

HEAVEN OR HELL?

this age  
OF  
eternal decision





## OVERVIEW

**W**hile he was still in the world Jesus' disciples asked him, "what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" Their belief was that as the messiah (God's anointed one) he would very soon establish the faithful Jews as God's chosen people, he would deliver Israel from its Roman masters and set up his earthly millennial kingdom with himself ruling as king from Jerusalem.

**B**ut as he had told them before, this was not yet his time to judge the world for its sin. Indeed the Christ (Greek form of messiah) had first to die for the sins of the world. Two 'kingdoms' would then co-exist as he built his church. One is the passing kingdom of darkness (the last times, this present evil age), the other God's eternal kingdom of light (the age to come) that for the moment is only evident in the hearts and minds of Christ's followers.

**H**is Gospel ministry, sacrificial death for the sins of humanity, and resurrection to God's right hand, is the opportunity for each of us to make an 'eternal decision'. Receive Jesus Christ as the son of God, believe in him as saviour, follow him as lord and king - then his death will allow God to declare a verdict of 'not guilty, price for sin paid by his son'.

**D**espite such a gift being offered freely to mankind, christ wept over the many then and throughout the 'last days' who would love their sin and the 'world' more than him. what was true 2000 years ago is still true now, and will be true until the lord jesus christ returns, that each individual has one opportunity, in this temporal mortal life, to make a decision either to be for god or against him - there is no middle ground. and whatever choice each one makes will prove to be eternally binding. but jesus said, "wide is the gate and broad the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it."

**T**wo ages have been 'unfolding' since christ was crucified & died, was resurrected and ascended. he said there would be tribulation in the world as the destiny of humanity unfolded (read matthew 24, mark 13, luke 21 and the book of revelation). but christ is nevertheless building his church as he promised, and its living stones will be jew and gentile, male and female, from all walks of life and from all ethnic backgrounds. but many will refuse him, dismiss him, ignore him, reject or hate him - despite his offer, by grace, of everlasting life in the kingdom of god. he actually 'summed up' the very nature and progress of the 'church age' in seven parables recorded in matthew, chapter 13.

**W**hen Jesus came into the region of caesarea philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "who do men say that i, the son of man, am?" so they said, "some say john the baptist, some elijah, and others jeremiah or one of the prophets." he said to them, "but who do you say that i am?" simon peter answered and said, "you are the christ, the son of the living god."

**J**esus answered and said to him, "blessed are you, simon bar-jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but my father who is in heaven. and i also say to you that you are peter, and on this rock [that jesus is god and saviour] i will build my church, and the gates of hades [death] shall not prevail against it. and i will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." matthew, chapter 16

**A**nd jesus said to them, "i am the bread of life. he who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. but i said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. all that the father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me i will by no means cast out.

**F**OR I have come down FROM heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. this is the will of the father who sent me, that of all he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. and this is the will of him who sent me, that everyone who sees the son and believes in him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." John, chapter 6

**T**hen Jesus said to them again, "I am the good shepherd; and I know my *sheep*, and am known by my own. as the father knows me, even so I know the father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**A**nd other sheep I have [gentiles] which are not of this fold [jews]; them also I must bring, and they will hear my voice; and there will be one flock [his church] *and* one shepherd. therefore my father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again.

**N**o one takes it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. this command I have received from my father." John, chapter 10

**T**hen martha said to jesus, "lord, if you had been here, my brother [lazarus] would not have died. but even now i know that whatever you ask of god, god will give you." jesus said to her, "your brother will rise again." martha said to him, "i know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

**J**esus said to her, "i am the resurrection and the life. he who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. do you believe this?" she said to him, "yes, lord, i believe that you are the christ, the son of god, who is to come into the world."

**T**hen jesus, again groaning in himself, came to the tomb. it was a cave, and a stone lay against it. jesus said, "take away the stone." martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to him, "lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." jesus said to her, "did i not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of god?" then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. and jesus lifted up *his* eyes and said, "father, i thank you that you have heard me. and i know that you always hear me, but because of the people who are standing by i said *this*, that they may believe that you sent me."



**N**ow when he had said these things, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" and he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave-clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "loose him, and let him go." then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in him. *John, chapter 11*

**T**hen Jesus said to them, "a little while longer the light is with you. walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. while you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.

**I** have come *as* a light into the world, that whoever believes in me should not abide in darkness. and if anyone hears my words and does not believe, i do not judge him; for i did not come to judge the world but to save the world. he who rejects me, and does not receive my words, has that which judges him - the word that i have spoken will judge him in the last day. for i have not spoken on my own *authority*; but the Father who sent me gave me a command, what i should say and what i should speak. and i know that his command is everlasting life. therefore, whatever i speak, just as the Father has told me, so i speak." *John, chapter 12*

**L**et not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwellings; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. and where I go you know, and the way you know."

**T**homas [one of Jesus' 12 disciples] said to him, "lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. no one comes to the Father except through me. if you had known me, you would have known my Father also; and from now on you know him and have seen him."

**P**hilip [another of his 12] said to him, "lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me, philip? he who has seen me has seen [God] the Father; so how can you say, 'show us the Father'? do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in me does the works. believe me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in me, or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves." John, chapter 14

**T**hen Jesus answered and said to them, "FOR THE FATHER JUDGES NO ONE, BUT HAS COMMITTED ALL JUDGEMENT TO THE SON, THAT ALL SHOULD HONOUR THE SON JUST AS THEY HONOUR THE FATHER. HE WHO DOES NOT HONOUR THE SON DOES NOT HONOUR THE FATHER WHO SENT HIM. MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO HEARS MY WORD AND BELIEVES IN HIM WHO SENT ME HAS EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SHALL NOT COME INTO JUDGEMENT, BUT HAS PASSED FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.

**M**OST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, THE HOUR IS COMING, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE DEAD WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD; AND THOSE WHO HEAR WILL LIVE. FOR AS THE FATHER HAS LIFE IN HIMSELF, SO HE HAS GRANTED THE SON TO HAVE LIFE IN HIMSELF, AND HAS GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE JUDGEMENT ALSO, BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF MAN. I CAN OF MYSELF DO NOTHING. AS I HEAR, I JUDGE; AND MY JUDGEMENT IS RIGHTEOUS, BECAUSE I DO NOT SEEK MY OWN WILL BUT THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHO SENT ME.

**Y**OU SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES, FOR IN THEM YOU THINK YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE; AND THESE ARE THEY WHICH TESTIFY OF ME. BUT YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO COME TO ME THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE. HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE, WHO RECEIVE HONOUR FROM ONE ANOTHER, AND DO NOT SEEK THE HONOUR THAT *COMES* FROM THE ONLY GOD?" JOHN, CHAPTER 5

IN THE LAST DAYS

parables that explain  
the  
church age

**D**URING his earthly ministry the son of God, Jesus Christ, gave his disciples – and through them the whole world – the word of the Lord revealed in Holy Scripture's new testament. The apostle Paul affirmed in II Timothy 3, 'all Scripture is given by inspiration of God' (is 'God-breathed' through the agency of the Holy Spirit).

**J**esus spoke in simple language. He spoke in parables. He spoke in prophecies. He spoke through the law and writings of the old testament. He said, "sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth." Jesus said, "I will build my church and death will not prevail against it". But the Hebrew 'old testament' made no mention of the church, so to his disciples Jesus was revealing a 'mystery'.

**H**e explained the nature of the 'church age' as parables, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. **In** two parables he revealed that many would reject him and that true believers and unbelievers would exist side-by-side. **In** two parables he said that from a 'tiny' beginning his church would fill the world. **In** two parables he revealed that his salvation is a priceless treasure that must be personally claimed by a believer. **In** two parables he made clear that God's judgment will come upon all at the end of the age – especially upon those who reject his son's offer of grace.

**T**hen he spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "behold, a sower went out to sow. and as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. but when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. and some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. but others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

**A**nd the disciples came and said to him, "why do you speak to them in parables?" he answered and said to them, "because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. but blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, i say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*."

**T**herefore hear the parable of the sower: when anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. this is he who received seed by the wayside.

**B**ut he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

**N**ow he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares [distractions?] of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. but he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." matthew, chapter 13

**A**nother parable he put forth to them, saying: "the kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy [satan] came and sowed tares [rye grass with poisonous seeds] among the wheat and went his way. but when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. so the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? how then does it have tares?'"

**H**e said to them, 'an enemy has done this.' the servants said to him, 'do you want us then to go and gather them up?' but he said, 'no, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest i will say to the reapers, "first gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'" matthew, chapter

**A**nother parable he put forth to them, saying: "the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches." matthew, chapter 13

**A**nother parable he spoke to them: "the kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

**A**ll these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable he did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world." matthew, chapter 13

**T**hen Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. and his disciples came to him, saying, "explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." he answered and said to them: "he who sows the good seed [the gospel] is the son of man [himself]. the field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom [true believers], but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.



**T**he enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

**T**he son of man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and those who practise lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their father. he who has ears to hear, let him hear!" matthew, chapter 13

**"A**gain, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field [obviously not belonging to the field's owner], which a man found and hid; and for joy over it [because salvation is priceless] he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

**A**gain, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it [this individual was seeking after truth and knew when he'd found it]." matthew, chapter 13

"**A**gain, the kingdom of heaven is like a DRAGNET [a GREAT CIRCULAR NET attached at both ends so that everything in it was inexorably dragged to shore] that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. so it will be at the end of the age. the angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the FURNACE OF FIRE. there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Jesus said to them, "have you understood all these things?" they said to him, "yes, lord." matthew, chapter 13

"**W**hen the son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. and he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

**T**hen the king will say to those on his right hand, 'come, you blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you clothed me;

- I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.'

**T**hen the righteous will answer him, saying, 'lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? when did we see you a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?' and the king will answer and say to them, 'assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these my brethren, you did *it* to me.'

**T**hen he will also say to those on the left hand, 'depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

**T**hen they also will answer him, saying, 'lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' then he will answer them, saying, 'assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to me.' and these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."  
matthew, chapter 25

HEAVEN OR HELL?

this age  
OF  
GRACE & JUDGMENT

**D**URING his earthly ministry the son of God, Jesus Christ, gave his disciples – and through them the whole world – the word of the Lord revealed in Holy Scripture's new testament. The apostle Paul affirmed in II Timothy 3, 'all Scripture is given by inspiration of God' (is 'God-breathed' through the agency of the Holy Spirit).

**J**esus spoke in simple language. He spoke in parables. He spoke in prophecies. He spoke through the law and writings of the old testament. He said, "sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth."

**H**e promised eternal life to those who receive him, believe in him and serve him in the world. He promised judgment and damnation to those who reject his offer of grace – freely given to us, though purchasing our redemption cost God that most valuable to him – the life of his beloved son.

**A** wise person will surely read the word of Scripture diligently, bearing in mind that to consider Christ's death a vain or paltry thing, or to trample into the dirt the precious and holy blood of the Lamb of God is the ultimate offence to the Creator of heaven and earth. Oh, and the one before whom we will all stand and give account for the things done in the body!

**B**ut, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. the lord is not slack concerning *his* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. but the day of the lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. || *PETER, CHAPTER 3*

**J**esus answered and said to him [*nichodemus*], "no one has ascended to heaven but he who came down from heaven, *that is*, the son of man who is in heaven. and as moyses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up [*CRUCIFIED FOR THE SINS OF HUMANITY*], that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. for god so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. for god did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

**A**nd this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. but he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in god." john, chapter 3

**B**UT GOD, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us [christian believers], even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in christ jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us in christ jesus. FOR by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of god, not of works, lest anyone should boast. ephesians, chapter 2

**"O** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! how often i wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! see! your house is left to you desolate; for i say to you, you shall see me no more till you say, 'blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord!'" matthew, chapter 23

**L**et this mind be in you which was also in christ jesus, who, being in the form of god, did not consider it robbery to be equal with god, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. therefore god also has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every name, that at the name of jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that jesus christ is lord, to the glory of god the father.  
philippians, chapter 2

**T**he word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the lord jesus and believe in your heart that god has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. for with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. for the scripture says, "whoever believes on him will not be put to shame." for there is no distinction between jew and greek, for the same lord over all is rich to all who call upon him. for "whoever calls on the name of the lord shall be saved." romans, chapter



**N**OW AFTER THE sabbath, as the FIRST *day* of the week [sunday] began to dawn, mary magdalene and the other mary came to see the tomb [of the CRUCIFIED JESUS CHRIST]. and behold, there was a GREAT EARTHQUAKE; FOR an angel OF THE LORD descended FROM heaven, and came and rolled back the stone FROM the door, and sat on it. his countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. and the GUARDS [ROMAN SOLDIERS] shook FOR FEAR OF him, and became like dead *men*. but the angel answered and said to the women, "do not be AFRAID, FOR I know that you seek jesus who was CRUCIFIED. he is NOT here; FOR he IS RISEN, as he said. come, see the place where the lord lay. and go quickly and tell his disciples that he IS RISEN FROM the dead, and indeed he is going before you into galilee; there you will see him."

**T**hen the eleven disciples went away into galilee, to the mountain which jesus had appointed for them. when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. and jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all things that i have commanded you; and lo, i am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." amen. matthew, chapter 28

**M**en of Israel [and the whole world], hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves also know – him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that he should be held by it. For [king] David says concerning him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For you will not leave my soul in hades, nor will you allow your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of joy in your presence.'

**M**en and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, he would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that his soul was not left in hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

**T**his Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the holy spirit, he poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'the Lord said to my Lord, "sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool."' therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

**N**ow when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter [the apostle] and the rest of the apostles, "men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" then Peter said to them, "repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the holy spirit.

**F**or the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." and with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "be saved from this perverse generation." acts, chapter

**N**OW peter and john [the apostles] went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. and a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing peter and john about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

**A**ND FIXING his eyes on him, with john, peter said, "look at us." so he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. then peter said, "silver and gold i do not have, but what i do have i give you: in the name of jesus christ of nazareth, rise up and walk." and he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. so he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them walking, leaping, and praising god. and all the people saw him walking and praising god. then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the beautiful gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. now as the lame man who was healed held on to peter and john, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called solomon's, greatly amazed.

**S**o when peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: "men of israel, why do you marvel at this? or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? the god of abraham, isaac, and jacob, the god of our fathers, glorified his servant jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go. but you denied the holy one and the just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the prince of life, whom god raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

**A**nd his name, through faith in his name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. yes, the faith which *comes* through him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. yet now, brethren, i know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. but those things which god foretold by the mouth of all his prophets, that the christ would suffer, he has thus fulfilled. repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the lord, and that he may send jesus christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which god has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

**F**OR MOSES TRULY SAID TO THE FATHERS, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN. HIM YOU SHALL HEAR IN ALL THINGS, WHATEVER HE SAYS TO YOU. AND IT SHALL BE *that* EVERY SOUL WHO WILL NOT HEAR *that* PROPHET SHALL BE UTTERLY DESTROYED FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE.' YES, AND ALL THE PROPHETS, FROM SAMUEL AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW, AS MANY AS HAVE SPOKEN, HAVE ALSO FORETOLD THESE DAYS. YOU ARE SONS OF THE PROPHETS, AND OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD MADE WITH OUR FATHERS, SAYING TO ABRAHAM, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.' TO YOU FIRST, GOD, HAVING RAISED UP HIS SERVANT JESUS, SENT HIM TO BLESS YOU, IN TURNING AWAY EVERY ONE *OF YOU* FROM YOUR INIQUITIES." ACTS, CHAPTER 3

**"** **A**ll flesh *is* as GRASS, and all the glory OF man as the FLOWER OF THE GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, and ITS FLOWER FALLS AWAY, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." THEREFORE IT IS ALSO CONTAINED IN THE SCRIPTURE, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHIEF CORNERSTONE, ELECT, PRECIOUS, and he who believes on him [CHRIST] will by no means be put to shame." THEREFORE, TO YOU WHO BELIEVE, *he is* PRECIOUS; BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE," AND "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENCE." 1 PETER, CHAPTERS

**T**hen paul [the apostle] stood in the midst of the areopagus [mar's hill] and said, "men of athens, i perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as i was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, i even found an altar with this inscription: to the unknown god. therefore, the one whom you worship without knowing, him i proclaim to you: god, who made the world and everything in it, since he is lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. nor is he worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, since he gives to all life, breath, and all things. and he has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the lord, in the hope that they might grope for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us; for in him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'for we are also his offspring.' truly, these times of ignorance god overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has appointed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. he has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead." acts, chapter 17

**B**lessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the lord, and in his law he meditates day and night.

**H**e shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

**T**he ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**F**or the lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

**W**hy do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the lord and against his anointed, saying, "let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."



**H**e who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the lord shall hold them in derision. Then he shall speak to them in his wrath, and distress them in his deep displeasure: "yet I have set my king on my holy hill of Zion."

**"I** will declare the decree: the lord has said to me, 'you *are* my son, today I have begotten you. ask of me, and I will give you the nations *for* your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* your possession. you shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

**N**ow therefore, be wise, o kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. serve the lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

**K**iss the son, lest he be angry, and you perish *in* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. blessed *are* all those who put their trust in him.

**W**IT IS ENOUGH FOR a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. therefore whoever confesses me before men, him i will also confess before my father who is in heaven. but whoever denies me before men, him i will also deny before my father who is in heaven. do not think that i came to bring peace on earth. i did not come to bring peace but a sword. for i have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies *will be* those of his *own* household.' he who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. and he who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. he who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it."

**A**nd when john had heard in prison about the works of christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to him, "are you the coming one [messiah, the christ], or do we look for another?" jesus answered and said to them, "go and tell john the things which you hear and see: *the* blind see and *the* lame walk; *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear; *the* dead are raised up and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them."

matthew, chapters 10 & 11

**F**OR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN WITH A SHOUT, WITH THE VOICE OF AN ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE TRUMPET OF GOD. AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. THEN WE WHO ARE ALIVE *AND* REMAIN SHALL BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR. AND THUS WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD.

**B**UT CONCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS, BRETHREN, YOU HAVE NO NEED THAT I SHOULD WRITE TO YOU. FOR YOU YOURSELVES KNOW PERFECTLY THAT THE DAY OF THE LORD SO COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT. FOR WHEN THEY SAY, "PEACE AND SAFETY!" THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMES UPON THEM, AS LABOUR PAINS UPON A PREGNANT WOMAN. AND THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE.

**T**HEREFORE LET US NOT SLEEP, AS OTHERS DO, BUT LET US WATCH AND BE SOBER. FOR THOSE WHO SLEEP, SLEEP AT NIGHT, AND THOSE WHO GET DRUNK ARE DRUNK AT NIGHT. BUT LET US WHO ARE OF THE DAY BE SOBER, PUTTING ON THE BREASTPLATE OF FAITH AND LOVE, AND *AS* A HELMET THE HOPE OF SALVATION.

**F**OR GOD DID NOT APPOINT US TO WRATH, BUT TO OBTAIN SALVATION THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO DIED FOR US, THAT WHETHER WE WAKE OR SLEEP, WE SHOULD LIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM. 1 THESSALONIANS, CHAPTERS 4 & 5

**N**OW, brethren, CONCERNING THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND OUR GATHERING TOGETHER TO HIM, WE ASK YOU, NOT TO BE SOON SHAKEN IN MIND OR TROUBLED, EITHER BY SPIRIT OR BY WORD OR BY LETTER, AS IF FROM US, AS THOUGH THE DAY OF CHRIST HAD COME.

**L**ET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU BY ANY MEANS; FOR *that day will not come* unless the falling away comes FIRST, and the man of sin [the antichrist] is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called god or that is worshipped, so that he sits as god in the temple of god, showing himself that he is god. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

**A**ND NOW YOU KNOW WHAT IS RESTRAINING, THAT HE MAY BE REVEALED IN HIS OWN TIME. FOR THE MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS IS ALREADY AT WORK; ONLY HE [the holy spirit] WHO NOW RESTRAINS *will do so* UNTIL HE IS TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY. AND THEN THE LAWLESS ONE WILL BE REVEALED, WHOM THE LORD WILL CONSUME WITH THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH AND DESTROY WITH THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS COMING. THE COMING OF THE *lawless one* IS ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF SATAN, WITH ALL POWER, SIGNS, AND LYING WONDERS, AND WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUS DECEPTION AMONG THOSE WHO PERISH, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED.

**A**ND FOR THIS REASON GOD WILL SEND THEM STRONG DELUSION, THAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE THE LIE, THAT THEY ALL MAY BE CONDEMNED WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THE TRUTH BUT HAD PLEASURE IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

**B**UT WE ARE BOUND TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD ALWAYS FOR YOU, BRETHREN BELOVED BY THE LORD, BECAUSE GOD FROM THE BEGINNING CHOSE YOU FOR SALVATION THROUGH SANCTIFICATION BY THE SPIRIT AND BELIEF IN THE TRUTH, TO WHICH HE CALLED YOU BY OUR GOSPEL, FOR THE OBTAINING OF THE GLORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. THEREFORE, BRETHREN, STAND FAST AND HOLD THE TRADITIONS WHICH YOU WERE TAUGHT, WHETHER BY WORD OR OUR EPISTLE.

**N**OW MAY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF, AND OUR GOD AND FATHER, WHO HAS LOVED US AND GIVEN US EVERLASTING CONSOLATION AND GOOD HOPE BY GRACE, COMFORT YOUR HEARTS AND ESTABLISH YOU IN EVERY GOOD WORD AND WORK.

**F**inally, brethren, PRAY FOR US, THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD MAY RUN *SWIFTLY* AND BE GLORIFIED, JUST AS *IT IS* WITH YOU, AND THAT WE MAY BE DELIVERED FROM UNREASONABLE AND WICKED MEN; FOR NOT ALL HAVE FAITH. BUT THE LORD IS FAITHFUL, WHO WILL ESTABLISH YOU AND GUARD *YOU* FROM THE EVIL ONE. || THESSALONIANS, CHAPTERS 2 & 3

**T**hen agrippa said to paul [the apostle], "you are permitted to speak for yourself." so paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: "i think myself happy, king agrippa, because today i shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which i am accused by the jews [the religious leaders], especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the jews. therefore i beg you to hear me patiently.

**M**y manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at jerusalem, all the jews know. and now i stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by god to our fathers. why should it be thought incredible by you that god raises the dead? indeed, i myself thought i must do many things contrary to the name of jesus of nazareth.

**T**his i also did in jerusalem, and many of the saints i shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, i cast my vote against *them*. and i punished them often in every synagogue and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, i persecuted *them* even to foreign cities.

**W**hile thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O King, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.

**A**nd when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, [Paul's Hebrew name] why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

**S**o I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' and he said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

**I** will deliver you from the Jewish people [the religious leaders], as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

**T**HEREFORE, KING AGRIPPA, I WAS NOT DISOBEYENT TO THE HEAVENLY VISION, BUT DECLARED FIRST TO THOSE IN DAMASCUS AND IN JERUSALEM, AND THROUGHOUT ALL THE REGION OF JUDEA, AND THEN TO THE GENTILES, THAT THEY SHOULD REPENT, TURN TO GOD, AND DO WORKS BEFITTING REPENTANCE. FOR THESE REASONS THE JEWS SEIZED ME IN THE TEMPLE AND TRIED TO KILL *me*.

**T**HEREFORE, HAVING OBTAINED HELP FROM GOD, TO THIS DAY I STAND, WITNESSING BOTH TO SMALL AND GREAT, SAYING NO OTHER THINGS THAN THOSE WHICH THE PROPHETS AND MOSES SAID WOULD COME THAT THE CHRIST WOULD SUFFER, THAT HE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO RISE FROM THE DEAD, AND WOULD PROCLAIM LIGHT TO THE *Jewish* PEOPLE AND TO THE GENTILES."

**N**OW AS HE THUS MADE HIS DEFENCE, FESTUS SAID WITH A LOUD VOICE, "PAUL, YOU ARE BESIDE YOURSELF! MUCH LEARNING IS DRIVING YOU MAD!" BUT HE SAID, "I AM NOT MAD, MOST NOBLE FESTUS, BUT SPEAK THE WORDS OF TRUTH AND REASON. FOR THE KING, BEFORE WHOM I ALSO SPEAK FREELY, KNOWS THESE THINGS; FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NONE OF THESE THINGS ESCAPES HIS ATTENTION, SINCE THIS THING WAS NOT DONE IN A CORNER. KING AGRIPPA, DO YOU BELIEVE THE PROPHETS? I KNOW THAT YOU DO BELIEVE." THEN AGRIPPA SAID TO PAUL, "YOU ALMOST PERSUADE ME TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN." ACTS, CHAPTER 26



**F**OR we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent [our mortal body], is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens [an eternal resurrection body]. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

**N**ow he who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the [holy] spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body [die] and to be present with the Lord.

**T**herefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to him. For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. II CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 5

## psalms, chapter 19

god revealed in creation and in his word

with

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING HUMAN LIFE FULLY  
ACCORDING TO HIS WILL

**the** heavens declare the glory of god;  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**day** unto day utters speech, and night  
unto night reveals knowledge.

**there** is no speech nor language where  
their voice is not heard.

**their** line has gone out through all the  
earth, and their words to  
the end of the world.

**in** them he has set a tabernacle  
for the sun,  
which is like a bridegroom coming out of  
his chamber, and rejoices like a strong  
man to run its race.

**its** rising is from one end of heaven,  
and its circuit to the other end;  
and there is nothing hidden  
from its heat.

**the** law of the lord *is* perfect,  
converting the soul;

**the** testimony of the lord *is* sure,  
making wise the simple;

**the** statutes of the lord *are* right,  
rejoicing the heart;

**the** commandment of the lord *is* pure,  
enlightening the eyes;

**the** fear of the lord *is* clean, enduring  
forever;

**the** judgements of the lord *are* true  
*and* righteous altogether.

**more** to be desired *are they* than gold,  
yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also  
than honey and the honeycomb.

moreover by them your servant is  
warned, *and* in keeping them *there is*  
great reward.

**who** can understand *his* errors? cleanse  
me from secret *faults*. keep back your  
servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let  
them not have dominion over me. then i  
shall be blameless, and i shall be innocent  
of great transgression.

**let** the words of my mouth and the  
meditation of my heart be acceptable in  
your sight, o lord,  
my strength and my redeemer.

**A**S IT IS WRITTEN: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS; THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS AFTER GOD. THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE; THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME UNPROFITABLE; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, NO, NOT ONE." "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

**N**OW WE KNOW THAT WHATEVER THE [mosaic] LAW SAYS, IT SAYS TO THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW, THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED, AND ALL THE WORLD MAY BECOME GUILTY BEFORE GOD. THEREFORE BY THE DEEDS OF THE LAW NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED IN HIS SIGHT, FOR BY THE LAW IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN.

**B**UT NOW THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD APART FROM THE LAW IS REVEALED, BEING WITNESSED BY THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS, EVEN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD, THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, TO ALL AND ON ALL WHO BELIEVE. FOR THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE; FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD, BEING JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS, WHOM GOD SET FORTH AS A PROPITIATION BY HIS BLOOD, THROUGH FAITH, TO DEMONSTRATE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE IN HIS FORBEARANCE GOD HAD PASSED OVER THE SINS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED, TO DEMONSTRATE AT THE PRESENT TIME HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT HE MIGHT BE JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER OF THE ONE WHO HAS FAITH IN JESUS.

**T**HEREFORE we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. OR *is he* the god of the Jews only? *is he* not also the god of the Gentiles? yes, of the Gentiles also, since *there is* one god who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. do we then make void the law through faith? certainly not! on the contrary, we establish the law. ROMANS, CHAPTER 3

**T**HEREFORE, having been justified by faith, we have peace with god through our lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of god. and not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

**N**ow hope does not disappoint, because the love of god has been poured out in our hearts by the holy spirit who was given to us [at the moment of believing]. FOR when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. but god demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. much more then, having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. ROMANS, CHAPTER 5

**W**ho is not with me [jesus christ] is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters abroad. anyone who speaks a word against the son of man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the holy spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. but i say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgement. for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

**T**hen some of the scribes and pharisees answered, saying, "teacher, we want to see a sign from you." but he answered and said to them, "an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet jonah. the men of nineveh will rise up in the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of jonah; and indeed a greater than jonah is here [namely jesus]."

**T**he queen of the south will rise up in the judgement with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of solomon; and indeed a greater than solomon is here." matthew, chapter 12

**N**ow we know that god does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of god and does his will, he hears him. If this man [jesus] were not from god, he could do nothing." they [the religious leaders] answered and said to him, "you were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" and they cast him out [of the synagogue].

**J**esus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said to him, "do you believe in the son of god?" he answered and said, "who is he, lord, that i may believe in him?" and jesus said to him, "you have both seen him and it is he who is talking with you." then he said, "lord, i believe!" and he worshipped him.

**A**nd jesus said, "for judgement i have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." then *some* of the pharisees who were with him heard these words, and said to him, "are we blind also?" jesus said to them, "if you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'we see.' therefore your sin remains.

**N**ow is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. and i, if i am lifted up from the earth [crucified], will draw all *peoples* to myself." this he said, signifying by what death he would die. john, chapters 9 & 12

**S**o, as much as is in me, *i am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "the just shall live by faith."

**F**OR the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**T**HEREFORE God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.



**T**HEREFORE you are inexcusable, o man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practise the same things. but we know that the judgement of god is according to truth against those who practise such things.

**B**UT in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of god, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the jew first and also of the gentile; but glory, honour, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the jew first and also to the gentile. for there is no partiality with god.

**F**OR as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law in the day when god will judge the secrets of men by jesus christ, according to my gospel. ROMANS, CHAPTERS

**B**UT CHRIST came *as* high priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle [where the priests gave sacrifice to god for the sins of the people] not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he entered the most holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. for if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh [the sacrificial system given by god to israel], how much more shall the blood of christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to god, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living god?

**A**ND FOR THIS reason he is the mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. for where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. for a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. therefore not even the first *covenant* was dedicated without blood. and according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission [of sin].

**T**HEREFORE NOT EVEN THE FIRST *covenant* WAS DEDICATED WITHOUT BLOOD. AND ACCORDING TO THE LAW ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE PURIFIED WITH BLOOD, AND WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO REMISSION [OF SIN]. THEREFORE *it was* NECESSARY THAT THE COPIES OF THE THINGS IN THE HEAVENS SHOULD BE PURIFIED WITH THESE, BUT THE HEAVENLY THINGS THEMSELVES WITH BETTER SACRIFICES THAN THESE. FOR CHRIST HAS NOT ENTERED THE HOLY PLACES MADE WITH HANDS, *which are* COPIES OF THE TRUE, BUT INTO HEAVEN ITSELF, NOW TO APPEAR IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD FOR US; NOT THAT HE SHOULD OFFER HIMSELF OFTEN, AS THE HIGH PRIEST ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE EVERY YEAR WITH BLOOD OF ANOTHER HE THEN WOULD HAVE HAD TO SUFFER OFTEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD; BUT NOW, ONCE AT THE END OF THE AGES, HE HAS APPEARED TO PUT AWAY SIN BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF.

**A**ND AS IT IS APPOINTED FOR MEN TO DIE ONCE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGEMENT, SO CHRIST WAS OFFERED ONCE TO BEAR THE SINS OF MANY. TO THOSE WHO EAGERLY WAIT FOR HIM HE WILL APPEAR A SECOND TIME, APART FROM SIN, FOR SALVATION. THEREFORE, WHEN HE CAME INTO THE WORLD, HE SAID: "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU DID NOT DESIRE, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME. IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND *SACRIFICES* FOR SIN YOU HAD NO PLEASURE. THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'"   
hebrews, chapters 9 & 10

**F**OR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGS salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself *his* own special people, zealous for good works.

**F**OR WE OURSELVES WERE ALSO ONCE FOOLISH, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. but when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the holy spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**T**HIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. these things are good and profitable to men.

TITUS, CHAPTERS 2 & 3

**M**y brethren, do not hold the faith of our lord Jesus Christ, *the lord of glory*, with partiality. Listen, my beloved brethren: has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to those who love him?

**S**o speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

**I**f a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**B**ut someone will say, "you have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James, chapter 2

**I**F anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the ORACLES OF GOD. IF anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which GOD supplies, THAT in all things GOD may be GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TO WHOM belong the glory and the dominion FOREVER and EVER. amen.

**I**F you are reproached FOR THE name OF CHRIST, blessed *are you*, FOR THE SPIRIT OF glory and OF GOD RESTS upon you. ON THEIR part he is blasphemed, BUT ON YOUR part he is glorified. FOR THE time *has come* FOR JUDGEMENT TO BEGIN AT THE house OF GOD; AND IF *it begins* WITH US FIRST, what will be the end OF THOSE who DO NOT obey the gospel OF GOD?

**T**HEREFORE humble yourselves under the mighty hand OF GOD, THAT he may exalt you in due time, casting all YOUR CARE upon him, FOR he CARES FOR you. be sober, be vigilant; because YOUR ADVERSARY the devil walks about like a ROARING lion, seeking whom he may devour. RESIST him, steadfast in the faith, knowing THAT the same sufferings ARE experienced by YOUR BROTHERHOOD in the world.

**B**UT may the GOD OF all GRACE, who called US to his eternal glory by CHRIST JESUS, AFTER you have suffered a while, PERFECT, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. TO HIM be the glory and the dominion FOREVER and EVER. amen. 1 PETER, CHAPTERS 4 & 5

**B**eloved, I now write to you this second epistle that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the lord and saviour, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." for this they wilfully forget: that by the word of god the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. but the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men.

**B**ut, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. the lord is not slack concerning *his* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. but the day of the lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. II PETER, CHAPTER 3

**B**eloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of god; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. by this you know the spirit of god: every spirit that confesses that jesus christ has come in the flesh is of god, and every spirit that does not confess that jesus christ has come in the flesh is not of god. and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

**Y**ou are of god, little children, and have overcome them, because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. they are of the world. therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. we are of god. he who knows god hears us; he who is not of god does not hear us. by this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**B**eloved, let us love one another, for love is of god; and everyone who loves is born of god and knows god. he who does not love does not know god, for god is love. in this the love of god was manifested toward us, that god has sent his only begotten son into the world, that we might live through him. in this is love, not that we loved god, but that he loved us and sent his son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.



**W**hoever believes that Jesus is the Christ [messiah, the anointed one] is born of God, and everyone who loves him who begot also loves him who is begotten of him. by this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. and his commandments are not burdensome.

**F**OR whatever is born of God overcomes the world. and this is the victory that has overcome the world our faith. who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the son of God? IF we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he has testified of his son.

**H**e who believes in the son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of his son.

**A**nd this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his son. he who has the son has life; he who does not have the son of God does not have life. 1 John, chapters 4 & 5

**B**eloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

**N**ow Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. Jude, chapter 1

**H**e has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. he is the image of the invisible god, the firstborn over all creation. for by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. all things were created through him and for him. and he is before all things, and in him all things consist. and he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence. for it pleased *the father that* in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.

**A**nd you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in his sight if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which i, paul, became a minister. colossians, chapter 1

**T**he FIRST man [adam] was of the earth, *made* of dust; the second man [jesus christ] is the lord from heaven. as was the *man* of dust, so also *are* those who *are made* of dust; and as is the heavenly *man*, so also *are* those who *are* heavenly. and as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we [believers] shall also bear the image of the heavenly *man*.

**N**ow this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of god; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. behold, I tell you a mystery [something previously hidden now revealed]: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

**F**OR this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. so when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "death is swallowed up in victory." "o death, where is your sting? o hades, where is your victory?" the sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law [of god]. but thanks be to god, who gives us the victory through our lord jesus christ. 1 CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 15

**A**nd behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested him [jesus], saying, "teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" he said to him, "what is written in the [mosaic] law? what is your reading OF IT?" so he answered and said, "you shall love the lord your god with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and 'your neighbour as yourself.'" and he said to him, "you have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

**B**ut he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "and who is my neighbour?" then Jesus answered and said: "a certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. now by chance a certain priest came down that road. and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. likewise a levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. but a certain samaritan [not considered to be 'jewish'], as he journeyed, came where he was. and when he saw him, he had compassion.

**S**o which of these three do you think was neighbour to him who fell among the thieves?" and he said, "he who showed mercy on him." then Jesus said to him, "go and do likewise." luke, chapter 10

**T**HEREFORE we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [all the saints who have died in faith], let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**A**ND you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "my son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by him; for whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives." if you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? but if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

**F**URTHERMORE, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? for they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but he for *our* profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness. hebrews, chapter 12

**I** [the apostle john] was in the spirit on the lord's day, and i heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "i am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last," and, "what you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in asia: to ephesus, to smyrna, to pergamos, to thyatira, to sardis, to philadelphia, and to laodicea." then i turned to see the voice that spoke with me. and having turned i saw seven golden lamp-stands, and in the midst of the seven lamp-stands *one* like the son of man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

**H**is head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes like a flame of fire; his feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and his voice as the sound of many waters; he had in his right hand seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and his countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. and when i saw him, i fell at his feet as dead. but he laid his right hand on me, saying to me, "do not be afraid; i am the first and the last. i *am* he who lives, and was dead, and behold, i am alive forevermore. amen. and i have the keys of hades and of death. write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this." revelation, chapter 1

**T**hen I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgement has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

**T**hen a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of his indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb [CHRIST]. and the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

**H**ere is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours, and their works follow them."  
Revelation, chapter 14



**A**nd I heard the angel of the waters saying: "you are righteous, o lord, the one who is and who was and who is to be, because you have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." and I heard another from the altar saying, "even so, lord god almighty, true and righteous *are* your judgements."

**A**nd men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of god who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give him glory. they blasphemed the god of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

**"B**ehold, I am coming as a thief. blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." and they gathered them together to the place called in hebrew, armageddon.

**T**hen the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "it is done!" and there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. *Revelation, chapter 16*

**T**hen a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "thus with violence the great city babylon [the world's final cultural, economic, religious, socio-political and socio-philosophical system] shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. the sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. no craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. the light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. for your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. and in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

**A**fter these things i heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "alleluia! salvation and glory and honour and power *belong* to the lord our god! for true and righteous *are* his judgements, because he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her [spiritual] fornication; and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants *shed* by her." again they said, "alleluia! her smoke rises up forever and ever!" revelation, chapters 18 & 19

**A**nd I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgement was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands.

**A**nd they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

**B**lessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

**T**hey went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city [Jerusalem]. and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. REVELATION, CHAPTER 20

**T**hen I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. and there was found no place for them. and I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*. and the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and death and hades delivered up the dead who were in them. and they were judged, each one according to his works. then death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. this is the second death. and anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**N**ow I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. also there was no more sea. then I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. and I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them *and be their God*. and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

**T**hen he who sat on the throne said, "behold, I make all things new." and he said to me, "write, for these words are true and faithful." and he said to me, "it is done! I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. he who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his god and he shall be my son. but the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." revelation, chapter 20

**R**emember now your creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to god who gave it.

**T**he preacher sought to find acceptable words; and *what was written was upright words of truth.* let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear god and keep his commandments, for this is man's all. for god will bring every work into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. ecclesiastes, chapter 12





