

BEYOND WORLD RELIGIONS



Dry Bones, Live!
The Tree of Life & Eternity DNA



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What Everyone Knows

Since the beginning of time every heart has felt it...

The world is broken. I am broken. Something's missing. Our human-mammal DNA is somehow incomplete. We feel it. Tragedies, instincts, instability, emotions. Failures, or fleeting and unfulfilling success. Thrilling relationships, followed by devastating brokenness and disappointment. How can I cover it all up, escape it, fix it? Vices, distractions, religion, superstition, fantasies, despair. What is the meaning of it all?

All 100 billion of us, since the Beginning of this construct known as "time" and matter, have encountered and witnessed, and felt it. Personal upheaval and civil unrest, again and again, and again.

We'll recognize the pattern... if we're courageous enough to pay attention to ourselves, and humble enough to feel the stories of our fellow passengers, our companions for the short journey here on earth.

Sometimes in a lucid moment we acknowledge...

We Are All Waiting for the Same Someone

World Religions, Christianity and Islam and Hinduism and Judaism, and the rest, all speak to...

this mutual and deep inexplicable longing,
the God-shaped vacuum, Eternity in our hearts,
all Creation itself groaning
for the manifestation of a Deliverer.

Around the world throughout the ages, folktales, bedtime stories, myths, legends, parables, prophecies, sacred writings, ancient epics, poems, and songs tell of a world we cannot see with our eyes, tell of a Kingdom just beyond the horizon, tell of something lost that might be found again.

The names change. The lands change. The storylines change. But there is an underlying theme and longing underneath them all that is both similar and familiar.

That this world is not all there is.

That something has gone terribly wrong.

That we are not too far gone.

And that someone, someday, somehow will come to bring us Home.

But... HOW could that Deliverer possibly heal my life, my family and Family, and this fallen world? But surely we really are too far gone? How DOES a Deliverer fix such a thing?!

He came and Opened the Door for exactly that, with an “off the charts” nearly inexplicably amazing Solution.

He would not, did not, sanitize the Storyline or the Ancestral line, to show us all something very profound:

A Way not dependent on behavior.

That is, IF...

Let's set the stage for the greatest and most hopeful phenomenon in our complicated human history.

It is no wonder, "*Angels long to look into these things.*"

The God-Shaped Vacuum

Those stories are the echoes of another dimension, echoes of eternity.

We are seeing something in our spirit that we can't see with our eyes. We are feeling something in our soul that we can't touch with our hands.

Scientists tell us that 99.999% of the universe can't be seen by humans. The observable frequencies are but the tiniest fraction of the 5% of ordinary matter, and the 27% dark matter, and the 68% dark unobservable energy. We only know they are even there by effects on what we can see and feel and hear and experience.

Does that surprise you? Or, in your heart—don't you already know this?

Everybody has an inner sense of Truth, if we are fully honest with ourselves. But if our gaze gets stuck on what our eyes can manage, we will miss the world for which we were born. The shadow of a reality can distract us, and feel “safer” to us, if we allow it. But that doesn't change the reality.

The Call is to look deeper to find the Source. Past the seen world, to the Unseen.

Mammals, humans with a conscience, sapience, rationality, moral agency, reflective self-awareness, transcendent Imago Dei, have always known a “God-shaped vacuum” in their hearts. (Blaise Pascal, French mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher, pioneer in probability theory and fluid mechanics, Paris 1657, paraphrase)

We're all crying out on the inside, often in the dark hours of the night when there is nothing left to distract. We are needing something More, that we can't even quite identify.

The call of God to every human soul is: You were born for more than this!

And, amazing news. There is a solution. Wait for it... It is BRILLIANT!

But first,

World Religion, or a KINGdom? As it turns out, it's a Choice.

In Sunni Islam, the Qur'an calls Jesus "*the Messiah*," "*the Beloved one*," and looks for his return.

Twelver Shia Islam expects Jesus to return.

Judaism anticipates the appearance of Messiah.

Jesus Followers in Christianity cry, "*Maranatha! Lord, come quickly!*"

Zoroastrianism, a monotheistic ancient religion, anticipates the future savior to defeat evil, raise the dead, and re-New the world.

Hinduism's Kalki, Buddhism's Maitreya, and the Bahá'í Faith all anticipate, in their own words, as well.

Across cultures and millennia, humanity has looked at the world and known it is not as it should be, has known we are not as we should be—and has longed for Someone who will come and make it all right.

- A King
- A Hero
- A Rescuer, a Lifeguard
- A First Responder
- A Mighty Warrior
- A Deliverer
- A Savior
- A Helper
- A Wise Counselor
- A Lover
- A Father



Couldn't this similar heart-cry found in every human be indicative of a singular Source, and therefore of a singular SOLUTION? And if so, then why all the religious "options"? Why all the supposedly different "paths" or "roads" up the mountain?

What if this singular SomeOne can draw us, like a candle wick, into another Realm entirely, with “ever-increasing glory”? What if even our puny prideful mammal flesh can be Re-Born? Not just religiously indoctrinated with benefits, but literally born a second time, “*of water and the Spirit*” into another dimension. A shared “DNA” with his and her Creator. “What if?!”

And here’s where we say, as did Jesus and his trumpeters, “*YES! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*” And the Good News is that the Solution shows no partiality. Every nation, troop, swarm, family, ethnicity, religion, race, and tribe throughout all time is invited to a party.

The Man, The Plan

Those who look deep into their own hearts, and through the glass to Him, rather than their own reflection, will find Him. He's not far away from us. He is... an amazing poetic, and yet fearsome, Someone.

He is the Answer to this Reality-crave. Follow the call to something Other, Someone.

Many worldwide—in every walk of life, social stratum, tongue, and tribe—crave to have this Blessed One, this Messiah, deliver them. But how? Utopia in our lives? No, not that. Not exactly.

We just know in our world family, we need to be delivered. We need to be cared for, nurtured, and filled. We don't need stuff. We don't need power or pleasure. We have tried all of that, or others have proven it for us. It doesn't satisfy. Sugar highs can't last.

We need a king, a benevolent wise king. We know inside that our big-britches childish act, "*I can do it myself!*" is a ruse and a pose.

We need some help to not destroy ourselves. The entire creation cries out for this.

We're educated or aware enough now to be sure of this, scientifically, socially, and in our bones. We need help that is not more of the same human laws and rules and power-grabs and money-grabs that religions and politics and governments are famous for.

It will come down to the "price of admission" to join Together-in-Heaven DNA, Eternity DNA. It's a Kingdom—instead of our entropic religions and science and social structures.

Many, regardless of generation or world culture... don't want a King, a God, a Lord over them. Isn't that really why Darwinian origins with missing links, and Big Bang explanations with very conflicting "proofs" are so easy to accept?

Accountability to a Creator is a tough one for many, even if the other way has never worked out, for anyone. Ever. Even if it seemed so, from the outside. In various ways, Jesus spoke often of humans' dislike of having "*a king over us.*"

A feigned god-complex, a "*little man complex,*" is very common to man. Our mammal flesh has a distaste for subordination. Most prefer that Tree in the Garden where "*they get to decide themselves*" what is good and evil. "My truth" is all they want. Fine, that's everyone's right. But maybe it's better to consider the destination you're pointed towards—before driving your vehicle very far?

Are you not uncomfortable with the "dissonance" in your life, and in the world? We are. The destruction of peace and love so obvious on the news, in the marketplace, in the workplace, in biological families all around you, does it have to be so?

SOME have this feeling that they were designed for far more.

A car sitting in a garage, waiting to be waxed and polished, again and again, is not the designer's plan for a Lamborghini or Ferrari. It was designed to ROAR. To move. To feel the wind. So are we. And we know it.

How World Religions Were Invented

On a cultural level, it's not obvious, but then again, it is. The numerous world religions are pretty much the same—even if different colors and cultures.

We predictably, in every millennium and culture, construct systems around our underlying human condition.

- Hindu
- Muslim
- Jewish
- Institutional Christian
- Atheist
- Bored (religionless is a belief system too)
- Buddhist

At least 7 billion humans out of 8 billion of us are...

Most of those billions didn't "find" anything.

We were born into something. A family. A culture. A country code. A postal code. A generation. We were handed somebody else's words for God, somebody else's explanations for life and death, somebody else's rituals—or somebody else's reasons for believing there is no God at all. Or, perhaps, bitterness or judgment or pleasure-seeking took us towards or away from whatever we had been inundated with.

And most of us, at least for a while, weigh our options and the costs of ignoring or rebelling against what has been served up to us, and generally just go along with it. And, of course, in our guts we know our "God-shaped vacuum" needs to be filled. So we go with it.

Why wouldn't we? The answer key is pre-printed, and already provided. The people we love are part of it all. Everybody around us seems to know how to dress up, attend, stand, sit, pray, sing, light a candle—or stay home and stream it, or laugh at people who do.

“They’re all hypocrites anyway.” Are they? It turns out in Messiah’s realm, a hypocrite is the one in denial, the accuser, not the one who knows his or her need and admits it. The last shall be first. Only those who admit they are sick get a house call from the Great Physician. Everything is flip-flopped in the Deliverer’s realm.

But when we simply “inherit” a way of dealing with the God-shaped vacuum, before we’re old enough to even know we have one, it can dull our sense of need and delay our recognition of our need for Healing. The music and instruction, or the rituals and symbolism are pretty motivational, after all.

And there is something in fallen human nature that finds that arrangement pretty convenient. If the inherited answers can quiet the ache enough, why look any deeper? Now I can get back to my “real” life (my vapor life). Why risk discovering that Reality might ask something of me?

Religion is what fallen humans repeatedly do with glimpses of Reality—when they want the benefits of God without surrendering the throne of their life. We look for ways to satisfy, satiate and pacify, placate the inner itch that we just can’t scratch otherwise. We hunger for an outlet for this inner craving for Reality... But what if I find Someone on the other side of my longing who actually has a claim on me? A King over me? A God? A Lord? Something and SomeOne SO different that every culture, ancient and now, knows He knows something—and IS something we were meant to Become.

Our fallen mammal nature isn't so sure about that "king over me" and "*lose my life to find it*" thing. While that has nothing to do with earning God's favor, it's still the admission ticket back into the Garden. The Tree of Life, the DNA-change He offers to "whosoever will" is worth it! It's worth anything.

Like our great-great-great... granddaddy Adam, we want to reserve the right to agree or disagree about what is good and evil, "*all by ourselves.*" Seldom is it actually "independent decision-making" as we pride ourselves on, anyway. It's really popularity, pesos, power, and temporary "happiness" influencing us more than we realize.

And so, some form of locally acceptable religion, we think, gives us 1) control minus "*a king over us,*" AND 2) the binky pacifier coated with dopamine and morphine, "*the opiate of the people.*"



For ages and generations, humans have taken little pieces of the truth, of the reality, and twisted it into superstitious ritual: Magic incense, magic water, and magic candles. Vaulted ceilings, stained glass, and statues. Sacraments, holy days, and symbolism. These are all easy pathways that turn into toll roads. Magic presiding holy men, vicars, and reverends—pretending to be intermediaries who are qualified to stand between God and humans. Speeches and performative, rehearsed choreography placate human flesh while seldom transforming lives. Why have we done that? Because if we are pumped with “good” externals our consciences are blurred by “good” emotion. Generally this is enough of a placebo to allow us to continue being our own gods, *“knowing good and evil.”* The result? God is pushed into our man-made special events, places and days. And we can then add, on our own schedule, “good and evil” lists of things to do, or not do.

While sentient mammals predictably and historically resort to these things, that empty place inside of us leaves a painful appetite until we open our hearts and surrender to God, rather than entertainment, superstition, ritual, vices, or biological or illicit relationships. We “need” to do something with our restless hearts.

And Satan’s been helping people do that all over the world for 6,000 years.

How do you placate a race of mammal humans, so they can be distracted or mistrusting of the need for a Deliverer and Eternity DNA Re-Birth?

You give them power and control, religion and ritual, or pleasures and pastimes. Sometimes all three. Until the cotton candy and drugs have spoiled the appetite for the real.

Our “Ancient Foe” says: Rule something. Worship something. Or keep yourself entertained enough to not think about it.

For those who tried to quiet their own God-shaped vacuum by being “the expert” or by “*doing something to change things*” or by being important to others... Sometimes those men didn’t merely inherit the religious machinery; they helped build it. “*The Stone the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone.*”

It is potentially seductive to act like the medicine man. The priest. The clergy. The guru. The spiritual expert. The “Grand High Poobah” who knows the mysteries, performs the rituals, speaks for God, and has everyone calling him, a mere human, by a forbidden religious spiritual title. That recognition can fill their vacuum for a while too.

Satan knows how to play the human race to give each person just exactly what they need to shut up.

Satan is an expert in bullying, blackmailing, enticing, distracting, and terrorizing humanity into either complacency, or into fully joining the ranks of his minions.

And it is time for us to hold hands around the bully and say, “*Enough! No more!*”

Surrender is a Good Thing, When Every Other Road Is Collapsing

“God is God, and I am not.”

Even the religious systems we build to keep God at a manageable distance cannot completely escape the Truth they are trying to manage, own, control, and bleed power and wealth from.

The echoes remain.

Losing our life to find it makes no sense, but there is no life otherwise in this molecular world. Self must yield. There is an Authority or Reality beyond ourselves, so our little ole individual will must not be the center of the universe. And we know it.

We can recognize that surrender is true, teach surrender, write beautiful things about surrender, turn surrender into doctrine and ritual—and still avoid actually surrendering ourselves to the Living God. Knowing the principle of surrender is not the same thing as surrendering to the King. Reading, quoting, and memorizing a recipe for Duck à l’orange is not the same as eating the feast and it “becoming” part of me. You know this in your inner being. Saying it or “studying” it is not the same as being.

It’s worth paying attention to the fact that this same truth of the need to surrender, rather than fix, keeps surfacing. Again and again, across centuries and cultures, we find some recognition that man is not God.

Islam’s very name is the tell: Islam means submission or surrender, and a Muslim is *“one who submits.”*

Judaism’s Shema is the same confession: *“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.”* You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.

Hinduism in Krishna's words to Arjuna at Bhagavad Gita 18.66, *"abandon all varieties of dharma and surrender unto Me alone, and I shall free you from all sin, do not fear."*

Buddhism describes this same posture as "taking shelter"—the doorway into the path and access to his Mind and Insight.

Tsongkhapa, a Tibetan monk: *"To be attached to one's own happiness is a barrier to the true and perfect path. To cherish others is the source of every admirable quality known."*

Yesu, Jesus: *"Lose your life to find it. Deny your very self. Take up your own death to self, your own cross, and come after me. You must be born again, of water and the Spirit."*

Sikhism contains this same recognizable echo in Hukam, Japji Sahib—"walk in His Hukam," "everyone is subject to Divine Order, no one is beyond it." Dissolving the ego before God's command is the entire aim of the spiritual life.

Do you see the strange tension? Humanity seems unable to completely forget what it was made for. Even inside the religious structures we build, fragments of Reality keep breaking through. Surrender. Yield. Lose yourself. You are not God. There is Something—Someone—above you.

But recognizing a piece of Truth is not the same as possessing the whole of it. And building a religious system around a piece of Truth is certainly not the same as surrendering to the One from whom that Truth came.

These common threads of Truth in ancient religions, folktales and sacred writings don't mean there are *"many roads up the same mountain."* What it indicates is that there is a mountain, there is such a thing as TRUTH.

But most religions, beliefs, and even anti-religions have only tucked a little piece of truth in their pocket and walked away with whatever parts and pieces were their preferences.

And the fact that a person or group of people can speak truth doesn't mean that they originated that truth. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, they're just plagiarizing. I'm not trying to be mean, of course, but any time the Source of Truth doesn't get credit, then isn't that plagiarizing?

Truth, God's Word, originated before the creation of the world.

God poured out His wisdom and His life and His creativity on His Creation. Wisdom and Truth can be seen all around us. So in that way, the "rain" falls on the just and the unjust.

The Creator allows us to discover Truth/Himself in the parable of a raindrop and the parable of something being "*white as snow*."

God's creation in His Word—His Logos, His Life—is far-reaching, more than any human language could ever contain.

So the fact that a few people have picked up on some wisdom over the centuries and have written it down doesn't make them "God." Socrates wrote some "true" things, but that doesn't make him God... Same with Buddha, same with Muhammad, same with ____.

Any religion can have an element of truth to it.

But they're not in competition with God.

All the little snippets of truth are just little bridges to the Reality, to that Special Someone, the Deliverer who wants to bring us Home.

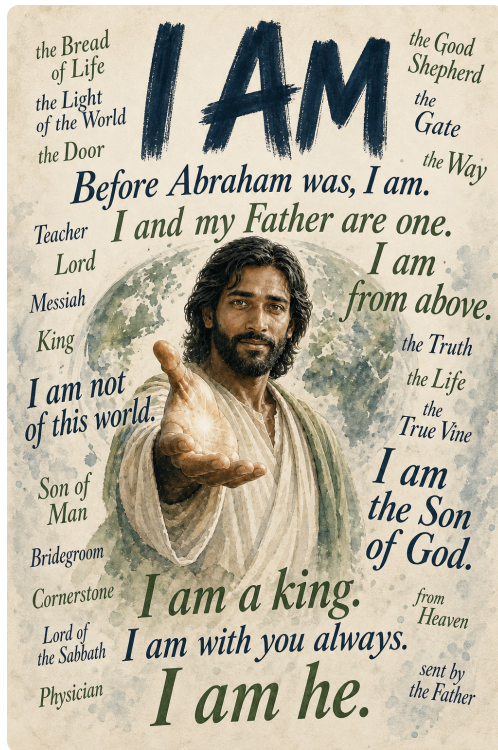
Because the One who is Truth has a name.

[illegible]

- Christianity: Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, Lord, and Savior.

- Islam: Jesus (Isa) is recognized as the Messiah, a prophet and messenger of God, born of the virgin Mary, and a worker of miracles by God's permission.
- Bahá'í Faith: Jesus is recognized as a Manifestation of God.
- Hinduism: Some modern Hindu teachers and movements have described him as a holy man, guru, divine teacher, or avatar-like figure.
- Buddhism: Jesus is recognized as a spiritual or ethical teacher.
- Latter-day Saint movement: Jesus is the Son of God, Messiah, Savior, and central figure of salvation.
- Jehovah's Witnesses: Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God.
- Unification movement: Jesus is regarded as the Messiah whose mission was left incomplete.
- Ahmadiyya Islam: Jesus is accepted as Messiah and prophet.
- Theosophy / some modern esoteric movements: Jesus is commonly treated as a great spiritual master.

They had to at least give Jesus some measure of attention or credit as being a "prophet" or a "teacher" or even just a "good man" because no honest truth seeker can really deny that Jesus is a force to be reckoned with.



But what did Jesus say about Himself?

He said He is...

“The Bread of Life,” “The Living Bread,” “The Bread from Heaven,” “The Light of the World,” “The Door / Gate,” “The Good Shepherd,” “The Resurrection and the Life,” “The True Vine,” “Teacher and Lord,” “The Messiah/Christ,” “A King,” “The Son of God,” “The Son of Man,” “The Bridegroom,” “The Stone the Builders Rejected/Cornerstone,” “The Lord of the Sabbath,” “One Greater than the Temple,” “One Greater than Jonah,” “One Greater than Solomon,” “Master/Teacher,” “Physician,” “The One Who Sows the Good Seed,” “The Master/Lord Who Will Return,” “The Nobleman/King Who Goes Away and Returns,” “The Son Who Is Sent by the Father,” “The One Sent by the Father,” “The One Who Came

Down from Heaven,” “The One Who Came from God,” “The One Who Came into the World,” “The One Who Came to Seek and Save the Lost,” “The One Who Came to Serve and Give His Life as a Ransom”

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

“Before Abraham was, I AM.”

“I and My Father are one.”

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

“He who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

“If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

“I give them eternal life.”

“Because I live, you will live also.”

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

For all that He was and is, and shall be to you and for you and me... NOTHING could be more profound than His willingness to endure, *“for the Joy set before Him,”* humiliation and suffering on your behalf, and mine. That’s the crux of the Story.

Anyone might be willing to be a teacher or leader for us. But who else do you know who would give up celebrity status and wealth and power... to SUFFER for you, to die for you? That is true power.

Jesus “*emptied Himself, and took on the form of a servant,*” and then went still further. Willingly. “*He could have called 10,000 angels*” to stand for Him when even his best friends could not. But He willingly sacrificed Himself, “*the spotless Lamb*” who “*takes away the sins of the WORLD.*”

That is true power: Love. There is nothing more staggering than this. He said:

“We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

So, for those who believe Jesus was “a good man” or even a prophet, but He couldn’t be more than that... are you totally sure? Are you positive? Because some human with three pounds of goo between their ears convinced you? How are you sure? Some do not want Him to be more than a good man or a prophet, because that would mean some accountability to Him.

But what if He is all of these things that He said He is? Can you live with that? Would you die for that?

That’s the “faith of Abraham”—“saving faith.”

Of course, Jesus could not have said those things about Himself, and still “only” be a good man or a great teacher. He was either a liar or a lunatic or... Lord.



Glimpses of Jesus

He was telling the Truth about who He is.

Stake everything on it. He IS the second Adam.

One more thing Jesus said about Himself? He is a lover and wooer of all peoples. He said, *“If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw ALL peoples to Myself.”*

Here is the Kicker! Jesus Didn't Come to Start a New "World Religion"

Does this really sound like He ever intended to start an alternative world religion? I'd say He is highly over-qualified for that!

Did you notice He didn't say, *"If I be lifted up I will draw all men to my religion"*?

Because that was not His plan.

He Lived and Lives WAY beyond all of that religious stuff. Humans do that stuff. He didn't.

Do you think He came and suffered in order to start another religion with a different set of doctrines and rituals so that we could all: go to homes or cathedrals or other religious buildings, attend meetings on Sundays or Fridays or Saturdays, or Wednesday nights, to sing songs, watch a pre-choreographed multimedia show, and listen to practiced or AI-generated speeches while we give our scheduled, solicited money to the human with the title and authority structure that Jesus Himself forbids? (And His chosen apprentices also refused to do that, by the way.)

Jesus most certainly did not come for that purpose. And He said He didn't.

Jesus, Yesu, came to Change the world. He came to Deliver the world.

The whole world. Not some part of the world that "knows more" or is "luckier" than some other part.

"For God so LOVED THE WORLD, that He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have Eternity Life."
He came to set all of the world, every ethnicity and culture, tribe and language FREE—"Free indeed" with *"Life to the full."*

“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus said, “before Abraham was, I am!”

“You will see greater things than these, Nathaniel.” And, He said to him, “Most assuredly I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Does that really sound like a guy who would or wanted to start a competitive new world religion? I don't think so. Again, He is “highly over-qualified” for that!

But that is what humans generally want to do with Truth. Package it, control it, market it, profit from it, and franchise it. Do religious humans usually desire to submit to the rightful and living King, Jesus? Not usually, not so much. At least not those who desire to value the vanity and goods and reputation on a decaying earth.

Jesus Across Time and Form: God so Loved the WORLD!

Since the very beginning, God has drawn near to humanity in ways each person or culture could recognize.

God expressing Himself as He pleases is a Mystery. But, then again, He is God. Why do we think we can understand everything God does? The Father, Son, and Spirit are “three primary colors” all contained in White Light. ONE true God of inexpressible glorious Light. Because He’s God, He can “do stuff.” He’s allowing us to perceive Him in ways through which He can communicate with His creation. What’s the problem? That all seems “small” compared with speaking the galaxies into existence with a single breath, and the beauty of the tiniest quantum galaxies, in that same breath.

Long before Bethlehem, legends and Scriptures have always described one often known as “*the angel of the LORD*.” This figure speaks and acts with God’s own authority, while remaining somehow distinct from him—a pattern many Christians have read as the pre-incarnate Christ meeting people where they were.

He appeared to Hagar in the wilderness as “*the God who sees me*” (Genesis 16:7–13), shared a meal with Abraham as a traveler before revealing divine knowledge of Sodom’s fate (Genesis 18), wrestled through the night with Jacob until Jacob declared he had seen “God face to face” (Genesis 32:24–30), and spoke from a burning bush to Moses as “*the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*” (Exodus 3:1–6).

He stood before Joshua as the sword-bearing “*commander of the army of the LORD*” (Joshua 5:13–15), addressed Gideon as a weary farmer waiting under a tree (Judges 6:11–24), ascended in flame before the astonished parents of Samson (Judges 13), and walked unburned beside three condemned men in Nebuchadnezzar’s furnace (Daniel 3:24–28).

In each case, the form fit the person and the moment—God making himself knowable, rather than simply a physical appearance, or simply “undeniable.” The Test is for us.

After the Three Days post-crucifixion, that same approachable, interestingly-adapting revelation of Himself is powerfully convincing. Jesus, now no longer bound by ordinary human limits, chose exactly how and when to be known to those who Knew Him on the Inside, not merely in the molecular form they had been familiar with.

He walked for miles beside two grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus without being recognized, waiting until God’s resonant voice to their hearts had done its miraculous work. He broke bread, and “their eyes were opened” (Luke 24:13–35).

He stood before Mary Magdalene as a supposed gardener until He spoke her name (John 20:11–18), and appeared on the shore of Galilee as an unnamed man giving fishing advice until the miraculous catch revealed Him—though even then “*none of the disciples dared ask him, ‘Who are you?’*” (John 21:1–14). How can this be?!

He invited Thomas to touch his wounds (John 20:24–29) and ate fish in front of his startled friends and disciples—who thought they saw a ghost, saying, “*Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!*” (Luke 24:36–43).

On a mountaintop, Peter, James, and John encountered for a moment the Real manifestation of Jesus, the One transfigured by that supernatural light (Matthew 17:1–8). *“There Jesus was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.”*

It was no accident that this amazing Event separated Jesus from all others, forever:

Peter remembered. *“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”*

John remembered. *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life. The Life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the Eternity-Life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have intertwined relationship with us. And our intertwined relationship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

On the Damascus road, Saul of Tarsus met not a familiar Galilean face but blinding heavenly glory and a voice announcing, “*I am Jesus*” (Acts 9:1–9).

And on Patmos, the apostle John—who had once leaned on Jesus’ chest at supper—fell down as though dead before eyes like blazing fire and a face “*like the sun shining in all its brilliance*,” until the same voice reassured him, “*I am the First and the Last... I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever*” (Revelation 1:12–18).

From a burning bush to a locked room, from a wrestling match at the Jabbok to a vision on a Roman prison island—Jesus has never been far off, since the beginning of time.

At Horeb, God told Moses to strike the rock, and water came out (Exodus 17:5–6). Paul later says, “that rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4).

Jesus does TRULY “*fill everything in every way*.”

If you are angry, bitter, desperate, or depressed... if you are lonely or confused... take your deepest needs and concerns to Jesus. And then take them again and again. He is praying for you and loving you, and He is your deliverer. That God-shaped vacuum that drives you to Him will always look for something else to blame. Something is unfair, or you need something and then everything will be OK. Fill in the blank. But the real need is that the God-shaped vacuum is crying out and will still cry out for Messiah no matter what you get or don’t get in this present age. Go to him. The rest are details. God loves us and loves to give good gifts to his children, and Jesus is not ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters. Don’t mistake your need or your hurt for a something-else-shaped vacuum. Jesus is the answer. Go there. Go to him.

He is always there for us. For Real. Not the shadow cast by religion, but the Reality—the Rock from which all Living Water flows.

Recognition to the human eye is always His to give or withhold. In this, He is testing us as to whether we are relying on this present age and its limited resources and senses and the Tree of Knowledge. And He's calling us, instead, to sense the Tree of LIFE, from which "*the Second Adam*," Jesus, has brought us Fruit. That is where our Destiny was always meant to be: with Him in Paradise, in the Garden.

When our eyes are no longer fixed on this decaying world age and we are no longer persuaded by its dark power, we can begin to focus the "*eyes of our hearts*" on our Deliverer's outstretched hand, which has been there since we were in our mother's womb. Jesus, who once seemed a stranger on a road, was never truly distant at all.

Why does all this matter? Why all these different "presentations" of His kindness and generosity and wisdom and protection, over the ages and throughout the world—and even to His disciples who walked with him personally? Because Jesus has already invaded your space, your life, your family, your circumstances, and nature itself—if you would just open your eyes to See Him. In every culture, every era, and every human circumstance, He has presented Himself in whatever way people could receive Him. He is always the same Healer beneath every form He has chosen for you. Watch. Listen.

Rumi knew. "*There is a voice that doesn't use words. Listen.*"

"The soul has been given its own ears to hear things the mind does not understand."

Eternity in our hearts—the "God-shaped vacuum" is real. Pay attention.

The Mountain!

In the first century, Paul faced a situation very similar to what we face today. Today, instead of ivory tower academics, the world is filled with unvetted social-media and text-message “influencers.” These are those who destroy but cannot build. The rash of “itching ears” is everywhere, and only a few prefer wisdom and life.

Paul entered the legendary and powerful city of Athens and was surrounded by the seductive aura of “philosophies” and “gods”—claiming to satisfy that “*God-shaped vacuum in every man’s heart.*”

Paul walked through the spectacle of the Areopagus, Mars Hill, with a full sweeping view of the Acropolis directly across the valley—the Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Nike, and the other gleaming marble temples of Athenian religion.

Paul then came upon an altar “*To The Unknown God.*”

Paul then began to share with these high IQ luminaries in Athens “*what Paul saw when he was blind.*” What he saw is for us also. Humanity is inseparable by a mere tick of a clock, or a calendar.

Fifteen years previously, Paul, while still named Saul at the time, had encountered the Living Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. This was NOT the Jesus that Saul had expected. He had been spending his days in anger and self-righteousness, hunting down followers of the Jesus who were messing with his religion and ambitious desires.

But God. Saul was suddenly blinded by the glorious light of the Jesus he thought humans could kill. Obviously, Jesus was far more than merely alive. Jesus was surprisingly made of different “Stuff” than Saul had ever considered, miracles or not. He was clearly not some human “teacher” as some had thought him to be. Religion and Rome had underestimated Jesus. It turns out He wasn’t on earth to start a new movement or religion to compete with theirs. He arrived, and proved Himself. He came to save and deliver and heal. For God so loved the WORLD. Religious leaders “*crucified him out of envy*” and in so doing unleashed the Spirit of God to fill His followers who had “*the Faith of Abraham.*”

And moreover, since Saul/Paul was stalking Jesus’ true followers, he was warned by Jesus that hating on and harming them... was actually attacking Him. Uh-oh.

Saul turned his life around, after a literal 72 hours of groping in his blind darkness. This had been fifteen years previously to his Moment with these Greek geniuses.

Listen to “*what Paul saw when he was blind*”—what Saul had discovered when Abba mercifully gave him a chance to humble himself, to stop “kicking at the goads” of his pricked conscience. Listen with your heart to what he said to the Athenians about Resurrection Life, Eternity-DNA replacing religion, worldwide, regardless of previous religion:

“I’m here to tell you about the One you worship without really knowing who He is. This God made the world and everything in it. Since He’s Lord of heaven and earth, He doesn’t live in buildings humans build for Him. He doesn’t need people to serve Him with their hands either, as if He were missing something. After all, He’s the one who gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

“From one man He made every nation of people, and spread them across the whole earth. He, standing outside of time and matter, has determined the seasons of all men, and their living situations and conditions. He arranged these practical things so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they, as though blind men, might grope for Him, and find Him. And yet, He’s not far from any of us. In Him we live, we move, we have our being. As some of your own poets have put it, ‘We are His children.’

“God overlooked those earlier times when people didn’t understand this. But now He’s telling everyone, everywhere, to turn their lives 180 degrees around. He has set a day when He will judge the world with perfect justice, through a Man He has chosen for that purpose. And He’s proven this to everyone by raising that Man from the dead.”

When they heard about the dead being raised, some laughed it off, while others said, “*We’d like to hear more from you about this another time.*” With that, Paul left them. Some men went with Paul, and put their trust in the message.

-Paul to the Athenians

In the Greek literature of Homer and Plato, as his Athenian hearers would recognize, this word Paul used, “*psēlaphaō*,” specifically describes a blind person. An insult? No, it was a courageous favor to them all. And in their heart of hearts, they could have known it, too. Some did. Some would later remember Paul’s words, when their hubris or worldly pursuits were finally empty echoes to them.

But... “blind”? That’s a lot. The picture is of one reaching out with outstretched hands to find their way, and to avoid tripping or calamity in an unfamiliar space—someone feeling their way along a wall, in total darkness. Paul was saying that even these academics, these theology and philosophy bros, were groping in the dark. Just like Paul had been in his fervent religion, until encountering the One.

This Jesus, who cratered Saul’s physical eyes to get to his spiritual eyes on the road to Damascus, was NOT just another “good teacher.” Saul/Paul realized only then that he himself, in all of his intelligence, was as “*blind as a bat*.” He took the opportunity to tell those in Athens—and our “first Adam” family in all the world, from Africa to India to Europe to Asia to South America—that they were born for more. These will always remain unfulfilling: empty religions, bitterness, prejudice, entertainment, rules, rituals, pride, power, reputation, and money.

And you’ll know that you haven’t yet laid down your “you” with “the Faith of Abraham”—“the full trust beyond calculation or conditions or time”—if the scales have not yet fallen from your eyes concerning this present age. “*Though he is not far from you*” and never has been far away.

All of the Greek and Roman and Mumbai and Saudi and Iranian and New York cultural “country code” religious traditions would have been different had a person been born in another time and place. But they all lead down the same dead end road, where comfort is not based on relationship but on hormone dumps and dopamine release. We can know this, in our quiet moments: we are all born for more than ritual, more than sacramental and symbolic placebo and shadows, more than hierarchy and systems “*made by men’s hands*.”

“No offense intended Athen-bros, since I know most of you have meant well in your pursuit of filling the God-shaped vacuum. But the material world, and intellectual and scientific gunk can’t hold a candle to Jesus. Look what God has done!” The bats in the “Cave of Furies” near where Paul spoke that day had better eyesight than all of the human intellect, of all of history and Moore’s Law combined.

By choosing to say psēlaphaō in front of an audience of Greek intellectuals in Athens, Paul made sure they knew exactly what he was saying. Paul’s point is both powerful and entirely “non-religious”:

God is calling even brilliant intellects, along with all men everywhere, *“there is no difference,”* to recognize that they, too, are like blind, try-hard people, feeling around in the dark for meaning and truth. Yet, while humanity gropes blindly as if God were distant, God is actually *“not far from each one of us.”*

Paul wasn’t trying to find a common denominator in philosophies, myths, and ancient religions so that he could *“go along to get along”* or so that he could argue with them. He was helping them realize that somewhere deep in your heart, there’s a hunger for eternity in your soul.

The same is true for us today. Self is always a dead-end. And, “try hard” will never get anyone off of the X-Y plane of flatlands and the Tree of Knowledge, to the place the True God of Creation is inviting us to share with Him. Adam and Eve made this choice of “being their own gods,” representatively, for all of us easily-seduced knuckleheads. It is the “Tree” where we think we get to be “gods,” “intertwining” our lives with our own personal definitions of good and evil.

Regardless of how fast or hard we run on the X-Y axis of religion or diversions, vices or pride, we will never “achieve” the Z-axis of the Tree of Life, where God is. The Z-axis is from letting go of our “rights” to let Jesus “be King over us” and trusting him, “no take-backs” ever. Covenant. His part is to pay the price of the Covenant. Our part is to “reckon” and trust that He has. *“This is the work of God: To believe on the One whom He sent.”*

And so! This is not about the parallel parables or common denominators *“so all roads lead up the same mountain.”* It cannot be *“my religion is older than your religion so I must be more right than you.”* It is about: wherever you are and whatever you are doing, you need Jesus—the One who brought Eternity to earth as no one before Him ever could—to fill that Eternity void. You and I need to come over that bridge to share His Life. Come TO God, and come to His Plan for you and for all of the human species who will give up their rights to be little gods. Lucifer wouldn’t. But, you and I can.

There are not “many truths”... Jesus IS the Truth.

There are not “many roads” up the mountain... Jesus is the Mountain.

So, here it is. The real question: Will you have this man be King over you?

“Holy” Water Can’t Heal This

In our cultures and histories, the search for meaning is addictive. We keep trying to absolve the past and prepare for the unknown future.

But fixing the “what we do” (religion) will never fix the “*who we are, and who we aren’t*” issue. We know this.

“But God.” He sent us THE Solution. He sent into the world, at just the perfect time, true freedom from our addictions and crutches:

- Distractions
- Wealth
- Entertainment
- Vices
- Romance
- Recognition
- Clothing
- Physical appearance
- Relationships
- Adrenaline
- Knowledge
- Busyness
- Nature
- Control
- Technology
- New stuff
- Collections
- Obsessions
- Food
- Humor

- Cleverness
 - Academic ivory towers
 - Activist causes
 - And even fear
-
- Holy-men
 - Holy-days
 - Holy-water
 - Hyper-arousal
 - Holy-wonder
 - Hallucination
 - Hymns
 - Hierophany
 - Hypnosis
 - Hallowed mystery

These above really are all the same thing, at the root.

Are we really cra-cra enough to still believe these can be healed by religion and its:

When we finally begin to fully trust the One and Only Jesus—the One every world religion must deal with—and drop the charade of pride and mammal instincts... then we begin to see who we're supposed to be, designed to be. This transformation, with ever-increasing glory, is for whosoever will. When we turn over our lives to him, come what may, forever, in total trust... then a whole lot of things will start to change. Like a garden, our lives start to look different when we till up the cracked, scorched earth, plant only His Seeds, water them, and pull the weeds.

Dust Life or Heaven Life?

How do we begin? Talk directly to Him, for starters.

Jesus came to offer us a Choice... a “pride” vs. “humility and gratitude” Choice!

We can...

a) Blind ourselves with the entropy and decay of human-life for a moment, if we can. We can choose Darwinian entrenched and bewitched mammal life. But, you already know where that road ends. The “First Adam” life has given us the results one would expect of 8 billion foolish selfish mammals with a God-shaped vacuum in their hearts, a splinter in their minds driving them mad.

Or...

b) Surrender and breathe in a Life where there is no Time or Newtonian constraints... Religion-free ReBirth and Eternity-Life DNA.

When the fullness of time had come, Jesus came to solve the mammal-insanity riddle.

The “*First Adam*,” a man of dust, was the firstborn of sentient mammal-humanity, made in God’s image but missing the Key for the keyhole of his heart and mind.

The “*Second Adam*,” both “man of dust” and “Lord of heaven,” was the firstborn of a whole new race. A supernatural race.

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, “*The first man Adam became a living being.*” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

-Paul to the Corinthians

Jesus, the “Second Adam,” came to show us our Human-Community supernatural “Opportunity.” And the End Game is Beyond Amazing: open for everyone with “the Faith of Abraham.”

We all have crucified the Lord of Glory, but if we acknowledge that and are cut to the heart by that, and if we humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, then we can put on Christ by abandoning ourselves to our Maker.

Then He gives us His Spirit, His DNA. Then! You’re His to be a puzzle piece in His grand Plan for you and for earth!

Peter, Jesus’ close follower and close friend, was in a crowd that was beginning to See who Jesus really is for the first time. Peter said to them, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*

When we really, by Abraham’s kind of faith, not theoretically, become part of His Family, His Life, His Tribe, His Body... He then gives us the right to eat from the Tree of Life. The first Adam got us kicked out of God’s garden. But the Second Adam offers us the opportunity to come back to the Garden of Eden.

Jesus wasn’t fixing a religion. It’s way better than that. And...

For those who give away their lives and “right” to mammal instincts to the King of Glory, God’s DNA is a gift from the man “*born of a virgin.*”

Christ in you—not for you, not with you, not educating you, but in you. DNA from heaven is infused into your being at that moment, because the second Adam brought us the Tree of Life.

The Second Adam brought heaven to earth, as a “*Life-giving Spirit*”—and now we can be “*partakers of the divine nature.*” What a Plan! He came to start a whole new race. He showed us. He Lived it. He Lives it now—IN us.

He is “scaling” Himself, multiplying His Life the way He multiplied the loaves and fishes. This is His gift to those who truly have abandoned to him, also known as “saving faith.” It is His undeserved, un-earnable gift, “*lest any man boast.*” Wow!

A New Family: God Living in His People

“For God so loved the WORLD.”

God is now forming ONE family, *oikeioi tou Theou*. He came as “the Second Adam” to invite the entire “First Adam” world-family to Eternity Life.

One Family, no longer limited by mammal DNA trying to “hold it together” based on a theme or doctrine or cultural ritual! But now Second-Born of the Second Adam, Jesus, into His Life and Love. No longer only mammal DNA.

“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”

“You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, family, related by Blood.”

“For you are all offspring of God through faith (full reliance, trust, and direction as Abraham’s) in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor non-Jew, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you ARE Abraham’s seed, tribe, semen, divine life-giving future, and heirs according to the promise, the allotted inheritance by divine pledge.”

“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Then, pointing to his disciples: “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Anyone who leaves natural family and possessions for Jesus and the good news receives *“a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields...”*

Those led by the Spirit are “children of God”; they receive *“the Spirit of adoption,”* cry *“Abba, Father,”* become heirs together, and Jesus is described as *“the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”*

Remarkable! One Father, Jesus the firstborn, many brothers and sisters.

“You have one Teacher, and you are all brothers... you have one Father, and he is in heaven.” Jesus deliberately strips away religious status, forbids titles and hierarchy, and replaces it with one Father and a family of brothers and sisters.

God is *“bringing many sons and daughters to glory,”* and Jesus *“is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”*

We are given the right *“to become children of God”*—*“born of God.”* The new family is created by a new birth, not human ancestry, or peer pressure, or logic.

“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.” *“That they may be brought to complete oneness.”* Not organizational unity; Jesus grounds their oneness in the shared life of the Father and Son.

The many Spirit-Life Twice-Born individuals are made “one body” because *“we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body.”*

“There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.”

He came to bring the solution to fallen-man, once-born mammal life. To Hindu, Islam, Baptist, Charismatic, Orthodox, Atheist, Catholic, Buddhist, Taoist, Bahá'í, and ALL the rest. He receives with forgiveness and mercy and love all who yield into the same type of “faith” Abraham exhibited. These who talk to and pledge forever trust and loyalty to Jesus Christ—the One who had and has authority to command nature, forgive sins, reveal Himself as He decides, and raise the dead—these will be granted His gift of Heaven-DNA, the Life of Jesus within.

Not a belief system or culture, but a DNA change within. Read on. With “ever-increasing glory,” not instant perfection by any stretch. But “*Christ IN you (plural), the hope of glory!*”

He came to make us a true living daily Family!

God's World Family From Above is Born

And now, the Solution to the Crave: God's Home, His dwelling, in regenerated people. Mammals with a missing part can LIVE from "*the Other tree in the Garden.*" What we needed from the Beginning is a DNA change, not a binky religion with "opiate of the people" on the nipple. The snake offered one, while Abba offers the other.

To the entire family of the First Adam, the offer is extended. First to Cornelius and his household, shocking Peter and his brothers. How could that be?! I thought we were "the guys"?! But God's Plan was always "*for God so loved the WORLD*"—Life miraculously offered to All born of the First Adam.

Cornelius was sincerely reaching for God—praying, giving generously to those in need, and responding to what he knew of God.

And God SAW him.

And God brought Peter, the messenger, to Cornelius and his household, who were to become the first Evidence of the New long-Promised Covenant of Spirit-DNA for all with the FAITH of Abraham. (God can raise up "biology" of Abraham "*out of a rock.*" Physical lineage is not the Plan.)

The story goes...

Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "*Stand up; I myself am also a man.*"

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”

When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “*Then God has also granted to the non-Jews repentance, 180-degree turning, to Eternity-Life.*”

The New Deal between God and Man, through Jesus Christ, the Second Adam: mammal-humans with an empty place can now share God-Life. How? By “*the same Trust in God that Abraham exhibited.*” “Saving faith.”

The “saving faith” Abraham demonstrated was worship, leaving his idols, leaving his biological home for the unknown when he was asked to do so, offering his son Isaac on the altar, and his refusal to allow “*the king of Sodom to make him rich.*”

Simply put, that is who Abraham WAS, not what he did. It was his trust, his faith, not his actions per se that made him a man to whom God could entrust the future.

Having given ourselves over with the faith of Abraham, “God’s Deal” is that Jesus “*becomes sin for us, that we may become His righteousness,*” and then the downpayment gift of Indwelling Christ.

Heaven-DNA mixed with the “old man” mammal DNA in mere humans. What a trip!

This was always God’s Plan. It was prophesied reliably multiple times over 4 centuries, as early as seven hundred years before Jesus came as the Second Adam. And clearly this was not ever intended to be a “new world religion” with new rituals and sacraments and holy men and holy days. But NEW DNA from Heaven for those with the actual “*faith of Abraham,*” rather than adherence to a belief system, per se.

The Potential

None of this is a first century invention; it is the fulfillment of an ancient promise. The ancient writings insist that God actually comes to live inside those who yield to Him.

Isaiah spoke of *“the exalted God who dwells with the contrite and lowly.”*

Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied, saying God would *“put His Spirit in you”* and move you from the inside to know, and to live in God’s Life. Jeremiah said God promised a new Agreement: His law would be placed within His people and written on their hearts, not on stone.

Through Zechariah in the late 6th century BC, God promised, *“I am coming, and I will live among you.”*

God spoke through a man named Joel and promised to pour out His Spirit—get this—on every kind of people.

This is far more than divine assistance from a distance, or a bunch of rules or rituals!

Jesus showed up on the scene, stepped into time and promised, *“I will be in you”* and the Father and I will *“make our home”* within you, His followers.

The mystery that was *“hidden for ages and generations”* was revealed: *“Christ in you, plural, the hope of glory.”*

God sends *“the Spirit of His Son into our hearts,”* so that it is *“no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us.”*

“The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them.”

Paul asked the believers in his day, *“Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you?”* And he prayed for the Family of God that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith and that they would be filled with God’s fullness.

Paul also unapologetically declared, *“If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they don’t belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you... the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.”*

Our very bodies become sacred ground—*“temples of the Holy Spirit”*—because the Spirit of God dwells in us.

Whoever is joined to the Lord is *“one with him in spirit.”*

Believers are being built together as *“a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”*

This indwelling is mutual and relational, not mechanical. *“Remain in me, as I also remain in you,”* Jesus says.

And *“I will live with them and walk among them.”*

John, a disciple who walked, talked, and shared meals with Jesus, and who lived through most of the first century, wrote that whoever confesses Jesus as God’s Son *“lives in God, and God lives in them.”* *“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”*

The result is that His life becomes our life: *“your life is now hidden with Christ in God,”* and Christ *“is your life.”* *“To live IS Christ, Anointed.”*

According to Peter, another hand-selected follower of Jesus, believers become *“participants in the divine nature.”* Believers are “living stones” being built into a spiritual house. And this *“I in them and you in me”* results in visible unity.

The life of Jesus is meant to become visible in our mortal bodies.

The storyline of Scripture has one destination: God does not merely reform us from the outside. He gives a new heart, places His own Spirit-DNA within to “scale” and to multiply in His community-body-ekklesia. That’s what He left us to do before His Return. His Spirit-gift DNA unites us to Christ, just as He was united to His Father, and makes purchased people by His Blood His living home. But only for those willing to lay down the crown of self-rule, and receive, instead, the eternal Life that flows from the King, and from the River around His Throne.

We then “*are partakers of the Divine Nature*” with “*the Anointing IN you, the hope of Glory, the Mystery withheld for Ages and Generations!*”

This is “THE Eternal Life” that is communion with the Creator-God and the Timeless-Life. That’s not just “heaven” and “paradise” per se, and certainly not just a mansion over the hilltop where we get to see “auntie” again. It is a New Adventure, starting in the Now and moving both directions into Eternity. Life that is truly Life. “*Tell everyone about this whole new Zoe Life!*” said the jail-break angel to the apostles. And they did.

Live it. Tell it!

And what about this present age, made of temporary compounds and cells, molecules, atoms, entropic structures and wealth and reputation? The closer we, together, arrive to the Jesus-Life after the ReBirth He insists is a requirement, the more things change day-to-day. We will be more and more capable of Seeing, and seeing-through, as Jesus did... gravity, appearance, men's hearts, nature, storms, illness, insanity, pride, fear, insecurity, and all forms of physics and quantum consideration. He is and will always be Master of Time and Matter. And He wishes to wean us up into our "*Kingdom of Heaven*" DNA, as He Lived. "*Doing nothing we don't see the Father doing, saying nothing we don't hear Him saying.*" Growing day by day. Not perfect. But forgiven, and so much more than human. At last. And He desires to share His very nature, to Fill the vacuum with Himself, with "whosoever will."

Can you See it? This is not a discussion about doctrine or belief system, western or eastern. It's not a ritual or a song or anything to do with attendance on a holy day. He deeply desires worshipers, but that is not a meeting, it's a Life. Read it in John 4–7. It is not about willpower or good deeds, or obedience to "commands." It is rather about Him. Every day all day, and joining ourselves daily to others with Abraham's Faith and God's evident Spirit-DNA. Spurring each other on as we are often together, somehow, somewhere. Read it in Hebrews 3:12–13, Hebrews 10:24–25. It is simply put: losing our lives into Him and His Eternity-Life, His Heaven-DNA by ReBirth and Regeneration into Him.

And this WHILE we "*knock the ball out of the park*" in the arenas of human life. "*In the world, but not of the world,*" as the most effective, respected, honorable, successful students and workers imaginable. The first will result in the second. We've watched it Happen just like that for over 40 years now.

We are so far less than perfect, yet so much more than flesh and blood.

“Seated with Christ (the Anointing) in Heavenly Realms.”

“I See Heaven open and the Son of man standing at the right hand of the Glory of God.”

“In the body or not, I know not.”

The Tree of Life: Glory Comes at a Price

Throughout the millennia God's storyline is consistent: His intention is not just to improve people's behavior from the outside. He does not give us a belief system and something to attend. The real thing is Spirit-Life, supernatural Life from Heaven, not a fish bumper sticker and a different set of rituals. And He loves the whole world and extends His offer of Life to everyone from every culture and religion throughout the ages. We just come to Him, not a religion, and let Him, as the Head, work out what it looks like as we lay down our lives for others.

Jesus came to give humanity a share in God's own nature—not information about God, but His very life planted within us. This is the great reversal of Eden: where the Tree of Knowledge tempted us to become our own god, Jesus invites us to surrender that ambition entirely and bow before Him as King of all, and in exchange He gives us Eternal Life itself, carried into us by the Holy Spirit.

Through the Second Adam, God came to share the Tree of Life this time.

God wants to fill that God-shaped vacuum in you. He wants to breathe His Heaven-Life into you, giving His Spirit to live IN you. *"This promise is for you and your children, and all who are afar off,"* from any nation, tribe, or tongue with the faith of Abraham towards the Son of Man and Son of God.

But there is one thing we have not discussed. *"Few will be those who find it"* amongst those who claim him (Mat.7, Luke 13). Why? Read what Jesus said. The road isn't narrow because it belongs to one religious institution or because only a few people have the correct religion label. It is narrow because the road is an actual life with Him, under His rule, doing what He says—not merely having an association with Him.

Most people in the world religion known as “christianity” haven’t really given away their lives to Him. To those who will, He gives them a new heart, places His Spirit within them, unites them with Christ, and makes them His living home.

That is a FAR, far cry from the poverty of attendance-based, tree-of-knowledge-based religion, or from a love of the world, which makes us “God’s enemies.” Rearranged and managed religious mammal DNA is not the same as Spirit Life on a daily basis, Together.

You get to share that Heaven-Life, Eternity-DNA with Him. You get to live the way He Himself lived when He “stopped by” physically for a few years, to share our struggles and pain. That isn’t a law or rule or legalism to anyone who Jesus is living inside of. It is a relationship, by definition, or we are “*none of His*.”

We no longer need to protect our “rights” or our “*godness*,” or defend our supposed imaginary “goodness.” None of those matter anymore.

Now, we can live a life where we will gradually learn why and HOW Jesus walks on water and raises the dead, and sets prisoners Free. We can Experience it, in measure, in relationship with Him, minute by minute, doing nothing we don’t See the Father doing. Jesus showed us the Potential, if we abandon mammal-instincts as our go-to in our hearts and minds. For Him, out of relationship and trust. We now know, His way is what we were Born for.

No one ever promised and delivered anything like this before. Religion is nothing by comparison.

The Dry Bones, LIVE!

Ezekiel, the sixth-century BC man of God mentioned earlier, Saw a valley, filled with dry bones.

God told Ezekiel, “*Speak to the bones!*” What-what?!

And as the prophet spoke, the bones began to rattle. Bone joined to bone. Tendons and flesh formed around them. Skin covered them until an entire valley of fully-formed skeletons lay before him.

But they were still dead.

Organized. Assembled. Looking a whole lot better than a scattered pile of bones.

But no LIFE.

Until the Breath of God came into them.

The Greek word for breath is the same word as wind, the same word as SPIRIT. It seems like we’ve been talking about this!

And when God’s Breath came, the dead rose to their feet—a mighty army.

We are those dry religious bones. Our systems and cultures and governments and traditions have “organized” us. But we have remained for thousands of years, mostly “*dry bones.*”

Hindu dry bones. Muslim dry bones. “Christian” dry bones. Buddhist dry bones. Jewish dry bones. Atheist dry bones. Rich bones and poor bones. Nice bones and nasty bones. Religious bones and irreligious bones.

Dead is dead.

Now, some things can certainly help arrange the bones better than others. Truth from the Words of God can straighten some things out. The Designer certainly knows what helps his design mostly stay out of trouble. Hatred and anger and murder and immorality and slander tend to ruin things. Love and patience and a helping hand can begin the healing process, for those who care.

World religions with true God-thoughts, and truth in Scripture such as Judaism or “Christianity” can preserve pieces of Truth. These all benefit “*much in every way*” as Paul said, as a head start. They help heal and put some bones where they belong. One doesn’t have to “believe” in gravity for it to “work.” God’s ways are Right. For all. As we embrace His thoughts, tendons may appear. Skin may cover the bones and tendons and ligaments and fascia. A life can look considerably different than the scattered pile it once was.

But organized bones are still bones.

No religion can breathe Eternity-Life into them.

No ritual can give life.

No clergy can bestow grace.

No correct doctrine can heal the heart.

No amount of rearranging dead human life can create LIFE.

There is only ONE Breath. One singular Source of Life-giving Power.

This has to come from God Himself.

His Breath.

His Spirit.

His Life.

Jesus came because God loved the world—not one religion, race, geography, skin color, culture, or kind of bones. He came that dead humans might finally LIVE. Abundantly. To the Full.

And if the valley looks impossibly dry right now, that's really not the issue.

There is no limit to what God can do with dry bones.

It's actually a good thing that bones can't fix themselves. They can't breathe into themselves. Even after all their assembling and organization, they are not ALIVE without the Breath of God. Who would want it any other way? It's HIM we want!

And when what is IN God comes INTO us—

The dry bones may LIVE.

No matter what your country code or generation or culture or world religion, we are all pretty much in the same boat.

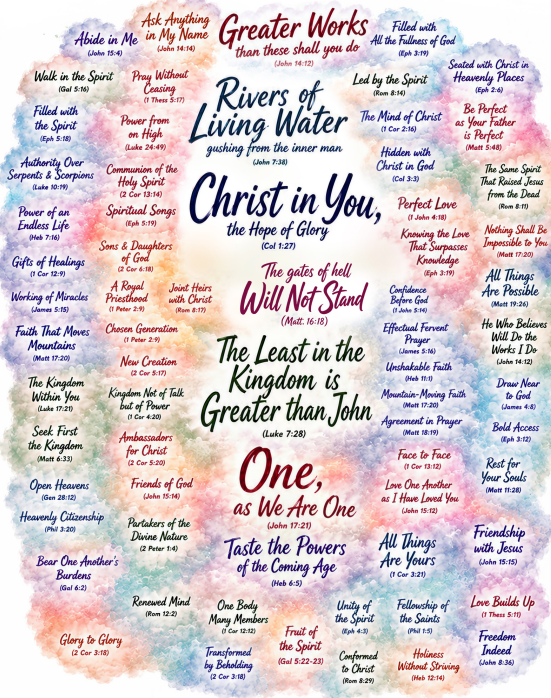
Of course, as said, if your world religion has given you some understanding of God's Ways, and of Abraham and His Faith and His total trust in a God he did not know, then that is a GREAT starting place. *"Much in every way!"*

Knowing how God put Abraham to sleep and *"walked through the pieces, alone"* and how Jesus does that now for those who trust Him and will not allow the *"King of Sodom to make him rich,"* as Abraham said, is good. *"Much in every way,"* as Paul said.



But to be “Born a second time,” as Jesus insisted, “*of water and of the Spirit*”—wow, that is a different thing. “Organized” and even “entertained” and “put to work,” mammal-only-DNA is pretty useless, all in all. Religion can save or heal no one. Still, people hanging out there can be radically, wildly, wonderfully Made Whole, and be growing as best they can in that environment. Maybe that’s all they have or know, but they are clearly aware of the overall empty compromised life of those around them, and are doing what they can to make a difference.

However, check out this Word cloud. This is what Jesus promised. If things ain’t working the way Jesus said in the world religion versions of “christianity” or in any other world religion, ask why and don’t settle for anything that makes Jesus sound like He lied or exaggerated! He did not!



Let's submit to His Way! Jesus proved His case for it being the only RealDeal, and anything less is just another world religion.

Of course, still "so far less than perfect, yet so much more than flesh and blood."

THAT is His Plan. THAT is why He came, to show us what the potential is when we share God-DNA by giving our lives to Him, instead of insisting on being "gods" admiring and shamelessly feasting on the wrong tree.

The Second Adam ReOpened by ReBirth to us the "Other" tree in the Garden of Eden. The "Tree of Life."

The “Jihad” Within

He came to scale, to multiply Himself worldwide, amongst all who will let go of themselves, for Him. The DNA change is the downpayment given inside of the TwiceBorn, inside of those who would otherwise live and die as mere mammals, whether nice or not-so-nice.

Once God’s Miracle-Gift of His Eternity-DNA is infused within those who fully trust Him and have a Second-Birth into the Second Adam and the Tree of Life (finally!), we still are left with an ongoing issue. *“The Spirit and the flesh wage war with one another.”* Eternity-DNA of the Second Adam, *“the Gift of the Spirit”* to the Twice-Born, and the mammal DNA from the first Adam, “wage war”: The “jihad” within us.

“Inner Jihad” in Arabic translates as the battle, within ourselves, for truth and character. And it ain’t easy!

We still have mammal life.

We still have mammal instincts.

IF you’ve had a Second-Birth Event, then you are now part mammal and part God’s DNA.

And as we put aside the acts of this sinful nature, the Spirit and the flesh wage war with one another.

Will we succumb? Or will we Become?!

With “ever-increasing Glory”—little by little,

Letting go of mammal DNA,

Breaking the thick crust of human flesh: posing, pride, greed, lust, envy,

Forever surrendering our lives to Him, and telling Him so

to be washed and clothed in Him...

and then... moving daily to liberate the SecondBirth God-DNA!

Of course, still *“so far less than perfect, yet so much more than flesh and blood.”* *“Who amongst you is tempted, that I don’t inwardly burn?”*

Three times I begged Abba to remove the messenger from satan, the thorn in the flesh. God said no. He said you need humility, and my forgiveness and unmerited kindness will allow you to strengthen your brothers, having suffered as they have.

Growth and humility are part of the Plan. If we claim to live today without “missing the mark” of the high calling and example of Jesus Christ, we are liars and the Truth is not in us. Failure reminds us that when we are weak, He is strong. And it’s our faith in Him that overcomes the world, not our willpower. Ever. Lest any man boast. He will not share His glory with another. It is only ever the righteousness of the Son that we are clothed in, and His very spirit in our DNA, that allows our relationship with the Father. And that by the Faith of Abraham, allowing Jesus to be king over us, in trust of His wisdom and love and power.

The process of growing is not a problem. Perfection is unattainable. The Spirit and the flesh, the Jesus DNA and the mammal DNA are always going to be fighting. But you need to put on the mind of Christ and the full armor of God and let the God DNA push back, push back, push back the mammal DNA, that you might grow into *“the full measure of the stature of Christ” “to the praise of His glory.”*

And you are destined for this!

Still Want the Ritual? Or Ready for the Real?

Now that you have a clearer picture of why Jesus came and what He offers us and why we all experience the God-shaped vacuum, let's circle back around for a minute. Remember how early on in this book we talked about how *"we all stretch for interpretive meaning of life, elements that cry out to the human soul, across all generations and ethnicities and cultures..."* and how we have taken little pieces of the truth, of the reality, and twisted them around into superstitious ritual in order to avoid having this man, Jesus, be King over us.

Let's take Sacramental magic "holy water" for example. WHY?

Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Shinto, Islam, Judaism, Ancient indigenous peoples, Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Anglicanism, Protestantisms, Mandaism, Lakota, Mayan, Andean, Māori, Yorùbá, Akan, and other African indigenous peoples... all have some form of *"magic holy water."*

Why? Because it is the inner human cry for life and refreshment and sustainable purity and life-giving power.

Jesus said, *"I AM all that!"* Stop already with the symbols and rituals and sacraments. Those are merely *"a shadow of the Reality that is in Christ!"*

"I AM that! You don't need the 'shadows' and symbols and emotional sugar or hallucinogen 'trip'—when you can have the Reality, ME! You were meant for ME. All things point to ME, says the Lord of Hosts."

On the last and greatest day of the Feast of Tabernacles, after seven days of a priest carrying water from the Pool of Siloam to pour beside the altar while the crowd sang *“with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation,”* Jesus stood and cried out in a loud voice, *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within him.”*

That ceremony had always been a prayer—for rain, for blessing, for the Messiah, for the outpoured Spirit foretold to Ezekiel, Zechariah, Isaiah, and Joel. Jesus timed His declaration to the ritual’s climax to make one claim unmistakable: everything the water-drawing pointed toward for centuries was standing in front of them. He was not offering religious performance or another external ceremony; He was announcing Himself as the actual fulfillment of the deepest thirst every human heart carries.

This declaration lands prophetically, if we’re Listening. The autumn festival season of the seventh month with Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles—Jesus claimed their fulfillment in Himself. God still issues that same three-part invitation today to “every tribe and tongue”:

- The Feast of Trumpets calls us to awaken to a New Year and a reborn Life;
- The Day of Atonement calls us to repentance from dead works; and
- The Feast of Booths calls us to lay down our economic, cultural, educational, and religious distractions and simply become His Family—reborn together into “Second Adam” Life: *“Come out from among them and be separate, and I will be your God and you will be My People, My Family.”*

Is this Feast Fulfilled, yet? Does He have a daily Family, visible yet, *“that the world will know we are His disciples”*?

There is nothing more glorious than the Feast of Booths, Feast of Tabernacles “fully come,” as were Passover and Pentecost, the earlier Feasts before the long, hot, dry summer.

An Israelite in Jerusalem would move through this sequence in one unbroken festival: the trumpet call to repentance, the cleansing of Atonement, and then the joyful dwelling of Tabernacles celebrating God’s provision and presence. Jesus stood at the very end of that arc and identified Himself as its destination—the place where repentance, cleansing, and God’s dwelling with His people converge.

The wording Jesus chose matters. The Greek speaks of living, flowing water like a spring, not water stored and dumped or sloshed out from a jar at a “service” or “ceremony.” The phrase means water flowing “*out of his innermost being*”—the belly, the inner person. Jesus is not promising a bucket carried from someone else’s 30-minute devotional well. He is promising internal transformation, a spring that begins inside a person because God’s own Spirit now lives there. John makes it super-clear: “*By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive... since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*”

John describes a spring that satisfies us, and then takes it to where He lives—rivers flowing outward from the NewBirth growth to serve and protect and help change others. The indwelling Spirit does not merely visit—He takes up permanent residence and then overflows to produce fruit in season and out of season, to change the world. Jesus “scaled” to the world in us.

A Raging River of Love

When God comes and fills our God-shaped vacuum with His Spirit, and His rivers of living water begin flowing out from our inner man, what does this River look like as it comes roaring out of a human life?

It looks like Jesus.

It looks like Love.

Not sentiment. Not niceness. Not religious politeness.

But Cross-shaped, self-emptying, costly love.

Yes, Jesus and His Life are mountain-moving, body-healing, storm-calming, dead-raising, demon-fleeing, world-changing Power. But Jesus' Life was never a magic show. No abracadabra—look what I can do. His Power flowed out through Love because God is Love.

The River looks like washing feet.

Giving rather than taking.

Forgiving when there is a debt.

Carrying someone else's burden.

Feeding someone who is hungry.

Taking the lower place.

Giving your coat too.

Going the second mile.

Loving your enemy.

Praying for the person hurting you.

Laying down your rights.

Laying down your money.

Laying down your time.

Laying down your reputation.

Ultimately, laying down your life.

Because that's what the River looked like when it flowed through Jesus.

But His Love isn't what we do to prove we have His Life. Love is just the most visible manifestation of His DNA, His nature. It is what His Life IS when we stop damming it up.

That's why Jesus didn't say the world would recognize His people by their buildings, or their clergy, or their holy days, or their rituals, or their doctrinal vocabulary. He said everyone will know because of their Love.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”—Jesus

So, once the God-shaped vacuum is filled with His Life-Giving Spirit...

The Life of the Deliverer begins spilling out through those He has delivered.

The Love that came TO us is now rushing THROUGH us.

Of course, Jesus is always and forever the only Source, the Singular Source. Without Him we are nothing and can do nothing.

But when the Deliverer comes to live inside...

The One who laid down His Life produces people who lay down theirs.

Not because they joined the correct religion and learned the correct behaviors, but because His actual Life is in them.

So what does the River look like? Love.

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

And even, *“I tell you, love your enemies.”*

Wow.

Don’t think that if God, the Creator of galaxies, is living for real inside of a person that He will just be invisible and a checkmark on a doctrine statement! This is what *“gushing torrents of alive water”* looks like to the not-so-innocent, and the innocent bystander:

“From his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD.”—Isaiah 11:1–2, Rev.1:4

A person full of the Spirit doesn't perform holiness—they run on a different power source, and it shows in how ordinary moments get handled.

It starts with presence, not personality. The person isn't trying to be impressive or spiritual; they've simply stopped operating on their own reserves. When they're calm in traffic, patient with a difficult coworker, or steady in a hard conversation, it isn't willpower—it's Someone else's life showing up as theirs. That's the root everything else grows from.

Out of that presence comes wisdom—not more information, but the instinct for what actually needs to happen right now. They don't need every fact to know the right move. Ask them for advice and you don't get a lecture; you get the one sentence that cuts through the noise, because they're not guessing, they're perceiving. That's the fruit of the TREE of ETERNITY-LIFE, not information, or theology, or doctrine, or scholarship and academia.

Then understanding—the ability to see past what's on the surface. Someone snaps at them and instead of reacting to the tone, they sense the fear or exhaustion underneath it. They read situations the way others read headlines: past the spin, straight to what's real. It's why they're rarely fooled and rarely harsh. As Paul said, *“the man of the Spirit discerns all things.”*

From there, counsel—knowing not just what’s true but what to actually do about it. Plenty of people can diagnose a problem; the Spirit-filled person has a next step. If you ask them what you should do about the job, the marriage, the decision, they don’t hand you options. They don’t just hand you direction. They teach you how to Discover Life and Truth, “*the Voice of God laying bare the motives of the heart,*” because they’ve learned to listen for it themselves. Pointing you to a relationship with Him, they don’t hand you answers. Instead they put your hand into the hand of the maker of the Heavens and the Earth.

Then might—the guts to follow through. Insight without courage just becomes commentary. This is the person who says or does the hard true thing in love and mercy, forgives the person who doesn’t deserve it, lays aside as a gift to God the vice or habit or relationship they had found fleshly comfort in. Not because it’s easy, but because they’ve got strength that isn’t theirs to draw on.

Knowledge follows—not trivia about God, but familiarity with Him. They don’t quote verses to win arguments; they live like someone who actually knows the person the verses are about. It’s relational fluency, not religious literacy. You can tell the difference immediately.

And underneath all of it, fear of the Lord—a life oriented entirely toward Him, taken with total seriousness, but never grim. This isn’t dread; Isaiah says the Messiah delighted in it. So does this person. Obeying God isn’t their burden—it’s the thing they actually want. That’s what makes everything above it sustainable instead of exhausting.

Put together: presence produces wisdom, wisdom sharpens into understanding, understanding gives direction, direction gets carried out in strength, strength deepens into intimacy, and intimacy roots the whole thing in reverence. Not seven separate spirits, but one SPIRIT, working itself out in full.

And those seven spirits, Jesus' Life manifest, are shouting joyously:

"Dry bones, don't just organize... LIVE!"

The Whisper Game Is Not Always Innocent

Over time the spiritual equivalent of “the whisper game” or the “telephone game” has been, in reality, devastating to the Family of God. Why so?

Again, Jesus brought us, as the apostles were told by the jailbreak Angel to declare, “*a WHOLE NEW LIFE!*” Life from heaven, literally. Tasting the powers of the coming age. Literally. Rivers of gushing torrents of living water, “*for all who have saving faith.*” It is the Mark of everyone who is truly in the new covenant with Jesus, His DNA. As opposed to “*just religious,*” another world religion, to compete with the others. That’s what the Bible we hold dear actually claims, if we were to dare to take that Bible seriously.

But now, so many in the Family of God are not even aware of the LIFE He offers us. Many have knowingly, or unknowingly, substituted a new system of religion for what Jesus actually came to bring.

Part of that whisper game has created what we will have to call a new World Religion, since Ignatius introduced (circa AD 120) contradictions and a refuting of what the apostle John had taught—just 15–20 years earlier. Not to mention what he and Eusebius brought, disobeying clear teaching from Jesus from 90 years earlier, and Paul just 60 years earlier. That is not evolving. It is the beginning of a new world religion. Which is fine if that’s what someone wants, of course. But it’s not what Jesus brought. That is a certainty. So we get to decide.

As an example, modern “Christian existence” is propped up (but to its own detriment) by poorly translated words from the Greek or Aramaic.

Words like “christian,” “faith,” “repentance,” “baptism,” “pastor,” “confession,” “deacon,” “gospel,” “sin,” “prayer,” “worship,” “church,” “heaven,” “hell,” “disciple,” “mass,” “service,” “sacrament,” “liturgy,” “priest”—are terribly misused or mistranslated, intentionally in some cases, to provide cover for an agenda, as you’ll see.

Whether due to compromising motives, or simply words poorly translated and concepts handed down by people who were not themselves LIVING in this supernatural Second-Birth Life—it doesn’t matter. Either way, we must finally get off, LIFT off, of this 2-dimensional X-Y plane of religious concepts, and get to LIVING and LOVING in Eternity-Life!

And that is not an obedience or character problem. It’s a Covenant problem. The mark of that covenant is the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is observably missing in the lives of most who claim to be in the Body of Christ because of attendance. That is evidence that the contract was never signed by most religious day attenders.

To demonstrate the “lack of innocence” or reliability of “church fathers”—who directly contradicted John and Jesus, Luke and Paul and Peter?

These words listed earlier? People were literally burned at the stake, killed, or shamed in various ways for refusing to keep mistranslating those words. Those mistranslations were how the religious hierarchy and agenda stayed intact. Dare to translate those words correctly? Dare to embrace the teachings of Jesus or John that contradicted the new world religion empire being built? Then the risk was not just your reputation, and not just being ostracized. The risk was to your very life and family.

William Tyndale was strangled and burned at the stake in 1536 after translating the Bible into English. Why? He insisted that the word Ekklesia that they wanted to call “church” (though there is no scholarship to support such an idea), meant “*a relational collection of people,*” in any venue, home, field, streets, or park. It never referred to a building instead of a gathered people, anywhere anytime. Not ever. It should be embarrassing if we continue to use that word “church” loosely, as if it’s in the Bible, when it was a conjured projection to describe what they wanted to do—and have been doing for hundreds of years.

If it’s not what God said, why would we keep playing along, as if we can “*add to and subtract from*” the Scriptures to suit our faulty paradigm? Maybe we should change, instead? Maybe a “New wineskin” for the “New Wine” is a good thing? Whether our personal lives or our collective life for God, regardless of our culture, change is good, and not to be feared.

He’s got us. That’s the “faith of Abraham” again, isn’t it? “*Create in me a clean heart, oh God.*” He wants to.

Through the Second Adam, Jesus, a miraculous New World of possibilities opens up to all the inhabitants of earth! This is Good News—not another boring world religion sporting a Jesus bumper sticker while still offering no daily Heaven-Life. Thank God for that!

“*For God so loved the world.*” He did not bring another world religion with all of the clunky ritual and symbolism and mumbo-jumbo. He brought us a Doorway into Life from Heaven, “Spirit-DNA.” He is inviting all of us to be swallowed up by, “baptized” into HIM. Whether Buddhist or Baptist, Atheist or Muslim or Hindu, rich or poor, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. Jesus is over all and in all. The Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Jesus is Alive. And that Matters.

So, maybe we can quit messing around? Words matter. Words create. Words divide. Words destroy. Words can heal. Words create fear. Words can shame, and manipulate. And when power, money, hierarchy and religious authority are attached to certain meanings of those words and titles, they matter even more.

No Need for a Grand High Poobah (and Jesus forbids it!)

From the fancy-pants and the scholars, to the beggars and the crippled and the poor... Jesus offers something very different than “*another world religion*.” If you didn’t see it before, can you see it now? Can you see how He would not possibly be trying to compete with all of the world religions for just a different holy day, with different symbols and rituals, and different kinds of “dress up” and titles for their holy men? No way.

With Christ as the Source and with the River of His Spirit flowing through every member of His Body, why would He bottle it up in a few “religious professionals”? Why recreate “intermediaries” out of mere men?

He didn’t and doesn’t, and in absolute terms He forbids that. “*Why would we call him ‘Lord, Lord’ and NOT do what he said?!*” What would be our excuse?

All of us, including those in western religions, are guilty of some grotesque twisting of what Jesus intended.

I have heard people of all ages try to justify their religious buildings and hired hands and hierarchy by saying, “*Well, we can trace it back to the ‘church fathers’ so it must be right.*” People try to prove their positions through whisper-game “connections” and some very flimsy documentation, basing their whole lives on things that contradict Jesus, Paul, John, and Peter.

Jesus forbids hierarchical structure with titles. And the apostles didn’t do it or tolerate it, all the way to AD 100 with John. Even at the end of the first century, John condemns Diotrephes precisely because he “*loves to be first.*”

And then, remarkably soon afterward, the language changes. By the early second century, Ignatius (15–20 years after John) is repeatedly insisting upon submission to the "bishop, presbyters, and deacons." The "bishop" now is granted a position of power and prestige and religious authority. Why do you think Jesus told Peter that He would decide how long John would be around? No doubt so that the dress-up hierarchy and other world religion stuff of Ignatius would look foolish by comparison, just fifteen years after John.

Two hundred seventy years later along that whisper-game trail, Eusebius would help solidify a historical narrative with a conjured "church history" undocumented by any measure of scientific scrutiny, and deeply swayed by his employer Constantine. Succession is a dangerous and make-believe concept created long after Jesus said there would be no Head or Boss or Father or intermediary—except Him alone.

Can we PLEASE cut it out with the "Grand High Poobah" clergy medicine man, master of ceremonies, uninterruptible holy talking head stuff. Please? Yes, that's a rough way to say it. I know. Sorry. But it's NOT negotiable, and it tears up the potential of Jesus being the actual head of His Body, worldwide. "*You are all only family siblings!*" "*A priesthood of Believers,*" said the Lord of Glory! A Royal Priesthood, from Exodus to Revelation.

When you can walk on water, raise the dead, heal the lame and the blind, command the storms, and multiply loaves and fishes, then you can speak into the discussion. Until then, CUT IT OUT, okay? Please? It's a crutch. It's arrogance. It's fear. We are all PAWNS at best, not "reverends" (gag) or "fathers" or "pastors" or ANY title.

Of course it's the "another world religion" problem, nothing new. But Change is now. Time is short, and the power is out.

Starting in AD 30, Matthew 20, 23, when the Second Adam came to tell us God's ways, there are NO MORE of any of these:

- Hinduism: Guru, Swami, Acharya, Pandit (Pundit)
- Jainism: Acharya, Muni
- Tibetan Buddhism: Lama, Dalai Lama, Rinpoche
- Buddhism more broadly: Bhikkhu, Bhikkhuni, Abbot
- Zen Buddhism: Roshi, Sensei
- Sikhism: Granthi, Giani, Bhai
- Latter-day Saint Christianity: Elder, Bishop
- Sunni Islam: Imam, Mullah, Sheikh (Shaykh), Mufti
- Shia Islam: Ayatollah, Imam, Marja
- Sufism: Pir, Murshid, Sheikh
- Judaism: Rabbi, Chief Rabbi, Kohen
- Hasidic Judaism: Rebbe
- Roman Catholicism: Pope, Father, Priest, Cardinal
- Eastern Orthodox Christianity: Patriarch, Priest, Metropolitan
- Anglicanism: Archbishop, Vicar, Bishop
- Protestant and Evangelical Christianity broadly: Reverend, Pastor, Minister, Preacher
- Taoism: Daoshi
- Shinto: Kannushi, Miko
- Zoroastrianism: Magi, Dastur
- Yorùbá religion (Ifa): Babalawo
- Indigenous and animist shamanic traditions: Shaman
- Native American traditions: Medicine Man, Medicine Woman
- Wicca and Neopaganism: High Priestess, High Priest

I'm not listing all of those to be mean. I'm listing them because Jesus did, as is recorded in Matthew 23. And Paul missed 50 chances to use titles in his letters to churches. It's just forbidden.

This is not a Christian title-cleanup. Guru, Imam, Rabbi, Pastor, Pope—it's the same forbidden slot in every world religion.

Every religion's poobah is the same forbidden grab, because the throne is already taken. The throne belongs to Jesus alone. There is only ONE Mediator. Jesus. Period.

It is easy to recognize the religious hierarchy in somebody else's world and completely miss it in our own. And this isn't only about the people who accept these titles and positions. It is also about those of us who give them that place. So, if you see yourself anywhere in that list—on either side of it—Don't. Never again. Not once.

Let me say it again.

A mere human acting as a tribal “intercessor” or “intermediary” has always proven a disappointment, but we do it anyway. Cut it out with the “Grand High Poobah” nonsense. Jesus Commanded that we not call anyone by a religious title. So, don't ALLOW anyone to call you by a religious title. “*You are all only family siblings, you are all but brothers and sisters!*” said the Lord of Glory!

We have “ONE” and He is Jesus, the Second Adam, and the ONLY “*Mediator between God and man.*”

He shared human DNA so that those who bow to Him alone might share his gift: His Intention for His community of Eternity-Life. He is ALIVE!

His Intent has ALWAYS been “*a kingdom of priests*”—a “*holy nation of priests*”—a “*royal priesthood*” that “*from the least to the greatest they all Know me.*” “*I was with you, I shall be IN you. Christ IN you, plural, the Hope of Glory!*”

A Kingdom of Priests, a Royal Priesthood, Gifts, parts of Him, Jesus now ALIVE, and SCALED in His Body!

Let There Be Light

Let there be Light. Everything meaningful starts with Light.

Our first birth, our physical human presence out of the womb,
and our Second Birth into the shared DNA of Heaven, our Eternity-
Life ReBirth, of which Jesus speaks,

—both are miracles of First Light.

Both “births” require some time to adjust to Light. Often we can’t understand what we are “seeing,” initially. Adults who had been blind since birth are known to fall off of curbs when walking down the sidewalk. They “see” it, but it’s just an odd-shaped line to them. They don’t comprehend shadowing and depth perception in the early stages of first glimpses of Light and sight. Spiritually, the same is true for those who first “see” with spiritual eyes. Lucidity often takes time. Our expectations of a physical or spiritual toddler, who doesn’t yet understand their world or edges or corners or inclines or slippery surfaces, are a good illustration of how we can help each other spiritually, without “judging.” Early stumbles can happen. In both scenarios, first-birth and the Second-Birth, we need to be compassionate and wise as we “*strengthen our brothers and sisters.*”

Jesus invites “*all people, everywhere*” and “*every nation*” to share in ReBirth into the Tree of Zoe Life, “*by the Lord who is the Spirit,*” that their eyes might be opened from the darkness of the womb.

And always, regardless of how “experienced” our eyes may be, first birth or Second Birth, the face of the parent—will always bring a smile to the newborn. That’s pretty cool.

That Face, that Light, that Seeing, that Second Birth—that's the connection to Jesus, the Head. But with no opened eyes, no Heaven-DNA, no connection—there is no Family, no church. All you have is a meeting with a religious word slapped on it.

If it's not necessary to have “the faith of Abraham” and therefore the gift of Jesus DNA at a Second Birth, then of course there's no way Jesus can be a head of that “church.” They don't have a connection to the head. In that case, it's only possible to “*attend and tithe.*”

Without “*from the least to the greatest*” being intimately connected by the Spirit through Jesus to the Father, Jesus is just a Bible study topic, an emotional song lyric, for many. Not all of course. But George Barna and many “big name” leaders have said 90% of attendees don't know God.

For those without the risky abandoned faith of Abraham, they cannot have the Spirit, the mark of an actual believer that Jesus came to Birth from heaven, and they are therefore not connected to the Living Head.

With this hijacking of words and ideas, the God-shaped vacuum has remained empty, while convenience and ritualized mammal DNA became king. Thus was born the man-made competitive world religion increasingly known as “Christianity”—with hierarchy, with “*the bishop, the priest, the pastor must be obeyed*” (Ignatius), with ritual, with sacraments, with attendance and with institutional membership increasingly capable of existing without any demonstrable DNA-Change or Life from Heaven.

And there is a very practical problem with that.

If people can claim to be “members” without SecondBirth, without the downpayment of the Holy Spirit, then what happens when “*the whole church comes together*”? Paul says: “*When revelation comes to the second, let the first one sit down.*” That works beautifully when Jesus is actually living IN His people. Without that? Mayhem.

When mammal DNA without the Spirit Gift Indwelling is part of the “*church membership*,” with their knowledge, talent, attendance, and money giving—this is not a Biblical church. It is a world religion. That is all you have when Jesus is not central daily in conversation and lives and love in relationships.

This Sunday morning mixture is generally 10% with heaven DNA and 90% who have no idea what “*the abandoned trusting of Abraham*” even is. So they have made no covenant and do not have Holy Spirit life in them yet. If they are unwilling to walk in it and make covenant with God, and no one is expecting them to do so, then Sunday morning is definitely not anything to do with the body of Christ. Such a situation as a “teaching center” maybe, is more akin to “*the lecture hall of Tyrannus*” in Ephesus. Such a place is not a “church” and people should not be allowed to think they are Christians for being there.

Attendees are hearing “about” Jesus, and his spirit life and the covenant of trust of Abraham. And that is awesome. But people are not part of Jesus by being perfect or by attending, or by knowing the Bible, or by living in the west.

Of course. We get it! We know why we are inclined to all of this religious mumbo-jumbo!

“Nature abhors a vacuum”—and so does human nature. That’s why in every culture and world religion there is always some Grand High Poobah willing to try to fill that God-vacuum for you with religion, ritual, and human intermediaries. God forbid. And actually He did forbid.

For God so loved the world! He sent Jesus who shared DNA from God himself, the only God, to bring us to himself! To make the Way, to be the Door, to Pioneer the future for those who would have him to be their king!

We are only part of Jesus by sharing His Eternity-Life Second Birth by “*the Faith of Abraham.*” That is the invitation. Not an alternate world religion to Hindu or Islam or academia or wealth, or capitalism or socialism.

Jesus came to “*set captives free*” from every tribe and tongue. Hijacking that and making it into “just another” competitive world religion, but with Jesus in the discussion, was never God’s Plan.

He came for all humans, for God so loved the World, “*all men everywhere,*” to fill that God-shaped vacuum with Himself, “*from the least to the greatest.*” For every single true “faith of Abraham” believer, yielding to Him as Abraham did, outside of time and matter, “*together with us.*” Wow.

Carry the Light, and Expect Hostility

Once Christ actually becomes visible through you, what happens next? Darkness reacts.

Jesus told His followers plainly to expect hostility, and He grounded that expectation in something deeper than social friction—a spiritual dividing line drawn by His own presence.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first,” He said, *“if you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own... that is why the world hates you.”*

The rejection is not personal, no matter how it feels that way. It lands on Christ Himself and, through Him, on the Father. Jesus also said, *“Whoever hates me hates my Father as well.”*

This comes down to Life exposing those committed to mammal-existence, and the offense of questioning that, and demonstrating something Other. It’s not mere disagreement. Jesus explains that the world “cannot hate” the world, but it hates Him *“because I testify that its works are evil.”* He identifies the root cause by also saying:

“Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.” Light does not provoke by force—it provokes simply by revealing what darkness prefers to keep hidden. To carry that light, then, is to invite the same reaction Jesus received.

If you join the Second Adam in saying, *“I’m going to show the world what is Possible, for all who embrace the full faith of Abraham”*—it’ll likely get crazy for you.

He did not soften this warning to make it easier to follow Him. He turned it into a promise. He promised, *“You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”* And He went further, calling that very rejection a blessing: *“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, and insult you, and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.”* Hatred aimed at a Christ-follower, then, is not evidence of failure but often a compliment that satan hates it. And the devious diabolical relentless tactics of an enemy that does not sleep will out and out shock you. But, “worth it.”

It’s all part of how He tests and refines us, to get all the way to the Real inside of us.

From Blaise to Blaze

We have in every culture and generation tried to fill Blaise Pascal's "*God-shaped vacuum in every man's heart*" with long-shot human structures, rituals, symbolism, and irrational compromises of every kind. We all do it, we have all done it. Again and again. It doesn't work.

Oh, for lucidity from birth, instead of "the hard way" for ALL of us!

While hungering and searching relentlessly for identity, community, understanding, peace, life, love...

We have been looking in the wrong places.

The entire human race has had to feel the Blaise, the God-shaped vacuum... in order to have the audacity and tenacity to search for the Blaze, the Life and Love and Fire of God Himself!

The spirit of prophecy is the Testimony of Jesus! The Second Adam, welcomed as the King over us, regardless of culture or previous world religion, whether Presbyterian or Papal, Buddhist or Baptist, Hindu or Atheist. He came for all of us, to share Heaven-Life DNA, with "ever-increasing Glory" as we "behold HIM." He leads us to the Tree of Life to share in the Divine Nature, as we work to make our mammal DNA more and more subordinate to the God-Life infused into us at our "Faith of Abraham" moment of abandonment—the covenant-accepting ReBirth that comes through "saving faith, saving trust."

Feel the Blaise, the "*God-shaped vacuum*," then let go and feel the Blaze of His Life and Love and Wisdom! "*THIS is the work of God, to believe on the One whom He sent.*"

This is the Invitation, not to a special day with a special human presiding over a special meeting or building, with special words about a special topic. It is the Invitation to Come to HIM.

He invited us all, *“Come to me. All you who are weary... and I will give you Rest.”*

Jesus: *“πραῦς εἰμι καὶ ταπεινὸς τῇ καρδίᾳ”*—*“I am praus and tapeinos in heart.”*

“I am powerfully-gentle, and never self-important in heart.”

Come to Him, not about Him. Let the Great Shepherd of the sheep, the master Architect, show you how to participate in the Divine Nature, together, daily. Not meetings but FAMILY LIFE in the Spirit, as we *“rise up and sit down and walk along the way,”* and *“live and move and have our being”* in Him, the Second Adam, the *“Life-giving Spirit”* who knows our pain and weakness and came to be a bridge into a realm we would have had no right to even know about, let alone to Experience with Him.

How does all of this “look” to the nations and cultures, and those “*seated in the circle around Jesus*” of “every tribe and tongue”? It will look soooooo very different in every country or generation! But “*our hearts will burn within us*” in every language and culture and physical appearance, without “*judging anyone after the flesh!*” The “test” is the Spirit of Christ, the mystery withheld for ages and generations! They, we, will ALL... Experience Him—with our nation and neighborhood’s culture. Experience Him—with our language. And, while radically different to the human observer because of their previous culture, the Master Architect’s infrastructure will be universally intact for all. Whether ex-Muslims, ex-Christians, ex-Buddhists, ex-Atheists, ex-Hindus... all have Encountered the filling of the “GOD-SHAPED VACUUM” by the Spirit of the Living God! NOW, all with a “king over them” and Abraham’s kind of trust, “the faith of Abraham.” Their Life and DNA-Change in ReBirth is REAL, not a doctrine or world religion.

NOW, Experience Him with the Master Architect’s infrastructure, and His load-bearing truths supporting and undergirding all that He does, anywhere.

What is that infrastructure and architecture that every culture and expression, any ex-ANYTHING ANYWHERE will demonstrate? Instead of building on “sand” we must see... Devotion to daily Life and Love and vulnerability and self-sacrifice! “*That the world may know.*” What He builds will be unique to your nation and culture and daily life and your ex-Anything. But every architect knows the load-bearing, often-hidden infrastructure and foundational essentials are nonnegotiable. (Check out Hebrews 3:12–13 and “one another” list as an example of some of those essential foundational truths.)

There is SO much more to talk about, but please START now. Start by Seeking HIM, asking HIM to know HIM. Your words from your heart. He will hear you.

“Dry bones, you can’t get there from here”—but GOD can draw you to Himself, supernaturally, IF you will offer Him “the faith of Abraham” instead of the nonsense of mammal rituals and symbolism, man-made systems and even well-meaning medicine men and clergy—who ALSO can come to the Real Deliverer, as so many have and will.

For those who have been faithful, sincere, loving to the core, what then is the benefit of having applied yourselves and led your family as best you can amidst the evil of this present age? As Paul said, *“Much in every way!”*

“All things are possible, for those who abandon to Me,” says the Lord.

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” (Dan.7:13–14)

God made us sit together in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us who are in Christ Jesus. (Eph.2)

The ache is real.

The longing is real.

The Deliverer has come.

And He did not come merely to educate us or start another religion. He came to put His Life within us. Eternity-Life. Not *“go to heaven when I die.”*

By the “faith quality of Abraham”...

The God-shaped vacuum becomes a fountain within.

The fountain becomes a river.

The River flows to the world that He loves with all His heart.

Let's Go! Let's Glow! Let's Flow River Flow!

Tell JESUS right now, that's what YOU want. Tell Him that “whatever it takes” is your true “faith of Abraham” commitment to Him!

Do that, and He'll take you There. *“From one degree of Glory to another, by the Lord who is the Spirit.”* Behold HIM!

He ain't starting no religion! So Join HIM! The Person! He knows you. Now get to know HIM. Tell Him. All the way, come what may. Go max!

Appendix

Who He Says He Is

- “*I am the bread of life.*”—John 6:35, 48
- “*I am the living bread that came down from heaven.*”—John 6:51
- “*I am the light of the world.*”—John 8:12; 9:5
- “*I am the door.*”—John 10:7, 9
- “*I am the good shepherd.*”—John 10:11, 14
- “*I am the resurrection and the life.*”—John 11:25
- “*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*”—John 14:6
- “*I am the true vine.*”—John 15:1
- “*You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.*”—John 13:13
- “*I am He*”—the Messiah they were waiting for.—John 4:25–26
- “*I am a king.*”—John 18:37
- “*I am the Son of God.*”—John 10:36
- “*The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.*”—Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:28; Luke 6:5
- “*One greater than the temple.*”—Matthew 12:6
- “*Greater than Jonah.*”—Matthew 12:41; Luke 11:32
- “*Greater than Solomon.*”—Matthew 12:42; Luke 11:31
- “*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*”—Matthew 9:12–13; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:31–32
- “*I came down from heaven.*”—John 6:38
- “*I proceeded forth and came from God.*”—John 8:42
- “*I came into the world.*”—John 18:37
- “*The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*”—Luke 19:10

- *“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*—Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45
- *“The Father sent Me.”*—John 5:36–37; 6:57; 8:18
- *“I have come in My Father’s name.”*—John 5:43
- *“I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”*—John 16:28
- *“I will come again and receive you to Myself.”*—John 14:3
- *“Before Abraham was, I AM.”*—John 8:58
- *“I and My Father are one.”*—John 10:30
- *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”*—John 14:9
- *“He who believes in Me has everlasting life.”*—John 6:47
- *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*—Matthew 11:28
- *“I give eternal life.”*—John 10:28
- *“Because I live, you will live also.”*—John 14:19
- *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*—Matthew 28:18
- *“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”*—Matthew 18:20
- *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*—Matthew 28:20
- *“If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all peoples to Myself.”*—John 12:32
- *“I lay down My life for the sheep.”*—John 10:15
- *“He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners... to set the oppressed free.”*—Luke 4:18
- *“There is one God and one Mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”*—1 Timothy 2:5
- *“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*—Revelation 19:10
- *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”*—John 6:29

- *“The God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep...”—Hebrews 13:20*
- *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them.”—John 6:44*
- *“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven... He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”—Daniel 7:13–14*

Who He Says We Are

- *“For God so LOVED THE WORLD, that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have Eternity Life.”—John 3:16*
- *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”—John 8:36*
- *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”—John 10:10*
- *“There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.
However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.”—1 Corinthians 15:44–47*
- *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”—Acts 2:38–39*

- *“...that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”—2 Peter 1:4*
- *“You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household...”—Ephesians 2:19*
- *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”—Ephesians 2:13*
- *“For you are all offspring of God through faith (full reliance, trust, and direction as Abraham’s) in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor non-Jew, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you ARE Abraham’s seed, tribe, semen, divine life-giving future, and heirs according to the promise, the allotted inheritance by divine pledge.”—Galatians 3:26–29*
- *“Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?” Then, pointing to His disciples: “Here are My mother and My brothers. For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”—Matthew 12:48–50*
- *“No one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for Me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields...”—Mark 10:29–30*
- *“You have one Teacher, and you are all brothers... And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and He is in heaven.”—Matthew 23:8–9*
- *“Nor are you to be called teacher, for you have one Teacher, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant.”—Matthew 23:10–11*
- *“If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you... the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.”—Romans 8:9–10*

- *“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.”—Romans 8:11*
- *“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”—Romans 8:14*
- *“The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’”—Romans 8:15*
- *“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.”—Romans 8:17*
- *“That He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”—Romans 8:29*
- *“In bringing many sons and daughters to glory...”—Hebrews 2:10*
- *“Both the One who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.”—Hebrews 2:11*
- *“Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”—John 1:12*
- *“Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”—John 1:13*
- *“You must be born again.”—John 3:7*
- *“That all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us...”—John 17:21*
- *“I in them and You in Me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.”—John 17:23*
- *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”—1 Corinthians 12:13*
- *“There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”—Ephesians 4:4–6*
- *“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”—Colossians 1:26–27*
- *“He lives with you and will be in you.”—John 14:17*

- *“You are in Me, and I am in you.”—John 14:20*
- *“We will come to them and make Our home with them.”—John 14:23*
- *“I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”—Galatians 2:20*
- *“God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.”—Galatians 4:6*
- *“Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you?”—2 Corinthians 13:5*
- *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”—Ephesians 3:17–19*
- *“The Holy Spirit who dwells within us.”—2 Timothy 1:14*
- *“You yourselves are God’s temple and God’s Spirit dwells in your midst.”—1 Corinthians 3:16*
- *“Whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.”—1 Corinthians 6:17*
- *“Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you.”—1 Corinthians 6:19*
- *“You too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.”—Ephesians 2:22*
- *“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.”—1 Peter 2:5*
- *“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in them.”—John 6:56*
- *“Remain in Me, as I also remain in you.”—John 15:4*
- *“The one who keeps God’s commands lives in Him, and He in them.”—1 John 3:24*
- *“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.”—1 John 4:15*
- *“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”—1 John 4:16*
- *“Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”—James 4:4*

- *“For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other.”—Galatians 5:17*
- *“The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”—Romans 8:7*
- *“Your life is now hidden with Christ in God... Christ, who is your life.”—Colossians 3:3–4*
- *“For to me, to live is Christ.”—Philippians 1:21*
- *“So that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body... so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body.”—2 Corinthians 4:10–11*
- *“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.”—Romans 6:4–11*
- *“God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.”—1 John 5:11*
- *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you... And I will put My Spirit in you.”—Ezekiel 36:26–27*
- *“I will put My Spirit in you and you will live.”—Ezekiel 37:14*
- *“I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.”—Jeremiah 31:31–34*
- *“I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit.”—Isaiah 57:15*
- *“I am coming, and I will live among you.”—Zechariah 2:10–11*
- *“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”—John 7:37–38*
- *“By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive.”—John 7:39*
- *“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants.”—Isaiah 44:3*
- *“And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people.”—Joel 2:28*

- *“I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people... Come out from among them and be separate... And I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters.”—2 Corinthians 6:16–18*
- *“The water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”—John 4:14*
- *“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”—John 13:35*
- *“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”—John 13:34*
- *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”—John 15:13*
- *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”—Matthew 5:44*
- *“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”—John 13:14*
- *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”—Acts 20:35*
- *“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”—Matthew 6:12*
- *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”—Galatians 6:2*
- *“I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat.”—Matthew 25:35*
- *“When you are invited, take the lowest place.”—Luke 14:10*
- *“If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.”—Matthew 5:40*
- *“If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.”—Matthew 5:41*
- *“Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”—Mark 10:44*
- *“Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.”—Matthew 16:24*
- *“Whoever loses their life for My sake will find it.”—Matthew 16:25*
- *“Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.”—1 Peter 2:21*

- *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”—1 John 3:16*
- *“Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.”—1 John 2:6*
- *“Apart from Me you can do nothing.”—John 15:5*
- *“From His roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD.”—Isaiah 11:1-2*
- *“He will delight in the fear of the LORD.”—Isaiah 11:3*
- *“The spiritual person judges [discerns] all things.”—1 Corinthians 2:15*
- *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD Almighty.”—Zechariah 4:6*
- *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”—Galatians 5:22-23*
- *“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”—Luke 6:46*
- *“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.”—Matthew 20:26-27*
- *“When a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop.”—1 Corinthians 14:30*
- *“When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.”—1 Corinthians 14:26*
- *“They will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.”—Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:11*
- *“You will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”—Exodus 19:6*

- *“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession.”—1 Peter 2:9*
- *“To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”—1 Corinthians 12:7*
- *“You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”—1 Corinthians 12:27*
- *“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first.”—John 15:18*
- *“If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own... That is why the world hates you.”—John 15:19*
- *“Whoever hates Me hates My Father as well.”—John 15:23*
- *“The world... hates Me because I testify that its works are evil.”—John 7:7*
- *“Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.”—John 3:20*
- *“You will be hated by everyone because of Me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”—Matthew 10:22*
- *“Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.”—Luke 6:22*
- *“We all... beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into His image from one degree of glory to another, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”—2 Corinthians 3:18*
- *“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”—Matthew 11:29*
- *“He is the builder of everything.”—Hebrews 3:4*
- *“In Him we live and move and have our being.”—Acts 17:28*
- *“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily... so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”—Hebrews 3:12–13*

- *“God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”—Ephesians 2:6–7*
- *“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God.”—Revelation 5:10*

Other Cool Stuff

- Paul talking to the Athenians—Acts 17:27–28
- John 1
- 1 John 1
- *“He is not far from each one of us.”—Acts 17:27*
- *“These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”—Colossians 2:16–17*
- *“I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”—Acts 7:56*
- *“Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.”—2 Corinthians 12:2–3*
- *“Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”—Matthew 7:14*
- *“Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”—Luke 13:23–24*
- *“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”—Isaiah 12:3*
- *“Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live... for wherever the river goes, everything will live.”—Ezekiel 47:9*
- *“On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem.”—Zechariah 14:8*
- *“Every tribe and language and people and nation.”—Revelation 5:9*
- *“Repentance from acts that lead to death [dead works], and of faith in God.”—Hebrews 6:1*

- *“The word of God is alive and active... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”—Hebrews 4:12*
- *“He took the disciples with Him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.”—Acts 19:9*
- *“God now commands all people everywhere to repent.”—Acts 17:30*
- *“Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”—Deuteronomy 6:7*
- *“What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? Much in every way!”—Romans 3:1-2*
- *“All things are possible to him who believes.”—Mark 9:23*

The 59 “One Another” Verses

Positive Commands

- John 13:34—Love one another (this command occurs at least 16 times)
- Romans 12:10—Be devoted to one another
- Romans 12:10—Honor one another above yourselves
- Romans 12:16—Live in harmony with one another
- Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11—Build up one another
- Romans 15:5—Be likeminded towards one another
- Romans 15:7—Accept one another
- Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16—Admonish one another
- Romans 16:16—Greet one another
- 1 Corinthians 12:25—Care for one another
- Galatians 5:13—Serve one another
- Galatians 6:2—Bear one another’s burdens
- Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13—Forgive one another
- Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13—Be patient with one another
- Ephesians 4:15, 25—Speak the truth in love
- Ephesians 4:32—Be kind and compassionate to one another

- Ephesians 5:19—Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
- Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5—Submit to one another
- Philippians 2:3—Consider others better than yourselves
- Philippians 2:4—Look to the interests of one another
- Colossians 3:13—Bear with one another
- Colossians 3:16—Teach one another
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18—Comfort one another
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11—Encourage one another
- Hebrews 3:13—Exhort one another
- Hebrews 10:24—Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works
- 1 Peter 4:9—Show hospitality to one another
- 1 Peter 4:10—Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another
- 1 Peter 5:5—Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another
- James 5:16—Pray for one another
- James 5:16—Confess your faults to one another

Negative Commands (how not to treat one another)

- Colossians 3:9—Do not lie to one another
- Romans 14:13—Stop passing judgment on one another
- Galatians 5:15—If you keep on biting and devouring each other... you'll be destroyed by each other
- Galatians 5:26—Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other
- James 4:11—Do not slander one another
- James 5:9—Don't grumble against each other
- Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25—We do all this because we are in a real sense "*members of one another*"

The Authors

This book is not someone's theory, or creative speculation. It is truth that we have tasted, tested, and proven, through the daily process of *"iron sharpening iron"* as we have walked together. It has been lived in many cities around the world, across many generations and decades. This kind of life may be rare on our planet, but it is accessible to every one of us, if we are willing to *"lose our life to find it."*

This is our declaration:

despite our brokenness as members of a fallen human race, we have experienced Eternity Life, by God's mercy toward us. There is MORE available to us than the many religious flavors that we all grew up in. We want this, too, for you—and for Him. That's the reason this book exists, and that's why we gladly add our signatures to it.

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