

Know

Your

Bible

**A concise
Bible education guide**

**30 concise Bible info sheets
Each sheet covering one important topic**

Useful for:

Sunday School seniors

Bible Education programs

Your own personal witness

Know Your Bible

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Introduction

This guide is based on 30 info sheets, each sheet describing one Bible topic as concisely as possible with many support verses from Scripture.

Subjects often ignored

Some of the topics presented are quite often ignored in basic Bible education eg The New Covenant, The Glory of God, God's House, Predestination, Heaven and Earth symbology. These are all very important topics that should be taught in the early stages of Bible education.

Consistent reading

One major problem with Bible Education has been that readers often build their beliefs on just a few words **taken out of context** on a topic of major importance, while completely ignoring maybe dozens of other references on the **same subject** presented throughout God's word.

Figures of Speech

Another problem involves figures of speech which some readers tend to take literally. All languages, including English, contain figures of speech eg "raining cats and dogs". We immediately recognise this in our own language and we should be ready to accept symbols and figures of speech in the Bible, and be able to identify what they represent. It is of no value of course to claim that a scripture is "symbolic" if we cannot clearly show what the symbol actually represents, and how God has consistently used this symbol right throughout Scripture.

Share with a friend

The loose-leaf presentation of this course allows you to make copies of the **page of your choice** which you could post or give to a friend.

Most Scripture quoted in this guide is from the NKJV

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Some basics to note about English translations

God our Heavenly Father

Key verses

● “For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is no other.”

Isa.45:18

● “Jesus answered him, 'The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mark 12:29-30

The title 'God'

In most cases in the Old Testament the word 'God' in our English Bibles comes from the plural Hebrew word 'elohim' (pronounced 'el-o-heem'), which refers to the creative and ministering workings of God through His angelic beings that do His will throughout the universe. There is a tendency for us when reading our English Bibles to be unaware of this truth.

The singular titles of God, ie 'el' (pronounced 'ale') and 'eloah' ('el-o'-ah') are used to refer to the all powerful One God and only appear about 250 times in Scripture, whereas the plural title 'elohim' appears more than 2000 times. This shows the incredible importance God places on the concept of working together, which should be a lesson for us in this life. In God's Kingdom we will be working together for eternity.

What is God's Name?

God's name appears in most English Bible translations as 'LORD'. God's Name appears in the Hebrew as 'YHWH'. The addition of vowels to YHWH aids pronunciation eg YeHoWaH, YaHoWaH, YaHWeH, JeHoVaH*. God's Name (YHWH) is derived from His Memorial Name revealed in Exod.3:14 (hayah asher hayah). The word 'hayah' comes from the root word 'havah' which means 'to breathe' or 'to exist'. Clearly God has chosen these words to teach us that He is the only self existent one. In Rev.1:4 God describes Himself as, “Him who is and who was and who is to come”. This is another way of describing His eternal self existence.

Does God have substance?

Some church creeds teach that God is invisible and has no substance. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt.5:8), and speaking to the Jews about God He said, “You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen his form” (John 5:37). So God definitely has substance.

* Generally 'J' is used instead of 'Y' when Anglicizing Hebrew names eg 'Yehowshua' becomes 'Joshua' or 'Jesus' in English. This is probably one reason why 'Jehovah' has been a popular English choice in the past. 'Jehovah' is actually the original Latin form of God's Name.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

How are we to address God?

● “Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph.5:20

● “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” Matt.6:9

See also Matt.7:11

Jesus showed us by example to address God in prayer as “our heavenly Father”. This is very important as it goes hand in hand with the New Testament emphasis that we are children of God if we love Him and keep His commandments (1 John 5:2-3). All prayer must also be offered through Jesus as our Mediator.

Knowing God

● “And this is life eternal, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

John 17:3

See also Jer.9:23-24 (lovingkindness, judgement and righteousness)

“Knowing God” and His Son amounts to much more than academic knowledge. The prophet Jeremiah indicates the practical side. King Josiah is commended for supporting the poor and needy, and this says God, is “knowing Him” (Jer.22:16). Returning to God with your whole heart (repentance) is also part of knowing God (Jer.24:7). Those who live their lives selfishly fulfilling their own desires are described as, “not knowing God”.

See 1 Sam.2:12; 1 Thess.4:5.

God is

● **One** 1 Timothy 2:5

Deut.6:4; 1 Cor.8:4-6; Gal.3:20.

● **Love** 1 John 4:7-21

Psalms 103; Isa.63:9; Jer.31:3; Rom.5:8, 8:39.

● **Gracious to His children** Psalm 145:14-20

Psa.103:11-18; Matt.6:25-34, 7:11; 1 John 3:1-2.

● **The creator** Isaiah 45:18

Psa.33:6; Isa.40:26, ch42:5, 44:24; Jer.27:5, 51:15-16; Zech.12:1

● **All powerful** Isaiah 40:25-31

Job ch26; Psa.29, ch104, ch147; Amos 9:5-6.

● **All knowledge** Daniel 2:20-23

Job ch38 to ch41; Isa.55:8-11.

● **Everywhere present** Jeremiah 23:23-24

1 Kings 8:29; Psa.139; Amos 9:2-4.

● **Unfailing foreknowledge** Isaiah 46:9-10

Psa.139:16; Isa.48:3-5; Eph.1:5, 11; 2 Tim.1:9; 1 Pet.1:20.

● **Declared great by creation** Psalm 19:1-4

Job 12:7-12; Rom.1:19-20.

● **Immortal** 1 Timothy 6:15-16

1Tim.1:17.

● **Hidden from mortal sight** 1 John 4:12

John 1:18; 1 Tim.6:16

● **Impartial** Acts 10:34-35

Deut.10:17; Rom.2:6-11; Eph.6:9.

● **Not tempted by evil** James 1:13

The Glory of God

God's Glorious Plan

The **Glory of God** and what **He has planned for the future** are magnificent themes that run like golden threads throughout the Bible. The return of Jesus, what the future has in store for this earth, and how we should be living our lives today, are all directly connected with the **Good News about God's Plan of Glory**. The three quotes below give us a nutshell description of what God intends to do in the future. The first reference from Numbers 14:21 vows God's **own existence** as a guarantee that His Plan of Glory will indeed happen:

- **"...but truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD"** Num.14:21
- **"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."** Isa.11:9-10
- **"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."** Hab.2:14

God's Glory filling the earth

God's glory filling the earth would mean all those things that **God values filling the earth**, in contrast to today, where we see a world that is full of all the things that man values, which in many cases has resulted in untold human suffering and misery. The verses below from the prophet Isaiah give us further details of this wonderful time to come:

- **"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He shall teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. 'For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."** Isa.2:2-3

See also Mic.4:1-7; Isa.ch35; Jer.33:14-15; Zech.14:16-21.

God's Glory in Power and Majesty

The word 'glory' in the Bible can be understood as 'splendour', 'majesty' or 'awe inspiring'. In Psalm 19 we are told that, **"the heavens declare the glory of God"**. When we look at the heavens we can see the great power and majesty of God. God has shown His glory via **His Holy Spirit Power** with miracles, visions, fire, earthquake, storm and bright light (Luke 2:9; Ezek.ch1; Hab.3:3).

Jesus demonstrated God's Glory in the visual sense by the miracles He performed and in the **Kingdom vision of Glory** on the mount (Luke 9:27-36).

- **"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."**

John 11:4

See also Matt.9:8; John 2:11.

God's Glory in Love and Unity

- **"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one."** John 17:22
- **"...and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."** John 1:14
- **"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD..."**

Isa.11:2-3 R.V.

In the first verse above from John ch17, we can see that **Jesus' loving relationship** with His Father, His disciples and others, is also an example of God's Glory. This shows God's Glory in a character that displays **love and unity**. When we follow God's advice in our lives, our behaviour is showing praise and glory to God. If we sin, the Bible says that we, "fall short of the glory of God" (Rom.3:23). Mistreatment of children is referred to in the Bible as **taking away God's Glory** from them forever (Mic.2:9).

God's Glory in all ways

- **"Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen."** Psalm 72:18-19

God's Glory will once again be seen on this earth in both the natural and spiritual sense, when Jesus returns. It will be seen in a renewed earth, and in people who live in peace, holiness and happiness together, all worshipping the One God through His Son, who will be the King of all nations. **You will find in Psalm 72 an amazing and beautiful word picture of this coming Kingdom of Glory**. Part of God's Plan is to prepare willing people today for the **future glory** they will share with Jesus in his Kingdom after He returns.

- **"When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."** Col.3:4
- **"...and when the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away ... v10 may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."** 1 Pet.5:4, 10
- **"...when He comes in that day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed."** 2 Thess.1:10
- **"...though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."** 1 Pet.1:7
- **"But rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."** 1 Pet.4:13

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

The Spirit of God

Key verses

- “It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63
- “Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” Psa.139:7
- “But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, and of justice and might...” Mic.3:8

Holy spirit power

- “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power...” Acts 10:38

If God sends forth His Spirit to create (Psa.104:30), and has also used it to anoint mortals with power and understanding, then obviously this Spirit is His power and not a third part of a godhead. God's Spirit power “overshadowed” the virgin Mary and she conceived the Son of God (Luke 1:35). See also Isa.11:2.

How God uses His spirit power

By His Eternal Holy Spirit Power, God created the Heavens and the Earth (Isa.45:18), and sustains all living creatures (Psa.104). He is actively guiding the affairs of the nations (Dan.4:17,25,32), and will continue to do so leading up to the establishment of His Son's Kingdom here on earth. Future rulers in this Kingdom known as, “**saints of the Most High**” (Dan.7:18,22,27), are being called out of the nations and are otherwise referred to as, “**a people for His Name**” (Acts 15:14).

By His Holy Spirit Power, God answers the prayers of His saints, helping them in all their daily needs (Matt.6:31-34), and uses His angels to protect them (Heb.1:14; Psa.103:20).

Why ‘wind’ or ‘breath’?

- “...He breathed on them, and said to them, 'receive the Holy Spirit.'" John 20:22
- “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:2
- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God* (God breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Tim.3:16

God uses words meaning “breath” or “wind” in both Testaments to refer to His Spirit Power and His “**God breathed**” inspiration of the writers of Scripture.

When you think about it, wind is an excellent symbol of **life giving spirit power**, because wind is needed for many life giving needs for our mortal life, including pollination, the bringing of rain and general air circulation on the planet. The symbolic connection between wind and spirit was evident at Pentecost.

* Some handy Strong's Concordance numbers to note

“ruach” translated, ‘air, blast, breath, spirit, tempest, wind’: 7307 O.T.

“pneuma” translated, ‘life, spirit, spiritual, mind’: 4151 N.T.

“theo-pneustos” translated, ‘given by inspiration of God’: 2315 N.T.

Spirit ‘breath’

- “You hide Your face, they are troubled; You take away their breath (ruach), they die and return to the dust. You send forth Your Spirit (ruach), they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.” Psa.104:29-30
- “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit (ruach) to God who gave it.” Eccles. 12:7
- “...to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath (ruach) of life.” Gen.6:17

Above are some samples of many verses where the Hebrew word “ruach” can simply mean the **breath animals or humans need for survival**. The first verses quoted above from Psa.104 actually use the Hebrew word ruach in two of several senses that it appears in Scripture. Firstly to describe the “breath” needed for survival and secondly referring to God's creative Spirit power.

A spiritual state of mind

- “The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” Isa.11:2
- “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.” Isa.61:1
- “...The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63

It was said of king Saul that he had an “evil spirit” (1Sam.18:10), and of Ahab having a “sad” or “sullen” spirit (1Kings 21:5), both these cases referring to a state of mind. We still use the word “spirit” today to refer to a state of mind or enthusiasm in a particular direction, sometimes referred to as, “getting into the spirit of things”, or alternatively a person may be described as being, “mean spirited”. Sometimes “Holy Spirit” refers to a **godly state of spiritual health** (Rom.14:17; Psa.51:10-11). The Apostle Paul contrasts the “**mind of the spirit**” and the “**mind of the flesh**” (Rom.8:5-7), the former being a person whose mind is in tune to what God requires and is also known as “**the spirit of Christ**” (Rom.8:9), and the latter being a mind devoid of Godly education with no desire to serve Him, and known as “**the carnal mind**” (Rom.8:6-7). Jesus said that His words were, “**spirit and life**” (John 6:63), because the word spirit in Scripture goes hand in hand with a godly state of mind. Isaiah spoke of this when referring to certain spiritual characteristics of God's Son (see verses quoted above). This explains Jesus' comment:

- “God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

The above verse from John is often misquoted to try and prove that God has no substance, but this is not the case.

See sheet one and Matt.5:8; John 5:37.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

God's Spirit Guidance

Key verses

- “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bare it.” 1 Cor.10:13
- “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Prov.3:6
- “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'” Heb.13:5
Cited from Josh.1:5

God's Holy Spirit in our lives

Nobody would argue that God answers the prayers of His children and provides them with the necessities of life both in the spiritual and physical sense (Psalm 103). God also promises help in difficult life situations which could be threatening in the spiritual or natural sense. The word “direct” in the verse above means, **'to make smooth' or 'straight'**. There are also situations that arise in our lives where God through His Angels can intervene on our behalf in an emergency (Psa.34:7; Heb.1:14). Probably one of the most comforting verses of Scripture with reference to God's help in our lives is found in Hebrews 13:5 which is also quoted above.

Avoid confusion

Help from God in our lives should not be confused with the claim by some that the Holy Spirit with the extra measure that was poured out in the first century is available today. It is because of this misconception that many believers choose to use words like “providence” or phrases like “it was meant to be” in order to avoid confusion when talking to those who make claims about possessing God's power in a first century miracle working capacity. There is also strong evidence in Scripture to show that if we **purposely go against God's will**, that He will push us further into the direction of darkness that **we have already chosen of our own free will**.

See Rom.1:28; 2 Thess.2:11-12; 2 Chron.18:18-22; 1 Sam.16:14; Exod.10:1.

What is 'Spirit birth'?

Jesus says that without “Spirit birth” we cannot enter God's Kingdom (John 3:5). The Apostle Paul states that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God” (1 Cor.15:50), or to put it another way, if we are to inherit **God's promise of eternal life and rulership** in His coming Kingdom, then it goes without saying that we must have an immortal body (“divine nature” 2 Pet.1:4), and **the right state of spiritual mind** for the circumstance. Development of this spirit mind starts when we first hear the Gospel message and become obedient servants of Jesus. **Spirit birth reaches fullness** at the resurrection, when, if judged “**good and faithful servants**”, we receive the reward that God has promised us in His word.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Holy Spirit in 'extra measure'

- “...let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the **latter and former rain to the earth.**” Hos.6:3

God's Holy Spirit power was poured out in **extra measure** on believers in the first century starting on the day of Pentecost. The seasons in Israel can be seen as symbolic of the history of the church from the first century through to the kingdom age. Jesus likens the kingdom age to Summer time (Luke 21:29-31). The former Autumn and latter Spring rain in Israel can be seen as a symbol of the pouring out of God's holy spirit power.

The former rain can be seen as a symbol of the first century outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The prophet Joel also mentions the former rain (Joel 2:23). The words translated “**former rain**” in Joel have a literal Hebrew language meaning, **'teacher of righteousness'** (mowreh tsedaqah, Strong's 4175, 6666).

The second 'latter rain' pouring out of the Holy Spirit is described in Scripture as taking place at the dawn of the kingdom age (Isa.59:20-21; Ezek.39:29). With Israel's climate, the latter rain in Spring is **always heavier** than the former rain in Autumn.

A very important principle

- “There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Rom.2:9-10 NIV

Both these outpourings of Holy Spirit uphold a **very important Godly principle** that was firstly shown at Pentecost and later described by the Apostle Paul. The principle is, that when it comes to reward or punishment, it is, **“to the Jew first and then to the Gentile”** Rom.2:9-10. The Jews at Pentecost, who came from all over the then known world, were the first to receive the Holy Spirit power and take the Gospel message back to the area of their dispersion. Later we read of the first Gentile converts in Acts ch10. **The second outpouring must also follow this same Godly principle**, when the natural Jews at the dawn of the Kingdom Age will be the first to receive the Holy Spirit followed by the Gentiles. **This Godly principle alone is sufficient Bible evidence to prove that any claims that the second outpouring is happening today, are just plain false.**

The heavier 'latter rain'

The latter rain in Israel is always heavier than the former rain and there is **no evidence of Spirit power today that would even come close to the former first century outpouring**. This “mere sprinkling” included the dead being raised (Acts 9:36-43, ch20:9), the imprisoned were miraculously released (Acts 5:17-23, ch12:5-19), the totally crippled (some from birth), walked in an instant (Acts 3:1-11, ch8:7, ch9:32-35), and enemies were blinded (Acts 13:6-12). Just try and imagine for a moment how vast and powerful the latter rain will be, when it is finally poured out after Jesus returns.

Jesus our Saviour

Key verse

- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

'Christ Jesus' means 'Anointed Saviour'

'Christ' is the equivalent of 'Messiah' (anointed) in the Hebrew

'Jesus' is the equivalent of 'Joshua' (Yahweh saved) in the Hebrew

The Birth of Jesus

- “And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that holy one who is born will be called the Son of God.’” Luke 1:35

God's Son Jesus was born to the virgin Mary after being **conceived by the Holy Spirit Power of God**. When Jesus was baptised, God **anointed** Him with the Holy Spirit. Two things we immediately learn from this:

Firstly, it is obvious from both His birth and anointing, that the Holy Spirit can be none other than **the Power of God and not a person**, otherwise the verse above from Luke 1:35 would be teaching that the Holy Spirit was Jesus' father. This shows the falsehood of the traditional teaching of the “trinity”.

Secondly, if Jesus was made in **all things as we are** (Heb.2:17,ch4:15), which includes conception, then this indicates a **new beginning**, without prior existence. Even though Jesus speaks in John's Gospel of “glory which I had with You before the world was” (John17:5), similar language is used of **all believers** in Romans: “For whom He **foreknew**, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...” (Rom.8:29). Further to this, Jesus is described as, “the Lamb **slain from the foundation** of the world” (Rev.13:8), and again of all believers being, “written in the Book of Life **from the foundation** of the world” (Rev.17:8). John the Baptist was described as being, “**sent from God**” (John 1:6), the Greek here literally meaning '**from beside**'. These situations can only be understood in the sense that **Jesus, John and all believers were pre-existent in the mind of the Father, eternally in the past**. See Predestination, sheet 23.

Jesus our Mediator

- “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim.2:5.

Because Jesus was made in all points as we are, He then experienced **all the temptations and problems** that mortal human beings suffer (Heb.4:15). This means that He is well qualified to act as **our Mediator** in God's presence, to plead on our behalf for our forgiveness. It is worth noting that even though Jesus has been glorified with an immortal body, and is at the right hand of God, He is still described as a “man”, and not a second part of a triune Godhead (1 Tim.2:5). See also John 16:23-24,26.

What is divine favour?

- “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

'Grace' is a word in Scripture that is used many times to describe **undeserved Divine favour** that has been showered upon us from God through His Son. Note the perfect balance in the verse above between **grace and truth**. Jesus demonstrated **grace and truth** by the miracles He performed and by preaching **His life giving Word known as, “the gospel of the kingdom”** (Matt.4:23).

Jesus: ‘The word made flesh’

- “...and the Word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent me.” John 14:24

Jesus was “the word made flesh” (John 1:14), meaning that even with a nature **the same as ours**, He spoke only the **Word of God** and demonstrated behaviour that was always consistent with godliness.

Jesus is

- **God's begotten son** John 3:16
Psa.2:7; Acts 13:33; Heb.5:5.
- **Our Messiah Saviour** Luke 2:11
John 4:42; Acts 5:31.
- **Our Great High Priest** Hebrews 3:1
Heb.4:14, ch5:10, ch6:20, ch8:1.
- **Our Mediator** 1 Timothy 2:5
Heb.8:6, ch9:15.
- **Not equal with God** 1 Corinthians 11:3
Psa.2:7, ch8:6, ch110:1; 1 Cor.15:28; Matt.24:36; John 5:30; John 14:28; Eph.1:17; Heb.5:5; 1Tim.2:5.
- **Head of the church*** Colossians 1:18
Eph.2:19-22, ch5:22-27.
- **Given all judgement by God** John 5:22
John 17:2; Acts 10:42, 17:31.
- **Returning bodily to earth** Acts 1:11
Dan.7:13-14; Mark 13:26; Acts 3:20-21; 2 Thess.1:7-10; 2 Tim.4:1; Rev.1:7, ch22:12.
- **Future king on earth** Matthew 25:31
Psa.2:6-9, ch21; Jer.23:5-6; Zech.6:12-13; Matt.19:28.

Jesus was

- **Made and tempted as we are** Heb.2:17-18
Heb.2:14, ch4:15
- **The perfect sin offering** 2 Corinthians 5:21
Isa.53:12; Rom.3:23-26; Heb.7:26-27.
- **Resurrected bodily** Matthew 28:5-7
Mark 16:6; Luke 24:38-39; 1 Cor.15:12-21.

* The word church in our Bibles is translated from the Greek word 'ecclesia' meaning, 'a body of called out people'.

The Gospel that Jesus preached

...also known as, "the gospel of the kingdom" or "the kingdom of God" Matt.4:23; Luke 4:43

Worshipping God

First two commandments	Matt.22:36-40
Obey God's Word	Matt.7:21; Luke 11:28
Prayer	Matt.6:5-13, 21:22; Luke 11:1-4, 18:1-8
Fear God	Matt.10:28; Luke 12:4-5
Seek God's Kingdom first	Matt.6:33
Humble child-like faith	Matt.18:1-5
One narrow way to life	Matt.7:13-14
Serve God, not riches	Matt.6:19-21, v24

Love and obey Jesus

Believing in Him	John 3:16, v36
Repentance	Luke 5:32, 13:1-5, 15:7, 24:47
Baptism	Matt.3:13-16; Mark 16:16; John 3:5
Remembering His sacrifice	Luke 22:14-20
Love and Obedience	John 14:15, v21, 15:10
Esteem Christ highest	Matt.10:37-39
Treat others as Jesus	Matt.25:31-46
Ready for Jesus' return	Luke.17:26-37, 21:34-36
Confess Jesus to others	Matt.10:32-33

Love for others

Love	John 13:34-35, 15:9-13, 17:26
Prayer and love for enemies	Matt.5:43-48
Forgiveness	Mark 11:25-26; Luke 17:3-4
Treat others as ourselves	Matt.7:12
Serving others	Matt.20:25-28

Denying selfishness

Deny self to follow Jesus	Matt.16:24-26
Humble service	Luke 17:10
Do not covet possessions	Luke 12:15
Don't seek to 'get even'	Matt.5:38-39

Relating to others

Generosity	Luke 6:38
Who to invite	Luke 14:12-14
Heterosexual marriage only	Matt. 19:3-6
Honour your parents	Mark 7:10-13
Settle disputes quickly	Matt.5:25
Go the 'extra mile'	Matt.5:40-42
Don't condemn others	Matt.7:1-5; Luke 6:37
Don't judge situations in haste	John 7:24
Don't lead others astray	Matt.18:6-7
Paying taxation	Matt.17:24-27, ch22:15-21

Personal needs

No anxious worry	Matt.6:25-34
Ask in faith	Matt.7:7-11, 21:20-22; John 15:7, v16
Spiritual sustenance	John 4:14, ch6:27
Spiritual honesty	Luke 11:33-36
Belief in O.T. Scriptures	Luke 24:25-27

Things we must avoid

Titles of honour	Matt.23:8-10
Taking oaths	Matt.5:33-37
Self promotion	Matt.6:1-4; Luke 14:7-11
Violent occupations	Matt.26:52; Rev.13:10
Divorce	Matt.5:31-32, 19:3-9; Mark 10:11-12
Division	Matt.12:25
Unnecessary traditions	Mark 7:1-13
Unprofitable speech	Matt.12:34-37
Bad influence	Matt.7:15-20
Evil from the heart	Matt.5:27-30, 15:18-20
Opulent living	Luke 12:15-21

Jesus' Prophecies

Before His return

About His own Sacrifice	Matt.16:21-23, 20:18-19; Mark 8:31; John 12:27-36
The AD70 Jerusalem destruction	Luke 19:43-44, 21:20-24, 23:28-31
The Gospel preached to all nations	Matt.24:14; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8
False prophets, signs and wonders	Matt.7:21-23, 24:23-25; Mark 13:21-23
World conditions before His return showing that God's Kingdom is near	Luke 17:26-37, 21:10-11,v24-33

Jesus' return

His bodily return to this earth	Matt.16:27, 24:27-30, 25:31; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27
The sleeping dead resurrected	Mark 12:23-27; Luke 14:14, 20:35-36; John 5:28-29 John 6:39,40,44,54; Rev.20:6
The gathering of His faithful	Matt.24:31; Mark 13:27; Luke 17:34-36
The faithful are then rewarded	Matt.16:27, 24:13, 25:31-46; Luke 12:37; Rev.11:18, 20:6, 22:12

His Kingdom established

Coming judgement and Kingdom on earth	Matt.16:27, 25:31-32; Luke 13:28-29, 21:29-32 Rev.2:26-27, 5:9-10, 11:18, 19:15-16
His disciple's future glory on earth	Matt.19:27-28; Luke 22:28-30
The future for Jerusalem and the Jews	Matt.5:35, 23:37-39; Luke 21:24; Rev.1:7
The Marriage Supper of the Lamb	Luke 12:37, 13:29, 22:18; Rev.19:9
Seven eternal promises for believers	Rev.2:7, v11, v17, v26-28; Rev.3:5, v12, v21

God's Covenants of Promise

...revealing the coming Messiah and the essential details of God's Kingdom on earth

Key verses

● “By which are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (evil desire)

2 Pet.1:4

● “...at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” Eph.2:12

Messiah in the Old Testament

● “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren, Him you shall hear.” Deut.18:15 Also read v16-19

Many of God's Covenants, Promises and Prophecies in the Old Testament reveal the coming of Jesus as the Messiah and the many roles He fulfills as **Saviour** and future **King** on earth.

Here are some examples:

Gen.49:10; Deut.18:15-19; Psa.ch2, ch22, ch72; ch110; Isa.2:1-3, 7:14, ch53, 63:1-6; Jer.23:5-6,33:15; Dan.7:13-14; Zech.6:12-13,12:10,13:6; Mic.5:2.

The first Bible Promise

The Saviour to cure sin and death Gen.3:15

New Testament: Matt.1:21; John 1:29

A promise in **symbolic language** speaking of a **future Saviour**, who would be the cure for sin and death. Those who support ungodliness and sin are portrayed as the “**seed**” of the serpent, and enemies of God's people who are portrayed as the “**Seed**” of the woman.

What is a Covenant?

A covenant is an agreement between two parties with varied ways of sealing this agreement. Covenants were confirmed or finalised in Old Testament times with the parties to the covenant passing **between pieces of flesh**, the need for **shed blood** being part of the covenant process (Heb.9:16-20). God's covenant with Abraham was confirmed in this manner (Gen.ch15). God used a **smoking oven** and a **burning lamp** to pass between the pieces of flesh as a sign of His confirmation, meaning that God was **taking an oath** to carry out the Promises to Abraham (Luke 1:73), and **has sworn by His very existence** to carry out the terms of this covenant (Gen.22:16-18).

Covenants of Promise

In ancient times in the Middle East a king could make a covenant, promising benefits to an individual and their descendants. This was known as a king's “royal grant” and was a **sworn, unconditional and everlasting** promise. The covenants of promise are **Royal Grants of God** that He has sworn to keep (See Psa.89:3-4, 110:4, 132:11; Isa.54:9; Luke 1:73; Acts 2:30). Covenants of Promise answering this description were made with **Noah, Abraham, Phineas and two with King David**.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

The order of the Covenants

The Covenants of Promise reveal in an **amazing sequence** and in an **ascending order** all the **basic necessities** for God's Kingdom to be a reality in the earth.

1. **Survival of the planet without fear of destruction**
2. **Centrally situated Holy Land for the government**
3. **A peaceful ruling class to guide the people**
4. **A peaceful King on David's Throne ruling over the re-established Jewish people in Israel**
5. **The High Priest to mediate**

Note: Each of the Promises listed below also have New Testament support verses listed.

Five Covenants of Promise

Survival of the earth Gen.8:20 to ch9:17

New Testament: Matt.19:28; Acts 3:21

Noah was promised that never again would God destroy earth's population by the waters of a flood. This Covenant promises that **all the natural needs like seed time and harvest, seasons, day and night will be maintained** (Gen.8:22). This guarantees that the earth, and all the natural life cycles, **will be preserved for, “the renovation”**, in God's future Kingdom. The sacrifice Noah offered, of clean birds and animals, pointed forward in a type to **Jesus' sinless sacrifice** on our behalf (Gen.8:20-21).

A Holy Land Gen.12:1-3, ch13:14-17, ch15, ch17

New Testament: Luke 1:72; Acts 3:25; Gal.ch3; Heb.6:13-20

Abraham and his Seed (who is Jesus Christ and all true believers, Gal.3:16,29), are **promised the Holy Land** as an everlasting possession. From this land **all nations will be blessed** by the future King of peace. The “smoking oven” and the “burning lamp” represent Jesus as the future **mediating judge and light** of the world (Gen.15:17; Psa.105:7-11)

The “Covenant of Peace” Num.25:10-13

New Testament: 2 Tim.2:12; Rev.5:10, ch20:6

Phineas was given a “covenant of peace” promising an **everlasting priesthood** and a peaceful lifestyle. This Covenant will have its final fulfilment when Israel is at peace and God's people are given eternal life at the time of the resurrection, and become ruling priests in Jesus' future Kingdom. Also Psa.106:30-31; Isa.54:10; Ezek. 34:23-25; Mal.2:4-5

King on David's Throne 2 Sam.7:8-16

New Testament: Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:30, 15:16

King David received two sworn Promises. Firstly that **Israel would be established permanently and safely in their own land** with David's promised Seed, God's Son, as **King over God's kingdom and household forever**.

See also 1 Chron.17:9-14.

The Great High Priest Psa.110:4

New Testament: Heb.5:1-10 and ch7

King David was also promised that God's Son would be a **Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek**. This promise provides the means for Jesus as our **Mediator**, and a guarantee of **justice for all people** in His future Kingdom.

See also Psalm 72:1-4,12-14; Zech.6:12-13.

The New Covenant of Redemption

...provides forgiveness so that we can inherit the Kingdom Covenants of Promise

Key verses

● “Behold the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah –

... for this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins I will remember no more. In that He says, 'A new Covenant', He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.” Heb.8:8-13 cited from Jer.31:33-34

● “...as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.” Heb.8:6

See also Jer.24:6-7, ch32:40-42; Heb.10:16-17, ch12:24.

The New Covenant

The New Covenant is **established on the Kingdom Covenants of Promise** (Rom.15:8; Heb.8:6) and is **the most important covenant ever made between God and man**. It provides three essential blessings from God:

- **God's Laws** written on the heart (**repentance**)
- **Forgiveness of sins** through Jesus blood (**redemption**)
- **Fellowship** with God (**reconciliation**)

Jesus is the Mediator (intercessor)

● “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.” Heb.9:15

See also Luke 22:20; Rom.8:34; Heb.7:25, 12:24.

When Jesus died and shed His blood on the cross, the New Covenant was “**confirmed**” or “**ratified**”. **Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant**. We will now see how **Jesus effectively represents both parties** (God and man) in the “mediating process” of the New Covenant.

God's Laws on ‘their hearts’ repentance

● “I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts” Heb.8:10 See also Isa.59:21

Jesus mediates God to us as “the Word made flesh”, showing us the **righteousness of God** and what we have to do to please Him. His body of flesh was given for us in **life and sacrifice** as an example of “**the bread from heaven**” ie the Word of God. When we accept the Gospel message and all that it entails, we become **participants in the New Covenant**. Knowledge of God's laws (righteousness) is the **first blessing of the New Covenant** which Jesus has given us. This gift of knowledge is written on the heart indicating that **true repentance** has taken place and we are willing to accept all of God's truth and requirements in serving Him (Psa.51:6,17; 2 Tim.2:25).

Forgiveness of sins redemption

● “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins I will remember no more.” Heb.8:12

Jesus mediates us to God by offering to Him a **sinless** life in a mortal blood dependent body the same as ours. No other human being has been able to accomplish this. This meant that God did **not have to diminish His holiness** to accept Jesus sacrifice on our behalf, and is prepared to allow Jesus to be our Mediator to forgive and **cover our sins** from His sight, thereby “deeming” us righteous and providing **redemption** (forgiveness) for us. This merciful forgiveness from God is only possible through the shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross as the **perfect representative** of the human race. The forgiveness of sins is God's response to the Covenant process and is based on **His grace** (undeserved divine favour).

Fellowship with God reconciliation

● “...I will be their God and they shall be My people...for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.” Heb.8:10-11

The blessings of **repentance and forgiveness** through Jesus, restore us to **true fellowship** with God (1 John 1:3). This is the ultimate purpose of the New Covenant which the Bible styles, “**reconciliation**”, meaning we have been **restored to God's grace** (divine favour, Rom.5:11; 2 Cor.5:18-19).

National covenants with Israel

● “then He said, 'behold, I have come to do Your will, O God,' He takes away the first that He may establish the second.” Heb.10:9

There are **two national mediated** covenants with Israel. The first was the conditional old covenant that was mediated through Moses and has now been abolished (2Cor.3:6-11; Rom.7:1-12; Heb.10:9). Because of unbelief Israel broke the old covenant and were broken off as a nation from **the olive tree rootstock of their fathers**. The New Covenant is also a **national covenant with Israel** that is mediated by God's own Son and we Gentiles access by “adoption” or “grafting in”. Gentile salvation has always been by adoption into the olive tree of Israel since they left Egypt. This explains Jesus' claim, that “**salvation is of the Jews**” (John 4:22). This concept is explained in detail in **Romans chapter eleven**. Israel will be **grafted back in again** nationally, at the dawn of the Kingdom Age (Hos.3:5; Zech.12:10-14; Rom.11:23).

* How God demonstrated the confirming of the New Covenant

The Temple veil was torn from top to bottom

This represented Jesus' total victory over temptation and sin which opened the way for Him to enter “the Holy of Holies” as our Mediator.

An earthquake when Jesus died

Earthquakes in Scripture can represent a 'political change'. The earthquake when Jesus died would have been an indicator of the passing of the old Mosaic system, to make way for the New Covenant (Matt.27:51).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Last Days Bible Prophecy

Israel restored

- “...Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land on the mountains of Israel and one king shall be over them all.” Ezek.37:21-22

The Bible predicted over 2500 years ago that in the **latter years** (Ezek.ch38:8) the Jews would return to their original homeland. In 1948 the Jewish state of Israel was officially recognised, and the influx of Jews from all over the world increased, so that today, there are over 5,000,000 in the land with many more still to return. When you think about it, the chances of a particular race of people retaining their racial identity and then returning to their original homeland after nearly 2000 years wandering the globe, is astounding, and could only happen with God's guidance.

God's Plan with Israel is certain

- “...For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishermen, says the LORD, and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.” Jer.16:15-16
- “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.” Ezek.36:24

Also Isa.11:11-12; Jer.30:18-24; Zech.8:4-8; Ezek.28:24-26, ch38:8,v16, ch39:25-29.

The determination that God has to gather all the Jews back to their land can be seen in the above words of the prophet Jeremiah. God has promised that in Jesus' coming kingdom, **the Jews will be converted**, and the nation of Israel will be well treated by all the Gentile nations. See also Zech.12:10-14; Isa.ch60-ch62 inclusive; Rev.1:7.

God's witnesses

- “Therefore you are My witnesses,' says the LORD, that I am God.” Isa.43:12 See also Isa.43:10, ch44:8

God indicates in the verse above that the Jews are His witnesses and **proof that He is God**. Even in 'unbelief' the Jew is a witness to God's existence by the fact that unwittingly they have fulfilled Bible prophecy in their wanderings and later their return to the land of Israel.

Selfish human behaviour

You may be surprised at the incredible detail predicted in Scripture about selfish human behaviour in the last days:

- “...in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away.” 2 Tim.3:1-5

See also Luke 17:26-30; Rom.1:18-32; Jude v14-16

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Religious fables

The following is a Bible prophecy describing how people would depart from the true faith in the last days and accept fables, “signs and wonders”, instead of God's truth:

- “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers, and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” 2 Tim.4:3-4

See also 1 Tim.4:1-3.

Jesus also warned about falsehood:

- “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” Matt.24:24 See also Matt.24:4-5; 2 Thess.2:3-12; 2 Pet. 2:1-2.

National unrest

- “...a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.” Dan.12:1

The national unrest we are witnessing today was predicted long ago by the prophet Daniel as a time of trouble, unsurpassed in human history. He also foresaw the nations as an unsatisfactory mix of iron and clay in the last days just prior to Jesus' return:

- “As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.” Dan.2:43

Fear in men's hearts

Terrorism, local crime and violence

- “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Luke 21:25-27

The last sign of Jesus return mentioned above is taking shape worldwide. **Men's hearts are in fear** as they do not know where and when terrorism will strike again. This is a new experience for a troubled world, because unlike straight out warfare, terrorism is **completely unpredictable** and is not dependent on powerful weaponry or large armies. Middle Eastern terrorism mostly from Israel's immediate neighbours is described by the prophet Ezekiel as, “a prickling brier” and “a painful thorn for the house of Israel” (Ezek.28:24). Even on the local scene there is increased apprehension due to unprecedented property crime and violence. Parents can no longer feel relaxed in public for the safety of their children. All of this, because people in general no longer **know God** and refuse to **obey Jesus' Gospel**. The world at large will be punished for this neglect when Jesus returns.

- “...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thess.1:8-9

Jesus' Return

Key verses

- “...behold I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.” Rev.22:12
- “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.” Matt.25:31-32
- “...behold, one like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” Dan.7:13-14 Also Dan.2:44; Mark 8:38,13:26
Acts 1:11; 1Thess.1:10; 2Thess.1:7-10; Rev.1:7, ch22:12

Jesus' return and God's Plan

- “And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:20-21

Jesus' **bodily return** to this earth is a very important part of God's future Plan of Glory. According to the Apostle Peter in the verses above, Jesus' return will be at the **same time as God's planned restoration** of this earth and in fulfilment of messages from God's holy prophets of the past (See verses above). This shows us how important it is to take heed of the messages of all the Old Testament prophets. There are many chapters of Scripture devoted to describing the wonderful changes that will take place on this earth after Jesus returns.

- **Psa.72; Isa.ch2, ch35, ch60-ch62; Zech.ch14**

Jesus as King on earth

- “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgement and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is the name by which He will be called; **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**” Jer.23:5-6

- “So Jesus said to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’”
Matt.19:28

Jesus' future role as king on earth is taught from the Psalms, throughout the prophets, right through to the book of Revelation (Psa.2, ch110; Matt.25:31; Rev.19:11-16). Note the **promise quoted above, that Jesus made to His disciples** about their future authority here on earth, ruling over Israel when He returns. Can we afford to disregard a promise that Jesus has made?

We can share in God's Plan

- “Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world?” 1 Cor.6:2
- “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” Dan.7:27
- “And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.” Mark 13:27
- “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:36

The Bible describes true Christians as “saints” or “elect” (Acts 9:13; Phil.4:21-22; Mark 13:27). Both resurrected and presently living saints will be gathered to be with Jesus after He returns (Matt.24:31; 1Thess.4:13-18). These saints will then be glorified co-rulers, **peacekeeping with Jesus** over the nations in His future kingdom.

God's Glory in Jerusalem

- “At that time Jerusalem will be called the throne of the LORD and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem.” Jer.3:17
- “And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem.” Zech.2:12
- “And they (the Jews) will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” Luke 21:24
- “And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written; 'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the LORD who does all these things.’”
Acts 15:16-17

Many times in the Bible we are told of the **restoration of Jerusalem** after Jesus returns. This city will become the new worldwide centre of worship and representatives from all nations will willingly go to worship at Jerusalem and receive guidance from the **King of Peace**.

See also Isa.ch2 and Zech. ch8.

Future names of Jerusalem

Jerusalem will be known by several descriptive names that **give Glory to God** after Jesus returns.

- “The City of Truth” Zech.8:3
- “The Mountain of the LORD of Hosts” Zech.8:3
- “The Holy Mountain” Zech.8:3
- “The LORD is There” Ezek.48:35
- “The LORD our Righteousness” Jer.33:16

Resurrection and Eternal Life

Key verses

- “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an arch-angel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

1 Thess.4:16

See also Luke 14:14; John 6:39,40,44,54; Acts 24:14-15,21.

- “Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.”

See 1 Sam.2:6; Psa.17:15; Ezek.37:12-14; Dan.12:2,13; Hos.13:14

The resurrection chapter is 1 Corinthians ch15.

The dead are sleeping

- “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame, and everlasting contempt.”

Dan.12:2.

Why the need for resurrection? The answer to this can be arrived at by looking at where the dead are situated after death. After Adam sinned, God said, “**For dust you are, and to dust you shall return**” (Gen.3:19), hence the following Bible descriptions of the place of the dead.

- “...you who dwell in the dust” Isa.26:19
- “...who go down into silence” Psa.115:17
- “...fell asleep, was buried” Acts 13:36
- “...who have fallen asleep” 1 Cor.15:20
- “...who have fallen asleep” 1 Thess.4:13-16
- “...who are in the graves” John 5:28-29

If the grave is the dwelling place of the **sleeping dead**, then the Bible promise of resurrection is certainly **good news**.

The human soul is mortal

- “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.”

Ezek.18:4 See also Psa.146:4.

God uses the word soul in the Bible connected with many of the activities that we associate with **normal everyday mortal living** (hunger, joy, eating, weeping, death and corruption).

See Psa.30:3, ch69:10, ch107:9; Isa.38:17, ch53:12, ch61:10; Jer.13:17.

The words “immortal” and “soul” never occur together in Scripture. The **fable of the immortality of the soul** had its beginnings in Babylon, passing on to Egypt and thence to Greek mythology, which later influenced Christianity.

When will the dead rise?

- “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order; Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

1 Cor.15:22-23 See also 2 Cor.4:14

As we can see in the verses above, the resurrection is described in the Bible as taking place at the time of Jesus’ return. In fact it is the **first great and powerful act that Jesus will perform with the power that God has given Him** (John 5:26), **as soon as He returns** (1 Thess.4:13-16).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Jesus’ voice calls the dead

- “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves (Greek: memorial graves) will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5:28-29

- “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.”

John 5:26

The verses above speak of **Jesus’ God given power to raise the dead**. When Jesus resurrected Lazarus, “He cried with a loud voice, **Lazarus, come forth**” (John 11:43). Those who are resurrected when Jesus returns will also **hear Jesus’ voice summoning them from the grave**. What an amazing beginning for our new life in God’s Kingdom, to be actually raised from the grave by the voice of the man who died for us some two thousand years ago.

Eternal life and a glorious body

- “And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life.”
- 1 John 2:25
- “...who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...”
- Phil.3:20-21
- “...eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we are saved in this hope”
- Rom.8:23-25
- “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality”
- 1 Cor.15:53
- “...for you shall rest, and will rise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”
- Dan.12:13

Those who are acceptable to Jesus when He returns will be given **eternal life and a body like Jesus’ glorified body**. The Apostle Peter describes this change as, “**divine nature**”. Immortality is a gift given to God’s people **after the resurrection** (Dan.12:2; 1 Cor.15:22-23).

Two forms of existence

- “As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”
- Psa.17:15
- “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”
- 2 Cor.5:8

The above verse from 2Cor.5:8 is regularly misrepresented at funeral services by those who teach that the soul is immortal, despite overwhelming Bible evidence to the contrary. The Bible teaches two forms of existence. Firstly a **mortal body** (corruptible), and secondly, an **immortal body** (incorruptible, 1Cor.15:44-54). The resurrection will be our **next conscious moment** after we have died, when we will then be absent from our **original mortal body** (our old corruptible home) and present with our newly returned Lord from heaven who will give us an **immortal body** which is our new incorruptible home (Phil.3:20-21).

Note: Not all people are resurrected. Dan.12:2 says, that “**many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake**”. Psa.49:19-20 says, “He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall **never see light**. A man who is in honour, yet does not understand, is like the beasts that perish.” See also Psa. 88:5; Isa.26:14; Jer.51:57.

Judgement day

Key verses

- “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgement to the Son.” John 5:22
- “The nations were angry; and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” Rev.11:18
- “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:31

When is judgement day?

- “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” Matt.16:27
- “And give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thess.1:7-8

When Jesus returns the first form of judgement will be to gather together and reward His resurrected or currently living faithful followers (His household) and condemn those who have not been faithful to Him (John 5:28-29; Mark 13:27). The next form of judgement will be to punish an ungodly world who have not obeyed His Gospel (Psa.ch2, ch110; 2 Thess.1:7-8; Rev.11:18).

Our vision of judgement day

- “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. For it is written: ‘As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.” Rom.14:10-12

See also 2 Cor.5:10

When Paul penned the above words he was writing to Roman and Corinthian believers who **understood judgement in Roman terms**. The phrase “judgement seat” is more literally translated “judgement steps”. In Roman times a person would stand on a step leading up to the judges throne in order to hear the final decision. **This is how Roman and Corinthian believers understood judgement**. These verses should not be used to form an opinion on how the last judgement will be organised. If Paul was writing to us today he would probably say that we will all have to appear before the ‘High Court’ of Jesus, and we would immediately realise that he was simply indicating that this would be the **final decision for us**, and not a literal description of how the judgement will take place.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Should we fear judgement day?

- “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...” 1 John 4:17-18

John says that we should have “boldness in the day of judgement”, and that “perfect love casts out fear.” Those who have **obeyed Jesus’ Commandments** have nothing to fear on judgement day, as this day for them will be a joyous occasion when they receive words similar to those depicted in the parable, “**well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.**” (Matt.25:14-30). There is no evidence in Scripture to support the idea that those accepted at judgement day will have to recycle and wear some kind of punishment for the sins they have committed, and this makes sense, seeing that those accepted must have already **ask for and been granted forgiveness in Jesus name**. Any other opinion on this matter has the effect of placing limits on Jesus’ forgiveness.

- “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...” Rom.8:1.

Judged by our words

- “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matt.12:37

How are we to understand Jesus’ Words, “...every idle word men may speak, they will give account (logos) of it in the day of judgement.” (Matt.12:36). The word “idle” here means “barren” or “useless”. **Bad language would be in this category**. The Greek Diaglott renders this “a day of judgement”, so Jesus may be referring to a local court problem for us if we utter words to the detriment of others. Even if this verse refers to the last judgement, when read in context it is obviously referring to **evil men** who in the previous verse are said to **bring forth evil things** contrasted with the **good man who brings forth good things**. Giving account of ourselves before the Son of God will be a happy occasion for the “good and faithful servants” but a very sad time for the “wicked and slothful servants” (Matt.25:14-30).

What we can and can't judge

- “For judgement is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement.”

James 2:13

We are told by Jesus that we are **not to judge others** (Matt.7:1). In the same chapter though, we are told to **observe the “fruits”** that other people bring forth (v15-20). So although we are not to judge **people’s motives** and certainly not the **final outcome** for them, we must judge whether people are doing good or evil and we must be able to **discern between right and wrong**. We are also told in Scripture to keep good company (Prov.12:26), and to shun those who practice evil ways (Prov.14:7; 1 Cor.5:11).

Armageddon

Key verses

● “...which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame. And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”

Rev.16:14-16

What does ‘Armageddon’ mean?

Armageddon is the English form of the Hebrew word **‘harmageddon’** which is a combination of two words, ‘har’ and ‘megiddow’.

The Hebrew word **‘har’** means, **‘a hill’**

The Hebrew word **‘megiddow’** means, **‘to gather’**

So a literal dictionary meaning for the word Armageddon is, **‘the hill of Megiddow’** or **‘the hill of gathering’**. The ancient city of Megiddow overlooks the Jezreel valley where many battles were fought in biblical times. God is using this city and the valley **as symbols** of the last great battle which will be fought in the Middle East.

‘A heap of sheaves in the valley for threshing’ is also a suggested meaning for the word Armageddon. This meaning is taking into account the agricultural nature of the Jezreel valley and the concept of gathering for threshing. **Threshing** or **burning sheaves** are two ways that Scripture symbolises God's punishments in the Armageddon period (Mic.4:12-13; Isa.27:12; Zech.12:6).

Why the need for Armageddon?

For thousands of years people have ignored God's instructions on how we should live. These instructions were also revealed through God's Son and can be found in Matthew chapter 5 to chapter 7. Jesus calls these instructions, His “word” or “sayings”, and they are all designed to make life better for us, and help us do as He would do under the differing circumstances of life.

● **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”** John 14:23

Human beings have ignored Jesus' Word down through the ages, hence the immense amount of bloodshed and warfare which is still a fact of life in this century.

The prophet Isaiah put it this way:

● **“Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness...”** Isa.26:10

The Bible tells us that in the latter days the bulk of the military might of the world will be gathered to the Middle East **against the city of Jerusalem**, for the final battle; a battle where God will intervene with the power of **His recently returned Son and the forces of nature** (Zech.ch14; Joel ch3). You will note that it is man and his military might that initiates the battle of Armageddon and God who finally humbles His foes.

‘Peace and safety!’

● **“For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them...”** 1 Thess.5:3

The above verse appears in Scripture in the context of, **“...the day of the Lord”**, when Jesus returns. It appears that just prior to the Armageddon period there will be a claim that “peace” has finally come. The world witnessed a similar claim just before the second world war when the British prime minister had been to meet Hitler, and said, “I believe it is peace for our time”. Within twelve months, war in Europe was a reality. **Real world peace will only be achieved on God's terms**, as we can see in the following verses from the prophet Isaiah:

● **“For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”** Isa.26:9

● **“The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.”** Isa.32:17

● **“He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”** Isa.2:4 Please read all of Isaiah ch2.

‘Last days’ prophecies

Although the word “Armageddon” is only mentioned once in the Bible, you will note that many Bible prophecies describe this last-days time period in graphic detail.

Here are some Old Testament Prophecies:

Isaiah 26:19 to ch27:1; Jeremiah 25:30-33;
Ezek.ch36-ch39; Joel ch3; Zechariah ch12-ch14; Malachi ch4

Here are some New Testament Prophecies:

Matthew 24:15-31; Luke 17:26-37, ch21:25-36;
2 Thess.1:7-10; Jude v14-15; Revelation 16:12-21, ch19:11-21

By combining all the information given in these prophecies we can build up our own personal vision of the Armageddon period, including Jesus' return, and the period of peace to follow. The Old Testament prophecies give us **general details of the last days** of human government, while the New Testament prophecies are more to do with warning us to be **ready for Jesus' return** and to be careful of our standing before God.

Which nations will be involved?

We cannot tell exactly which nations will be involved at Armageddon, but we do know that they will be nations from the **whole habitable earth** (Rev.16:14). If you read carefully each Armageddon times prophecy you will notice that **God only names the nations that were enemies of Israel at the time the prophecy was given**. This makes sense seeing that there may be nations that did not exist in biblical times that may well be involved in this future time of conflict.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

God's Kingdom on Earth

Key verses

- “And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:20-21
- “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” Dan.2:44

The importance of the Kingdom

- “Do not fear little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom” Luke 12:32

Jesus prayed, “**Your kingdom come**” (Matt.6:10), and it was noted of Joseph of Arimathaea, that he was, “**waiting for the kingdom of God**” (Luke 23:51). In the Acts of the Apostles it is said many times that they, “preached the things concerning the kingdom of God” (Acts 8:12, ch19:8, ch20:25, ch28:23). If God's Kingdom is this important then surely it demands our attention if we are to be true disciples. Jesus said, “**seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...**” (Matt.6:33).

The original Kingdom of God

- “**After this I will return and rebuild the tabernacle of David; I will rebuild its ruins, and set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the LORD who does all these things.**” Acts 15:16-17

In Old Testament times the nation of Israel was the Kingdom of God on earth, and was especially regarded as such when a godly king was on David's Throne and the people were obedient to God's law. This is the kingdom that Jesus' disciples were referring to at the time of His ascension, when they said, “Lord, will you at this time **restore the kingdom to Israel**” (Acts 1:6). So the kingdom of God on earth is a restoration of the kingdom of Israel otherwise referred to in Scripture as, “**the throne of David**” or the “**tabernacle of David**”.

Rulers in waiting

- “**...made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they shall reign on the earth.**” Rev.5:10 NIV

God's Kingdom is portrayed as being subject to suffering in its present nucleus (Matt.11:12; 2 Thess.1:5). This is because the inheritors of the future Kingdom otherwise known as “the saints of the Most High” (Dan. 7:18,22,27), do not have any present authority. You could liken disciples of Jesus to “rulers in waiting”, who suffer for their present beliefs now, but will inherit “**the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**” (Matt.25:34), when Jesus comes. We will then **reign with Jesus on earth.**

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV unless otherwise indicated

Coming soon on earth

- “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgement and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is the name by which He will be called; **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**” Jer.23:5-6
God's Kingdom with the advantage of authority will be established when Jesus returns, “**For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet**” (1 Cor.15:25).

Events after Jesus' returns

Bible Prophecy about events already happening today are described on sheet nine. The following is a list of events that will happen after Jesus returns. It should be noted that this list may not be in consecutive order as some of these events may happen concurrently.

After Jesus returns

Jesus returns with His personal angels

Matt.24:31; Mark 13:26-27; Acts 1:11, ch3:20-21; 1 Thess.1:10

The resurrection of the sleeping dead

Isa.26:19; Dan.12:2; John 5:28-29, 6:39-40,44,54; 1 Cor.ch15

Judgement of God's household

John 5:29; 2 Cor.5:10; Rom.14:10; 1 Pet.4:17

All nations gathered against Jerusalem

Zech.12:1-9, 14:2; Joel ch3

“Armageddon” period of war and great earthquake

Isa.2:10-22,ch33; Ezek.ch38-ch39; Zech.ch14; Rev.ch16, ch19

Punishments on an ungodly world

Jer.25:30-33; Mal.4:1; 2 Thess.1:7-8; Jude v14-15; Rev.2:26-27

God's Kingdom established

Jesus establishes His authority over the nations

Psa.2:6-9, ch110; Jer.23:5-6; Rev.2:26-27, ch19:15-16

The natural restoration of Israel

Isa.ch35:1-2,v6-7, ch41:18-20, ch51:3; Ezek.36:34-35, ch47
Joel 3:18; Amos 9:11-15

Israel's national identity revived

Isa.60:10-16, ch61:5-6,v9; Zech.8:13,v23

The saints given rulership of the Kingdom

Dan.7:18,22,27; 1Cor.6:2; 2Thess.1:10; Jude v14-15 Rev.2:26,ch5:10

The converted natural Jews educate the nations

Isa.66:19; Mic.5:7

Nations come to worship at Jerusalem

Isa.2:2-3, ch66:23; Mic.4:1-4; Zech.14:16-17

Nations who refuse Jesus' rule to be punished

Psa.ch2; Zech.14:17-19; Isa.60:12; 1 Cor.15:25

The world is at peace and safety

Psa.72:7; Isa.2:1-4; Mic.4:1-5; Zech.9:10

Sin

Key verses

● “but each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” James 1:14-15

● “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” Matt.15:18-20

The Greek word 'hamartano' is translated **sin, faults, offend** and **trespass** in our English Bibles. This word means: 'missing the mark' or 'not sharing the prize'

In other words it is sin that has to be put out of the way before we can share in the promises of God. This can only be achieved through redemption in Christ Jesus.

What is the cause of Sin?

Both Jesus and James tell us that sin is born in the heart of man. **Sin is disobedience to what God requires** and will result in eternal death unless we **repent and obey Jesus' Gospel**. Sin is really an uncontrolled misuse of a legitimate God given desire. We are all creatures with **the ability to reason**. This has to be, as the alternative is for us to be robots. God requires His children to serve Him of **their own free will**, and to exercise control over their desires, so that they are only used for the purposes that God has created them for. Jesus says many times in Revelation that the reward is for, “**he who overcomes**”, the inference here being to those who are prepared to put in the effort (with God's help) to overcome temptation and the desire to do evil. It is also very important to accept that we are **all responsible for our own sins**.

Sins of omission

● “But his lord answered and said to him, “You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.” Matt.25:26

Sins of omission are when we **fail to fulfill a responsibility in God's service**. We may be occupying our time with an activity that is quite legitimate in itself, but if this activity stops us from fulfilling our necessary duties to God, then it becomes a sin of omission. The parable of the wicked and slothful servant mentioned in the verse above is alluding to this sin (Matt.25:26-28). The slothful servant was castigated for not even bothering to put in a minimal effort in the Lord's service.

● “So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest ” Matt.25:27

* False god of the ancient Philistine city of Ekron. Known as “lord of the flies”, which may have been a Hebrew mocking for the Canaanite, “lord of the high place” (Baal-zebul).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

The unforgivable sin

● “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance...”

Heb.6:4-6

● “Assuredly, I say unto you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation – because they said, ‘He has an unclean spirit’”. Mark 3:28-30

Jesus said that there is an unforgivable sin, that being **blasphemy against the Holy Spirit** (Matt.12:31; Luke 12:10; Mark 3:28-30). Many people including the religious leaders of the day were **eye witnesses of the power of God through His Son in the miracles He performed and the Gospel that He preached**. Despite all this though, these people rejected Jesus and claimed His power came from Beelzebul*. Jesus said that this blasphemy against God's power is an unforgivable sin. This sin was also a problem with certain first century believers who had been given the **Holy Spirit with “the powers of the age to come”** and had then turned their back on their calling. This is described in the verses quoted above.

What is ‘sin in the flesh’?

● “Truly, this I have found: God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.” Eccles.7:29

Early in the fifth century Augustine of Hippo introduced the theory that Adam's sin is transmitted to all members of the human race at conception. This alleged inheritance is styled “original sin”, “imputed sin” or “inherited sin”. Many today still support this teaching. **We are responsible to God for the sins we commit, not the nature of our being**.

It is true that the Bible uses the phrase, “sin in the flesh”, in Paul's letter to the Romans (Rom.8:3), but does this verse teach that sin as a literal component dwells in our flesh from birth? This cannot be the case as Adam and Eve were condemned to death because of the sin they committed and not because of the nature of their make-up. It should also be noted that **the impulses that lead to sin** existed in Adam before disobedience or else disobedience would not have occurred.

A figure of speech

“Sin in the flesh”, is a figure of speech known as “metonymy”, (see sheet 30). The impulses or desires that lead to sin reside in the body, and come to be called by the name of the act to which they can give birth ie sin. These desires and impulses are **legitimate in themselves**, but have the **potential for sin** should we make the **wrong choice** based on the **insidiously strong influence of “the world”** as opposed to the **requirements of God in His Word**.

Predestination

Key verses

- “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestination, them He also called; and whom He called, them He also justified; and whom He justified, them He also glorified.” Rom.8:29-30
- “Having predestined us to the adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” Eph.1:5
- “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.” Eph.1:11

What does ‘predestinate’ mean?

The word “predestinate” comes from the Greek word “proorizo” (pronounced pro-or-id'-zo) and literally means: ‘to mark off first’ or ‘to limit beforehand’. As well as “predestinate”, this word has also been translated as “determined before” (Acts 4:28) and “ordain” (1 Cor.2:7) in our English Bibles.

Is this a difficult subject?

Many people will not discuss the subject of predestination, preferring either to ignore it or claim it is too difficult to understand. The difficulty arises because predestination does not seem to make any allowance for freedom of choice on our part. It is because of this misunderstanding that the teachings of John Calvin still hold sway in many churches today. These teachings claim that people are predestined to salvation or condemnation from birth, no matter what the circumstance. Any Bible subject that deals with God's knowledge and understanding is of course hard to comprehend by our mortal finite minds. Seeing though that this is a Bible subject that God has revealed, then there is no reason why we should not at least try for a simple explanation.

God's foreknowledge is the key

- “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they are written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.” Psa.139:16
- “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, My council shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.” Isa.46:10
- “...and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.” Isa.42:9

Even though we accept the Gospel message of our own free will, God has, **by His foreknowledge**, always known eternally in the past that we would be servants of His at a set time in the future. This is why God can use such positive language about our future because He knows the end from the beginning and can speak of things **in the future as having already come to pass**.

The five stages of salvation

- “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” 2 Tim.1:9

The verse above and the key verses from Romans ch8 already quoted are an example of God's foreknowledge, as the whole process of salvation is spoken of as having already happened for those who have still to accept and obey the Gospel call at some time in the future. You will also note from these verses that mention is first made of God's foreknowledge about us, then followed by predestination. This sequence allows for God's knowledge of the future to be a 'guide' for His predestination or 'defined list' of His future children. The **five stages of salvation** that God can speak of as having already happened are as follows:

- **Foreknowledge**
“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God” 1Pet.1:2
- **Predestination**
“predestined according to the purpose of Him” Eph.1:5
- **Calling**
“...and called us with a holy calling” 2 Tim.1:9
- **Justifying**
“Being justified freely by His grace” Rom.3:24
- **Glorifying**
“that we may also be glorified together.” Rom.8:17

As disciples of Jesus we are in the fourth “justifying” stage which involves repentance, belief, baptism and living a life of obedience to Jesus' Gospel.

A simple everyday example

The following is a copy of a short article from an old magazine, giving a simple everyday example of how predestination can be understood. This magazine was dated February 1928.

“A medico who was training for examination of public hospital nurses was asked to apportion the numbers of the nurses corresponding to the names, which were unknown to the board of examiners. In order to kill the superstition of '13' being an unlucky number, and 'Friday' an unlucky day, he assigned '13' to the nurse who he knew weeks ahead would in the ordinary course come out on top in this Friday's examination. And No. 13 did receive the prize, ie. came first of all the successful candidates. In the following year, the same nurse numbered the same, and, similarly predestined, gained the prize. The other candidates who were successful, although not top, received the same training from the same text books, but No.13 was predestined to receive the prize, freewill being left unfettered to decide its own part.”

Faith and Hope

Key verses

- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..” Heb.11:1
- “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb.11:6
- “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.” Hab.2:14

Is blind trust enough?

- “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Prov.14:12

Some people say that so long as you live a good life, no matter what you believe, God will see you right in the end. The problem with this philosophy is that it renders the Bible and its message of no value, and is in effect saying to God that he has wasted his time sending us the book of salvation in the first place. We are in effect making our own rules and **ignoring the requirements that God has set down**.

Things we hope for

- “But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.” Rom.8:25

According to the first key verse above, true faith is based on “**the substance of things hoped for**” (Heb.11:1). So it stands to reason that if we hope for something that God has not promised us, then our faith will be in vain. It is up to us to search the Scriptures carefully to **find out what the promises of God are**, and then embrace them with all the enthusiasm we can muster, for God is, “a rewarder of those who diligently seek him” (Heb.11:6).

Belief and obedience

- “Just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.” Gal.3:6-7
- “But when they believed Phillip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptised.” Acts 8:12
- “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was asked to go out to the place he would afterward receive as an inheritance.” Heb.11:8

The examples of faith quoted above show the importance of unwavering **belief** in God's Promises followed by **obedience** to what he requires. True faith will always display both these essentials. It was even said of Jesus that “**he learned obedience by the things which he suffered**” (Heb.5:8-9). Both these essential ingredients were shown in the life of Abraham. So, in our own lives, it is essential that we have unwavering **belief** in the Promises of God and an enthusiasm to **obey** His requirements.

Child like faith

- “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.” 1 John 3:1

It is a natural progression in our faith in God to develop a special relationship with Him and his Son to the point that we as his children learn to rely on Him for all our needs (1John 3:1). Jesus said, “assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it” (Luke 18:17). He also said when speaking about our daily needs, “**seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you**” (Matt.6:33). Although “**the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge**” (Prov.1:7), we can in time grow closer to God in the same way a child bonds closer to a parent and in the words of John, “**there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**” (1 John 4:18).

Faith's super additions

We are told by the apostle Peter (2 Pet.1:5-9) that we must add to our faith **seven essential additions** which are the following:

- **virtue** (strength of mind, 1Cor.16:13)
- **knowledge** (solid spiritual food, Heb.5:12-14)
- **temperance** (self control, 1Cor.9:25)
- **patience** (perseverance, Rom.5:3-4)
- **godliness** (reverence, separateness, 'god likeness', 1 Tim.6:6)
- **brotherly kindness** (kind affection, Rom.12:10)
- **charity** ('agape', self sacrificing love, 1 Cor.ch13)

The Apostle Peter says, “he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.” (2 Pet.1:5-9).

Sharing our faith with others

- “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” 1 Pet.3:15
- “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Jude v3

It is our responsibility and our joy to share with others the glorious hope we have for the future. The test of a true saint is that they can give a **tangible description** of their faith based on **Jesus' return and the future Kingdom here on earth** rather than the falsehoods of Christendom, which in general give no solid details of the future because their hope is based on fables about the supposed immortality of the soul, which had its origins in ancient Babylon.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Redemption in Christ Jesus

Key verses

- “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Rom.3:24
- “...we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received the reconciliation.” Rom.5:11

For details on the New Covenant and the three major blessings it provides, see sheet 8.

Redemption is the means

Redemption means: 'deliverance', 'release' or 'set free'

God's plan of redemption is the means by which we are **set free from the bondage of sin**, which if unforgiven, leads to eternal death (Heb.2:15-18). We also wait for the “**redemption of our body**” (Rom.8:23) at Jesus' return, when we are given “divine nature” (2 Pet.1:4; Luke 21:28; Eph.1:7; Col.1:14).

Reconciliation is the desired outcome

Reconciliation means: 'to be restored to divine favour'

See Rom.5:11, 11:15; 2 Cor.5:18-19.

'Atonement' or 'reconciliation'

It should be noted that the commonly used word “atonement” is not a Bible word. It is not a translation of the original Hebrew word “kaphar” but is an English word that was **added to our Bibles as an 'interpolation'**. The word “atonement” was coined in the thirteenth century by Catholic theologians who were presenting a lot of sermons about being “at one” with God. The term, “at one”, became “atone” from which the noun “atonement” developed. This English word at-one-ment is supposed to represent reconciliation between God and man but it does not in any way describe **the true meaning of the Hebrew word “kaphar” which means, “to cover”**. Nor does it carry the '**divine favour**' or '**grace**' concept that the true Bible word '**reconciliation**' carries.

Covering over and protecting

- “...an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.” Gen.6:14

The first use of the word “kaphar” in Scripture had to do with the **covering** and protection that the pitch offered those saved in Noah's Ark which was **covered inside and out**. This prevented the ark leaking and saved the occupants from certain death. The covering “inside” and “outside” teaches us that temptations that would take us away from God can have their source from **within our own hearts** or **from evil influence outside in the world**. God's Word and plan of redemption through His Son can protect us from both forms of evil influence. Many times in Revelation Jesus reminds us that the future reward is to those who have “**overcome**” the temptations of this life (Rev.2:7,11,17,26, ch3:5,12,21).

* “kaphar” is also used in the Bible in the sense of 'protection'. It is translated “village” in the following verses and refers to a village that is protected by walls.

(See 1Chron.27:25; Song of Solomon 7:11).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Jesus' life and sacrifice

- “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matt.20:28
- “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” Isa.53:5

Please read all of Isaiah chapter 53

- “...to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Eph.1:6-7

Jesus life demonstrated that it was possible, even with a body the **same as ours**, to remain sinless. This means that Jesus, by bearing our nature, as a representative of the human race, was able to satisfy God's eternal requirement of **obedience which leads to eternal life**, as opposed to sin which leads to eternal death. Conquering sin in a weak corruptible body and offering that body on behalf of the human race was a sacrifice that met God's **eternal standards of righteousness**. This well qualifies Jesus to be the **Mediator of the New Covenant in God's presence**, because He has experienced and battled temptation like all members of the human race. He can now intercede on our behalf, because He understands the problems we have in our present life.

Covering over our sins is God's way of “deeming” us acceptable in His sight, because sin is that which separates us from God. This covering of our sins provides redemption from eternal death and a **restoration to Divine favour** (grace), and is available to all who are willing to obey God's requirements in all things.

Shed blood needed

- “...to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” Rev.1:5
- “...But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Cor.6:11

There is a Bible principle that states: “without the shedding of blood there is no remission” (Heb.9:22). This is because God decreed right from the start that the punishment for sin would be eternal death, “For dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Gen.3:19), and in order to overcome the problem of death and obtain forgiveness for sin, a life ie a ransom or redemption price (Matt.20:28) has to be poured out, **the blood representing that which sustains life and the source of sin**. “The life of the flesh is in the blood” (Lev.17:11). Jesus is our High Priest who offered His sinless life as a redemption for our transgressions and has entered the “Holy of Holies” in heaven to **plead our cause in God's presence** (1Tim.2:5; Rom.8:34; Heb.4:15, 7:25). Jesus' blood is said to have “**washed us**” so that we are deemed clean in God's sight.

Some handy Strong's Concordance numbers to note

“kaphar” translated, 'atonement, forgive, purge, appease'. 3722 OT

“apolutrosis” translated, 'deliverance, redemption'. 629 NT

“katallage” translated, 'atonement, reconciliation'. 2643 and 2644 NT

Belief, Repentance and Baptism

Repent or perish!

- “...do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” Luke 13:4-5
- “...that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.” Acts 26:20
- “...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Pet.3:9 See also 2 Cor.7:10

As we can see from the above verses, the choice for us is between **repenting or perishing**. The word “perish” in the Bible means, “to cease to exist”, so the importance of repentance cannot be overlooked. Repentance involves “**godly sorrow**” (2 Cor.7:9-10) for what we have done in the past (Psalm 51). True repentance also means that we are committed to **changing the present direction** we are heading in and **changing our lifestyle** to that which God approves.

Repentance and ‘truth’

- “in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.” 2 Tim.2:25
- “Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.” Psa.51:6

It may come as a surprise to some to learn that true repentance also involves a **knowledge of “the truth”**. When you think of it though, what would be the point of repentance if we continued to believe in false beliefs that are not found in God's word.

Belief, baptism, forgiveness

- “Repent and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” Acts ch2:38
- “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptised.” Acts 8:12
- “Then Crispus the ruler of the Synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptised.” Acts 18:8
- “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptised, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Acts 22:16

(See also Acts 8:36-38, 9:18, 10:47-48, 16:33)

You will notice when reading Scripture that when people **heard and believed** the Gospel message, they **repented** and were **baptised**. Baptism was commanded by Jesus and the Apostles and is a very important and necessary step for us to take. Even Jesus who was sinless, left us the example of His own baptism, which he said, was “**to fulfill all righteousness**” (Matt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21; John 1:29-34). Baptism is the means by which we become participants of the New Covenant in Jesus' blood, giving us **forgiveness of sins** through Him as our Mediator.

What does ‘baptism’ mean?

The Greek words “**baptizo**” and “**baptisma**” are translated “baptist”, “baptise”, “wash” and “baptism” in our English Bibles. Both of these Greek words have meanings that speak of **full immersion** in liquid. It would be pointless to wash a garment by sprinkling or just pouring some water over it.

Baptism as a symbol

- “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore we are **buried with him by baptism** into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Rom.6:3-4
- “**Buried with Him in baptism**, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.” Col.2:12

The verses above indicate that baptism is also a symbol of **Jesus' death, burial and resurrection**. By being baptised we are symbolically uniting ourself with His death. When we come out of the water we are demonstrating His resurrection and the start for us of what the Bible styles, “**newness of life**” (Rom.6:3-5). This also shows the need for full immersion baptism.

Putting on Christ

- “For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have **put on Christ**.” Gal.3:27 (see also Rom.13:14)
- “But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” Gal.5:22-24 (See also Col.3:12-17)

When we approach a human dignitary we usually have to respect rules of etiquette. How much more then should we respect **God's holiness** and what He requires of us (1 Pet.1:14-16). After we have repented and been baptised into Christ, we are in effect, “**putting on Christ**”. This means that in our lives from day to day we should try to follow the example that Jesus has left us and obey His commandments. This also means, that as His true disciples, we have to avoid all those things that are the opposite of God's Glory, which the Bible styles, “the works of the flesh”. You will find a rather harrowing list of these in Galations 5:19-21 and Colossians 3:5-9. These evil works are then contrasted to “**the fruit of the spirit**”, or as James styles it, “**the fruit of righteousness**” (James 3:18). This singular fruit of the spirit has nine properties that we all should strive to include in our lives. See verses above.

Some handy Strong's Concordance numbers to note

“metanoeo”, “metanoia” translated, ‘repent, repentance’. 3340-1 NT

“baptiso” translated, ‘baptist, baptise, wash’. 907 NT

“baptisma” translated, ‘baptism’. 908 NT

“baptismos” translated, ‘baptisms, washings’. 909 NT

All Scripture quoted is from the NKJV

The Remembrance Feast

Key Verses

● “Then he said to them, ‘With fervent desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes. And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ Likewise he also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the New Covenant in my blood which is shed for you.’” Luke 22:15-20

See also Matt.26:20-30; Mark 14:17-26; John 13:21-30; 1 Cor.11:23-29.

The need to remember

● “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb.10:24-25

Forgetfulness of things spiritual can be a problem, particularly if we have busy working lives. This is why God set aside the Sabbath day for Israel, so that they could regularly remember how God brought them out of Egypt. He gave them a law which provided them with a better physical and spiritual lifestyle than other nations, and in particular, a law that **pointed forward to their Saviour** in the future. Once the Saviour had arrived, and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice, this heralded the arrival of the **New Covenant**, and the need to introduce a **new Feast of Remembrance**, seeing that the Old Covenant was abolished when Jesus died on the cross (Col.2:14; Heb.8:13, 10:1).

The first century feast

● “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42

● “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...” Acts 20:7

● “And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.” Acts 13:44

It appears that the Sabbath day was used by the first century church as an opportunity to preach the Gospel message (Acts 17:2). The Remembrance Feast was then celebrated in private homes in the evening following the Sabbath, which was the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), seeing that the Jewish day **starts at sunset** (6pm). It is commonly accepted that the first century remembrance feast was more of a meal than our feast today, although not primarily for the purpose of gratifying hunger, which was what the Corinthian believers were castigated for at a later date (1 Cor.11:33-34).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

How important?

● “...as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” 1 Cor.11:26

It is vitally important that we set aside some time on a regular basis for the purpose of remembrance, so that it becomes a very important part of our life, for our salvation depends on it. Where possible we should do this with other faithful members of God’s household (Heb.10:25).

Self examination

● “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” 1 Cor.11:28

A very important part of the Lord’s Supper is the fact that we must examine ourselves in terms of **our spiritual well being**. We have to be constantly vigilant about our own personal standing in God’s sight, and a regular observance of the Remembrance Feast is a good time for this.

Bread

The Heavenly symbol

Life given in obedience and self sacrifice

● “...If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” John 6:51

The natural bread we eat at the remembrance feast **represents** Jesus’ body which was not only given in sacrifice on the cross, but was also a **living example of personal sacrifice** throughout His life. This is why Jesus styles Himself, “the bread which came down from heaven”, because **bread is used as a “heavenly symbol” of the Word of God**. **Jesus was the Word of God in action** which gives us holy sustenance for our spiritual lives. We are “eating this bread” in the spiritual sense in our daily lives by **following the examples** Jesus has shown us in His life.

Wine

The earthly symbol

The New Covenant in Jesus’ blood

● “This cup is the New Covenant in My blood which is shed for you.” Luke 22:20

The wine we drink **represents** the blood of our Lord and the suffering He endured when His blood was shed; firstly by cruel scourging and later on the cross. **Wine is the “earthly symbol” of our mortal nature that needs blood for survival**. God has always required the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sins (Heb.9:22). The shedding of Jesus’ blood “**confirmed**” the **New Covenant** and His authority as our future Mediator. Jesus’ sacrifice was effective for the forgiveness of sins because it involved the shedding of blood (giving of life) by the only sinless man that has ever lived, even though He was made of the same flesh and blood and tempted in all points that we are (Heb.2:17, ch4:15).

God's House

Key verses

- “I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Tim.3:15
- “But Christ is a Son over His own house; whose house we are; if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope unto the end.” Heb.3:6
- “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building”. 1 Cor.3:9

Where is God's House?

- “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come and make Our home with him” John 14:23
- “...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!” Gen.28:17

Apart from the common usage of “house” referring to a building, the other most common usage applies to the people of a “household”. You will note from the key verses quoted above that “God's House” can refer to the body (church or ecclesia) of true believers here on earth. Jesus refers to God's house as, “My Father's house” in a literal sense, when referring to the temple in Jerusalem (John 2:16), and in the spiritual sense when referring to true believers, “In My Father's House are **many mansions**” (John 14:2). The Greek word in this verse translated “mansion” is also translated “**abode**” (A.V.) or “**home**” (N.K.J.V.) in v23 of the same chapter (See John 14:23 quoted above). Whether referring to a literal temple or a body of believers, **God's house is mostly portrayed in Scripture as being on earth**. In fact the first mention of God's house in the Bible is in Genesis, after Jacob's vision of angels descending and ascending to heaven. Jacob describes the place of his vision as “God's house”, which he named, “Beth-el” (Gen.28:17-19). In the same verse he also describes Bethel as “**the gate of heaven**”, which you must agree is quite different to traditional church belief.

Temples made with hands

- “**God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.**” Acts 17:28 See also Acts 7:48

If true believers are God's house, why was there a need in biblical times to have a tabernacle and later a temple for worship? This was to emphasise the **presence of God** to the people, but most importantly to show visually in a figure the lessons of the **coming Saviour** and **forgiveness of sins** in His Name. Once the chief corner stone had arrived, there was then no need for a temple to point forward to Him. The Scripture portrays true believers as the present temple on earth, who show the lessons of past “temples” **by their actions and the message of grace and truth** that they teach.

The Chief Cornerstone

- “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.” Isa.28:16
- “Jesus said to them, have you never read in the Scriptures; The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief cornerstone. This is the LORD'S doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?” Matt.21:42
- “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor.3:11

Seeing that believers are the house of God, then it follows that the house must be built in a strait and proper fashion. All the walls of this house have to line up with the **Chief Cornerstone**, who is otherwise styled the “stone for a foundation” or “a sure foundation” (Isa.28:16), who is Jesus Christ (Psa.118:22; Matt.21:42). In fact the Word of Jesus is the basis or foundation for all judgement (John 12:48). **Obedience to the Word of the Chief Cornerstone** is the only avenue to life eternal. This sure foundation though, can become “a stumbling stone and rock of offense”, to those who reject Jesus' Word (Rom.9:33).

Caring for God's House

- “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” 1 Cor.3:16-17

If we are living stones in God's House, we have a responsibility of care to other members both in the physical and spiritual areas. We must never intentionally mistreat ourselves in any way, as this can effect our health and reduce our potential for caring and ministering to others.

Extra info and Bible References

True believers are God's house on earth. **God's house is mainly portrayed in Scripture as being on earth**. Scripture portrays Heaven as **God's Throne** (Isa.66:1; Heb.4:16, ch8:1; Rev.3:21).

“oikia”, “oikos”, “oikodome”, and “mone” are words from the Greek language that are used to refer to God's house in the New Testament. These words have been translated “home”, “house”, “building”, “temple”, “household”, “abode” and “mansion” in our English Bibles.

- “**Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**” 1 Pet.2:5

Love and Self Sacrifice

Key verses

- “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for His friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.” John 15:12-14
- “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” 1 Cor.13:13

We will be considering two Greek words that have been translated into the English word “love” in our Bibles, and another that refers to “friendship”.

Those Greek words are:

- “agape” (pronounced ag-ah'-pay)
- “phileo” (pronounced fil-eh'-o)
- “philos” (pronounced fee'-los)

Understanding ‘agape’

In the past many have insisted that the Greek word “agape” refers to Christian love only. Although it is helpful to understand the meaning of “agape”, it should be noted that this word is not always used in a good sense in Scripture. All the following quotes are instances where “agape” is the Greek word used, but not in the sense of Christian love:

- Demas: “...having loved this present world” 2 Tim.4:10
- Pharisees: “...for you love the best seats” Luke 11:43
- Sinners: “...sinners love those who love them.” Luke 6:32
- The world: “Do not love the world...” 1 John 2:15

‘Agape’ the self sacrifice

The best way to understand “agape” is that it refers to a **self sacrificing love or desire** in a particular area. Demas sacrificed his future hope in God's Kingdom for the enjoyment of this present world. That was indeed a self sacrifice of great proportions. The lesson we can learn from this is that we have to sacrifice **personal gain and comfort** many times in our life in order to demonstrate this agape love to others **in a good sense**.

If you read 1 Cor.ch13, you will notice how agape love is portrayed as being **completely impartial**, or to put it another way, we have to work at **not showing ‘favouritism’** and not allowing decisions to be based on personal bias. This is probably one of the hardest things for us to do as disciples of Jesus. This impartiality though is based on **what God requires of us**, which may appear to be biased by those who do not have a knowledge of God's way. We are most assuredly accused of bias and lack of love for our country when we state our case for objection to military service, but this decision is based on agape love for Jesus and our desire to serve and obey His commandments (Matt.5:39,26:52). There are other facets of discipleship that people will not connect with love if they do not know God (1Pet.4:4).

Love and obedience

- “If you love Me, you will obey what I command.” John 14:15 N.I.V.
- “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” John 14:21 See also John 15:10
- “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” John 14:23
- “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.” John 15:10

The concept of love and obedience being inextricably linked is clearly portrayed in the above verses. True agape starts with **obedience to God and the commandments of His Son**. Most parents would of course agree with this concept with regards to their own children, so it should not come as a surprise to us when our Heavenly Father also requires obedience from His spiritual children.

‘Phileo’ the kind affection

- “Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, ‘Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.’” John 11:3
- “For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me...” John 16:27 (“Phileo” appears twice in this verse)

The Greek word “phileo” refers to a **“kind affection”** for others. We have a “phileo” for our family members and special friends. “Phileo” is a love that is easier to demonstrate, because it comes from the heart, nevertheless it is still an important part of the **Christian love and compassion** we can show others. **Both God and Jesus have a “phileo” love for us.**

‘Philos’ your friend

- “...Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God.” James 2:23
- “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” James 4:4
- “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” 1 Pet.1:22

Close friendship or attachment is the meaning of the Greek word “philos”. In the verse above the phrase “love of the brethren” is actually the Greek word “Philadelphia” which we are all familiar with, and is probably more accurately translated, **“friend of the brethren”**.

Some handy Strong's Concordance numbers to note

“agape” translated, ‘charity, dear, love’. 25 and 26 NT

“phileo” translated, ‘kiss, love’. 5368 NT

“philos” translated, ‘friend’. 5384 NT

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Key verses

● “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.” Matt.6:5-7

● “And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” Matt.21:22

God remembers our prayers

● “...he was afraid, and said, 'What is it, Lord?' So he said to him, 'Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.'” Acts 10:4

Prayer is one of the most important facets of our worship. God refers to prayer as something He “**remembers**”. The word “memorial” in the verse above means, “**a reminder**” or “**memorandum**”. In Revelation we are shown how **incense** is a symbol of our prayers (Rev.5:8, ch8:3-4).

Talking with Angels

● “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” Rev.22:9

Adam, Eve, Abraham and many other Bible characters at various times had direct conversations with the angels (elohim) who are God's messengers or representatives. Talking to the angels should not be confused with prayer, as we are instructed in Scripture that we are **not to worship angels** (Col.2:18; Rev.22:8-9).

Pray without ceasing

The Apostle Paul said we should, “Pray without ceasing” (1Thess.5:17). This means that we should immediately pray when the need arises without holding back. God says, “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” (Jer.23:24), so there is no place nor reason to hold back from praying to God, wherever or whenever the need arises.

No vain repetitions

● “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.” Matt.6:7

Jesus warns us to avoid vain repetition in prayer as this is a tradition of the “heathen” nations who think that their false god will hear them if they continually repeat their request. Our Heavenly Father knows our needs even before we make our request, so there is no need for repetition, although there is a need to ask for some things on a **regular basis** and this is particularly the case when asking for forgiveness for ourselves and others (Matt.6:14-15, ch18:35; Phil.4:6-7; Psa.50:14-15).

Our Heavenly Father

● “Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph.5:20

● “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim.2:5

Jesus has left us the example many times of addressing God in prayer as our Heavenly Father, the inference being that we are His children, and because Jesus is our Mediator **we must address all prayer through Him**.

Pray for all our needs

● “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not to lose heart.” Luke 18:1

● “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Phil.4:6

James says that “the prayer of faith shall save the sick” and that, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:15-16). There are many instances in Scripture that we can follow, where the prayers of faith are answered. A prayer of faith (Matt.21:21-22) means that we ask God, without doubting that **He will answer our prayer in the best possible way for us**.

Two of the most famous prayers of faith were:

Hezekiah praying for deliverance from Assyria (Isa.37:15-20), and the prayer of Abraham's servant Eliezer (Gen.24:12).

Giving thanks

● “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thess.5:18 See also Luke 22:17,19

We should also give thanks to God every day for His provision of the necessities of life including a prayer before our meals.

Praying for God's Kingdom

Jesus prayed,

● “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” Matt.6:10

We should also pray for God's coming Kingdom and the day we will be united with His Son at the marriage supper of the Lamb. This will be the time when the words of the Lord's Prayer are fulfilled, when God's Kingdom has come and **God's will is done on earth**.

Some Bible Prayers to consider

The Lord's Prayer Luke 11:1-4

Jesus praising God's revelations Matt.11:25-26

Jesus praying for His disciples John ch17

Hannah after Samuel's dedication 1 Sam.2:1-10

David confessing his sin Psa.51

Solomon asking wisdom 1 Kings 3:5-9

Daniel confessing his sins Dan.9:3-19

Elijah facing the Baal challenge 1Kings 18:36-37

Jeremiah after his release Jer.20:7-18

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

The Lord's Prayer

“after this manner* therefore pray ye”

“In this way then pray you” (Diaglot)

Matt.6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4

“Our Father which art in heaven”

There can be no doubt as to how we are to address God in our personal or public prayers. Too often people ignore this and use their own terms of personal endearment to open their prayers. By addressing God as our Heavenly Father we are accepting and emphasising the great importance God places on the **family relationship He has with His children**. As in any family, it is unusual for a child to address a parent by a given name, but rather to call parents by the affectionate title they have learned from the cradle.

“Hallowed be thy name”

God's Name speaks of **His holy existence from eternity to eternity**. Once we have addressed God by His 'family status' it is then a natural progression to acknowledge **His might and Holiness portrayed by His Name**. In the natural world the child first learns to address their parents with “mother” or “father” and then later as the child grows they learn the given names of the family. This is also the case in the spiritual sense where a believer can progress to learn more of God and how He manifests Himself in His Name and many Titles.

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven”

Considering how well the Lord's prayer is known world wide, one can see how easy it is to ignore or miss an obvious statement. This is a good lesson for us, as sometimes it takes a lifetime to recognise a lesson from Scripture that we may have read dozens of times. This is a very simple Scripture which we can use to point out to people the reality and obvious **importance of the Kingdom to come and the eventual acceptance of God's will on earth**. The fact that Jesus tells us that **God's will is done in heaven** is proof that highly symbolic Scripture like Rev.ch12:7 has to be correctly interpreted as referring to the 'political heavens' here on earth.

“Give us this day our daily bread”

Note that our requests and needs come after we have praised God for what He is and what He has planned. This also emphasises our daily dependence on our heavenly Father which helps us to refrain from 'self sufficiency' and any feelings that we are the arbiters of our own destiny. **We should be truly dependent children of our Father in all ways**. This can be a difficult thing to cultivate for we who live in an affluent Western society. Don't forget that 'daily bread' should also include our **daily spiritual food** gleaned from God's Word. Jesus our Saviour is the 'Living Bread' because His words are the words of eternal life from His Father.

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”

The Greek word for “debts”** can be used in the literal sense, as in money or goods owed, or in the spiritual sense it is used to describe sin against God or others. When we sin we owe a debt to God but not in the 'penance' sense as some teach. **We cannot pay a price or sacrifice to God to settle the debt of sin**. Jesus paid the ultimate price for the covering of our sins by shedding His own blood on our behalf. There is though, one thing that God requires of us, if we sin. David puts it this way in Psalm 51, **“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart.”** In other words we need to display **genuine repentance** if we are to receive forgiveness, either from God or others (2 Cor.7:9-10).

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”

Those things that tempt us are as John puts it, “all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the father but is of the world.” (1John 2:16-17; see also James 1:13). So it is not possible for God to tempt us with evil but it is well within His workings to help willing disciples to be delivered from temptation (1 Cor.10:13). Later Bible versions unfortunately use the term “evil one” instead of “evil” which is not only adding to God's Word, but **shifting the blame** for the source of evil.

*The Greek word for “manner” is “houtos” meaning 'in this way' or 'on this fashion' or 'likewise'.

(Strong's Concordance 3779)

**The Greek word is “opheilema” meaning 'something owed' and by moral implication 'a fault'.

(Strong's Concordance 3783)

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen.”

The above words are found in the Authorised Version in Matthew's record, but not in Luke. They are not found in the Vatican manuscript nor the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament. It appears that somebody many years ago wanted to add to Scripture by “rounding off” the Lord's prayer in a way that suited them.

NOTE: This prayer was given to us before Jesus went to heaven as our Mediator, so naturally there is no mention at this stage of praying in His name. At times the 'Lord's prayer' is recited by congregations, who generally neglect to offer this prayer in Jesus' name.

Heaven

Key verses

● “Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament (the sea) from the waters which were above the firmament; (the clouds) and it was so. And God called the firmament heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.” Gen.1:7-8

The ‘firmament’ heaven

● “Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?” Job 38:33

● “Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes the grass to grow on the mountains.” Psa.147:8

The firmament refers to the great expanse of air between the sea and the clouds which God calls “heaven” (Gen.1:8). Even though there are other uses for the word heaven in Scripture we should not forget this meaning given in Genesis. Verses which we may have interpreted in the past to mean, “God’s heaven”, may when read in context be referring to no more than the “firmament heaven” of Genesis ch1. Rain is described as coming from heaven (Gen.8:2, Deut.11:11) and clouds are described by Job as, “the bottles of heaven” (Job 38:37). The prophet Jeremiah describes birds as, “the fowls of heaven” (Jer.7:33, 15:3, 16:4 AV). He also describes wind as coming from, “the four quarters of heaven” (Jer.49:36).

See sheet 21 re “the gate of heaven”.

The Hebrew heavens

● “Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it” Isa.42:5

The Hebrew’s concept of the heavens above was like a giant pudding bowl covering a flat earth and spreading no larger than the then known world. In this giant pudding bowl the sun, moon and stars are described as being fixed (Gen.1:16-17). This is borne out in Isaiah 40:22, where the heavens are described as, “a tent to dwell in”. The place on the horizon where the ‘pudding bowl’ heaven joined the earth is alluded to in Isaiah 13:5, where the nation of Persia is described as coming “from a far country, from the end of heaven” (Isa.13:5). The sun is said to rise, “from one end of heaven” continuing to, “the other end” (Psa.19:6).

When you read the words “heaven” and “earth” in the Bible, keep in mind how a person in biblical times would have understood these words. You will find that an immense amount of Scripture will have new meaning for you. This is because we as a society brought up on knowledge accumulated over the last 400 years can fail to appreciate that God naturally revealed His word in biblical times **in terms that people of the time could readily understand**.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV unless otherwise indicated

The ‘highest heavens’

● “Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.”

Deut.10:14

● “But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!” 2 Chron.6:18

Even though God dwells everywhere by His Spirit power (Jer.23:23-24), the “heaven of heavens” is depicted by king Solomon as still being insufficient to contain Him. The “highest heavens” are described as being God’s exclusive domain. See Solomon’s prayer of temple dedication in 2 Chron.ch6. See also 2 Chron.2:6

God's Throne is in heaven

● “Thus says the LORD: Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool.” Isa.66: 1

● “...We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens”

Heb.8:1

God’s dwelling place in the heavens is also referred to as **His Throne**. The Throne in the first verse above would denote authority although we cannot rule out the existence of a literal throne. Our lack of authority as humans is symbolised as a “footstool” (Psa.132:7).

Our reward comes from heaven

● “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

Rev.22:12

● “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body...” Phil.3:20-21

● “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and dead at his appearing and his kingdom.” 2 Tim.4:1

● “...say to the daughter of Zion, ‘surely your salvation is coming; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.’” Isa.62:11

As disciples of Jesus we will receive our reward of eternal life when Jesus returns from heaven. **We do not go to heaven to receive this reward** (Rev.22:12).

Powers of heaven ‘shaken’

The words of Jesus in Luke ch21 use the natural elements in symbol to describe the state of the earth just before He returns. “Heaven” is used in Scripture to depict human government and authority, and Jesus tells us that these human heavens will be “shaken” and in great distress. Worldwide terrorism is increasing fear and uncertainty in both individuals and governments.

(See Heaven and Earth symbology, sheet 26)

Heaven and Earth Symbology

Key verses

- “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken.” Isa.1:2 See also Deut.32:1
- “But the heavens and earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men.” 2 Pet.3:7
- “For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the LORD, so shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come and worship before Me,' says the LORD.” Isa.66:22

Understanding Bible symbols

The cause of much Bible misunderstanding stems from taking symbols presented in Scripture in a literal sense. This is especially the case with the book of Revelation, where many people simply choose what they want to be literal or symbolic, without any regard for how God **may have used many key symbols in the rest of Scripture**. Both “Heaven” and “Earth” are used in a figurative sense in Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments. **Once we grasp Key Bible Symbols and how God uses them consistently in Scripture, we will be able to read the book of Revelation with increased understanding.**

Heaven as a symbol

- “Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be very desolate, says the LORD.” Jer.2:12
 - “Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” Luke 21:25-26
- See also Isa.44:23, ch49:13; Rev.20:11.

“Heaven” is used in Scripture to represent the **ruling political powers**, which some people style, “the political heavens”. These political heavens are described by Jesus in the verse above as being “shaken” just before He returns. This instability is particularly evident in Middle Eastern countries today. Sun, moon, stars, clouds, air, light etc. are also part of heaven (celestial) symbology in Scripture.

Earth as a symbol

- “Now the earth had one language and one speech.” Gen.11:1
- “Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people...” Jer.6:19
- “Come near, you nations, to hear; and heed you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it.” Isa.34:1

“Earth” is used in Scripture to represent ordinary people who are the “**political subjects**” of the ruling heavens. Scripture uses other earthly (terrestrial) symbols like: earthquake, sea, rivers, water, mountains, hills, islands, fire, smoke, trees, grass, dew, seed, bread, wine, birds, fish etc. in Bible prophecy and to extract spiritual lessons.

The New Heavens and Earth

- “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.” Isa.65:17
- “...we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2 Pet.3:13

The words of Peter above are often misunderstood to mean the literal heavens and earth. If you read this chapter carefully you will see that he is referring to **three political “heavens and earth” of people.**

- **The first** “heavens and earth” were destroyed by the flood in Noah’s day (definitely people, 2 Pet.3:5-6; see 2 Pet.2:5).
- **The second** “which are now”, are described by Peter as “ungodly men”, to be destroyed when Jesus returns (definitely people again, 2 Pet.3:7,v10).
- **The third** is the new heavens and earth of the Kingdom Age to come, which will be established on God’s righteousness (2 Pet.3:13).

Sun, Moon and Stars

- “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring” Luke 21:25

The Sun, Moon and Stars of Bible symbology occupy the political heaven. We first read of this type of symbology in Genesis, where the sun, moon and stars are symbolic of **Joseph's family** featured in his dream (Gen.37:9-11).

Sun (absolute rulership)

- “...to you who fear My name the **Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings...**” Mal.4:2
- “**The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood...**” Acts 2:20 and Joel 2:31

The Sun is used to describe the person who has **absolute rulership**. Jesus is described as, “**the Sun of Righteousness**” in His capacity as King when He returns. A sun in darkness indicates ungodly political leaders.

Moon (religious authority)

- “...**the moon shall not give her light**” Matt.24:29

The Moon is a symbol in the female sense as we see from Joseph's dream. It has been used as a symbol of **religious authority** since the days of Babylon. Islam uses the crescent Moon. A lack of light from the Moon indicates religious falsehood and the blood would indicate false religions persecuting God's people at various times in history before Jesus returns (Acts 2:20).

Stars (prominent people)

- “...**the stars of heaven will fall**” Mark 13:25 See Dan.8:10

Stars are a symbol of people who are **prominent or hold authority** in their particular sphere. In the last days many stars have fallen from the political heavens particularly as a result of the rise of democracy. The term “star” has been used for entertainment celebrities for some time.

Angels

“Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word.”
 “Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, you ministers of His, who do His pleasure”

Psalm 103:20-21

Their work

Guidance	Guiding and taking interest in the affairs of men and nations. Num.22:31-35; Dan.10:13; Luke 15:10
Protection	Protecting those “who fear Him”. Psa.34:7, 91:11; Dan.6:22; Heb.1:14
Punishment	Punishing God's enemies in the past and at the time of Jesus' return. 1 Chron.21:14-28; Isa.37:36; 2 Thess.1:8
Jesus' angels	Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels. 2 Thess.1:7
Gathering	Angels will gather God's elect at Jesus' return. Matt.24:31; Mark 13:27
Israel	“The Angel of His presence” protected Israel as a nation when they left Egypt. Exod.14:19; Isa.63:9; Josh.5:13-15
Archangels***	What would be special about the voice of an archangel? 1 Thess.4:16

Their nature

Divine nature	Angels have never dying spiritual bodies which the Bible styles “divine nature”. Luke 20:35-36; 2 Pet.1:4
Travel	Universe travel? Psa.104:4; Heb.1:7
Abilities	Differing abilities, and encouraged to be independent constructive thinkers. 2 Chron.18:18-21; Dan.10:13; 1 Pet.1:12
Physics	Not subject to normal laws of physics. Dan.9:21; Acts 12:1-11; Heb.1:7
The Gospel	Keen interest in the Gospel message revealed in the prophets. 1 Pet.1:12
Food	Angels can still consume food although not needed for survival purposes. Gen.18:1-8,ch19:3; Luke 12:37, 22:17-18
Manna	The manna in the wilderness is styled “angels' food”. Psa.78:24-2

Their names

Names	Only two names are revealed. Names include a title of God - “el” The title “el” is pronounced “ale” which refers to God's 'strength' or 'power'. Gabri-el means, 'man of God' or 'mighty man of God' Micha-el* means, 'who is like God?'
Difficult names	Some angelic names must be too difficult for mortals to pronounce or understand. Judges 13:18
Gabriel	Is Gabriel Jesus' personal angel? Rev.1:1
Visits	Gabriel visited Daniel, Zacharias and Mary. Dan.8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:19,26 Many other visits from “the angel of the LORD” are recorded in Scripture. Gen.16:7-11; Num.ch22; Judges 6:11-22, 13:3-21
Michael***	Is Michael known as “the angel of His presence”? Is he also “Commander of the army of the LORD”? Josh.5:13-15; Isa.63:9
Michael today	Michael** is active today as he “stands watch” over the elect of God (those “written in the book”). Dan.12:1

How this subject affects us

Hospitality	The ultimate test of hospitality. Does this still happen today? Heb.13:2
Worship	We are forbidden to worship angels. Col.2:18; Rev.22:8-9
Man	Man was made a little lower than the angels. Psa.8:5; Heb.2:7
Image	We are made in the 'image of the elohim' (angels). Gen.1:26-27, 5:1, 9:6
New creation	This “image” can apply to the new creation in the spiritual sense. Eph.4:24; Col.3:10
A Promise from Jesus	Jesus' promise to us is that we will be equal or like the angels. Angels are immortal beings who are not involved with mortal lifestyle needs like marriage. Mark 12:25; Luke 20:35-36
Judging angels	Paul says, “..we shall judge angels..” How can this be? 1 Cor.6:2-3
Personal angels	Do individuals have their own angel? Matt.18:10; Act 12:15

*The above meaning for Michael is actually a rhetorical question, “who is like God?”, much like the meaning for Micah, “who is like Yah?”

** Some feel that Michael in this verse is a symbol of Jesus in the same way that Ezekiel describes Jesus as, “My servant David”. Ezek.34:23-24, 37:25

*** Michael is also referred to as an 'archangel' The word 'arch' comes from the Greek word, 'archo' which means, 'to be first in rank'.

Some handy Strong's Concordance numbers to note

“malak” translated, ‘ambassador, angel, messenger’. 4397 OT

“aggelos” translated, ‘angel, messenger’. 32 NT

“archaggelos” translated, ‘archangel’. 743 NT

NOTE: The word “angel” literally means “messenger” or “one who brings tidings” and can denote someone other than God's angels, particularly one who is sent over a great distance by an individual (Gen.32:3) or a nation (Num.21:21).

In general, translators of the Bible have noted the concept of “mortal angels” and several times have used an English word other than “angel” when the angel in question is obviously human.

(John the baptist is called, “My messenger”, Gr. “aggelos” Matt.11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27). The word “ambassadors” (“messengers” NKJV), is from the Hebrew word “malak” in 2 Chron.35:21 and refers to messengers from the king of Egypt. The same word is also used for mortal messengers in Isa.30:4, 33:7 and Ezek.17:15).

Hell and the Grave

Key verses

- **“For You will not leave my soul in sheol, nor will you allow your holy one to see corruption”** Psalm 16:10 NKJV
(In the above verse “sheol” appears as “hell” in the AV and “grave” in the NIV)
- **“If I ascend up into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.”** Psalm 139:8

‘Hell’ in the Old Testament

“Hell” is **not a translation** of the original Hebrew word “sheol”. “The grave” or “the pit” is the correct meaning in English for this Hebrew word. The word “hell” in the Authorised version has actually been **inserted by translators** (interpolated), probably because of their preconceived ideas about a mythical place of eternal torment. Modern translators realise that Hebrew words like “sheol” simply meant **“the grave” or “the pit”** to the original inspired writers in biblical times. The translators of the NKJV simply “sat on the fence”, and in many instances have just left the Hebrew word “sheol” **untranslated**. In the New International Version, **“sheol” is properly translated, “the grave”**.

Old and New Translations

The following are three interesting examples of how translating has changed over the years by comparing the **King James Version**, the **New King James Version** and the **New International Version**.

(The words in capitals represent “sheol” in the original Hebrew)

Psalm 86:13

- AV **“my soul from the lowest HELL”**
- NKJV **“my soul from the depths of SHEOL”**
- NIV **“delivered me from the depths of the GRAVE”**

Jonah 2:2

- AV **“out of the belly of HELL cried I”**
- NKJV **“out of the belly of SHEOL I cried”**
- NIV **“From the depths of the GRAVE I called for help”**

Isaiah 5:14

- AV **“Therefore HELL hath enlarged herself”**
- NKJV **“Therefore SHEOL has enlarged itself”**
- NIV **“Therefore the GRAVE enlarges its appetite”**

You will notice the same situation with Psa.16:10, quoted as a key verse above.

‘Hell’ in the New Testament

Most translations still use (interpolate) the word “hell” in the New Testament. “Gehenna”, or **“The valley of the son of Hinnom”**, which is a correct translation of this Greek word, was the rubbish tip outside of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus. This tip was also used to burn the bodies of criminals who had **suffered capital punishment**. Most of the occurrences of the word “hell” in the New Testament refer to this place of burning outside of Jerusalem. Jesus referred to “gehenna” as a place of **total destruction** for those who were **unrepentant** in their criminal activities (Matt. 10:28).

‘Hades’ in the New Testament

The Greek word Hades* (pronounced hah'-dace), comes from two words: 'A', which is “Alpha”, the first letter of the Greek alphabet and is a negative particle which simply means, “without”. The other word is “eido”, which means, “to see”. **So Hades simply means, “unseen”**.

Greek mythology

In Greek mythology 'Hades' is described as the god of the underworld. This so called underworld also came to be named after this mythical god Hades. Should we use this Greek mythology to interpret Scripture?

In Psalm 16:10 we are prophetically taught that **Jesus went to “sheol” ie the grave** when He died. So we must accept that Peter also meant **the grave when he quotes Psalm 16 using the word “hades” in Acts 2:27**. Any other opinion would have us creating a **contradiction** between Old and New Testament teaching.

Some ‘hades’ translations

Here are some interesting comparisons of Bible translations of the word “hades”:

(The words in capitals represent “hades” in the original Greek)

Acts 2:27

- AV **“Thou wilt not leave my soul in HELL”**
- NKJV **“You will not leave my soul in HADES”**
- NIV **“...you will not abandon me to the GRAVE”**

1 Cor.15:55

- AV **“O GRAVE , where is thy victory?”**
- NKJV **“O HADES, where is your victory?”**
- NIV **“Where, O DEATH, is your victory?”**

So the word “hades” in the New Testament is the same as “sheol” in the Old Testament, **both words simply referring to the grave**, and not a mythical place of eternal torment.

The rich man and Lazarus

Despite all other Bible evidence, many cling to this parable in Luke ch16, claiming it is a literal description of the afterlife. The Jews in their “Gemara” writings have a similar parable, so Jesus was actually using the **traditional teachings of the Pharisees** in a tongue-in-cheek fashion to **extract a moral lesson** against them, because they lived in opulence compared to the common folk. Because of earlier Greek rule since 333BC, Greek mythology had firmly imposed itself on Jewish beliefs by the time of Jesus' ministry. Less than 200 years later similar Greek mythology had crept into Christian churches as fulfilment of the Apostle Paul's prediction**.

* Strong's Concordance number 86 NT

** “ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap to themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be **turned aside to fables.**” 2 Tim.4:3-4

Devils, Satans, Serpents and Dragons

Key verse

- “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

The true source of sin

- “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” James 1:14-15 See Matt.15:18-20

From the verses above we can see that the real cause of sin is **uncontrolled desire**. You will notice that these verses **do not shift the blame for sin to another source.**

Symbols in Revelation

- “His tail (the dragon) drew the third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...” Rev.12:4

Jesus said that **God's will is done in Heaven** (Matt.6:10). Most of the popular beliefs about the devil being a literal rebellious angel from God's heaven are based on highly symbolic Scripture from Revelation. Most would agree that the “fiery red dragon” of Rev.ch12 **cannot possibly be a literal animal dragon tossing stars to the earth.** This same symbolic “dragon” is then listed as synonymous with **the devil, satan and the serpent** (Rev.12:9, ch20:2). This proves that **all four are being used as symbols depicting something in common.** We cannot say that the dragon is a symbol of the devil, because the dragon and devil are both listed together as symbols. **Symbols cannot be symbols of each other.** We will now see how these symbols represent four forms of sinful human behaviour which are **rebellious to God's way.**

Satan the ‘adversary’

- “But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offence to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’” Matt.16:23

Some may be surprised to know that the word “satan” is neither an English word nor a proper name. “Satan” is a Hebrew word that has been **transferred directly** (transliterated) out of the Hebrew into our English Bibles, **rather than being properly translated.** The Hebrew word satan simply means “an adversary”, or somebody who is opposed to you. Peter's reasoning was opposed to what God required, so Jesus rightly called him, “satan”.

Where ‘satan’ is translated

In just a few cases the word satan is properly translated into the English word “adversary” (Num.22:22; 1Sam.29:4; 1Kings 11:14, 23; 2 Sam.19:22; Psa.71:13). Notably the Hebrew word satan is not always used in the evil sense. “Satan” is translated “adversary” in Num.22:22 and **refers to an obedient angel of God who was opposed to Balaam.** Several times in the Psalms the Hebrew word satan is translated “adversaries” to describe David's enemies in a **plural context** (Psa.38:20, ch109:4, v20, v29).

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

The ‘false accusing’ devil

- “Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?’” John 6:70
- “Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.” 1 Tim.3:11

The word “devil” is **not a translation** of the original Greek word “diabolos”, but rather a **short Anglicized form of it.** By definition the Greek word “diabolos” means, “**to falsely accuse**”, “**slander**”, or “**speak maliciously**”, and in all occurrences should have been translated as such. Those whose speech is deceptive or hurtful towards others are in effect “falsely accusing” or “slandering” God's way, and hence in God's sight come to be described by their **actions**. The word “diabolos” is only properly translated three times in Scripture (“slanderers” in 1 Tim.3:11; 2 Tim.3:3 and Titus 2:3 NKJV).

Known by their actions

- “He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” Rev.20:2
- “**Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?**” Matt.23:33 See also Rev.12:9

“Devil”, “satan”, “serpent” and “dragon” all represent **sinful habits of life** which are opposed or rebellious to God's Way. Those who practice these bad habits have **come to be identified by their actions ie the person is described as synonymous with their behaviour.** When you think about it, this is a **concise way** of getting a message across without having to repeatedly explain or define a situation. This is one of the reasons why all of us use figures of speech. Jesus called Peter, “**satan**”, Judas, “**a devil**” and the Scribes and Pharisees, “**serpents**”. God styles the king of Egypt, “**the great dragon**” (Ezek.29:3 A.V.). Rev.20:2 is very concisely summing up all those forms of sinful behaviour that have been offensive towards God, ever since the very first sin was committed.

Bound for 1000 years

All of these forms of human rebellion against God are said to be “bound for a thousand years” (Rev.20:2), meaning that finally in the coming kingdom, man's rebellion (sin) will be controlled, his bad habits of life turning to **good habits of life based on God's righteousness.**

Notes

Four forms of sinful rebellion against God's Way

Devil = False accuser, slanderer of God's way. Can refer to individuals or organisations whether political or religious who persecuted Christians. (Roman authorities, 1Pet.5:8; Rev.2:10). Strong's Concordance number 1228 NT

Satan = opposition (adversary) to God or others (Matt.16:23). Strong's Concordance numbers 7854 O.T. and 4567 NT

Serpent = Cunning deception that can lead others away from God.

“Serpent” is a general term for those who are not God's people (Gen.3:15).

“Serpent” is also used to refer to those who push religious falsehood. (Pharisees, Matt.23:33)

Strong's Concordance numbers 5175, 8314 OT and 3789 NT

Dragon = Rebellion with particular emphasis on the political leadership (Pharaoh Ezek.29:3). Who would be the “dragon of the sea” in the latter days (Isa.27:1)? Who was the “dragon” featured in Rev.ch12?

Some later versions use the word “monster” instead of “dragon”.

Strong's Concordance numbers 8577 OT and 1404 NT

Biblical Figures of Speech

Why are they important?

In English we may use a phrase like, “raining cats and dogs”. We of course know that this is simply **emphasising the heaviness** of the rain and that we are not referring to real cats and dogs. In Biblical times people also used figures of speech which were used to help them **emphasise** what they were saying. Using figures of speech is a concise way of getting a message across **without having to repeatedly explain or define a situation**. Figures of speech can also create word pictures in our mind which make the subject more interesting and much easier to remember. Bible prophecies, the book of Revelation and many of Jesus' parables use figures of speech. **One of the major causes of incorrect Bible teaching is when readers take obvious figures of speech in a literal fashion.**

Allegory: Continued comparison by representation (metaphor), by comparing one set of events to another event or thing from daily life and thereby extracting a valuable spiritual lesson. The parable Nathan presented to King David is a good example (2 Sam.12:1-7). See also Gen.49:9; Matt.7:3-5; Gal.4:22-24.

Analogy: A likeness by some attribute which corresponds to a person or event with similar attributes or circumstances. Analogies can be drawn between different times and events in history (Luke 17:26-30; Heb.ch7).

- “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man.” Luke 17:26

Ellipsis: Omission from a sentence of one or more words, which are obviously understood, but must be supplied to make the expression grammatically complete eg “This is My body”, and “This is My blood”, (Matt.26:26, Mark 14:24). These elliptic statements grammatically correct would read, “**This is (what represents) My body**” and “**This is (what represents) My blood**”.

Hyperbole: Extravagant exaggeration by which something is presented as much greater or less, better or worse, or as involving a greater intensity than in reality, or beyond possibility. Jesus uses this form of speech in parable form to impress on us the importance of removing anything that would hinder our spiritual well being (Mark 9:43-47). This form of speech **impresses the importance of the point**.

- “And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, be cast into hell fire” Mark 9:47

Metaphor: Representation in which one thing is identified or represents another usually with certain shared characteristics.

- “...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

- “...Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah” Rev.5:5.

Metonymy: Change of noun when one name or noun is used instead of another to which it is in some way related eg the cause for the effect, or the effect for the cause.

- “Two nations (boys) are in your womb...” Gen.25:23

- “...He condemned sin (desires) in the flesh.” Rom.8:3

Oxymoron: Wise-foolly where a wise saying may seem foolish to those unskilled in Bible understanding.

- “Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.” Luke 17:33

- “But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.” 1 Tim.5:6.

Parable: Continued simile involving a short fictitious narrative of a possible event in life or nature from which a moral or spiritual truth is drawn. Our word 'parable' comes from the Greek word, “parabole” which is based on the root word, “paraballo” which means, 'to throw alongside' or 'compare'.

- “To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.” Luke 13:20-21

Paradox: Apparent contradiction where a person or situation appears puzzling or contradictory. Some very profound Scripture is presented in paradox.

- “...these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Rev.7:14 See also Isa.53:5, 55:1

- “for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them...” Rev.7:17

Parallelism: Parallel lines of similar construction of adjacent word groups. These can be contrasting or complimentary in sense. Parallelism is commonly known as Hebrew poetry, and is frequent in the Psalms.

- “Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure.” Psa.2:5 also v3, v4 and v9

- “Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice.” Prov.8:1

Personification: Personality, sometimes with speech or actions being attributed to inanimate objects or human characteristics.

- **Human body parts** Psa.35:10, 51:8

- **Animals** Job 12:7-8

- **Inanimate things** Gen.4:10, James 5:4

- **Money, wealth** Matt.6:24; Luke.16:13

- **Kingdoms and countries** Psa.45:12

- **Wisdom and understanding** Prov.ch8

- “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.” Luke 19:40

Symbolism: Representation using a material object, person, animal or natural phenomena to symbolise people, historic events, moral or spiritual truths etc. Symbolism is a very common figure of speech and concept used in the Bible.

- “The key (authority) of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder.” Isa.22:22

- “It was symbolic (the Tabernacle) for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered...” Heb.9:9

See also Gen.37:9-10; Luke 21:25; Dan.ch2.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the NKJV

Some basics to note about English Bible translations

On these three pages we will be looking at some of the basic methods translators have used in the providing of our English Bible versions. With this knowledge we will be able to read our Bibles much more effectively. We will understand how **certain popular beliefs** have been accepted as normal, simply because of occasional **translator bias**.

We will look at the meaning of the following four concepts:

**Translating
Anglicising
Interpolation
Transliteration**

Translating

Converting words and ideas from one language into another.

The Bible has been translated from three languages

Most of the Old Testament was originally in **Hebrew**

Some of the Old Testament was originally in **Aramaic** (very similar to Hebrew)

The New Testament was originally in **Greek**

Original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words and phrases are converted as close as possible to a similar meaning in the English.

Sometimes the Hebrew or Greek language has a word or an idea that is difficult to understand in English. This is understandable as different races of people can have some unusual habits and ways of expressing themselves. This does not happen often, but when it does and you have a centre column reference Bible you will find extra suggestions in that column to help make the meaning more plain in English.

Anglicising

Giving English form or character to a name or word from another language.

Many of the Hebrew and Greek names in the Bible are given an English form or character making them easier for us to pronounce. Many of these names could have been translated because most of them have a particular meaning, but it is much more concise to Anglicise them into our language. This makes them easier to remember as many of the translations of Hebrew and Greek names cannot be put into one word in English.

Here are some common examples of Anglicising:

‘**Yehowshuwa**’ in Hebrew becomes ‘**Joshua**’

‘**Yeruwshalayim**’ in Hebrew becomes ‘**Jerusalem**’

‘**Aharown**’ in Hebrew becomes ‘**Aaron**’

‘**Iesous**’ (ee-ay-sooce) in Greek becomes ‘**Jesus**’

‘**Paulos**’ in Greek becomes ‘**Paul**’

‘**Loukas**’ in Greek becomes ‘**Lucas**’ or ‘**Luke**’

Interpolation

Adding a word to our English Bibles that does not in any way convey the true meaning of the original Hebrew or Greek word that should have been translated properly.

This is where the translators have been very naughty and have **placed words into** our English Bibles which **do not have any relevance** to the original Hebrew or Greek words they are supposed to be translating. Instead of translating the original text into an English word with the same meaning they have chosen a word with an entirely **different meaning**.

Here are two examples:

Hell

Old Germanic word meaning, 'a covering'

Many times the Hebrew word **'sheol'** which simply means the **'grave'** or the **'pit'** has not been translated. Instead, the word **'hell'** is **put in its place** which allows people to read into their Bibles a message that was not there in the original language. When a Hebrew person reads their Bible and comes across the word **'sheol'** they would simply think of the grave and not a so called place of fiery torment that a western reader may think when he sees the word **'hell'**.

The irony of this whole situation is that this old Germanic word **'hell'** simply means **'a covering'**, hence the word **'helmet'** means a **'head covering'**.

So neither the **original meaning** nor the **traditional 'hell fire' meaning** for the word **'hell'** have any connection whatsoever with the grave or the pit which the Hebrew word **'sheol'** describes.

Some of the later translations of the Bible now transfer (transliterate) the word **'sheol'** into the English text rather than translate it eg NKJV while the NIV have in many instances actually **translated 'sheol' as 'the grave'** (See the NIV Psa.86:13; Jonah 2:2; Isa.5:14). One wonders why translators for over 400 years were so fearful in so many instances of doing a simple translation of the word **'sheol'** into the English words **'grave'** or **'pit'** rather than resorting the **'hell'** word.

Atonement

'Atonement' is a word coined in the 13th century. Apparently there were many sermons delivered in this era that emphasised being **'at one'** with God. Hence the verb **'atone'** developed which then became **'atonement'** in noun form.

This word has been placed many times in our English Bibles when the Hebrew word **'kaphar'** occurs. The word **'kaphar'** actually means **'to cover over'** or **'take away'** and has no resemblance to the common much broader meaning we have given to the word **'atonement'**. Today people use the word **'atonement'** to describe God's entire plan of redemption including the **'nature of man'**.

'Kaphar' though simply speaks of a **'covering'** and is first used to describe the pitch that covered Noah's ark and later in Scripture to speak of the covering or taking away of sins by forgiveness. If translators had used the word **'cover'** or **'take away'** every time the word **'kaphar'** occurs in the Hebrew we would have found much Scripture simpler and easier to understand.

So whenever you see the word **'atonement'** in your English Bible, think of the principle of **'covering'** or **'taking away'**.

In the Authorised Version of the Bible the word **'atonement'** has been placed over 70 times in the first five books. Here are some other Old Testament occurrences in the AV translation (2 Sam.21:3; 1 Chron.6:49; 2 Chron.29:24; Neh.10:33; Rom.5:11).

Transliteration

Transferring a word directly from the original language into our English Bibles

This is where the translators take a word from the original Hebrew or Greek and do not translate it. The word is transferred directly from the original tongue into our English Bibles. We have already seen how the translators in NKJV have transferred the Hebrew word ‘Sheol’ into our English text rather than translate it.

Here is another example:

Satan

Some may be surprised to know that the word ‘satan’ is neither an English word nor a proper name. ‘Satan’ is a Hebrew word that has been transferred directly out of the Hebrew into our English Bibles. This has been done in both the Old and New Testament translations. In the New Testament the word is ‘Satanas’ from the Aramaic (popular language in NT times), very similar to Hebrew.

(‘saw-tan’ and ‘saw-tawn’ are two ways that a Hebrew person pronounces the word satan)

Correct translations

There are some occurrences though, where the word satan has been translated into the correct English word ‘adversary’ which is the actual literal meaning of the word. If translators had been consistent they would have translated satan as ‘adversary’ every time it appears in Scripture. One wonders how successful the theory of the ‘supernatural’ devil would have been if the translators had consistently translated this word correctly.

Examples where ‘satan’ has been translated

Here are some examples where the Hebrew word ‘satan’ has been properly translated into the English word ‘adversary’. The numbers next to the word ‘satan’ are Strong’s Concordance numbers so that you can check and see that we are being truthful and that the word was actually ‘satan’ in the original Hebrew Scriptures. The first example below may come as a surprise to you.

The Scripture	Hebrew	translated as	refers to
Num.22:22	satan Strong's 7854	adversary	An obedient Angel opposing Balaam on God's behalf
1 Sam.29:4	satan 7854	adversary	King David is feared as a potential ‘satan’
1 Kings 11:14	satan 7854	adversary	Hadad who would be Israel's future enemy
1 Kings 11:23, 25	satan 7854	adversary	Reson the son of Ediadah who opposed Solomon
2 Sam.19:22	satan 7854	adversaries	The sons of Zeruah who opposed David
Psalms 71:13	satan 7853	adversaries	Enemies of King David who sort to kill him

Here are some more references where ‘satan’ is translated properly:

1 Kings 5:4; Psalm 38:20, 109:4, 20, 29.

Two other transliteration examples from the KJV

In the Authorised Version of the New Testament we find two transliterated words together in the one verse.

“If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be **Anathema Maranatha**” 1 Cor.16:22

“**Anathema**” means ‘to be set aside’ or in this case maybe, ‘excommunicated’ or ‘accursed’. This word can refer to anything consecrated to the temple of a false god.

“**Maranatha**” is an Aramaic word meaning ‘our Lord has come’ or simply, ‘our Lord, come!’.

Modern versions of the Bible do varying English translations of these two words.

Maybe the message here is, if you don't love the Lord Jesus you will be rejected when He comes.