



Yielded to the Creator of Heaven and Earth!

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Dedicated to All who Want to
Believe

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Dear Reader,

Did you ever experience a cultural shock? A shock that took you some time to recover from and get adjusted to all that was new and strange? Or a shock that was so great that it made you turn and run away?

Delving into different religions sometimes gave me such a shock and I want to give you a warning here, reading through this booklet may give you such a shock too. But if you can take it, it may set you free in a way you never experienced before. I'm sure it will help if you pray right now to the great Creator to help you by His spirit to be able to see clearly what He wants you to see.

Do you like stories that illustrate a point? Here is one that may be childlike, but gets the point across well.



The story is of a man who had caught an eagle and chained him to a stake on the ground of his property. We can imagine that the eagle for some time "faught" the chains and tried to get away, but gave up and did the only thing he could do, to go around the circle as far as the chain would allow him to go.



After years of going around and around the eagle wore a path into the ground – a little rut around the stake.

Finally his owner began to feel sorry for the aging bird and thought to let him go free for his last days. He went out to where the eagle was chained and took the ring off of the bird's foot. Then he took the bird up in his hand and lifted him to let him fly away.



At last the great moment of freedom had come for the eagle. The man tossed the great old bird up and out in the air.



And what do you think happened? Did the eagle fly away, free at last – up and up into the sky?

No he didn't! The poor old bird just flip-flopped right back down onto the ground. He could barely fly anymore. Then the old eagle walked back over to the stake and began walking round it in his old rut again!

This time he had no chain! No bird band! All that held him was his old habit.

He wasn't really free because he was still chained by his old habits.



We can apply this story to bad habits we may have, and have had for so long, we cannot just “fly away” from anymore. We are bound to them by the chains of the habit.

But I would add that this story can also be applied to things that we were taught when we were young, and through our acceptance of the teaching they became chains of “doctrine” we are bound too and cannot escape so easily. The less we question or analyze the thing taught, the stronger the chains become, and the less we can see anything else anymore than our familiar rut of thinking.

One example of this is the theory of evolution. Although it is a theory few people even consider this fact, and even fewer people know that there are no proofs for it, on the contrary, honest open-minded scientists have long proven, that evolution is not possible and have proven the impossibility of it. But it is taught in schools all over the world as if it were a hard fact. Because most people don't think about it, how evolution can be possible, they let themselves be bound to this false doctrine-even archaeologists and most scientist. A chain they can't even see is there.

But what about religions ingrained in us from when we were small. Can they become chains that bind us too? When we study history, it is plain to see, that the world conquerors like Alexander the Great, the Caesars of Rom, the Genghis Khans, Communists, Napoleon, Hitler and the like were dictators. They had to be in order to control such vast lands with a multitude of people. We can agree to that easily, but can we see also the same easily, that if we are born into a certain religion and are never allowed to go beyond our chains to see what else is out there in the world and we are not allowed to make our own decision whether we want this religion or not, then we don't have freedom, and we also are under a dictatorship?

Life is a journey of learning and experiencing, this is how our creator designed it to be. We are taught about certain things from when we are small and we acquire knowledge on our own and we make decisions based on all of this knowledge. The opinions that we may have been holding on to as being the right ones may change, as we learn and experience more on life's journey of ever growing and learning. We may have faith in a Creator of the universe, whether we call him God or Allah, or we may still be searching for him. That too can be a growing experience as our understanding of Him becomes clearer to us with time if we are open to know more about him and if we desire to come closer to Him. It's not that God/Allah is changing all this time, but only our understanding of Him. The journey is not about teaching others, but about allowing ourselves to be taught.

In this booklet you will be introduced to the Christian way of thinking and seeing things from a Christian standpoint, with knowledge that others have acquired, and I pray that it may help you find the path that you will be comfortable walking on, with a peace and assurance in your heart that this is the right one for you.

This booklet has a lot to ponder, meditate and reflect on. Please take your time to read through one chapter at a time to be able to take in the full meaning and content in your heart and mind.

How was it Possible that Adam and Eve Made the Wrong Choice in the Garden of Eden?



Adam and Eve lived in a perfect world. There was absolutely nothing bad or destructive or hurtful, so why would they want to look for something else? This, for us, is unimaginable, especially knowing the fact that they knew God in person: "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..." - 1 Moses 3:8

Why couldn't they just trust that what God had said was right and the best? Why did they listen to Satan and question what God had said as being the right thing to follow? Satan told them that they would become like God and know about good and evil, if they would just eat of the fruit of this one tree that was forbidden for them to eat of by God. Man is curious by nature and wants to know more, but how could they not know what good and evil was and why did they want to know it so bad that they disobeyed God? To understand this we have to put ourselves in their shoes: they were surrounded only by good, there was nothing bad, so how could they know what good actually is and how good they had it if there was no comparison? And how could they even know what obedience or disobedience is when they never experienced it? It took a bite of that forbidden fruit to awaken their conscience in them to tell them that they had just done something bad.

And it took for them to be cast out of the Garden of Eden to understand how good the garden had been and how bad, scary, and dangerous this world can be. Now they knew the meaning of the words "good" and "evil", "obedience" and "disobedience" that were completely beyond their imagination before. And now they knew that God is truth, and Satan is a liar. Before that they did not even know the meanings of "the truth" and "a lie".



To fully understand something we therefore need a comparison. God gave men a free will and just like he did not stop Adam and Eve from making the wrong choice so he does not want us today to be hindered from making up our own minds. He does not desire anybody to worship him only because they have no other choice and do not know anything else, but he wants people to see different possibilities and hear of different opinions and then make their own choices out of their own free will. His greatest desire is that we will love him out of our own free will. Is this not also how you imagine a God that is called love and mercy, goodness and kindness? To be born into a certain religion and not be allowed to choose for yourself would not be all these good things, or?

And here comes the next question:

Did God/Allah Ever Change His Mind?

We have on one hand Father Abraham (called Ibrahim by Muslims), the father of both the Jews and the Arabs through Ishmael then we have the Prophets that gave the laws like Moses and Mohammed. Old father Abraham had not all these laws to tell him what he should or should not do. He had no temple or mosque to pray in, neither priests, nor rituals nor any such things. He had an open heart to God/Allah the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. God/Allah spoke to him and he listened and obeyed and God/Allah called him a man of faith.



“Abram believed the Lord, and God/Allah credited it to him as righteousness” – Abraham was made righteous before God because of his believing faith!

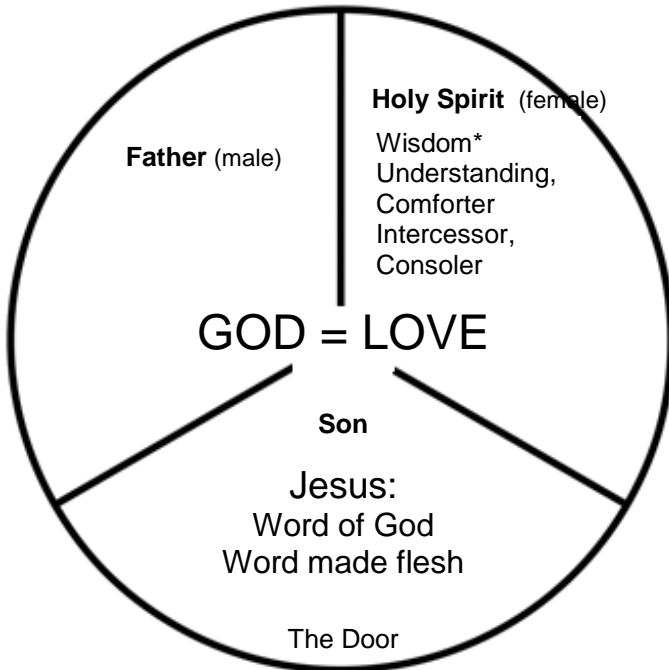
From Bible history we know that Abraham’s descendants through Isaac and Jacob, his grandson, did not have this kind of believing faith and trust that Abraham possessed. Although God did so many miracles for them to bring them out of Egypt, where they were kept as slaves, still they could not trust when Moses was gone for just one month and they desired to have a "god" that they could see and touch and experience with their 5 senses and have rituals for and worship etc. as they were used to from the Egyptians and so they made for themselves a golden calf. Instead of destroying them there in his wrath, God listened to the pleadings of Moses and in His mercy gave them what they wanted, a place of worship and things that symbolized spiritual things. He gave them commandments to live by with the 10 commandments and a lot of other laws that were not written on tablets, but given orally. Am I right when I say that such rules to live by is what Mohammed gave to the Muslims also?

So did God change his mind that no longer somebody was made righteous through his faith by believing, like father Abraham, but one could be made righteous through keeping the laws? No - a clear no! The laws were not made to get you to become righteous, but to help you do the right things in life. The only way to become righteous before God is still through your faith in God/Allah.

After Moses, centuries later, Jesus came. Please allow me here, to explain something about him. God/Allah is a spirit! He is not a person! And spirit means power, energy – and this power and energy is love. Just as water consists of 2 elements: hydrogen and oxygen, so God/Allah consists of not just one “element” but three. Water exists when these two elements are combined. If one of them is missing it is no longer water but only hydrogen or oxygen. This is how you have to understand the Unity of God. He is the combination of three “elements” that are called, for our human understanding, father, son and “mother” - not Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus - but the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit.

How else can a God be explained that is one and yet 3 in one? I think a circle is a good illustration: like God a circle is perfect in its roundness, without beginning or end--like God, unites the content--like the 3 “beings” the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit united as the one and only true God. (Again have in mind, God is not a person!)

*The Lord (Jehovah) by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.- Proverbs 3: 19-24



through which we can enter again into the presence of God and His kingdom

The one and true God, one yet three!

“Has he made the Alihah (gods) (all) into One Ilah (God/Allah). Verily, this is a curious thing!” [Surah Sad 38:5]

So Jesus is not a God besides God, but he is in God:

*Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.- Proverbs 3:13-18

*Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.” - Proverbs 4: 5-9

I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. – Proverbs 8:12,17

In the story of the creation of the world we find that the “son” was from the beginning with the father, as well as the Holy Spirit. It says there, “And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters.” The chapter begins with “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” If it talks here besides ‘God’ of the Spirit of God, this indicates, that there must be a separate power besides “God”. And later God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” What that means is that he made man as he is himself, with a free will. But it says, let US make... that means there were more than one. God did not talk here with angels, because they had nothing to do with the creation – they cannot create, only God can create. In fact, it says, that God made the world through his word, just by saying it. But Jesus is the word of God, who is also called the son. So Jesus is really the creator and he himself said that he was with God from the beginning—but also said that they are one.



Now, what about the birth through a virgin? The angel Gabriel was sent to this young girl and told her, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” The angel Gabriel was also sent to Joseph, Mary’s future husband. It says: “When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man (faithful to the law) and unwilling to put her to

shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the Lord saves).” All this took place to fulfill what God had spoken by the prophet (there are many such prophecies of different prophets fulfilled in Jesus): “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” - **Immanuel means, “God with us”**.

– A virgin shall conceive – this is impossible with humans, which means that it took a miracle that only God could do, which proves the divinity of Jesus. (If God could make the world in 6 days just by speaking His word, can he then not also let a virgin conceive a child by His word, without the help of a man?)

Toward the end of Jesus’ ministry here on earth, he went up the mountain of Tabor with only three of his disciples: Peter, James and John. They were all alone. There, in front of them, his appearance was changed. His face shone like the sun. His clothes became as white as the light. Just then Moses and Elijah appeared in front of them. Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus. Overcome by all this, Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three tabernacles (a kind of tent-temple). One will be for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud surrounded them. A voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!”

When the disciples heard this, they were terrified. They fell with their faces to the ground. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

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To this passage from the Bible, found in Mathew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36 in the New Testament, different people wrote and pondered about. This change of appearance that happened to Jesus is called "Transfiguration" and the following article is based on a writing by Brian Zahnd:

What God Has To Say

by Brian Zahnd, excerpts and adapted

One of the most mysterious aspects of the Transfiguration is the appearance of Moses and Elijah — these two giant figures from the Old Testament — conversing with a glorified Christ (Messiah). Of course Moses the Lawgiver and Elijah the Prophet are representative figures signifying the Law and the Prophets. On Mount Tabor, Moses and Elijah are summoned from the Old Testament past to give their final witness.

The goal of the Law and the Prophets was to produce a just society and one that worshipped the one and only true God (Something Mohammed wanted too by building an Islamic state, right?). Jesus and his kingdom is where that project finds its fulfillment. The new society formed around Jesus was what the Law and the Prophets were aiming for all along. The Transfiguration is where Moses and Elijah find their great successor. The Transfiguration is where the Old Testament hands the project of redemption (to be redeemed from your sins) over to Jesus. The Transfiguration is where the old witness (testament) yields to the new witness (testament.)

But initially Peter misinterpreted what the presence of Moses and Elijah meant.

Peter's first impulse was to build three memorial tabernacles (tents/mosques) on Tabor, treating Moses, Elijah, and Jesus as approximate equals.

But Peter's idea received a strong rebuke when the voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, listen to him!"

Jesus is the true and living Word of God. Jesus is what the Law and Prophets point toward in and bow to. Jesus is what the Old Testament was trying to say, but could never fully articulate. Jesus is the perfect Word of God in the form of a human life.

God couldn't say all he wanted to say in the form of a book, so he said it in the form of Jesus. Jesus is what God has to say!

The Law and the Prophets were the lesser lights in the pre-Christ night sky. They were the moon and stars. Israel could grope forward by their soft light; the Hebrews could navigate through the pagan night by constellations. In a world of Stygian darkness, the moonlight and starlight emanating from the Torah and the Prophets made all the difference.

But with Christ, morning has broken, the new day has dawned, the sun of righteousness has risen with healing in its rays. Now the moon and the stars, Moses and Elijah, the Law and the Prophets are eclipsed by the full glory of God in Christ!



The Transfiguration of Jesus, the Messiah; Moses the Lawgiver and Elijah the Prophet are representative figures signifying the Law and the Prophets of the past. But with Jesus came the new that is still to this day relevant - 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him!'- Mark 9:7

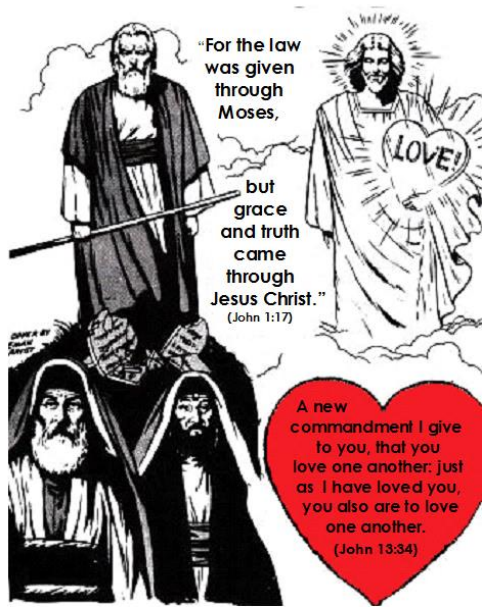
The Old Testament is not on par with Jesus. The Bible is not a flat text where every passage carries the same weight. This is why Jesus says, "You have heard it said, but I say to you..." Though some churches are trying to give the Old Testament equal authority with Christ, the Father thunders from heaven, "No! This is my beloved Son! Listen to him!"

So if Moses says to practice capital punishment, to stone adulterers and other sinners, God says, "Listen to Jesus!" And Jesus says, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."

If Elijah calls down fire from heaven to burn up his enemies, God says, "Listen to Jesus!" And Jesus says, "Love your enemies."

The Pharisees (religious rulers) in their desire to condemn sinners to death can quote the Old Testament of the Bible and cite Moses. But Jesus says something else.

James and John, in their zeal to go "shock and awe" on the Samaritans and call down fire from heaven, can quote the Bible and cite Elijah. But Jesus says something else.



Moses says this. Elijah does that. But Jesus says and does something completely new and different.

And what does God say? Does God instruct us to find a "healthy balance" between Moses (and Mohammed as another law giver), Elijah, and Jesus? No! God says, "Listen to my Son!"

If we want to rummage around in the Old Testament and drag out Moses or Elijah or Joshua or David to "balance out" what Jesus teaches about peacemaking and enemy-love, we are trying to build an Old Testament tabernacle on the holy mountain of Christ's glory and God says, "No!"

The role of the Old Testament is to give an inspired account of how we get to Jesus. But once we get to Jesus we don't build multiple tabernacles to "balance out" Jesus. Jesus is greater than Moses. Jesus is greater than Elijah. Jesus is greater than Biblicism. Moses can stone sinners and Elijah can burn up enemies, but for a Christian that doesn't matter. We follow Jesus.

Wars of conquest, violent retribution, the institution of slavery, and women held as property are all "Biblical." But when placed in the light of Tabor they must be renounced. What was once acceptable in the dim light of Moses and Elijah is now rejected in the light brighter than the sun shining from the face of Christ.

Today Moses and Elijah (the Law and the Prophets) do one thing: They point to Jesus!

I'm a Christian, not a Biblicist. Yet I love the Old Testament. I read it every day. I call it Scripture. Sacred Scripture. But I never read it without Jesus. Jesus is my sponsor for admission to the Old Testament. (Why else would a Gentile like me read ancient Jewish Scriptures?) I don't read the Law and the Prophets by the light of Moses and Elijah; I read the Law and the Prophets in the light of Christ. So if Moses instructs capital punishment and Elijah models violent retribution, I remember Mount Tabor...

“A voice came out of the cloud, ‘This is my beloved Son, listen to him!’ And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.” – Mark 9:7, 8

The final testimony of Moses and Elijah is to recede into the background so that Jesus stands alone as the full and true Word of God.

Jesus is What God Has to Say! - - -

Let's ponder a bit more on this article. Elijah was a prophet who became famous by killing 850 priests and prophets of false gods, or, idols. The king at that time had married a woman from a foreign country and she brought her heathen gods with her and got the king and the people to worship them also. To show His displeasure God send a drought into the land that lasted three years. The king desperately sought after Elijah, as he was convinced it was his fault that he had sent this curse on the land. But Elijah called for all the people to come to the mount of Carmel and there challenged the people to take a stand about which God was the true God. He built an altar for a sacrifice and asked the prophets of Baal to call down fire from heaven. But nothing happened. Then Elijah poured water over the firewood to make it even harder to burn and then he called on God. God answered and sent fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice and that proved that he was the one and true God. You can imagine how angry the people became when they realized that they had been misled and helped Elijah kill all the false prophets.

Doesn't that remind you of Mohammed (pbuh) who also wanted nothing more than to get the people to forsake their false gods and worship the one and only true God? This is something we can give Mohammed (pbuh) credit for doing good. But then did he not go ahead in his own desires and he built an Islamic state in spite of the fact that Allah had already shown him that Paradise, a just state, would not come before the end of the world? These were good desires, but they were not in line with what God had already instituted through Jesus. They were not in line with the "New Testament", the new contract between God and mankind.

You may have been taught that Jesus never said that he was the son of God, but in the account of the Transfiguration God/Allah himself called him his beloved son, whom we should listen too.

Our souls glorify You, Lord. And our spirits rejoice in You, God our Savior. For You have been mindful of the humble state of Your servants. All generations will call us blessed. You who are mighty have done great things for us—holy is Your name. And Your mercy extends to those who fear You, from generation to generation. – Praise prayers from the Bible

The “New” Contract Between God and Men

When God sent down his son to be born as a man, he sent part of himself and of his spirit into this human body. God wanted to show the World His Love. You can't see Love, you can't see God, so He sent His Word! He said his Word through Jesus! He showed it in Jesus! He expressed it in Jesus! He communicated it in Jesus! Jesus was all of that! He was the expression of God's Love, He was the meaning of God's Love, He was the communication of God's Love, He *said* God's Love, He *showed* God's Love, He *symbolized* God's Love, He *manifested* God's Love! He *was* God's *own* Message of Love to us!

Words from Jesus:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit (spiritually needy), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“You have heard (from the Old Testament – the law of Moses) that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you,

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors (in those days for most they were the worst kind of people) do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles (the unbelievers) do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

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These are words from Jesus that are “new” and this is why the second part of the Bible is called the “New” Testament what means a new contract between God and Men. The first one was made between God and Abraham and his descendants and this second one between God and all mankind-that includes me and you.

But this is not all that is new. Under the Mosaic law one could attain forgiveness for your sins before God only by a blood sacrifice, as no evil or sinful person can come into the presence of God/Allah, but the blood washed the sins away. A blameless animal, usually a lamb, had to be sacrificed a certain way and you had to continue to

do this throughout your life, as it was only for past sins, not for those you would still be committing in the future. Father Abraham made such blood sacrifices and even



way back we know of two sons of Adam and Eve that sacrificed, but only Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God, as it was a lamb as God had required. The other son, Cain, sacrificed the fruit of his labor on the fields, all "the good deeds" he had done in the "sweat of his face" but was rejected by God. God does not want our good deeds; he wants our obedience out of a heart full of Love toward him – and you show love toward God by believing him having faith in him, like Abraham.

We need to understand something here, Jesus death on the cross was such a sacrifice. Jesus was innocent, he did not do anything evil or unlawful, yet he was put to death on the cross-the roman practice at the time to execute prisoners sentenced to death. The innocent diet for the guilty, he shed his blood, so we can be forgiven.

Following are excerpts from Kevin Greeson's book "Camel Tracks... Discover the Camel's Secret" that explain this sacrifice:

Allah loves you and wants you to join Him in heaven after you die. But to go to heaven, your sins must be totally removed from you. To fix this problem, Allah developed a way that we could be totally forgiven and the curse of sin removed from us. Starting with Adam, man could be forgiven of his sins if he followed the sacrifice system called "Korbani" (Blood sacrifice). With his sins forgiven and removed, he could join Allah in heaven directly after death.

The Korbani is a picture of the punishment that we deserve for our sins. Think of a court room where you stand before the judge. The judge is fair and just. Because of your sin, the judge sentences you to be killed. Even though you are guilty, Allah allows another person, one who is innocent, to receive your punishment. For Allah to throw away your punishment would mean that he is not a just judge. Every crime must be paid for, this is justice. You deserve to die for your guilt of sin.

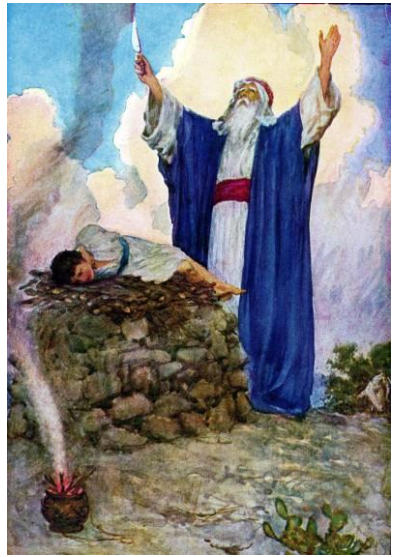
Think about the practice of Korbani. First, we are to find a pure animal. A sick or low quality animal cannot be used for the sacrifice. Immediately before the sacrifice, we are to pray to Allah saying, "Allah, I am guilty of committing sin against you. I deserve to have my blood poured out of me until I die. So Allah, please have mercy on me and instead of taking my blood, take the blood of this innocent animal."

From the time of Adam until the time of 'Isa, Korbani was practiced. Allah did not always require the blood of animals to be used for the Korbani. Ibrahim was told to do the Korbani with his promised son. At the last moment, Allah stopped Ibrahim from sacrificing his son. Allah was only testing Ibrahim's love and devotion to Him.

Pakka Muslims have the clearest understanding of Korbani because they have read all four kitabs. They know that the Muslim followers of 'Isa stopped practicing the Korbani. Why? Pakka Muslims know that the Korbani was only a shadow of the ultimate Korbani that Allah would do for all the people of the world: past, present, and future. For Allah to do Korbani for all of mankind shows us how much He loves us

And gives us confidence that we can be totally cleared of the curse of sin. But what would Allah use for His Korbani for all the people of the world? The Koran says that the birth of 'Isa would be a sign for the world. In order for Allah to do Korbani for all mankind, he needed the most pure, holy, and powerful sacrifice available. We have seen from the Koran that the purest, holiest, and most powerful blood in the world was that of 'Isa. Allah performed Korbani using the blood of innocent 'Isa.

What Allah did not allow Ibrahim to do to his promised son, Allah did with 'Isa. This was an act of love unlike any act we have ever seen, the innocent giving his blood for the guilty. 'Isa took the punishment that we deserve. Now you know why Pakka Muslims are such grateful people. They understand that Allah did not give us what we deserve. The Injil says in Yuhonna 15:13,



“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

(End of excerpts from the book Discover the Camel's Secret")

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You may now ask, how could a father, that truly loves his son, do such a horrible thing as to sacrifice his son for some strangers (unbelievers in this case)? This is almost impossible for us humans to understand. But let me ask you a different question, if you were the oldest brother and you had many siblings and they were in grave danger, would you give your life to save them? Wouldn't your father grieve about losing you, but wouldn't he still be proud of you for showing so much love toward your brothers and sisters to be willing to sacrifice yourself so that they could be saved?

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"I (God) have loved you (you who is reading this) with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you." - Jeremiah 31:3

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It is good to dwell on God/Allah and all His goodness, but Satan is a tricky guy and it is necessary for us to also know some of his tricks and tactics, so as not to fall into his traps. Adam and Eve got deceived by him. Satan knows how to convince people of his lies by mixing some truth in it like when he told Adam and Eve that if they ate the fruit they would become like God and know what good and evil is. This was not a lie, this was the truth, but it was a lie that they would not die because they eventually did die, whereas before they disobeyed it might have been possible they had bodies like we are going to get in Heaven, that can live forever. Here is a story of another one of Satan's tricks of which we all can learn from:

The Sultan and Satan!

An ancient legend from the East tells how a great Sultan--who was known for being a devout man of God--overslept and didn't awaken at the hour of prayer. When the Devil saw that the hour was passing, he came and woke him, urging him to get out of bed and pray.

"Who are you?" said the startled Sultan, still rubbing the sleep from his eyes.

"Oh, it's not important." replied the shady figure. "The important thing is that I woke you up in time! Otherwise you would have missed your prayers for the first time in ten years!--And it is very good to pray, isn't it?"



"Yes, that is true!" replied the Sultan smugly. "I wouldn't dream of missing my prayer time.--Not even *once!*"

"But wait a minute! I think I recognize you. Yes, I know your face. Of course, you are Satan, and no doubt you have some evil motive for your appearance."

"I'm not really as bad as you think!" exclaimed the intruder. "After all, I was an angel once."

"That is all very well," replied the wise old Sultan, "but you are the Deceiver, *that* is your business! So I demand in the name of God to know **why** you, of all creatures, want me to get up and pray!"

"Well," huffed the Devil, having grown impatient with the Sultan's persistence, "if you must know, I'll tell you. If you had slept and forgotten your prayers, you would have felt very *sorry* for it afterward, and would have been quite *penitent*. But if you continue on as you have, without missing a single prayer for ten years, then you will become so *satisfied* with yourself that it will be worse for you than if you had missed one and had repented of it, asking God for forgiveness! God loves your *fault* mixed with *penitence* much more than your *virtue* seasoned with *pride!*"

What an important lesson this old story imparts. Often it is actually good for us to make mistakes! If we didn't make some mistakes, we'd most likely become so proud of ourselves and self-confident, that we'd no longer feel we needed God nor the help of others. But in reality, when we feel so proud and self-satisfied, it is because we are not closer to God, but closer to ourselves!

Of course, in this modern World of today many people are taught to believe that pride is quite a virtue.--But in God's eyes, pride and self-righteousness are recognized for what they really are--sins of the heart! In fact, the Bible says that "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall!... - Proverbs 16:5,18; And "God resists the proud, but He gives grace unto the humble" -James 4:6

Quite frequently, the way God helps us keep our pride in check is through our mistakes, which serve to keep us humble and broken, more needy of the Lord's help and more dependent on His strength and not our own. It may surprise you to know that

the Lord even *wants* us to fail in some things so that we don't get to thinking too highly of ourselves, thinking that we are so perfect!

Out of what seems like defeat come some of God's greatest victories!--"Victories? But what kind of victory is that?" you may ask. Well, God very often uses humiliating experiences to make of you a better person, more compassionate and understanding of the errors of others, more loving and patient, when otherwise you might not have been so.

Isn't it encouraging to realize that your failures can be looked on as something positive, to see them from a positive viewpoint?--Not as though the Lord were merely trying to crush you to the ground, but that He's using your mistakes to teach you many important lessons that perhaps you would not learn otherwise without such humbling!

Of course, in order to do this, we must be honest with ourselves and willing to confess our mistakes and attempt to rectify them. But as they say, the hardest words in any language are, "I was wrong!" And the hardest one to confess our faults to is usually ourselves. This takes humility of the kind that only God can give, because it is the inborn sinful nature of man to want to appear perfect and faultless, and consequently he becomes unable to confess his mistakes.

But if we want the truth, and we desire God's blessing, then we'll honestly and humbly admit and confess our faults and failings, taking comfort in knowing that we are wiser today than we were yesterday. Contrary to what some folks think, an admission of error is a sign of strength rather than a confession of weakness!

Besides, God knows you're anything but perfect. In fact, He knows you can't be perfect and will never be perfect. So the crux of the matter is not whether you are perfect or not, but if you depend on the Lord totally, trusting in him and his grace and His Love and mercy. Do you give him all the glory and credit for anything good that you do? Whenever you accomplish something good, do you say, "Just thank Jesus, don't thank me!--If I have done anything good, it's only because of the Lord's help!"

A good rule to follow is to give God all the glory for anything good you do, and yourself the blame for anything bad. And it will help keep you from falling into that horrible trap of self-righteous pride, which is the basis of virtually all sin!

So whenever you make a mistake and are tempted to get down and discouraged, just remember what was said to that Sultan: "God loves your fault mixed with penitence, more than your virtue seasoned with pride!"

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You can say a prayer now, that God/Allah will help you to realize that even your mistakes are good for you. Ask him to help you to be honest with yourself and others about your faults and shortcomings. Confess that without Him, you are nothing (John 15:5) that you need His help not to fight His breakings and remakings of yourself, which actually will help you to become more yielded, more humble and most of all, more useful for his service. Amen.

Who is like You, O Lord? Who is like You—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? In Your unfailing love You will lead the people You have redeemed. In Your strength You will guide them to Your holy dwelling.
— Praise prayers from the Bible

God's Vessels with Clay Feet

In order to find full faith, trust and confidence in something, we need to have a full understanding so we can then stand on it. Any questions we still have will make us unsure. Read on to get a greater picture of God and His messengers, His prophets.

Not only Christians, but most other people – unbelievers or believers of other religions – enjoy the extra free days from work during Christian holydays, like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and other Holy days, though having nothing to do with it themselves. For the following I just wish you would read it as a general education with an open and clear mind, and using all your logic and intelligence and also to meditate on it. The words are chosen carefully as it is in nobodies intention to offend or put down somebody but to just give clear facts.

Looking on mankind with the eyes of God or Allah through his perspective, I imagine, that his heart is touched by Muslims bowing down before him 5 times a day and praises and thanks him – which other worshippers do that? And because Muslims have this kind of respect, reverence and worship of Allah, I would want to point out something that you may not have seen in this way before.

Jesus was accused of blasphemy by the rulers of the Temple of his time, and sentenced to death for saying, that he is the son of God. Nobody has to study the Koran in order to know that for Muslims blasphemy is also a terrible thing. For this reason I would want to bring this out: God/Allah is infallible while we mere humans can never attain such a status, right? If we were without fault, we too would be gods, can you agree? So men are fallible, have weaknesses and shortcomings. Not even man that God choses to be messengers, prophets for him, are infallible. If they would, they would be like God something that is just not possible. But we, who believe in a certain prophet, need also to take care, that we don't admire this prophet to a degree where we exalt him too much, and lift him unto an untouchable level, a level where only God should be. We then make ourselves guilty of blasphemy. The best sample of this are eastern gurus and teachers that where exalted after their deaths to deities, to Gods. Something Mohammed (pbuh) had very much on his heart, to abolish, the worship of false Gods and never wanted his followers to fall into doing such a thing about him. Again, in this, he is very much to be admired that he fought for this, that mankind only worship the one and only true God, called in Arabic Allah and not to give any man any praise that should only belong to God.

Our own will and desires are very much in the way of receiving clear visions and messages from God. They stand in the way and are hindering a clear vision. When receiving a message from God our own will and desires can be also compared with dirt, that will taint and contaminate the visions and messages that will run through the human vessel and come out making the clear water of God's words polluted, unclear, and wrong. As we said already, prophets are humans too and not perfect, therefore a prophet should not be exalted to a level to where one cannot test and try the visions and prophecies he received. If the visions and messages are in line with what God had said before then you can be at peace that they are from God. This is something not everybody knows or is aware of, that God does not contradict himself and whatever vision or message He gives, will not defer entirely from what He gave already or made clear as His will.

How much our own will and our own desires are in God's way can be seen by what the prophet Isaiah received about this: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

For mankind, our own thoughts, will, and desires are the most difficult things to surrender to anybody and even to God Himself. Isn't it like this? We are willing to give up almost anything but our will. You may think now that surely you would surrender your will to God. But if you are already sure about something and you have your mind made up, how can God make His will clear to you when your mind is blocked?

How many mistakes are made by pursuing our own thoughts and will? The faults and weaknesses of famous men and women is something that only the Bible talks about. Which history books or other books talk honestly about the faults and failures of their heroes, prophets or famous men and women in history?

Let's take here now some of the prophets and famous men of God of the Bible as an example of our study on this. There is the account of the first king of Israel, King Saul. It says there that he was one head taller than his fellowmen. In spite of this, he was so shy, that when the prophet Samuel came to anoint him king, he hid himself. Saul was empowered by God to become king of Israel and was filled with God's spirit and prophesied.



Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—
...Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. -Psalm 51:1-4, 10,11

But his story ends when he became disobedient to God because he wanted to please men instead of God and God had to remove his anointing, blessings, and finally the kingdom from him.

David followed him in his stead, appointed and anointed by God; a shepherd boy that played the harp and wrote many beautiful songs, called psalms, in honor and worship of God, some of which contained also prophecies. Was he perfect and never made a mistake? No, he wasn't. He planned a murder on one of his own soldiers so that he could marry this man's beautiful wife. God had to punish him for this crime, taking away his firstborn son by his new wife. David finally admitted his blame and confessed his sins after a man of God, a prophet, pointed his finger at him. He repented, wept and asked God to forgive him and it says God forgave him and called him a man after his own heart.

A murderer, liar and cheater a man after God's heart?

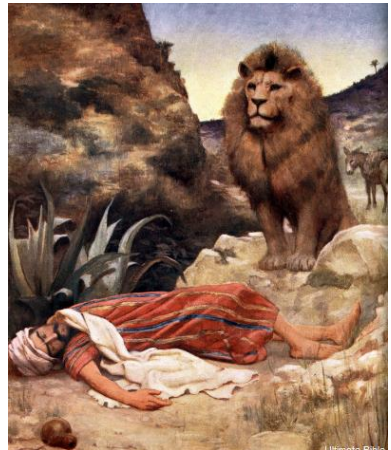
Yes! - Not because he was perfect

and never made a mistake and sinned, but because David in comparison to Saul honestly confessed his faults and sins and honestly repented of them. That made him a man after God's heart, not any perfection.

“And when he had removed Saul, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he (God) testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my own heart, who will do all my will.’ – Acts 13:22

His son Salomon followed on his throne. He was still very young but his heart was at that time still clean and he did not pray for riches and power but for wisdom. That was very pleasing in Gods sight. But he as well was not infallible. In his older age he allowed himself to be led astray through his many foreign wives to worship other gods and displeased God so much so that he also lost the blessing, carried out on his son.

In the two books of the Kings we can read about “sons of the prophets” meaning students of prophets, meaning there were schools to train young men to become prophets. What that also means is that it takes knowledge to become a true prophet of the one and only true God. Beside this training, God himself preferred to then test those prophets, also called “man of God”. Of such a test we read in the book of 1.Kings chapter 13. A young “man of God” received a message from God to deliver it in a certain way to a king. He started out his mission very well, delivered the message doing great in obedience to God. But then on his way home he listened to an older prophet and forsook the word that was told him by God how exactly to complete his mission. The result was, that he was then slain by a lion on his final way home. His message from God however, the prophecy to the king, was still fulfilled (it was not dependent on the faithfulness of the prophet).



The Lord said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book” and to the apostle John who received the revelations: “Write what you see in a book” and to just about all the prophets in between Moses and John he said something as he did to Habakkuk: the Lord answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.” But when the angel Gabriel appeared the first time to Mohammed (pbuh) he was not told to write, but he was told to read. There is today not much known about what Mohammed (pbuh) understood as to what the angel told him to do? If he was to read then that meant that he needed to read something that already had been written. What had already been written? There was the Thora and all that the prophets had said and written down, and there was what is called today the new Testament, the gospels, the life story of Jesus that the angel must have known would satisfy Mohamed’s (pbuh), at that time, seeking soul, something the angel knew would lead him in the straight path of the will of Allah. If he did “read” or let somebody read to him is not really known, but he finally did get messages about Jesus/Isa himself, but the conclusion would be, that if he had read or heard about Jesus, that he would have (by recommendation of the angel), become a Christian, wouldn’t you say that too?

Mohammed understood that the creator of Heaven and Earth is the one and only God and that he is a jealous God and abhors men worshipping and following these false, idolatrous gods, as through them, his enemy, Satan, gets worshiped. Satan, who did not want to bow down his will anymore to his own Creator. God has his plan for the earth, for mankind since the beginning of the world and as we said already it was not his will that man would build a religious state in which the people “have to” worship God. This “good intention” mistake was made about 300 years before Mohammed by believers of Christ. The rulers of Rome became favorable to Christianity and instead of persecuting them, they declared the Roman Empire as the Holy Roman Empire, forcing everybody into a religion, instituted by man. But God wants volunteers, not draftees and not a religious state, as this world was not ruled by Him, because of the choice Adam and Eve made. We are born into a world ruled by Satan. Satan made this plain, when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness. He told Jesus, that if he bowed down to him, to his will, he would give him all this power over all the world, because it had been given to him and he gives it to whomever he wants to. That means that all these men throughout world history who had it in their hearts to conquer and rule the world, bowed to Satan’s will, no matter what good intentions they may have had. King Salomon was so devoted to God at first, but he was led astray through his foreign wives and he even wrote a book toward the end of his life about a plan of world conquest that is still used by men today with the intention, of finally bringing this plan to pass, a global world ruled by one man. The Bible foretells of him and calls him “the beast” or the Anti-Christ and we find him and his intentions also in the Koran. Such a one-world-government can only be accomplished through a dictatorship. But as crafty as Satan is, he gets people nowadays to follow him by their own will, without having to be forced. All he has to do is create such terrible world situations that the people will cry for a savior, a superman that can solve all the worlds problems and finally bring world peace and justice to all mankind.

But back to the prophets, they were God’s vessels that He used to pour out His Word to mankind, yes, but with clay feet, human characteristics that missed Gods will at times.

We can look down now with self-righteous disdain and contempt on all these weak men, that failed, that made terrible mistakes and had many sins and we can sneer and scorn and make derisive remarks or confess that we too make mistakes in our lives and can’t attain to perfection.

Weather we are a prophet or not, each believer should know one important fact and that is, that God always speaks first then the enemy comes to see if he can get you to doubt God. We can take again the story of Adam and Eve to prove this. God had told them what they could eat in the Garden of Eden and what they couldn’t eat. He commanded them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil lest they would die. After God had told them this Satan came along and told them, that it was not so, that they would not die, “for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Satan came and made God to be a liar, that it was not true, that they would not die. Did Adam and Eve die? No, not on the spot! They even lived still for a long, long time. But they were cast out of the presence of God – they died spiritually. That is why it is so hard for so many people to believe that there is a God at all, because they are spiritually dead. But we can take this as typical Satan, God says something and then comes the Devil, or Satan to discredit God and say that God is the liar that he actually is. He loves to

accuse not just God but us men especially of the things that he is guilty of. Knowing this, whenever we now read or hear something, we need to check on it what God had said first. Because God/Allah is the truth and righteous and does not contradict himself saying something first and afterwards the contrary. "God is not man (not like humans), that he should lie, or a son of man (like us humans), that he should change his mind." – Numbers 23:19

Let's get back here to Jesus' claiming to be one with God and his declaration that he is the way, the truth, and the life and that no one will come to God except through him. If somebody claims something like this, how can you really still look up to him and refer to him as a Prophet and a great moral teacher, if you don't believe he really is the son of God and the only way to Paradise or Heaven? Wouldn't you rather say of such a person that he got lifted up in his pride a bit too much, was conceited, went nuts, was a lunatic, a mad man or something worse, but you would never refer to him as a prophet and a great moral teacher, would you? Stop for a moment and think about this! Jesus did not give us any other choice but to believe in him as the son of God or you will have to throw him in the garbage bin as a crazy person! If he is not God in flesh you would not add him to the rest of the honorable prophets, would you? Yes, Jesus did prophecy things that came true like about the Temple that, "the days will come when there will not be left one stone upon another that will not be thrown down" - and it happened some 40 years later – but can you still talk about him in admiration as a prophet but not believe that he is the son of God, the way to Heaven?

Not one of the great recognized religious leaders--not Moses, not Buddha, not Confucius, not Mohammed--ever claimed to be God. True, some have been deified by their followers after they died, but none ever personally claimed to be Deity.--That is, with the exception of Jesus Christ. In fact, He not only claimed to be the Son of God, God manifest in human flesh, but He convinced a great portion of the World that He in fact is God's Son.

This is probably the greatest difference between Jesus and all of the other great philosophers, teachers, prophets and gurus throughout the ages. Although many of them spoke and taught about love and about God, Jesus claimed that He was Love, that He was God's Love for the World.--Thus He really knew what He was talking about! Either He was right, or He was terribly wrong.--Either He was good, and spoke the truth, or He was evil, a deceiver and a liar (one you would not call in admiration a prophet)!

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What is the Nature and Character of God/Allah and that of the Enemy Satan?

What not everybody seems to know is that the Bible says that God is Love, but I think just about everybody has heard that Allah is gracious and merciful. But thinking about it, it takes a lot of Love to be gracious and merciful, so in this God and Allah are the same, comprised of love, grace and mercy. He is the creator of all things, including the angels. One of the angels that obtained a very high position is Lucifer also called Satan or the Devil. He was practically the right hand of God, because in him was all the knowledge of God contained.

The word Lucifer comes from the word Luz-light and light is symbolic for knowledge. Having in himself all the knowledge of God/Allah however made him so proud, that he got convinced that he should be God. But what is knowledge without wisdom (a characteristic of the Holy Spirit)? Without wisdom men invents things and does things that hurt themselves and the environment of the earth. Is therefore God/Allah the creator then Lucifer or Satan is the destroyer. Through his pride he fell and became the exact opposite of all that God/Allah is.

Based on the Bible we can make a list of the most important characteristics of God that I expect that Allah has the same characteristics:

God/Allah is:	Satan is:
The creator that gives life and loves all of his creation	The destroyer that takes life and hates all of God's creation and seeks to destroy all mankind
Love	Hate
Merciful and gracious	Merciless, hardhearted and cruel
Patiente	Impatient, without selfcontrol
Forgiving, holding no resentment	Unforgiving, holds resentment or grudges
Peace- inside and outer	Unrest, war, destruction,
Joy	Gloom, dumps, discouragement, depression
Thankfulness	Murmuring, dissatisfaction
Kindness	Spreading hate, ugly words and deeds
Gentness, meekness	Pride, arrogant, conceited, self-righteous
Praise and appreciation	Running down and criticizing
Tranquility and calmness	Noise, impulsive, rash, negligent reckless
Singing and music that lifts the soul	Song and music that pulls down, unmelodic noise, causes to become rebellious and hateful or indifferent and apathetic
Gives all of his creation the free choice to choose whether to love and obey him or not.	No choice but force. We are born into this world where Satan rules and he will fight to keep you in his prison or he will kill you so he doesn't lose you to the God of Love!

We could continue this list, but this will give you an idea of how God/Allah is and how his counterfeit is. We weak humans walk through life in a zigzag sometimes being more on one side and at other times more on the other side. But shouldn't we want to be like the God that we worship as much as possible? In times past people would ask others that behave badly in what kind of spirit they are in. But in our modern times, where God no longer plays a great role in the lives of most people, this saying is not heard so much anymore. But when people act or talk in a negative way aren't they acting in Satan's spirit and shouldn't we have this in mind in the way we talk and with our actions and behavior.



From God comes:
Love,
Joy,
Peace,
Patience,
Kindness,
Goodness,
Faithfulness,
Gentleness,
Self-control – the Bible, Galatians 5:22.23

We may have been born into the darkness of hate and greed, but we can be born again through God's spirit into the light of love and true freedom! - "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." - John 8:36

Jesus is a wonderful sample for us to follow. He went about doing good and showing love to all people. He healed their broken bodies as well as their souls when he set many people free from demons and bad spirits. And he was finally willing, to go all the way for us in dying for us, so we can be free for all eternity. He was accused of blasphemy but he truly was the son of God and savior of all mankind – not just for a few privileged people, that would not fit to a righteous God – but wants to be reunited with all his creation, and only that fits a righteous God that is Love and Mercy, right?

The reason why Christmas and Easter are such happy and merry occasions for Christians is because Jesus not only died for us but also was raised by the father back to life and therefore all those who believe in him will be resurrected too and live with both of them together in their heavenly kingdom. That's why they say "Merry" Christmas and "Happy" Easter! – This is Love!

After Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden, God put Cherubim (great and mighty angels created for a special purpose) on the entrance to protect it, so nobody could go back in. But through Jesus' death and resurrection these Cherubim are no longer there, we have free entrance back to Paradise, maybe not yet fully in this world but already in our hearts be free of sin and the curse that we inherited from Adam and Eve's sin. Forgiven from sin and made free from the curse means for woman that no longer, "...your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you". Does this not give us an occasion to sing and shout for joy?

Jesus tells his followers: "Whoever has my commandments (to love God and your fellowman) and keeps them, he it is 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

And in Verse 23 of this chapter Jesus promises: “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.” – What does that mean, make our home with him? Does God want to live with you in a place made of stones and mortar? For sure not, as God is a spirit. We find the answer in the Bible in revelation 3:20 where Jesus tells us: Behold, I stand at the door and knock (the door of your heart). If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat (have fellowship) with him, and he with me.”

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” – John 3:16-17 God loves the world – that includes you too right? So you can read this also by putting your name instead of the word "world": Because God loves me... so much that he gave the dearest one he had for me. And if I believe in Jesus I will not be lost, not in this world nor in the next! “Please dear Jesus help me to learn to know you and learn to love you. I wish for you to come into my heart and live with me there forever. I am very grateful that you died for me and want to ask you to please forgive me my sins and give me your free gift of eternal life. Thank you for such love for me and that you hear my prayers, thank you dearly Jesus!”

Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, let me sow pardon;
where there is doubt, let me sow faith;
where there is despair, let me sow hope;
where there is darkness, let me sow light;
where there is sadness, let me sow joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Oh Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

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As Allah means God, verses from the Bible can then also be read likewise: **“Anyone who does not love does not know Allah, because Allah is love. So we have come to know and to believe the love that Allah has for us. Allah is love, and whoever abides in love abides in Allah, and Allah abides in him.** – 1.John 4:8,16

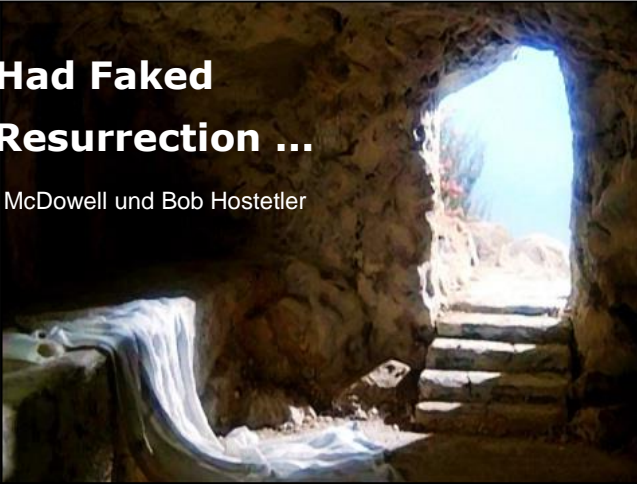
Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” - Isaiah 41.10

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.” - Isaiah 43:1-2

Here is one more article by a former atheist that will strengthen your faith:

If I Had Faked the Resurrection ...

By Josh McDowell und Bob Hostetler



"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins...If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men" – 1. Corinthians 15:17,19.

I set out as a young man to debunk Christianity. I met a young Christian woman who challenged me to intellectually examine the evidence for Christianity, and I accepted her challenge. I aimed to show her—and everyone—that Christianity was nonsense. I thought it would be easy. I thought a careful investigation of the facts would expose Christianity as a lie and its followers as dupes.

But then a funny thing happened. As I began investigating the claims of Christianity, I kept running up against the evidence. Time after time, I was surprised to discover the factual basis for the seemingly outlandish things Christians believe. And one of the most convincing categories of evidence I confronted was this: The resurrection accounts found in the Gospels are not the stuff of fable, forgery or fabrication.

I had assumed that someone, or several someones, had invented the stories of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. But as I examined those accounts, I had to face the fact that any sensible mythmaker would do things much differently from the way Matthew, Mark, Luke and John did in recording the news of the resurrection. As much as I hated to, I had to admit that if I had been some first-century propagandist trying to fake the resurrection of Jesus Christ, I would have done a number of things differently:

I would wait a prudent period after the events before "publishing" my account. Few historians dispute the fact that the disciples of Jesus began preaching the news of His resurrection soon after the event itself; in fact, Peter's Pentecost sermon (Acts 2) occurred within 50 days of the Resurrection. And textual research indicates that the written accounts of the Resurrection, especially the creedal statement of 1. Corinthians 15:3-8, are astoundingly early in origin, possibly within two years of the event. Such early origins argue against any notion that the Resurrection accounts are legendary.

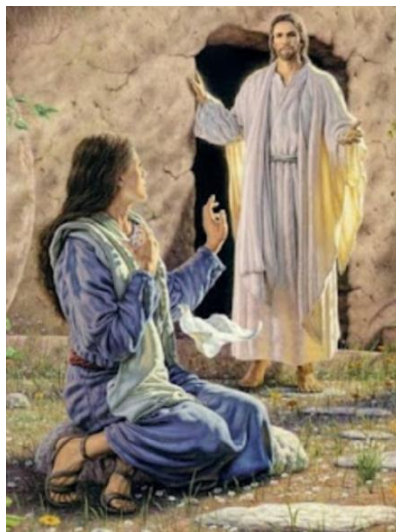
I would publish my account far from the venue where it supposedly happened.

Dr. William Lane Craig writes, "One of the most amazing facts about the early Christian belief in Jesus' resurrection was that it originated in the very city where Jesus was crucified. The Christian faith did not come to exist in some distant city, far from eyewitnesses who knew of Jesus' death and burial. No, it came into being in the very city where Jesus had been publicly crucified, under the very eyes of its enemies."

I would select my "witnesses" very carefully.

I would avoid, as much as possible, using any names at all in my account, and I would certainly avoid citing prominent personalities as witnesses. Yet at least 16 individuals are mentioned by name as witnesses in the various accounts, and the mention of Joseph of Arimathea as the man who buried Jesus would have been terribly dangerous if the gospel accounts had been faked or embellished. As a member of the Sanhedrin, a Jewish "Supreme Court," he would have been well-known. J. P. Moreland writes, "No one could have invented such a person who did not exist and say he was on the Sanhedrin if such were not the case."

His involvement in the burial of Jesus could have been easily confirmed or refuted. Perhaps most important, I would avoid citing disreputable witnesses, which makes significant the record of Jesus' first appearances-to women-since in that time and culture women were considered invalid witnesses in a court of law. If the accounts were fabrications, the women would never have been included in the story, at least not as first witnesses.



I would surround the event with impressive supernatural displays and omens.



As Jewish scholar Pinchas Lapide writes, "We do not read in the first testimonies [of the Resurrection] of an apocalyptic spectacle, exorbitant sensations, or of the transforming impact of a cosmic event. . . . According to all New Testament reports, no human eye saw the resurrection itself, no human being was present, and none of the disciples asserted to have apprehended, let alone understood, its manner and nature. How easy it would have been for them or their immediate successors to supplement this scandalous hole in the concatenation of events by fanciful embellishments! But precisely because none of the evangelists dared to 'improve upon' or embellish this unseen resurrection, the total picture of the gospels also gains in trustworthiness."

I would painstakingly correlate my account with others I knew, embellishing the legend only where I could be confident of not being contradicted.

Many critics have pointed out the befuddling differences and apparent contradictions in the Resurrection accounts. But these are actually convincing evidences of their authenticity; they display an ingenuous lack of collusion, agreeing and (apparently) diverging much as eyewitness accounts of any event do.

I would portray myself and any co-conspirators sympathetically, even heroically.

Yet the Gospel writers present strikingly unflattering portraits of Jesus' followers (such as Peter and Thomas) and their often skeptical reactions (Mark 16:11, 13; Luke 24:11, 37; John 20:19, 25, 21:4). Such portrayals are very unlike the popular myths and legends of that (or any) time.

I would disguise the location of the tomb or spectacularly destroy it in my account.

If I were creating a resurrection legend, I would keep the tomb's location a secret to prevent any chance that someone might discover Jesus' body, or I would record in my account that the angels sealed it or carried it off into heaven after the Resurrection. Or I might have taken the easiest course of all and simply made my fictional resurrection a "spiritual" one, which would have made it impossible to refute even if a body were eventually discovered. But, of course, the Gospel accounts describe the owner of the tomb (Joseph of Arimathea) and its location ("At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb," John 19:41), and identify Jesus' resurrection as a bodily one (John 20:27).

I would try to squelch inquiry or investigation.

I might pronounce a curse on anyone attempting to substantiate my claims, or attach a stigma to anyone so shallow as to require evidence. Yet note the frequent appeal of Jesus' disciples, to the easily confirmed-or discredited-nature of the evidence, as though inviting investigation (Acts 2:32, 3:15, 13:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6). This was done within a few years of the events themselves; if the tomb were not empty or the Resurrection appearances were fiction, the early Christians' opponents could have conclusively debunked the new religion.

As Dr. Edwin Yamauchi says of the citation of the resurrected Christ appearing to more than 500 people in 1 Corinthians 15, "What gives special authority to the list [of witnesses] as historical evidence is the reference to most of the five hundred brethren being still alive. St. Paul says in effect, 'If you do not believe me, you can ask them.' "

I would not preach a message of repentance in light of the Resurrection.

No one in his right mind would have chosen to create a fictional message that would invite opposition and persecution from both civil and religious authorities of those days. How much easier and wiser it would have been to preach a less controversial gospel—concentrating on Jesus' teachings about love, perhaps—thus saving myself and the adherents of my new religion a lot of trouble.

I would stop short of dying for my lie.

Lee Strobel has written, "People will die for their religious beliefs if they sincerely believe they're true, but people won't die for their religious beliefs if they know their beliefs are false.

"While most people can only have faith that their beliefs are true, the disciples were in a position to know without a doubt whether or not Jesus had risen from the dead. They claimed that they saw him, talked with him, and ate with him. If they weren't absolutely certain, they wouldn't have allowed themselves to be tortured to death for proclaiming that the resurrection had happened."

These are not the only reasons I believe in the truth of the Bible and the reality of the Resurrection. But these were among the "many convincing proofs" (Acts 1:3) that I encountered in my attempts to prove Christianity wrong, which eventually led me to the conclusion that Jesus Christ was who He claimed to be and that He really did rise from the dead. It didn't happen immediately, but eventually I gave in to the truth, and on Dec. 19, 1959, the Risen Christ radically changed my life. I've seen Him do the same for countless others, and I pray, if you haven't done so already, you will let Him do the same for you.

- - -



"Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to Heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of Heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."
— N.T. Wright,

Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (Let your name be kept holy, or Let your name be treated with reverence)
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen!"

- - -

In summary of all this,

one more thought, if we believe in a Creator of heaven and earth and have the desire to worship Him, can that really be through a religion? Or another way asked, if He exists shouldn't our conduct to him rather be a relationship then a "religion"?

The creator, whether we call Him God or Allah, is a spirit, so if we want to worship him, does He not expect us to solely worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, as Jesus also taught? In the gospel of John 4 Jesus talked to a woman who wanted to know where the correct place is, to worship God. But Jesus answered her: "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father... But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." In other words, if you worship God, if you pray, you close your eyes to shut out the world around you and concentrate your mind and thoughts on God/Allah. You speak from your heart to His heart, are "in tune" with God. If you believe in his existence and that He is spirit then you can expect Him to be all around you. Not somewhere far off sitting on a distant throne, where you are not even sure if he notices you, but He is right there by your side and all around you. And if you talk to Him in a sincere way can you then not also expect Him to answer you there deep in the stillness of your heart? Being in this way in tune with the creator, why does it matter then anymore what you wear, what the position of your body is or where you are? You are "one" with God, one with Him in the sphere of the spirit.

Sure, by bowing down before Him you emphasize your deep respect and admiration, worship and love for Him. And there are times, when you want to show God how desperately you are for something and you fast and/or you may lean kneeling forward with your arms stretched out toward Heaven, kind of in a beggar position, because this is what you become in such a situation, a humble beggar that pleads for mercy. But it is all "in spirit" and has nothing to do with anything physical.

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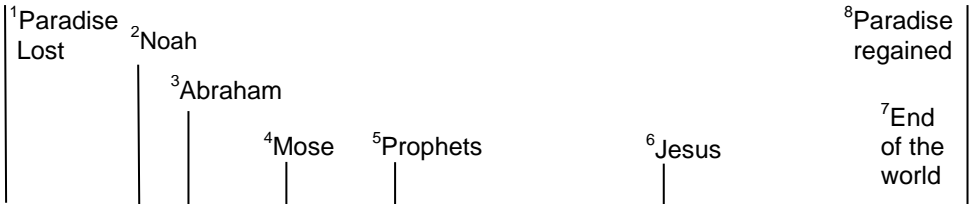
With the creation of earth and mankind God had a plan that was to be fulfilled. His plan was to teach the whole Universe how bad it is to rebel against God/Allah & to disobey Him, and how much better it is, to trust and obey him, instead of his counterfeit Lucifer called Satan or the Devil. For you could never appreciate the light unless you've been in darkness! You can't appreciate health unless you've been sick! You'll never appreciate Joy until you've known Sorrow! You can't appreciate God's Mercy until you've known the Devil's Justice. – And you can't really appreciate Heaven until you go through this hell on Earth!

God also wanted to show the need for fallen mankind for a savior to wash away their sins and be able to come back in fellowship with the creator, back to Heaven.

Throughout the centuries God did not change this plan. Whenever he sent prophets, they were to bring God's message for that time and to keep leading people along this way, this path to Heaven, but never to just create new Religions. Any prophecy, vision or leading that somebody gets, has to be in sync with the given plan and already given Word from God. If the message from the vision or prophecy is not in line, the source of it is then questionable! Man's own will and desires were many times in the way of passing on a clear message from God.

God does not contradict himself, nor did he ever change his mind-or He would not be a righteous God that you can fully trust and rely on! - No contradiction, no fundamental change in this plan: For I am the LORD, I change not; - Maleachi 3:6

The course of history of this world and the plan God had for it:



- - - God/Allah's Plan, the Straight path (Tarika) to Heaven - - -

Faith in God – like Abraham/Ibrahim had

(Contract called Old Testament between God and Abraham and his descendants)

Faith in Jesus: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me!"

(Contract called New Testament between God and all mankind--signed with the blood of Jesus)

(God does not contradict himself, nor did he ever change his mind! - No contradiction, no fundamental change in this plan)

⁹Roman Catholic Church

¹⁰Mohamed founds an Islamic State

- ¹ Paradise lost through Adam and Eve's sin
- ² Noah was saved through faith and obedience to God
- ³ Abraham was made righteous through his faith
- ⁴ Moses leads God's people: The goal of the Law and the ⁵Prophets was to produce a just and God worshipping society.
- ⁶ Jesus, the face of God to show mankind how much God loves them to even die for them, so they can be saved and restored to God/Allah. Through Jesus blood, shed on the cross, God signs the "New" contract between God and men – a contract that he will never break or change ever!
- ⁷ The messiah comes back and ends the rule of man
- ⁸ Paradise on Earth following the end of this world-the end of man's rule on Earth
- ⁹ Established by rulers of Rome with the goal of a just and God worshipping society in spite of Jesus words: "My kingdom is not of this world!"
- ¹⁰ Mohammed's desire for a just nation to worship the only one and true God.
- ^{9 and 10} The Hope, that if doing good in this life, one will gain entrance to Heaven contradicts Gods laid down plan of salvation!

The word Christ is the Greek word for Messiah, the anointed. Christians are followers of Christ, followers of Jesus the anointed one.

A true Christian stands on these 7 pillars and is:

1. On a pilgrimage all his life, "he confesses to be a stranger and pilgrim on the earth and desires a better country, that is, an heavenly one." – Hebrews 11
2. "Completely and with his whole heart surrendered to the Will of God!" He professes that there is only one God-a God not seen as a person but who is Spirit, meaning power, energy in which is creativity, wisdom, understanding, comfort, intercession, counsel, forgiveness-it is the God of father Abraham, Isaak and Jacob, the God whose power is composed of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three yet they combine into the one and only true God.
3. A true Christian is to "pray without ceasing" – 1.Thessalonichen 5:17 that means, God is always in the Christian's mind, asking him for leading and guidance in his daily life, giving thanks and glory to God first thing in the morning, all throughout the day and at the end of the day, going to sleep with God on his mind.
4. A Christian not only believes in love but acts in love, be it in his speech, his interaction with others, as well as in well doing toward those who need his help. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13
5. At special times a Christian fasts in order to fight greater spiritual battles to get a certain purpose accomplished be it a fast for physical health or a fast to get prayers answered.
6. When a Christian prays and gives thanks and glory to God he faces in the direction of Heaven and he directs his mind on heaven\ and he is focused on God in the spiritual world.
7. A true Christians is not only a sample of Love but shares his faith and is "always prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." – 1Peter 3:15

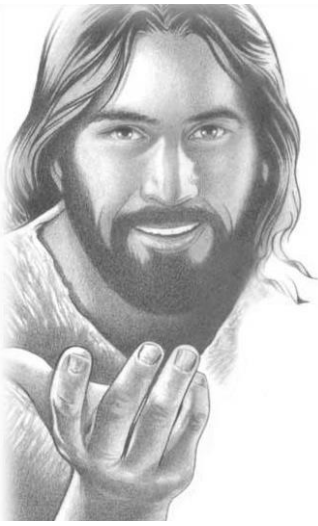
O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens. We will praise You with all our hearts; we will tell of all Your wonders. We will be glad and rejoice in You; we will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

O Lord, You are our God. We will exalt You and praise Your name, for in perfect faithfulness You have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come! You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being. You were slain, and with Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve You, and we will reign on the earth.

– Praise prayers from the Bible



Jesus:

Born without the sinful nature of Adam
He lived a holy life without sin
Allah gave him power over life and death
Jesus walked on the straight way to Allah
Jesus is now with Allah!

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”—Hebrews 1:3

If God showed and has so much love for each one of us, should we not yield our whole heart to Him in gratitude and obedience? Should we not worship and bow before Him, the creator of Heaven and Earth? Because of unbelief this world is getting more cold and cruel all the time. But by receiving Gods Holy Spirit of Love, through Jesus' precious name, you can make a difference. No matter how the world is you can be warm, loving, kind, tender and patient and you can share God's Love--Jesus--with others!

– See you
in God's Kingdom
of Love!



God Still Speaks Today!

God did not stop speaking centuries ago but he still speaks to his children today to those who are yielded and obedient and in tune with him. In the old times, God only poured out his spirit to speak through prophets or Kings, but promised through the Prophet Joel, that, “afterward (some hundreds of years later), I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” – Joel 2:28-29 The Prophet Isaiah also received such a promise, “I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing will be on your descendants.” – Isaiah 44:3

These prophecies started to be fulfilled in people like John, called the Baptist. An angel foretold to his father Zacharias of John’s birth and that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother’s womb. Elisabeth, John’s mother was filled with the Holy Spirit as well as his father and they prophesied. Then two more people prophesied about the baby Jesus in the Temple. You can read these interesting accounts in the Gospel of Luke, chapters 1 and 2.

Then there was a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day that we today call the Pentecost; an outpouring on 120 people of Jesus followers that gave them the boldness and power to go and tell everyone about Jesus the savior. Before Jesus was arrested and crucified he told his disciples that he would leave them soon, but that he would leave his Holy Spirit with them as a comforter, helper, and advocate. He called this Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth and promised that, “the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”* That means that when Matthew, Mark and John wrote down Jesus’ life story, the gospels, the Holy Spirit brought back all the memories of the events that they partook of with Jesus. *John 14:26; 16:13

The Apostle Paul in his teachings says, “about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.” Because God wants us to know about the Holy Spirit and receive this power, to help us in our daily lives. There are many people gifted with the spirit of prophecy, people that are trustworthy so that the messages they receive are truly from God, sent to these people through his son Jesus. They wrote down what they had received and here you will find some examples of messages that God had given:

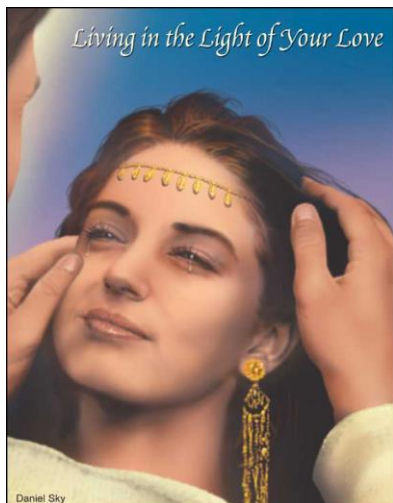
(Jesus speaking:) I remember when I formed you. With great care and special attention I handpicked each talent, each gift, each characteristic, each fiber of your being, until the combination was exactly the right portion—each specification in sync to accomplish My will and My purpose in your life, and in the lives of those you were to touch on the great journey of life.

I remember the moment when I breathed into you the very breath of life. The love welled up so intensely inside of Me, I could not contain it! For I knew the joy you would bring, not only to Me, but to those who would cross your path along the road of life.

I love you from everlasting to everlasting, and in you I am well pleased.

* * *

Living in the Light of Your Love



Daniel Sky

I love you as if you were the only one. My love is reaching out to you right now. My love, My forgiveness, and My mercy are all right there, just for you, if you will only receive them.

I love you just the way you are. I am not stacking up all your faults and failures and mistakes to hold against you. I see only the good, and I see possibilities that others do not see.

I see your every tear. I hear your every cry. I feel your every frustration, your every worry, your every burden, your every desire. I know everything about you—all your wants, all your lacks. I see straight through to your heart of hearts and all that is in it, and I deeply love you.

I long to hold you close, here on My gentle breast. I am right there by your side, and I will never, ever forsake you.

I love you, just you, and here I patiently wait—for you! Won't you please come running into My arms, where we can live and love and revel in this love forever, eternally, immortally, without end? I'm yours. —Jesus

* * *

You are special. You're not just one in a crowd—you're special to Me! I know your every thought. I know you personally, and I am speaking to you personally now. Ask Me to speak to you whenever you want, when you're up or when you're down, or even when you just want some good company. I'm happy to speak to you on any subject, whenever you need it.

Tell Me your problems and I will give you sweet assurance, guidance, and answers. Unload on Me. I can handle any burden you place on My shoulders. I will take careful note of each concern and tenderly handle it. Be specific so I can answer you specifically. I will give you all you need, and more. Best of all, we will enjoy sweet friendship as we spend time together.

You can come to Me anytime, wherever you happen to be. You don't have to worry that I'll be too busy or that I won't want to be with you. I always want to spend time with you. I love to spend time with you, and I'd love to spend more time with you. Whenever you take a moment with Me, I'll make things better. If we could, I'd stay in this quiet place with you day and night forever!—Jesus



Now to our King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen!
— Praise prayers from the Bible

The Power of the Word of God!

In the very beginning God only had to say a word and it was done. There was incredible creative power in God's word!

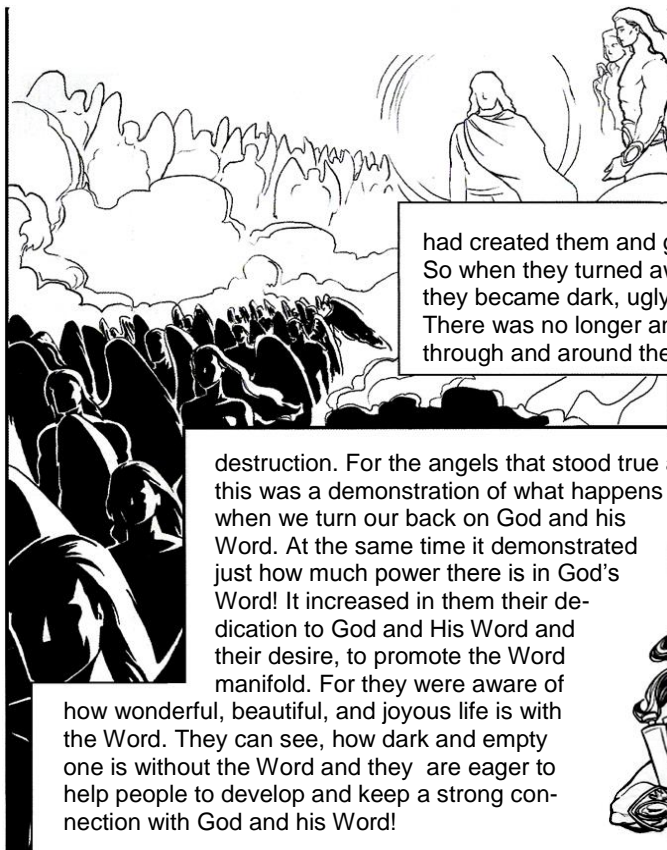
All the angels watched and witnessed this power as he created the Earth and put life on Earth, and created man. If you think about this, you can only say with awe "phenomenal!"

God created man after the image of God and that means with a free will. God did not want preprogrammed beings that automatically worshiped and obeyed him. In the same way were the angels also created, we have the sample of Lucifer, who made the choice to rebel against God because in his pride he wanted to be God himself.



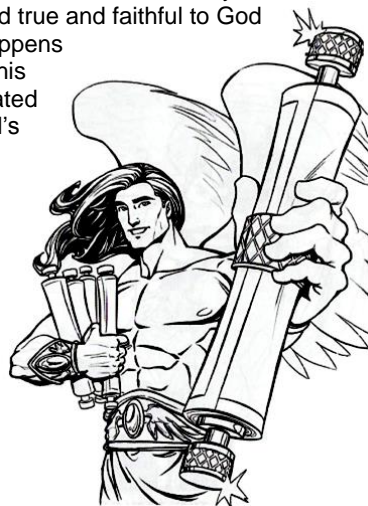
This was another event that demonstrated God's power, when Lucifer turned his back on

God and His Word and pulled one third of the angels with him through his deceit and pride. When Satan/Lucifer and his followers forsook the word of God and turned away, it was as if they were de-created. God had created them and given them His light and life. So when they turned away from the light of God, they became dark, ugly, putrid, and decaying. There was no longer any life-giving force pulsating through and around them. To be away from God, away from His word, meant spiritual darkness, decay and



destruction. For the angels that stood true and faithful to God this was a demonstration of what happens when we turn our back on God and his Word. At the same time it demonstrated just how much power there is in God's Word! It increased in them their dedication to God and His Word and their desire, to promote the Word manifold. For they were aware of

how wonderful, beautiful, and joyous life is with the Word. They can see, how dark and empty one is without the Word and they are eager to help people to develop and keep a strong connection with God and his Word!



**Your Word, oh Lord, is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. – Psalm 119:105**