

WORD OF GOD
(Introduction to Holy Scripture)

By

Richard W. Linthicum

RichardLayman@verizon.net

www.MessiahBible.net

This document was prepared by and is the intellectual property of Richard W. Linthicum (“Author”), who offers it without charge to recipients. Author permits recipients to use, copy and/or disseminate this document, or portions thereof, provided that no fees are charged for those materials.

WORD OF GOD
(Introduction to Holy Scripture)

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Pages</u>
I. Overview of Scripture	3
A. Written Word of God	3
B. Brief History of Bible	3
C. Contents of Bible	4
D. Dimensions of Biblical Interpretation / Revelation	5
E. Word of God Fulfilled by Jesus Christ	7
II. Literal Interpretation of Scripture	8
A. Substance of Scripture	8
B. Laws of Supremacy	10
C. Historical Highlights in Bible	11
D. Contextual Understanding of Scripture	12
III. Moral Perspective	14
A. Mankind's (Our) Condition	14
B. Survey of Scriptures	14
C. The Exercise of God's Laws	15
D. Our Responsibilities	17
IV. Spiritual Revelations In Scripture	18
A. The Spiritual Bible	18
B. Overview of Types	19
C. Specific Examples of Old Testament Types	20
D. Types of Israel's Messiah	22
V. Mystical Dimensions	23
A. Understanding Biblical Prophecy	23
B. Purpose of Mystical Prophecies	24
C. Typical Biblical Symbolism	24
D. Selected Mystical (Apocalyptic) Prophecies	25
VI. The Word Of God - Christ Jesus	29
A. The Word Became Flesh	29
B. The Creative Word of God	29
C. The Prophetic Word of God	30
D. Jesus' Personal Testimony	32
E. Father God's Testimony	34
F. Jesus' Invitation	34

All Scriptural Quotations are taken from the New American Bible (1970 Version), with Revised Translations of New Testament (1986) and Psalms (1991).

- **Jesus' Words are Shown in Red**
- *(Parenthetic Italics) Imbedded within Bible Quotes are Author's Comments.*
- **Bold** and Underlined Text are Author's Emphasis.

Blue Highlights Jesus Christ's Fulfillment of Messianic Types/Foreshadows and Prophetic Symbolism in the Old Testament.

PART I – OVERVIEW OF SCRIPTURE

A. Written Word of God

1. Inspired by the Holy Spirit 2 Pet. 1:20-21
 - a. “Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the Holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God.”

2. Revealing God to Man Throughout the Ages
 - a. Man’s Spiritual Struggle Gen. 3 - Rev. 20

3. Equipping Man for the Kingdom of God 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - a. “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

B. Brief History of Bible

What is the Bible ?

- Two Sections: Old & New Testaments

How did it come to be ?

- Written by Men Chosen, Anointed & Inspired by God

1. Old Testament Written in Hebrew by Jews (15th - 5th Cent. BC)
 - a. Separate Scrolls
 - b. Compiled & Put Together by Ezra’s Priests (5th Cent. BC)
 - 1) Sacred Scripture (Jewish “Tanach”)
 - 2) Scriptures Used by Jews, Jesus & the Early Church
 - c. Contents of the Tanach:
 - 1) The Torah (Books of Moses)
 - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
 - 2) The Early Prophets (Early Nevi-im)
 - Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings
 - 3) The Latter Prophets (Latter Nevi-im)
 - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
 - 4) The Writings (Ketuvim)
 - Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chronicles

2. Some Other Books Written in Greek by Jews (5th - 1st Cent. BC)
 - a. After Ezra’s Compilation of Sacred Scripture
 - b. Keep Separate
 - c. Called the Apocrypha

3. New Testament Written by Jewish Christians (1st Cent. AD)
 - a. Separate Manuscripts

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2) Jeremiah [Jeremiah] | 11) Jonah [Jonah] |
| 3) Lamentations [Jeremiah] | 12) Micah [Micah] |
| 4) Baruch [Baruch] * | 13) Nahum [Nahum] |
| 5) Ezekiel [Ezekiel] | 14) Habakkuk [Habakkuk] |
| 6) Daniel [Daniel] ** | 15) Zephaniah [Zephaniah] |
| 7) Hosea [Hosea] | 16) Haggai [Haggai] |
| 8) Joel [Joel] | 17) Zechariah [Zechariah] |
| 9) Amos [Amos] | 18) Malachi [Malachi] |

2. **THE NEW TESTAMENT** – Written After Jesus Christ’s Life on Earth
- a. **Gospels** (Written 56 - 96 AD) Mark 12:18-27
Life & Ministry of Jesus Christ
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1) Matthew [Matthew] | 3) Luke [Luke] |
| 2) Mark [Mark] | 4) John [John] |
- b. **Acts of the Apostles** (Written 59 - 63 AD) Acts 2:1-4
History of the Early Church
- 1) Acts [Luke]
- c. **Epistles** (Written 55 - 96 AD) Eph. 6:10-17
Letters to Christian Church Communities & Individuals
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Romans [Paul] | 12) Titus [Paul] |
| 2) 1 Corinthians [Paul] | 13) Philemon [Paul] |
| 3) 2 Corinthians [Paul] | 14) Hebrews [Paul] |
| 4) Galatians [Paul] | 15) James [James] |
| 5) Ephesians [Paul] | 16) 1 Peter [Peter] |
| 6) Philippians [Paul] | 17) 2 Peter [Peter] |
| 7) Colossians [Paul] | 18) 1 John [John] |
| 8) 1 Thessalonians [Paul] | 19) 2 John [John] |
| 9) 2 Thessalonians [Paul] | 20) 3 John [John] |
| 10) 1 Timothy [Paul] | 21) Jude [Jude] |
| 11) 2 Timothy [Paul] | |
- d. **Book of Revelation** (The Apocalypse) (Written 96 AD) Rev. 22:6-21
Christ Jesus and His Church (Past, Present & Future)
- 1) Revelation [John]

Legend: [Traditional Author]

* Deuterocanonical Books (Protestant Apocrypha) in Roman Catholic Bibles Only.

** Additional Portions of these Books in Roman Catholic Bibles Only

D. **Dimensions of Biblical Interpretation / Revelation**

1. **Literal.** Actual Events, Personalities and Quotations in the Bible are Accurate & True.
- a. **Example:** Did Jesus Really Walk on Water? **YES!** Matt. 14:22-33
- 1) “..... the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he (Jesus) came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost,’ they said, and they cried out in fear. At once (Jesus) spoke to them, **‘Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.’**” (Matt. 14:24-27)

2. **Moral.** Application of Scripture to Our Personal Lives.
- a. **Example:** How do these Commandments Apply to Me? Mark 12:28-31
- 1) “One of the scribes....asked him, ‘Which is the first of all the commandments?’ Jesus replied, ‘**The first is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ (Quoting Deut. 6:4-5) The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Quoting Lev. 19:18) There is no other commandment greater than these.’”**
3. **Spiritual.** Images, Foreshadows and Types of Messiah (Christ).
- a. **Example:** How does this Event Point to Jesus? Num. 21:4-9; then John 3:14-18
- 1) Old Testament Event. “..... the people complained against God and Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!’ In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, ‘Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if anyone who has been bitten looks at it, he will recover.’ Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he recovered.” (Num 21:5-9)
- 2) Jesus Christ’s Fulfillment. “**And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up (On a Cross), so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**” (John 3:14-18)
4. **Mystical.** Apocalyptic Visions, Dreams & Symbols:
- a. Heaven’s Perspective that is Hidden to Man’s Natural Intellect and the World
- b. Revealed by God to Our Spirits for God’s Purpose in God’s Time
- c. **Example:** What’s the Meaning of this Heavenly Vision? Rev. 19:1-10
- 1) “After this I (*John*) heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying: ‘Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her harlotry. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.’ They said a second time: ‘Alleluia! Smoke will rise from her forever and ever.’ The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, ‘Amen. Alleluia.’ A voice coming from the throne said: ‘Praise our God, all you his servants, (and) you who revere him, small and great.’ Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said: ‘Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, (our) God, the almighty. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day

of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment.' (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.) Then the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These words are true; they come from God.' I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'Don't! I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brothers who bear witness to Jesus. Worship God. Witness to Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'"

E. Word of God Fulfilled by Jesus Christ

John 1:1-18

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

"You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf."

John 5:39

"Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he (*Jesus*) interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures."

Luke 24:27

1. Jesus Christ Is the Central Theme of All Scripture!
2. Jesus Christ Is the Central Personality in Scripture!
3. Jesus Christ Is the Center of Our Faith!

PART II - LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE

EVENTS, PERSONALITIES & QUOTATIONS IN BIBLE ARE ACCURATE & TRUE

A. Substance of Scripture

1. Inspired by God for His People. “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - a. Creative Effect of God’s Word Gen. 1
 - 1) “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.” (Gen. 1:1-3)
 - a) Whatever God Says Comes into Existence (God Can Not Lie)
 - b. Truthful, Inerrant & Authoritative Matt. 5:17-19
 - 1) “**Do not think that I (Jesus Christ) have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**”
 - c. Alive, Relevant & Timeless Heb. 4:12-13
 - 1) “Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.”
 - d. Weapon Against Evil Eph. 6:10-17
 - 1) “Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all (the) flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
 - e. Faith Builder Rom. 10:9-17
 - 1) “for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is

Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (*Rom. 10:9-13*)

- 2) “Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” (*Rom. 10:17*)
 - f. Points to Jesus - Source of Salvation John 5:39
 - 1) “**You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf.**”
 - g. Points to Jesus - Source of Deliverance John 8:31-36
 - 1) “Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, **‘If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’**
 - 2) “They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, **“You will become free”?**’
 - 3) “Jesus answered them, **‘Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free.’**”
 - h. Points to Jesus - Source of Health Acts 4:8-12
 - 1) “Then Peter, filled with the holy Spirit, answered them, ‘Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved (*healed*), then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.’”
 - i. Points to Jesus - Source of Our Good Works Eph. 2:8-10
 - 1) “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.”
 - j. Reveals the Will of God (Personally & Corporately)
 - k. Reveals the Ways of God
 - l. Foundation of the Church
2. Wisdom of God Given to Man 1 Cor. 1:18-31
 - a. “The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside.’ Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith.” (*1 Cor. 1:18-21*)
 - b. “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” (*1 Cor. 1:25*)
 - c. “It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption” (*1 Cor. 1:30*)

B. Laws of Supremacy

1. The Spiritual is Superior to The Physical Rom. 8
 - a. “Hence, now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death.”
(*Rom. 8:1-2*)
 - b. “For those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit with the things of the spirit. The concern of the flesh is death, but the concern of the spirit is life and peace.”
(*Rom. 8:5-6*)
 - c. “In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God’s will.”
(*Rom. 8:26-27*)
 - d. “What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (*Rom. 8:35-39*)
 - e. The Stepping Stone into the Spiritual Realm is Faith!

2. Law of Faith Heb. 11
 - a. “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.”
(*Heb. 11:1*)
 - b. “By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible.” (*Heb. 11:3*)
 - c. “But without faith it is impossible to please him, for anyone who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” (*Heb. 11:6*)
 - d. Put Your Faith in Christ Jesus
 - 1) Pray in His Name. “..... Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.”
John 16:23-24
 - 2) Open Your Spirit to Christ
 - b. Read & Study Scripture in Faith
 - 1) “for we walk by faith, not by sight” 2 Cor. 5:7
 - 2) “For in fact we have received the good news just as they did. But the word that they heard did not profit them, for they were not united in faith with those who listened.” Heb. 4:2
 - 3) Believe & Accept What the Scriptures Say
 - a) Even if You Don’t Understand It!
 - 4) Don’t Rely on Human Knowledge
 - a) Rely on the Spirit of God.
 - “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.” Prov. 3:5-6

3. We Can Not Proceed Further in this Study Without Faith
 - a. “Jesus said to him, ‘**If you can!**’ **Everything is possible to one who has faith.**’ Then the boy’s father cried out, ‘I do believe, help my unbelief!’” Mark 9:23-24
 - b. Greatest Sin in Old Testament was Idolatry Ex. 20:1-6
 - 1) Same Is True Today
 - c. Idolatry is Putting Any Part of Creation Above Our Creator Rom. 1:18-32
 - 1) Physical Possessions, Objects, Things, etc.
 - 2) People, Personalities, Human Authorities
 - 3) Human Intellect, Writings, Oratory, Ideas, Theories, etc.
 - 4) Organizations, Governments, etc.
 - 5) Lesser Spirits Gal. 1:6-9

C. Historical Highlights in Bible

1. Scriptures Contain Historical Unfolding of God’s Plan for Total Redemption of Mankind John 3:1-21
2. Yahweh’s Dynamic Intervention in Human Affairs to Accomplish His Plan.
3. Background of Biblical History Rom. 1:18-32, John 3:16-17
 - a. **OLD TESTAMENT**
 - 1) Creation & God's Covenant with Adam Gen. 1:26-28
 - 2) Fall of Man & Curse of Sin Gen. 3:17-21
 - 3) The Flood & God's Covenant with the Nations Gen. 9:9-17
 - 4) Hebrew Patriarchs:
 - a) Lord’s Covenant with Abraham Gen. 12:1-3
 - b) Isaac
 - c) Jacob (Israel)
 - Twelve Tribes of Israel
 - d) Israel’s Migration into Egypt
 - Enslavement in Egypt
 - 5) Israel’s Exodus from Egypt
 - a) Laws Given to Moses
 - The 10 Commandments Ex. 20:1-17
 - b) Wanderings in Desert
 - c) Agreement between God & Israel Deut. 30:15-20
 - 6) Israel in the Promise Land
 - a) Israel’s Conquest of Promise Land
 - b) Age of Judges
 - c) Saul, Israel’s King
 - 7) David Anointed King
 - a) Lord’s Covenant with King David 1 Chron. 17:10-14
 - 8) Solomon's Kingdom
 - a) Consecration of the Temple 1 Kings 8:10-13
 - 9) Division into Kingdoms of Israel (Samaria) & Judah (Jerusalem)
 - 10) Destruction & Dispersion of Israel
 - 11) Destruction & Exile of Judah

- a) Temple Destroyed
- 12) Judah Returns from Exile
 - a) Second Temple
- b. **NEW TESTAMENT**
 - 1) Birth of Jesus Christ
 - a) “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..” John 1:14
 - 2) Jesus’ Life & Ministry Matt. 5:17-18
 - 3) Jesus’ Passion, Death & Resurrection
 - a) “**It is finished**” John 19:30
 - 4) Jesus’ Great Commission & Ascension Matt. 28:18-20
 - 5) Birth of the Church Acts 2:1-4
 - 6) Apostolic Age Acts 4:11-12
 - 7) Christ Jesus’ Revelation & Kingdom

D. Contextual Understanding of Scripture

Bible Readings Must be Kept in Context!

Typical Contexts with Examples:

1. Actual Event
 - a. Moses & Dividing of Red Sea Exodus 14 - 15
 - b. David & Goliath 1 Sam. 17
 - c. Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ Matt. 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38
 - d. Jesus’ Transfiguration Matt. 17:1-8
 - e. Jesus’ Suffering, Death & Resurrection John 18 - 21
2. Story, Dream or Vision
 - a. Pharaoh’s Dream Gen. 41
 - b. Ezekiel’s Vision of Valley of Dry Bones Ezek. 37:1-14
 - c. Jesus’ Story of Forgiveness Luke 7:36-50
3. Direct Teaching
 - a. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5 - 7
 - b. Jesus the Bread of Life John 6:25-71
 - c. Jesus’ Final Preparation of His Disciples John 14 - 16
4. Parable Teaching
 - a. Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
 - b. Mustard Seed & Leaven Matt. 13:31-34
5. Poetry / Symbolism
 - a. “... shadow of your (*God’s*) wings” Psalms 17:6-9
 - b. The Shepherd Lord Psalms 23; Ezekiel 34; John 10
 - c. Simeon’s Prophecy: Luke 2:25-32
 - 1) “... you (*Mary*) shall be pierced with a sword”
6. Who’s Speaking?
 - a. Blasphemy of the Pharisees Matt. 12:22-30
 - b. High Priest’s Charge Against Jesus Matt. 26:62-68

c. Lie of the Jewish Priests

Matt. 28:11-15

7. Verses Before & After

a. A Fool's Confession:

Psa. 14:1

1) Partial Reading: "There is no God."

2) Read in Context: "Fools say in their hearts, There is no God."

b. Call No Man Father

1) Partial Reading: "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven."

Matt. 23:9

2) Read in Context: "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi' ('Teacher'). You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Matt. 23:1-12

a) Jesus is Exposing the Hypocrisy of Scribes & Pharisees

b) Jesus is Teaching on Humility & Service to Others

PART III - MORAL PERSPECTIVE

APPLICATION OF SCRIPTURE TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES

Personal Question: How Does this Scripture Reading Apply to Me?

A. Mankind's (Our) Condition

1. Fall of Man Gen. 3
 - a. Rebellious & Sinful Nature
 - 1) "all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God." Rom. 3:23
 - b. Separated from God
 - c. Cursed to Die
 - 1) "For the wages of sin is death," Rom. 6:23a

2. God's Requirements of Perfection
 - a. "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matt. 5:48

3. God's Promised Remedy for Sin Gen. 3:21
 - a. Blood Sacrifice
 - 1) "According to the law almost everything is purified by blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Heb. 9:22
 - 2) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom 6:23

B. Survey of Scriptures

1. Examples from Laws of Moses
 - a. Ten Commandants Ex. 20:1-17
 - b. Sacrificial Rituals Lev. 1 - 7; Lev. 16
 - c. Warning of Spiritual Foes Deut. 18:9-14

2. Historical Examples
 - a. Love Your Enemies 2 Sam. 9
 - b. Listening to God 1 Kings 19:9-18
 - c. Foolishness of Faith? 2 Kings 5

3. Poetic Selections
 - a. God's Central Man Psa. 1
 - b. Repentant Sinner Psa. 51
 - c. Trust in God Psa. 91

4. True Wisdom Prov. 3:1-12; Prov. 8

5. Prophetic Proclamations
 - a. Value of Human Works Isa. 64:4-5
 - 1) "..... all our good deeds are like polluted rags;"
 - b. Source of True Salvation Isa. 12:1-2
 - 1) ".....God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid"
 - c. The Lord's Desire:
 - 1) Repentance & Good Works Better than Sacrifice. Isa. 1:11-20

- 2) Love & Knowledge of God Better than Sacrifice. Hos. 6:6
- 3) Justice & Goodness Better than Sacrifice. Amos 5:21-24
- 4) Why? He Will Provide the Sacrifice!
He Wants Our Hearts Open to Receive Him.
- d. The Lord's Sacrifice Isa. 53

C. The Exercise of God's Laws

1. Natural Laws for All Peoples – Created by God Matt. 5:45
 - a. Laws of Physics (e.g. Law of Gravity)
 - b. Laws of Seasons (e.g. Seed Time & Harvest) Gen. 8:22; Eccl. 3:1-8
 - c. Laws of Genetics / Biology (e.g. Inherited Features)
 - d. Laws of Humanity Psa. 139:13-18
 - e. Etc.

2. Laws of Christ's Kingdom – Created by God {1}
Just as God Created Natural Laws that Govern His Creation, including Our Lives, so He Created Spiritual Laws that Govern His Creation.
Jesus Taught Us these Kingdom Laws:
 - a. Law of Giving & Receiving Luke 6:36-38
 - 1) "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Luke 6:38)
 - a) Give and It Will be Given Unto You
 - b) Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
 - c) Love Your Enemies
 - b. Law of Use Matt. 25:14-30
 - 1) "For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." (Matt. 25:29)
 - a) Exercise (Use) What the Lord has Given You (Skills, Talents, Resources, etc.)
 - b) To Everyone Who Has – More Shall be Given (Multiplying God's Gifts)
 - c. Law of Persistence Matt. 7:7-11
 - 1) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matt. 7:7-8)
 - a) Don't Give Up
 - b) Be Persistent with God & Man
 - d. Law of Responsibility Luke 12:42-48
 - 1) "..... Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." (Luke 12:48)
 - a) Accountable / Responsible for Privileges in Our Lives
 - b) Whoever is Given Much, Much Will be Required
 - e. Law of Greatness Luke 22:24-30
 - 1) "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them and those in authority over them are addressed as 'Benefactors'; but among you it shall not be so. Rather, let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant." (Luke 25-26)

- a) Humility & Service to Others
- f. Law of Unity Matt. 18:19-20
 - 1) “Again, (amen,) I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”
 - a) Effects of Unified Forces Lev. 26:7-8
- g. Law of Faithfulness Luke 16:10-13
 - 1) “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.” (Luke 16:10)
 - a) Faithful in Small Things - God will Give You Greater Things
- h. Law of Change Matt. 9:16-17
 - 1) “No one patches an old cloak with a piece of unshrunk cloth, for its fullness pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse. People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”
 - a) God & His Plans Never Change!
 - b) God’s Methods of Carrying Out His Plans are Always Fresh & New
- i. Law of Miracles John 11:1-44
 - 1) Lazarus was Dead & Entombed
 - a) Jesus Says to Martha: “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” (John 11:40)
 - b) Jesus Commands Lazarus: “Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:43)
 - c) “The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, ‘Untie him and let him go.’” (John 11:44)
 - 2) Sovereign God Will Interrupt Natural Order/Laws to Accomplish His Purposes
- j. Law of Dominion Acts 1:6-8
 - 1) “But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)
 - a) God Originally Intended Man’s Dominion of Earth Gen. 1:26
 - b) The Lord Wants His People to Rule with Humility, Love and Discipline; Under Christ Jesus’ Ultimate Authority. 1 Cor. 15:20-28

{1} Source “The Secret Kingdom” by Pat Robertson, Word Publishing, 1991.

- 3. Jesus’ Advice Matt. 7:24-27
 - a. “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

PART IV - SPIRITUAL REVELATIONS IN SCRIPTURE

IMAGES, FORESHADOWS & TYPES OF MESSIAH IN OLD TESTAMENT

FULFILLED BY CHRIST JESUS, SON OF GOD & SON OF MAN, IN NEW TESTAMENT

A. The Spiritual Bible

1. All Scripture is Inspired by the Holy Spirit 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - a. “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

2. The Bible is a Spiritual Book that Needs Spiritual Understanding
 - a. The Spirit that Inspired the Writing of Holy Scripture, Is the Same Spirit that Lives in Us 1 Cor. 3:16
 - 1) “Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
 - b. That Same Spirit Gives Us Spiritual Understanding 1 Cor. 2:6-16
 - 1) “Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
 - 2) “But as it is written: ‘What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him,’ this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.”
 - 3) “Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms.”
 - 4) “Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”

3. All Scripture Points to Jesus Christ Matt. 5:17-18

“Do not think that I (*Jesus Christ*) have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.”

 - a. Jesus IS Son of God (Second Person of Trinity)
 - b. Jesus IS Son of Man (Represents All Mankind “Second Adam”) John 1:1-18
 - 1) “.....the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,”
 - c. Jesus IS the Central Figure in Scripture John 5:39

- 1) “You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my (*Jesus Christ’s*) behalf”
 - d. Jesus IS the Center of Our Faith Heb. 1:1-4
 - 1) “In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son (*Jesus Christ*), whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe...”
 - e. The Bible Begins with Jesus Christ at Creation (“Alpha”)
 - f. The Bible Ends with Jesus Christ in Eternity (“Omega”)
4. Purpose of Scripture is to Reveal God’s Holy Anointed One (Jesus Christ / Messiah)
 Luke 24:25-27; John 5:39; John 6:40
- a. “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31

B. Overview of Types

1. Types are Spiritual Images and/or Foreshadows of Christ Jesus in the Old Testament
 - a. Expressed in Particular Events
 - b. Expressed in Particular Personalities
 - c. Expressed in the Lord’s Covenants with Man
 - d. Expressed in Israel’s Rituals & Laws:
 - 1) Priesthood
 - 2) Sacrifices
 - 3) Holy Days, Festivals & Feasts
 - 4) Tabernacle / Temple
 - e. Expressed in Messianic Offices
2. Spiritual Dimensions
 - a. Cyclical Formats Unfolding of God’s Revelations/Plans
 - 1) Repeating Previous Revelations then Expanding into New Revelations
 - a) Example: Teaching Method Used by Jesus John 6:25-59
 - b. “Types” Do Not Negate Nor Compromise Actual Events / Personalities
 - c. Interwoven Revelations
 - 1) Sometimes Multi-Dimensional
 - a) Example: Patriarch Event May Foreshadow Both Mosaic Law & Messiah
 - 2) Requires Holy Spirit to Interpret
3. Survey of General Themes
 - a. Genesis Overviews All Ages
Builds Foundations
 - b. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy
Establishes the Basis of Relationship Between God & Man
 - c. Joshua Foreshadows the Savior Coming Out of Israel
 - d. Judges Type of the Church on Earth
 - e. 1 Samuel Samuel - Foreshadows the Prophets
King Saul - Type of Old Covenant Kingdom
 - f. 2 Samuel King David - Type of Christ at His First Coming

- g. 1 Kings King Solomon - Type of Christ's Second Coming & His Rule
- h. 2 Kings Two Separate Kingdoms - Represents Separation of God's Peoples
 - Israel & Christianity
 - Christian Denominations

C. Specific Examples of Old Testament Types

1. First & Second Adam Gen. 1:26-31; Gen. 2; 1 Cor 15:44-49
 - a. Types from Adam's Originally Created State
 - 1) Adam Created in the Image of God
Jesus is the Image of the Invisible God Col. 1:15-20
 - 2) Man Created to Dominate Earth
 - a) Naming the Animals in Cooperation with Creator
Jesus' Dominion Over Heaven & Earth Matt. 28:18-20
 - a) *Son of God: Co-Creator with Father God & Holy Spirit*
 - 3) Adam Created from Dust of the Earth
Jesus Came to Earth as Son of Man
 - 4) God Breathed into Adam & Adam Became a Living Soul
Holy Spirit Anointed Jesus & Christ Became a Life Giving Savior
 - 5) Adam Put to Sleep:
 - a) Eve was Created from Adam's Rib (Side)
 - b) Adam & Eve Commanded to Populate the Earth
 - Procreate Beings Also in the Image of God
 - c) Eve was Created to Co-Reign with Adam
 - Made Out of Adam's Side
 - d) Wife Unified with Husband
 - Two Become One Flesh
 - Man Leaves His Father & Mother to Cling to His Wife
- Jesus Dies on the Cross and His Side Pierced with a Spear*
- a) *Bride of Christ (The Church) is Born*
 - *Water & Blood Gush Out of Jesus*
 - *Sacraments of Baptism & Eucharist*
 - b) *Church Commanded to Spread Gospel to Whole Earth* Matt. 28:18-20
 - *Procreate Beings to be in Christ's Image* Eph. 4:20-24
 - c) *Church Co-Reigns with Christ*
 - *Created from Christ's Death "Sleep"*
 - d) *Church United with Christ Forever*
 - *Christ Left His Father to Seek, Save & Cling to His Church*

- b. Antitypes from Adam's Sin Gen. 3
("Antitypes" Represent Reversals of Sin, its Curse and its Effects) 1 Cor. 15:20-28
 - 1) Eve (Weaker Authority) Tempted & Deceived by Satan in Garden of Eden
Jesus Tempted by Satan in Wilderness While in a Physically Weakened State from Fasting
 - 2) Adam Disobeys God Willfully
 - a) Man's Free Will, Choosing Self Over God
Jesus Freely Chooses God's Will Over Self, Over Satan's Temptations & Over Sin.
 - 3) Adam & Eve Recognize Being Naked (Loss of Innocence)

- a) Afraid & Hiding from God
Jesus was Naked on Cross
 - a) *Exposing Man's Shame (Sin) to All of Creation*
- 4) Adam Abdicates His Authority to Satan
 - a) Satan Becomes "Prince of this World"
Jesus (Son of Man) Regains Dominion Over Earth
 - a) *Fulfills Adam's Originally Created Position*
 - b) *Given Full Authority in Heaven (Son of God) & Earth (Son of Man)*
- 5) God's Curse of Satan & Promise to Mankind: "I (*Lord God*) will put enmity between you (*Satan*) and the woman (*Eve Prefiguring Virgin Mary*) and between your offspring (*Sons of Sin*) and hers (*Jesus Christ "Seed" of a Woman*); He (*Jesus Christ*) will strike your head (*Head = Mortal Wound*) while you (*Satan*) will strike his heel (*Heel Represents Christ's Suffering & Death, Seemingly Halting Jesus' Work [i.e. His Walk]*)."
 - 6) Curse of Man
 - a) The Land (Which was Under Man's Authority) is Cursed
 - Requires Man's Toil for Sustenance
 - Nature Competing for Resources (Thorns, Insects, Weather, etc.)
 - b) Physical Death is the Curse of Sin: "You are dirt and dirt you shall return"
Jesus' Redemption from the Curses of Sin
 - a) *Jesus Crowned with Thorns Taking Upon Himself the Curse of the Land*
 - b) *Jesus (Without Sin) Dies on Cross (Tree - Produce of Earth) Gaining Eternal Life for Man*
 - *Christ was from Heaven & Returned to Heaven*
 - *Victorious Over Sin, its Curse & Death* *1 Cor. 15:50-57*
- 7) God Made Leather Garments to Cover Man's Shame
 - a) Symbolizes Sacrificial Death of an Innocent to Atone (Cover) Sins of Man.
Jesus, God's Sinless Gift, Died Naked on Cross to Atone (Cleanse) for Sins of Mankind.
- 8) Man Banished from Garden of Eden
 - a) So He Would Not Partake of the "Tree of Life" in a Sinful Condition.
Jesus Invites Us to Eat of Tree of Life
 - a) *Having been Saved by His Precious Blood*

2. Abraham's Offering of Isaac Gen. 22:1-19
(Prefigures Father God's Offering of His Son Jesus Christ.)
(Abraham is a Type of Father God & Isaac His Son is a Type of Jesus Christ)
- a. The Lord Commands Abraham
 - 1) Take your Son Isaac
 - 2) Go to Land of Moriah (Future Temple Mount in Jerusalem)
 - 3) Offer Him as Holocaust (Whole Burnt Sacrifice)
(Prefigures Old Testament Temple Sacrifices Fulfilled by Christ Jesus)
 - b. Abraham Obeys the Lord
 - 1) Takes Isaac with Him (*Isaac Prefigures Jesus - God's Sacrificial Son*)
 - 2) Takes 2 Servants (*Representing the Old & New Testaments*)
 - 3) Takes Wood Cut for Holocaust (*Symbolizing the Cross*)
 - c. Abraham Offers His Son Isaac

- 1) Abraham Sights the Place of Sacrifice on Third Day
(Jesus Sees His Sacrifice After 3 Years of Ministry)
 - 2) Abraham Places Wood on Isaac's Shoulders to Carry
(Prefigures Jesus Carrying His Cross to Calvary)
 - 3) Isaac Questions His Father
 - a) "Father, Here is the Fire & Wood, Where is the Sheep for Holocaust?"
(Prefigures Jesus' Prayer to Father God "Let this Cup Pass")
 - 4) Abraham Builds Altar & Ties Isaac to it *(Jesus is Secured to the Cross)*
 - 5) Abraham Replies: "The Lord Shall Provide" *(Symbolizing the Old Covenant's Proclamations of the Lord's Sacrifice)* Psa. 22; Isa. 53
 - d. The Lord's Intervention
 - 1) A Ram is Provided for Abraham's Sacrifice
(The Lord Shall Provide the Sacrifice)
 - 2) A Ram is Caught by its Horns in a Thicket
(Symbolizing Jesus Christ Crowned with Thorns)
 - 3) Abraham Names Place "Yahweh-Yireh"
 - a) "The Lord - Shall be Seen" / "The Lord - Shall Provide"
Same Site Where Jesus Christ was Crucified
Referring to this Event, Jesus Said: "Abraham your father rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad." John 8:54-57
3. Sign of Jonah Jonah 1-3; Matt. 12:38-41
- a. Jesus Speaking of Jonah
 - 1) "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights."
 - 2) "At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah *(One of the Lord's Anointed Prophets)*; and there is something greater than Jonah here *(Jesus - God's Holy Anointed One – The Messiah).*" *(Matt. 12:40-41)*

D. Types of Israel's Messiah

The Title "Christ" is the Greek form of the Hebrew Word "Messiah", meaning God's Holy Anointed One.

Three Messianic Offices:

Jesus IS Messiah

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. <u>Prophet Like Moses</u> Deut. 18:15-22 | John 5:46-47 |
| a. Speaks Forth God's Uncompromising Word | |
| b. Jesus is Greater than Moses & Prophet Elijah | Matt. 17:1-8 |
| 2. <u>Priest in the Order of Melchizedek</u> Gen. 14:17-20; Psa. 110:4 | Heb. 7 & 8 |
| a. Offers Sacrifice to God | |
| b. Intercedes to God for Man | 1 Tim. 2:5-6 |
| 3. <u>King from Lineage of David</u> 2 Sam. 7:8-17 & 1 Chron. 17:10-14 | Matt. 1:1-17 |
| a. Jesus is Legitimate Heir to Throne of King David | |
| b. Jesus is King David's Lord Psa. 110:1-3 | Matt. 22:41-46 |

PART V - MYSTICAL DIMENSIONS

APOCALYPTIC VISIONS, DREAMS & SYMBOLS

A. Understanding Biblical Prophecy

1. Prophetic Perspectives

- a. Written by Jewish Prophets Anointed & Inspired by Yahweh
 - 1) Concerning Jewish People
 - 2) Concerning Jewish Nations (Ancient Israel & Judah) (Modern Israel)
 - 3) Concerning Other “Nations” as they Relate to Israel
 - 4) Concerning Jewish Messiah
- b. We (Gentile Christians) Are Inheritors of Certain Jewish Prophecies
 - 1) Our Lord (Jesus Christ) is Israel’s Messiah
 - 2) Kinship with Israel as God’s Chosen People
- c. Prophecies are Proclaimed from the Vantage Point of the Prophet

2. Prophetic Revelations

Examples

- a. Speak Forth God’s Word to Encourage, Admonish or Exhort God’s People.
 - 1) God Talking to His People Isa. 5:20-23; Isa. 49:14-16
 - a) The Lord’s Requirement. “You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8
- b. Conditional Prophecies / Predictions: Jer. 25:1-14; Isa. 1:18-20
 - 1) The Lord’s Mercy. “..... if my people, upon whom my name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek my presence and turn from their evil ways, (then) I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and revive their land.” 2 Chron 7:13-14
- c. Preordained Predictions Isa. 40:3-5; Isa. 53; Zech. 9:9
(God’s Unchangeable Plans)
 - 1) No One Can Change
 - a) Birthplace of Messiah. “But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.” Micah 5:1

3. General Prophetic Forms

Examples

- a. Direct / Literal Prophecies Zech 11:12-13; Zech 14
 - 1) “Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.” Isa. 7:14
 - a) “Immanuel Means “God With Us”
- b. Demonstrational Prophecies Ezek. 12:1-20
 - 1) Representative
 - a) “We had been there several days when a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He came up to us, took Paul’s belt, bound his own feet and hands with it, and said, ‘Thus says the holy Spirit: This is the way the Jews will bind the owner of this belt in Jerusalem, and they will hand him over to the Gentiles.’” Acts 21:10-11

- 2) Historical Precedents “Signs of the Times” Matt. 24; 2 Tim 3
- a) “The Pharisees and Sadducees came and, to test him, asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He said to them in reply, ‘**In the evening you say, “Tomorrow will be fair, for the sky is red”; and, in the morning, “Today will be stormy, for the sky is red and threatening.” You know how to judge the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge the signs of the times. An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah.’**” Matt. 16:1-4
- c. Poetic or Metaphoric Psa. 23; Ezek. 34; John 10
- 1) “The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.” (*Psa. 23:1*)
- d. Mystical
- 1) Apocalyptic, Visions, Dreams & Symbols Ezek. 37; Rev. 1:9-20
- a) “..... I saw seven gold lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest. The hair of his head was as white as white wool or as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame. His feet were like polished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing water. In his right hand he held seven stars. A sharp two-edged sword came out of his mouth, and his face shone like the sun at its brightest.” (*Rev. 1:12-16*)

B. Purpose of Mystical Prophecies

1. Reveals Heaven’s Perspectives
2. Hidden to Man’s Natural Intellect and the World
3. Revealed by the Holy Spirit to Our Spirits for God’s Purpose in God’s Time
 - a. To Prepare God’s People for Coming Events
 - b. To Provide Comfort in Time of Persecution
 - c. To Bring Us into Fuller Relationship with God.

C. Typical Biblical Symbolism

1. Keys to Interpretation
 - a. Examples of Symbols Typically Used throughout Scripture
 - 1) **Symbolic Numbers**
 - a) 1 = Unity (Used also to Represent the Godhead)
 - b) 2 = Union
 - c) 3 = Divinity (Used also to Represent the Trinity)
 - d) 4 = World
 - e) 6 = Man
 - f) 7 = Perfect Completion
 - g) 8 = New Beginning or New Order of Things
 - h) 10 = Worldly Completion
 - i) 12 = Eternal Perfection
 - j) 40 = Trial or Probation
 - 2) **Symbolic Colors**
 - a) White = Purity

- b) Violet = Priestly
 - c) Purple = Royalty
 - d) Scarlet (Red) = Sacrifice (Blood)
 - e) Blue = Heaven
- 3) **Symbolic Materials**
- a) Precious Metals:
 - Gold = Deity
 - Silver = Redemption
 - Brass = Judgment
 - b) Wood = Humanity
 - c) Oil = Holy Spirit / Anointing
 - d) Linen = Wedding Dress Material (Purity)
 - Priestly Robes
 - Represents Perfect Man, Unified with God
 - e) Goat's Hair = Prophet of God
 - f) Spices & Incense = Worship / Prayer / Praise
- 4) **Natural Elements**
- a) Land = Israel
 - b) Sea = Gentile Nations
 - c) Rivers of Water = Cleansing of Holy Spirit
- 5) **..... Plus Many More**

D. Selected Mystical (Apocalyptic) Prophecies

1. Daniel's Vision of 4 Beasts (Nations that Rule Over Israel) Dan. 7
(Daniel's Vision During His Exile in Babylon - 556 BC.)
 - a. 4 Immense Beasts Emerge from Sea (Gentile Nations): Dan. 7:1-8
 - 1) **1st Beast:** Lion with Eagle's Wings Stood Upright Like a Man.
It's Wings Plucked. Given a Human Mind.
(Symbolizes Babylon who conquered Judah, 606 - 586 BC, carried them off into captivity and steadfastly ruled over them.)
 - 2) **2nd Beast:** Bear, Raised on One Side. Teeth in Mouth were 3 Tusks.
Ordered "Devour Much Flesh".
(Symbolizes Medo-Persian Empire who overthrew and occupied Babylon with its Jewish captives 539 BC.)
 - a) "One Side" Represents Ruling One Side of the Persian Empire "the Land Beyond the River" (Israel).
 - 3) **3rd Beast:** Leopard 4 Wings on its Back & 4 Heads. Dominion was Given.
(Symbolizes Greek Empire who conquered Middle East 333 - 331 BC.)
 - a) "Leopard 4 Wings" is Alexander the Great who Came from Afar and Conquered Quickly.
 - b) "4 Heads" Represent 4 Generals who Split Alexander's Kingdom into 4 Realms after His Death in 323 BC.
 - 4) **4th Beast:** Terrifying, Horrible, Extraordinary Strength. Great Iron Teeth.
Devoured, Crushed & Trampled with its Feet.
(Represents Roman Empire who conquered and ruled known world.)
(Jerusalem Conquered by Rome 63 BC)
(70 AD Rome Destroys Jerusalem & Temple. Disperses the Jewish People.)

- 5) **10 Horns on 4th Beast.** Little Horn Sprung Up. Tears Away 3 Previous Horns Has Eyes of a Man and a Mouth that Spoke Arrogantly.
(Does this Represent the Break-up of Roman Empire?)
(Do the 10 Horns Represent 10 Kings Arising Out of the Roman Empire?)
(A single Horn shall rise, gain control and persecute God's People - Israel.)
- a) Jesus Refers to Ruler: **“When you see the desolating abomination spoken of through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place”** Matt. 24:15-28
 - b. The Ancient One's Authority & Throne of Judgment: Dan. 7:9-14
 - 1) Last Beast Thrown into Lake of Fire Rev. 19:17-21
 - 2) Other Beasts Await their Judgment
 - 3) Son of Man Comes on Clouds of Heaven Matt. 24:29-35
(Second Coming of Jewish Messiah - Jesus)
 - a) Presented Before Ancient One (Godhead)
 - b) Receives Everlasting Dominion, Glory & Kingship Over All Nations, Peoples and Tongues. *(Jesus Christ King of Kings & Lord of Lords.)*
 - c. Heavenly Interpretation Dan. 7:15-29
2. Vision: Joshua the High Priest Zech. 3
(“Joshua” is Hebrew Name “Yeshua”. Translated from Greek to English as “Jesus”).
(Prefigures Jesus Christ's Coronation as High Priest)
- a. Joshua Stands Before Angel of the Lord
(Angel = God's Delegated Authority & Representative)
 - 1) Satan Stands Beside Joshua
 - a) Accusing Him *(Man's Sinful Nature)*
 - 2) Angel Rebukes Satan in Name of the Lord *(Yahweh)*
 - b) “Is not this man *(Jesus - Son of Man)* a brand *(Purifying Seal)* snatched from the fire *(Earth: Satan's Dominion & Spiritual Battlefield)*”
 - b. Joshua Clad in Filthy Garments
(Jesus Carrying the Sins [Filth] of the World)
 - 1) Instructed to Take Off Filthy Garments
 - 2) Clothed in Festal Garments *(Rejoice)*
 - 3) Put Clean Miter on His Head *(Symbol of Messiah - High Priest)*
 - 4) Lord: “I have taken away your guilt”
(God's Forgiveness of Man's Sin through Jesus Christ).
 - c. Joshua Given the Lord's Assurance
 - 1) Joshua Given Authority for His Total Obedience
(Christ Jesus is the Only Person Who Totally Obeyed the Law)
 - 2) Promise of “My Servant SHOOT”
(Messiah both Creator & Descendant of David King of Israel)
 - 3) One Stone *(Messiah's Covenant)* with Seven Facets *(All Ages of Mankind)*
 - 4) Engraved by God *(Fulfilling Mosaic Law)*
 - 5) Take Away Guilt of Land (Sin) in One Day *(The Day Jesus was Crucified)*
 - 6) “On that Day You *(Jesus)* Will Invite One Another Under Your Vines & Fig Trees” *(Offer of Salvation to All Mankind).*
3. King of Kings Rev. 19:11-21
 - a. Revelation of Jesus Christ Rev. 19:11-16
(Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Earth)

- 1) Heavens Open (*Christ Returns from His Heavenly Throne*)
- 2) Riding White Horse (*Christ the Conqueror*)
- 3) Name: “Faithful & True”
 - a) Justice His Standard for Passing Judgment & Waging War
(*God’s Perfect Judgment*)
- 4) Eyes Blazed like Fire (*Christ is Omniscient – All Knowing*)
- 5) Head Wore Many Diadems (*Christ Crowned with Full Authority*)
- 6) Inscribed on Person a Name Known Only to Himself
(*Mystery: Unrevealed Dimension of Christ*)
- 7) Wore Cloak Dipped in Blood (*Christ Our Sacrificial Redeemer*)
- 8) Name is The Word of God (*Source & Force of Creation & Redemption*)
- 9) Armies of Heaven Behind Him (*Christ Commands the Forces of Heaven*)
 - a) Riding White Horses (*Conquerors with Christ*)
 - b) Dressed Fine Pure White Linen (*Saved & Purified by Christ Jesus*)
- 10) Out of His Mouth a Sharp Sword to Strike Down the Nations
(*Judges Nations by His Word / His Covenants*)
- 11) He will Shepherd them with Iron Rod
(*Rules with Supreme, Uncompromising Authority*)
- 12) Tread Out the Winepress the Blazing Wrath of God Almighty
(*Christ the Omnipotent – All Powerful Warrior, Executes God’s Judgments*)
- 13) Name on Cloak Covering Thigh
(*Symbol of God’s Covenants. Example: Thigh Represents Circumcision*)

KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS

- b. Judgment of Nations & Satanic Authority on Earth Rev. 19:17-21
(*Battle of Armageddon*)
 - 1) Angel Standing on Sun Cried Out to All Birds Flying in Midheaven
(*Between Heaven & Earth*)
 - a) “Come! Gather together for the Great Feast God Prepared for you!
 - b) Eat Flesh of Kings, Commanders (*Mankind’s Authorities & Might*)
 - c) Eat Flesh of All Men” (*Unrepentant Mankind*).
 - 2) Beast, Earth’s Kings & Armies Muster to Battle the One Riding the White Horse & His Army
(*Final Confrontation Between Mankind & God*)
(*Beast = Antichrist = Satan Incarnate / Manifest in Man*)
(*Earth’s Kings & Armies = Antichrist’s Allies*)
 - 3) Beast & False Prophet Captured & Hurlled Alive into Lake of Fire
(*False Prophet = False World Religious Leader*)
(*Lake of Fire = Eternal Damnation in Hell*)
 - 4) Rest (*Mankind’s Armies*) Slain by Sword that Came Out of Christ’s Mouth
(*Righteous Judgment Pronounced*)
 - a) Birds Gorged on Flesh of Slain
(*Mankind’s Rebellion Completely Devoured, Cleansing the Earth*)
4. Christ’s Kingdom Rev. 20
 - a. Christ’s 1000 Year Reign Rev. 20:1-10
(*Destruction of Satan & His Authority*)
(*Enthronement of Saints*)

- b. Christ's Last Judgment Rev. 20:11-15
(Judgment of the Dead)

- 5. New Creation
 - a. New Heavens & Earth Rev. 21:1-8
(God Destroys All Reminders of Sin. Recreating / Renovating those Realms)
 - b. New Jerusalem Rev. 21:9 - 22:5
(God's Capital & Throne) (Our Eternal Home)

GOD ALL & IN ALL

PART VI - THE WORD OF GOD - CHRIST JESUS

A. The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-18

1. Jesus IS The Pre-Existent Word. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (*John 1:1*)
2. Jesus IS The Personal Word. “He was in the beginning with God.” (*John 1:2*)
3. Jesus IS The Creative Word. “All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be” (*John 1:3a*)
4. Jesus IS The Life Giving Word. “What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race;” (*John 1:3b-4*)
5. Jesus IS The Light Giving Word. “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (*John 1:5*)
6. Jesus IS The Illuminating Word. “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” (*John 1:9*)
7. Jesus IS The Saving Word. “He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man’s decision but of God.” (*John 1:10-13*)
8. Jesus IS The Incarnate Word. “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” (*John 1:14*)
9. Jesus IS The Word of Enduring Love. “From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father’s side, has revealed him.” (*John 1:16-18*)
10. Jesus IS The Word of the Living God Rev. 19:11-16
 - a. “He wore a cloak that had been dipped in blood, and his name was called the Word of God.” (*Rev. 19:13*)
11. Jesus IS The Son of the Living God Luke 1:34-35
 - a. “And the angel said to her (*Virgin Mary*) in reply, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”” (*Luke 1:35*)
12. Jesus IS The Great I AM (Yahweh). “**Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM.**” John 8:58

B. The Creative Word of God

Gen. 1 & 2; John 1:1-5; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-4

- **God Said:** “Let there be light”, and there was light. (*Gen. 1:3*)
- **God Said:** “Let there be a dome (*atmosphere*) in middle of the waters, to separate one body of water (*sky*) from the other (*sea*)”; And it so Happened. (*Gen. 1:6*)
- **God Said:** “Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin (*oceans*), so that dry land may appear.” And so it Happened. (*Gen. 1:9*)
- **God Said:** “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day and night (*clears atmosphere*). Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it Happened. (*Gen. 1:14*)
- **God Said:** “Let the water team with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it Happened. (*Gen. 1:20*)

- **God Said:** “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it Happened. (*Gen. 1:24*)
- **God Said:** “Let Us (*Trinity*) make man in Our image, after Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.” (*Gen. 1:26*)

1. How Did God Create?

- a. He Spoke Everything into Existence
- b. The Word of God IS the Creative Force

2. He Sustains Everything by His Word

- a. The Word of God IS Existence Itself

3. The Creative Word of God Became Flesh

John 1:1-14

- a. The Son of God Became the Son of Man
- b. Jesus Christ Our Lord

4. Jesus Christ IS The Source of All Life

- a. “In Him we live and move and have our being”

Acts 17:28

C. The Prophetic Word of God

John 1:15-18; 2 Pet 1:20-21

1. The Word of God First Came to the Prophets

- a. Man Sinned Separating Himself from God
- b. A Perfect & Holy God Could No Longer Commune with Man
- c. The Holy Spirit Anointed Specially Selected Men as Prophets
 - 1) Men Through Whom the Lord Spoke to Mankind
 - a) Systematically & Progressively Revealing Himself
 - 2) Every Prophet Had a Message. A Word from the Lord
 - 3) Every Prophet Came in God’s Time and on God’s Agenda
 - 4) Every Prophet Spoke the Word of the Living God

2. The Word of the Lord through the Ages

- a. Enoch Spoke of the Coming of the Lord
- b. Noah Spoke Restoration
- c. Abraham Spoke Blessings
- d. Isaac Spoke Abundance
- e. Jacob Spoke Possession
- f. Joseph Fed the People – Providing Sustenance
 - 1) Nourishing & Satisfying God’s People
- g. Moses Spoke Deliverance
 - 1) Wrote God’s Laws (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy)
- h. Joshua Conquered the Promise Land by the Word of the Lord.
 - 1) Establishing an Inheritance for God’s People.
- i. Judges (Gideon, Deborah, Samson, etc.) Overthrew Oppression by the Lord’s Word
 - 1) Giving God’s People Peace.
- j. Samuel Spoke of God’s Kingdom
- k. David Conquered a Kingdom & Ruled God’s People.

- 1) Authored Psalms and Praise by the Word of the Lord
 - l. Solomon Ruled God's People in Peace.
 - 1) Authored Proverbs, Songs & Books of Wisdom by the Word of the Lord
 - m. Elijah, Elisha & Other Prophets Admonished God's People, Chastised Kings and Performed Miracles by the Word of the Lord
 - n. Old Testament Prophets Proclaimed & Wrote God's Word:

[Examples of Announcing God's Child of Promise]

1) Isaiah <i>[Isa. 7:14; Isa 9:5-6]</i>	9) Jonah
2) Jeremiah <i>[Jer. 31:15]</i>	10) Micah <i>[Micah 5:1-4]</i>
3) Ezekiel	11) Nahum
4) Daniel	12) Habakkuk
5) Hosea	13) Zephaniah
6) Joel	14) Haggai
7) Amos	15) Zechariah
8) Obadiah	16) Malachi <i>[Mal. 3:1]</i>

17) And then, John the Baptist
3. Sacred Scripture is the Written Word of God
 - a. It is the Accumulation of God's Spoken Word
 - b. It was Recorded by Men Anointed & Inspired by the Holy Spirit
 - 1) "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - 2) "Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God." 2 Pet. 1:20-21
 4. The Prophetic Word of God Became Flesh

"John testified to him and cried out, saying, 'This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him." John 1:15-18

 - a. Yahweh Revealed Himself to Mankind in this New Way
 - b. The Holy Spirit Overshadowed Virgin Mary Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38
 - 1) The Same Holy Spirit that Anointed & Spoke Through the Prophets
 - a) Not to be Spoken Through Her, but to be Conceived Within Her
 - 2) The Word of God Became Flesh, Formed Within Her and Born a Man Child
 - 3) The Christ Child IS The Embodiment of the Entire Old Testament
 - 4) Jesus Christ IS the Living Word of God
 5. The Living Word of God
 - a. Introduced by Last Old Testament Prophet - John the Baptist John 1:29-34
 - 1) "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (*John 1:29*)
 - b. The Days of the Old Testament Prophets was Ending John 3:22-30
 - 1) John the Baptist: "He (*Jesus*) must increase; I must decrease" (*John 3:30*)

- c. Jesus Proclaims Himself to be the Word of God:
- 1) Promise of Coming Messiah. “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the LORD.....”
Isa. 61:1-2
 - a) Jesus Christ Fulfills that Promise. Luke 4:14-21
 - “He (*Jesus*) came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: **‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.’**” (*Luke 4:16-19*)
 - “Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, **‘Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.’**” (*Luke 4:20-21*)
 - 2) Jesus Christ Fulfills All the Law & the Prophets Matt. 5:17-18
 - a) **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.”**
 - 3) Scriptures Testify of Jesus Christ Luke 24:13-35
 - a) **“‘Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’** Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.”
 - 3) Salvation in Jesus Christ John 5:39
 - a) **“You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf.”**
 - d. The Word of God IS a Person
 - 1) He is Son of God & Son of Man
 - 2) Jesus Christ Our Lord & Savior
 - e. The Word of God IS a Man: 1 John 1:1-5
 - 1) Living & Breathing
 - 2) Walking
 - 3) Talking
 - 4) Teaching
 - 5) Helping
 - 6) Healing & Delivering
 - 7) Forgiving & Saving

D. Jesus’ Personal Testimony

1. By Jesus’ Own Words
 - a. Name of God: “I AM WHO AM” (*Yahweh*)

- 1) God's Name Revealed to Moses Ex. 3:13-15
 - a) Meaning: "I AM The Ever Present, Ever Living, No Beginning, No Ending God"
 - 2) Jesus IS One with Father God John 10:30
 - a) "The Father and I are one."
 - b. Jesus Says: "Amen, amen, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM" John 8:58 (Abraham Lived Over 2000 Years before Jesus was Born to Mary)
 - 1) Jesus Claims to be Equal with God
 - 2) Jesus IS Life, Power, Peace, Love, Truth, Eternal Life, Existence Itself.
 - c. Jesus Says: "I AM The Bread Of Life" John 6:35
 - d. Jesus Says: "I AM The Light Of The World" John 8:12 & 9:5
 - e. Jesus Says: "I AM The Gate" John 10:9
 - f. Jesus Says: "I AM The Good Shepherd" John 10:11 & 14-15
 - g. Jesus Says: "I AM The Resurrection and The Life" John 11:25-26
 - h. Jesus Says: "I AM The Way, The Truth and The Life" John 14:6
 - I. Jesus Says: "I AM The True Vine" John 15:1-2 & 5
 - j. Jesus Asks: "Who do YOU say that I AM?" Matt. 16:13-20
 - 1) Peter's Profession of Faith: "You are the Messiah (*Christ*), the Son of the Living God (*Equal with God*)."
 - 2) Jesus' Approval of Peter's Confession: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it...."
2. Evidenced By Jesus' Works
- a. Jesus Performs a Creative Miracle John 9
 - 1) Jesus Took Mud, Spat Upon it, Made Clay & Put on Man's Eye Sockets
 - 2) Why? I Believe the Man Had No Eyes.
 - 3) God Made Man from the Dust of Earth, Breathed on Him and Man became a Living Soul Gen. 2:7
 - 4) Jesus Made Eyes from Mud, Spat on it and Created Sight
 - 5) Jesus Christ IS the Source of All Creation
 - b. Jesus Feeds the Multitudes Matt. 14:13-21
 - 1) Jesus Took 5 Loaves and 2 Fish
 - 2) Jesus Spoke Traditional Jewish Blessing: "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth."
 - 3) Bread Began to Multiply
 - 4) Why? Jesus Christ IS the Creative Word.
 - c. Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion & Death
 - 1) Jesus' Dialog with Father God Before Being Arrested John 17:1-8
 - a) "..... Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began"
 - 2) Jesus Freely Lays Down His Life John 10:14-18; John 19:9-11
 - 3) Why? "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17
 - d. Jesus' Resurrection & Eternal Life
 - 1) Promise Proclaimed Mark 8:31; Mark 9:30-32; Mark 10:32-34

- a) **“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise.”** (*Mark 9:31*)
- 2) Promise Fulfilled Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 & 21
 - a) “Then the angel said to the women in reply, ‘Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.’” (*Matt. 28:5-6*)
 - b) “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘**Peace be with you.**’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.....” (*John 20:19-20*)
- 3) Why? Jesus IS Life Itself!
- e. Paul’s Profession of Faith Phil. 2:5-11
 - 1) “..... Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.
 - 2) “Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

E. Father God’s Testimony

- 1. At Jesus’ Baptism Matt. 3:13-17
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
- 2. At Jesus’ Transfiguration Matt. 17:1-8
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him”
 - a. Moses Who Appeared with Jesus Represents the Law
 - b. Elijah Who Appeared with Jesus Represents the Prophets
 - c. Jesus IS the Entire Word of God Matt. 5:17-18
- 3. Jesus Facing His Sacrifice & Death John 12:23-32
 - a. Jesus Exclaims: **“Father, Glorify You Name”**
 - b. Father God’s Confirmation: **“I have glorified it (in the Old Covenant) and will glorify it again (The New Covenant in Christ Jesus)”**.
 - 1) Jesus IS the Lord Over All Creation
 - 2) Jesus Calls All Men to Himself (Lord & Savior)
 - 3) Jesus IS the Saving Word

F. Jesus’ Invitations:

- 1. Selected Verses:
 - a. **“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.....”**
Matt. 11:28-30
 - b. **“Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours**”
Mark 11:24

- c. “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved;” Mark 16:15-16
- d. “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters” Luke 11:23
- e. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” John 3:16
- f. “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life” John 5:24
- g. “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him’” John 7:37-38

2. Prayer Accepting Jesus’ Invitation

“Dear Lord Jesus. I am a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins, rose from the dead and are enthroned at the right hand of God Almighty. I am sorry for my sins, and ask you to forgive me and cleanse me. Come into my heart Lord Jesus, live your life through me, and I will serve you all the days of my life. Thank you Lord for hearing my prayer and saving my soul. I now confess you as my personal Lord and Savior.”

3. Your Personal Confession of Faith

Say to someone. “Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior”

Jesus says: “Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” Matt 10:32

