forever.

Four in the Bible

The number four in the Bible speaks of the world and the earth, among other mysteries.

The four gospels reveal God's beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God sent His only Son to the earth, to die for the life of the world.

God came to the earth as a man and justified Himself to the world (credited to John Wesley).

Examples

Some examples of the number four in the Bible include:

The four phases of knowing God (John 3,4 and 7);

The four winds of the earth (Matthew 24:31, Revelation 7:1);

The four corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:12, Revelation 7:1);

Jesus Taught about a King Three Times

In Matthew, Jesus taught about a King three specific times.

The teachings are in: Matthew 5:33-35, Matthew 22:2-14 and Matthew 25:31-46.

He did not specifically say that He was the King.

Jerusalem, the City of the Great King

Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord." But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King (Matthew 5:33-35)

The King's Wedding Feast

The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding" (Matthew 22:2-14).

The King Judges the Nations

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and

He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: . ." (Matthew 25:31-34).

Further Revelations of Jesus Christ:

The four living creatures around the throne of God have four faces (Revelation 4:6-8):

First – Like a lion – Jesus the King Second – Like a calf – Jesus the Savior Third – Face like a man – Jesus the Son of Man Fourth – Like a flying eagle – Jesus the Son of God

In the tabernacle, the gate had four curtains of four colors:

Purple – Royalty – Jesus the King Blue - Man – Jesus the Son of Man Scarlet – suffering – Jesus the Savior White – perfection – Jesus the Son of God

TWELVE

Jerusalem, the City of the Great King

In the passage below, Jesus revealed that the heavens are God's throne, and the earth is His footstool.

He also revealed that Jerusalem is the city of the great King.

Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord." But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King (Matthew 5:33-35).

Jesus said:

- 1. Do not swear at all (v. 34).
- 2. Do not swear by heaven (v. 34).
- 3. Heaven is God's throne (v. 34).
- 4. Do not swear by the earth (v. 35).
- 5. The earth is God's footstool (v. 35).
- 6. Do not swear by Jerusalem (v. 35).
- 7. Jerusalem is the city of the great King (v. 35).

"The Holy City, New Jerusalem"

At the end times, the New Jerusalem will descend from heaven. God will send the city, prepared as a bridge adorned for her husband.

"Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2).

"The Great City, the Holy Jerusalem"

". . . the great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God" (Revelation 21:10).

Some portions of the New Jerusalem passage, from Revelation 21:1-10:

"New heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1).

". . . the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" (Rev. 21:2)

I heard a loud voice from heaven, saying: "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God" (Revelation 21:3).

God will wipe away every tear. There shall be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain. The former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4).

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

"And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 21:6).

Recommended reading: The New Jerusalem Passage, Revelation 21:1-27

The foundations of the wall of the New Jerusalem are adorned with all kinds of precious stones. The foundations are: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysophase, jacinth, amethyst.

- 1. Jasper an opaque reddish-brown variety of chalcedony.
- 2. Sapphire a transparent precious stone, typically blue, that is a variety of corundum (aluminum oxide).
- 3. Chalcedony a microcrystalline type of quartz occurring in several different forms, including onyx, agate, and jasper.
- agate an ornamental stone consisting of a hard variety of chalcedony, typically banded in appearance.
- 4. Emerald a bright green precious stone consisting of a chromium-rich variety of beryl.
- 5. Sardonyx onyx in which white layers alternate with sard.
- 6. Sardius a red precious stone mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Exodus 28:17) and in classical writings, probably ruby or carnelian.
- 7. Chrysolite a yellowish-green or brownish variety of olivine, used as a gemstone.
- 8. Beryl a transparent pale green, blue, or yellow mineral consisting of a silicate of beryllium and aluminum, sometimes used as a gemstone.

- 9. Topaz a precious stone, typically colorless, yellow, or pale blue, consisting of a fluorine-containing aluminum silicate.
- 10. Chrysophase a gemstone variety of chalcedony that contains small quantities of nickel
- 11. Jacinth a reddish-orange gem variety of zircon.
- 12. Amethyst a precious stone consisting of a violet or purple variety of quartz.

THIRTEEN

The King's Wedding & Dinner for His Son

Recommended reading:

Parable of the King's Wedding Feast – Matthew 22:2-14

Jesus gave a parable about a king who arranged a wedding for his son. The wedding celebration included a feast.

The king invited certain people. Those who were invited were not willing to attend.

The king invited those same people again. He informed them that the great dinner had been prepared and that all things were ready.

The parable finishes with: "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

Those invited made light of it, going to tend to

their farm or business. The rest seized the servants who invited them and killed the servants.

The king was furious. He sent his armies and destroyed the murderers and burned up their city.

The king then told the servants to go into the highways and streets and invite "as many as you find." So the servants brought in both the good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled.

The king went to the wedding and saw a man without a wedding garment. The king told his servants to bind the man hand and foot and cast him into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- 1. The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son (v. 2).
- 2. He sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding (v. 3).
- 3. The people invited were not willing to come to the wedding (v. 3).
- 4. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." ' (v. 4).
- 5. But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business (v. 5).
- 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them (v. 6).
 - 7. But when the king heard about it, he was

furious (v. 7).

- 8. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city (v. 7)
- 9. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy (v. 8).
- 10. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding' (v. 9).
- 11. So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good (v. 10).

And the wedding hall was filled with guests (v. 10).

- 12. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment (v. 11).
- 13. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless (v. 12).
- 14. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness (v. 13).
- 15. In outer darkness, there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (v. 13).
- 16. "For many are called, but few are chosen" (v. 14). Matthew 22:2-14

Some Primary Themes:

- 1. A king arranged a marriage for his son. The marriage included a dinner, with oxen and fatted cattle prepared. All things were ready.
 - 2. The king invited certain people, twice. At

the first invitation, those invited were not willing to come. At the second invite, they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his business.

- 3. The rest of those invited seized the servants who presented the invitation, treated them spitefully, in a cruel and malicious way, and killed them.
- 4. The king was furious. He sent out his armies, destroyed the murderers and burned up their city.
- 5. The king revealed that those invited were not worthy.
- 6. The king told the servants to go into the highways (also "main streets, roads, thoroughfares") and "invite as many as you find."
- 7. The servants gathered all they could find, both good and bad. The wedding hall was filled.
- 8. A man in the wedding hall did not have on a wedding garment. The king told the servants to bind him hand and foot and take the man into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 9. "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). Many are called, but few prove themselves worthy to be chosen.

FOURTEEN

The King Will Judge the Nations

"He Will Sit on the Throne of His Glory" (Matthew 25:31).

"All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:32).

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (Matthew 25:34b).

"Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his an gels" (Matthew 25:41).

- 1. Jesus will return in His glory.
- 2. All the holy angels will be with Him.
- 3. He will sit on the throne of His glory.
- 4. All the nations will be gathered before Him.
- 5. He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides His sheep from the goats.
- 6. He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.
 - 7. The sheep are the blessed of the Father.
- 8. The sheep will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world.
- 9. Jesus was hungry, thirsty, naked, a stranger, sick and in prison, and the sheep helped them.
- 10. When was Jesus like that? Jesus reveals: "inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40).
- 11. Jesus will tell the goats, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).
- 12. Jesus was hungry, thirsty, naked, a stranger, sick and in prison, and the goats did not help them.
- 13. When was Jesus like that? Jesus reveals: "inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me" (Matthew 25:45).
- 14. The goats will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

FIFTEEN

Jesus, the King of Kings

"And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:16).

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:9-10).

Jesus the King has made His People Kings.

God is the great King above all gods. He made Jesus the King of glory. Jesus, being the exact representation of God's nature, has made His people kings.

Jesus Gave Himself and Gives Himself

Jesus gave Himself to the world.

He gave Himself for the life of the world (John 6:51).

He died for the world.

He gives Himself now, through the Holy Spirit.

He ever lives to make intercession for the saints.

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

SIXTEEN

Summary of John 17

- 1. The hour had arrived. The hour of Jesus' passion, death, resurrection and ascension was close at hand.
 - 2. The Father glorifies Jesus.
 - 3. Jesus glorifies the Father.
- 4. The Father has given Jesus authority over all flesh.
- 5. Jesus gives eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him.
- 6. The Father has given the church, the saints, to Jesus.
- 7. Eternal life is knowing the Father, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.
- 8. Jesus glorified the Father while on the earth as a man.
- 9. Jesus finished the work which the Father gave Him to do.

- 10. After Jesus' passion and resurrection, the Father glorified Jesus together with Himself, with the glory which Jesus had with the Father before the world was.
- 11. While on the earth as a man, Jesus manifested the Father's name to the men the Father gave Jesus out of the world.
- 12. They were the Father's. The Father gave them to Jesus. They have kept the Father's word.
- 13. Now the men know that all things which the Father gave Jesus are from the Father.
- 14. Jesus gave them the words which the Father gave Jesus.
 - 15. The men received the words.
- 16. The men knew surely that Jesus came forth from the Father.
- 17. The men believed that the Father sent Jesus.
- 18.Jesus prayed for the men the Father gave Him.
- 19. Jesus did not pray for the world but for the men the Father gave Him, for they are Father's.
- 20.All of Jesus' are the Father's, all the Father's are Jesus', and Jesus is glorified in them.
- 21. The men stayed in the world, and Jesus went to the Father.
- 22. Jesus prayed, "Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are."
- 23. While Jesus was in the world as a man, He kept the men in the Father's name.
 - 24. Those men the Father gave Him, Jesus

- kept. None of them are lost except one, the son of perdition, a fulfillment of Scripture.
- 25. Jesus spoke these things in the world, that the men may have Jesus' joy fulfilled in themselves.
- 26. Jesus gave the men the Father's word, and the world hated them because they are not of the world, just as Jesus was not of the world.
- 27. Jesus did not pray that the Father would take them out of the world, but that the Father would keep them from the evil one.
- 28. The men are not of the world, just as Jesus is not of the world.
- 29. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them by Your truth."
 - 30. God's word is truth.
- 31. As the Father sent Jesus into the world, Jesus sent the men into the world.
- 32. For their sakes, Jesus sanctified Himself; that they also may be sanctified by the truth.
- 33. Jesus prays for those who believed and believe in Him.
- 34. Jesus prays that they may be one, as the Father is in Jesus, and Jesus is in the Father.
- 35. Jesus prays that the believers may be one in the Father and Jesus, that the world may believe that the Father sent Jesus.
- 36. Jesus gave and gives the believers the glory the Father gave Him, that the believers may be one, just as the Father and Jesus are one: Jesus in the believers, and the Father in Jesus; that the believers may be made perfect in one, that the

world may know that the Father sent Jesus; and that the Father loves the believers as He loves Jesus.

- 37. In addition to praying for these men, Jesus also prays for those who will believe in Him through the men's word.
- 38. Jesus prays that they may be one, as the Father is in Jesus, and Jesus in the Father; that they may be one in them, the Father and Jesus, that the world might believe that the Father sent Jesus.
- 39. The glory that the Father gave Jesus, Jesus has given to his followers, that they may be one as the Father and Jesus are one: Jesus in His followers, and the Father in Jesus; that Jesus' followers may be made perfect in one, that the world may know that the Father sent Jesus, and has loved Jesus' followers as the Father loves Jesus.
- 40. Jesus desired that those whom the Father gave Him may be with Him where He is, that they may behold the glory which the Father has given Jesus; for the Father loved Jesus before the foundation of the world.
 - 41. The Father is righteous.
- 42. The world has not known the Father, but Jesus has known Him; and the men the Father gave Jesus have known that the Father sent Jesus.
- 43. Jesus declared to the men the Father's name, and will declare it, that the love with which the Father loved Jesus may be in them,

and Jesus in them.

Some Gives in John 17

- 1. The Father gives glory to Jesus.
- 2. Jesus gives glory to the Father.
- 3. The Father has given Jesus authority over all flesh.
- 4. Jesus gives eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him.
- 5. The Father has given the church, the saints, to Jesus.
- 6. While on the earth as a man, Jesus gave glory to the Father.
- 7. The Father gave Jesus work to do on the earth as a man. Jesus finished the work.
- 8. After Jesus' passion and resurrection, the Father glorified Jesus together with Himself, giving Jesus glory.
- 9. The Father gave glory to Jesus before the world was.

SEVENTEEN

Jesus, the Revelation of God

It is simple – and yet an eternal mystery.

God is the perfect God and Father.

He loves the world so much, that gave His only Son to die for the world, to save mankind.

He gave everything to His Son Jesus Christ and exalted Him to be equal with Himself.

Jesus is the King of glory . . . the Son of Man . .

. the Savior . . . the Son of God . . . and . . .

Jesus is the Lord God Almighty.

And "of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end . . ." (Isaiah 9:7).

Jesus, the Perfect Son of God

Jesus is the perfect Son.

He gave Himself to the world to save mankind. He came to earth and suffered and died for the life of the world.

He completed the work the Father gave Him to do.

Jesus has given everything to His people, the church, the saints (John 17:22 & more).

When someone goes to God the Father, He points to Jesus. Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

Jesus also said: ". . . that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father" (John 5:23).

When someone goes to Jesus, He says, "'I and My Father are one" (John 10:30).

And Jesus points to the Father and says, "My Father . . . is greater than all" and "My Father is greater than I" (John 10:29, John 14:28).

EIGHTEEN

An Eternal Revelation

The only true God is an eternal revelation. Those who find Him and make it to heaven will be in awe of Him, for eternity.

Eternal Life – Knowing Him

Jesus offers eternal, everlasting life.

What is eternal life?

Jesus said, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

For all eternity, those in heaven will be in awe of the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

The only true God is so glorious and wonderful, human words cannot express Him.

Jesus said, "The Age to Come, Eternal Life"

Jesus revealed that eternal life is also "the age to come" (Mark 10:30):

So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel"s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first" (Mark 10:29-30).

God is Eternity

It is glorious that when someone knows Jesus as Lord and Savior, they are actually in "the age to come."

Though still on the earth and in a human body, they have the opportunity to experience and partake of eternity. How is this possible?

God is eternity. He is of course eternal. In fact, eternity exists in Him.

He is so giving and gracious, that when someone receives Jesus as Lord and Savior, they are immediately in "eternal life, the age to come." They begin the eternal journey of knowing Him.

Every Person Will Exist for Eternity

Every person is an eternal being.

God made man into His own image and likeness.

I write the following with great reverence: man is the image of God.

God is eternal. Man is eternal.

God is a trinity. Man is a trinity.

Because man is made in God's image, he has the opportunity to know God – and infinitely, eternally more!

Those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior have eternal life and all it contains.

However, those apart from Jesus Christ are in eternal death.

When someone finds Jesus as Lord and Savior, they instantly move from eternal death to eternal life.

The New Life in Jesus

The glorious new life in Jesus Christ is an eternal revelation of God.

As the New Testament reveals, believers are to continue on in this most holy faith our entire time on earth and for eternity.

In eternity, saints will continue: growing, worshiping, praying, ministering, learning, serving, knowing God . . . and infinitely, eternally more.

The New Life is Beyond Human Words

The new life in Jesus is so glorious, it cannot be expressed in human words.

The entire New Testament is an attempt to put it into words.

Why can it not be expressed? Because God is so glorious and wonderful, He cannot be put into human words.

How Do We Meet the Real God?

Perhaps the most important key to knowing God is meeting and knowing the Holy Spirit. He is God!

We get to go directly to Him. What a privilege it is to go directly to Him!

He is the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Knowing Him is the greatest privilege a human can experience.

Angels

The following is an example of how awesome our God is.

The only true God sits on the highest throne in the universe.

Around and above the throne, angels continually cry out: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come"...

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"

They continually see new revelations of the Lord God Almighty.

We do not know how long the angels have been at the throne.

The earth is estimated to be more than 4.5 billion years old.

We do not know how long the angels have existed.

Nevertheless, the angels are continually seeing new revelations of the only true God. And they cry "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come" (Revelation 4:8) . . . "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" (Isaiah 6:3).

NINETEEN

Jesus, an Eternal Revelation

Jesus Christ is God and the Son of God

Jesus Christ is the Lord God Almighty. And, Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And, He is infinitely, eternally more. Amen!

The following is impossible to put into human words, but it is an attempt:

The revelation of the only true God, the great God Jehovah, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is certainly the most important revelation in the universe.

Within that revelation, the revelation of Jesus is also the most important revelation in the universe.

A person's eternal destiny depends on their response to the only true God's offer of Himself through Jesus Christ.

God has offered the Lord Jesus to every person. It is the greatest and only offer to mankind.

God wants to save all people. He wants everyone to spend eternity with Him in heaven (2 Peter 3:9 & others).

The tragedy is that most people will not find Jesus as Lord and Savior.

If anyone says no to Jesus, God cannot do anything more for them.

God has done everything He can do to save mankind.

He sent His only Son to the earth to die for the world!

Jesus rose from the dead and lives forevermore.

God sent the Holy Spirit to the earth.

Jesus – the Lord God Almighty – is available to every person, all the time, everywhere they go, for all eternity!

What else could God do for mankind?

How Can Jesus be Both God and the Son of God?

Who are we to question God?

One should never cross-question God Almighty.

We should honor and fear Him.

We should humble ourselves before Him.

We should be in awe of Him.

We should be in awe of His offer of Himself through Jesus!

Objections

Some object and say, "Jesus cannot be both God and the Son of God . . ." and "Jesus was a man but he cannot be God also . . ." and other similar objections.

Those who object are a son. Every person on earth has parents.

And they also may be a father – they might have a child or children.

So, which are they, a son or a father? They are both.

And, they are many others things, potentially a: brother, grandfather, friend, nephew, uncle, citizen (of a place), professional, student, hobbyist, and many other "titles."

So it is with Jesus Christ. He has many, many names and titles.

How is it that man has numerous "titles?" Because God created man into His own image and likeness. God has many, many names, offices, titles and descriptions, and so it is with man.

God's Plan for Humanity

God's plan for humanity is so glorious, human words cannot express it!

God's magnificent offers to mankind are beyond human comprehension!

He has offered Himself!
To every person!
All the time!
Everywhere they go!
For all eternity!

God's Offer to Mankind

God's offer to mankind is priceless, infinite and eternal. Why?

Because HE is priceless, infinite and eternal, and infinitely, eternally more!

For all eternity, man will be in awe of Him and His offer to mankind.

Beyond Human Description

Notice some of the ways His offer is described in the Bible:

"The glorious splendor of Your majesty" . . . "A treasure hidden in a field, which a man goes and digs up again and again" . . . "The riches of the glory of the mystery" . . . (Psalm 145:5, Matthew 13:44-46, Colossians 1:27).

What is the Father, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit like?

"On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, will I meditate" (Psalm 145:5).

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold/gaze at/see the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire/seek Him in His temple (Psalm 27:4, various translations).

Some translations, in place of beauty, say "splendor, delightfulness, sweetness, perfections, graciousness, goodness."

For Lord, some translations are "Lord Jehovah, Jehovah, Yahweh."

The Father . . . the Lord Jesus . . . the Holy Spirit is indeed the most wonderful, most beautiful Person in the universe.

His presence is . . . the glory of the Lord.

When we go deeper with Him in the power of the Holy Spirit, and we experience His presence and glory, He is the only One we will want.

And the Holy Spirit reveals who Jesus is. He's the savior. He's the Son of God. He's our master and friend. And infinitely more.

And He is the Lord God Almighty.

"My Father is Greater than I"

Yet, Jesus Himself said, "My Father . . . is

greater than all," and "My Father is greater than I" (John 10:29, John 14:28).

It is an eternal mystery . . . the Father, Son and Holy Spirit . . . the trinity . . . one God . . . three Persons. They are one, yet they are separate and distinct Persons. The Holy Spirit reveals this mystery (Colossians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 2:10).

So when someone knows Jesus, they have a relationship with the Lord God Almighty. Knowing Him is the greatest and highest privilege for a human.

Another mystery is that it's up to a person what they do with that relationship. Why is it like that?

Because God made man into His image and likeness and gave us a free will (Genesis 1:27, 2:7). God cannot make anyone follow Him or do anything.

Priceless Results

Within knowing Him, He offers priceless results found only in Him, some of which are below.

Experts have found more than 7,000 promises to mankind in the Bible.

But let's always remember: He Himself, His presence and His glory are the answer.

He is the answer: the only true God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Everything a person wants, needs, desires and longs for, is found in Him.

When someone finds Him, all the things listed below are a natural result.

The Answer: Knowing Him

The answer is going directly to Him, the one and only true God.

If someone goes to Him, with a repentant, humble spirit, and desires to meet Him, He will answer.

He will reveal Himself.

And that person will find the answer.

They will have the one and only thing, the thing that will last forever, that no one can ever take from them . . . knowing the only true God.

Sometimes, we do everything else except developing our relationship with Him.

We search the Bible, do ministry, learn, go to church, cand so forth – and all those are good things.

But we might neglect the one and only thing – knowing Him!

The incredible truth is that He is merciful, gracious, patient, faithful and infinitely more.

When we come to Him, with a repentant heart, He receives us. Amen!

Some Results of Knowing Him . . .

Just some of the priceless gifts and attributes He offers are:

Eternal, everlasting life

The divine nature

Fullness of love

Fullness of joy; joy unspeakable and full of glory

Pleasures forevermore

Perfect peace

Blessed, favored and fortunate; happiness

Faith

Hope of glory

Harmony

Purpose

Prosperity

Divine health

Living forever in glory and never seeing death and infinitely more.

TWENTY

God Hides His Name

God was asked His name at least three times, during His glorious visitations with man, as revealed in the Old Testament.

The first was when Jacob wrestled with God, in Genesis 32.

The next was when God visited Moses, in the burning bush passage, in Exodus 3.

Another time was when God visited Manoah and his wife, in Judges 13.

Twice, God answered with a question, to Jacob and to Manoah.

God told Moses the name I AM and I AM THAT I AM.

Portions of the events are below.

Jacob Asks God's Name

"Then Jacob asked, saying, 'Tell me Your name, I pray.'

And He said, 'Why is it that you ask about My name?' And He blessed him there (Genesis 32:29).

Other translations:

"Why is it that you ask my name?" (NAS)
"Why do you ask my name?" (CSB)
"Why are you asking about my name?" (ISV)

In Hosea, the "man/Man" in Genesis is referred to as "the Angel" (Hosea 12:4).

Moses Asks God's Name

Then Moses said to God, 'Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?' And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Moreover God said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all gen-

erations' (Exodus 3:13-15).

Manoah Asks God's Name

Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, 'What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?' And the Angel of the Lord said to him, 'Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?' (Judges 13:17-18)

Experts and Manoah himself (verse 22) believe that the Angel of the Lord in this passage is indeed the Lord God Almighty. Also, Isaiah 9:6 reveals the Lord's name is Wonderful.

IAM

The words I AM WHO I AM are a puzzle and mystery to Biblical scholars, even today.

The Hebrew for I AM WHO I AM is pronounced "Ehyeh asher ehyeh." They could be translated as: "I am that I am" or "I will be what I will be" or even "Let it be who Let it be."

The "root" of the first and third word means "to be, to become, to come to pass." Experts believe this Hebrew root is the origin of the name YHWH. Therefore, God did not actually reveal a name as we know a name.

He revealed, among infinite revelation, that He is the ever present, ever living, no beginning, no end, God.

"Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?" (Judges 13:18)

Other translations:

"... seeing it is secret? (KJV)

"It is too wonderful for you to understand." (New Living)

"It is a name of wonder" (Good News).

"...because you cannot comprehend it" (NET).

"It is incomprehensible." (New Heart English)

"... seeing it is hidden?"" (JPS Tanakh)

". . . since it is beyond comprehension?" (Berean)

"You don't need to know my name. And if you did, you couldn't understand it" (Contemporary Engish).

"It's 'Wonderful" (International Standard).

When God visited Manoah and his wife, He first appeared twice to Manoah's wife (v. 6 and 8). His countenance was "very awesome" (v. 6). To Manoah, she described Him as a Man of

God, twice (v. 8 and 10).

When Manoah first saw Him, the Lord is identified again as a Man, twice (v. 11). Then, we read that Manoah did not know He was the Lord (v. 16).

The Lord did a "wondrous thing" (v. 19). As Manoah offered a burnt offering on a rock, "it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar – the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar!" (v. 20)

Then Manoah realized He was God. He even said, "'We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" (v. 22).

We see in this visitation that God hid Himself from both people.

When asked His name, He did not actually give a specific name. He actually responded with a question, and described His name as wonderful.

God Hides

In all three responses, God hid His name.

God hiding His name lines up with a major theme in the Bible: God hides Himself.

There are at least 33 specific scriptures about how God hides Himself. An example: "Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!" (Isaiah 45:15).

God Hides from Man

Moreover, God hides Himself in His dealings with mankind. This truth is a pervasive theme in the Bible.

Secrets . . . and Mysteries . . . and Revelations

God hides Himself in many ways.

He dwells in the secret place (Matthew 6:6). In Him there is a secret (Psalm 25:14). In Him are secret things (Deuteronomy 29:29).

He Himself is a mystery and a reality (see Colossians 1:27).

His kingdom contains mysteries, which Jesus reveals (Matthew 13:11).

There is a secret will of God (Deuteronomy 29:29, Matthew 6:10).

He offers treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places (Isaiah 45:3).

The only true God is an eternal revelation (Revelation 4:8-11).

Jesus Reveals that God Hides

Jesus revealed that to find God, we must seek Him (Matthew 6:3).

He revealed there are three realms of prayer; and that every realm gets closer to God (Matthew 7:7-8).

He revealed there are three phases of the new life in Him in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3,4 and 7). He revealed the initial phase also: the born again phase (John 3). In all four phases, man gets closer to and goes deeper with God

The Bible reveals there are three anointings: for salvation, ministry, and authority, also called dominion (Leviticus 14; Exodus 30:30; 2 Samuel 5:3,7). In every anointing, a person goes deeper with God.

Two specific examples of God withdrawing or hiding Himself from man:

"And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not" (Deuteronomy 8:2).

"However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart" (2 Chronicles 32:31).

TWENTY-ONE

The Name of Jesus

When God sent His Son to the earth, He made His Son's name very clear, obvious and definite.

God also made His thoughts about His Son very clear, obvious and definite.

He did not hide His Son's name.

And God the Father did not hide His thoughts about His Son.

Jesus

The name "Jesus" in Hebrew literally means "God saves." The name "Jesus" in Hebrew is "Yeshua."

In the Old Testament, Yeshua was an alternative form of the name Yehoshua, Hebrew for Joshua (Numbers 13:16, 1 Chronicles 7:27).

Therefore, Jesus is the Greek form of the He-

brew name Joshua.

The name Yeshua is related to the Hebrew verb root "rescue" and one of its noun forms, yesua, "deliverance."

Yeshua in Greek is "lesous," and in Latin is "lesus." The name Jesus in English comes from lesous and lesus.

Christ

In the New Testament, which was written in Greek, "Christ" in the Greek is the word "christos," which means "anointed."

In the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew, the word for "Messiah" is "mashiach," which also means "anointed."

Therefore, the Greek word for Christ, "christos," is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word for Messiah, "mashiach."

Therefore, His name could properly be written and spoken as, "Jesus the Anointed One."

TWENTY-TWO

Jesus, the Messiah

One of the central themes of the Old Testament is the coming Messiah.

The word "Messiah" or "Anointed One," or, in Greek, "Christ," is found in Psalm 2:2 and Daniel 9:25-26.

Psalm 2:2: "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying . . ."

Prophecy about the Messiah

Some scholars have found more than 400 places in the Old Testament that refer to the coming Messiah.

Author Paul Humber has found 414 prophecies, appearances, or foreshadowings (PAFs) of Christ in the Old Testament. This chapter includes 365 Old Testament prophecies and refer-

ences to Christ.

Jesus Said He is the Messiah

In the Book of John, we read that Jesus said He is the Messiah.

In John 4:1-26, Jesus spoke with a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. It took place in the city of Sychar in Samaria, while Jesus and His disciples traveled from Judea to Galilee.

Jesus broke tradition in speaking with the woman, as Jews had no dealings with Samaritans (v. 9). After asking her for a drink of water, Jesus then told the woman about the "gift of God" and the "living water" (v. 10) that He could give her. In verses 13 and 14, Jesus reveals to her the results of drinking the living water.

Then, Jesus received a word of knowledge about the woman having five husbands and her current man not being her husband.

Following that, Jesus continued to reveal to her deep truths and teachings. He told the woman about salvation being of the Jews and about God being a Spirit. He finished the revelation about the Spirit with this: "'God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Then, we read:

"The woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When He comes, He will tell us all things.'

"Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am He" (John 4:25-26).

Primary Prophecies of Jesus Christ

Some of the primary prophecies of Jesus Christ the Messiah are:

The Messiah would be the seed/offspring of a woman and would crush the head of Satan – Genesis 3:15

He would be from the tribe of Judah – Genesis 49:10

He would be born at Bethlehem of Judah – Micah 5:2

He would be born of a virgin – Isaiah 7:14

He would have a throne, a kingdom, and a dynasty, or house, starting with King David, that will last forever – 2 Samuel 7:16

Messiah would be tortured to death – Psalm 22:1-31

He would be pierced for our transgression and crushed for our iniquities – Isaiah 53:5

His life would match a particular description, including suffering, silence at his arrest and tri

al, death and burial in a rich man's tomb, and

resurrection – Isaiah 52:13-53:12

He would die among the wicked ones but be buried with the rich – Isaiah 53:9

He would be resurrected from the grave, for God would not allow His Holy One to suffer decay – Psalm 16:10

TWENTY-THREE

"I AM"

I AM WHO I AM ... I AM ... YHWH

When God visited Moses in the famous burning bush passage, Moses asked His name.

It is the first time God said His name to a person, according to what is revealed in the Bible.

The glorious visitation was in about 1300 BC. God told Moses He would deliver His people from slavery in Egypt.

God appeared to Moses in "a flame of fire from the midst of a bush" (Exodus 3:2). God said "I am the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6).

Moses asked God's name, and God answered him:

Then Moses said to God:

Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Moreover God said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations' (Exodus 3:13-15).

YHWH

The Hebrew for I AM WHO I AM is pronounced "Ehyeh asher ehyeh."

These Hebrew words could be translated as: "I am that I am" or "I will be what I will be" or even "Let it be who Let it be."

Hebrew is a complex language. Part of the first and third words has a "root," which in English is "h-y-h." This root means "to be, to become, to come to pass." It is a form of h-w-h. Experts believe this Hebrew root is the origin of the name YHWH.

"I AM" 99

YHWH in the Bible

In the original Hebrew Old Testament, the word used most frequently for God is YHWH. It is used 6,800 times.

This four-letter word YHWH is called the Tetragrammaton. The four letters are: yodh, he, waw and he.

Through the centuries, the word YHWH has been a mystery and puzzle to Bible scholars, as it is today.

The Jewish scribes who copied and recorded manuscripts of the Bible, and Hebrew scholars and Jews through the centuries, felt the name was so holy they did not even pronounce it. In the original manuscripts, they wrote it without the vowels, because it was never to be spoken out loud.

Through the centuries, scholars presented various ways to pronounce YHWH. There is a general debate about how Rabbis and Hebrew scholars pronounced YHWH when they did say God's name. Examples of pronunciations centuries ago are "Yaoweh" and "Yabeh."

What did Jews do when they wanted to read the scriptures aloud? They took the vowels from the Hebrew name "Adonai," which means "Lord" or "Lords" and inserted them in the name to make the name YaHoWaH. This name is pronounced "Jehovah."

YaHoWaH is a combination of "God" and "Lord," and therefore it could safely be translated "Lord God."

"I AM"

"Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM' (John 8:58).

TWENTY-FOUR

Jesus' Words Revealing the Only True God

"Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:54-58).

"Jesus cried out and said: 'He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me" (John 12:45).

Jesus said: "'He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9)

"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death" (Revelation 1:17-18).

"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him" (Matthew 11:26).

"He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me" (Luke 10:16).

"Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him" (John 5:19-23).

Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me" (John 7:16).

"You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me" (John 7:28-29).

"He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. 46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak" (John 12:44-50).

"'If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him""

Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.'

Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so

how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves'" (John 14:7-11).

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you (John 16:12-15).

TWENTY-FIVE

Heaven

Believers in Jesus will spend eternity in heaven.

Those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior, who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, will live forever in God's home, a place of absolute glory.

Those in heaven will fellowship with God, with Jesus Christ, forever.

They will have and be everything they want, need, desire, long for and hope for.

They will have fullness of love, faith, joy, happiness, peace, harmony and infinitely more.

They will worship, serve and learn from the Father and Jesus, forever.

They will discover and experience the mysteries and secrets of the kingdom of heaven, minister to others, grow, and eternally more, forever.

They will live in mansions, walk on streets of gold and live in the spectacular beauty and majesty of heaven.

They will celebrate the Lord Jesus forever, praise and worship God, be in awe of their Father's glorious presence and home, and infinitely more.

Jesus will shepherd and feed them. He will lead them to living fountains of waters.

The Holy Spirit will live within and with them, forever.

They will drink freely of the fountain of the water of life. They will eat delicious fruit from beautiful trees. They will enjoy the stunning beauty in heaven, of homes, buildings, mountains, hills, fields, trees, flowers, grass and more.

They will thank, praise and worship their Father God Almighty and His Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

They will attend thrilling worship services. Their praise and worship will literally be collected and presented before God.

They will never hunger or thirst. They will never have sorrow, sadness or pain. God will wipe away all their tears. There will be no more death, sorrow or crying.

Scriptures and descriptions of heaven:

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 13:36-43).

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Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels . . . (Matthew 25:34,41).

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,

Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eves" (Revelation 7:9-17).

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He

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said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:3-8).

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever (Revelation 22:1-5).

Descriptions of Heaven and Jesus Christ

People who have been to heaven and returned to earth describe their experience:

They placed me at the feet of the most glorious Being I could ever imagine. A crown of pure light rested on His head, and hair as white as snow fell upon His shoulders. No words could begin to describe His splendor . . . I was totally overawed by Him. His goodness, tenderness, and love overwhelmed me. I bowed down.¹

-Marietta Davis

He looked down at me. He had such beautiful eyes. I'll never forget those eyes. They were so large and full of meaning – and kindness and forgiveness and compassion. Everything you would want to see in Jesus' face was there.²

-Lorraine Tutmarc

I looked into Jesus' eyes . . . they looked like wells of living love. It seemed as if one could see a half mile deep into them, and the tender look of His love is indescribable. As I looked into His face and into His eyes, I fell at His feet.³

-Kenneth Hagin

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"I felt I had everything I ever wanted to have. I was everything I had ever intended to be. I was arriving at where I had always dreamed of being."

-Betty Malz

Eby calls his visit "unutterable . . . indescribable . . . spiritually resplendent . . . and most ecstatically moving."⁵

The scene was "gorgeously unsurpassable in its beauty," with the foliage having a radiance. It was a great outdoors of mountains, trees, flowers, music, and sweet smells. Forests of symmetrical trees unlike anything on earth covered the foothills on each side. Every tree was tall, graceful, perfect, unblemished . . . Rolling hills under cloudless skies seemed to stretch for miles. The skies were a new color, an iridescent white-gold light. The valley floor was gorgeous. Stately grasses with perfectly straight blades were mixed in with ultra-white, four-petalled flowers on stems two feet tall, with a touch of gold at the centers.6

-Richard Eby

She looked into his eyes, which were loving and clear as blue water, yet piercing. It was like she was mirrored in his eyes . . . There was a heavenly illumination that made his hair light red, his eyes bluish

and transparent, and his skin a light gold color . . . "There is no way to describe his coloring. It is like another world's color. It's the Shekinah glory, iridescent golden light glowing through him."⁷

-Valvita Jones

As he turned around, he saw Jesus Christ. The glory about Him moved toward Roberts and came upon him, engulfing him. Roberts fell to his knees, and tears began to stream from his eyes, running down his face. Jesus said, "I want to give you a tour through heaven, this place I have made for all who believe, because I love you so much."

As he said this, tears again poured down Roberts' face. To Roberts, Jesus' presence is so tender that your joy turns to tears.

He said repeatedly, "I love my people so much. Why do people not take me at My word? Do they not know that I have all power in heaven and on earth to back up what I said? It is so easy. I made it so simple. If people would just take me at My word, I will do what I said."

-Roberts Liardon

Richard saw a crystal city made entirely of glowing lights of different types. The lights gave off rays of glory brighter than HEAVEN 113

the sun. The whole city was filled with tall buildings . . . Some were round, and one was shaped like a diamond. There were choirs and angels singing from the heights. Richard still remembers weeping with adoration and joy at seeing and hearing these inexpressible things. ¹⁰

Jesus walked onto the stage to thunderous praise, worship, and adoration. The Lord looked at people lovingly . . . "You could feel the Shekinah glory love that came out of Him. It was awesome . . . words fail."¹¹

-Richard Sigmund

Suddenly . . . there stood Jesus . . . glory and power billowed all around Him . . . His piercing eyes were beautiful . . . the tenderness in His eyes' is beyond a writer's description. The loveliness of the Blessed Savior was awe-inspiring and wonderful. 12

-Mary Baxter

A voice said: "Come with me into the Throne Room where the secrets of the universe are kept!" ¹³

Chrioni said to him: "You can never comprehend the depth of God's love because it is too great!" ¹⁴

-Roland Buck

"Jesus spoke with a voice that relayed the same love his glance transmitted to me – such gentleness and tenderness. Once you hear it, you will never forget it." ¹⁵

-Gerald Landry

The light was so intense, he had to look away and keep looking down... He is so big – you can't describe Him in a dimension... The form of God's body is somewhat like energy and spirit. The power, the energy-like smoke of God, covers all around the chair of the throne itself... There was a massive amount of energy, power, smoke, and noise there.¹⁶

-Jesse Duplantis

Jesus was dressed in a white robe down to His feet, with a golden sash around His chest. His eyes were gleaming and welcoming. His hair was white as snow, thick, and hanging down below His shoulders . . . His face oozed with love that was tangible and real . . . His face is radiant and inviting.¹⁷

-Maurice Maelo

TWENTY-SIX

Hell

The unsaved, those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life, will spend eternity in hell, in the lake of fire and burning sulfur.

They will be tormented with fire and brimstone, forever. The smoke of their torment will ascend forever and ever. They have no rest day or night.

Hell is a place of continual fire, suffering, torment, loud wailing, weeping, screaming, and gnashing of teeth.

The lost souls in hell burn in fire forever. Their flesh literally burns and falls off their bodies. Worms and maggots crawl inside them.

They feel and know everything going on. They suffer a literal eternal death. Human beings ex-

ist forever, because we are eternal beings, made in God's image. Their souls exist forever.

Jesus Christ spoke about hell often in the gospels, in: Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 11:23; 12:40; 16:18; 18:9; 23:15; 23:33; 25:41; Mark 9:44,46,48; and Luke 16:19-31.

Hell is currently located in the center of the earth.

At the end times, it will be thrown into the lake of fire.

In hell, a person has ALL their senses – sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch – and all five are a lot stronger there. The spirit realm is on a much higher level than the natural realm.

There are more than 110 specific Scriptures in the Bible about hell and the other four worlds under the earth, which are: the pit, tartarus, the lake of fire, and paradise.

Jesus preached and talked about hell more often than He spoke about heaven.

Who goes to hell?

Anyone on earth who dies and does not know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, whose name is not in the book of life, will go to hell and spend their eternity there.

In hell, there is no life or goodness of any kind – no living things, no light, no love, no mercy, no water, no food.

God withdrew Himself from that place. Therefore, there is no life or anything good.

Hell is a place of: fire; brimstone; burning

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sulfur; deadly heat; extreme darkness; awful nauseating smells; lethal torment; scary, massive overpowering demons that torture helpless people; worms and maggots that crawl inside people and never die; and worse.

Anyone who ends up in hell can never get out, FOREVER. For ALL ETERNITY.

At death, judgment is set.

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

The beings in hell are: demons; some of the angels; Satan (a fallen angel); and, tragically, humans who died without knowing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, without having a personal relationship with God Almighty through His Son Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Humans in hell can never get out.

Judgment is set. It can never be changed, FOR-EVER.

They are stuck in hell for eternity, and they know it. They remember their life on earth.

They are placed in small pits or cells. Their bodies are continually burned with fire, burning sulfur and hot coals. The fire and flames literally burn and tear their flesh off their skeletons.

Worms and maggots crawl inside them and are not affected by the fire.

Demons torment and torture them and keep them in their holding places.

Even worse, at the end times, hell will be thrown into the lake of fire. They will be a literal lake of fire and burning sulfur, forever.

Humans in hell feel everything and know ev-

erything going on. They remember their life on earth and the many times they could have repented and received Jesus Christ. They remember the times they could have done good and did not. They remember family and friends on earth – and hope that they avoid hell.

They know they are among billions of other lost souls, all of them weeping and wailing in torment. Approximately 108 billion people have lived so far on earth – and most people do not make it to heaven.

People in hell only leave their small pit or cell to be taken somewhere else for even worse torture, sometimes by Satan himself.

When the earth is destroyed, hell will be thrown into the lake of fire, where everyone in hell will burn in fire FOREVER (Revelation 20:14).

Why does Hell Exist?

Why is there even a place with such horrible, extreme, excruciating suffering?

We know only in part.

The word of God says that hell was "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41) – not for man.

The translation for the Greek word "prepared" is "having been made ready." God did not create hell. He removed Himself from that place, to prepare a place for the enemy, who is eternal. Angels are eternal beings. There had to

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be a place for them for eternity. Satan will be tormented in the lake of fire, forever (Revelation 20:10).

The Real Battle

The real battle in the universe is between God Almighty – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and His enemy, Satan.

The devil was originally the highest-ranking angel of God (Lucifer; see Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28) who rebelled and tried to overthrow God. Satan was cast out of heaven and is still today opposing and trying to defeat God. He still thinks he can overthrow God, but he was defeated at the cross of Jesus Christ.

One of the main ways He opposes God is by deceiving human beings into NOT following God through Jesus Christ – and into following the devil, or any other path apart from Jesus Christ.

Satan and his enslaved demons hate people, because people are made in God's image; and Satan hates God.

Why is this happening? This battle is a mystery in many ways to humans. But God has revealed much about it through His word. See the book *War in the Heavens* for a full summary of the real war in the universe.

This battle has been going on for a long time – we do not know how long.

When someone understands the spiritual bat-

tle and the good and evil forces behind it, a lot of questions and mysteries are answered and solved.

Tragically, Satan deceives people into following him – and those who follow him will end up in hell. It's very important to know this: if someone is not following Jesus Christ, that person is following and serving Satan, the devil. Every person on earth is in one of two families: God's or the devil's.

Description of Hell - continued

For the billions of lost souls in hell, there is no relief from the suffering – no rest, no sleep, no water or food of any kind, no compassion from anyone. Remember, the good things we have on earth are not in hell.

There is a continual foul, toxic stench and odor from the decaying flesh, garbage, and much more.

No human would even want to see hell or spend one second or minute there, let alone eternity.

Tragically, it is estimated that more than 83,000 people a day – and possibly more than 100,000 – die and end up in hell.

Where is hell? It is in the center of the earth. Hell is shaped like a human body lying on its back, with arms and legs stretched out. Hell is beneath those on earth, which is why the Bible refers to hell as "under" and "beneath" (Deuter

onomy 32:22 and Isaiah 14:9).

There are many different parts of hell, such as the arms, belly, heart, head, legs, and so forth. In recent years, Jesus has revealed much about hell through his children.

One of the most detailed and thorough descriptions and revelation of hell is Mary Baxter's book A Divine Revelation of Hell. The quote below is from that book.

The truth about hell is scary, shocking, tragic, and more much.

Jesus Christ: "I came to save all men. I desire that all who are lost will repent and call upon My name. It is not My will that any should perish, but have everlasting life. Sad to say, most will not repent of their sins before they die, and they will go to hell. But the way to heaven is the same for all people. You must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. You must come to the Father in My name and repent of your sins. You must sincerely give your heart to God and serve Him."

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