

THE GIFT OF GOD

Upon the surface of this vast planet you can find many forms of religion, most of which claim to have sacred writings. In investigating the contents of these various writings, you would have to conclude either God is confused, or that they, along with their religions, are not the genuine article. If just one of these was the truth, then God would have to do something quite unique to set it apart and eliminate any doubt as to which it was.

What if, upon investigation, you found one of these writings to be 100% correct? 100% scientifically correct? One that foretold hundreds of events long before they happened, with 100% accuracy, **and then** told numerous stories of miracles and changed lives? Would that not set it apart and make it quite different from the rest?

There is such a book!!! And it has transformed men and women all over the world. It is called the **Holy Bible**. It is read by more people than any other book in the entire world. It is the central theme of this book that we would like to share with you. The Bible deals with mankind and his relationship with God. It tells of a once perfect world and a strong union between God and man. It also tells how and why that union was broken. It looks deep into the heart of God and exposes His love by detailing the uniqueness of a most costly gift to man. The story that surrounds this gift is what you are about to investigate.

May the Spirit of God touch you as you study this theme! And may you ultimately come to know the height of this gift along with the joy that follows those who have it!

THE REASON WHY GOD AND MAN ARE SEPARATED

Like it or not mankind has inherited a sinful nature. **Romans 3:23** says that *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* And again in **Ecclesiastes 7:20** it says that *“there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin.”* This has been man’s story since his earliest ancestors Adam and Eve. God had placed them in His own beautiful garden. In it they had everything they needed to fulfill their joy. They had many varieties of food, they had a perfect relationship with all animal life, and they had a perfect relationship with one another. Most of all, they had a perfect relationship with God.

In their world they had complete freedom to do anything their hearts desired, except for just one thing. You see, God has never forced any of His created beings, angelic or human to follow His ways. His prerequisite has always been that only those who loved Him and sought to obey Him would be permitted to abide with Him. He placed within the garden only one forbidden thing, and said,

***Genesis 2:16 -17** *“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die [or be separated from God].”*

* All scriptures in this book are from the New King James Version.

Well, it wasn't long before they chose to find out what evil was, so they took a chance and ate the forbidden fruit, hoping that God would not find them out. When this occurred, a number of things happened:

- 1) They lost their purity.
- 2) They lost their union with God.
- 3) They lost their privilege to remain in God's garden.
- 4) Their offspring would inherit the same sinful nature which they themselves had assumed.
- 5) They and their descendants would now have to stand before God and be judged and condemned for their sins.
- 6) Satan became their new lord, the lord of their descendants and the lord of this world system:

Satan: An angel that God had created with extreme beauty and wisdom and given an exalted position in Heaven. Through time, Satan began to abandon God's wise counsel, and in fact considered himself to be as wise as God. He began to lie, deceive, and even persuade some of the angels of God to follow him which resulted in Satan being cast out of heaven. After this, he came to the earth and used deception to trick Eve into eating the forbidden fruit. He told her that she would become as wise as God. She in turn persuaded Adam. When they chose to follow Satan's advice rather than God's, they were in essence choosing Satan as the new lord of their lives.

God did make one major provision for mankind. It was that anyone who chose to turn from Satan could do so, if he were willing to turn to God for help, in God's prescribed way. If not, he would have to follow Satan to his destiny.

Revelation 20:10-15: *“And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then 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 the books were opened. And another which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. And 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.”*

Revelation 21:7-8: *“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable (vile), 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.”*

1 John 5:4: *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.”*

For further study see Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-16; 1 John 5:19; and Ephesians 6:12 and 2:1-5.

MAN'S PROBLEM GOD'S SOLUTION

Listed below is a brief explanation of where man is now, why he is there, and where he is headed. It then tells how and why God will change man's destiny, and what man must do to see that change.

1. None righteous – Because of man's inability to keep even the simplest of God's commands, he is destined to a life of eternal separation from God. Sin has caused this separation and we all bear the label of sinner:

Isaiah 64:6: "But we are all like an unclean thing and all our righteousness's are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities (sins), like the wind, have taken us away."

1 John 5:17: "All unrighteousness is sin."

James 4:17: "To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

Ecclesiastes 7:20: "For there is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin."

Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death."

Revelation 21:27: "But there shall by no means enter it (the Holy City) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie (all different types of sin), but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of Life."

For further study see Romans 3:19, 20-23; Psalms 14:2-3; Galatians 3:10-11; and 1 John 1:8.

11. The unrighteous face condemnation – Throughout God's Word is the warning that the unrighteous will without question stand before Jesus Christ to be judged and then condemned. This will take place because they refused to repent, and turn to Him for forgiveness:

Hebrews 9:27: "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (No reincarnation or further chances to repent)

Acts 17:30: (God) "now commands all men everywhere to repent."

Acts 10:42-43: "And He (Jesus) commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead."

Mathew 25:31-34, 41, 46: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one

from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on His left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 41 – Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 46 – And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

III. Reasons for condemnation – Men will be condemned to spend eternity with Satan in punishment, for the same basic reasons that Satan himself is condemned:

Because of sin – Isaiah 59:1 & 2: *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities (sins) have separated you from your God; and you sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."*

Because God hates sin – Psalm 7:11: *"God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day."*

Luke 16:15: *"And He (Jesus) said to them, 'You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God'."*

Because God will not coexist with sin – Psalm 5:4-6: *"For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man."*

Revelation 21:27: *"But there shall by no means enter it (God's eternal City) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Those who have had their sins forgiven and have received salvation)."*

Because the righteousness of God demands just punishment for sin and rebellion:

Deuteronomy 32:4: *"He (God) is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He."*

Galatians 6:7 & 8 : *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."*

Isaiah 1:18-20: *"Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land. But if you refuse and rebel,*

you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Because these men and women, when given the choice, choose to remain in their sinful state – Even when they fully understand the consequences of that choice:

Romans 1:18-20: “For 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.” Everyone is given knowledge of God in order to make their choice.

Romans 2:4-9: *“Do you despise the riches of his (God’s) goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your unrepentant heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment 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, honor 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.”* Know this!... Although God longs for you, He will not force Himself upon you. You must repent and receive Him.

IV. God’s mercy extends to all – It is not God’s will that anyone be condemned. Therefore He has provided an alternate route, the plan of salvation. It is a road that anyone can take, and He invites everyone everywhere to take it:

II Peter 3:9: *(The Lord) “Is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

Titus 2:11: *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.”*

John 12:32: *“And I (Jesus) if I am lifted up from the earth (crucified on the cross), will draw all people to Myself.”*

Ezekiel 18:31 & 32: *“Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourself a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, * O-House of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies, says the Lord God. Therefore * turn and live!”* (* Insert your name here)

Isaiah 55:1-3: *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline*

your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.”

Man’s attempts to reach God outside of God’s divine plan are an insult to God and worthless to man – If any of man’s attempts to reach God through man made religions, self-righteousness or any other device was at all possible, then God would have yielded to the agonizing prayer of His Son and spared Him the pain of the cross:

Mathew 26:38 & 39: *For Jesus came to His disciples and said, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘Oh My Father, if it is possible, let this cup (suffering and death of the cross) pass from Me; never the less, not as I will, but as You will’.”*

As Christ knew, there was and still is **no other way:**

Philippians 2:7 & 8 *“For it was for this very purpose that He had come and “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, 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.”*

In short, **there is only one way to God**, and that is through His Son, **Jesus Christ:**

I Timothy 2:3-6: *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself as ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

John 14:6: *“Jesus said to him ‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’.”*

I John 5:11 & 12: *“And 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.”*

V. God’s part in the plan of salvation – God’s love for man caused Him to provide a very costly sacrifice for man’s sins. He purchased him with the most valued thing He had, and He did it in a most unique way:

HE SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON - John 3:16: *“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.”*

I John 4:10: *“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (satisfactory payment) for our sins.”*

HE CAUSED HIS SON TO BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

Isaiah 7:14: *(Written over 700 years before Christ was born) “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us).”*

Luke 1:30-35: “Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His Name Jesus (The Savior) He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the House of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’ Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man (am a virgin)?’ And the angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, the Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God’.”

CHRIST LIVED A SINLESS LIFE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ULTIMATELY BECOMING THE SACRIFICE FOR SINS

John 1:29: “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said ,”Behold! the (sacrificial) Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

II Corinthians 5:21: “For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Colossians 1:13 & 14: “He (Jesus) has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated (transferred) us into the kingdom of the Son of His love in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Hebrews 9:22: “And according to the law, almost all things are purged (cleansed) with blood, and without (the sacrificial) shedding of blood there is no remission (forgiveness).”

A closer look at God’s only begotten son –The Greek word for begotten (genos) means “the only one of its kind.” God has created many sons, both angelic and those He has redeemed from the earth. But Christ differs greatly from all these in that He was never created. But is in fact Himself, the instrument in which God the Father used to do the creating:

Genesis 1:26: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’.”

John 1:1-3: “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus – see verses 14-18), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

Colossians 1:16 & 17: “For by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities (rulers) or powers. All things were created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (hold together).”

One of the strongest supported, and most important teachings in the Bibles, is known as the “**trinity**” (the union of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three unique, individual personalities, who, unified together in perfect harmony, are the One and Living God). It is important to understand, that the salvation God is offering mankind, was not paid for by a mere extension of His creation, but was in fact paid for by an extension of Himself, in the form of the Son (Jesus Christ):

Isaiah 9:6: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

John 10:30: (Jesus said) “I and My Father are one.”

John 14:7-10: (Jesus said) “ ‘If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.’ Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father?” 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.’”

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”.

I Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God (Jesus) was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on the world, received up in glory.”

Colossians 2:9: “For in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (in bodily form).”

Acts 20:28: “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He** purchased with **His own blood**”

(The only time that God ever shed blood was when Jesus died on the Cross.)

Titus 2:13-14: “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great **God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave Himself for us.”

Isaiah 44:6: “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer* (Jesus), the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no God.’”

*Redeemer: One who buys a slave intending to set him free –we are slaves to sin.

For further study see: Matthew 1:23, John 17:5, Philippians 2:5-11, I John 5:20, Hebrews 1:1-12.

In focusing upon who Jesus Christ really is, and considering the suffering and humiliation He bore for us on the Cross, one can only stand amazed at the astronomical worth He has placed upon us.

VI. The proof that the Sacrifice of Christ was sufficient –Because Christ was the Son of God and without sin, the curse of death had no hold on Him (Acts 2:23-24 and Romans 1:3- 4, 4:25). Therefore He boldly arose from the grave three days after His death, exactly as He said He would. Few historical events possess the proof of occurrence as that of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Read “Evidence that Demands a Verdict”, by Josh McDowell).

Luke 9:22: *(Jesus said) “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”*

Mark 16:6: *“But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.’”*

I Corinthians 15:3-8: *“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep (died). After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me (Paul) also, as by one born out of due time.”*

Also see: Matthew 28, John 20, John 21; Acts 10:39-41.

VI. Your part in the plan of salvation—Because the sacrifice of Christ was so precious and costly to God, He made just one major condition that must be met before atonement (the point at which Christ’s righteousness is accredited to your account and thus your penalty for sin is paid for in full):

What you must do – You must believe in Jesus Christ:

John 3:16-18: *“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 word through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

Acts 10:43: *“To Him (Jesus) all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission (forgiveness) of sins.”*

Galatians 3:26: *“For you are all the Sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”*

Saving faith is **more** than just believing in who Christ is or what He has done for mankind.

It says in **James 2:19**: that *“even the demons believe and tremble.”* They know all about Jesus, but because they rebelled against Him, and would not submit to Him, they will be eternally separated from him. For faith is far more than just knowledge of Christ. There are multitudes today who call themselves Christians. Many of them are even active in churches and different types of Christian work. Yet they themselves are no closer to God than their unsaved neighbors are:

Matthew 7:21-23: *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in the day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your Name, cast out demons in Your Name, and done many wonders in Your Name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!”*

Saving faith is believing to the point of **personally** acting upon what the scriptures say. It is understanding your broken relationship with God, and reaching out with **all your heart** to the forgiveness which Christ has for you. It is only when this forgiveness comes that the curse of death (separation from God) can be removed. When this takes place, then God can do what He has always longed to do; have fellowship with you, His pure and precious creation.

Christ is here right now; ready to cleanse you, to live with you, and to guide you.

He says *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”* (**Revelation 3:20**)

John 1:11-13: says *“He (Jesus) came to His own (the Jews), and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believed in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

John 3:6-7: says *“That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I (Jesus) said to you ‘**you must be born-again**’.”*

Being born-again is what takes place when you surrender yourself to Christ.

II Corinthians 5:14, 15-17 describes it very well when saying *“If One (Jesus) died for all, then all died: and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

Again, the old life must surrender before the new one can reign.

This process begins with repentance! When the apostle Peter finished preaching his first great sermon it says that “When they (a multitude of people) heard this,

they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'men and brethren, what shall we do?'

(Acts 2:37-39) Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For 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'."

II Corinthians 7:10 says "Godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation." **Acts 3:19** says "**Repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

If you are sincerely interested in a brand new life with the Lord, then come before Him right now, and express to Him the sorrow you have for your sins. Let him know that you want His cleansing, and also want to be united together with Him. Thank Him for loving you enough to send His Son to pay the penalty for your sins. **Stop and yield yourself to Him, right now**, even before you read another word.....

If you have just prayed a prayer such as this, then **welcome to the family of God!** Did you know that the angels of God are right now rejoicing before the Lord, because He has just given spiritual birth to you, His new child? Praise His Name!

Now be ready for a real change in your life. The more you yield yourself to Christ, the greater the change will be. There will be times when you will sin; when this happens then repent of it, confess it before the Lord (I John 1:9), and then move away from it. There will be times of trials, tribulations and persecutions. These will come for a number of reasons, all of which will be explained to you as you study God's Word. One of the major reasons for these will be due to the opposition of the enemy (Satan). It says in **Ephesians 6:12** "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." This may sound quite horrifying to you, but the fact is that Christians who are into God's Word are not afraid of these things. We find in II Corinthians 10:3-4 that "though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (within our own power) but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds."

The promise of victory is to those who are willing to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" by "putting on the whole armor of God." May we encourage you to study Ephesians 6:10-18 and give much thought to what it says. Ask the Lord to make you strong, and fill you with the power of His might. Ask Him to enable you to understand His Word, and then begin reading the New Testament. The more you study and obey His Word, the faster you will mature, and become a useful worker within His Kingdom.

Another very important step in your new walk with the Lord is finding a Spirit-filled church which teaches the truth of the Word of God. This will help you to grow in

knowledge, as well as to experience the joy, and love, which comes from fellowshiping with other born-again Christians.

To those of you who haven't made up your mind...If you have never before heard the gospel of Christ, it has possibly left you somewhat bewildered. Therefore we encourage you to pray and ask the Lord to help you to better understand it. And before another day passes, please pick up this booklet and read it again and again if necessary, until you **do** understand it.

God will not force Himself upon you. The choice is completely yours to make. If you reject Him, you will never, in all eternity, forgive yourself. But if you choose to receive Him, you may rest assured that He is there, waiting to receive you:

John 6:37: *"The one who comes to Me (Jesus) I will by no means cast out."*

Jeremiah 29:13: *"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."*

Luke 11:9 & 10: *"And I (Jesus) say to you, ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."*

John 6:47: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."*

John 6:63: *"The words that I (Jesus) speak to you are spirit, and they are life."*

May God be with you as you seek the truth of life.

THUS SAYS THE LORD

"Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, That I am the Lord, exercising loving kindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight says the Lord"

Jeremiah 9:23-24