

# THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION

**T**he Greek word “ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ” (evangelion=gospel) has echoed around the globe for two millenniums. What does the word “gospel” mean?

The word “**gospel**” means “**good news**”.

For the last two thousand years countless people have dedicated and sacrificed their lives to bring the good news about salvation to others. **What** drove them to do so? **Why** did they preach that people needed to be saved? Did they explain **how** could a person be saved, **Who** has the power to save them and from **what**? Is there a need **to continue** to preach the good news about salvation **today**? **Why should a subject like this concern you?**

Please, take the time to read this presentation because, today, I place before you a treasure. **If you’ll accept it by**

**1.**

**faith, you will receive eternal life --- instantly!** At the same time, it will fill your present life with **joy, hope** and **satisfaction** while in the future you will receive **a glory that is impossible for a human mind to conceive.**

### **SIN: THE CAUSE OF DEATH**

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth and all that exist in them, the visible and the invisible.

When God created Adam and Eve, He made them according to His image and according to His likeness. He created them with the ability **to live forever** and placed them in a beautiful garden where **they enjoyed a close personal relationship with Him.** At the same time, God gave them a command that they ought to keep and told them that the day they would disobey His command **they would die.**

Unfortunately, one of the spirit beings that God had created rebelled against his Creator. His **pride** caused him to lift himself up; he wanted to be like the Most High. The Bible does not reveal his original name to us, but we know him by different names/titles such as Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12), Satan, Devil, Dragon, Old Serpent, Deceiver (Revelation 12:9; 20:2), Man Slayer, Liar (John 8:44), etc.

This Old Serpent, the Deceiver, deceived Eve and caused her to disobey God's command. Later, her husband Adam

joined her in the **sin of disobedience** and so, **they** grew old and **died**.

In his letter to the Roman Christians, the apostle Paul wrote that, *“For this reason, as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, likewise, death passed to all men, because they all sinned;”* (Romans 5:12; author’s translation). And in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 15, verse 22, Paul wrote that in Adam we *all* die.

The word *“all”* does not exclude anyone because sin enters mankind at the moment of his or her conception. It includes men and women of all ages and races. It includes all the new born babies and all the mentally challenged. It includes **you** and me.

#### **GOD’S PROMISE OF HOPE**

As **none** of the descendants of Adam could escape sin, all mankind was **alienated from the Most Holy God**. At the same time, mankind was **enslaved under the power of Satan** (who introduced mankind to sin), and **under the power of sin that ruled mankind through death** (Romans 6:20; 5:21).

**What a hopeless situation for the human race!** Because of **Adam** and **Eve’s** sin of disobedience, they, and **all their descendants**, lost two treasures:

- a) **The personal relationship** they could have had with their Creator, and
- b) **The possibility of having eternal life.**

**When that happened, mankind was powerless to change the situation, to reconcile with God and to have everlasting life. Why? What was the obstacle? The obstacle was: SIN. And as they had sinned against God, God was the only One Who had the right to save them from this desperate and hopeless situation! No one else!**

However, **God**, in His unfathomable love for mankind, **gave us a promise of hope**. Praise His Name! He said that **“the seed of the woman” would come to crush the head of the “Serpent”** (of Satan --- Genesis 3:15). Ever since, all mankind’s seers, prophets, and all those who loved God looked forward to the coming of that **“Seed”** Who would conquer Satan (the corruptor of the human race and the cause of their hopelessness). It was this **“Seed”** Who would reconcile them to God.

**WHO WOULD THAT “SEED” BE?**

Please consider the following:

- a) As **none of the sinful descendants of Adam and Eve** had the power to save mankind, the “Seed” would have to be someone whose origin was outside Adam’s bloodline; someone who would not have a human father.
- b) As mankind had sinned against God, **only God had the right and the power to forgive mankind’s sins.**
- c) As the task of the Savior would be **the redemption from sins**, then, **the Savior would have to be God Himself.**

The above reasoning is based on the Bible because in Isaiah 43:16-25 it says that **only God can save people from their sins**, and in Isaiah 59:15-20 and 60:16 it says that **only God YHWH\* is the Redeemer**. Specifically, in Isaiah 43:11, we read:

“I, I am YHWH; and **there is no Savior besides Me.**” (Emphasis added).

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*\*YHWH (known as Yahweh or Jehovah); it is the sacred Name of the True God of the Bible as it appears in the Old Testament. It is known as the “Tetragrammaton”.*

**HOW, THOUGH, WOULD GOD YHWH SAVE THE WORLD FROM THEIR SINS?**

**It was God's will to save mankind from their sins by His "Word".**

**WHO IS "THE WORD" OF GOD?**

**"The Word"** of God is the Second Person of the True Godhead YHWH. The Bible identifies **"the Word" of God** with the **eternal Son of God** Who, about two thousand years ago, became flesh and walked on this planet as the man Jesus Christ. I will explain this subject in more detail later. However, at this point I would like to present my reasons for using the expression **"eternal Son of God"**.

According to the Bible, the True Godhead is comprised of Three Persons, i.e., **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** (2 Corinthians 13:14). The word "Godhead" is found in Colossians 2:9. The Godhead has **one name** (not names) which belongs to all Three Persons (Matthew 28:19).

Also, **God's attributes belong to all the Persons that comprise the True Godhead.** One of the attributes of the True God (or Godhead) of the Bible is that He is **unchangeable**. "Unchangeable" means: immutable; **the one who does not change**. In Malachi 3:6 we hear God saying about Himself, **"... I am YHWH, I change not."**

The psalmist revealed that God is **unchangeable** when he said, “*O my God ... the heavens are the works of thy hands ... They shall be changed: But thou art the same ...*” (Psalms 102:24-27; KJV). And the writer of the letter to the Hebrews applied the above words of the psalmist **to the Son** of God. He wrote, “*But as to the Son he saith ... the heavens are the works of thine hands: ... they shall be changed: but thou art the same ...*” (Hebrews 1:8-12; KJV).

From the above scriptures we realize that the True Godhead does not evolve. God did not go through an evolutionary process to become Who He is. God **always is** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As the Father is **unchangeable**, so is the Son and so is the Holy Spirit. As the Father is **eternal**, so is **the Son** and so is the Holy Spirit.

As the foregoing words, “*But as to the Son he saith ... the heavens are the works of thine hands ....*” reveal that it was “**the Son**” Who created the heavens, **the Son, Whose name is the Word, must have been there before the beginning of the creation.** Thus, it is not wrong to refer to Him as **the eternal Son!**

There are some who object to the title “**eternal Son of God**” because they think that the Word, the second Person of the Godhead, did not actually become the “Son” until He became flesh (John 1:14). These people fail to understand

that **“the Word” is one of the names of the eternal Son of God** Who is the Second Person of **the eternal Godhead**. When we compare John 1:1,14 with Revelation 19:13, we observe that although **“the Word”** was the name of the Person of the Godhead Who became flesh, **“the Word” is still the name of that same Person after His death and resurrection.**

The Bible clearly shows us that **the Son is eternal** because **He always exists in (inside) the Father**. When we read John 1:1,14, 3:17, Romans 8:3 and Galatians 4:4, where it says that **God sent His Son** into the world, we realize that **the Son must have been there in order to be sent.**

Also, let us consider the following:

When we read Isaiah 55:11 and John 1:1,2, we realize that **the Word of God is always in (inside) God** (because God was never without the Word); and when we read John 14:9-11, we learn that **the Son is always in (inside) the Father even while He is in the flesh.** Consequently, it is not wrong to call the Second Person of the Godhead **“the eternal Son of God”**. After all, in John 1:18, Jesus said, ***“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, Who always is (ο ων) in the bosom of the Father, He has revealed (Him).”*** (Author’s parenthesis, emphasis and translation from the Greek text). Therefore, as the Lord Jesus said that the Son **“always is (ο ων) in the bosom of the Father”**, we conclude that it is not wrong to refer to the

Second Person of the True Godhead as “**the eternal Son of God**”!

Now, let us further examine **the Person known as the “Word”** and His relationship to God the Father:

In the Greek language, the word for “**word**” is “**λόγος**” (logos). “Logos” is the oral expression of a thought (including the thought). Also, “**logos**” refers to “**reasoning**” (the mental faculty). The English word “logic” comes from the Greek word “logos”. In order for one to be **intelligent**, to be able to think and to express his/her thought, one must have “the word” (the logos) in him/her.

The **Eternal** God of the Bible is an **intelligent** being; His **wisdom** is unfathomable (Romans 11:33,34). Therefore, it is easy to understand that **God always had “the Word” in Him** because **God was never without the Word**, i.e., without the ability to think, to express Himself, and to create. Let us read a few words from the writings of Athanasius, who wrote in 368 A.D. defending the Christian faith at a time when the Christian Church was undergoing a great persecution. In his explanation of Who the Logos (the Word) is, he wrote:

*“But the Son of God is the Logos (the Word) of the Father, in idea and in operation; for after the pattern of Him and by Him were all things made, the Father and the Son being one...Since through the unity and power of the Spirit*

*the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son, **the Son of God is the thought (mind) and the Word (Logos) of the Father.** If, however, in your superior intelligence, you should wonder what is meant by the expression 'Son', I will give you a brief explanation.*

*He is the First-Begotten to the Father, but not as if He were created. **From the beginning, God who is Eternal mind had the Word in Himself, because He is never without the Word. Rather, the Son came forth to be formative thought and creative power for all things material ...** How can a man know his way about if he hears people decried as atheists who confess **one God, the Father, and one God, the Son, and one Holy Spirit** and who prove that these have power in their oneness and yet are different in their order." (A Plea regarding Christians, ch.10).*

From the above words of Athenagoras we learn that the Word of God, Who always is in God, (because God "is never without the Word"), **was the Son Who "came forth to be formative thought and creative power for all things material"**.

Thus, from Athenagoras' confession that God is Eternal and that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we conclude that the Son is Eternal because the Father and the Holy Spirit are Eternal!

**The separation between God and His Word, i.e., between God and His Son Who came out of the Father “to be formative thought and creative power for all things material” (in other words to be the Creative Power that created all things), is an absolute impossibility, just as it is impossible to separate a mind from its own thought!**

In the beginning, when God **thought** to create the universe, He **spoke** it into existence. For instance, when God **thought** to create the animals on the earth, He expressed His **thought** when He **SAID**, “*Let the earth bring forth the soul of life according to its kind: cattle, and creepers, and its beasts of the earth, according to its kind.*” **And as soon as God spoke His Word, the Almighty Word (Logos) of God “came forth” (the Son) and created all the animals (Genesis 1:24)!**

**Whatever exists, visible and invisible were brought into existence by the Word of God (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-18). Therefore, the Almighty Word of God is not only eternal; He is also the Creator of all things as God the Father is the Creator of all things.**

That is the reason the Bible, when it speaks about **the One Who created all things**, is using identical words about the Son of God (the Word), with the words that it is using about God the Father. Let us read the following two verses:

- a) In Colossians 1:16 it says about **the Son** that, “*all things have been created through Him and for Him*”.
- b) In Romans 11:36 it says about **God** that, “*through Him and for Him are all things*”.

**Therefore, God the Father and His “Word” (the Son) are the One and only Creator God through Whom and for Whom all things were created.**

**CAN WE SAY THE SAME ABOUT GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT? IS HE ONE OF THE GODHEAD YHWH THAT CREATED?**

Absolutely! First, in 2 Corinthians 3:17, the apostle Paul says, “*the Lord is the Spirit*” (and there is only One Lord; Deuteronomy 6:4), and, second, in Job 33:4 we read, “*The Spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*”

**Thus, we conclude that God the Father, His Word (the Son) and His Spirit are the One and only Creator God. The Psalmist agrees with this statement. He wrote, “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the spirit of His mouth all their hosts.”** (Psalms 33:6; author’s translation from the Septuagint).

**DOES THE BIBLE FURTHER CONFIRM THAT “THE WORD” OF GOD IS A PERSON AND THAT HE IS GOD?**

Yes, it does! Let us read Hebrews 4:12,13. There, the writer makes four statements by which he proves that **the Word of God is a Person and that He is God. Let's read those two verses:**

*“For the Word of God is living, and working, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and (He) is piercing as far as the division of the soul and spirit, of the joints and marrows, and (He) is judge of thoughts and of intentions of the heart; and there is no creation that is hidden before Him; but all things are naked and laid open to His eyes, to whom we have to give our account.”*

*(Author's translation from the Greek text.)*

From the above words we learn that:

- 1) **The Word of God is a Person because He is living and working** (compare with John 5:17; Revelation 1:18; 19:13; John 1:1-3,14; 1 John 1:1,2).
- 2) **He is able to judge the thoughts and the intentions of one's heart** (compare with Revelation 2:18,23 and Luke 9:47).
- 3) **Nothing in all creation can hide from His sight** (Jeremiah 23:24; John 1:49).
- 4) **It is to Him that we have to give an account.**  
[Please note that in Romans 14:12, the apostle Paul

says, “... *each one of us will give an account about himself to God.*” (Author’s translation)].

Now that we have understood from the Scriptures that the Word of God is a Person and that He is God, let us move on to see **how** the Word of God was to save mankind from their sins.

#### **THE WORD BECAME FLESH**

Right at the beginning of his Gospel presentation, in chapter one, the apostle John thought that it was necessary to tell his readers that:

- 1) The Word was **God** (verse 1).
- 2) The Word was **the Creator God** because nothing came into being without Him (verse 3).
- 3) The Word **became flesh** and dwelt among us (verse 14).
- 4) The Word was God’s **only-begotten Son** (verses 14,18).

Let us read John’s words:

***“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning***

*with* (προς = toward) *God. 3 All things were made by Him, and without Him not even one thing was made from the things that were made ... 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. And we saw His glory, glory as of the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and of truth.*” (John 1:1,2,3,14; Author’s translation from the Greek text).

#### **WHY DID THE WORD WHO WAS GOD BECOME FLESH?**

It was the will of God for the Word to empty Himself from His Godly glory, to lower Himself, to become a man through a virgin, to die on the cross on behalf of mankind in order to pay for their sins, to be buried, to be raised on the third day from the dead, to be glorified as the resurrected man Jesus, and to reconcile to Himself all things on earth and all things in heaven by the blood of His cross.

Here are two scriptures to support the foregoing statements:

*1) “For let this mind be in you which also was in Christ Jesus, who subsisting in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, having become in the likeness of man, and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient until death, even the death of a cross. Therefore, also God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those of Heaven, and*

*those on earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* (Philippians 2:5-11; J. P. GREEN, Sr.):

2) *“And He (Jesus) is before all things, and all things consist in Him. And He is the Head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that He be pre-eminent in all things; because all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him, and through Him making peace by the blood of His cross, to reconcile all things to Himself through Him, whether the things on the earth, or the things in the heavens. And you then were once alienated and enemies in your mind by evil works. But now He reconciled in the body of His flesh, through death, to present you holy and without blame, and without charge before Him....”* (Colossians 1:17-22; J. P. GREEN, Sr.; parenthesis added).

#### HOW DID THE WORD BECOME FLESH?

The prophet Isaiah had prophesied about the coming of the Son of God. In his book, chapter nine, verse 6, he wrote:

*“For a child is born; to us a Son is given; and the government is on His shoulder; and His name is called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.”* (J. P. GREEN, Sr.)

What a powerful prophecy! The first sentence, “*For a child is born*”, points to **the coming of the eternal Son of God in the flesh --- that He would be born as a “child”**. The second sentence, “*to us a Son is given*”, points to the everlasting truth that **God gave His Son for us** (John 3:16). The third sentence points to the fact that this Son **has complete kingdom-authority**. The fourth sentence shows **Who He Is: The mighty God, the everlasting Father!**

The same prophet, Isaiah, in chapter 7 and verse 14, gave one more prophecy regarding the coming of the child. **He said that He would be born of a virgin**. Let us read this prophecy:

*“For this reason, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold! The virgin will conceive in the womb, and will give birth to a son; and she will call His name Immanuel.”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Septuagint).

Please note that the Greek text of Matthew 1:23 says that “**Immanuel**” means “**the God with us**”! Thus, His prophetic name “**Immanuel**” shows **Who** this Child would be!

From all of the above, we learn that God the Word would be born into our world **by a virgin!**

**WHY BY A VIRGIN?**

Because if He would have had a human father, He would have been sinful! If He had been one of the sinful descendants of Adam, He would have been under the power of sin. That would have disqualified Him from becoming the Savior of the world. A sinful savior cannot save anyone! Only the Holy God has the power to save people from their sins! And it was His will to send His Word, His Son, Who is One of the True Godhead YHWH, to be born into our world by a virgin in order to accomplish this wonderful task. God's prophecy in the garden was clear: The promised "Seed" would not have a human father. He would be the prophetic "*Seed of the woman*" (Genesis 3:15).

**WAS THIS PROPHECY FULFILLED?**

Yes, it was! About two thousand years ago, when it was time for the Word to become flesh, God favored a virgin named Mary to fulfill this wonderful miracle. One day, God sent Gabriel, one of His angels, to bring the good news to Mary. And Gabriel said to her:

*"... Do not fear, Mary, because you have found favor from God. And look: You will conceive in your womb and you will give birth to a Son and you will call His name Jesus. This One will be great and will be called Son of the Most High ... and of His kingdom there will be no end ... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the*

*Most High will overshadow you; for this reason, the holy (child) that will be born will be called Son of God.*" (Luke 1:26-35; Author's translation from the Greek text).

From the above we observe that:

- 1) The Holy God would fulfill the prophecy about the **virgin birth of the Savior** through the virgin Mary.
- 2) The One Who would accomplish the miracle of the virgin conception was **The Holy Spirit**.
- 3) The Holy Child would be called "**Son of God**"--- a **title that proved His Deity** (John 5:18), and Mary was to call her Son "**Jesus**".
- 4) Mary gave birth to her firstborn Son and called His name **JESUS**.

This is how God the Word became flesh (John 1:1,14). He, **the ever-existing God Who is over all and blessed forever** (Romans 9:5), became a man to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The One Who **WAS** in the beginning (John 1:1), the **LIFE** Himself (John 14:6), became flesh and He was seen and touched by His contemporaries. John gives that testimony in 1 John 1:1-4:

*"That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which*

*we have beheld, and our hands touched, about the Word of life; and the life appeared; and we have seen, and we proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and appeared to us; that which we have seen and have heard, we announce to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ; and we write these things to you, so that your joy may be complete.*

(Author's translation from the Greek text.)

**WHY WOULD THE "WORD" WHO BECAME FLESH TAKE THE NAME "JESUS"?**

The English name "Jesus" is taken from the Greek "Ἰησοῦς" (E-e-sous), which, in turn, comes from the Hebrew name "Yehowshua" (Yeh-ho-shoo-ah) which is composed of two words:

- a) The name "YHWH", and
- b) The word "yasha" or "shuah", which means "salvation", "save (-iour)".

Thus, the name "Jesus" means "YHWH THE SAVIOR"! For this reason, the name "Jesus" reveals **Who** that Child (which was to be born by the virgin Mary), would be:

**He would be "YHWH THE SAVIOR" in the flesh! He Who always was "God the Word" or "God the Son" would**

become a man and He would be known to us as “Jesus, the Son of God”.

And from Matthew 1:21 we learn that truly this Child should be called “Jesus” (YHWH THE SAVIOR), because “He will save His people from their sins”!

**WHAT DOES THE TITLE “SON OF GOD” REVEAL?**

In John 5:17,18, we read:

*“But Jesus answered them, My Father works until now and I work. For this reason, therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill Him, because not only He was breaking the Sabbath, but also He was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal to God.”* (Author’s translation from the Greek text; also read John 10:27-39).

**From the above we learn that the title “Son of God” is an explicit title for Deity! Therefore, to believe that Jesus is the Son of God is to believe that He is equal to God --- that He is God!**

Even the enemies of the Lord Jesus knew that the title “Son of God” necessitates Deity. This is the reason they wanted to kill Him. **In fact, this was the very reason that the high priest and the council condemned Him to death for blasphemy** (Matthew 26:63-65; Mark 14:61-64; Luke 22:70,71). Thus, please, consider the following thought:

**If the title “the Son of God” would have meant something less than “God”, I am sure that the Lord Jesus would have known that and He would have told the high priest that their understanding of the title “Son of God” was wrong. A clarification on this serious charge of blasphemy might have saved His life!**

However, His enemies understood very well that the title “the Son of God” explicitly reveals that Jesus is God by nature, because they were bright enough to know that **the essence of every son is the same as the essence of his father!**

In John 3:16, the Lord Jesus preached the gospel of salvation. There, He said that He is God’s “**only-begotten Son**”. Let us read His words:

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that everyone believing in Him not to perish, but to have everlasting life.”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

**WHAT DOES THE EXPRESSION “ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON” REVEAL?**

God has two kinds of sons:

- a) Jesus, Who is God’s **only-begotten Son**, and

- b) All the other “sons” in Heaven and on Earth, who are “sons” of God’s Creative Power.

In the foregoing verse, John 3:16, the Greek word for “**only-begotten**” appears as “**μονογενή**” (monogene). This precise Greek word reveals that the pre-human Jesus was **the only Son of God’s essence and therefore, God by nature.**

Thus, to believe in God’s “only-begotten Son” is to believe **that He is at once God by nature --- God in essence.** And according to the gospel of salvation which our Savior preached in John 3:16, **this belief is a requirement for and a prerequisite to receiving salvation and eternal life.**

The above truth is unshakable! Those who believe that Jesus, God’s **only-begotten** (monogene) **Son**, is a created being and not God in essence are **misinformed and not saved!**

**IS UNDERSTANDING OF WHO JESUS IS NECESSARY TO BE SAVED?**

Yes, it is! In John 6:40, the Lord Jesus said:

*“And this is the will of the One who sent Me, that whosoever sees the Son and believes in Him to have eternal*

*life....*” (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

This verse is clear. It is the Father’s will that those who:

- a) **See the Son**, and
- b) **Believe in Him**,

will have everlasting life.

**WHAT DOES THE EXPRESSION “TO SEE THE SON” MEAN?**

Does the verb “to see”, in the foregoing verse, refer to the function of the physical eyes? The obvious answer is “**NO!**” Jesus has not appeared to all the believers. In this case, the verb “to see” refers to our understanding. Thus, according to John 6:40, a person must:

- a) **Understand** (recognize) that Jesus is the only-begotten (monogene) Son of the only True God and that, because of this fact, **He is God in essence**, and,
- b) **Believe in Him in order to be saved.**

From the above we realize that understanding of Who Jesus is precedes faith which, in turn, precedes salvation.

Dear Reader, the reason I present this section to you is because there are many who preach that a person does not have to understand or to believe that Jesus is God to be saved. These are false teachers. They **do not** preach the true gospel of the Bible that I present to you today. **Without having fear of God, they preach their own irresponsible gospel that is based on their feelings, opinions, misunderstood personal experiences, profits, and preconceived ideas. Although their gospel tickles the ear of their listeners and makes them happy, it prevents them from receiving salvation.** The Bible calls their gospel “another gospel” and in Galatians 1:6-9 we read that **they and their gospel are cursed.**

The Lord God’s wish for His people is that **they understand with their minds Whom they love.** In Deuteronomy 6:5, we read, “*Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind, and with all thy soul, and all thy strength.*” (LXX; emphasis added).

The apostles Paul and John made comments to show us that having **the proper understanding of Christ is absolutely necessary for salvation.** In Ephesians 4:17-21, the apostle Paul said that **the Gentiles have separated from the life of God because of their ignorance,** and in 1 John 5:20, the apostle John says that **understanding** is important in order to “**know**” the True One Who is God and Eternal Life. Let us read their words. Paul wrote,

*“Therefore, I tell you this, and I bear witness in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the rest of the nations walk, in the vanity of their mind, **having been darkened in their understanding, being alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance that is in them** because of the hardening of their heart...You, however, did not learn Christ that way. **Because, you heard (of) him and were taught in him as the truth is in Jesus.**” (Ephesians 4:17-21; author’s translation from the Greek text; emphasis added).*

And John wrote,

*“And we know that the Son of God has come, and **has given us understanding** so that we continue **to know the True One**, and we are in the True One, in His Son Jesus Christ. **He is the True God, and the everlasting life.**” (1 John 5:20; author’s translation from the Greek text; emphasis added).*

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN, “**TO KNOW**” THE TRUE ONE?

The Greek verb “to know” is “**Γινώσκω**” (Ginosko). “Ginosko” means something deeper than just knowing things about a person. Ginosko a person means that I know that person well, **that I have a personal relationship with that person**. Ginosko also expresses **the intimate relationship that exists between a husband and his wife**. We can verify this from Matthew 1:25. There, it says that **Joseph did**

not “know” Mary until she gave birth to her firstborn Son. That expression reveals that Joseph did not have an intimate relationship with Mary, like that of a husband and a wife, until Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Thus, “to know” someone means to have a personal relationship with that person.

Therefore, when John wrote that the Son of God has given us understanding “to know” the True One, he really meant that we were given understanding of Who the True One is so we can have a personal relationship with Him!

Likewise, when Jesus said, in John 17:3, “*This is everlasting life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom you have sent*”, He meant that ever-lasting life is to have a personal relationship with the True God and with the Lord Jesus Christ!

Consequently, as everlasting life is “to know” the True One, how can ignorance help one develop this precious personal relationship?

Furthermore, if it is not necessary for one to know Who Christ Jesus is in order to be saved, how is it that the ignorance of the Gentiles caused them to separate from the life of God (Ephesians 4:17-21)? For this reason I am providing you with the knowledge that is necessary to un-

derstand that the real Jesus Christ of the Bible is the God Who became flesh in order to save **His people** from their sins (John 1:1,14; Matthew 1:21) and Who accomplished this task through His death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

**The expression “His people” reveals relationship! Would you like to believe in Jesus in order to become one of His people, to start your relationship with Him and to receive forgiveness for your sins right now? If “Yes”, pray to Him and ask Him to be your God and your Savior. If you do not know what “to believe in Him” means, and **why** it is necessary to pray to Him, please read on.**

**WHAT DOES THE EXPRESSION “TO BELIEVE IN HIM” MEAN?**

The Greek verb “to believe” is “**πιστεύω**” (pistevo). The literal meaning of the word “pistevo” is: “**I place my trust on**”. Thus, when the preacher said, “***Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved***” (Acts 16:31), he literally said, “**Put your trust on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.**”

The above understanding of the Greek word “pistevo” (to trust/believe) raises the following questions:

- 1) **How can people entrust their lives into the hands of Jesus if they have not “seen”** (if they have not understood) **Who He is?**
  
- 2) **How can they believe** (put their trust) **in the One of whom they have not heard?**

Question # 2 above is actually the very question the apostle Paul asks in Romans 10:14. However, before we examine his question, it is extremely important for us to understand **the core of the gospel** that the apostle Paul preaches in Romans chapter 10. There, preaching about salvation, **he presents to us God’s standard, God’s requirement by which a person can be saved.**

**WHAT IS GOD’S STANDARD BY WHICH A PERSON CAN BE SAVED?**

Long before the coming of the Lord Jesus, **the Spirit of God moved the prophet Joel to reveal God’s requirement for salvation.** In his book, chapter 2 and verse 32, Joel wrote:

*“And it will be (that) **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord** (YHWH) **shall be saved.**” (Parenthesis added).*

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God moved the apostle Peter **to remind his Jewish audience of God’s re-**

**quirement for salvation.** In Acts 2:21, we hear Peter **repeating** the words of Joel. He said:

*“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord (YHWH) shall be saved.”*

Later, in Romans 10:13, the Spirit of God moved the apostle Paul to write:

*“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord (YHWH) shall be saved.”*

From the above, we realize that there are three witnesses that give us the same testimony (Deuteronomy 19:15).

**WHAT DOES THE EXPRESSION “CALL UPON” MEAN?**

**“To call upon” means, “to pray to”.**

We can easily verify the meaning of the expression “to call upon” from Acts 7:59 where we read that Steven **“called upon”** Jesus saying, *“Lord Jesus receive my spirit.”* It is clear that when Steven called upon Jesus, **he was praying to Him.**

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE “LORD” THAT A PERSON MUST “CALL UPON” OR “PRAY TO” IN ORDER TO BE SAVED? IS IT THE NAME “YHWH” OR THE NAME “JESUS”? The apostle Peter has revealed to us that the name is “Jesus”. In Acts 4:10-12, we hear Peter saying:

*“let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised up from the dead ... there is salvation in no other one, because neither is there any other name under heaven which has been given among men by which we must be saved.”* (Author’s translation from the Greek text).

From the above we realize that the very name of the “Lord” (YHWH) that a person must call upon (**to pray to**) to be saved is “JESUS” which, name, means “YHWH THE SAVIOR”.

**How, though, could people pray to Jesus in order to be saved if they have not “seen”, i.e., if they have not understood the fact that He is:**

- a) **The Almighty God, the Word Who created all things for Himself** (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16)?
- b) **The One Who emptied Himself of His Godly glory** (Philippians 2:7,8) **in order to become the great Redeemer of Isaiah 59:15-20 and 60:16?**

- c) **The Most Holy God, YHWH THE SAVIOR, Who became flesh through the virgin Mary (John 1:1,14; Matthew 1:18; Daniel 9:24,26) in order to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) and Who accomplished this task through His death, burial and resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)?**
- d) **The “Lord” (YHWH) of Romans 10:13 Whose name one must call upon to be saved?**

Again, the last of the above questions echoes Paul’s question in Romans 10:14. Therefore, it is time we examined Paul’s writings about salvation from Romans chapter 10:

#### EXAMINING ROMANS CHAPTER TEN

**In verse 1**, the apostle Paul says that his heart’s desire and prayer to God **for the Israelites is that they may be saved**. He wrote:

*“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God on behalf of Israel is for (their) salvation.”* (Author’s translation).

Based on the above words, please consider: Did the Israelites believe in the True God? Yes, they did! Did they pray to Him? Did they **“call upon”** His name? Yes, they did! However, in the above verse, the apostle said that **they were not saved!** His prayer to God was that **they may be saved**.

**In verse 2**, Paul testifies about them that they are zealous for God; but **their zeal is not according to knowledge**.

Please consider: Did the Israelites know their God YHWH? **Absolutely!** Did they know God's law? Of course they did! Better than anyone else! And they were trying to keep it faithfully, believing that by doing so they would be declared righteous and that they would earn eternal life (Matthew 19:16-19). Then, **what was the knowledge they were lacking?**

**In verse 3**, Paul says that **they did not know the righteousness that comes from God** and that they sought to establish their own; therefore, **they did not subject themselves to God's righteousness**.

Who is God's righteousness that a person must subject himself to?

**In verse 4**, he preaches that Christ is the end of the law and that **He (Jesus) is the righteousness to all who believe**. (Those who believe in **YHWH** or those who believe in **Jesus?**)

**In verses 5-8**, Paul describes what Moses wrote about the righteousness that comes from keeping the law, and compares it with the righteousness that comes **by faith** (in Christ). At the end of verse 8, he wrote:

*“that is the word of faith which we preach:”*

In verse 9, he tells us **what they** (the apostles of the Lord Jesus) **preached**. (I translate from the Greek text):

*“9 that if you shall agree with me [ομολογήσης (omo-lo-ye-e-sis)], with your mouth, (that) Jesus (is the) Lord (accusative case – Κύριον Ιησούν), and if you shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;”*

In the above verse, the accusative case found in the first of the two conditions for salvation, i.e., *“if you shall agree with me (acknowledge, admit, confess), with your mouth, (that) Jesus (is the) Lord,”* demands that the person acknowledges that Jesus is the **“Lord”** (the substitute for **“YHWH”**) Whose name one must pray to in order to be saved (verse 13).

The accusative case *“(τον) Κύριον Ιησούν”* [(the) Lord Jesus], brings the word *“Κύριον”* (Kyriion --- Lord) to its maximum extension. Jesus is not presented here as “a lord” or as “a master”. As there are many lords and masters, it wouldn’t be difficult for an Israelite to say with his/her mouth that Jesus is “a lord” because He has followers or servants. Even today’s false prophets and false teachers have no problem calling Jesus “lord” with the idea that “lord” means “master”. How, then, did the apostles and the early Christians understand and use the word **“Lord”** in

connection with Jesus? Let us examine the testimony of Irenaeus.

Irenaeus lived from 130-200 A.D. He was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the apostle John and lived from 65-155/6 A.D. Irenaeus became the Bishop of Lyones. His writings were against heresies. About the name “**Lord**”, he wrote the following:

***“The name of God or Lord is given only to Him who is called God and Lord of all; who said to Moses: ‘My name is I AM. And you shall say to the Israelites, HE WHO IS has sent me to you.’ The name of God or Lord is given also to His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, ... And the Son says to Moses: ‘I have come down to rescue this people.’ For it is the Son who descended and ascended for the salvation of men. Thus, through the Son who is in the Father, and has the Father in Himself, HE WHO IS has been revealed.”*** (Against Heresies, III, vi:2).

From the above teaching of Irenaeus we understand that the name “**Lord**”, when it refers to the One Who is God and the Lord of all, **is an explicit title for Deity and it stands for “YHWH”!** The apostles used it freely in naming God’s only begotten Son because they had believed that Jesus is the “Lord of all” (Acts 10:36).

When the Hebrews found it necessary to translate the Old Testament from the old Hebrew language into the Greek

language (**for the benefit of their own people, who spoke Greek**), they decided (for valid and serious reasons), to replace the Hebrew name of God, the Tetragrammaton “YHWH”, with the Greek word “**Κύριος**” (Lord). Thus, in that translation, which became known as the “Septuagint”, the God of the Hebrews became known as “**Κύριος**” (Kyrios --- Lord). When the Hebrews of the first century were talking about the “Lord”, they were referring to their God YHWH. Consequently, the name “**Lord**” (Kyrios) became synonymous with the name “**YHWH**”.

The New Testament writers continued to use the name “**Κύριος**” (Lord) in their writings and, as I said above, they used it freely in naming God’s only begotten Son. They named Him “**Lord Jesus**” (Acts 8:16), “**Lord Christ**” (Colossians 3:24) and “**The Lord Jesus Christ**” (Acts 11:17).

An important point to remember here is that even the Pagans were using the word “**Κύριος**” (Kyrios-Lord) before the names of their gods and before the names of their emperors whom they worshipped as gods (for instance, Lord Serapes, Lord Nero, etc.). For this reason, **the early Christians preferred to die rather than to say, “Lord Caesar”!**

From the foregoing information, we come to the conclusion that when Paul said a person must confess or acknowledge that **Jesus is the Lord** to be saved, he meant that a person

must acknowledge or confess that **Jesus is God (YHWH) in order to be saved.**

Also in verse 9, we observe that the three verbs, i.e., 1) **confess**, 2) **believe**, and 3) **saved**, are found in the future tense and that the first two refer **to conditions** while the third **to the promise of salvation**:

1. “**if** you **shall** confess”;
2. “**if** you **shall** believe”;
3. “you **shall** be saved”.

From the above, it is obvious that Paul’s word of faith was not preached to already saved persons but to those Israelites who worshipped YHWH, who had zeal for God, but, **who had not acknowledged Jesus as YHWH the Son in the flesh and had not believed that God YHWH the Father had raised Him from the dead and who, because of this unbelief, were not saved.**

**The Israelites must realize that Jesus is YHWH THE SAVIOR, their Redeemer Lord of Isaiah 59:20 and 60:16b. They must realize that Jesus is the prophetic “Arm” of YHWH of Isaiah chapter 53 Who became flesh to save His people from their sins. Also, they must realize that after their Savior God died on the cross according to their Scriptures (Isaiah 53:5,8), and was buried in a rich man’s grave according to their Scriptures (Isaiah 53:9), and after He was raised from the dead according to**

**their Scriptures (Isaiah 53:10,11), their salvation depended on whether or not they would acknowledge or confess in faith that Jesus is indeed YHWH the Son Who fulfilled every prophecy concerning the Person and the work of their Messiah so they can call upon His name in order to be saved.** If you are an Israelite who has not yet accepted Jesus as your Savior God, would you like to believe in Him now? Jesus, God's Righteous Servant, will justify many through their full understanding of Him (Isaiah 53:11). There is more information on Who Jesus really is. Please read on.

The understanding that the word "Lord" in verse 9 means "YHWH" is further supported by the fact that all the following verses that connect verse 9 to verse 13, start with the word "because" (γάρ---gar). Why is the connection between verses 9 and 13 important? Because in verse 13, the apostle Paul presents God's standard for salvation as the prophet Joel revealed it. Remember (pages 29,30)? In the old Hebrew text Joel presents it as,

*"Whosoever shall call on the name of YHWH shall be saved",*

while Paul, applying the above words of Joel to Jesus, quotes from the Greek translation of the above, from the Septuagint, and he presents it as,

*“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Thus, Paul’s preaching is loud and clear:

**A person must believe that Jesus is the YHWH Whose name he/she must call upon (to pray to in faith, knowing Who He is) in order to be saved!**

Now let us observe a few more points from verses 10-12:

**In verse 10**, we hear Paul saying that **when one believes with his heart, it results in righteousness**, and **when one confesses with the mouth, the result is salvation**. Thus, **until one believes with his/her heart that Jesus is YHWH** (the “Lord” of verses 9 and 13) **and confesses that faith with his/her mouth, that person is not saved!**

**In verse 11**, Paul brings to the attention of those Israelites who were seeking their own righteousness by keeping the Law of Moses, that the Scriptures say, *“The one who believes in Him will by no means be ashamed.”* (Isaiah 28:16; 49:23; author’s translation from the Septuagint).

**In verse 12**, Paul says to those Israelites that **there is no difference between a Jew and a Greek because the same Lord is over all** and He is rich to all who call upon Him (to all those who pray to Him).

Therefore, we see that Paul actually says that the Lord of the Jews, YHWH, and the Lord that the Greeks had believed through his preaching, Jesus, is one and the same Lord who is over all and who is rich to all who pray to Him!

These words of Paul go hand in hand with his words in Romans 9:5, where he says that **Jesus is God over all** and blessed forever. However, in **verses 14** and **15**, Paul asks in wonder:

*“How, then, can they (the Israelites and the Greeks --- verses 12,13), call on (pray to) the One in Whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in (Jesus) the One of Whom they have not heard? And how can they hear (of Who Jesus is) without someone preaching? And how can they preach if they are not sent? As it has been written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who are evangelizing the good things (the gospel)!”*

(Author’s parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

Based on Paul’s questions, let us consider the following:

- 1) Had the Israelites heard about YHWH? **Of course they had!**
- 2) Did the Israelites believe in YHWH as their God? **Of course they did!**

- 3) Did the Israelites call upon the name of YHWH? Did they pray to Him? **Of course they did!**
- 4) In Paul's days, would God have found it necessary to send preachers to the Israelites in order to preach to them about Who YHWH is? **Of course not!**

**Beyond any doubt then, Paul's Subject in verses 14 and 15 is not YHWH the Father, but YHWH the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the "Lord" (YHWH) of verses 9 and 13!**

From the foregoing we realize that the word of faith that Paul preached in verses 9-15, was that **God sent preachers to the unbelieving (in Jesus) Israelites and Gentiles, so that they would hear about Jesus, in order for them to agree (i.e., to acknowledge or confess) in faith that Jesus is the Lord (YHWH), and to believe in their hearts that God the Father raised Him from the dead, in order to call upon His name (i.e., to pray to Jesus, believing that He is YHWH, in order to establish a personal relationship with Him) in order to receive salvation.**

**DID ALL ISRAEL ACCEPT THE GOSPEL THAT THOSE PREACHERS PREACHED?**

Let us see what Paul says in verses 16-21:

*"But not all obeyed the gospel, because Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our preaching? Therefore, the*

*faith (comes) from hearing (the message preached), and the message preached (comes) through the word of God. But I say, Did they not hear? Yes, of course, their voice went out into the whole earth and their words went out into the ends of the inhabited (earth). But I say, Did not Israel know? First, Moses says, 'I will provoke you to jealousy by (those who are) a non-nation; I will anger you by a nation that has no understanding.' But Isaiah dares to say, 'I was found by those who did not seek Me; I revealed Myself to those who did not ask for Me.' But to Israel He says, 'All day I stretched out My hands towards a disobeying and gainsaying people.'"*

(Author's parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

From the above words, we realize that **although they had the writings of their prophets** all Israel did not obey the gospel. **They failed to understand, they failed to recognize the One Who fulfilled ALL the prophesies regarding the coming of their Messiah.** They failed to recognize the One Who came out of Bethlehem, and Whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity (Micah 5:2).

**They failed to realize that God YHWH Who created all things by His Word (because He spoke everything into existence) would save His people from their sins through that very same Word Who is a living and active Person (Hebrews 4:12,13).**

Perhaps they had never imagined that **the Word of God** (John 1:1), **the Wisdom of God** (1 Cor.1:24,30), would become flesh in order to save **His people** from their sins. If they had understood Who Jesus is they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8).

**However, the testimony of His good and powerful works** (His miracles) **and the testimony of their Scriptures should have brought them to the point of recognizing that Jesus is the Arm of YHWH that works salvation** (Isaiah 53:1-12; 59:16,17,20; 40:10,11). **They should have recognized Jesus as the Word of God Who comes out of the Father and does not return to Him void but after He accomplishes that which pleases the Father** (Isaiah 55:11). **Jesus is the Eternal Son of God, Whom the Father sent into this world to become flesh in order to be the Redeemer and the Savior that would save His people from their sins** (John 1:1,14; Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 53). For this reason, Jesus said to them:

*“... do you say about the One whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, that You blaspheme, because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me. But if I do, even if you do not believe Me, believe the works, in order to know and to believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”* (John 10:36-38; author’s translation from the Greek text).

And in John 5:39,40, Jesus said to them:

*“You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life. And these (the Scriptures) are the ones that bear testimony about Me. And you are not willing to come to Me in order to have life.”*

(John 5:39---Author’s translation from the Greek text).

#### THE WALK TO EMMAUS --- A CASE TO CONSIDER

In Luke, chapter 24, we encounter a powerful event. The resurrected Jesus approaches two men who are walking towards the village called Emmaus and He walks along with them. A conversation takes place between them and Jesus. In verses 21-24 they say to Him that **they had hoped that Jesus is the Redeemer of Israel and that now, three days after His death, although they had heard reports that He had been raised from the dead, they had some doubts.** And in verses 25 and 26, Jesus says to them:

*“...O fools, and slow to believe in (your) heart all the things that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning from Moses, and from all the prophets, He explained to them the things (that were written) about Himself in all the Scriptures.”* (Author’s parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

**WHY DID JESUS FIND IT NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THE THINGS THE PROPHETS HAD WRITTEN ABOUT HIMSELF IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES?**

Before I answer this question, I would like to remind you of certain facts so you don't lose your focus.

The need for salvation became necessary because of what happened in the garden. Adam and Eve fell. **Their disobedience enslaved them and all their descendants under the power of Satan** (who introduced them to sin), **and under the power of sin that ruled mankind through death** (Romans 5:21; 6:20).

As **none** of the descendants of Adam could escape sin, all mankind was **alienated from the Most Holy God**. As I explained on pages 3 and 4, all mankind lost the following two treasures:

- a) **The personal relationship** they could have had with their Creator, and
- b) **The possibility of having eternal life.**

However, **God gave them a promise of hope**. To the Serpent (Satan) He said,

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed --- He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”* (Genesis 3:15).

Throughout the ages, all those who loved their Creator and wanted to reconcile to Him in order to have a personal rela-

tionship with Him and eternal life, awaited anxiously to see the fulfillment of God's promise about the coming of the "Seed".

**It was (and still is) extremely important for one to "see", (i.e., to recognize/to understand) the "Seed" of the woman, the Savior, because, as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed, God's "righteous Servant" will justify many through their full knowledge (their full understanding) of Him [Isaiah 53:11; "*or by knowledge of him*" (footnote, New International Version)].**

The above thought is also expressed in John 6:40. There, Jesus said,

*"And this is the will of the One who sent Me, that whosoever sees the Son and believes in Him to have eternal life...."* (Author's emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

The words, "sees the Son" refer to "recognizing" the Son, i.e., to understand Who He is. This understanding is absolutely necessary if one is to place his/her trust in Him, i.e., to believe in Him, in order to have everlasting life.

The foregoing verse goes along with the words of Jesus in John 8:24 and 16:8,9. In John 8:24, Jesus said:

*“Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins. Because if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

And in John 16:8,9, Jesus said:

*“And when He (the Comforter) will come, He will convict the world for sin, and for righteousness, and for judgment. For sin, because they do not believe in Me;”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

From these words of the Lord Jesus, we observe again that one **must recognize Who the real Savior is and must believe in Him or else he/she will die in his/her sins.**

For this reason, God had provided Israel with many accurate prophecies regarding **the coming, the Person, and the work** of the “Seed”, in order to help them identify the One by Whom not only Israel, but *“all the tribes of the earth”* would be saved and blessed. **The fulfillment of those prophecies by Jesus gives assurance to all people of Who he is.** The given prophecies were so many and so accurate to the smallest detail, that it would be absolutely impossible for a false savior to fulfill them all. Only the True Savior would be able to fulfill each one of them. Therefore, what would the Israelites of the days of Jesus have to do in order to decide whether Jesus was the True Messiah or not? They would have to:

- a) **familiarize themselves with these prophecies** (Luke 24:25-27);
- b) **trust that these prophecies were not given to their prophets in vain** (Luke 24:25);
- c) **observe the works of Jesus** (Luke 24:27); and then,
- d) **believe** ( Luke 24:25)!

This is the reason Jesus found it necessary to say to those two men, “...*O fools, and slow to believe in (your) heart all the things that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into His glory?*” (Luke 24:25,26). And then He proceeded, beginning from Moses, and from all the prophets, to explain to them the things that were written about Him in all the Scriptures. **It was absolutely necessary for them to recognize the True Savior through the Scriptures in order to place their trust on Him in order to be saved.** What glory! And it is absolutely necessary for us to do the same today.

**WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT THE PROPHETS HAD WRITTEN ABOUT JESUS “IN ALL THE SCRIPTURES” THAT HE WOULD HAVE EXPLAINED TO THOSE TWO MEN?**

Beginning with Moses, He would have reminded them about **the promise of hope that God gave to the sinful mankind**. Remember? In Genesis 3:15, Moses wrote about **the Seed of the woman** that would crush the head of mankind's enemy (i.e., the head of the Serpent --- of the Devil). There we read:

*“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”* (KJV)

**WHERE WOULD THE PROMISED “SEED” COME FROM?  
FROM WHICH NATION OF THE EARTH?**

In Genesis 22:18, Moses wrote that the Seed, in which not only Israel, but, **all the nations of the earth** will be blessed, would come out of the seed of Abraham. There we read:

*“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;”* (KJV; also read Genesis 26:4).

From the Scriptures we learn that Abraham fathered Isaac, that Isaac fathered Jacob, and that Jacob (whom God called “Israel”; Genesis 35:10), fathered twelve sons. The twelve sons of Jacob became the Patriarchs of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel. **Therefore, the promised Seed would come out of the nation of Israel.**

**THE “WOMAN” --- AN INTERESTING POINT**

Also from the Bible we learn that YHWH, the God of Abraham, made a covenant with that nation and thus Israel became God’s **symbolic “woman”** or **“wife”** (Exodus 19:3-6; Jeremiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 16:2,3,8; Isaiah 54:1-8). **From this fact, we see again that the “Seed of the woman” would definitely have to come out of the nation of Israel.**

**WHICH TRIBE OF ISRAEL WOULD THE PROMISED “SEED OF THE WOMAN” --- THE “SEED” BY WHOM ALL THE TRIBES OF THE EARTH WOULD BE BLESSED --- COME FROM?**

The coming of the promised **“Seed”** of Genesis 3:15 and 22:18, is the main theme of the Bible and it is carried over from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. From the numerous and accurate prophecies that were given about **His coming** (where would He appear), about **His Person** (of Who the Messiah would be), and about **His work** (of how He would save His people), we learn that **the promised “Seed”, the Messiah, would come out of the tribe of Judah and out of the bloodline of King David.** Also, in these prophecies **He is presented in a variety of names.** Let us examine a few of these prophecies in order to support the above statements and to familiarize ourselves with a few of these prophetic names, such as:

1. **“The Prophet”** of Deuteronomy 18:15-19; there, Moses wrote:

*“the Lord your God will raise up a Prophet out of your brothers, (One) like me --- you shall listen to Him, ... and the Lord said to me, ... I will raise up a Prophet to them from among their brothers, just like you; and I will put My words in His mouth; and He will speak to them whatever I will command Him. And the man who will not listen to all the things which that Prophet will speak in My name, I will take vengeance from him.”* (Author’s translation from the Greek Septuagint).

2. **“The Shoot”** and **“the Branch”** that goes out of the root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1,2); there it says:

*“And a Shoot will come out from the root of Jesse, and a Blossom will come up from the root. And the Spirit of God will rest on Him; the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of power, the spirit of knowledge and of godliness will fill Him, the spirit of fear of God.”* (Author’s translation from the Septuagint).

Please compare the above prophecy with Isaiah 61:1-3, Matthew 12:15-21 and Luke 4:16-21.

Also, please pay attention to the prophecy that follows. There, He is not only the Shoot and the Branch that comes out of the root of Jesse as we observed in the foregoing prophecy, but also, **He is the Root of Jesse**. Jesse was from the tribe of Judah and he was the father of King David

(Matthew 1:6). A similar thought is expressed in Mark 12:35-37.

3. “**The Root of Jesse**” of Isaiah 11:10; there, the prophecy said:

*“And it shall be in that day, the Root of Jesse, (and) the One Who will stand to rule nations; nations will hope in Him; and His rest will be honor.”* (Author’s translation from the Septuagint).

4. The “**righteous Branch**” and the “**King**” of Jeremiah 23:5,6 and 33:14-16, Whose name is “**YHWH OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**”. There we read:

*“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”* (KJV; Jeremiah 23:5,6 --- compare with Romans 10:4).

*“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that will I perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah*

*be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.”* (KJV; Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Yes, the promised Seed, “**the Branch**”, would come out of the bloodline of King David.

5. “**Shiloh**” of Genesis 49:8-10; there, Jacob prophesied:

*“Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father’s children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”* (KJV)

Yes, the Messiah would come out of the tribe of Judah!

**A point of interest:** “Shiloh” means “tranquil”, “serene”, “calm”. Obviously, that name refers to **the One Who is the Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6).

6. **The “Ruler”** of Micah 5:2; let us read Micah’s great prophecy in which even the birth-place of the Messiah was prophesied:

*“But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”*

(KJV)

7. **The “Arm of YHWH”** of Isaiah 53:1-9; I am sure that Jesus would have brought this prophecy of Isaiah to the attention of those two men that were walking with Him toward Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). He must have reminded them that His death, the reason of His death, His burial, and His resurrection, had been prophesied. Let us read:

*“Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet, we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity*

*of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*” (KJV; author’s emphasis; also read John 12:38).

From this prophecy it is manifest that the “**Arm of YHWH**” would be revealed to us by **becoming flesh in order to be wounded or pierced and to be killed like a Lamb for our iniquities**. The details given to us through this prophecy are amazing. It even tells us that He would not open His mouth to defend Himself and that He would be buried in a rich man’s grave (Matthew 26:63; 27:12-14, 57-60).

Again, speaking about the Arm of YHWH and salvation, Isaiah said:

*“and the Lord (YHWH) shall reveal His holy arm before all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation which is beside our God.”* (Isaiah 52:10; author’s parenthesis and translation from the Septuagint).

8. “**The Sun of righteousness**” of Malachi 4:1,2; let us read the prophecy God gave to Malachi:

*“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”*  
(KJV)

9. The “**Child**”, the “**Son**”, the “**Wonderful**”, the “**Counselor**”, “**the mighty God**”, “**the everlasting Father**” and “**the Prince of Peace**” of Isaiah 9:6; let us read this prophecy again:

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”* (KJV)

From this prophecy we realize that the Messiah Who was to come would be more than a mere man. He would be the everlasting Father. The words, “*For unto us a child is born*” refer to His human birth when He became flesh. The words, “*unto us a son is given*” refer to the fact that God gave His Son to die for the sins of those who will believe that He is God’s only-begotten Son and therefore God in

essence (John 3:16; 8:24). His name, “*The mighty God*” refers to the fact that He is YHWH, **the Mighty God** of Israel (Jeremiah 33:18), Who became flesh (John 1:1,14), in order to save **His** people from their sins (Matthew 1:21), because **God YHWH is the only Savior** (Isaiah 43:11; please compare with Isaiah 45:21 and 2 Peter 1:1).

10. The “**Son**” of Psalms 2:12; there it says:

“**Kiss the Son** (love the Son), *lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*” (KJV; author’s parenthesis).

11. “**The Son of man**” of Daniel 7:13,14; there, Daniel the prophet wrote:

“*I was looking in a night vision, and, behold, (one) like (the) Son of man coming with the clouds of heaven, and He arrived near the Ancient of the Days, and He was brought in before Him. And to Him was given the dominion and the honor, and the kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should worship (pel-akh = serve or worship; Strong’s Hebrew word number 6399) Him. His authority is an everlasting authority which shall not pass away, and His kingdom shall not be corrupted (or destroyed).*” (Compare with Matthew 28:18; Author’s parenthesis and translation from the Septuagint).

From the above prophecy we see that it is God's wish for all peoples **to worship the Son of man**. Based on the fact that God would not go against His own commandment, as it is recorded in Exodus 20:5, it is easy to realize that this "Son of man" is not a mere created being. He is **YHWH the Son, the Arm of YHWH** of Isaiah 59:16, Who would come to Zion to be the Savior and the Redeemer (Isaiah 59:20 and 60:16b).

**12. "The fiery (copper) serpent" that was set on a pole,** of Numbers 21:6-9. I am sure that on their way to Emmaus (page 44), Jesus would have reminded those two men of this event and its fulfillment for salvation in Him; let us read this case:

***"And the LORD sent fiery (red) serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, (copper) and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass (copper), he lived."*** (KJV; Septuagint reads "copper" instead of "brass"; author's parenthesis and emphasis).

The “**pole**” pointed to His death on **the cross**. Jesus’ death on the cross was the fulfillment of God’s words to the serpent when He said, in Genesis 3:15, “*and you will strike His heel*”. Remember, a serpent can strike one’s heel **before** its head is crushed. The Seed of the Woman will crush the head of the Serpent. All we (sinners) have to do today is “to see” --- **to recognize** --- the One who died for us by shedding His blood on the cross and to believe in Him in order not to die in our sins (John 8:24) but to have everlasting life (John 6:40). As the Israelites looked upon the serpent on the pole and lived, so we must look upon Jesus and live --- forever!

The “**red serpent**” on the pole pictured the Lord Jesus Christ Who poured His blood on the cross. Why did God YHWH choose a serpent to symbolize His only-begotten Son on the cross? Isn’t the serpent **a symbol of something cursed** like the serpent that God cursed in the garden? The answer is very simple:

In Deuteronomy 21:23a, Moses wrote: “you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because **anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse.**”

In Galatians 3:13, Paul, speaking about how Christ redeemed those who once were under the curse of the Law, wrote:

*“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse on our behalf; because it has been written, ‘Whosoever has been hanged on a tree is cursed.’”* (Author’s translation from the Greek text).

In Hebrews 9:28, we read that *“Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many”* --- of all those who look up to Him because they have trusted the prophecies given by the Old Testament prophets. **If you are not one of those whose sins are forgiven, would you like to be one now? If your heart’s answer is, “Yes!”, look up to Jesus right now; recognize Him as your God and Savior Who loved you to death and Who was raised from the dead for your justification; believe in Him; pray to Him and your sins will be removed --- instantly! Praise His name!**

Speaking to Nicodemus, the Lord Jesus Christ referred to the copper serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert and said:

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, likewise must the Son of man be lifted up, so that whosoever is believing in Him not to perish, but to have everlasting life.”* (John 3:14,15; author’s translation from the Greek text).

13. **“The Most Holy One”**, of Daniel 9:24-26, **Who would be anointed** (in order to become **“the Anointed One”**, **“the Christ”** or **“the Messiah”**). Let us read:

*“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people, and for your holy city, in order to finish the transgression, and to bring the sins to an end, and to make atonement for lawlessness, and to bring in everlasting righteousness and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy One. Know then, and understand, that from the issuing of the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem, until (the coming of) the Christ the Leader, there will be seven weeks, and sixty two weeks ... And after the sixty two weeks, the Christ will be cut off, but not for Himself; ...”*  
(Author’s translation from the Greek version).

The foregoing verses tell us very clearly that the Most Holy One, i.e., God, would become the Christ, the Anointed One, Who would come to bring an end to the transgression and to the sins, and to make atonement for lawlessness, and to bring in everlasting righteousness and to seal up vision and prophecy!

God’s wise and mysterious decision to save the sinful descendants of Adam by becoming flesh in order to be the Christ through His Eternal and Almighty Word, would require, on behalf of those that would be saved, faith and trust in Him. **This act of YHWH** (His becoming flesh and dying on the cross), **would definitely make Him be a stumbling stone and a rock of offence to the two houses of Israel.** Let’s read a few scriptures to support the foregoing statements. In Isaiah 8:13,14, we read:

*“Sanctify Jehovah of hosts himself, and let Him be your fear; and let Him be your dread. And He shall be for a sanctuary, and for a stone of stumbling, and for a rock of falling to the two houses of Israel...”* (Jay P. Green, Sr.).

**HOW WOULD YHWH, THE TRUE GOD OF ISRAEL, BE A STUMBLING STONE TO THOSE THAT LOVED HIM AND WORSHIPPED HIM?**

By becoming flesh through His Word and dying on the cross!

Indeed, for most people it would be very hard to even imagine that God, through His Word, would become a Man in order to die on the cross for the sins of the world. Such a thought to the Jew would be an offence and to the Greek it would be foolishness! However, regardless of how humans think, God accomplished it! The apostle John wrote that **the Word Who was God, became flesh** (John 1:1,14), and he quoted Jesus Who said that **whosoever believes in Him** (in Jesus) **will not perish but has eternal life** (John 3:16). Also, the apostle Paul explained that the foregoing prophecy, about the Rock-of-offence, **was fulfilled in Jesus and that all those who would believe in Him will not be put to shame**. Let us read his words:

*“For they (the Israelites) stumbled at the stone-of-stumbling (Jesus), as it has been written, “Behold, I place in Zion a stone-of-stumbling, and a Rock-of-offence; and”*

**whosoever is believing in Him will not be ashamed.**

(Romans 9:32b,33; Author's parenthesis and translation from the Greek text. Also, please read Romans chapter 10).

**HOW WOULD THE CHRIST ACCOMPLISH ALL THE THINGS MENTIONED IN DANIEL 9:24-26?**

The Most Holy One that would become the Christ would:

- 1) Bring an end to the transgression and to the sins.**
- 2) Make atonement for lawlessness.**
- 3) Bring in everlasting righteousness, and**
- 4) Seal up vision and prophecy.**

**How would He accomplish all of the above? The answer is: Through His death --- by pouring His blood on the cross on behalf of all those who would believe in Him.**

This is the reason the prophecy said that "*the Christ will be cut off, but not for Himself.*" (Verse 26)

**ARE THERE OTHER PROPHECIES THAT SHOW THAT THE CHRIST WOULD BE PUT TO DEATH?**

Yes, there are! Let us examine a few. In **Psalms 22:1,7,15-18**, we read:

*“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me ... All who see me scornfully laugh at me ... My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue clings to my jaws; also You appoint me to the dust of death; for dogs have encircled me; a band of spoilers have hemmed me in, piercers of my hands and my feet. I count all my bones; they look, they stare at me. They divide my garments among them, and they made fall a lot for my clothing.”* (Jay P. Green, Sr.).

The above prophecy describes His death on the cross with great accuracy. It even tells us that they would cast lots to divide His clothing among them! Let us read from Luke 23:33-37 to see the fulfillment of this prophecy:

*“And when they came to the place that was called Skull, they crucified Him there ... And Jesus was saying, Father, forgive them because they do not know what they are doing. And dividing His garments, they cast a lot. And the people stood looking. And the rulers were scoffing with them, saying, He saved others; let Him save himself, if he is the Christ, (the One Who is) the elect of God. And also the soldiers were scoffing Him (and) coming near, they were offering vinegar to Him and saying, If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”* (Author’s translation from the Greek text).

In **Zechariah 13:7**, we read about a **“Man” who is God’s companion and who must die**. Let us pay attention:

*“O sword, awake against My Shepherd, and against the Man who is My companion, says Jehovah of hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered ....”* (Jay P. Green, Sr.)

Who is this “**Man**” who is God’s companion and the **Shepherd** that was to die?

**The Man** of Zechariah 13:7, the One Who is **God’s companion** and the **Shepherd** that the sword was commanded to strike, **was indeed the Eternal Son of God Whose name was “the Word of God” and Who became the Man Jesus Christ** (John 1:1,14; Rev. 19:13). In Matthew 26:31, the Lord Jesus applied this prophecy of Zechariah to Himself. There, He said to His disciples:

*“... all of you will be offended in Me tonight; because it has been written, ‘I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”* Author’s translation from the Greek text).

In **Zechariah 12:10**, we read the words of YHWH:

*“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a spirit of grace and of prayers. And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only-begotten son, and they will be sad for Him, as one is sad”*

*for his firstborn.*” (Author’s translation from the modern Greek version; author’s emphasis).

According to the above prophecy, Who was the One Who was pierced? The answer is: **God YHWH!**

In the gospel of John, chapter 19 and verses 32-37, John, who was an eyewitness to the crucifixion of Jesus, wrote:

*“Then the soldiers came and they broke the legs of the first, and of the other that was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus, as they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a lance; and immediately blood and water came out. And the one who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and that one knows that he speaks truly, in order for you to believe. For these things happened in order for the scripture to be fulfilled, that His bones will not be broken. (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalms 34:20). And again, another scripture says that they shall look on Him whom they have pierced.”* (Author’s parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

According to the above scriptures, Who fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10? Who was pierced? The answer is: **Jesus did! He was pierced!** And about His second coming, the book of Revelation says,

*“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and those who pierced Him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on Him. Yes, Amen.”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

The fulfillment of the above prophecy of the book of Revelation will also be the fulfillment of the prophecy that is recorded in Daniel 7:13,14. There it says,

*“I saw in the night visions. And, behold, one like the Son of man was coming with the clouds of the heavens. And He came to the Ancient of Days. And they brought Him in before Him. And the authority was given to Him, and the glory, and the kingdom, in order for all the peoples, the nations, and the languages to worship Him; His authority is eternal authority which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be corrupted.”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek version).

Please compare the words, “*And the authority was given to Him*” with the words of the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 9:5 where it says that “*the authority* (or government) *is on His shoulder*” and with the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:18, where He said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me.*” Beyond any doubt then, Jesus is the Son of man of Daniel 7:14 Whom all peoples will worship.

From all of the above, we see that the One Who was pierced on the cross, the One Who is coming with the

clouds, is none else but God YHWH the Son, the Most Holy One Who became the Christ in order to bring an end to the transgression and to the sins, to make atonement for lawlessness, to bring in everlasting righteousness and to seal up vision and prophecy through His death. Have you recognized Him in order to thank Him for what He has done for you? **Will you worship Him now?** Your decision will determine whether you will rejoice when you will see Him coming with the clouds or whether you will be one of those who will wail on Him. It is your choice! Make the right choice now and be happy!

**HOW WOULD “THE MOST HOLY ONE”, WHO, ACCORDING TO DANIEL 9:24-26 WOULD BECOME THE CHRIST, “SEAL UP VISION AND PROPHECY”?**

By fulfilling all the visions and all the prophecies that had foretold His coming and His salvific work! As Jesus said, “... *all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John (the Baptist).*” (Matthew 11:13; author’s parenthesis).

**IS THERE ANOTHER PLACE IN THE BIBLE THAT SAYS THAT GOD WOULD BE ANOINTED?**

Yes, there is! In Hebrews 1:8-12, we read **about God the Son**:

*“but to the Son (He said), ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; the scepter (the rod) of Your kingdom is a scepter of righteousness; You have loved righteousness and*

*hated lawlessness; for this reason, God, Your God, has anointed You with oil of gladness above Your partners.' And, 'You, Lord, at the beginning founded the earth, and the heavens are works of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain (forever); and they will all become old like a garment, and You will roll them like a covering, and they will be changed. But You are the same, Your years will not run out.'*" (Author's parenthesis, emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

From the above words we learn that **the Son**, Who is One of the True Godhead YHWH, **is the Eternal God, the Creator of the Heavens and of the Earth and that He would be anointed --- that He would be the Christ!**

**IS THERE A PROPHECY THAT SAID THAT GOD YHWH WOULD COME TO THE EARTH?**

Is it possible? Can the human mind conceive the idea that the Creator of the universe, the Almighty YHWH, who created all things for Himself (Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16-20), would come down from Heaven to walk among us? Would YHWH, the God of Israel, Who said that there is no Savior besides Him (Isaiah 43:11), come down personally to save **His** people from their sins? Is there a prophecy in the Old Testament that gives that idea?

Yes, there is! The words of Isaiah chapter 59 are very clear. Beginning with verse 15, we see that YHWH looked down

and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one to intervene. So, **His own Arm worked salvation**. He put on righteousness as His breastplate; He put on His head the helmet of salvation; He put on garments of vengeance; He wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak, and **in verse 20, He, the Arm of YHWH, comes to Zion to be the Redeemer of all those who repent of their transgressions**. (Please read Isaiah chapter 53 to see how the Arm of YHWH would redeem the human race).

#### **WHO IS THE REDEEMER OF ZION?**

In Isaiah 60, YHWH continues to talk to Zion, and in verse 16b, He says to her, **“and thou shalt know that I the LORD (YHWH) am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.”** (KJV; author’s parenthesis).

Yes, YHWH was the One who came down to liberate and to save **His** people from their transgressions, and from their sins, and to make atonement for lawlessness, and to bring in everlasting righteousness (Daniel 9:24,26; Matthew 1:21).

However, YHWH revealed to His servants, the prophets (Amos 3:7), that **before He came down, He would send His messenger to clear the way before Him**. In Malachi 3:1, we hear YHWH of hosts saying:

*“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me.”* (KJV)

**WHO WAS THE MESSENGER THAT PREPARED THE WAY BEFORE YHWH?**

Jesus answered the above question in Matthew 11:10. He said that **this messenger was John the Baptist**.

**WHOSE WAY DID JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARE?**

John prepared the way of Jesus! **Who, then, is the man Jesus?**

Likewise, in Isaiah 40:3, we read:

*“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD (YHWH), make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”* (KJV; author’s emphasis and parenthesis).

**WHO WAS THE VOICE THAT CRIED IN THE WILDERNESS?**

In John 1:23, we hear **John the Baptist** saying about himself the following:

“I (am) a voice crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord (YHWH)” (Author’s parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

**AGAIN, WHOSE WAY DID JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARE?**

John prepared the way of Jesus! **Who, then, is the man Jesus?**

Further, in Malachi 4:5, YHWH says:

*“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”*  
(KJV)

**WHO WAS THE “ELIJAH” WHO WAS TO COME?**

In Matthew 11:10-15, where Jesus said that **John the Baptist** was the messenger who would prepare the way, He also said,

*“And if you are willing to receive, he (John the Baptist) is Elijah, the one who was to come. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* (Author’s translation and parenthesis).

**DOES IT MEAN THAT ELIJAH THE PROPHET WAS TO COME BACK TO LIFE AS JOHN THE BAPTIST?**

Absolutely Not! The Bible **does not** teach re-incarnation. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way before Him **“in the spirit and power of Elijah”** (Luke 1:17).

Therefore, we are bound to ask again:

**AS JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS THE ONE WHO CAME TO PREPARE THE WAY OF YHWH, WHO, THEN, IS THE MAN JESUS?**

As we saw, the Bible's answer to this question is that the man Jesus is God YHWH Who came to Zion to be her Savior and her Redeemer, just as the angel said to Joseph that the name of the child should be "**Jesus**" (which, name, means "YHWH THE SAVIOR") because He will save **His people** from their sins (Isaiah 59:15,20; 60:16; John 1:1, 14; Matthew 1:21)!

**DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN MORE EVIDENCE THAT JESUS IS YHWH?**

Yes, it does! Let us consider the following two cases:

1. In Matthew 23:37, we hear Jesus saying to Jerusalem,

***"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one killing the prophets, and stoning the ones who are sent to her! How many times I wished to gather your children like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you did not want to."*** (Author's translation from the Greek text).

**Please consider:** Whose people were Israel? Not YHWH's? Was it not YHWH Who promised to gather Israel to Himself (Isaiah 54:5-7)? How could Jesus, a man in His thirties, say that it was **He** Who had desired to gather them to Himself?

What is Jesus actually saying here? If He is not **YHWH** in the flesh, then, Who is He?

2. In the Book of Psalms, chapter 68 and verse 18, we read **about YHWH**:

*“**You have gone up on high; You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men; yea, to dwell among the rebellious, O Jehovah God.”** (Jay P. Green, Sr.; author’s emphasis).*

**WHO WENT UP ON HIGH?**

According to the above verse, the answer is: **“Jehovah God!”**

“But,” someone will ask, “isn’t God YHWH the One Who dwells in the highest (Luke 2:14)? How can the Psalmist say that God YHWH went up on high? **Who is this God YHWH of Psalms 68:18?**”

**The apostle Paul identifies this God YHWH with Jesus Christ.** I quote in part from Ephesians 4:4-10, where Paul wrote:

*“... **When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive ... (Now that he ascended, what it is but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that***

***descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.***)” (KJV)

Thus, we clearly see that **Jesus is the God YHWH of Psalms 68:18**, Who became flesh in order to die on the cross for the sins of His people according to the Scriptures (John 1:1,14; Isaiah 53:8), Who was buried in a rich man’s tomb according to the Scriptures (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60), and **Who, on the third day, was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, because, being God in the flesh, it was impossible for death to hold Him** (Isaiah 53:10; Acts 2:24). Thus, **the man Jesus**, the God YHWH of Psalms 68:18, received gifts among men, that is, He was exalted and glorified above all mankind, and He was appointed to be **the Apostle and the High Priest** of Hebrews 3:1,2, and **the Christ and the Lord** (YHWH) of Acts 2:36 and of Romans 10:9-13, Whose name, **“Jesus”**, one must call upon (must pray to) in order to be saved, because, **“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12; KJV)!

**HAD THE SCRIPTURES PROPHESED HIS RESURRECTION?**  
Yes, they had! First, in Psalms 16:10, we read the following:

*“for You will not neglect My soul in Sheol; You will not let Your Holy One see corruption.”* (Author’s translation from the Greek version; **please, also read Acts 2:22-36**).

Second, in Isaiah chapter 53 and verse 10b we read about the Arm of YHWH, that **after He gives His soul as an offering for sin**, i.e., after His death, **He will see offspring and His days will be prolonged**. These words definitely refer to His resurrection from the dead.

From the foregoing verses we observe that it was YHWH’s will not to leave His Holy One in the grave but to raise Him up! Praise His Name!

**Please note:**

In Greek, the word for “resurrection” is “ἀνάστασις” (anastasis). Anastasis means: “Standing up again”. **It refers to the body of a person that lies down**.

As God created humans to have **spirit, soul and body** (1 Thessalonians 5:23), and as, at death, it is only the body that lies down in the grave, **the word “anastasis”** (resurrection) **applies only to the body**. In order for the resurrection to take place, **God must return the soul** (“Nephesh” in Hebrew) **of the dead person back into his/her body**. To support this statement, let us read 1 Kings 17:21,22. This scripture tells us what took place when God resurrected a young boy through the prophet Elijah:

*“And he (the prophet Elijah) stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child’s soul (nephesh) come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul (nephesh) of the child came into him again, and he revived.”* (KJV; author’s parenthesis --- Also, please read 2 Cor. 5:6-8).

Therefore, the words, *“You will not let Your Holy One see corruption”* (Psalms 16:10), tell us that **the body of Christ would not remain in the tomb to see corruption but that it would be raised up.**

#### IS THIS WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS?

Yes, indeed! Before Jesus died, He said to those who were asking Him for a sign:

*“... (An) evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, and a sign will not be given to it, except the sign of Jonah the prophet. Because as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so shall the Son of man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.”* (Matthew 12:39,40; author’s translation from the Greek text).

Another time that the Jews asked Him for a sign, Jesus said to them:

*“... Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”* (John 2:19; author’s translation from the Greek text).

His disciples realized that He was referring to **the temple of His body** and that He spoke about His resurrection (John 2:21,22). His words, *“I will raise it up”* reveal that He truly was Almighty God in the flesh Who **had the power to resurrect His dead body!** Glory be to Him forever and ever (2 Peter 3:18; Revelation 5:13)!

And it happened! On the third day, He rose from the dead according to the Scriptures and He appeared to many witnesses. On one occasion, He appeared to at least five hundred people at once (1 Corinthians 15:6).

From the above, and from the fact that the word “anastasis” in Greek refers to the “standing up again” of a body that lies down, we realize that **the actual body of Jesus that died on the cross, that same body that was buried in the tomb, that same body was raised up in glory!**

To believe that *“at the resurrection the body of Jesus was disintegrated into the gases of the atmosphere”* or that *“at the resurrection Jesus received a new spirit body that God created for Him in heaven”*, is absurd!

Both of the above ideas are heresies, strange, and alien to the Scriptures! **If exactly the same body that died on the**

**cross and was buried in the tomb was not raised from the dead, then, the resurrection did not take place! Those who believe that at the resurrection Jesus assumed another body, (especially if they claim that this “other body” is a spirit body), they do not believe in the biblical resurrection of the dead; they believe in the non-biblical doctrine of re-incarnation!**

At this point, I would like to take a minute to compare the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus with the bodily resurrection of His followers – of all those who believe in Him.

**IT IS WRITTEN THAT ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM WILL RECEIVE EXACTLY THE SAME RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AS HIS.**

In John 11:23-27, Jesus holds the following conversation with Martha about her dead brother. Jesus said to her:

*“... ‘Your brother will rise again’. Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection, in the last day’. Jesus said to her, ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life; the one believing in me, even if he dies he will live; and whosoever is living and believing in Me, will not die to the age. Do you believe this?’ She says to Him, ‘Yes, Lord. I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world.’”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

From the above words, we realize that **Jesus promises to resurrect all those who believe in Him**. All the true believers and followers of Jesus Christ hold on to this hope and faith because they know that **Jesus has the authority and the power, by His word, to resurrect the bodies of all those who are in the graves**. He can do so because as God the Father has life in Himself, so does the Son (John 5:26-29). This fact proves, one more time, that Jesus is God in the flesh. **Have you believed in Him?**

**WHY AM I MAKING A CASE ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF OUR BODIES?**

For two reasons:

- a) Because, those who believe in the biblical teaching that Jesus' body rose from the dead, must also know and believe that **He will, likewise, raise their mortal bodies from the dead**.
- b) Because today we are surrounded by false teachers who claim to be Christians and who preach that death marks the end of our bodies, and that, as we die, we instantly receive a new body that God has prepared for us in heaven. In other words, they preach that, at death, we **exchange** the old body for another.

These false teachers have chosen to ignore what the Bible says on the subject of the resurrection of the body, and they are teaching the non-biblical doctrine of re-incarnation. Please allow me to present to you what the Scriptures teach on the resurrection of the body:

The Bible says that **through the blood of Jesus we already have redemption, i.e., the forgiveness of our sins** (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14). Based on this truth, I realized that through the work that Jesus did on the cross, He has already redeemed the spirits and the souls of those who believe in Him. However, **the true believers in Christ are also looking forward to receiving the redemption of their bodies** (Rom. 8:23). This redemption will take place at the second coming of the Lord Jesus, when He will come to take His followers so they can always be with Him (2 Thessalonians 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). Until then, they will trust that God will keep their spirits, souls **and bodies blameless** in the presence of their Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Speaking on the resurrection **of the body**, the apostle Paul said:

*“Therefore, I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, neither can corruption inherit incorruption. I am telling you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in a glance of an eye, at the last trumpet; for it will sound, and*

*the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. Because this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. Thus, when this corruptible will put on incorruption, and this mortal will put on immortality, then will come to pass the word that has been written, 'Death was swallowed up in victory.' O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* (1 Corinthians 15:50-55; author's emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

As the spirits and souls of men are immortal, Paul's words "*this corruptible*" and "*this mortal*", refer to **the human body only**.

From the above we see that when the Lord Jesus returns, **He will resurrect the bodies** of His followers who have died up to that day **and at the same time He will dress them up with incorruptibility and with immortality**. This way, the spirits and the souls of those who have died in the faith of Jesus and which have been with the Lord since their death (2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 23:43), will reunite with their changed bodies, and they will meet the Lord in the air as complete persons comprised of spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

**For as long as the bodies of those believers are still in the graves, the resurrection has not taken place and the Lord has not returned! Do not let anyone persuade you to believe otherwise!**

Those who teach otherwise, are false teachers and they are not in the truth (2 Timothy 2:17,18). If you follow false teachers and you support and spread their false doctrines, you are not in the truth either! I strongly recommend that you turn away from them and come to the Lord Jesus Who is the only Truth and the only Savior! Will you? Your eternity is at stake! **If you are a truth-lover, please, do not delay!**

From the foregoing words of 1 Corinthians 15:51,52, i.e., ***“we will not all sleep (die), but we will all be changed, in a moment, in a glance of an eye, at the last trumpet; for it will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we will be changed”***, we observe that when Jesus resurrects His followers who had fallen asleep, He will also **change**, in a moment, the bodies of those who believe in Him and who are still alive when He returns. Both events, that is, a) the resurrection and b) the change of the bodies of the believers in Christ who are still alive when the Lord returns, will take place **at the same time** so that **both groups of believers** will meet the Lord in the air **at the same time** --- not one person at the time as he/she dies, as some false teachers preach. In order to support my statements, I would like to present to you 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17. There, Paul wrote:

***“... the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with a trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise***

*first; then we the living, those who remain* (alive), at the same time (ἀμα-ama) together with them (συν αυτοίς-sin aftis) *will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord.*” (Author’s emphasis, parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

From this short presentation of the resurrection of the body, we realize that as the actual body of Jesus that died on the cross and was buried in the tomb, was raised up in glory, likewise, the actual bodies of His followers that died and were buried, will also be raised up in glory. What a glorious hope! Thank You Jesus!

Now, back to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

**WAS JESUS’ RESURRECTION AN IMPORTANT EVENT?**

Absolutely!

**WHY?**

**Because, by the power that He displayed at His resurrection from the dead, He proved to all that He is the Son of God!** This is what the apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. Let’s read his words:

*“Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ, a called apostle, being separated to the gospel of God, which He declared from before through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, regarding His Son, Who came out of the seed of David accord-*

*ing to the flesh, (and) Who, according to the Spirit of holiness, was marked out (to be the) Son of God in power, by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;*" (Romans 1:1-4 --- Author's emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

His resurrection was important because **a dead savior cannot save anyone. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved to all that He truly is the Son of God, that He is truly Deity, and that He is the Living One Who lives forever. For this reason, He has the power to save us! His resurrection helps people like Thomas to recognize and believe that Jesus is Lord and God** (John 20:28).

Truly, His resurrection proved beyond any doubt that He was not a person who was just called "Jesus" but that **He is Jesus** (YHWH THE SAVIOR), the Arm and the Word of YHWH Who became flesh to be the Redeemer and the Savior in order to save His people from their sins (Isaiah 53; 59:15-20; 60:16; John 1:1,14; Matthew 1:21). He proved to be **the Most Holy God of Israel Who became the anointed Messiah** in order to die on the cross but not for Himself (Daniel 9:24-26), Who conquered death because **it was impossible for death to hold Him** (Acts 2:24), and Who, now, holds the keys of Hades and death. Let us read Revelation 1:17,18 to hear what **the resurrected Jesus** said about Himself:

*“... I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I became dead; and, look, I am alive to the ages of the ages, amen; and I have the keys of Hades, and of death.”*  
(Author’s translation from the Greek text).

Please note that according to Isaiah 41:4, only **God YHWH is the First and the Last**. As there cannot be **two** who are *the First and the Last*, and as Jesus claims for His own this unique position, then, we conclude that Jesus is truly the Eternal God the Son, One of the True Godhead YHWH. Glory be to Him (2 Peter 3:18)!

**WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO PROVE HIS DEITY THROUGH HIS RESURRECTION?**

**Because, the resurrection from the dead is proof of One’s ultimate power! Especially, when that One has the power to also resurrect His own dead body (John 2:19)!**

**As the Scriptures speak clearly that God is the only Savior, Jesus had to display this ultimate power by raising His body up from the dead, in order to prove that He is Deity and that He truly is the Savior of the world. If Jesus had been unable to prove His Deity, no one would have ever trusted Him as his/her Savior, because everyone realizes that a savior who is not God does not have the power to save anyone!**

**Thus, the gospel of the glory of Christ, of Who He is, and of His resurrection, must be preached at the same time because the latter is proof for the first.**

As He proved that it was impossible for death to hold Him (Acts 2:24), Jesus proved that He is God and that He truly is the only Savior Who has the power to save! Praise His name! **If you have not placed your life into His hands yet, will you extend your hand and take His, right now, and say to Him that you trust Him? He extends His hands that were wounded (for your sins) towards you! Will you receive Him now? Your eternal life or your eternal condemnation is dependent upon the decision of your heart and upon the confession of your mouth (Romans 10:9).**

**FROM ALL THE SCRIPTURES THAT WE HAVE EXAMINED SO FAR IN THIS STUDY, WHAT IS THE GOSPEL IN ITS SHORTEST FORM?**

The gospel, the good news, is that:

**God, through His Word, became flesh according to the Scriptures, He died for our sins on the cross according to the Scriptures, He was buried according to the Scriptures, on the third day He was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and whosoever recognizes Him as YHWH the Son and calls on His name in faith, will not perish but has everlasting life.**

In the above presentation of the gospel, we observe that the Person of the Savior and His salvific work are preached along with the benefit that was generated for all those who will believe in Him. **This is the gospel! This is the good news for all mankind!** Did the apostle Paul preach the gospel in this order?

**LET US EXAMINE PAUL'S PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL FROM ROMANS 10:8-13 A LITTLE CLOSER.**

*(For more information on Romans chapter 10, read pages 32-44).*

In Romans chapter 10, Paul explained to the Christians of Rome the things pertaining to the salvation of the Israelites (verse 1), and of the world in general (verse 12), and in verses 8-14, he said:

*“8 ... ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’; this is the word of faith which we preach: 9 that if you shall agree with me [ομολογήσης (omo-lo-yee-sis)], with your mouth, (that) Jesus (is the) Lord (accusative case – Κύριον Ιησούν), and if you shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; 10 Because with the heart one believes (or trusts) unto righteousness, and with the mouth one agrees (or acknowledges) unto salvation. 11 Because the Scripture says, ‘Everyone that believes in Him will not be put to shame’. 12 Because there is no difference between a Jew and a Greek, because the same Lord is (Lord) of all, (and*

He) *is rich to all those who are calling on Him*,<sup>13</sup> *because everyone who (and) if (αὐ --- αν) he will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.*<sup>14</sup> *How, then, will they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how will they believe in (the One of) Whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without one preaching?"* (Author's parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

From the above, we observe that Paul's "*word of faith*" (the gospel) that he preached was the following:

1. *If you shall agree with me, with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord* [i.e., the YHWH or Κύριος (Kyrios) of verse 13, Whose name one must call upon to be saved; (not that He is the Father; He is God's **only-begotten Son** which, by definition, means that He is YHWH in essence (John 3:16; 5:18; 20:31)],
2. *If you shall believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead* [on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4); of course it is given that when one believes in His resurrection, he also believes that He had first died and that He had been buried], and,
3. *If you will call on the name of the Lord* [i.e., if you will pray to Jesus --- not like those who wrongly pray to created beings who are not God and who do not have the power to save anyone, but, because

now you know and you have believed that He is YHWH, and because you wish to worship Him and to honor Him exactly the same as one honors the Father (John 5:23)],

*4. You will be saved!*

A person that fulfills these three requirements that God has placed in His written word, receives God's saving grace, as Paul preached in Ephesians 2:8,9. There he said:

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not out of works, so that no one will boast.”* (Author's translation from the Greek text).

When Paul said *“through faith”*, he meant **faith in the right object**. He meant **faith in the Real Jesus of the Bible**, believing that He is the YHWH, the **“Lord” of Romans 10:13**, contrary to those Israelites of Romans 10:1,14, who had not believed that Jesus is YHWH in order to call upon His name in order to be saved. **A person who has this faith receives God's saving grace.**

If you just realized that Jesus is the YHWH or the “Lord” of Romans 10:13, and you just called on His name, i.e., if you just prayed to Him, **Rejoice! You just received God's sav-**

ing grace! Your sins, just now, were wiped clean! You just received everlasting life! Praise His Holy name!

Remember, Jesus said:

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”* (John 3:16,17; KJV).

Did you notice the words, *“have everlasting life”*? That is fantastic, isn't it? You did not have to work hard by doing religious acts and ordinances hoping that perhaps some day in the future you might receive everlasting life. The words *“have everlasting life”*, tell us that now that you believed in God's **only-begotten Son**, **now that you believed that Jesus is YHWH in essence and you just prayed to Him proving that He is your God**, at this very moment, you received and **you have** everlasting life! **Believe it!** Do not let anyone take this joy away from you --- **ever!** Those who doubt continue to work hard for their salvation! By doing so, they show disrespect for the work Jesus did for them on the cross and **they do not wish to receive God's saving grace which is His gift to all those who believe that His Son is YHWH and have a personal relationship with Him** (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:9,13)!

From the foregoing study on Romans chapter ten, I realized that **all three requirements for salvation** that Paul presents in Romans 10:9 and 13, are based on **one common demand**:

**One must know and believe that  
Jesus is God.**

How so? Let's consider the following:

**Requirement #1, demands that one confesses that Jesus is the "Lord", that He is God (Romans 10:9,13).**

**Requirement #2, demands that one believes in His resurrection which proved with power that He is Deity (Romans 1:1-4).**

**Requirement #3, demands that one prays to Jesus, an action that demands knowledge and faith that He is Deity (Romans 10:13,14).**

**Unless one believes that Jesus is God, one  
cannot meet the above requirements  
for salvation!**

SINCE PAUL KNEW THAT BELIEVING THAT JESUS IS GOD IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO RECEIVE SALVATION, WHY DID HE NOT INCLUDE THIS MESSAGE IN HIS MENTION OF THE GOSPEL IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4?

Let us read what Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 15:1-4:

*“But, brothers, I make known to you the gospel which I evangelized to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, by which you are also being saved ... Because, at first, I handed over to you that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried; and that He has been raised on the third day according to the Scriptures;”* (Author’s translation from the Greek text).

From the words, *“But, brothers, I make known to you the gospel which I evangelized to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, by which you are also being saved”*, we realize that hearing the gospel message, believing the gospel message, and holding on to the gospel message is a requirement for and a prerequisite to receiving salvation. However, in the foregoing verses, it appears as if Paul does not think that the Deity of Christ should be part of the gospel message that one must accept in order to be saved, because he seems to give more emphasis in the salvific work of the Savior rather than the Person of the Savior. There, He does not say, like in Romans 10:9, that one must confess that Jesus is YHWH (the “Lord” of Romans 10:13) in order to be saved. Does this mean that all a per-

son needs to believe to be saved is the death, the burial, and the resurrection of “a christ” even if one believes that this “christ” is not God? Let us examine Paul’s words to the Corinthian Christians and consider the circumstances.

**IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4, IS PAUL PRESENTING THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION TO THE CORINTHIANS FOR THE FIRST TIME?**

Please consider: When we read the words,

***“But, brothers, I make known to you the gospel which I evangelized to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, by which you are also being saved”***, we observe that the verbs “*evangelized*” and “*received*” are found in the past tense. This evidence proves that Paul had preached the gospel to them **before** the time he wrote this epistle to them. Therefore, we are bound to ask the following:

At the time Paul wrote to them, ***“Because, at first, I handed over to you that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried; and that He has been raised on the third day according to the Scriptures”***, did the Corinthian Christians know Who that “**Christ**” was? Had Paul explained to them Who that “**Christ**” was? The answer to these questions is “YES!”

Paul had preached the gospel of the deity of Christ to them **from the very first time he had met them**. His words, *“Because, at first, I handed over to you that which I also received”*, prove this case. If Paul had received the truth about **Who** Jesus is, he had handed it over to them. If he had received the truth about the Lord’s salvific work, he had handed it over to them. After all, the evidence that we have already collected from Romans chapter 10, (and the evidence that we are about to collect from the book of Acts), shows us that Paul was accustomed to preaching to others the gospel that included both the glory of the Person, and the salvific work of the Savior. Let us read two cases from the book of Acts:

From Acts 17:2,3, we are able to determine the central point of Paul’s preaching when he went to **Thessalonica**:

*“According to his custom, Paul went to them (in the synagogue), and for three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead and that (this) Jesus Whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ, he said.”* (Author’s emphasis, parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

From the above verse, it is clear to me that when Paul presented the gospel of salvation, he helped his audience **to reason from the Scriptures as to Who the Christ is and what He had accomplished**. And as we have already seen

from the present study, **the Scriptures are loud and clear as to Who the Christ is:** He is the Most Holy One, the holy Arm and the Word of YHWH Who was God and Who became a man, born of the Virgin Mary, to be the anointed Savior Who will save His people from their sins (Isaiah 53; 59:15-20; 60:16; Daniel 9:24; John 1:1,14; Matthew 1:21). I am sure that as Paul helped his audience **to reason from the Scriptures**, he must have presented these truths to them.

Also, from Acts 17:17,18, we can determine what was the subject of Paul's preaching when he went to **Athens**. Let's read these verses:

*“Therefore, he was conversing with the Jews in the synagogue, and with God-feared persons and in the market place every day, with those who happened to be there ... And some were saying, What does this chatterer wish to say? And others (were saying), **He seems to be an announcer of foreign gods -- because he announced Jesus and the resurrection to them.**” (Author's emphasis, parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).*

From the words, ***“He seems to be an announcer of foreign gods”***, and, ***“he announced Jesus and the resurrection to them”***, we realize that:

- A. Paul was indeed preaching to them that Jesus is God (a God Who was foreign to the Pagan Greeks), and,

**B. At the same time**, he was explaining to them about the work of Jesus, especially about His resurrection that proved with power that He is **the Son of God**, which, title, necessitates Deity (John 5:18).

Now that we know that Paul made the Deity and the work of Christ the central point of his gospel presentation when he preached **in Thessalonica and in Athens**, we have every reason to believe that **he did the same in Corinth**. Paul did not preach different gospels as he traveled from place to place!

When we read the beginning of his first letter to the Corinthians, in chapter one and verses 1,2, we have the unshakable proof that **Paul had preached to them that the Christ is God** and that **they had believed that Jesus Christ is God**. What proves our conclusion to be true is the fact that **the Corinthian Christians were praying to Jesus** --- something that the true Christians would never do if they knew that the person they were about to pray to is not the True God. The reason that true Christians will not pray to anyone who is not God, is the fact that **praying is worship** and worship belongs exclusively to God (Exodus 20:5)! **It is sinful to pray to (i.e., to worship), someone who is not God**. So, let's read the words of Paul which prove that **the Corinthians were praying to Jesus**:

*“Paul, called apostle of Jesus Christ, ... to the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sancti-*

*fied in Christ Jesus, called saints, with all those who are calling upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, ....*” (1 Corinthians 1:1,2; author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

As the words “**calling upon**” mean “**praying to**”, we have new evidence that the Corinthians had believed, through Paul’s preaching, that Jesus is God in the flesh, Who had died for their sins, Who had been buried, and Who had been raised from the dead. **The Corinthian Christians had believed the entire gospel that Paul had preached to them and for this reason they had received salvation. These called out saints had been sanctified in Christ Jesus because of their faith in Him** (1 Cor. 1:2). **Have you?** If not, would you like to join them in this faith now as your eternal salvation depends upon it? The choice is **yours!**

**From the foregoing, we conclude that in 1 Corinthians chapter fifteen** (in which Paul explains to the Corinthians the things pertaining to the resurrection of the dead), **he reminded them about the death, burial, and the resurrection of Christ as an introduction to his subject.** **In this chapter he did not find it necessary to preach to them again that Jesus is God since he knew that they had already believed in Him as such and they worshiped Him.**

It wouldn’t be fair to the apostle if one said that in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Paul did not include the Deity of Christ in his

gospel presentation because he was of the opinion that it was not necessary for one to know and to believe that Jesus is God in order to be saved; **especially since the biblical evidence speaks otherwise!**

#### GOD'S DRAWING

In John 6:44, the Lord Jesus said:

*“No one is able to come to Me if the Father Who sent Me will not draw him, and I will resurrect him in the last day; it is written in the prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God’; therefore, whosoever hears and learns from the Father, comes to Me;”* (Author’s emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

From the first part of the above verse, it is evident that God the Father, in His unfathomable love for mankind, uses different and, sometimes, supernatural methods to help people realize **that He exists, that He loves them, and that they will be saved if they will come to His only-begotten Son Jesus Christ** (John 3:16), **Who is God in the flesh** (John 1:1,14), and **Who is the Way and the Truth and the Life** (John 14:6). This expression of God’s love is known as **“God’s drawing”**. God’s drawing could be experienced through dreams and visions (Job 33:14-16; Joel 2:28-32), revelations (Galatians 1:16), angelic visitations (Acts 10:1-6) and through the preaching and teaching from a true be-

liever that God sends to the person (Acts 8:26-40; Romans 10:14,15).

From the second part of the previous verse, where Jesus said, “*whosoever hears and learns from the Father, comes to Me*”, we observe that God’s drawing is not an empty supernatural experience that triggers the emotions of the individual. **God’s drawing has an ultimate purpose: To help the individual learn Who the real Jesus of the Bible is in order to go to Him for salvation.**

**ARE ALL SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES GOD’S DRAWING?**

No! Spiritual experiences that ultimately do not help the recipient understand that the True Jesus of the Bible is God in the flesh (John 1:1,14; Romans 10:9,13), Who died for the sins of and was raised from the dead for justification (John 8:24; Romans 4:25) and salvation of all those who believe that He is YHWH and come to Him in faith calling upon His name (Romans 10:9,13), **are not God’s drawing.**

Spiritual experiences that ultimately lead a person to:

- a) “**another Jesus**” (2 Cor. 11:4) Who is not fully God, for salvation,
- b) believing “**another gospel**” (Galatians 1:6-9),
- c) creature worship,

- d) idolatry,
- e) the hordes of a religious institution for salvation, and,
- f) full submission to its leaders for salvation,

**are not God's drawing.**

Spiritual experiences that give the recipient warm feelings void of understanding (John 6:45b) of Who Jesus really is and of what He has done to accomplish salvation for him/her, **are not God's drawing.**

Spiritual experiences such as a burning in the bosom that ultimately do not help the recipient understand that the True Jesus of the Bible is **the First and the Last in the whole universe** (Revelation 1:17,18), One of the True Godhead YHWH Who said, "... *before me there was no god formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.*" (Isaiah 43:10,11; KJV), and that He is **the Source of all life** (John 1:4; 1 John 1:1,2), **are not God's drawing.**

One ought to examine all spiritual experiences under the light of the inerrant word of God and by the faith that was **once for all** (ἀπαξ - apax) given to the saints (Jude 3), and if they do not ultimately lead him/her **to the True Jesus of**

**the Bible alone for salvation by grace through faith in Him alone (Ephesians 2:8), he/she must reject them.**

**WHO IS “ANOTHER JESUS”?**

**“Another Jesus”** is a “Jesus” who

- a) **is not the Eternal Son of God and God the Son;**
- b) is one of many gods;
- c) is “a god”, as the “bible” of the Jehovah’s Witnesses presents him in John 1:1;
- d) is one of the sons of Elohim (who, Elohim, according to a false doctrine, was once a man who was born on another planet and who worked his way up to become the God and the Creator of our part of the universe);
- e) is Michael the archangel who is a created being, the first creature that God created;
- f) is God, but, is also known as Michael the archangel and who, however, is not all-knowing because he needs to receive reports from the angels so he can know what happens here on earth;
- g) is the brother of Satan.

I implore those who have been misled and have been brought to the point of believing in one of the above false gods that they have been given the name “Jesus”, to cast out fear and to put every effort to re-examine their faith under the light of the Bible because the false christ they follow does not have the power to save them.

**WHAT IS “ANOTHER GOSPEL”?**

“Another gospel” is a “gospel” that:

- a) **Does not preach salvation by grace through faith in the True Jesus of the Bible alone** (Ephesians 2:8; Galatians 2:15,16).
- b) Demands from the adherents **to do religious acts and works** in order to attain salvation.
- c) Demands from the adherents **to belong to their religious institution** in order to **gain** salvation.
- d) Demands from the adherents **to keep at least parts** of the Law of Moses such as keeping the Sabbath in order to attain salvation.
- e) Demands the presence of **a special class of people**, such as **a special priesthood**, that stands between God and the believers in Christ, that exercises authority over the believers, prevents them from hav-

ing access to God (except through them of course) and does not allow the adherents to have a personal relationship with God. **The existence of a special priesthood insults the eternal priesthood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It constitutes rebellion against God's will Who wishes all the believers in Christ to be priests** (Hebrews 7:21,22-25; Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 1 Peter 2:5,9,10).

- f) It is an **inclusivistic gospel** that includes in the biblical salvation all people, even those who do not believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, even those who have never heard of Him, even those who are members of non-Christian religions.
- g) It is **alien** to the Scriptures.

#### IS GOD'S DRAWING AN INDICATION THAT ONE IS SAVED?

**No! Many have confused God's drawing with true salvation.**

**They think that, because they have had one or more spiritual experiences, they are saved, although they do not know Who the True Jesus of the Bible is, neither do they have a personal relationship with Him.** To think so is wrong and fatal. Spiritual experiences do not save anyone. Spiritual experiences that are part of God's drawing

will lead people to the True Jesus of the Bible and **He** will save them. Those who fit in the above category **must**:

- a) **Respond to God's drawing.** They must thank Him for the experience and ask Him to reveal His only-begotten Son to them. They must be willing to accept the revelation that God the Holy Spirit will give them as to Who the Real Jesus is according to the Scriptures.
  
- b) **Believe in Jesus** (John 3:16). **They must believe that He is God's only-begotten Son** (John 3:16; not God's only-created son) **and therefore, He is God by nature** (Galatians 4:8). They must believe that He is unique, that there isn't anyone else in the whole universe that is born of God besides Him. They must believe that He is the Creator of all --- even of the creature that was eventually corrupted and became known as Satan and who **is not** His brother. They must believe that He is **God over all** and blessed forever (Romans 9:5). They must believe that He is **the Lord of all** (Acts 10:36). They must believe that He is **God the Word Who became flesh** (John 1:1,14) in order to save them from their sins (Matthew 1:21). They must believe that **Jesus is the God Who purchased His Church by His own blood** (Acts 20:28). **The bottom line is they must believe that Jesus is God.**

- c) **Believe that He died, that He was buried, and that He has been raised from the dead** (1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 10:9) in order to make it possible for them to have their sins forgiven and to have everlasting life.
  
- d) **Repent of their previous ignorance** (Acts 2:38; 17:30). And now that they know Who He is, they must **call upon His name**, i.e., **they must pray to Jesus and ask Him to be their God and their Savior** (Romans 10:13). And He will save them --- **instantly!**

**When they respond to God's drawing and meet the foregoing requirements for salvation that God has outlined in His written word, they have everlasting life (John 3:16) and they will enter the kingdom of heaven (2 Timothy 4:18).**

Those who claim that they were saved since the time they had a spiritual or a religious or an emotional experience, but, **before** they had believed that Jesus is God, **before** they had come to the One Who is **the only True Savior** and **before** they had prayed to Him in order to establish a personal relationship with Him, are ignorant of the Scriptures. I hope that these people will adjust their thinking (now that they have read this section of this book) and adjust their testimony in order to give the credit for their salvation to the True Jesus of the Bible, as I did, because, truly, apart from

Him, there is no salvation and God is not a respecter of persons (i.e., God does not exhibit partiality; Acts 10:34)!

This section is written against preachers who know the Scriptures and preach to others that they must believe in the True Jesus of the Bible in order to have true salvation, but, who, in their testimony, proclaim that **they were saved before they had believed in the True Jesus of the Bible.**

These preachers are hypocrites, liars and deceivers. Their testimony displays pride and is not in line with the written word of God. Their testimony contains falsehood and exalts themselves. God is not a respecter of faces (Acts 10:34; from the Greek text). Their testimony is influenced either by an emotional or religious experience they had, or, by their humanistic reasoning. When God set His standard for salvation, He set it for **all** the sinful descendants of Adam **without exception! Not one sinful human will be saved without first:**

- a) recognizing Who the True Jesus of the Bible is,
- b) knowing how He accomplished salvation, and,
- c) believing in Him.

Not even one of the sinful descendants of Adam is so special that he/she can be saved without acknowledging the **True** Savior. **If you are one of those preachers, I admonish you to repent and to adjust your testimony accord-**

**ing to the biblical gospel of salvation.** Do not be concerned of what people might say about you or about your ministry after you do so. Rather, be concerned of what the Lord Jesus will say to you if you'll continue to preach falsehood. There is nothing wrong with telling those who have heard your testimony that you had confused God's drawing with salvation. The Lord Jesus will honor your stand for truth and those who love the truth will appreciate you more. *"Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up."* (1 Peter 5:6). If your pride will prevent you from changing your unbiblical testimony, the Lord Jesus will deal with you when you will **try** to stand before Him to give an account (Romans 14:12). In the mean time, as a Bible believing Christian, it is my duty to bring to your attention the fact that your unbiblical testimony is part of *"another gospel"* that proclaims salvation apart from the True Jesus of the Bible and that, for this reason, you are cursed by God (Galatians 1:8,9).

#### **DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN EXAMPLES OF GOD'S DRAWING?**

Yes, it does! Here, we will examine the case of the Roman centurion Cornelius.

In the tenth chapter of the book of Acts, we read about a man called Cornelius. He was a devout and God-fearing person who was doing many alms to the people, and was praying to God continually.

One day, he had a vision: He saw an angel coming to him saying, "*Cornelius!*" And Cornelius said, "*What is it, Sir?*" And the angel said to him, "*Your prayers and your alms went up as a memorial (on your behalf) before God. And now send men to Joppa, and invite Simon who is surnamed Peter .... He will tell you what you must do.*" (Author's parenthesis and translation from the Greek text). After the vision ended, Cornelius sent his servants to invite Peter to come to his house.

When Peter went to Cornelius, he preached to him about **the Person and the work of the Savior**. He told Cornelius that Jesus is the "*Lord of all*" (verse 36). Therefore, he presented Jesus as **God**, because God is the only Person in the whole universe Who is the "*Lord of all*". Then, in verses 39 and 40, Peter preached to Cornelius about Jesus' death and resurrection, and in verse 43 he told him that through Jesus' name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.

As Peter was still preaching, Cornelius received the Holy Spirit and was baptized in water.

From the foregoing account, we observe that Cornelius experienced **God's drawing** through an angelic visitation. However, he was not saved at the time that he experienced God's drawing. **First he had to hear and to believe that Jesus is God and that He died for his sins and that He was raised from the dead** (Romans 10:9,13,14). After

**that was accomplished**, Cornelius was saved and he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

**MY INVITATION TO YOU**

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read my presentation of the true gospel of salvation. I tried to take you through the pages of the Bible as accurately and yet as briefly as I possibly could so you can learn:

- a) **What** caused the human race to lose the possibility for eternity and the relationship that we were supposed to have with our Creator.
- b) About the **promise of hope** that God gave mankind.
- c) **Where** the promised “Seed” would come **from**.
- d) **Who** the promised “Seed” would be according to the Scriptures.
- e) **How** one could identify the True “Seed” in a world that has been flooded with false saviors.
- f) **Why** it is necessary for one to identify the True Savior.

- g) **How** the promised “Seed” would save His people from their sins.
- h) **How** one can identify a false gospel.
- i) **Why** it is necessary for one to know and to understand the true gospel.
- j) **What God’s drawing is.**
- k) **What one must do** when he/she experiences God’s drawing.
- l) **What one must do to be saved.**

Now that you have received this precious knowledge, I would like you to seriously consider the following:

Jesus, the True God and Savior (2 Peter 1:1), said, ***“Look, I stand at the door and knock; if one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him ...”*** (Revelation 3:20; author’s translation from the Greek text).

From the above words, we realize that Jesus is good, polite, and meek. He does not try to force anyone to open the “door” and to accept Him as his/her God and Savior. However, if one, out of his/her own free will, opens the “door” of his/her heart and invites Him to enter, Jesus, Who is the

Omnipresent God (John 1:51), comes in and dwells inside that person.

Because Jesus is not a created being, but One of the True Godhead YHWH, He does not come into one's heart alone. The Father, Who is in the Son (John 14:8-11), comes in also. The Lord Jesus said,

*“... if one loves Me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come into him, and we will dwell in him”* (John 14:23; author's emphasis and translation from the Greek text).

The Father and the Son dwell inside those who believe in the True Jesus of the Bible through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9-11). Thus, **the believer becomes the dwelling place, the temple, of God**. This is the reason the apostle Paul said to the Christians in Corinth,

*“Don't you know that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you ... the temple of God is holy, which you are”* (1 Cor. 3:16,17; author's translation from the Greek text).

Also, the moment one believes in the True Jesus of the Bible and the Spirit of God indwells him/her, one:

- a) **Is saved from the penalty of his/her sins and has everlasting life** (Matthew 1:21; John 3:16).

- b) **Is born again --- born from above** (John 3:3-8).
- c) **Has direct access to God** through the Holy Spirit Who prays on our behalf (Romans 8:26,27), and through Jesus Christ our High priest Who gave His body in order to sanctify all those who believe in Him (Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:10-14).
- d) **Becomes a child of the Most High God --- what a relationship!** (John 3:3-5; 1:12,13; Rom. 8:14-16).
- e) **Becomes a “new creation”** (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- f) **Becomes part of the “body of Christ”,** of the body that recognizes Jesus as its only **“Head”** (Romans 12:4,5; 1 Corinthians 10:17; 12:12-17; Ephesians 1:22; 5:23).
- g) **Becomes one of those that make up the “Bride”** of Christ Who is the **“Bridegroom”** (2 Corinthians 11:1; Revelation 19:7).
- h) **Becomes a sanctified priest,** one of those that make up a **Holy and Royal Priesthood, an elect race, a holy nation and a people for (God’s) possession** (1 Peter 2:4,5,9). As a Holy and Royal Priesthood they have the right, the “authority” to preach, to teach, to baptize (Matthew 28:18-20), to distribute the bread and the wine, and to do everything that is part of the

worship they offer **as priests of God and of Christ** (Revelation 20:6). **It would be wrong to hire special priests to carry out the priestly responsibilities on their behalf.**

- i) Becomes a **king** that will rule with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).
- j) Becomes a member of **the Church** of Jesus Christ. **The Church of the Lord Jesus is not a religious institution.** It is a “body” that consists of all those men and women who believe in the True Jesus of the Bible Who is God over all and blessed forever and who have a personal relationship with Him (Colossians 1:24; Ephesians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 12:14,18,20,27; Romans 9:5).

The Lord Jesus loved His Church and “*gave Himself up on her behalf, in order to sanctify her, ... in order to present her to Himself as the glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such things, but in order to be holy and without blemish*” (Ephesians 5:25-27; author’s parenthesis and translation from the Greek text).

It is **the Church** that **God** bought by His own blood (Acts 20:28).

It is **the Church** that Jesus builds upon the statement of faith which is **the rock**, the foundation of the Christian

faith as it was pronounced by the apostle Peter who, under God's revelation, said to Jesus, "***You are the Christ, the Son of the living God***" --- both of which are **explicit titles of Deity, titles that drove His enemies to kill Jesus for blasphemy** (Matthew 16:16; John 5:18; Matthew 26:63-66).

All those who do not believe that Jesus (YHWH THE SAVIOR) is God in the flesh, **are not** part of His Church (John 1:1,14; 1 John 4:2,3). All those who do not confess that Jesus (i.e., YHWH THE SAVIOR), the Christ, has come in the flesh, **are not of God**; they have the confession or the spirit of the anti-christ (1 John 4:3).

It is hard for those who do not know Jesus to even imagine the glory that awaits those who believe in Him. The apostle Paul said, "***But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:***" (1 Corinthians 2:9,10a; KJV).

**Therefore, Dear Reader, here is my invitation to you:** Would you like to be a participant of this glory? Would you like to have your sins forgiven? Would you like to be saved? Would you like to have everlasting life? Would you like to have an interactive relationship with your Creator? If by now you have seen the glory of the Lord Jesus, if you, out of your own free will, will confess with your mouth that

Jesus is God the Word Who became flesh (John 1:1,14) to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) and that He accomplished this work through His death on the cross according to the Scriptures, and if you have believed in your heart that although He died and was buried, on the third day, God raised Him up from the dead according to the Scriptures (Isaiah chapter 53), **call upon His name right now** (Romans 10:13). **Pray to Him to establish a personal relationship with Him and ask Him to be your Savior God! Take this moment to make the greatest decision of your life; your eternity depends upon it!**

**This invitation is also extended to all those who may have been church goers for many years, but, who have not yet met God's requirement for salvation.**

If you have responded to my invitation positively, if you have confessed with your mouth that Jesus Christ is the Savior God Who died for your sins, if you have believed in your heart that although He died and was buried God has raised Him up from the dead (Romans 10:9), and if you have prayed to Him to ask Him to save you (Romans 10:13), **you are saved!** Praise His Name!

May the “... *grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you....*” (2 Corinthians 13:14; author's translation from the Greek text).

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