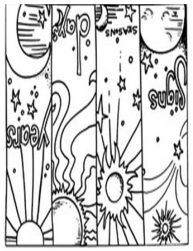
This booklet is best used along with a Bible. The Bible is the book that has changed more lives in the course of history than any other book. We hope you might give it an opportunity to give direction to your life. Allow it to speak into your life with God or to refresh your steps if you are trying to get back in touch. It is challenging at best to write an introduction that will address everyone. We all come from different perspectives . Some of you have never wanted a thing to do with the Bible. Some of you may have read bits and pieces. Some bring biases from different spiritual exposures – some may be healthy, some are bitter or have revolted. It doesn't matter. God loves you – everyone! Rich, poor, happy, depressed…He is passionate about you. One of the unique features about the Bible is that people from many different walks of life helped in writing it - doctors, kings, carpenters, gardeners, criminals, murderers, fishermen – and the list goes on. Amazingly the story line still has a common thread. In a nutshell – God loves everyone and wants to have a personal relationship with yes, even you. He wants to help you live life to your fullest potential. So read on or get someone to read it with you and see if there is room in your life to discover some amazing blessings which those who wrote also discovered. Their experiences come from being on a first name basis with the creator of the entire universe. He likes to be called – Abba – Daddy – Father. This is a close personal relationship. It comes when you decide to allow yourself to become His adopted son or daughter.

The Bible has two parts. The Old Testament is about people who walked with God and looked forward to the coming Messiah. Most lived in Israel and shaped its history. The New Testament is the portion of the Bible that begins with the life of Jesus Christ and shows how His own walk with God influenced his followers to walk with God. These pages are designed to help someone who is new to reading the Bible, make it a bit easier to navigate and help you decide if being a believer fits your life and help you start your own walk with God.

Have you ever made something truly wonderful and then someone ruined it? Were you upset? Has there ever been a time you disobeyed? What happened? Were you sorry? God is holy and pure. His garden was ruined when Adam and Eve disobeyed. He had to send them out of the garden. This book tells you how you can be close to God and walk with Him, like Adam and Eve did in the beginning. Jesus makes it possible.

In the beginning God created the heavens, water, earth, sea, plants, and animals. Then He made a man named Adam and woman named Eve. Everything was beautiful. God asked Adam and Eve to name the animals and to enjoy everything, but not to eat the fruit of one tree.



ministry-to-children.com

One day the snake told Eve to eat the fruit. She disobeyed and ate. Adam did, too. When God next visited, He knew what they had done when he saw them hiding covered with leaves. He made them leave the garden. No longer could they clearly see His presence. They would have to provide for themselves.

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Without a rudder a ship can be blown on the seas any which way. The rudder, compass and other navigational tools are essential to getting safely to an intended destination. That is what the Bible can do, too. A life without a rudder, can't safely navigate properly. Oh you'll get places – some highs and some lows – some stranded sandbars and other hazardous territories, but it takes getting to know God, your creator, to know how to steer your life on its intended course. He made you and He can help steer you on the course that best utilizes your abilities and talent. He put them in you. They are best displayed with character traits He will mold in you. The Bible is an important navigational tool. It provides a compass and rudder to help steer the course that God designed you to fulfill.

Yes, there is a purpose for your life.

Yes, there is a purpose for your life. God created you to fulfill that purpose. Now it is time for you to get in touch with Him to know the blessings flow from living a fulfilling life steered by the master who created you.

Each of us has a hole in our heart that only a relationship with your creator can fulfill. In one word the Bible can be described as a book about a special "relationship." It is a relationship with God. Various men and women throughout time have walked with God. The Bible contains their stories. Reading their stories helps you discover the life changing relationship of getting to know God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three dimensions of the same God, much like a dice has different numbers on each side, but it is still one dice.

Finding purpose

Why am I here? Did I ask to be born? Why was I born? What's the reason for living? Have any of these questions ever crossed your mind? Is there a rhyme and a reason for my life? Each of us tries to fill our lives life with something that in some way tries to make sense out of our existence. Some aim for financial success, some for success in sports, theater, career…

Noah pleased God by being kind, a good worker, and doing what God told him to do. Are you kind? Do you work hard? Do you do what your parents want you to do? Do you love to do what God wants you to do? This is called having faith in God. The stories in this book are about people who had strong faith in God. Anyone can have strong faith in God, even children. Trust in God with all your heart, and obey His call to follow Him.

Adam and Eve had children, and their children did, too. After many years, everyone was ignoring God, except Noah. Noah pleased God. God decided to send a big flood and had Noah build an ark to save the animals and anyone who would join him. Only his family listened and joined him and two of each animal. The others laughed at him.

Some say those roads aren't for me – I'm going for the bad stuff, the drugs, the sex, the oblivion of alcohol… Some may have wound up in places that they've been led into activities they know are evil, but who cares? Some realize they aren't getting anywhere and they wander in depression and aimlessness and spend time trying to avoid trouble and woes. Each of us try to fill our own life with something that makes sense to us. We have a spiritual vacuum that longs to be filled. Possessions won't fill it, relationships alone won't fill it; morality by itself won't fill it; even religious traditions can't fill it; nor will the attitude of I'll do whatever it takes to get want I want.

There's only one way to truly fill this void. It will give you a life that is rich not only on earth, but give you absolute hope for an eternity of purpose, meaningful relationships, a sense of belonging and being valued. God's presence and His kingdom provides the healthy kind of abundance everyone's heart is designed to long for. This is truly Good News. There is some bad news that can be overcome, but first let's hear about the Good News. God offers us a clean slate, a heaping load of great benefits all wrapped up in a free gift of salvation.

God's presence and His kingdom provides the healthy kind of abundance that everyone's heart is designed to long for.

SALVATION includes healing and wholeness in the present as well as a secure future in heaven. God is still in the healing business. He heals physical, emotional, and relationship needs and more. Some of this is done gradually by changing thought patterns to align with God's ways. Some comes immediately.

There are many levels of Christian experiences. Some are content to be routine church attenders. For others involvement in a Christian group defines their experience with God. There are those who faithfully study the Bible and walk and talk with Jesus just like breathing. God is calling all to walk with Him in faith, believing in Him for day by day direction. It is in this setting you are likely to hear testimonies

After 40 days of rain, the earth was covered with water. It took more days before dry land appeared. Noah asked God to never do that again.

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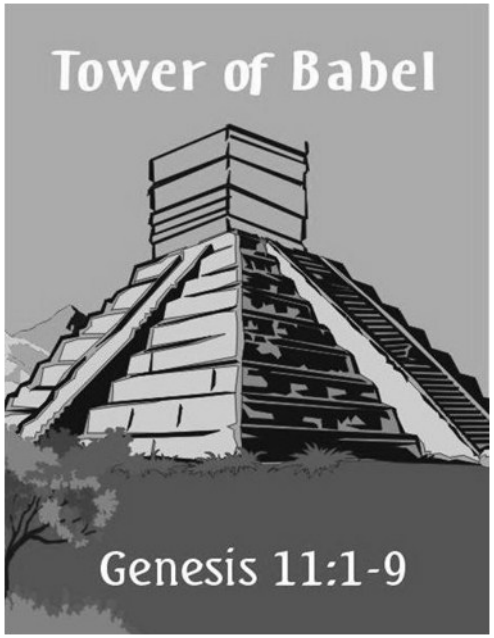
God promised He wouldn't and put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise to Noah. Noah's family and the animals left the ark and started having families of their own.

Do you know people who want to please God? Do you know people who laugh at them? What happened to the people who laughed at Noah? Which would you rather be – someone who pleases God, or someone who makes fun of them? God made rainbows to please Noah. What things has God made that you enjoy? Make a habit of watching for God's blessings. These are signs of God's love for you. He wants a personal relationship with you. Watch, He wants you to know how much He loves you.

Long ago all the people spoke the same language. They decided they wanted to show how great they were and to search the heavens for wisdom.



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They built a very tall tower. God wasn't happy. He is the source of wisdom, not the stars. He changed everyone's language. The Tower of Babel was never finished because the workers could no longer understand each other.

Do you know people who seek help from the sun, moon, and stars? Which would be a better source of help – the Creator of the heavens, or the stars He made? God wants people to seek Him before seeking His creation. There is great beauty in many of His creations, but He is more important than them. He doesn't want us to view other things as more important than Him. For some people other things can be music, sports, or other people instead of stars. Do you ask God for help? Do you talk to Him about things that matter to you? He likes to hear from you. Talk to Him, just like He is sitting in the chair next to you.

of God's involvements in their lives. Jesus told his followers – John 14:12-14 "Truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." This means healings, walking on water, even raising the dead. Of course following and believing in Jesus means these are acts done while walking in paths of love and giving glory to God. Jesus didn't do things to draw attention to himself, but to point people to God's love and encourage their faith.

The early church was in the healing business.

Healing activities in the early church are recorded in many places. Then Peter said, Acts 3:6 "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." And the man walked. Acts 5:12 "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders worked among the people; the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did." Acts 8:7-8 "For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 So there was much rejoicing in that city. . "Acts 19:11-12 **"**And God worked special miracles by the hands of Paul. So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." James 5:14-16 "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." These are just a few. There are many more.

Do healings still occur in today's churches? Yes and no. Some churches believe healing was just for the first century church and it has now passed away. In those churches you might still find an occasional healing testimony. Other churches believe God is working the same today as He was before they have many healing testimonies.

Some local testimonies follow

God is still in the healing business.

Healing Grace Ministries is based in Brattleboro, VT. Testimonies from individuals their ministry has touched can be found at healinggraceministries.com.The list is long. Their testimonies include: anorexia nervosa/body image and degenerative foot disease (documented), asthma, back healed**,** broken rib, carpal tunnel syndrome**,** injury to chest and past rejection**,** diabetes, thyroid and 25 medications**,** dissociative identity disorder and migraine headaches**,** freedom from guilt and condemnation**,** hip injury**,** healed knee**,** torn meniscus, near death**,** neck injury**,** paralyzed leg healed**,** pneumonia (documented)**,** a rash & anxiety, healed from the devastation of rape & molestation, rejection, stiff neck healed, healed tail bone injury, and thyroid, anemia & blood sugar levels. Documented means that there are medical records to back up the reports. Check it out!

From central Vermont there are reports, also. There is a family that has seen a mix of prayer and doctors accidentally discover a life threatening brain condition, much like a tumor, that was able to be removed before it could cause any serious damage. If the young couple had had premarital sex the condition would have killed her. But is was found, removed, they married and are now expecting. The same family has seen broken bones in their young son mend before their eyes. Another person blind due to diabetes, saw her sight stabilize. A boy deaf from birth had his hearing restored. A teen with a pituitary gland malfunction, experienced God's healing restoration. A senior with chest pains felt His healing warmth and the pains disappeared. After 2 months of serious pain and restricted movement

Abraham's father made statues for the gods. Abraham sought a real God, not a statue. God told him to leave and follow Him to a new land. He did. God promised him many relatives, but he was old and so was his wife.

His wife, Sarah laughed when visitors came telling her she'd soon have a son. She was almost 100 years old. A year later, Isaac was born. Isaac means laughter.

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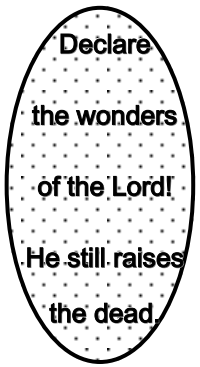
Do you know people who are trying to make gods out of things that just aren't gods – they may have a one track mind about sports, about making money, about involvements in secret activities? Abraham said enough is enough. He sought something that would really give life meaning. Are you seeking this, too? Have you ever heard something truly amazing? Did it make you laugh? What kind of God would He be if He didn't bring about miracles? Do you need a miracle? Ask Him. God likes to answer prayers,

from a torn rotator cuff, another at the communion rail felt the healing warmth of Christ touch her shoulder and she regained full range of motion. Some years later the other rotator cuff tore. Friends prayed for her healing. The next day she was vastly improved. Later she had a torn meniscus in her knee. The x-rays and CAT scan showed she was walking bone upon bone. Every step was painful while awaiting diagnosis. She spent a day listening to scriptural healing teachings. God told her to pray, pray, pray. Her knee started to mend, even though knees don't regrow new cartilage. The day she had to decide whether to pursue knee replacement she was suddenly able to walk normally down the stairs.

A missionary was raised from the dead. A missionary in Peru had been ill and was taking a long hot shower. No one knew there was a gas leak in the bathroom. He was found stiff and dead about an hour later. A friend and believer found him and immediately commanded his heart to beat. It did. He was taken to the hospital where they said he'd likely be a vegetable if he came around. The next day he was up walking, talking with the staff and inviting them to services.



At least four people in Central Vermont have also had death and back experiences. They are living now because of similar experiences. One had been very ill with respiratory issues. While the doctors were talking to friends in the ER, she saw herself floating on the ceiling looking down on them discussing her situation. She saw the bright light of Jesus, but it wasn't her time, so she returned to her body and made recovery. Another had a serious head injury accident at work. He, too, saw the bright light of Jesus and returned. A steel plate is now a permanent part of his head. Another was a child with Downs syndrome. Her mother prayed for her while the doctors worked over her body. Another was a mother with heart issues. She also saw people while looking down on her body and others in the room. For more testimonies visit freecdtracts.com.

God has a way of blessing people who are willing to work hard to show kindness towards others. What hard work have you done lately? Did it help you or someone else? Do you make time to thank God for blessings that come your way?

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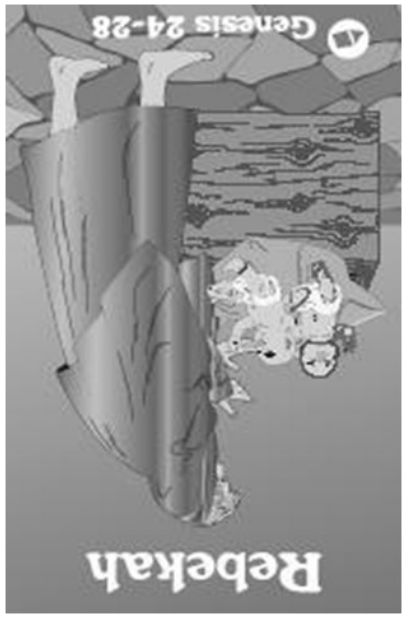

When Isaac was old enough to marry, Abraham sent a servant to his homeland to find a wife who would be kind and seek God. The servant met Rebekah at the well and she offered to not only give him a drink, but to also water all of his animals. Rebekah and her family were happy to let her leave with the servant to return to become Isaac's wife. Later God blessed them with twins named Jacob and Esau.

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A Doctor's Own Account of Coming Back to Life after Being Declared Dead Aimee Herd (November 2, 2011)

After running a medical clinic session in Vanuatu, Australia, Dr. Sean George was driving with an intern on the south coast of Australia when he began experiencing minor pain in his chest.

"I decided to stop the car and I called my wife, also a doctor, to let her know what was happening," he explained. As he headed home, he felt "divinely directed" to stop at a clinic in Kambalda, about 50 kilometers from his destination. There he had an electro-cardiogram (ECG) to determine that he was indeed having a heart attack. The drugs he was given to counter the attack did not help, and in 11 minutes, Dr. George's heart stopped beating. Doctors worked on him for the next 60 minutes giving him thousands of chest compressions and 13 electrical shocks—He was pronounced dead after an hour and 10 minutes. Upon arriving shortly after, his wife was told to say goodbye to her husband.

"Being a doctor herself, Sherry knew that medical science had proved that if the blood supply to the brain was cut off for over three minutes the brain would begin to die, and in 20 minutes the brain would be completely dead. But as she and I had trusted Jesus Christ as Almighty God and Savior, she decided to humbly ask Him to intervene.

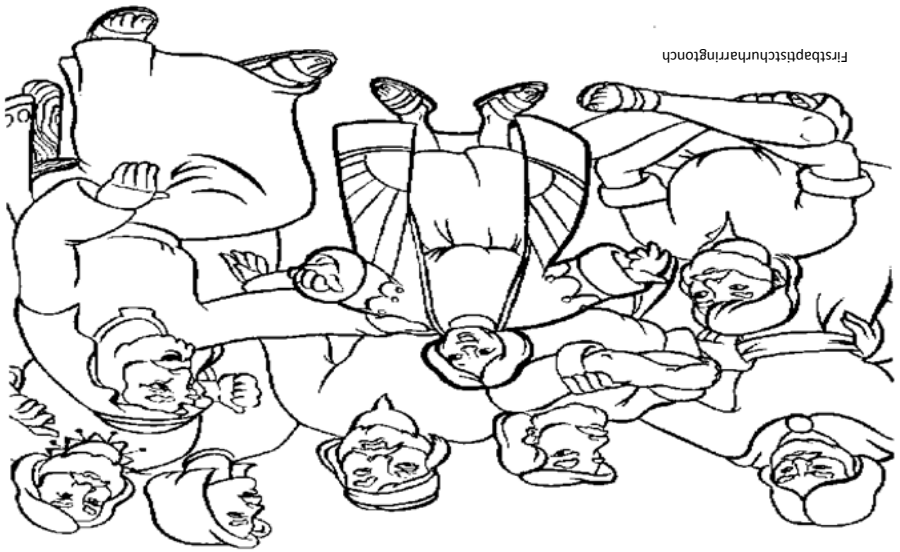
"Holding my hand, she prayed, 'Lord Jesus, he is only 39, I am only 38 and we have a ten year boy. I need a miracle.' As soon as she said this it was as though someone had breathed life into me again and my heartbeat came back. www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=9494

GOD IS EVEN HEALING COMMUNITIES.

Cocaine drug cartels and ruthless corruption were evicted as all night prayer vigils brought the community of Cali, Colombia, together in unity. For decades, the city of Cali carried a notorious reputation as the Cocaine capital of the world. No institution escaped the cartel's ruthless hand. Twenty or more homicides each weekend had been the norm. In the mid 1990s, the drug lords' grip was broken when believers gathered into local soccer stadiums to hold all-night prayer vigils. The Christian effort in

Do you remember your dreams? Sometimes they contain wisdom and direction for you from God. Do you ever tell your dreams to someone you trust?

Jacob had 12 sons. To his favorite, Joseph, he gave a coat of many colors. Joseph had a dream that his brothers would bow down before him. His brothers were jealous. They sold him into slavery and told Jacob that he had been killed.



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Joseph became a servant in the Egyptian palace. The queen tricked him and he fled. He was put in prison. There God gave him more dreams. After many years he was able to explain the king's dream, which called to prepare during the seven good harvest years for the seven poor years of harvest to follow. The king placed Joseph in charge.

The famine brought his brothers to Egypt looking for food. They bowed before Joseph making their request, but they didn't recognize him. He sent them home and demanded that they bring their father with them. When they were together Joseph told them who he was.

public education and health care is notable. Each year there continues to be an all-night prayer vigil.

With a long tradition of worshiping the devil, Karawa in Fiji, had been called the backward sister of the Keapara villages. In 2006, however, the locals took a cue from Fiji's Healing the Land process and burned their fetishes in deep repentance. Economic life improved almost immediately. God miraculously healed land and sea - salty water turned fresh, gardens thrived, and abundant sea-life returned.

Shillong is the capital of Meghalaya, one of only three Christian-majority states in India. In 1905-1906, the area experienced revival, but it eventually died out. A century later, local believers prayed fervently for three years that God would come again – and he did! An outpouring in 2006-2007 saw thousands converted, healed, and delivered. Distilleries were closed, and children spoke forth the Word of God. Here you can find eyewitnesses to God's power, and visit rural churches where the revival continues.

Clay County, Kentucky was the seat of notorious family feuds that claimed over 160 lives. It has also been one of the poorest, most drug-addicted areas in the United States. But now that's history. In 2004, local believers gathered in a downtown park to say, "Enough!" The subsequent Awakening has rearranged every aspect of life in this former saltworks. You don't have to spend a long time in Manchester to see why the former "Painkiller Capital of America" is now called the "City of Hope." No less than 46 U.S. states and 5 countries have contacted the city's faith-based rehab center for answers.

God Ends Idol's 700-Year Reign in Almolonga, Guatemala "The Defeat of Maximon emblazoned the June 24-30, 1994, cover story of *Cronica Semanal*, their equivalent of *Time*. When the conquistadors arrived they found the people had served the god Maximon for centuries.

Most of the men in Almolonga worked to buy whiskey and meet their most basic needs. Drunkeness led to violence. The four jails were

The Israelite population grew large in Egypt. The Pharaoh ordered all baby boys to be killed. Moses's mother placed him in a basket and floated him on the river where the princess found, adopted and raised him.

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When he was older and learned how cruel the Israelites were treated, he killed a crew chief and then fled into the wilderness. There he raised a family and tended shee, until, one day, God spoke to him from a burning bush and told him to return to Egypt. He was to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave so they could worship God at His holy mountain.

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After many requests of Pharaoh and many miracles to show that it was God who sent him,there were ten plagues that pestered Egypt, Pharaoh finally let them leave.

Have you ever responded in anger when you saw someone being mean? Was it right for Moses to kill? Yet, God still wanted Moses to be an important leader for His people. Do you think it was easy for Moses to obey and return to Egypt? Has there been a time when you found it wasn't easy to do what is right, but you did?

The plagues included a river being turned into blood, lots of frogs, locusts, and skin diseases. The last one was the oldest son's death – including the Pharaoh's son. Then Pharaoh wanted to be rid of the Israelites and suddenly told them to leave.

When they arrived at the Red Sea, Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after them. God parted the sea and they walked on dry land.

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When the soldiers followed, the sea closed in on them and the army drowned.

The people followed God's lead with a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. There was not enough food in the desert for so many people, so God gave them manna to pick and eat like bread.

This story has many unusual events. Can you name some of them? Have you ever seen God do something that isn't normally done? Do you think He still can do miracles?

packed with inmates. Once six men grabbed Pastor Mariano, knocked out his front teeth, and shoved a gun down his throat. As he prayed for protection, they pulled the trigger twice but nothing happened. The pastor's group prayed for God to intervene. One woman developed gangrene. They went to arrange the funeral. On the way to the house, God told the pastor to pray for her. She rose with no pain and began to serve them a meal. People took notice.

Today, in place of 36 cantinas there are now three. Former cantinas were turned into churches. Workers are diligent. Instead of four truckloads a month they now export 40 truckloads of enormous vegetables each week – carrots the size of a man's forearm, cabbages as large as basketballs, 8-pound beets, and radishes as big as your fist. Even during droughts in surrounding areas the soil in Almolonga is always moist. Because the men no longer drink they have money to care for their families. Houses are now well-built, and the town is clean and prosperous. Women dress in brightly-colored clothing. The men have saved up money to pay cash for Mercedes trucks to transport their vegetables for sale. Almolonga now supplies Guatemala, southern Mexico, and El Salvador with produce. Underground springs have opened up to provide a constant source of moisture for their farms. God has literally "healed the land" as He promised in II Chronicles 7:14. Almolonga is now referred to as the "Valley of Miracles" and the "City of God" and even the'Garden of the Americas.'" This is a dramatic example of an entire community turning from darkness to light. (For more visit glowtorch.org)

So this is salvation, God's free gift of restoration - a relationship with the creator, and many facets of the Father's abundant blessings. It is healing of heart, soul, body, relationships, and even communities, lands and waters. Does any of this sound appealing? There was and is a price. The Good News—the price has already been PAID IN FULL.

Next, a bit of bad news—but remember—it's already been covered. The Bible clearly presents a serious problem. We all have a sin problem. This can easily be explained by looking at the middle letter – "I." All the various wrongs people do can be boiled down to that middle letter. We like to do things our own way. We like to stack the deck so we come out on top. All of the lies, stealing, and even killings have an "I want it" mentality at their root. If "I" can finagle my way into getting something "I" want, more power to me – or shall I say – more power to my sin. See – we all have this sinful nature. All of us do. All of us sin. In God's eyes sin is sin from the least little white lie to the greatest serial killer. It is impure. It is ugly. We all are born with a nature to sin. King David wrote, "For I was born a sinner – yes, from the moment my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5) Sinning comes quite naturally to all of us.

It is futile to think all of life's answers come from within. The Bible says, " The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?" (Jer. 17:9) We are not basically good. We are basically sinful. It touches everything we do. Everything we experience is shaded by our desire to please ourselves and glorify the big "I" in our life.

We have all sinned. No one is righteous – not even one.

When Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden chose to disobey God, they brought sin into the world. Adam's sin brought physical and spiritual death, so death was passed down through generations to everyone, for everyone sinned… . Yes, Adam's sin brings condemnation for everyone." (Rom 5:12.18)

Some may protest – that's not fair. Why should I suffer because of the actions of someone else? The truth is, every day we are given the same kind of test placed before Adam and we all stumble as he did. God has given us today. "Today, I have placed before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now I call upon heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!" (Deut. 30:19)

Do you like rules? Do they help people get along? Can they be hard to follow? Why do you think God gave his followers rules? Do you think these are still important rules for today? Do many people still follow all these rules? Do you think it would be good if more people did? Why or why not?

At Mt. Sinai, Moses went alone to talk with God because others were afraid to go with him. He brought back the 10 Commandments, or rules to follow.

These include not worshiping other gods, honoring your parents, not making statues to worship other gods, not using God's name in disrespect, keeping the Sabbath set aside for worship and rest, do not kill, do not have sex outside of marriage, do not steal, do not lie against your neighbor, and do not wish you could have something your neighbor owns.

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We all Missed the Mark. Some may think – but I live a good life – I try to be kind and considerate and keep the Ten Commandments. These Ten Commandments, or laws, were given to show us how bad we all are. "No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are." (Rom. 3:20.) Speaking from my own experience, I realized I was living a good life in order to be seen as good. It was pleasing to me to be seen as a good person. However, I was still living an "I" centered life. God's paths are followed when we seek to please Him, not ourselves.

"We have all sinned." Rom. 3:23. If anyone thinks they are the exception to this, read earlier in this section – Rom. 3:10 "No one is righteous – not even one." We are all separated from God because of our sin. Sin refers more to our inner character more than our behavior. God's holy, pure, righteous and glorious standard cannot be contaminated with our sinful ways. We miss the mark – we all miss the mark. We fall short of the perfection of God. This creates a problem. How can God who is holy, pure, and righteous in everything associate with us who aren't without contamination?

How can God who is holy, pure, and righteous in everything associate with us?

Sin is a Deliberate Act – Other words for sin are transgressions and trespasses found in Eph. 2:1-3. We lapse and deviate from the truth. This is a bit different than simply missing the mark. Sometimes we don't even try to hit the mark. We go our own way deliberately. We want to do what is wrong.

The ultimate penalty for sin is death. Adam knew the cost. He had been warned. "The moment that you eat of that tree, you shall die,' (Gen.2:17), but he was tempted into thinking that wouldn't happen, and in one sense it didn't. He still lived on earth for many more years before physically dying. However, spiritually, he was immediately separated from God and his spiritual life immediately died.

When they reached the promised land, there were others living there that served other gods. God gave Joshua plans to march around Jericho, praising God for 6 days. On the seventh day their trumpet blasts brought down the city walls and they easily won the battle.

Gideon led an army of 300 men. They surrounded the enemy's camp with jars over their torches and then blew horns in the night. The enemy scattered in fear.

An important part of preparing for these battles was prayer. They used some unusual battle plans. What made them unusual? Do you think God helped them win these battles? Why or why not? Do you have any battles you'd like God's help with? What is important to preparing for your battles?

In time, his physical body died, too. Sin is too disgusting for the purest of pure to want to be contaminated with it. God removed Adam from the Garden of Eden and separated His presence from him. There was a spiritual death and all of mankind ever after has lived with this separation. Rom. 6:23 says – The wages of sin is death. Wages are what we work to attain. You earn them. Because we have sinned, we have earned the penalty of death, separation from God, and when we physically die it will bring eternal torment and punishment being forever separated from God. In hell God's goodness and purity does not exist.

The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There is good news regarding this sin problem. God created an escape. He created a plan to pay for your "wages of sin" and allows you the hope of eternal life free from hell's damnable punishments which we all rightfully deserve.

ROMANS ROAD We've discussed the loving character of God, the sinful "I" nature we all prefer, and spiritual death. Jesus' death and resurrection brings hope. The road trip through some verses in Romans will talk about becoming a Christian through believing in Christ and confessing sins.

It begins with Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We have all done things that are displeasing to God. There is no one who is innocent. Romans 3:10-18 gives a detailed picture of what sin looks like in our lives.

The second scripture on the Romans Road, Romans 6:23, teaches us about the consequences of sin - "For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The punishment that we have earned for our sins is death. Not just physical death, but an eternal spiritual death.

The third verse on the Romans Road picks up where Romans 6:23 left off, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:8 declares, "But God demonstrates His great

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David was the youngest brother. His job was watching the sheep when his older brothers joined the army. There he learned to protect the sheep from fierce wild animals using a slingshot. The army was preparing to fight, though they offered a duel with the giant Goliath instead, if anyone dared. All were afraid. David visited and said he'd go against Goliath. He used his slingshot and Goliath was killed. David won the battle for the army. Later he became king. David loved God with all his heart. He was a good king. Once he was very wrong. He fell in love with another

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God can use people to do amazing things when they have great faith in God. It took great accuracy to use a pebble to kill the giant. Even people who love God greatly can make a bad mistake. Even kings can stumble. David turned back to God. We all stumble and do wrong. Can we still turn back to God? Do you try to love God with all your heart? God has great rewards for those who do His will.

love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Yes, the messed up, good for nothings, that we are without His steering us is worth salvaging to the loving Creator God. Jesus' death paid the price of our sins. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for sins.

Jesus's death PAID IN FULL the price of our sins

The fourth step on the Romans Road is Romans 10:9, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, all we have to do is believe / trust in Him and we will be saved! Romans 10:13 says it again, "for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins and rescue us from eternal death—eternal separation from the Father. Salvation, the forgiveness of sins, is available to all who call upon Jesus.

The final stage of the Romans Road leads to salvation. Romans 5:1 has this wonderful message, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Through Jesus Christ we can have a relationship of peace with God. Romans 8:1 teaches us, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, we will never be condemned for our sins. Finally, we have this precious promise of God .

Would you like to follow the Romans Road to salvation? If so, here is a simple prayer you can pray to God. Saying this prayer is a way to declare to God that you are relying on Jesus Christ for your salvation. The words themselves will not save you. Only faith in Jesus Christ can provide salvation!

God, I know that I have sinned against you and am deserving of punishment. But Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. With your help, I place my trust in You for salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness - the gift of eternal life! Amen!"

When a person walks with God, they will hear His voice. They become His voice of leadership and direction for His people. Elijah was a prophet. He fled Queen Jezebel and the Baal worshipers and hid in the desert where a raven daily brought him food. He left hiding and was taken in by a poor widow whose son had died. He asked her for bread and she gave Elijah the last of her food. Elijah prayed and the boy came back to life and the widow had plenty. He then challenged the Baal worshipers to see whose God was stronger. Though the 400 Baal worshipers and 450 Asherath worshipers tried mightily, they failed. Then Elijah poured water all over his altar to God and asked for God's fire to come. It came and burned up the water and the stone altars. Elijah then prayed for the end of the three year drought and the rain began to fall.

What happened when you fled something evil? What ways does God provide for you? How did God provide for the widow? How did she show faith? How do you show faith? How did Elijah show faith? In this story, what are ways that God rewarded faith?

DEVOTIONALS There are numerous devotional guides available to assist you in having a daily time to reflect upon scriptures and help you learn about walking with God. This is a good habit to develop. Reading devotionals isn't the essential ingredient. Time with God's Word, studying, meditating, pondering its significance and praying for guidance and understanding is what is important. The devotional pieces below are patterned after **Francis Robert's *Come Away My Beloved.*** God calls each of us into an intimate relationship with Him, much as a lover and the beloved. Song of Solomon in the Old Testament depicts this relationship, too.

A Call to my Beloved

Oh, my beloved, I long for you to spend time with me in the quiet places, by the riverside, in the meadow, under the blooming apple trees. Come. I have betrothed myself to you. I created you in your mother's womb; I have longed to see your talents blossom and for you to reach the mature purposes I designed within you. You are special, one of a kind, uniquely made for these purposes. My love for you has always been strong, burning in my depths to hear your voice returning with love and affection.

Please, don't cause me to continue to wait – linger here with me. Talk to me. Tell me of your day, your concerns, your joys. You can let your tasks linger, for I long to bless you. Nothing will suffer. Many things are less important than you realize. Our time together can bring a rainbow on a cloudy day, put the fragrance of joy into your heart that can linger even midst trials, and remind you of the precious value I have placed in you.

I love you and always will. I will guide you to places of rest and comfort in the storms. I provide you inner peace and strength to endure the race set before you. Lay your head upon my breast and loose yourself in Me. There is resurrection power in me. Abide in me.

Jonah walked with God, but he did not like the evil city of Nineveh. God told him to go there and give them His warning. Jonah got on a ship that was going in the opposite direction. The ship was in a bad storm. The men were scared and felt they should give the gods a human sacrifice. Jonah was tossed overboard. A large fish swallowed him. He was 3 days inside the stinky fish. The fish then spit him out on the shores near Nineveh. Jonah told the people there to stop doing evil or God would destroy the city in 40 days. They listened. They put on sackcloth and quit eating to seek God and turned from their ways of evil. God was pleased and spared the city, though Jonah was upset.

What do you do when you see someone doing something wrong? Do you ever talk to someone else and tell them about what is happening? Do you ever try to tell them to straighten up? Would it surprise you if they listened to your warning? Do you ever want to just walk away and pretend you didn't see it? Jonah did, but God still had plans for him. Have you ever had to stay in a stinky place for very long? What do you think Jonah thought about while inside the large fish? What do

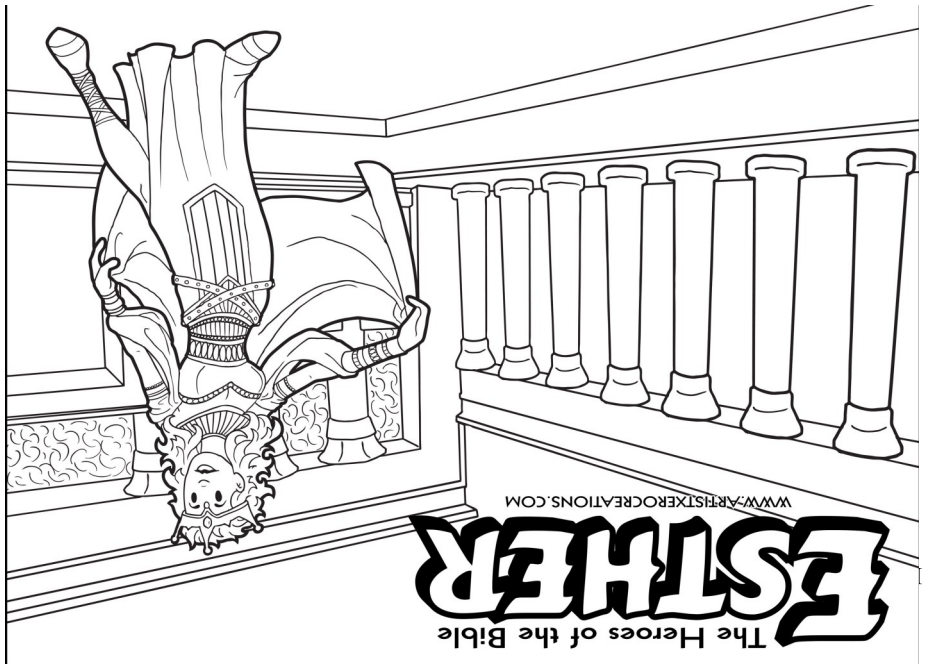
Guidance. Hear my voice. Give heed to it. It is a still small voice, but you will know it. I speak truth and light, a path for you in the darkness. When you need to know which path to follow, do not neglect to turn to me. My paths are straight, though they are narrow. Take heed to walk closely. You are blessed to know the fellowship of believers, and assistance from pastors, but do not neglect to turn to me. Other believers will know ways that I have led them, but you have different pasts and different needs and I have different ways of wanting to bless you as you follow in the paths I lead you. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, not by other believers or even by the pastor.

Trust me, give me time and I will bring My perfect will into your life as you walk in faith with me.

Hear my voice. I speak truth and light, a path for you in the darkness.

Faith and Action A young child sits up high on a platform and his father holds out open arms waiting to catch him and swirl around enjoying each other's presence. But what if the child never jumps? It takes faith to let go and trust. The rewards of joy and contentment are missed if the jump never occurs. As you walk with me, you know the joy of victorious living as you walk in faith. I can only help you if you trust me. Peter, when he got out of the boat, did not walk on water, he walked on faith. He believed that I would hold him up just as I held up Jesus. It was when he turned and saw the turbulent waters and started worrying about them that his faith waivered and he started to sink. I won't call you to such miraculous feats until you are ready, but I do call you to turn to me midst the turbulence of your life and trust me to walk alongside you.

My grace is sufficient. No case is too hard for me. Do not judge a person by their appearance, but see them as they CAN be. Do not judge a situation as too impossible. You can do all things if you walk with me and allow me to strengthen you.



Esther was an orphan raised by her Uncle. She was selected as a beautiful girl to be trained as a possible queen. The king picked her to be queen. When Queen Esther learned that there was a plot to kill all of the Israelites and to harm her uncle, she did what she could. It was risky to ask the king for favors, even for the queen. She and her maids went without food for three days and prayed before she went to the king to ask for a feast. Then she asked for another feast. Then the king had trouble sleeping, so he had some stories read to him. He was reminded of her uncle's great service. The king decided to honor him and the Israelites were saved. Queen Esther is remembered every year for saving their lives.

Events can suddenly change - an orphan can become a queen, the hated become honored, the lives of many facing death were saved. There is a celebration every year to remember how God did all of this called the feast of Purim. What events do you celebrate to remember something important? Our country? The church?

On Tears and Sorrows

Oh, my child, I am coming to wipe away your tears and listen to your sorrows. I will walk upon the waters of the sorrows of your life, above the sounds of the storms that surround you and you will hear me calling your name. My sheep hear my voice and they know me and are comforted to know that I am nearby, ever searching for any wandering in my flock. I will never leave you or forsake you. I am working out details that will bless you and reveal Myself to you in new and deeper ways.

Just as I calmed the storm seas of Galilee, I can calm the storms in your heart. Just as Peter walked on water, you will find by keeping your eyes upon me, that you can walk on top of the sorrows of your life. Open your eyes and see that I approach, and your ears to hear my call. You will grow to know me face to face just as Moses did. I will remove the veil that you may see me as your dearest, most trusted Friend. No darkness shall hide me. Don't let your faith waiver. Reach to touch the hem of my garments and there will be healing of your body, soul and spirit.

Know the Father's love and peace is ever yours.

One Day at a Time

Oh my dear child, do you know how to trust me? Be content with what one day brings and rejoice in it. Do not question and do not doubt. Each day holds small joys that can escape if you are preoccupied with tomorrow. My ways are only discernible with an eye of faith. Nothing is beyond the Father's capabilities – nothing is too big, nor too small. Nothing can restore the past or make perfect the future, but today you may live in the Father's blessings. Hold on to His words. They are sure. Make your heart a strong tower. Secure His words in your heart that they will sustain you and give you a firm place to stand. Know the Father's love and peace is ever yours.

Daniel was also a prophet. He grew up away from his homelands, but did not learn the ways of the other country. He continued to seek God's wisdom. The king had a disturbing dream. Daniel sought help to understand it. He prayed for God to reveal the king's dream and its meaning to him. He did and Daniel explained it to the king. The king made Daniel and his friends leaders over the country. There were jealous rivals in the king's court. They arranged for laws to be written that would cause Daniel to fall from favor. Daniel was cast into the lion's den. But the angel of God shut the mouths of the lions and Daniel continued to serve the king. Daniel also had dreams about the future and the end times.

Do you know of a situation where others ganged up on someone to make them suffer for something that really wasn't right? Did anyone step forward to help? How do you think Daniel felt about being put in with the lions? Would you have been afraid or angry if it had been you? Can you trust God like Daniel did? Daniel worshipped God everyday. He believed God would help him. Do you worship and believe God?.

Is it time for you to read/study the Bible? Many get discouraged trying to start in Genesis to read it straight through. Maybe in time you can, but a better place to start is in one of the first four books of the New Testament – Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. These were written by people who hung out with Jesus and saw the things He did. Many suggest John for someone new to the Bible. It is followed by Acts, which tells about things that happened with the first believers. Much of the New Testament was written by Paul, someone who first was very opposed to the believers and even tried to kill them. But God changed Paul's eyesight, heart, and mind and he became one of the most dedicated workers to help spread God's Good News. So here are some tips to get you started.

Step 1 Choose a passage, paragraph, or chapter to study. Some suggest studying following a planned guide so you move around in the whole Bible. Reading straight through isn't usually a good beginner's task.

Step 2 Pray. Ask God to meet with you and to make the time personal, like talking to a friend.

Step 3 Reflect on the passage. Reread it and consider what it is saying. Think about how it applies to you.

Picture it! Visualize the scene. Put yourself into the setting – how might you have felt? Reacted? How does it compare to something in your life?

Paraphrase it! Restate the passage in your own words.

Personalize it! Put your name in place of the nouns or pronouns.

Practice it! Apply it to your life.

Many encourage believers to keep a journal, not only to take notes on what you've been learning in your studies, but to also make a prayer list so you can have your own record of how God answers prayer.

Most important – begin. Get those first steps in motion. Baby steps lead to more confidence and a bit bigger steps as well as greater ease of motion. Have fun. Walking with the Lord is full of new life – ENJOY.

Another approach is to do a topical study. You will also want to use a book called a Concordance. It lists where to find verses on topics, and individual words. Christian bookstores carry them or check cbd.com. Other tools are biblegateway.com and biblios.com. Put in a keyword and it will quickly locate all the references on that subject .

Where to Find Familiar Old Testament Bible Stories

Creation of the universe	Genesis 1:1-31
Noah's flood	Genesis 6 to 8
Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9
Abraham's call	Genesis 12:1-3
Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed	Genesis 18:16 to 19:29
Isaac's birth	Genesis 21:1-8
Jacob's ladder vision	Genesis 28:10-22
Joseph's coat, dreams and brothers	Genesis 37
Burning bush - God speaks to Moses	Exodus 3:1 to 4:17
Egypt's plagues	Exodus 7:14 to 12:30
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-17
City of Jericho	Joshua 6
Gideon	Judges 6:1 to 8:35
Samson	Judges 13:1 to 16:31
David and Goliath	I Samuel 17
Solomon anointed king	I Kings 1:28-40
Elijah and the prophets of Baal	I Kings 18:17-40
Ezekiel's vision of dry bones	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Daniel put in the lions den	Daniel 6
Jonah in the belly of the fish	Jonah 1:1 to 2:10

Where to Find Familiar New Testament Bible Stories

Birth of Jesus Christ	Matthew 1:1 to 2:23
Jesus's Baptism	John 1:29-34
Sermon on the mount	Matthew 5:1 to 7:29
Jesus feeding five thousand	Mark 6:30-44
The Parable of the Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:1-44
Last supper	Matt. 26:14-29
Lord before Pilate and crucifixion	Mark 15:1-39
Empty tomb and appearances	Luke 24
The Church Begins, 3000 saved	Acts 2:14-41
Paul's conversion	Acts 9:1-30
Angel Rescues Peter from Prison	Acts 12:1-19
Paul and Silas in Prison	Acts 16:16-40
Paul's Journey to Rome	Acts 27:1-28

These are some topics you might want to explore.

God the Father is the creator, the divine all-knowing, always present and all powerful spiritual being. He is holy, loving, and just. Matt. 10:29-31, Rev 15:2-4, 2 Peter 3:3-9

Jesus Christ is the only son of God., both human and divine. His power is great enough to transform broken lives and rule the heavens for eternity. Phil. 2:5-11, Col. 1:15-20, Lk 4:16-21, I Pet. 2:24,

The Holy Spirit is the helper, teacher, and works with the Father and Son. He strengthens and empowers believers to walk in righteousness Acts. 2:1-41, I Peter 1:2, Eph. 1:13-14, John 14:15-17, Gal. 5:16-26

Angels are God's undercover agents on missions to worship Christ and protect people. They do spiritual warfare subject to Christ. Psalm 148:1-3, Revelation 5:10-12, Psalm 91:10-12, 1 Peter 3:21-22

The Devil, or Satan, is a fallen angel, the leader of 1/3 of the angelic hosts . He has power, but is not all powerful or all knowing. He is a liar, deceiver, and destroyer doomed to a fiery pit. 2 Peter 2:3-5, Luke 10:17-19, Matthew 25:40-42, 1 Peter 5:7-9, Revelation 12:8-10,

Demons are fallen angels aligned with Satan to manipulate, taunt, and deceive. They are powerful, but they become powerless when Jesus is called upon. James 2:18-20, Matthew 8:27-29

The heavens are created by God. They tell of the glory and praises of God. They contain the throne room of God and the holy city of the New Jerusalem Exodus 20:10-12, Psalm 89:4-6, Revelation 21:1-23

Hell or sheol is a fiery pit of judgment and sorrow. Anyone whose name is not found in the Lamb's Book of Life will know this place of gnashing of teeth. Deuteronomy 32:21-23. Rev. 20, Matthew13:41-43

The Bible makes no mention of **purgatory, a place of 40 virgins, or reincarnation**. Could demons fabricate such tales? The rich man wanted the poor beggar Lazarus to return from the dead to warn others of hell. God's reply was, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." Lk 16: 19-31. All are invited while they live , even on their deathbed to be recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

A few of the many prophecies about the Messiah

Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) , Son of God (Psalm 2:7) Descended of Abraham (Gen. 22:18), Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) , Presented with gifts (Psalm 72:10) , Threatened by Herod (Jer. 31:15) God and man (Isaiah 7:14), a Prophet (Deut. 18:18) a Priest (Psalm 110:4) a Judge (Isaiah 33:22), and a King (Ps 2:6,)

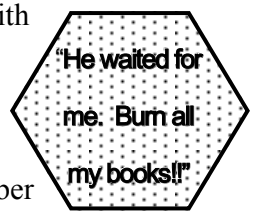
There are many Old Testament prophets who wrote about Jesus's birth. He was born in Bethlehem, the town of David, to the virgin Mary and her husband Joseph. All this the prophets had written about years earlier. There were many visitors because the government leaders had called everyone to return to the town of their fathers to be counted. There were no rooms to stay in. Seeing she was about to give birth, one innkeeper let them use a barn where Jesus's first bed was a manger that was used to feed the animals. There were shepherds on a hillside who saw angels filling the sky and announced His birth. The shepherds went to see Jesus. There were also kings from the East that saw a bright star which they followed. It led them to find Jesus who was born to be the King of Kings. They travelled far and brought him precious gifts and worshipped Him.

We all like to gather to welcome a newborn baby and bring gifts. In this, Jesus's birth was like many babies' births. There were many special events that happened at Jesus's birth. Can you name some? Why do you think God had Jesus born in a barn instead of a palace? Why did He have the angels and star announce His birth?

PERSPECTIVES RELATING TO OTHER FAITHS

Richard Wurmbrand's book – *The Answer to the Atheist 's Handbook* was written mostly from a Soviet prison cell as a Christian martyr. He had time to research points of the *Atheist Handbook* and wrote several articles on many issues. Some excerpts from his book are presented below to provide food for thought.

Use the language of the people when sharing your faith.
For many atheism is only a screen for the frustration of an unsuccessful religious search. Their atheism is repressed religiosity, and it is our fault that we do not know how to communicate with them. Christians should unlearn "Christianese" when they deal with unbelievers. Doctors use an idiom of their own when they are among themselves, but the wise physician, when dealing with a patient, uses a language understood by him. Not all teachers of religion know how to make their faith intelligible to those who are not used to biblical language. This keeps many away.



Near death atheist leaders held different views .
Mao was a fierce atheist. But in 1936, when as a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party he fell very sick, he demanded to be baptized and received baptism from the hand of a nun. When his wife was shot by the troops of Chiang Kaishek, he composed a religious poem, "Immortals." In an interview with the American newspaperman Snow in 1971, he said, "Soon I will have to appear before God."

Such incidents are very instructive. If you are an engineer who has built a bridge, the fact that a cat passes over the bridge is not proof that the bridge is good. A train must pass over it. We cannot consider atheistic doctrine profitable if it is only a fair weather teaching.

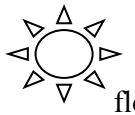
Zinoviev, president of the Communist International, died at the hands of Stalin. His last words were, "Listen, Israel, our God is the only God." Yagoda, Soviet Minister of Interior Affairs, also killed by Stalin, said, "There must be a God, because my sins have reached me." Yaroslavski, who was founder and president of the League of the Godless in the USSR, told Stalin from his deathbed, "Burn all my books! Look, He is here! He waited for me. Burn all my books!"

Much of Jesus' life was like any other child growing to adulthood in that time. When he was older, His ministry began at the River Jordan. There he met John the Baptist who was preaching to the crowds and calling them to repent. John didn't want to baptize Jesus. He wanted Jesus to baptize him. Jesus told John he needed to do this and a dove came from heaven and a voice was heard – "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased." Then Jesus found a group of twelve men to travel with him and be his close followers and learn his messages. He called fishermen and tax collectors. They followed. He told them about God's love.

To be baptized means you have repented, or turned away from doing wrong, and want to walk in the ways of God. Some churches dedicate babies with a baptismal service to be raised in knowing of God's ways. Some wait to baptize people who are older. Baptism is an important step in walking with God. That is why Jesus told John he needed to be baptized. It is an important step towards God's ways and turning away from doing wrong? Have you been baptized? Talk to a pastor.

A Russian farmer was once asked by an atheistic lecturer if he believed in God. He answered, affirmatively. He was asked again, "Why should you believe in Him? Did you see Him?" "No," was the reply. "But neither have I ever seen a Japanese. Notwithstanding I believe that Japanese exist. Our army fought against them in the last war. This is proof enough for me. If there were no God, why do you fight against Him?"

Who created these flowers?



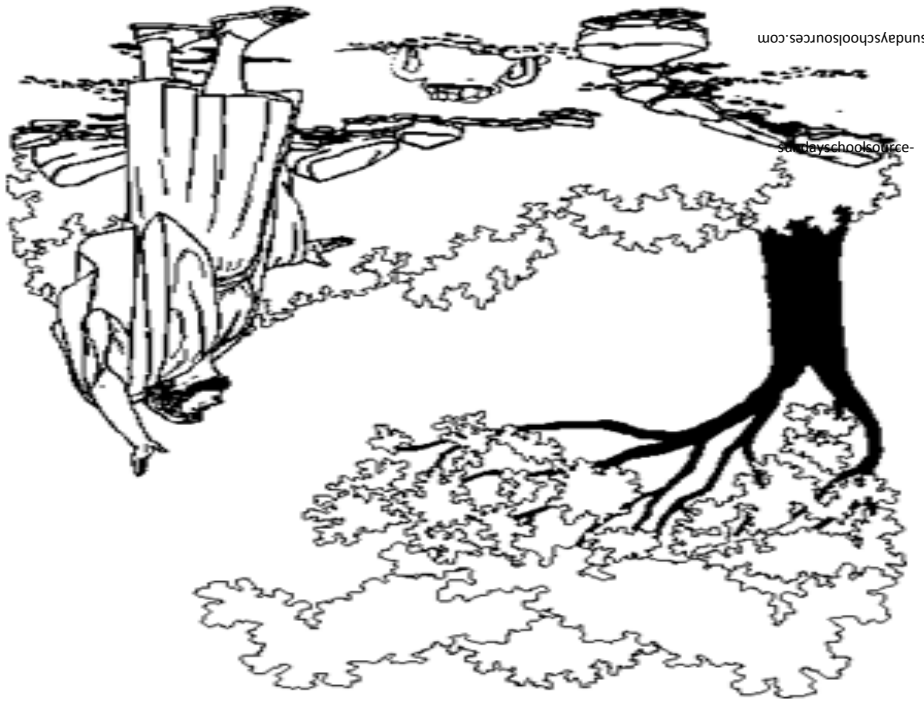
A Christian once asked an atheist, with whom he took a walk through the meadows, "Who made all these beautiful flowers?" "Forget it!" was the answer. "Do not come again with your stupid talk about God. The flowers exist by themselves." The Christian did not persist.

After a few days, he was visited by this same atheist friend in his home. He had in his sitting room a beautiful picture representing flowers. The atheist asked him, "Who painted this?" The Christian said, "Do not begin with religious rubbish! Nobody painted these flowers. They came into the painting by themselves. Nature made the carved frame. Then by itself the picture jumped upon the wall, on to a nail which just happened to be there, driven by nobody. And that is all." The atheist took the joke badly.

But the Christian asked, "Is it logical to believe that these three flowers in the picture, which have no fragrance and no life, must have been created by somebody, while believing that the millions of living flowers with their heady perfume in the valleys and on the hills have no Creator?"

The excerpts below are drawn from Pastor Ergun Canner, formerly a Muslim from his book *When World Views Collide*.

Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship. If the Bible were to be condensed into one word, that word would be relationship. That is what the Bible is about, different people in different times who found and in some cases withdrew from relationship with God. Religion is built around practices, traditions, and habits to bring God closer. It is man seeking God. Christianity is all about a relationship with God. It is all about God seeking man. Only Christianity refers to God as Father,not as judge. Only in Christianity is there a God who wants an intimate, personal relationship with you. Only in Christianity is Jesus Christ not only the Teacher but also the Savior. Only in Christianity does God operate by grace.



Many people wanted to hear the stories Jesus taught. He taught people to be helpful and take care of people in need of food, clothing, shelter, and healing. He taught hem how to pray calling God their Daddy, loving Him in worship, asking Him to supply their needs and to protect them from evil. He taught them that God's kingdom is forever. He told many stories about seeds, family members, lost coins and sheep and other things the people would all know about so they could understand how much God loves everybody.

Do you like to hear stories that have good endings? Jesus's stories encouraged people to be nice to each other. What have you done that was nice for someone else? Do you ever tell God you love Him? Do you thank Him for things like green grass that feeds the animals, or water that you drink, or the air that you breathe. You can ask Him to bless your family and friends, too. Give thanks and praises to God in all things. He is Awesome! He's your loving Daddy.

Religion is the opiate of the people.

It is true that Marx said. "Religion is the opiate of the people." There is nothing intrinsically evil in opium. Only the discovery of anesthetics made possible the tremendous development of surgery.

People have used many things besides religion as opiates. One man, in order to escape family grief, chooses chemistry as his opiate. He passes all his time in the laboratory and discovers a useful medicine. Is the value of the medicine diminished because the research for it was an opiate to a distressed heart?

Pure and undefiled religion is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Atheism and revolutionary activities are often an opiate for children of broken homes, a substitute for rebellion against parental authority. Atheism can be an opiate to soothe one's conscience which otherwise would give pain for the commission of gross sins. Atheism stifles the reproaches of conscience, just as an opiate alleviates physical pain.

The definition given by one of Christ's apostles is "Pure and undefiled religion is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." James 1:27 No sensible man can be other than charmed by this definition.

I exist; does that mean God exists, too?

The most primitive man knows, "I exist." And "the many objects around me exist." But if I and my fellow men and the things about us exist, there must exist one more thing: existence itself. If I am, and the world is, there is also the simple fact of "being." I get old, fellow men die, warning me that my turn will come, while my children grow up. All objects which surround me decay or wither away. But the simple fact of being never ceases. There exists a pure Being, independent of our coming and going. I have not always existed. The things around me have not always been. Primitive men perhaps could not put this in so many words. But they knew about a supreme, immortal Being, the One whose name will be revealed later as the God whose name is "I AM.".Belief in Him and the desire to propitiate Him have inspired every religion in its beginning. This is the basis of every religion even now.

Jesus' ministry was filled with many unusual events. Once he fell asleep in the boat in a storm. The disciples were afraid and woke him, wondering why He didn't seem to care about the danger they were in. Jesus spoke to the storm and calmed the waves. They were then safe.

Then they safely arrived where a crowd gathered to hear and see him. It became late and there were no stores nearby. Jesus asked his followers to find anyone with food in the crowd. There was a boy who had 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. Jesus prayed a blessing over the food and 5000 were fed with the boy's food and there were 12 baskets of leftovers. WOW!

Have you ever been frightened by a storm? The disciples called for Jesus and He prayed and the storm was calmed. What did you do when you were frightened? Do you think Jesus could calm your fears if you are ever scared again? Have you ever been somewhere where there wasn't enough food or supplies for a big group of people? What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? Did you look for supplies? Could you ask Jesus to bless what you find if something like that happens again?

The Power of the Cross as portrayed by a former Muslim

The message of the gospel for Pastor Ergun Canner is very potently stated below. As a former Muslim and one who was taught that paradise is promised for those who die fighting in the cause of Islam, he states:

Grace is missing in other world religions.

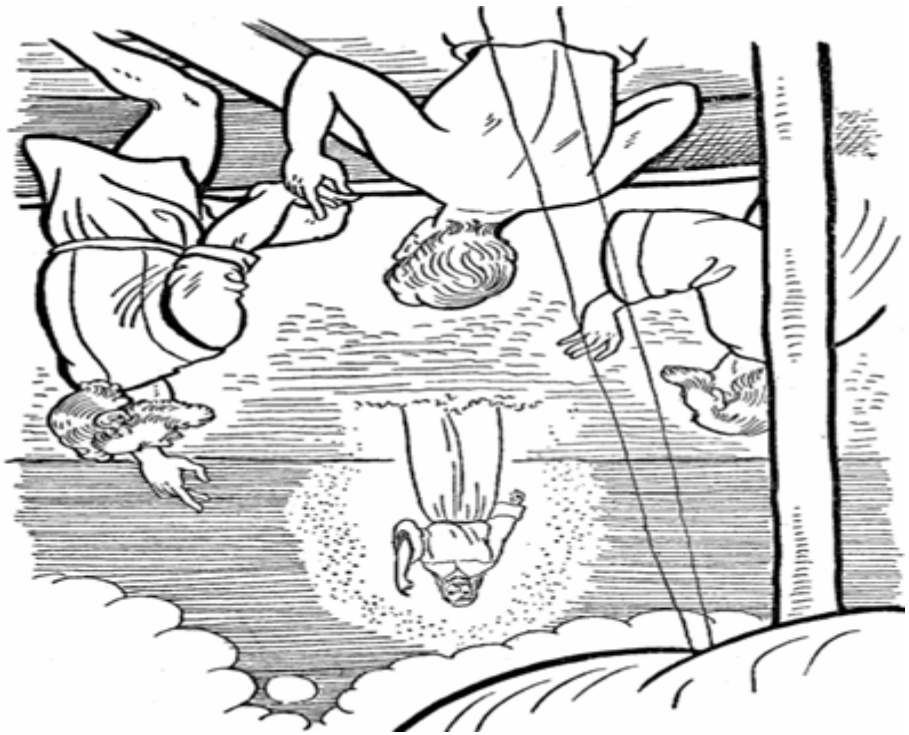
By grace Jesus strapped Himself to a cross
So that I would not have to strap a bomb to myself.

For more on Islam www.inquiryintoislam.com

GRACE, God's grace, Amazing Grace The concept of grace is absent from every world religion. In other belief systems each individual is left to his own obedience and his own works to earn salvation. In Hinduism the caste into which you will be reincarnated entirely depends on your journey on earth. In Buddhism your response to suffering and the Eightfold Path determines your destiny. In Islam each person is born with balanced scales; every work in life will be weighed in the balance.

Only in Christianity do our inherent sinfulness and inability to live by the law result in God's provision of grace. God knowing our incapacity for righteousness does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Christ died because of Grace. Grace justifies us, strengthens us, gives us purpose, encourages us, unites us, and sanctifies us.

Hebrews 2:9 "But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." Titus 3:7 "So that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." 2 Tim. 1:9–10 "He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Phil. 1:7 "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me." 2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work."



Jesus went off by himself to pray and rest after talking to the crowds. The disciples went out on the lake. That night, they saw Jesus walking on the water, coming to the boat. The disciples thought it was a ghost. Peter, one of his followers, called to him and said, "Lord, if that is you, call me to come to you." Jesus called him. Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, too. Then he saw waves. He was frightened and started to sink. Then Jesus rescued Peter and they both got back into the boat safely.

This is a very unusual event. Have you ever seen anyone walk on water that wasn't frozen? Are you surprised that the disciples thought he was a ghost? Would you have been courageous, like Peter, and tried to get out of the boat? Or would you have been like the rest and stayed in the boat and watched? Peter did fine when he kept his eyes on Jesus. What was he looking at when he started to sink? Can you keep your eyes on Jesus in times of trouble? Looking to Jesus can bring joy and hope that can keep your head high instead of fear when we look at troubles.

Buddhism vs. Christianity By Dr. John Ankerberg and Dr. John Weldon

Nevertheless, rather than seeking a "unity" among these religions, the truth is much closer to the gut feeling of Zen Buddhist D.T. Suzuki, who states, as he undoubtedly reflects upon the Buddhist concept of suffering: "Whenever I see a crucified figure of Christ, I cannot help thinking of the gap that lies deep between Christianity and Buddhism." The truth is that purported similarities between Buddhism and Christianity are only apparent or surface. For example, many have claimed a similarity between Jesus Christ's saving role in Christianity and the Bodhisattva's savior role as given in later Buddhism. But these roles are entirely contradictory. In Christianity, "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3).

This means He saves us from the penalty of our sins by taking God's judgment of sin in His own Person. Jesus paid the penalty of sin (death) for sinners by dying in their place. Thus, He offers a free gift of salvation to anyone simply for believing and accepting what He has done on their behalf (Jn. 3:16). The central ideas involved in Christ's saving role—God's holiness, propitiatory atonement, forgiveness of sin, salvation as a free gift of God's grace through faith in Christ, etc., are all foreign to Buddhism.

www.ankerberg.com/Articles/_PDFArchives/apologetics/AP3W1101.pdf

Co-Exist: Are All Religions the Same? *Post Author: Bill Pratt*

I have previously written a post on why all religions cannot be true, but I wanted to revisit this topic and add another perspective. Religions are commonly composed of three parts: code, cult, and creed.

Code is the moral code that a religion teaches. For Christianity, it would include "love your neighbor,""do not murder" and other moral commands.

Cult includes the rituals, ceremonies, and observances of a religion. Singing hymns, baptizing, celebrating the Lord's Supper – these would all be examples of the *cult* of Christianity.

Creed involves the doctrines or teachings of a religion. Christians believe that Jesus is God, that he died for our sins, that God is a Trinity. These are all examples of the *creed* of Christianity.

Some people think children can get in the way. They felt Jesus shouldn't need to deal with the children and tried to shoo them away. Jesus said, "No, let the children come to me. Their simple trust and obedience is what the kingdom of God is made of." Then he prayed blessings upon the children.

Jesus told a story about a man who was beaten and left dying on the road. Three people walked on the road – a priest, a Jew, and a foreigner (a Samaritan.) The first two just walked around and left him dying. It was the Samaritan who bandaged the man, took him to an inn, and paid for his care until he was better. God wants us to be like the good Samaritan. Give help to people in need.

Do you trust and obey your parents? Do you like nice things to happen to you? What kind of blessings could your parents pray for you that wouldn't cost anything? Can you think of something that you could do that would help someone in need?

Now, when a person says that all religions are the same, they are almost always talking about *code*. It is true that the basic moral commands of most religions are the same, or at least very similar. Everyone agrees that love of our fellow man is good, that we shouldn't kill the innocent, that we should help each other. There is little disagreement on the basic moral commands, although there may be disagreement on how those moral principles are practically applied in each society.

But *code* is only one part of what constitutes a religion. The *cult* and *creed* of different religions may radically differ. We cannot sweep these differences under the rug, as they are crucial to the understanding of any religion.

As a Christian, would you be willing to stop baptizing so that other religions that don't baptize could have more in common with you? What about the Lord's Supper? Is this just an empty ritual with no meaning that we might give up for the sake of religious unity?

How about our beliefs about God? Does it matter that Jesus is the Son of God? Does it matter that God even exists? What about the afterlife? Christianity teaches that we will all be given resurrected bodies. Should we set aside this belief for the sake of religious unity?

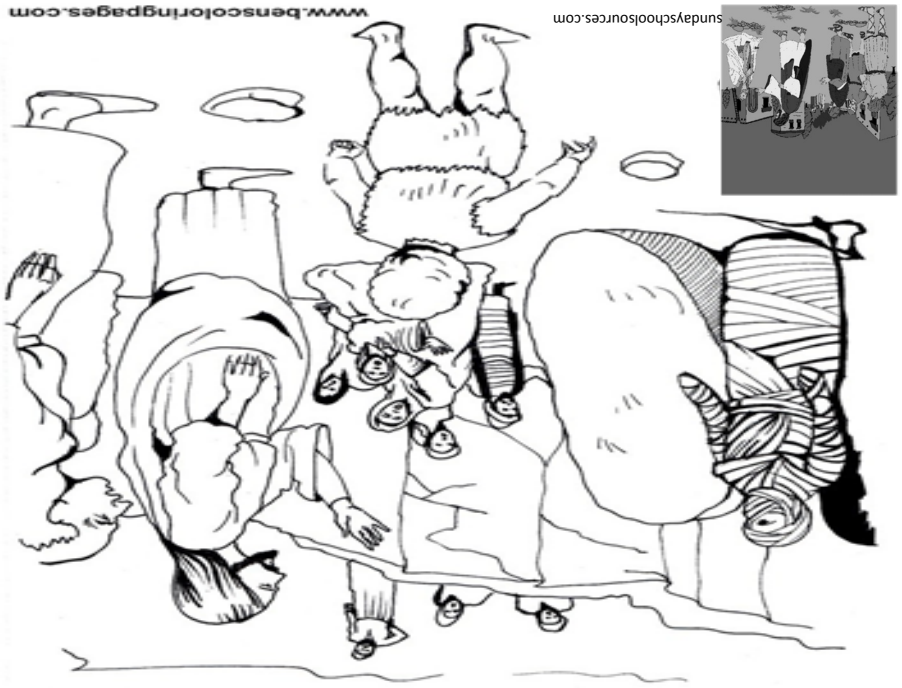
Most of the readers would never agree to these kinds of concessions. But why? If religion is really just about moral *codes*, then we should be able to cast aside *creed* and *cult* and not lose very much. Obviously that is not the case. *Creed* and *cult* are fundamental to Christianity, and to most other religions, and that is why we cannot say that all religions are the same.

www.toughquestionsanswered.org/tag/religion/

Christianity differs from the New Age beliefs. God is personal not impersonal. There is only one God, not many. God is holy and righteous not without morality or evil. Man was created in God's image and will never become God. Man is body, soul and spirit and not solely spiritual. Man was created innocent but is now fallen and "I" or sin centered in his true nature.

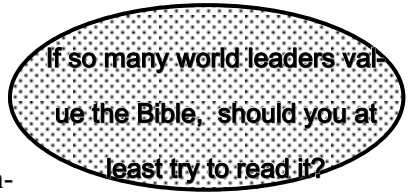
Do you know someone with a handicap? If Jesus were to heal them, how do you think they would feel? If you were healed, would you go back and say thank you? Do you believe that Jesus still heals? Do you know someone you could bring to Jesus through your prayers and ask for healing? You could pray something like this – Jesus, my friend, _____ needs your healing touch. Please, touch this person and make them whole.

There were many people that came to Jesus for healing. The lame walked. The blind were able to see. The deaf could hear. Sometimes Jesus told someone seeking healing to dip in the water. He used mud and made patch over another man's eyes and then he saw clearly. Sometimes people brought their sick friends to him to be healed. One lady, who had been sick for many years, just reached out and touched the hem of Jesus's clothes and was healed. There were ten lepers who were healed, but only one returned to thank Jesus. Jesus even brought back to life his dear friend Lazarus who had been dead for four days.



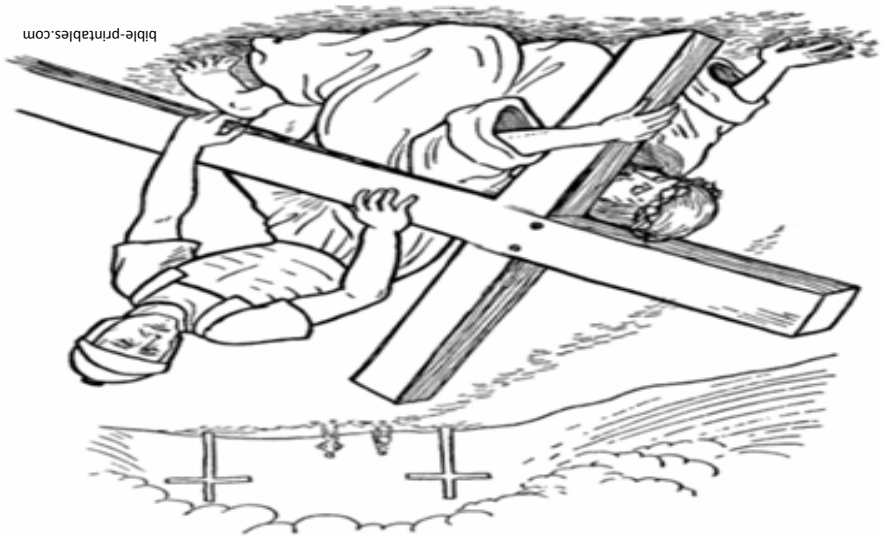
The Bible influence is prolific amid the renown

If the Bible were set aside as a valueless book, all the famous literature of the world would perish with it. What would remain of Dostoevesky, Tolstoy, Milton, John Bunyan, Walter Scott, and Anatole France? Tennyson said that the Book of Job was the finest poem he had ever read. There are three hundred quotations from the Bible in his works. Shakespeare used over five hundred ideas and phrases taken from it. Byron's poem "Darkness" was inspired by the Book of Jeremiah. Even Das Kapital, by Marx, would have to be changed along with his other writing and those of Engels, because they are saturated with references to the Bible. If the Bible were taken away, the works of Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Rembrandt, and many great painters of the world would be unintelligible to us, as would many of the great pieces of music of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, and others.



Testimonies from world leaders

William Gladstone, four time premier of Great Britain said, "If asked what is the remedy for the deeper sorrows of the human heart, what a man should chiefly look to in his progress as the power that is to sustain him under trials and enable him to confront his inevitable afflictions, I must point him to something which in a well-known hymn is called "The Old, Old Story, told in an old book which is the greatest and best gift ever given to mankind." He refers to the Bible. **Jean Jacques Rousseau** writes "How mean, how contemptible are the words of our philosophers with all their contradictions compared with the Scriptures. Is it possible that a book at once so simple and so sublime should be merely the words of man? **Goethe** writes, "The Bible becomes ever more beautiful, the more it is understood." **Heinrich Heine**, who was very far from being a religious enthusiast, writes, "The depth of creation written into the blue mysteries of heaven, sunrise and sunset; promise and fulfillment; birth and death; the whole human drama – everything is in this book. It is a book of books, the Bible." **Garibaldi**, the Italian patriot, who politically liberated and unified his fatherland (finishing this work in 1870) said of the Bible, "This is the cannon that will make Italy free." Even **Marx** wrote: Luther, by giving the Bible to the people in the vernacular language, put into their hands a powerful weapon against the nobility, the landlords, and the clergy.



After three years of healing people, telling stories about God's love, and doing many amazing things, Jesus knew it was time to finish his mission. The real purpose of His life on earth was to die for us. Then we could be free to enjoy God's fellowship. Judas, one of His followers, had hoped Jesus would be a king on earth. He wanted power and money. When he understood Jesus didn't want to be that kind of king, he agreed to turn him over to the government leaders for 30 pieces of silver. The government leaders called Jesus names. They beat and whipped Him. Then they nailed Him on the cross. It was cruel. There, like the Passover lamb, Jesus' blood was shed. He was willing to do this. He died to pay for wrongs that you and I and others have done.

How do you feel about Judas's actions? About the leader's actions? About Jesus's actions? John the Baptist, when he first saw Jesus said, "Behold the Lamb of God." Jesus died during the Passover celebration, a time to remember how God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt after a lamb was sacrificed. How was Jesus's death like the Passover

Testimonies of American presidents.

Washington: Above all, the pure and unbending light of Revelation has had illuminating influence on mankind and increased the blessings of society.

Lincoln: I have always taken counsel of God and referred to Him my plans and have never adopted a course of proceeding without being assured, as far as I could be, of His approval. I should be the most presumptuous blockhead upon this footstone if I for one day thought that I could discharge the duties which have come upon me since I came into this place without the aid and enlightenment of One who is wiser and stronger than others.

Grant : Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties, write its precepts in your hearts, and practice them in your lives. To the influence of the Book are we indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.

Garfield: Choose the undying Jesus as your everlasting friend and helper. Follow him, not simply as a Nazarene, the man of Galilee, but as an everlasting spiritual person, full of love and compassion, who will stand by you in life and death and eternity. The hopes of the world are false, but as the vine lives in the branches, so Christ lives in the Christian, and he shall never die."

McKinley: We must be doers, not hearers only. To be doers of the word it is necessary that we must first be hearers of the word, yet attendance at church is not enough. We must study the Bible, but let it not rest there. We must apply it in active life.

Wilson: If every man in the US would read a chapter of the Bible every day, most of our national problems would disappear.

FDR: I reiterate the statement, which I have made several times before –that a revival of religion is what this country most needs; that in such a revival we would find a solution of all our problems, whether political, economic, or social.

A soldier was placed at the entrance to the tomb where Jesus was buried. On the morning of the third day, the heavy stone door had been pushed aside by the angels and Jesus was not in the tomb. God's angels had come and rolled away the stone. His faithful women followers were surprised to meet Him. They ran to tell the others. "Jesus has risen from the dead!" He appeared to others, too. He was alive. He was not dead. To Thomas, the doubter, He told him to put his hands into the scars that the nails on the cross tore. They were all amazed. Then they saw Him rise in a cloud as He said goodbye. He went to sit on His kingly throne. Jesus is King of Kings, but his kingdom is with the Father in heaven, not on earth. He still lives and promises to return in the clouds.

Do you know an animal or person that has died? Were you sad? What would you do if you suddenly saw them again? If you had seen the empty tomb, what would you have thought? If you had seen Jesus after He had died, how would you have responded? Think about this - God's love and power is stronger than death. How does it make you feel knowing this?

Apologetics is the study of trying to prove a religion to be true. There are many dimensions to this. This will only attempt to cover a few basics. If you are going to believe something you'd want the basis of it to be historically true. Christianity is a FACTual religion. Dig in – there's plenty of historical and archeological evidence to support the Bible.

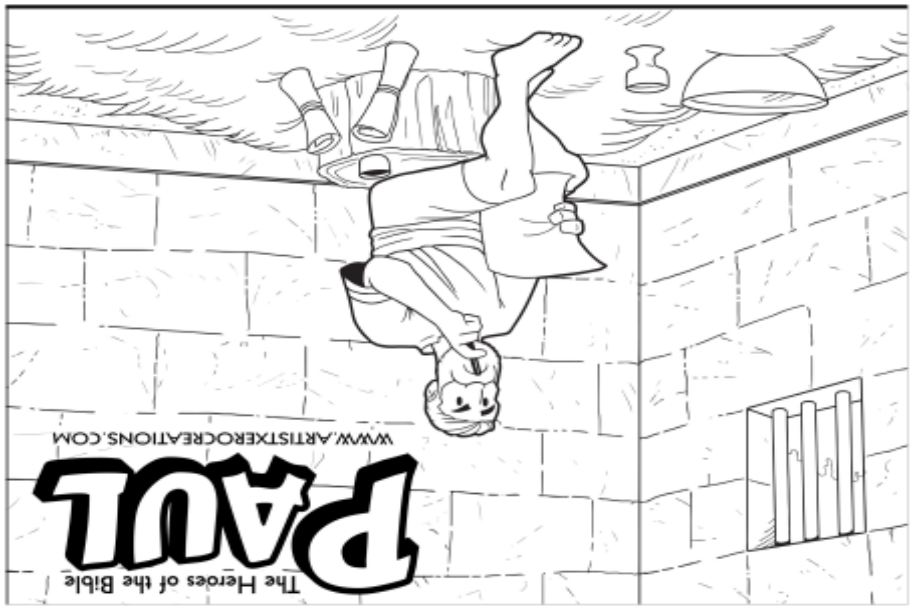
Christianity is a FACTual religion

Evidence that Jesus was a true historical person. Let's start with some evidence that Jesus was a true historical person. There are atheists that want to refute this, though they have left their critical thinking behind if they blindly believe otherwise. So why didn't the Roman historians cover him? The answer is that only highly parochial Roman historians who had little interest in the comings and goings of minor cults and were far more concerned about Emperors and Kings wrote things their scroll vaults valued. Jesus made a very small splash while he was alive and there was no reason for Roman historians to notice him.

Christianity is mentioned by the historian Tacitus in the early second century. He talks about it only because Christians were unfortunate enough to be made scapegoats by the Emperor Nero for the great fire of Rome.

Josephus, a Jew who wrote a history of his people up to 66AD, does mention Jesus twice.

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day. Josephus, Jewish Antiquities, 18, 3, 3



Jesus's followers started telling others about what they had learned from him. Others became followers, too. God gave them the ability to heal the sick. Some had dreams and visions that instructed them on where to go and what things they should do to teach not only Israelites, but all who wanted to know God's love. Paul was a very devoted Jew. He was upset by the new believers in Christ and tried to kill them, so they wouldn't mix with the Israelites. On the road he suddenly became blind by a bright light. Then he heard a voice and had a dream that told him to stop killing believers, because it hurt God. His eyesight was restored. He became a believer. Later he travelled and wrote to many places and taught people about Jesus and God's love. Many became believers because of Paul's teachings.

Have you ever seen something you thought was wrong and wanted to try and stop it? Have you ever been wrong about something? What helped you change your mind? What did God do to help Paul change his mind about people who were followers of Jesus?

To support this idea we can look at the works of the Christian father Origen who was writing in the mid-third century. Here are two passages which say basically the same thing and which reinforce each other:

And to so great a reputation among the people for righteousness did this James rise, that Flavius Josephus, who wrote the "Antiquities of the Jews" in twenty books, when wishing to exhibit the cause why the people suffered so great misfortunes that even the temple was razed to the ground, said, that these things happened to them in accordance with the wrath of God in consequence of the things which they had dared to do against James the brother of Jesus who is called Christ. And the wonderful thing is, that, though he did not accept Jesus as Christ, he yet gave testimony that the righteousness of James was so great; and he says that the people thought that they had suffered these things because of James. Origen - Matthew X, XVII

For in the 18th book of his Antiquities of the Jews, Josephus bears witness to John as having been a Baptist, and as promising purification to those who underwent the rite. Now this writer, although not believing in Jesus as the Christ, in seeking after the cause of the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple, whereas he ought to have said that the conspiracy against Jesus was the cause of these calamities befalling the people, since they put to death Christ, who was a prophet, says nevertheless-being, although against his will, not far from the truth - that these disasters happened to the Jews as a punishment for the death of James the Just, who was a brother of Jesus (called Christ) - the Jews having put him to death, although he was a man most distinguished for his justice.

Origen, - Against Celsus I, XLVII

If this kind of proof interests you, you should find Josh McDowell's books – *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* and *More Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. Or visit www.ankerberg.com.

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Here is a recent headline. New Archaeological Evidence Uncovered Could be the Site of Biblical Sodom Brian Nixon www.assistnews.net/Stories/2011/s11120037.htm

Jesus told his followers that in the last days many would have dreams and visions to guide and protect them. Some followers think the last days are coming soon. John's vision is recorded in the last book of the Bible. He saw many things in heaven and on earth. He sees angels and elders worshipping in God's throne room surrounded by rainbows. He saw churches on earth that have both things they do well, but also things they need to improve. He saw many hard times coming as God's judgments are sent from heaven to expose evil plans of men and evil spiritual powers. God protects the believers and calls all who will come to a great feast in heaven. It is the marriage feast of the bride and the groom. All who come must be wearing spotless white clothes provided by Jesus.

Do you ever have dreams that you remember? Some dreams are a message from God to you. Stories of Jacob, Joseph, Samuel and Daniel have dreams from God that are in the Bible, too. Do you ever sense that a dream is telling you what you should do? Do you wonder what heaven will be like?

Color the picture. Then copy this on the lines below.

Jesus was born to teach us about God's love.

The Bible is a unique book. It is different in many ways from any other. Drawn from Josh McDowell *Evidence that Demands a Verdict.*

- It was written over a 1500 year span.
- It was written by over 40 generations.
- It was written by over 40 authors from every walk of life – peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, doctors and kings. Moses, a political leader, Peter, a fisherman, Amos, a herdsman, Joshua, a military leader, Daniel, a prime minister, Luke, a doctor, Solomon, a king, Matthew, a tax collector, and Paul, a rabbi.
- It was written in different places – Moses in the wilderness, Jeremiah, in a dungeon, Daniel on a hillside and in the palace Paul in prison, Luke while travelling, John on an island. On three continents – Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- It was written by David in times of war and Solomon in times of peace
- In 3 languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
- It is unique in its circulation and publication.
- It is unique in its translation and survival.

It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical refer-

Prominent archaeologists comment on the Bible.

Nelson Gluеck, the renown Jewish archaeologist, " It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. It is almost incredibly accurate historical memory of the Bible and particularly so when it is fortified by archeological fact.

William Albright, known for his reputation as one of the great archaeologists state: There can be no doubt that archeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition. The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, certain phases of which still appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.

SOME GOOD VERSES TO TAKE TO HEART

PLAN OF SALVATION

We need to recognize ourselves as sinners.

ROMANS 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.
JAMES 2:10 For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.

We need to understand the penalty for our sins.

ROMANS 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

We need to confess and turn away from our sins.

1 JOHN 1:9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.
ACTS 20:21 I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike--the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.

We need to believe that Jesus is our only way of salvation.

JOHN 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.
ACTS 4:12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

We need to receive Christ into our lives to receive forgiveness and eternal life.

JOHN 3:3 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."
JOHN 3:16 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

God will change us from the inside out.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
COLOSSIANS 1:27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

Color the picture. Then copy this on the lines below.

This soldier came to capture Jesus. When his ear was cut off Jesus healed him.

Well Loved Hymns

1. Holy Holy Holy
2. Battle Hymn Of The Republic
3. How Great Thou Art
4. Be Thou My Vision
5. Rock Of Ages
6. Joyful Joyful
7. It Is Well With My Soul
8. In The Garden
9. This Little Light Of Mine
10. Just A Closer Walk With Thee
11. Blessed Assurance
Name
12. The Old Rugged Cross
13. To God Be The Glory
14. What A Friend We Have In Jesus
15. I Come To The Garden Alone
16. Faith Of Our Fathers
17. Jesus Loves Me This I Know
18. Take My Life And Let It Be
19. At The Cross
20. Jesus Paid It All
21. For The Beauty Of The Earth
22. Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
23. Shall We Gather At The River
24. All Hail The Power Of Jesus
25. Fairest Lord Jesus

How Great Thou Art

Lyrics ~ Carl Boberg, 1859 - 1940 (All lyrics in this booklet found in the public domain.)

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder
Consider all, the works Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout , the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
When through the woods and forest glades I wander
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook And feel the gentle breeze;

When Christ shall come, With shouts of acclamation,
And take me home, What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow In humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

This Little Light of Mine, I'm gonna let it shine (2x)
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine
2) Hide it under a bushel, no, I'm gonna let it shine (2x)
3) Won't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine (2x)
4) Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine (2x)

Some Familiar Songs for Children

Angels Watching Over Me
Battle Hymn of the Republic
Climb, Climb Up Sunshine
Mountain
Deep and Wide
Dem Bones
Do Lord
Down By the Riverside
Down in My Heart
Father Abraham
Give Me Oil in My Lamp
God Be With You
Green Grow the Rushes O
He's Got the Whole World
His Banner Over Me
His Sheep am I
I'm in the Lord's Army
I Will Make You Fishers of Men
I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
Jacob's Ladder
Jesus Loves Me
Jesus Loves the Little Children
Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam
Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho
Kumbaya
Little David, Play on Your Harp
Lord, I Want To Be a Christian
Michael, Row the Boat Ashore
Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes…
Oh, How I Love Jesus
Pass It On
Peace Like a River
Praise Him, Praise Him
Praise the Lord Together
Rejoice in the Lord Always
Rise and Shine
Rock a My Soul
Silver and Gold Have I None
Standin' in the Need of Prayer
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
The B-I-B-L-E
The Wiseman Built his House
This Is My Commandment
This Little Light of Mine
Three Jolly Fishermen
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
When the Saints Go Marching In
Who Did Swallow Jonah?

Amazing Grace

John Newton (1725-1807) Born to a wealthy shipmaster, he set off to make his fortunes. He experienced the slave trade first hand, as he was demoted and abused along with them. In desperation He sought God and found His amazing grace that inspired this well known hymn.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Only a Boy Named David,

only a little sling
Only a boy named David,
but he could pray and sing
Only a boy named David,
only a little brook
Only a boy named David,
but five little stones he took

And one little stone went in the sling
and the sling went round and round
And one little stone went in the sling
and the sling went round and round
And around and around and around and around (2x)
And one little stone went up in the air
And the giant came tumbling down

Mr. Noah had an ark EIEIO

And on his ark he had an monkey
EIEIO
With a ee here and and ee there
Here an ee there an ee
Everywhere an ee
Mr. Noah had an ark

Let kids pick additional animals
(Some animals lend themselves to hand motions not sounds.)

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's commands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Doxology Glory Be To The Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Just As I Am, Without One Plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come.

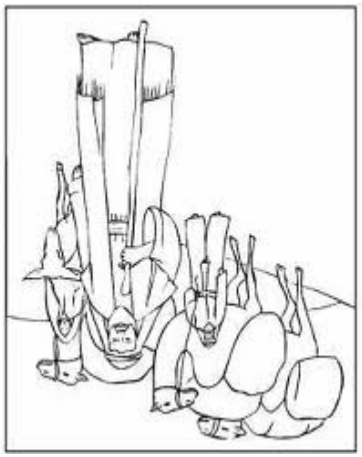
Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
Oh, Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Deep and wide (2x)
There's a fountain flowing deep and wide

Father Abraham had many sons,
Many sons had Father Abraham,
I am one of them and so are you.
So let's just praise the Lord

Right arm
Left arm
Right leg
Left leg
Chin up
Turn around sit down



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Rock a my soul in the bosom of Abraham (3x)
Oh, rock a my soul
Rock my soul (4x)
So high you can't get over it
So low you can't get under it
So wide you can't go round it
Gotta go through the door.

Who did, who did, who did,
Who did swallow Jo-Jo-Jonah?
(3x)

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Whale did, whale did, whale did,

Whale did swallow Jo-Jo-Jonah whole. (3x)

I come to the garden alone

while the dew is still on the roses,

and the voice I hear falling on my ear,

the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,

and he tells me I am his own;

and the joy we share as we tary there,

none other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice

is so sweet the birds hush their singing,

and the melody that he gave to me

within my heart is ringing. (Refrain)

I'd stay in the garden with him

though the night around me be falling,

but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe

his voice to me is calling. (Refrain)

I'ye been redeemed, (echo)

by the blood of the lamb (echo) (3x)

Filled with the Holy Ghost I am

All my sins are washed away I've been redeemed.

As I went down to the garden to pray

Felt so good that I stayed all day

My Lord and I we got so close

He went and filled me with the

Holy Ghost

You can talk about me, just as

much as you please

I'll talk about you down on my

knees

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Oh you can't get to heaven on rollerskates

You'll roll right past those pearly gates

Now Satan's mad and I'm so glad

He's lost that soul that he thought he had

If you want to see that devil run

Just shoot him up with the gospel gun