

Is God consistent? Is He always

fair and impartial? Can He sometimes be harsh and demanding? If He is good and fair, why does He sometimes severely punish what might seem a small offence, while other times appearing to

overlook
more



what is
serious?



Let us begin by stating what we consider some simple truths about God. We will then attempt to provide scriptural support for those statements. God is always both fair and consistent. If ever we feel that is not the case, what is missing is our own understanding of the circumstances. The one thing we must accept that none of us can ever understand, and that we must also realize God fully does understand, is the matter of personal accountability to him. God doesn't hold people accountable for sins when they are ignorant of the gravity of what they do.^(MM) That is why He sometimes treats one person differently than another. It does not reflect a harsh attitude, nor is it inconsistent. It simply reflects what that individual is personally accountable for.^(LL) If you don't understand how and why that is true, it might be an indication you should more deeply consider what Jesus Christ came to teach (by reading and rereading what he said, as recorded in the Gospels). Only Jesus has provided the knowledge that can set you free.^(Z)

As an example of what some people consider to be harsh, unfair, or inconsistent on God's part: There is a Bible account where a man and his wife are struck dead for telling a lie about what they chose to do with something that actually belonged to them.^(H) What is your opinion? If it does seem like God was too harsh, or if you would like to better understand what happened to Ananias and Sapphira, please consider the enclosed letter. The letter (with the names removed) is a correspondence that was part of a discussion between two old friends about the Bible and about Ananias and Sapphira, and whether God was harsh in dealing with them. Each of the two people involved in the original full conversation express faith in Christ Jesus as their Lord.

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My dear old friend,

How are you? It was nice to get your call yesterday. (Believe it or not, this letter started out as a brief note... When I started reading the scriptures you directed me to, however, and following the cross links to other Bible verses, it sort of took on a life of its own. Short responses to scriptural points of consideration are often not possible: Brief answers can be difficult because even though what Jesus came to teach is easy to understand,^(G) it can be hard to grasp the necessary overview of his teaching if we are not able to detach ourselves from trying to view it using our current short (70 or 80 year) view onto the Bible's timeline.^A While Jesus's teachings are easy to understand,^(G) they can be hard to grasp as a whole because what he explained is God's solution to all mankind's problems. That solution has been 6000 years in its unfolding and revelation. While it *is simple* to understand, if there were a one sentence explanation, Jesus wouldn't have spent the time teaching all that is recorded he taught us in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Also, while the letter is longer than first intended, about $\frac{2}{3}$'s of the material is scriptures as footnotes. We agree it is never anything but a benefit to read the Bible.) Anyway... I always love to talk about the Bible. It is even better when it is with one of my oldest friends, and one who was my best friend for several of my "formative" years. We've come a long way since we were huddled around your old car in your parent's underground garage, trying to figure out how to tune-up the engine. The focus of our attention, however, has become far more important. Getting older isn't *all* bad.

I'm trying to remember the details of our last conversation, so I can address what I understood you to say. Communication skills have always proved a problem for me. I sometimes draw implications and understand people to have said things they didn't mean at all. It always does me good to review.

^A Please see the timeline insert in the center of the booklet. If it is missing, or you are reading an electronic version, visit:

<http://www.justbibletruth.com/InsertTimeLine.pdf>

For more detail on Bible history visit:

<http://www.justbibletruth.com/DisplayScroll.html>

So... We talked previously about Ananias and Sapphira, the couple God struck dead for trying to lie to (trying to deceive) the Christian men and women God was obviously using; as evidenced by his pouring out his spirit on them.⁽¹⁾ My knee-jerk reaction is to want to proclaim I can't imagine what they did, or understand how they could think to do such a thing. But I must confess, in the secret person of my heart, *I am able to understand* how they could make such an error; because I recognize my own similar weaknesses.^(see "A Confession" on page 38) My desire to please other people, or my desire for what I imagine will be some personal gain, can sometimes lead me to do things I wouldn't otherwise do. I want to learn better, however, and I believe what Jesus taught provides my only hope.

It seemed when we talked you were concerned about how to comfort and deal with people who believe it was unloving of God to strike the couple dead for what some might consider a small sin: They told a lie about what they did with something they owned. To some people it seems unfair, or at least inconsistent, that God would kill that couple for telling a lie, while He appears to take no action against a modern day man who cuts off another man's head on television (on the internet) for all the world to see. (They do tell us, by the way, that religious fanatic and murderer is now dead. Because God does not always take immediate action against a wicked act does not mean he lets the wicked go unpunished.) You also asked if I had researched the account of Ananias and Sapphira - to get a better understanding of God's fairness I believe. At your prodding, then, I have reviewed the material. The only *research* I almost ever do, however, is in reading the Bible itself. Everyone's always "encouraging" me to read what this or that person wrote about some scripture under consideration. Such religious affiliations and attention to written materials that are not a part of the Bible have, over the course of my life, infected me with many teachings I now realize are not *Bible teachings at all*. What a waste! (The reason I believe this letter is different from all those religious writings, is that I encourage you to first read my letter [and the scriptural footnotes], and then to read one of the Gospels. In that way verify for yourself this is precisely what Jesus was

teaching.^B As I say to everyone I talk with about the Bible, please don't ever put faith in me.^C Please do put faith in what Christ Jesus said.) I *guess do hope* I was gaining some maturity and knowledge of what the Bible actually *does* teach over the course of those many years in churches, as I exposed myself to sectarian religious teachings. (Please realize and understand: Religious teachings of men [doctrines] are very different from Christianity. True Christianity can only be gained from a personal knowledge and application of what Jesus Christ actually taught.)^D **Jesus did warn us many people would be confused and/or teaching religious lies disguised as Christianity.**^(SS) Anyway... I hope I've learned my lesson and I am trying to do better in guarding my heart from the ideas (doctrines) of men. So then, the reason I tell you all that is so you will understand: If you have something to show me from the Bible, I am most pleased to read it. But, I don't really put much stock in people who want to tell me what the Bible means by what it says. My faith is God sent his son to teach me what he wanted me to know.^(M) There is no reason for me to listen to what men teach. What Jesus taught is still recorded for me in the Gospels. God fully intended me to be able to understand it when He had Jesus teach it. Additionally, Jesus said he would leave us his spirit (the spirit of truth) to help us understand what his Father wanted us

^B **Acts 8:32-35 GNB** The passage of scripture which he was reading was this: "He was like a sheep that is taken to be slaughtered, like a lamb that makes no sound when its wool is cut off. He did not say a word. (33) He was humiliated, and justice was denied him. No one will be able to tell about his descendants, because his life on earth has come to an end." (34) The official asked Philip, "Tell me, of whom is the prophet saying this? Of himself or of someone else?" (35) Then Philip began to speak; starting from this passage of scripture, he told him the Good News about Jesus.

^C **Revelation 19:9-10 CEV** Then the angel told me, "Put this in writing. God will bless everyone who is invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." The angel also said, "These things that God has said are true." (10) I knelt at the feet of the angel and began to worship him. But the angel said, "Don't do that! I am a servant, just like you and everyone else who tells about Jesus. Don't worship anyone but God. Everyone who tells about Jesus does it by the power of the Spirit."

^D Visit: justbibletruth.com/Observations/BibleTruthOrReligiousDoctrine.html

to know.^E The Bible, outside the Gospel accounts of Jesus's teachings, says within its own pages it is support material (a tutor) to help me have absolute faith in the teachings of the son of God.^F After I gain an understanding of that simple process by which God is teaching me (all of us),^(ZZ) my need is humbly to read the

^E Don't let the scriptures in this footnote seem mystical or unrealistic. They simply encourage us to realize the importance of what Jesus was sent by his Father to teach, and to exert ourselves to learn. We need to realize: As we put forth that effort to learn, God's spirit will help us to recall what Jesus said when we need to do so, both to better understand his teachings and their application, as well as to teach others.~

John 14:15-17 GW "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. (16) I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. (17) That helper is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be in you.~

John 14:25-26 GW "I have told you this while I'm still with you. (26) However, the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you.~

Luke 12:11-12 GW "When you are put on trial in synagogues or in front of rulers and authorities, don't worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say. (12) At that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what you must say."~

John 7:37-41 GW On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus was standing in the temple courtyard. He said loudly, "Whoever is thirsty must come to me to drink. (38) As Scripture says, 'Streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me.'" (39) Jesus said this about the Spirit, whom his believers would receive. The Spirit was not yet evident, as it would be after Jesus had been glorified. (40) After some of the crowd heard Jesus say these words, they said, "This man is certainly the prophet." (41) Other people said, "This man is the Messiah." Still other people asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee?~

John 15:26 CEV I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me.

^F **Galatians 3:24 ALT** Therefore, the Law has become our tutor [*to lead us*] to Christ, so that by faith we should be justified [*or, declared righteous*].

Based on my simple notion, then, of relying solely on the Bible with an emphasis on Christ, here is what I can know about Ananias and Sapphira.^H *{That scriptural footnote recording the sin and death of Ananias and Sapphira (the Bible's only mention of them) is from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) of the Bible. That's a translation easy for me to understand as it is written in modern English. (I do dislike that the CEV translators removed*

^G **Matthew 11:25-30 MWT** ²⁵ At that time Jesus said in response: "I publicly praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and intellectual ones and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Yes, O Father, because to do thus came to be the way approved by you. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one fully knows the Son but the Father, neither does anyone fully know the Father but the Son and anyone to whom the Son is willing to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all YOU who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh YOU. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon YOU and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and YOU will find refreshment for YOUR souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is kindly and my load is light." ~ **Matthew 8:13 CEV** Then Jesus said to the officer, "You may go home now. Your faith has made it happen." Right then his servant was healed.

^H **Acts 5:1-10 GNB** But there was a man named Ananias, who with his wife Sapphira sold some property that belonged to them. (2) But with his wife's agreement he kept part of the money for himself and turned the rest over to the apostles. (3) Peter said to him, "Ananias, why did you let Satan take control of you and make you lie to the Holy Spirit by keeping part of the money you received for the property? (4) Before you sold the property, it belonged to you; and after you sold it, the money was yours. Why, then, did you decide to do such a thing? You have not lied to people---you have lied to God!" (5) As soon as Ananias heard this, he fell down dead; and all who heard about it were terrified. (6) The young men came in, wrapped up his body, carried him out, and buried him. (7) About three hours later his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. (8) Peter asked her, "Tell me, was this the full amount you and your husband received for your property?" "Yes," she answered, "the full amount." (9) So Peter said to her, "Why did you and your husband decide to put the Lord's Spirit to the test? The men who buried your husband are at the door right now, and they will carry you out too!" (10) At once she fell down at his feet and died. The young men came in and saw that she was dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

God's [יהוה's] personal name from their translation. They did, at least, replace the divine name with "LORD" in all capital letters so readers could know where they had removed God's name. In the CEV of the Bible, then, just understand "LORD" in all capital letters to have been the Hebrew name יהוה [attempted English translations: Jehovah or Yahweh – Hebrew pronunciation "sounds like" in English: Yea^oVah, Yea as in "yea-go-team" followed by the first two letters of "vault."]¹ There is a free Bible study program called e-Sword available at www.e-Sword.net. It has several excellent translations of the Bible available with it, the Contemporary English Version included. If you send the owner (Rick Meyers) \$30, he will send you a disk so you don't have to download it. I don't know him or what he personally believes at all. Doesn't really matter... His simple Bible study software is excellent. That does not speak to several other study tools included with e-Sword. If we all stick solely with the Bible, in this and all other Bible discussions or study, we will always be safe. Comparing several Bible translations of any verse that seems hard to understand can give a better feel for the original language meaning. e-Sword is an excellent tool for doing that.} So then, I can know from reading the Bible verses leading to its reference of them,^(H) that Ananias and Sapphira were probably Jews or at least Jewish proselytes (Gentiles who had accepted Judaism).^J At a bare

¹ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/DoesGodHaveAName.html>

^J Acts 2:5-47 CEV Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. (6) And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. (7) They were excited and amazed, and said: Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? (8) Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? (9) Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, (10) Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, (11) Crete, and Arabia. Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done. (12) Everyone was excited and confused. Some of them even kept asking each other, "What does all this mean?" (13) Others made fun of the Lord's followers and said, "They are drunk." (14) Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd: Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen

carefully to what I have to say! (15) You are wrong to think that these people are drunk. After all, it is only nine o'clock in the morning. (16) But this is what God had the prophet Joel say, (17) "When the last days come, I will give my Spirit to everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. (18) In those days I will give my Spirit to my servants, both men and women, and they will prophesy. (19) I will work miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth below. There will be blood and fire and clouds of smoke. (20) The sun will turn dark, and the moon will be as red as blood before the great and wonderful day of the Lord appears. (21) Then the Lord will save everyone who asks for his help." (22) Now, listen to what I have to say about Jesus from Nazareth. God proved that he sent Jesus to you by having him work miracles, wonders, and signs. All of you know this. (23) God had already planned and decided that Jesus would be handed over to you. So you took him and had evil men put him to death on a cross. (24) But God set him free from death and raised him to life. Death could not hold him in its power. (25) What David said are really the words of Jesus, "I always see the Lord near me, and I will not be afraid with him at my right side. (26) Because of this, my heart will be glad, my words will be joyful, and I will live in hope. (27) The Lord won't leave me in the grave. I am his holy one, and he won't let my body decay. (28) He has shown me the path to life, and he makes me glad by being near me." (29) My friends, it is right for me to speak to you about our ancestor David. He died and was buried, and his tomb is still here. (30) But David was a prophet, and he knew that God had made a promise he would not break. He had told David that someone from his own family would someday be king. (31) David knew this would happen, and so he told us that Christ would be raised to life. He said that God would not leave him in the grave or let his body decay. (32) All of us can tell you that God has raised Jesus to life! (33) Jesus was taken up to sit at the right side of God, and he was given the Holy Spirit, just as the Father had promised. Jesus is also the one who has given the Spirit to us, and that is what you are now seeing and hearing. (34) David didn't go up to heaven. So he wasn't talking about himself when he said, "The Lord told my Lord to sit at his right side, (35) until he made my Lord's enemies into a footstool for him." (36) Everyone in Israel should then know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ, even though you put him to death on a cross. (37) When the people heard this, they were very upset. They asked Peter and the

minimum, living in ancient Jerusalem, the couple would have been familiar with Jewish laws and practices. They would have known the Jewish “religious leaders” were fighting against this new “Christian” movement to which they had *joined themselves*. They would thus have been educated about, and probably part of, the Jewish arrangement that had served God for 1500 years from Moses [or 2000 years counting from Abraham] down to Christ.^(A) Peter [there in Acts]^(J) applied the Prophet Joel's words^K to what he saw happening to he and his Christian brothers and sisters. Peter also called what he saw the “last days.” He said God was pouring

other apostles, "Friends, what shall we do?" (38) Peter said, "Turn back to God! Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit. (39) This promise is for you and your children. It is for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live." (40) Peter told them many other things as well. Then he said, "I beg you to save yourselves from what will happen to all these evil people." (41) On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. (42) They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. (43) Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. (44) All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. (45) They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. (46) Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, (47) while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.~
^K Joel 2:28-32 MKJV And it shall be afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your old men shall dream dreams; your young men shall see visions. (29) And also I will pour out My Spirit on the slaves and on the slave women in those days. (30) And I will show wonders in the heavens, and in the earth, blood and fire and pillars of smoke. (31) The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of Jehovah. (32) And it shall be, whoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be saved; for salvation shall be in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as Jehovah has said, and in the remnant whom Jehovah shall call.

out his spirit, in the last days, on those he anointed to become his people: His “Christian” people. The “last days” Joel^(K) and Peter^(J) were speaking about, then, were the “last days” of the Jewish religious system. It was the end of the days when God had dealt with and helped mankind using the Jewish nation. From Peter's day forward, God has been dealing with mankind, not as a nation (or group) of people like He did with the Jews, but with each individual (from among both Jews and Gentiles) through their personal expression of faith in the teachings of his son and Messiah.^(JJ)

There have been several “special times” or “special days” over the course of Bible history. In each of those periods, God used signs and miracles to prove He was with the people He was using. He always made it clear who those who looked to him for guidance should follow when He was asking them to do things that required great faith. To leave Egypt and walk into the Red Sea, with the might of Egypt marching down on them from the rear, took great courage and faith. God thus provided miracles through Moses to show the people should follow Moses as his own servant.^L In

^L [Exodus 14:18-28 LITV](#) And the Egyptians shall know that I *am* Jehovah, in My being honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots, and through his horsemen. (19) And the Angel of God withdrew, the One going before the camp of Israel. And He went behind them. And the pillar of cloud withdrew from before them, and it stood behind them. (20) And it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. And it was cloudy and dark (for the Egyptians). And it lit up the night (for Israel); and this one did not come near to that one all night. (21) And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and Jehovah caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all night. And He made the sea dry land, and the waters divided. (22) And the sons of Israel came into the middle of the sea on dry ground, the waters *being* a wall to them from their right and from their left. (23) And the Egyptians pursued, and all the horses of Pharaoh came after them, his chariots and his horsemen, into the middle of the sea. (24) And it happened in the morning watch: Jehovah looked on the camp of the Egyptians in the pillar of fire and cloud. And He confused the camp of the Egyptians. (25) And He took off the wheels of their chariots, and made them drive with difficulty. And the Egyptians said, I will flee from the face of Israel, for Jehovah *is* fighting for them against the

“those last days” of the Jewish nation’s slavery to Egypt, God killed some of the people who spoke out against Moses. He killed them because they were knowingly fighting against what He was doing. God had a work He was accomplishing in Moses’s day. He was using the Jewish nation to produce the Messiah. Jesus would be born a Jew. God could not allow those who lacked faith and appreciation undermine his efforts to help all those among mankind who would accept his blessings. Those rebellious individuals who spoke against the miracle performing Moses actually *forced* God to act against them. Remember always: It is what God is doing that is important above all. So then... Ananias and Sapphira were favored to be alive in the midst of this new and great work our God was doing in their day in time (and which Joel had spoken about in prophecy). As Jews, Ananias and Sapphira should have known Bible history, including Joel's writings. They definitely saw all the miracles being performed among the Christians surrounding them;^(J) as witness God was now blessing his new Christian Congregation. All that knowledge possessed by Ananias and Sapphira, then, made them “accountable” to God. **And that leads to something we must each realize and understand none of us will never have: Knowledge of someone else's accountability before our Creator.** He is the lone judge of that. (God has, in matter of fact, given that judgment responsibility to Christ;^(CC) knowing his son will always do what is right. Jesus will always do the same, in principle, as his Father would have done.)^M As the basis of our relationship with God, we must have

Egyptians. (26) And Jehovah said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the sea, and let the waters return on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen. (27) And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its usual flow, at the turning of the morning, and the Egyptians *were* fleeing to meet it. And Jehovah shook off the Egyptians into the middle of the sea. (28) And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, together with all the army of Pharaoh, those going after them, into the sea. And not even one was left among them.

^M [John 5:30 CEV](#) I cannot do anything on my own. The Father sent me, and he is the one who told me how to judge. I judge with fairness, because I obey him, and I don't just try to please myself.

faith He is good.^N That means we must also believe his son is good. Believing God is good must include having faith He knows how to deal with individuals in all circumstances. That can seem harder. Only God can know what a person's responsibility is, and what punishment they justly deserve. We have lots of Bible examples to show God is kind and loving and patient.^O One such example is the account of the ancient Assyrian capital city of Nineveh. The Ninevites were barbarous people. If they had to lay siege to a city to overthrow it, they left survivors who had been treated so horribly that other cities, on hearing about the treatment of those survivors, would just open their gates to the Ninevites. While the Ninevites were wicked in their actions, they were also ignorant of truth. So... God sent Jonah to tell them he was going to destroy their city because of their badness. When Jonah warned the Ninevites, however, they repented. In loving kindness, God then spared their city. (See the Bible book of Jonah – only 4 chapters, or 48 verses, long.) Many years later, however, after repentant Assyrian King Sennacherib had been murdered by his own people, the Ninevites forgot or ignored God's warning to them and went back to their old ways. God then carried out his judgment on their *no longer ignorant* behavior as He destroyed Nineveh without further warning. Historians record that 200 years after Jonah's visit, there was no trace of the great city of Nineveh.^P God is always consistent and fair. If it seems otherwise to us, we just need to remember and understand what God is doing always reflects his perfect understanding of what every single person is knowingly responsible for (and thus accountable for). God was not overly harsh with Ananias and Sapphira: He had blessed them with knowledge of what He was doing in their day in time, and had

^N [Hebrews 11:6 ALT](#) But without faith *[it is]* impossible to please *[Him]*, for it is necessary *[for]* the one approaching God to believe that He is and *[that]* He becomes a rewarder to the ones diligently seeking Him.

^O Visit: justbibletruth.com/GodOfWarOrOfLove.html

^P The prophesied destruction of Nineveh, then, by Nahum (1:1 & 2:8-3:19) and Zephaniah (2:13-15), was fulfilled when the combined forces of Nabopolassar the king of Babylon and of Cyaxares the Mede besieged and captured Nineveh. With reference to Nineveh, a Babylonian chronicle reports: "They carried off the vast booty of the city and the temple (and) [turned] the city into a ruin heap." (*Assyrian and Babylonian Chronicles*, by A. Grayson, 1975, p. 94)

made them part of something wonderful (as they were witness to the birth of Christianity). And yet, they deemed some money and/or peer approval as more valuable than their relationship with God Almighty. They wanted *people* to think how righteous they were to give *all* their money to charity, while they secretly held part of it back. They thus demonstrated they had no concern for what God thought about them. Their choice to place the adoration of men above God, made with awareness and understanding, also made them bad people! You mentioned Achan, along with all his household. They were all killed for stealing a gold bar, some silver, and a garment from among things God had devoted to destruction. Achan's day was another time of special activity: God was using his spirit to help his nation of people (Achan included) destroy the surrounding nations, because those nations had chosen to make themselves enemies of truth and true worship. (God was using the Jewish nation to produce the Messiah He had promised for the blessing of all mankind. *The Jews had to be protected.*) Achan and his household's knowledge, as they all saw and understood what God was doing to help mankind, along with his family's choice to join Achan in hiding the sin he had committed, made them all accountable before God for their disobedience.^Q **And this is the**

^Q **Joshua 7:1-8:2 CEV** The LORD [*Jehovah*] had said that everything in Jericho belonged to him. But Achan from the Judah tribe took some of the things from Jericho for himself. And so the LORD [*Jehovah*] was angry with the Israelites, because one of them had disobeyed him. (2) While Israel was still camped near Jericho, Joshua sent some spies with these instructions: "Go to the town of Ai and find out whatever you can about the region around the town." The spies left and went to Ai, which is east of Bethel and near Beth-Aven. (3) They went back to Joshua and reported, "You don't need to send the whole army to attack Ai--two or three thousand troops will be enough. Why bother the whole army for a town that small?" (4) Joshua sent about three thousand soldiers to attack Ai. But the men of Ai fought back and chased the Israelite soldiers away from the town gate and down the hill to the stone quarries. Thirty-six Israelite soldiers were killed, and the Israelite army felt discouraged. (5) (*SEE 7:4*) (6) Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothes and put dirt on their heads to show their sorrow. They lay facedown on the ground in front of the sacred chest until sunset. (7) Then Joshua said: Our LORD, did you bring us across the Jordan River just so the Amorites could

destroy us? This wouldn't have happened if we had agreed to stay on the other side of the Jordan. (8) I don't even know what to say to you, since Israel's army has turned and run from the enemy. (9) Everyone will think you weren't strong enough to protect your people. Now the Canaanites and everyone else who lives in the land will surround us and wipe us out. (10) The LORD answered: Stop lying there on the ground! Get up! (11) I said everything in Jericho belonged to me and had to be destroyed. But the Israelites have kept some of the things for themselves. They stole from me and hid what they took. Then they lied about it. (12) What they stole was supposed to be destroyed, and now Israel itself must be destroyed. I cannot help you anymore until you do exactly what I have said. That's why Israel turns and runs from its enemies instead of standing up to them. (13) Tell the people of Israel, "Tomorrow you will meet with the LORD your God, so make yourselves acceptable to worship him. The LORD says that you have taken things that should have been destroyed. You won't be able to stand up to your enemies until you get rid of those things. (14) "Tomorrow morning everyone must gather near the place of worship. You will come forward tribe by tribe, and the LORD will show which tribe is guilty. Next, the clans in that tribe must come forward, and the LORD will show which clan is guilty. The families in that clan must come, and the LORD will point out the guilty family. Finally, the men in that family must come, (15) and the LORD will show who stole what should have been destroyed. That man must be put to death, his body burned, and his possessions thrown into the fire. He has done a terrible thing by breaking the sacred agreement that the LORD made with Israel." (16) Joshua got up early the next morning and brought each tribe to the place of worship, where the LORD showed that the Judah tribe was guilty. (17) Then Joshua brought the clans of Judah to the LORD, and the LORD showed that the Zerah clan was guilty. One by one he brought the leader of each family in the Zerah clan to the LORD, and the LORD showed that Zabdi's family was guilty. (18) Finally, Joshua brought each man in Zabdi's family to the LORD, and the LORD showed that Achan was the guilty one. (19) "Achan," Joshua said, "the LORD God of Israel has decided that you are guilty. Is this true? Tell me what you did, and don't try to hide anything." (20) "It's true," Achan answered. "I sinned and disobeyed the LORD God of Israel. (21) While we were in Jericho, I saw a beautiful Babylonian robe, two hundred pieces of silver, and a gold bar that weighed the same as fifty pieces of gold. I wanted them for myself, so I took them. I dug a hole under my tent

point we want to take from the whole of this discussion: What we are learning from Jesus is making each one of us accountable to our Creator. That is a good thing because it's how we gain faith in what is true, and can then choose to become friends of God.^R It is impossible for ignorant people to be friends of our Creator. That is because ignorant people can't really even know him. How could they think to be his friends? As we trade away our ignorance for what Jesus taught,^(G) we also make ourselves accountable.^(MM) While that is a very good thing, it does mean we must be careful to realize we are also becoming responsible for our actions. Remember too: If we publicly assert our membership in some sect of men, we likely make ourselves

and hid the silver, the gold, and the robe." Joshua had some people run to Achan's tent, where they found the silver, the gold, and the robe. (22) (SEE 7:21) (23) They brought them back and put them in front of the sacred chest, so Joshua and the rest of the Israelites could see them. (24) Then everyone took Achan and the things he had stolen to Trouble Valley. They also took along his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys, and sheep, his tent, and everything else that belonged to him. (25) Joshua said, "Achan, you caused us a lot of trouble. Now the LORD is paying you back with the same kind of trouble." The people of Israel then stoned to death Achan and his family. They made a fire and burned the bodies, together with what Achan had stolen, and all his possessions. (26) They covered the remains with a big pile of rocks, which is still there. Then the LORD stopped being angry with Israel. That's how the place came to be called Trouble Valley. **Joshua 8:1-2 GNB** The LORD [*Jehovah*] said to Joshua, "Take all the soldiers with you and go on up to Ai. Don't be afraid or discouraged. I will give you victory over the king of Ai; his people, city, and land will be yours. (2) You are to do to Ai and its king what you did to Jericho and its king, but this time you may keep its goods and livestock for yourselves. Prepare to attack the city by surprise from the rear."

^R **James 2:23 NWT** ²³ and the scripture was fulfilled which says: "Abraham put faith in Jehovah, and it was counted to him as righteousness," and he came to be called "Jehovah's friend." The following scriptures are referenced.~

Genesis 15:6 Darby And he (Abraham) believed Jehovah; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.~

Isaiah 41:8 LITV But you Israel *are* My servant, Jacob whom I have elected; the seed of My friend Abraham;

accountable for their actions as well. Religions hiding pedophiles are not forgiven for their other, “good,” works. Be careful... Christians are not followers of men, they are the individuals who follow Christ!

There is a terrible danger for all who search for truth, and there is a simple self-test. You must surely realize in your own heart that all these religious sects, each with their own doctrine and judgmental attitude toward all the others, *they can't all be right*. Jesus actually warned us to watch out for them.^(SS) People who have absolute faith they are the chosen sect of God are very dangerous. Their group judgmental attitude drives them to prefer to see you suffer emotional harm, or even see you killed, than to be forced to listen to any scriptural objection you might raise to expose their blind faith. They imagine your expressions of faith in Bible truth to be an assault on their group: The group they also imagine to be God's only true servants. Once they blindly accept the doctrine of men, they will shut up their ears to those who oppose that doctrine.^S

^S [Acts 7:51-60 ESV](#) "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (52) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, (53) you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." (54) Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. (55) But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (56) And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (57) But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. (58) Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. (59) And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (60) And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.~

[Matthew 13:14-17 ESV](#) Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. (15) For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and

Their group leaders have to make them feel that way, because refusing to even listen to nonmembers is the only way they can maintain their control through the group's blind faith in their lies.^(MM) You should recognize, real faith that is built on what is not true does not lower the danger posed by those who believe. What makes them dangerous is whether they are convinced they are God's *only true servants*. **The test and protection against being deceived yourself is simple: If any group you are involved with is helping you see your personal responsibility before our heavenly Father, by helping you actually learn what God sent his son to teach you^(G) (by actually studying the Gospels), you are safe and are being helped to become or remain a Christian.** The reason that is true is really simple: Jesus's teachings bring his followers humility and love for others. Religion, identified simply by being based on the doctrine of men, brings arrogance and hatred and judgment of others.^T If you are part of a group who is seeking your worship, doing so by deceiving you to believe you must be approved by their sect to be pleasing to God, you have been misled. Religionists will have a whole set of rules for you to follow, rather than simply teaching you to study what Jesus taught.^U Just ask yourself: Are the people you associate with really

their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' (16) But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. (17) For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear (what Jesus was teaching them), and did not hear it.

^T **1 Corinthians 4:5-7 CEV** (5) So don't judge anyone until the Lord returns. He will show what is hidden in the dark and what is in everyone's heart. Then God will be the one who praises each of us. (6) Friends, I have used Apollos and myself as examples to teach you the meaning of the saying, "Follow the rules" [*or, do not go beyond what is written – beyond what Christ taught*]. I want you to stop saying that one of us is better than the other. (7) What is so special about you? What do you have that you were not given? And if it was given to you, how can you brag?^(TT)

^U **Matthew 15:1-20 CEV** About this time some Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses (religious leaders) came from Jerusalem. They asked Jesus, (2) "Why don't your disciples obey what our ancestors taught us to do? They don't even wash their

studying the Bible (using only the Bible), or is most of their time spent reading organizational doctrinal material (which they will most surely claim are Bible study aids)? People who are trying to make you believe that you require their organizational Bible study materials are actually trying to replace Christ in your life: They strive to replace Christ by wanting you to look to them and to their

hands before they eat." (3) Jesus answered: Why do you disobey God and follow your own teaching? (Jesus was in their midst teaching them what his Father wanted them to know, but the religious leaders wanted no part of it.)⁽⁶⁾ (4) Didn't God command you to respect your father and mother? Didn't he tell you to put to death all who curse their parents? (5) But you let people get by without helping their parents when they should. You let them say that what they have has been offered (dedicated) to God. (6) Is this any way to show respect to your parents? You ignore God's commands in order to follow your own teaching. (7) And you are nothing but show-offs! Isaiah the prophet was right when he wrote that God had said, (8) "All of you praise me with your words, but you never really think about me. (9) It is useless for you to worship me, when you teach rules made up by humans." (10) Jesus called the crowd together and said, "Pay attention and try to understand what I mean. (11) The food that you put into your mouth doesn't make you unclean and unfit to worship God. The bad words that come out of your mouth are what make you unclean." (12) Then his disciples came over to him and asked, "Do you know that you insulted the Pharisees (religionists) by what you said?" (13) Jesus answered, "Every plant that my Father in heaven did not plant will be pulled up by the roots. (14) Stay away from those Pharisees! They are like blind people leading other blind people, and all of them will fall into a ditch." (15) Peter replied, "What did you mean when you talked about the things that make people unclean?" (16) Jesus then said: Don't any of you know what I am talking about by now? (17) Don't you know that the food you put into your mouth goes into your stomach and then out of your body? (18) But the words that come out of your mouth come from your heart. And they are what make you unfit to worship God. (19) Out of your heart come evil thoughts, murder, unfaithfulness in marriage, vulgar deeds, stealing, telling lies, and insulting others. (20) These are what make you unclean. Eating without washing your hands will not make you unfit to worship God.

written materials for approval.^V Some of them are actually so bold as to proclaim the written materials they produce are spiritual food (as only the Bible is).^(V) In that way they try to put what they say equal with the Bible in your mind. They will, each sect of them of course, stress they are your one true path to God. What they really demand, however, is for you to respect their judgment over you.^(FF) & ^(T) They want you to believe when they approve or disapprove you, you are approved or disapproved by God. They

^V **Matthew 24:23-28 CEV** Someone may say, "Here is the Messiah!" or "There he is!" But don't you believe it. (24) False messiahs and false Christs will arise and work great miracles and signs. They will even try to fool the ones being chosen by God (chosen by their faith in Christ's teachings). (25) But look! I have warned you ahead of time. (26) If you are told that the Messiah is out in the desert, don't go there! And if you are told that he is in some inner room, or some secret place, don't you believe it! (27) The coming of the Son of Man will be like lightning that can be seen from east to west. (28) Where the body is, there the eagles will be gathered. (What Jesus came to teach are his remains and might be thought of as his body. Your safety against being deceived by people who very sincerely mean well, but who have been deceived, lies in being gathered around the Bible to feed on the actual teachings of Jesus Christ.)~

John 6:48-58 GNB I am the bread of life. (49) Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, but they died. (50) But the bread that comes down from heaven is of such a kind that whoever eats it will not die. (51) I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If you eat this bread, you will live forever. The bread that I will give you is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live." (52) This started an angry argument among them. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked. (53) Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. (54) Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them to life on the last day. (55) For my flesh is the real food; my blood is the real drink. (56) Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them. (57) The living Father sent me, and because of him I live also. In the same way whoever eats me will live because of me. (58) This, then, is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the bread that your ancestors ate, but then later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

want to decide for you what the scriptures mean, and thus derail you from personally seeking an understanding of what Jesus actually taught. They require that you read and accept their literature and have an approved standing in their sect.^(TT) Just think for a second about what that really means! Once you allow yourself to be dragged along in such thinking, you can no longer know if what you believe is truly based on the Bible. You may no longer be following Christ! Check yourself: Do you believe in the Bible, or in your organizations written materials? It is not the same thing! Every organization that follows their own doctrine while professing faith in the Bible, believes their doctrine is scriptural. *They are not all right!*^(SS) This really isn't difficult to understand. You simply have to remain faithful to Christ, by always relying on your personal knowledge of what our Lord actually did teach (without concern for what other men think).^(FF) You must not expect or accept the approval and adoration of other men and women.^W Some people will love you because you manifest Christian traits,^X but, you can't ever pick and choose who will love

^W [John 15:17-22 GNB](#) This, then, is what I command you: love one another. (18) "If the world hates you, just remember that it has hated me first. (19) If you belonged to the world, then the world would love you as its own. But I chose you from this world, and you do not belong to it; that is why the world hates you. (20) Remember what I told you: 'Slaves are not greater than their master.' If people persecuted me, they will persecute you too; if they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours too. (21) But they will do all this to you because you are mine; for they do not know the one who sent me. (22) They would not have been guilty of sin if I had not come and spoken to them; as it is, they no longer have any excuse for their sin.

^X [Mark 10:28-30 GW](#) Then Peter spoke up, "We've given up everything to follow you." (29) Jesus said, "I can guarantee this truth: Anyone who gave up his home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or fields because of me and the Good News (what Jesus taught in the Gospels) (30) will certainly receive a hundred times as much here in this life. They will certainly receive homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields, along with persecutions. But in the world to come they will receive eternal life.

Scriptures cited on reverse side.

Luke 2:41-52 GNB Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. (42) When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. (43) When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; (44) they thought that he was with the group, so they traveled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. (45) They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. (46) On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. (47) All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. (48) His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you." (49) He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" (50) But they did not understand his answer. (51) So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. (52) Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favor with God and people.

Genesis 3:15 GNB I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel."

Genesis 22:15-18 LITV And the Angel of Jehovah called to Abraham out of the heavens a second time. (16) And He said, I have sworn by Myself, declares Jehovah, that on account of this thing you have done, and have not withheld your son, your only son, (17) that blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which *is* on the shore of the sea. And your Seed shall possess the gate of His enemies. (18) And in your Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed My voice.

6000 Years of Bible recorded history

Year 1: Creation

of Man in 4026 BCE

For more detail visit:
justbibletruth.com/DisplayScroll.html

← 2000 years (+ or -) from
Adam to Abraham →

justbibletruth.com

Abraham Born - in 2150 BCE

↳ Judaism: Nation produced

← 2000 years from
Abraham to Christ

← Bible Written

From 1513 BCE

Some basic Bible history is helpful to understand many of the things people said to Jesus, and how he responded.* God used the nation descended from Abraham to produce the Messiah. Jesus grew up being trained by the Jewish religious leaders. (Luke 2:41-52)

↳ Isaac (Abraham's son)

↳ Jacob (Renamed Israel)

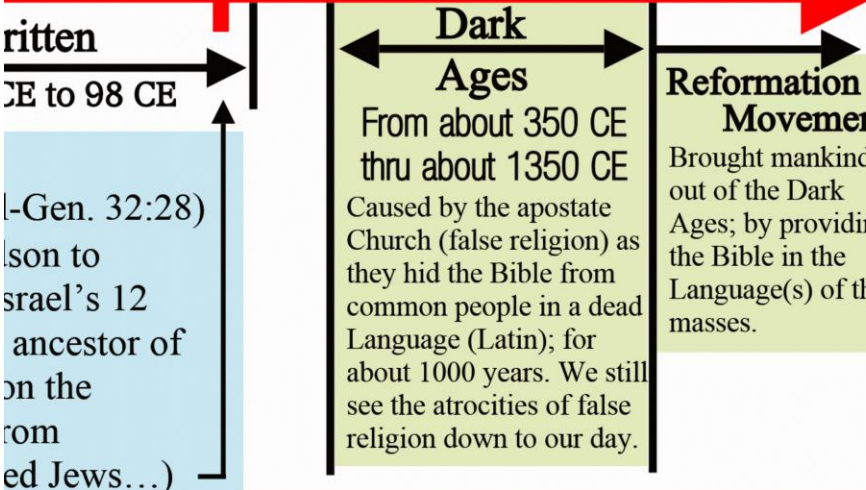
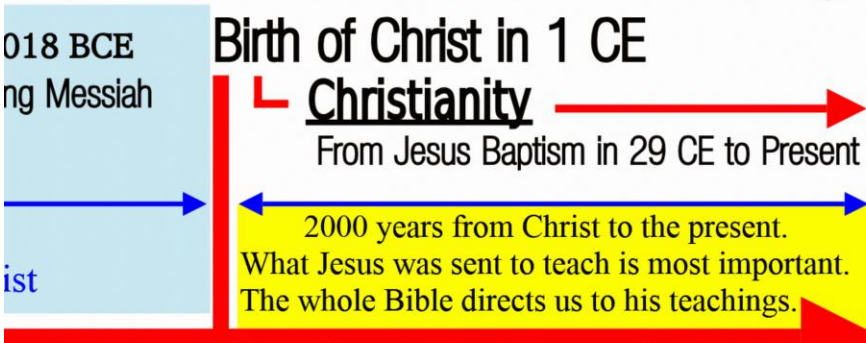
↳ Judah (Great-grandson of Abraham. One of Isaac's sons. Judah was an ancestor of Christ and the nation descended from him)

Abraham were called

*(John 4:19-26) ¹⁹ The [Samaritan] woman said to him: "Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her: "Believe that Jerusalem will YOU people worship the Father. ²² YOU worship what YOU do not know. ²³ Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship him... ²⁵ The woman said to him: "I know that Messiah is coming, who will do all these things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her: "I who am speaking to you am he." [Jesus was the seed]

The Bible Theme: The creation of Adam and Eve is important because after they sinned, God promised He would raise up a "seed of Abraham" who would bless all nations of the earth. The promised "seed" was magnified in Abraham's seed all nations of the earth would be blessed. (Genesis 22:18) Jesus presented himself as the long anticipated "seed" (Messiah) of the Old Testament. The Bible is important because they illustrate the power of the Bible. The Bible's exposure to the Bible. When the Bible was reintroduced, the Bible is the only book that has such power. As Jesus said, what

History: Adam's Creation until today.



phet. ²⁰ Our forefathers worshiped in this mountain; but YOU people say that in
ve me, woman, The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in
now; we worship what we know, because salvation originates with the Jews.
ship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike
ho is called Christ. Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us
d of promise looked for by mankind since the Garden. (Gen. 3:15)]

nt to being able to understand the Bible theme because right
the woman” who would crush Satan’s head. (Gen. 3-15)
ified and clarified in him; as God promised by means of
n. 22:15-18) Christ then becomes *very important* because he
promise. (John 4:19-26)* The period known as the Dark
le. The Dark Ages were caused by mankind being without
Dark Ages of ignorance dissipated in the light of truth. The
at he taught will set us free. (John 8:31-32)

Scriptures cited on reverse side.

John 8:31-32 CEV Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Genesis 32:28 CEV The man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob. You have wrestled with God and with men, and you have won. That's why your name will be Israel."

you.^Y You can't even guess at who they are going to be. God is making the choice of who is approved, just as He is doing in your own case. If you love and stand up for what Jesus taught, others who love the truth will also love you. Don't imagine that will happen, however, in connection with your association with any sect of men. It happens for you personally, just as you (by your own study of the Gospels) learn and express faith in what Jesus taught.^Z

Our day in time is another day of great change.^{AA} Christ is

^Y **John 17:13-26 GNB** And now I am coming to you (Father), and I say these things in the world so that they might have my joy in their hearts in all its fullness. (14) I gave them your message, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. (15) I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One. (16) Just as I do not belong to the world, they do not belong to the world. (17) Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth. (18) I sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. (19) And for their sake I dedicate myself to you, in order that they, too, may be truly dedicated to you. (20) "I pray not only for them, but also for those who believe in me because of their message. (21) I pray that they may all be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me. (22) I gave them the same glory you gave me, so that they may be one, just as you and I are one: (23) I in them and you in me, so that they may be completely one, in order that the world may know that you sent me and that you love them as you love me. (24) "Father! You have given them to me, and I want them to be with me where I am, so that they may see my glory, the glory you gave me; for you loved me before the world was made. (25) Righteous Father! The world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you sent me. (26) I made you known to them, and I will continue to do so, in order that the love you have for me may be in them, and so that I also may be in them."

^Z **John 8:31-32 GNB** So Jesus said to those who believed in him, "If you obey [*remain in*] my teaching, you are really my disciples; (32) [*then*] you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

^{AA} **Luke 21:25-31 ALT** "And [*there*] will be signs in [*the*] sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations with

establishing his kingdom's rule over the earth.^{BB} All who choose to become subjects of that kingdom will be preserved alive under its rule. They will live on forever into the paradise being reestablished. God first created paradise back in the Garden of Eden.^{CC} After He created the paradise for the man and woman,

perplexity [at the] roaring of [the] sea and waves; [cp. Isaiah 34:4; Joel 2:10; 2:31] (26) people fainting [or, ceasing to breathe] from fear and [the] expectation of the [things] coming upon the inhabited earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (27) "And then they will see the Son of Humanity coming in a cloud with power and great glory! [Dan 7:13] (28) "But when these [things] are beginning to happen, straighten up and lift up your_p heads, because your_p redemption is drawing near." (29) And He spoke an allegory to them: "See the fig tree and all the trees; (30) when they [have] already sprouted [leaves], having seen, you_p know for yourselves that the summer is already near. (31) "In this way also when you_p see these [things] happening, be knowing that the kingdom of God is near!

^{BB} 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 ESV (20) But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (21) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (24) Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. (25) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (26) The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (27) For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. (28) When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

^{CC} Isaiah 11:1-12 CEV Like a branch that sprouts from a stump, someone from David's family (Christ) will someday be king. (2) The Spirit of the LORD (יהוה in Hebrew, or Jehovah in English) will be with him to give him understanding, wisdom, and insight. He will be powerful, and he will know and honor the LORD. (3) His greatest joy will be to obey the LORD. This king won't judge by appearances or listen to rumors. (4) The poor and the needy will be treated with fairness and with justice. His word will be law everywhere in the land, and criminals will be put to death. (5)

and told them to fill the earth with their sons and daughters, He said his work was “very good.”^{DD} He would never allow what He intended by that perfect act of creation to go unfulfilled or unrealized. Faith in Christ during these last days, during this time while individuals are being educated by Jesus to know how to call the promises of God upon themselves, will halt the process of getting old and dying.^{EE} (Yes, I am aware saying I hope to live

Honesty and fairness will be his royal robes. (6) Leopards will lie down with young goats, and wolves will rest with lambs. Calves and lions will eat together and be cared for by little children. (7) Cows and bears will share the same pasture; their young will rest side by side. Lions and oxen will both eat straw. (8) Little children will play near snake holes. They will stick their hands into dens of poisonous snakes and never be hurt. (9) Nothing harmful will take place on the LORD's holy mountain. Just as water fills the sea, the land will be filled with people who know and honor the LORD (Jehovah). (10) The time is coming when one of David's descendants will be the signal for the people of all nations to come together. They will follow his advice, and his own nation will become famous. (11) When that day comes, the Lord will again reach out his mighty arm and bring home his people who have survived in Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Ethiopia, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the land along the coast. (12) He will give a signal to the nations, and he will bring together the refugees from Judah and Israel, who have been scattered all over the earth.~

These scriptures make promises to the descendants of Abraham, but all who put faith in Christ are adopted as sons and daughters of Abraham:~

Galatians 3:26-29 CEV All of you are God's children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. (27) And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes. (28) Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman. (29) So if you belong to Christ, you are now part of Abraham's family, and you will be given what God has promised.

^{DD} **Genesis 1:31 ESV** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{EE} **Job 33:16-30 MKJV** then He opens the ear of men and seals their teaching, (17) so that He may turn man *from his* act, that He might hide pride from man. (18) He keeps back his soul from the

forever can make me a grand laughing stock to some - *if it proves untrue*. Really, though, I try not to worry too much what people think.^{FF} I do want people to like me, of course, but I don't want to care so much about what people think that I become like Ananias and Sapphira. My hope of living forever is based on what I believe the Bible teaches. It is my faith. That faith then becomes my hope!

Pit, and his life from perishing by the sword. (19) He is also chastened with pain on his bed, and enduring strife *in* his bones; (20) so that his life is sick of bread, and his soul desirable food. (21) His flesh wastes away, not seen; and his bones laid bare; they were not seen. (22) Yea, his soul draws near to the Pit, and his life to the dealers of death. (23) If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to declare for man his uprightness, (24) then He is gracious to him and says, Deliver him from going down to the Pit; for I have found a ransom. (25) His flesh shall be fresher than in vigor; he shall return to the days of his youth; (26) he shall pray to God, and He will be gracious to him; and he shall see His face with joy, for He will restore to man his righteousness. (27) He will observe to men, and say, I have sinned and perverted righteousness; and it was not equally repaid to me, (28) He has redeemed my soul from passing over into the Pit, and my life shall see the light. (29) Lo, all these *things* God does two or three times with a man, (30) to bring back his soul from the Pit, to be lighted with the light of the living.

^{FF} **1 Corinthians 4:1-6** **ALT** (1) Let a person be considering us in this way, as attendants of Christ and stewards of [*the*] secrets [*or, mysteries, and throughout book*] of God (the teachings of Christ). (2) Now furthermore, what is required among the stewards [*is*] that one be found faithful. (3) But to me it is as an insignificant [*thing*] that I should be examined by you or by [*any*] human day [*fig., human court*], but I do not even examine myself. (4) For I have been conscious of nothing against myself [*fig., my conscience is clear*]; but I have not been justified [*or, acquitted*] by this, but the One examining me is [*the*] Lord. (5) So then, stop judging anything before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden [*things*] of the darkness and will reveal the counsels [*or, intentions*] of the hearts [*fig., inner selves*], and then the praise will come to each from God. (6) Now these [*things*], brothers [*and sisters*], I transformed [*fig., applied*] to myself and to Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you shall learn not to be thinking beyond what has been written, so that you shall not become conceited one on behalf of one against the other.

My hope is, that hope is what is also becoming my reality.)^{GG}
What I hope is in complete harmony with all I know of the Bible and Jesus's teachings. There is no other definition of truth I know, and I know of no scripture that contradicts my faith. If you do, please show me!

Ananias and Sapphira were people who had been instructed by God under the pre-Christian Jewish arrangement.^{HH} Then, they were blessed to be witness as God transferred his spirit from that Jewish nation of people^{II} to all the individual persons (both Jews and Gentiles) who expressed faith in Christ.^{JJ} (Their group form of worship had brought the Jews both group blessings and group responsibility. Because of that group responsibility, the whole nation suffered when Achan sinned.^{1(Q)} I believe part of what God was teaching us by means of them, was not to desire to be part of the crowd, or of any sect of men.) What an honor Ananias and Sapphira had! I really feel the fact God struck them down quickly was an act of kindness toward them. (God is teaching us how to be happy. Those who refuse his counsel can never be happy. The death of those who are truly enemies of God [Ananias and

^{GG} **John 11:25-26 BBE** Jesus said to her, I am myself that day (of resurrection) and that life; he who has faith in me will have life (when I return) even if he is dead; (26) And no one who is living and has faith in me will ever see death. Is this your faith?

^{HH} Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/TheGodBeforeChrist.pdf>

^{II} **Matthew 23:37-38 ESV** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! (38) See, your house is left to you desolate (or, abandoned to you).

^{JJ} **John 4:19-23 CEV** The woman said (to Jesus), "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. (20) My ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say Jerusalem is the only place to worship." (21) Jesus said to her: Believe me, the time is coming when you won't worship the Father either on this mountain or in Jerusalem. (22) You Samaritans don't really know the one you worship. But we Jews do know the God we worship, and by using us, God will save the world. (23) But a time is coming, and it is already here! Even now the true worshipers are being led by the Spirit to worship the Father according to the truth. These are the ones the Father is seeking to worship him.

Sapphira] probably only amounts to putting them out of their misery. Of course, part of the point of this letter is realizing and acknowledging that what I *think*, or what other men and women think, doesn't really matter at all. The only thing that matters is what the Bible clearly teaches.) Peter told us (as recounted by Paul in Acts)^{KK} that Judas fell down and his bowels burst out. I don't know if that scriptural account means he was dead already, or if he died painfully over a long time in the midst of his own "blood and guts;" dying while he was left to reflect on the pain he helped cause the Christ. It doesn't really concern me much, one way or the other, because I am certain God dealt with him in precisely the way he should have been. It may be that even God doesn't care which way he died! He's dead, and he likely won't be resurrected...

Thus, we should all take accountability to be very serious.^{LL} Jesus

^{KK} Acts 1:16-18 GNB "My friends," he said, "the scripture had to come true in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, made a prediction about Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. (17) Judas was a member of our group, for he had been chosen to have a part in our work." (18) (With the money that Judas got for his evil act he bought a field, where he fell to his death; he burst open and all his insides spilled out.

^{LL} Luke 12:46-48 BBE The lord of that servant will come at a time when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not ready for him, and he will have him cut in two and will give him his part in the fate of those who have no faith; (47) And the servant who had knowledge of his lord's desires and was not ready for him and did not do as he was ordered, will be given a great number of blows; (48) But he who, without knowledge, did things for which punishment is given, will get only a small number of blows. The man to whom much is given, will have to give much; if much is given into his care, of him more will be requested.~

James 4:8-17 MKJV Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, sinners; and purify your hearts, double-minded [*indecisive*] ones. (9) Be afflicted, and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to heaviness. (10) Be humbled before the Lord, and He will lift you up. (11) Do not speak against [judge] one another, brothers. He who speaks against *his* brother, and who judges his brother, speaks against the Law and judges the Law. But if you judge the Law, you are not a doer of the Law, but a judge. (12) There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you who

said he came to give us accountability.^{MM} He said he came to speak the truth to us, and that we are judging ourselves by our response to his teachings.^{NN} Judgment is a process of life that leads to ~~exonerati~~*our receiving blessings*, or to the execution of adverse judgment against us. Ananias and Sapphira sat before the judgment seat of Christ by their life course, and by their act of deceit. Then, they received the execution of the judgment of their life. We are each sitting before the judgment seat of Christ in the same sense. It does not require a literal sitting before Christ. We judge ourselves based on our life decisions.^(NN) It might be a little redundant and/or

judges another? (13) Come now, those saying, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and spend a year there, and we will trade and will make a profit, (14) *[those]* who do not know of the morrow *[what tomorrow brings]*. For what *is* your life? For it is *[like]* a vapor, which appears for a little time, and then disappears. (15) Instead of you saying, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that. (16) But now you boast in your presumptions. All such boasting is evil. (17) Therefore to him who knows to do good, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

^{MM} **John 15:22-27 CEV** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin. (23) Everyone who hates me also hates my Father. (24) I have done things that no one else has ever done. If they had not seen me do these things, they would not be guilty. But they did see me do these things, and they still hate me and my Father too. (25) That is why the Scriptures are true when they say, "People hated me for no reason." (26) I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me. (27) Then you will also tell others about me, because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{NN} **John 12:44-50 CEV** In a loud voice Jesus said: Everyone who has faith in me also has faith in the one who sent me. (45) And everyone who has seen me has seen the one who sent me. (46) I am the light that has come into the world. No one who has faith in me will stay in the dark. (47) I am not the one who will judge those who refuse to obey my teachings. I came to save the people of this world, not to be their judge. (48) But everyone who rejects me and my teachings will be judged on the last day by what I have said. (49) I don't speak on my own. I say only what the Father who sent me has told me to say. (50) I know that his commands will bring eternal life. That is why I tell you exactly what the Father has told me.

a waste of Jesus's time to have us literally sit before him while he recaps what bad things we did. In the days of Noah, Noah received the judgment of his life of obedience to God as he floated away alive. At that same time, those who rejected truth died in their sins. As in the days of Noah, so the coming of man will be.^(QQ) We will survive based on our faith in Christ, or we will continue to die as a result of our lack of faith.^(RR) *That* is our judgment. The wicked really don't deserve some formal trial process. We will simply note they no longer exist.^{OO}

As we live through our own generations set of "last days," it is God's purpose to now create the kingdom of Christ to reestablish paradise. This is the final set of "last days" (as far as I can see the Bible teaches), and it is "these last days" that the whole of the Bible has been about. These last days, our last days, are what mankind has been looking forward to since God said at Genesis 3:15^{PP} that He would raise up a seed of the woman who would crush Satan's head! What a wondrous time to be alive. It is the "last days" of this wicked old world system, and the revelation of God's grand purpose to help mankind. And, I believe, it brings another period of high accountability. Failure to show appreciation for what our Grand Creator is doing will likely be viewed with less

^{OO} **Psalms 37:10-20 CEV** Sinners will soon disappear, never to be found, (11) but the poor will take the land and enjoy a big harvest. (12) Merciless people make plots against good people and snarl like animals, (13) but the Lord laughs and knows their time is coming soon. (14) The wicked kill with swords and shoot arrows to murder the poor and the needy and all who do right. (15) But they will be killed by their own swords, and their arrows will be broken. (16) It is better to live right and be poor than to be sinful and rich. (17) The wicked will lose all of their power, but the LORD [*Jehovah*] gives strength to everyone who is good. (18) Those who obey the LORD [*Jehovah*] are daily in his care, and what he has given them will be theirs forever. (19) They won't be in trouble when times are bad, and they will have plenty when food is scarce. (20) Wicked people are enemies of the LORD [*Jehovah*] and will vanish like smoke from a field on fire.

^{PP} **Genesis 3:15 GNB** I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring (Christ Jesus) will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel."

and less patience. In any case, to survive, we must build true faith in the teachings of Christ Jesus. We must not allow ourselves to be led along by some sect of men who want to tell us what Jesus said, and/or, what he meant by what he said. If you allow that, you are actually choosing to worship their sect.^(U) You will then believe anything they say. The blessings available to us, however, by being alive during these “last days,” are wonderful nearly beyond comprehension. In most cases, during these final “last days” of this old system and the revelation of the authority of Christ's kingdom, God is dealing with mankind differently than He did in the days of Ananias and Sapphira. Rather than striking the wicked down, God is simply letting them continue to die as the product of their disobedience to what he sent his son to teach.^(G) At the same time, He is preserving alive all who are made righteous in God's eyes by their faith in his son. It's similar to the days of Noah.^{QQ} Our disobedience to God and the resultant hatred among men, along with mankind's ravaging of our earthly home, has brought the tribulation by our own hand. God has provided salvation for us all by means of the kingdom of Christ. Those who get on board by expressing personal faith in Christ will be preserved alive. The faithless will be swept away as they continue on to die in their sins.^{RR}

I hope this explains why I remain comfortable with my understanding of Ananias and Sapphira, and how I see their judgment as a perfect fit in among the great works our God is doing. Above all else, however, I always try to remember and

^{QQ} **Matthew 24:36-39 BBE** But of that day and hour no one has knowledge, not even the angels in heaven, or the Son, but the Father only. (37) And as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. (38) Because as in those days before the overflowing of the waters, they were feasting and taking wives and getting married, till the day when Noah went into the ark, (39) And they had no care till the waters came and took them all away; so will be the coming of the Son of man.

^{RR} **John 8:23-24 CEV** Jesus answered, "You are from below [*from the earth*], but I am from above. You belong to this world, but I don't. (24) That is why I said you will die [*in your sins, or*] with your sins unforgiven. If you don't have faith in me for who I am (the son of God), you will die, and your sins will not be forgiven."

acknowledge this is my personal understanding: I strive to remain a student of the Bible. As long as I can do that, it keeps me from being judgmental and hateful toward others. If you have other scriptures that shed more light on Ananias and Sapphira, or on my hope in general, please let me know. If it's anything except what the Bible clearly says, however, I am inclined to avoid taking any chance on building faith in something some well-meaning person might be wrong about.^{SS}

As examples of things I don't worry about: One group says God is a trinity and those who don't accept their teaching are lost. Taking the opposite stand, another group says God is head of a theocracy and anyone who doesn't express faith in their understanding is lost. Did you know neither of the words trinity or theocracy appear at all in the Bible? Where, then, do those words come from? From sects of men making up words to “enlighten” those they can deceive to follow after them (as they attempt to replace Christ as leader among men).^{TT} Both groups seek followers who will help

^{SS} [Matthew 7:21-26 YLT](#) `Not every one who is saying to me Lord, lord, shall come into the reign of the heavens; but he who is doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens. (Jesus is the only one who can teach you to do his Father's will. You must listen to Jesus alone, by reading his words.) (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, lord, have we not in thy name prophesied? and in thy name cast out demons? and in thy name done many mighty things? (23) and then I will acknowledge to them, that--I never knew you, depart from me ye who are working lawlessness. (24) `Therefore, every one who doth hear of me these words, and doth do them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house upon the rock; (25) and the rain did descend, and the streams came, and the winds blew, and they beat on that house, and it fell not, for it had been founded on the rock. (26) `And every one who is hearing of me these words, and is not doing them, shall be likened to a foolish man who built his house upon the sand;

^{TT} [Matthew 23:1-11 CEV](#) Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: (2) The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in the Law of Moses. (3) So obey everything they teach you, but don't do as they do. After all, they say one thing and do something else. (4) They pile heavy burdens on people's shoulders and won't lift a finger to help. (5) Everything they do is just to show off in front of others. They even make a big show of

them fight against (physically and/or spiritually) those they judge to be infidels – all who are not approved members of their sect. What I have realized is that if I know who Jesus is, by simply listening to (reading) what he said, I also know his Father because Jesus was sent by God. Knowing at least part of what God taught us by means of his son, then,^(G) I do my best not to get caught up in fighting for the justification of sectarian doctrine. Rather, I just try and parrot what Jesus said. If I do that, neither trinity nor theocracy ever even come up. (On and on the list of doctrinal teachings go: Was Jesus killed by hanging him on a single stake, or on a cross; is it hell fire of torment, or hell fire of destruction; etc.?) I do have strong personal beliefs about most of those doctrines. I have also realized, however, if I just stick with teaching what Jesus taught, those doctrinal points of contention don't even come up. It seems foolish to risk my life by joining some group who assert they have reasoned out the "proper" understanding of those matters, topics which the Bible does not specifically make clear, and then to join in their bold judgment against all who don't share their faith.^{UU}

wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms, and they wear big tassels for everyone to see. (6) They love the best seats at banquets and the front seats in the meeting places. (7) And when they are in the market, they like to have people greet them as their teachers. (8) But none of you should be called a teacher. You have only one teacher, and all of you are like brothers and sisters. (9) Don't call anyone on earth your father. All of you have the same Father in heaven. (10) None of you should be called the leader. The Messiah is your only leader. (11) Whoever is the greatest should be the servant of the others.

^{UU} **Romans 14:1-13 CEV** Welcome all the Lord's followers, even those whose faith is weak. Don't criticize them for having beliefs that are different from yours. (2) Some think it is all right to eat anything, while those whose faith is weak will eat only vegetables. (3) But you should not criticize others for eating or for not eating. After all, God welcomes everyone. (4) What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right, and the Lord will make sure that they do right. (5) Some of the Lord's followers think one day is more important than another. Others think all days are the same. But each of you should make up your own mind. (6) Any followers who count one day more important than another day do it to honor their Lord. And any followers who eat meat give thanks to

You can always spot “religionists” in their “preaching” activity. In any discussion they start with you, they always seek to find some point of contention. Then, they explain what truth “really is,” and judge you lost if you don’t agree with their viewpoint (with their faith). (Christians, on the other hand, simply seek to share Jesus’s words.) Most non-Christian doctrinal contentious beliefs don’t have any positive impact on building and exercising faith in what Jesus Christ taught. They are simply the tools used by sectarian groups to judge others and extoll their own self-righteousness. I do my best to leave it to those who are choosing to continue to die, to continue to debate the doctrines of men.^{VV} I have a simple

God, just like the ones who don't eat meat. (7) Whether we live or die, it must be for God, rather than for ourselves. (8) Whether we live or die, it must be for the Lord. Alive or dead, we still belong to the Lord. (9) This is because Christ died and rose to life, so that he would be the Lord of the dead and of the living. (10) Why do you criticize other followers of the Lord? Why do you look down on them? The day is coming when God will judge all of us. (11) In the Scriptures God says, "I swear by my very life that everyone will kneel down and praise my name!" (12) And so, each of us must give an account to God for what we do. (13) We must stop judging others. We must also make up our minds not to upset anyone's faith.

^{VV} [1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ESV](#) (18) For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (19) For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." (20) Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (21) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. (22) For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, (23) but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, (24) but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (25) For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (26) For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; (28) God chose what is low and despised in

philosophy: Show me from the Bible and I believe. Not some extrapolated explanation of what the scriptures might imply from their root words (or whatever), or the way secular history teaches us it must surely have been, but only what the Bible clearly teaches. There are plenty of the clear and concise teachings by Jesus for me to learn. Actually, I find it is making an application of his teachings in my life that is the bigger task. I want to follow Christ Jesus, but I do know that means I must start with knowing what my Lord actually taught.^{ww} So... Show me from the Bible!

Do not imagine, my old friend, you are causing me to spend too much time in researching these scriptures (as I follow your suggestion to do so). It is good for me above anyone else!^{xx} Also, it has produced a new booklet for my website. (That is partly why the letter has gotten longer. These website booklets amount to records of my own personal Bible study. They are more for me than anyone. Not only does it help me as I look up the scriptures to construct the booklets, but some of the webpages are getting eight or ten years old by now. I review them on a regular basis because I forget. My primary focus, however, remains the Bible.) God willing then, the gist of this letter will soon be a part of a new booklet on the website (JustBibleTruth.com).

the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, (29) so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. (30) And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (31) so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

^{ww} **Hebrews 10:35-39 ESV** Therefore do not throw away your confidence (or freeness of speech), which has a great reward. (36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (37) For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; (38) but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." (39) But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

^{xx} **1 Peter 3:15 GW** But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defense with gentleness and respect.

I don't know how to say what I am about to say without sounding self-righteous and sanctimonious. So... I'll just say it along with my prayer I am not being either of those things. The only place I have peace and hope in these last, last days, is while I am "living" in the Gospels. (Or, when I am talking with others about what Jesus said and did within their pages.) This world is so violent and hateful it scares me just to be alive. When I am not afraid for myself and those I care about, I am made sad by all the suffering I see around me. Over half a million people were killed in Syria in the few years prior to 2016. Sixty five million people were made homeless throughout the earth in 2015. That's just two of the troubles that readily come to mind from the tribulation consuming our day. I was in an auto tire store the other day for maybe an hour. During that hour, two young men came in looking for jobs and a third came in spraying cleaner on the carpet trying to sell the cleaner. Our nation is not immune to the sufferings of most of the world. Many people believe America has been protected in the past because a large portion of the nation had faith in the Bible. I don't doubt that, but I am not sure it can be said any longer. People often confuse faith in God with faith in the Bible. They are very different. *We must have both.* The Bible, and more specifically the teachings God's son, is our only source of knowledge about the true God. These are terrible days and they are not getting better.^{YY}

^{YY} [Matthew 24:4-14 CEV](#) Jesus answered: Don't let anyone fool you. (5) Many will come and claim to be me. They will say that they are the Messiah (or that they alone have his message), and they will fool many people. (6) You will soon hear about wars and threats of wars, but don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. (7) Nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other. People will starve to death, and in some places there will be earthquakes. (8) But this is just the beginning of troubles. (9) You will be arrested, punished, and even killed. Because of me, you will be hated by people of all nations. (10) Many will give up and will betray and hate each other. (11) Many false prophets will come and fool a lot of people. (12) Evil will spread and cause many people to stop loving others. (13) But if you keep on being faithful right to the end, you will be saved. (14) When the good news about the kingdom has been

Within the Gospel pages of the Bible, however, reading the words of our Lord and learning how he dealt with people, all the pain and suffering is pushed back. I do know it is still going on around me, but I also believe God is helping every single person who will allow themselves to be drawn to listen to his son.^{ZZ} Within the Gospel books resides the world of reality. All that we see out here in this old world system is passing away.^{AAA} You might have been able to warn the captain before the Titanic hit the iceberg. Once its side was cleaved open, being a survivor of its sinking (a lifeboat) was the only option. The side of this world has been cleaved open and survival through faith in Christ is the only hope. Don't be caught polishing the brass on a sinking ship. So... It is limited what I can do to help the suffering people of this world. There are just too many of them. Also, I must remember as I try to help, it is God's purpose for this old world system and all those who support it to be destroyed. The salvation of each individual thus rests in his/her own hand. So, I don't really have a clue which ones to try and help! The faithfulness of ancient Lot could not save even his own wife.^{BBB} Her connection to righteous through her husband was

preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come.

^{ZZ} **John 6:43-44 CEV** Jesus told them: Stop grumbling! (44) No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me makes them want to come. But if they do come, I will raise them to life on the last day.

^{AAA} **1 John 2:15-18 GW** Don't love the world and what it offers. Those who love the world don't have the Father's love in them. (16) Not everything that the world offers-physical gratification, greed, and extravagant lifestyles-comes from the Father. It comes from the world, and (17) the world and its evil desires are passing away. But the person who does what God wants lives forever. (18) Children, it's the end of time. You've heard that an antichrist (one teaching lies of men as Christ's teachings) is coming. Certainly, many antichrists are already here. That's how we know it's the end of time.

^{BBB} **Genesis 19:15-26 GNB** הוהי (Jehovah) is a God of loving kindness. He was, in Lot's day, selecting and using people to produce his promised Messiah (whom He said would come through Abraham). He had to protect those people He was using, so truth and true worship could be preserved. For those reasons, he had to destroy people who made themselves, by their life

a great protection for her. The angels literally dragged her out of the doomed city. Even so, in the final scene, her life rested in her own personal choice. So... What can *I* really do? I must love everyone!^{CCC} And, I can be happy! Happy because I do have faith, even in the midst of all these troubles, God is helping every single person who is looking to him for a way out. The only help I can really be, then, is to be prepared to explain to everyone what is happening to them and why it is happening; when and if they give me a chance to do so.^(XX) Building faith in Christ is what can help each one of us directly, and then, can help all those who will listen to Christ through us. Such is my life. I thank יהוה (Jewish word sounding like Yea•Vah in English – from the Hebrew Scriptures) for it. Apart from my hope in the Bible, I would be just another member of the group of people who are taking no notice: I would be in among those buying and selling, marrying and being given in

course, enemies of what He was doing. Sodom and Gomorrah were cities who had in that way made themselves enemies of God. (see also: Genesis 17:1-19:38)] At dawn the angels tried to make Lot hurry. "Quick!" they said. "Take your wife and your two daughters and get out, so that you will not lose your lives when the city is destroyed." (16) Lot hesitated. The LORD, however, had pity on him; so the men took him, his wife, and his two daughters by the hand and led them out of the city. (17) Then one of the angels said, "Run for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop in the valley. Run to the hills, so that you won't be killed." (18) But Lot answered, "No, please don't make us do that, sir. (19) You have done me a great favor and saved my life. But the hills are too far away; the disaster will overtake me, and I will die before I get there. (20) Do you see that little town? It is near enough. Let me go over there---you can see it is just a small place---and I will be safe." (21) He answered, "All right, I agree. I won't destroy that town. (22) Hurry! Run! I can't do anything until you get there." Because Lot called it small, the town was named Zoar. (23) The sun was rising when Lot reached Zoar. (24) Suddenly the LORD rained burning sulfur on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (25) and destroyed them and the whole valley, along with all the people there and everything that grew on the land. (26) But Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.

^{CCC} John 13:34-35 GNB And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (35) If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

marriage, until the (flood waters of the) tribulation has swept away all that is ~~bad~~ *is not good*.^(QQ) I am thrilled to be alive as we are witness to the revelation of the kingdom of Christ during the last “last days,” as he is destroying all that causes harm.^(BB) All those individuals who are trees planted by God, making themselves so by having their roots established in the teachings of his Christ, will stand firm. All who are not firmly rooted in what Jesus actually taught will be washed away in the destruction of this system. I do thank God he is destroying all those persons who are causing pain and suffering, both by their acts of actually killing and/or harming others, as well as those who support harmful persons by refusing to learn and obey what Jesus taught. **The point is this: A lie becomes a serious thing for persons who have been made accountable by their knowledge of truth. A single lie told by Satan to Eve is what caused all this badness.**^{DDD} Those determined to be disobedient to God’s spirit of truth will each one be held accountable, just as surely as were Ananias and Sapphira.^{EEE}

^{DDD} **Genesis 2:15-17 MKJV** And Jehovah God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (16) And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree in the garden, (17) but you shall not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.~

Genesis 3:1-5 MKJV Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, *Is it* so that God has said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (2) And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. (3) But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die. (4) And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die, (5) for God knows that in the day you eat of it, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as God, knowing good and evil.

^{EEE} **Revelation 21:8 CEV** But I will tell you what will happen to cowards and to everyone who is unfaithful or dirty-minded or who murders or is sexually immoral or uses witchcraft or worships idols or tells lies. They will be thrown into that lake of fire and burning sulfur. This is the second death. (The first death is that we are all born dying as sons of Adam. The second death happens when we have counted the gift of Christ as of no value. There is no coming back from the second death. That is apparently what

I appreciate you my old friend, and I always enjoy talking about the Bible with you. These scriptures, then, express what I know about Ananias and Sapphira. If you have other Bible verses that tell us more, please let me know.

Why God sometimes seems tolerant of badness! The wicked have been tolerated to exist for a brief time (in God's view of time) so as to provide an eternal touchstone witness for/to all creation. With the knowledge available by looking back over mankind's 6000 year history since Adam,^(A) seeing all the problems disobedience to God has brought, along with knowledge of what God went through to fix those problems, never again will there be a need to tolerate badness. The creation is being put back on the same track (and probably even the same timetable) it would be on if Satan had never even interfered with God's handiwork.^(OO) Once again, God will look at the works of his hands and say it is "very good."^(DD) Ananias and Sapphira, along with all the Bible record, will stand forever as examples of why there will never again be any need to tolerate badness. Everyone will know and fully understand the terrible consequences brought by

happened to Ananias and Sapphira. – [Hebrews 10:26-31](#) ²⁶ For if we practice sin willfully after having received the accurate knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins left, ²⁷ but [there is] a certain fearful expectation of judgment and [there is] a fiery jealousy that is going to consume those in opposition. ²⁸ Any man that has disregarded the law of Moses dies without compassion, upon the testimony of two or three. ²⁹ Of how much more severe a punishment, do YOU think, will the man be counted worthy who has trampled upon the Son of God and who has esteemed as of ordinary value the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has outraged the spirit of undeserved kindness with contempt? ³⁰ For we know him that said: "Vengeance is mine; I will recompense"; and again: "Jehovah will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of [the] living God. [Deuteronomy 32:35 & 36]

disobedience to our Father, and from the pain of humanity, why it can never again be tolerated. Ananias and Sapphira knew that (because they were being specifically used by God as He worked to fix the problems afflicting mankind)! They just didn't care.~

Psalms 83:13-18 King James Version O my God, make them (the wicked) like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. (14) As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; (15) So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. (16) Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD [הוהי]. (17) Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: (18) That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH [הוהי], art the most high over all the earth.

A Confession: To please God we must start by knowing what He promised, so we can then have faith to receive those promises. Knowing what is true, however, does not make you righteous, or put you in line for the reward. I wrote this letter, and, if you have read the account of Ananias and Sapphira,^(H) you know what a serious matter telling a lie can be. The righteous do not lie! In the midst of writing the letter (it took several days), and looking up the scriptures about these two people who were killed by God, I coincidentally backed into a concrete slab and damaged my truck. It happened late at night and in a deserted area so no one knew. When I reported the event, the thought entered my mind that the insurance company might view me in a better light about raising my rates if I had not been driving the truck. They would have to pay the same for the damage, however it happened. No one could know! So, I lied and told them it happened in a parking lot and I didn't know exactly how. Again, no one would know! It finally dawned on me, while saying in this letter I could not imagine how Ananias and Sapphira could lie like they did, that I was doing precisely what that couple^(H) (*as well as Achan and his household*) had done. I had seen something I wanted (to not have my insurance rates raised), and so I took it.^(Q) So... I called my insurance company, told them what I had done, and corrected my statement. If we love God, we must express our faith through obedience.^{FFF} I pray and have faith God has forgiven me, but it certainly

^{FFF} **1 John 5:1-5 GNB** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Messiah is a child of God; and whoever loves a father loves his child also. (2) This is how we know that we love God's children: it is by loving God and obeying his commands. (3) For our love for God means

illustrates how easy it is for me to do the wrong thing. This letter is an expression of my faith. My confessed sin illustrates, however, that I can't possibly tell you how to build your own faith: Except by encouraging you to gain your own intimate and personal knowledge of what God sent Jesus to teach us.^(G) We are all just sinners. Directing you to Jesus is the absolute most help anyone can offer you.^(TT) Isn't that precisely how it should be? Isn't that what our Father wants?^{GGG}

that we obey his commands. And his commands are not too hard for us, (4) because every child of God is able to defeat the world. And we win the victory over **the** world by means of our faith. (5) Who can defeat the world? Only the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

^{GGG} **Matthew 17:5 GW** He [*Peter*] was still speaking when a bright cloud overshadowed them. Then a voice came out of the cloud and said, "This is my Son, whom I love and with whom I am pleased. Listen to him!"

The following translations may have been quoted in this document:
ALT - Analytical Literal Translation (1999-2001 by Gary F. Zeolla)
ASV - American Standard Version (by the American revision committee in 1897).

Darby - 1884, 1889 Darby Bible (John Nelson Darby)

DRB - 1899 Douay-Rheims Bible

BBE - 1949, 1964 Bible in Basic English (Cambridge Press)

LITV - Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (1976-2000 by J. P. Green)

KJV - King James Version (1769)

MKJV - Modern King James Version (1962-1998 by J. P. Green Sr.)

MWT - Modern World Translation

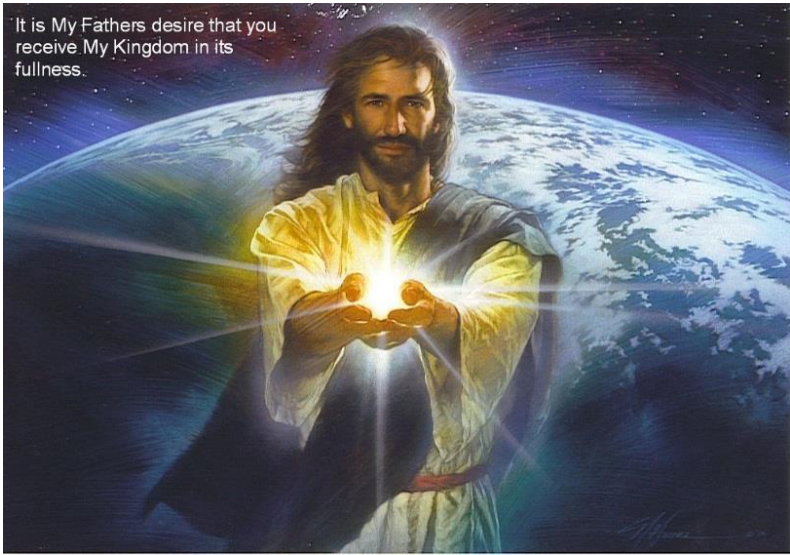
Webster - 1833 Webster Bible (Noah Webster)

RV - Revised Version (King James Revised Version)

YLT - Young's Literal Translation (1862, 1898)

A note to all those who claim to be followers of Christ, but remain members of one of the many sectarian groups.^(U) If you are calling yourself by any name other than, well, “Christian,”^{HHH} please consider: If you assert your faith in Christ, you should know how God transferred his blessing and spirit from the Jewish nation (after 2000 years of using them to produce the seed of the woman), to the new Christian congregation. He did so at the time Jesus presented himself as the Jewish Messiah.^(A) God has obviously blessed that new Christian congregation for the 2000 years since, because He was using them to protect and spread Bible knowledge. We are likely witnessing another change as **יהוה** [*Yea-Vah*] transfers his spirit from that “organization” He has used since Christ, to the “individuals” who express personal faith in God’s arrangement for the preservation of life. **It is not the congregation being preserved, it is individual Christians.**^(JJ) If you continue following sectarian leaders who want you to obey and bless them, you are likely missing the point of what is happening in our day in time.^(QQ) Many doctors proclaim a treatment works for a patient (or at least works best) when the patient “believes” it will work. They probably don’t think about what those words mean, but they are really describing that the person’s faith cures them. Think about how that can work: As you first learn, and then build faith in the promises of God,^(EE) those promises will come true for you. Jesus came to teach you that!^(G)

^{HHH} **Acts 11:26 MWT** He found Saul and brought him to Antioch, where they met with the congregation for a whole year and taught many of its people. It was there in Antioch that the Lord's followers were first by divine providence called Christians.



The light of truth brought by Jesus is restoring the world our Father created back in Eden.^(BB) & ^(CC) Life in that paradise is freely offered to you. All that is required is your faith in Christ Jesus. Such faith presupposes, of course, that you first put forth the effort to learn what Jesus came to teach.^(Z) Humble yourself to listen to the son of God.ⁱⁱⁱ Read the Gospels until they are familiar!

ⁱⁱⁱ **Daniel 7:18 CEV** But God Most High will give his kingdom to his chosen ones, and it will be theirs forever and ever."~
Mark 10:15 YLT verily I say to you, whoever may not receive the reign of God, as a child--he may not enter into it;~
Matthew 18:1-4 YLT At that hour came the disciples near to Jesus, saying, `Who, now, is greater in the reign of the heavens?' (2) And Jesus having called near a child, did set him in the midst of them, (3) and said, `Verily I say to you, if ye may not be turned and become as the children, ye may not enter into the reign of the heavens; (4) whoever then may humble himself as this child, he is the greater in the reign of the heavens.
