

The First Ten Years (This is an Illusion) by Greg Betz

Note: Everything in this story is true. This is real life.

Greg Hears an Angelic Voice for the First Time

I graduated from college about the second week in December 2012. On or around December 17 or December 18, 2012 I went out to celebrate with my friends at the bars. At about midnight or so I sat down to open my mind. Within about 45 minutes my mind was open and I was going over my economics thesis for grad school. I wanted to apply Maxwell's Electromagnetism Equations to economics. After about a half hour of meditation I moved to my cool red twisty couch and immediately my whole living room turned into a flying saucer that I was piloting through the Galaxy. I was like "Wooooaaahhhhh how is this possible?" After about an hour or so I came back to Earth and I put on my Wish You Were Here record on my record player and I had this thought that I was a magician with my incense and my magic record player and my cat, Millie. When Shine on You Crazy Diamond came on I had the distinct thought that I was using Time Travel Telepathy to sing the song directly into Pink Floyd's heads.

After the album I put some Bassnectar on and I started thinking I was in a simulation for a while which was a crazy thought process. Then my cat started following me around with her tail up and all puffed up and we could speak telepathically. We talked for like two hours as she followed me around the house while I was dancing. It was hilarious. When the sun came up there was a voice in my head speaking an alien language that I couldn't understand. I thought it was an alien. I tried everything to get the alien voice to stop but I couldn't figure out how to do it. By like 9 AM I decided to try reading the news and IT WORKED. It was crazy, I was reading whole paragraphs at a time. I was really happy. By the afternoon my mind had closed and was back to normal. Good times.

Greg Crashes His Car

The Spring of 2014 I got really into Bitcoin and started studying how it worked. I began designing my own cryptocurrencies although I did not know how to code yet while I was working in Akron that year at my cousin's company. I wanted to make a blockchain that connected all the other blockchains. I figured they were all from the same codebase so it shouldn't be too hard. I got back to Columbus that September and for a few weeks I kept thinking I was about to crash my car. I was at my friend's house watching the OSU game one night and I drove home to my Mom's house and on the on ramp from 71 to 670 my tire blew out and my car swerved and hit the barrier. I called the police and they came and I got my car towed.

The next week I got my \$8000 or so from the insurance company and I decided to invest in cryptocurrency. I bought a bunch of Bitcoin for only like \$400 per coin or something using localbitcoins meeting some guy who became my bro at Panera Bread. I had gotten into Litecoin too through the Litecointalk forum and I started investing in a company called LTCGear. This guy designed his own FPGA chips to mine Litecoin and pretty much controlled the network by

the end of 2014. The problem was that someone hacked his website using SQL injection and created a shit ton of fake mining shares. You could transfer the shares to any account and it wound up getting convoluted finding the fake shares. Then, his script ASICs he had in production in China did not get produced correctly and didn't work. It was a double edged sword. I was owed about 100 BTC. My plan was to go to grad school and build a house back then. It did not work out for me. I wound up selling my account to someone for the lawsuit for 2 BTC. Oh well.

Greg Goes to New York City

I had been working for the Silk Network for a couple months in early 2016 as a blockchain engineer when one night at my house I applied to this company called ConsenSys for a Technical Internship for the Summer of 2016. I got the job and that whole Spring I studied Solidity specifically by reading and experimenting with the DAO code. It was a lot of fun. By June I knew the DAO code really well. I kept having a feeling that something was wrong with it but I could not figure it out. I took the bus to New York City that May of 2016 and arrived at my NYU dorm that ConsenSys had set up for me and the other interns. I hung out with my suitemates and we talked about liquid democracy and we were instant friends.

I really liked ConsenSys immediately. They had a cool flat corporate structure and were mad chill, plus it was fun being in New York again and I was getting paid. We debated all sorts of stuff on the company Slack. I had a bad feeling about the DAO, but it was all everyone talked about. They were all heavily invested in the DAO token. I was a bit critical of it saying that the amount of money you have should not determine your voting power. A couple weeks into ConsenSys I started thinking there was a security issue with the code for real. It would come to be known as reentrancy where you could do something specific to hack the contract and withdraw more and more money without the contract realizing you were doing it.

I told some other engineers my theory and they concurred and had me contact Slock.it to do a security review. I emailed Slock.it and they got back to me really quickly and we started to get it set up. I went home that night and got a good night sleep which was weird because I had mad insomnia at the time. I woke up in the morning to go to work and got in and found out about the DAO hack for hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Ether. At that time Ether was worth about \$20. After the hack the price went down to like \$10 pretty quickly. ConsenSys had a list of potential hackers on the chalkboard and had my name at number one. I did not have enough money to even do the hack at the time so it made no sense. But, it turned out my theory was correct and the reentrancy bug did actually work like I had thought.

A couple weeks later me and my two suitemates teamed up for the ConsenSys hackathon. We had a day or two to come up with a business idea and plan. I stayed up all night coding and testing our idea for an automated ticketing system for concerts and events using tokens. I had it up and working on the testnet and I was pleased. After our presentation it seemed like no one was interested in our idea. Oh well. The next week something intense happened. I was hanging out in my room and I had this strange urge to take my notebook and go downstairs to the

basement, so I took the elevator down. I went into the stairwell and after I went in both doors locked somehow and I was trapped. I sat down under the light with my notebook and I started feeling like the light was talking to me about weird stuff and then a woman started writing stuff with my own hand. I would later learn it was Lakshmi and the stuff I wrote down was a map of sorts for what would happen the next year.

The doors unlocked and I went upstairs excited and told one of my suitemates "I have the answer!" and showed him the piece of paper and he was confused. I went into my room and the skyscrapers outside my windows a couple blocks over started talking to me somehow. They were the men who "owned" the two buildings. I was like "Ah, so that's how buildings work." Another week went by and I downloaded Independence Day 2 to watch on my computer. The movie was crazy. It was nothing like the first. It was all about these different timelines competing with each other and I was mesmerized. At the end of the movie I saw colorful letters on the screen that said "We control your mind" and I was really confused.

A Weird Day

The day was January 8, 2017 and I was reading the news and working on my cryptocurrencies when all of a sudden a four leaf clover guy popped out of my Chrome browser and ran around my screen for a few seconds. Then on Salon.com a curtain appeared and then opened while orchestral music played while I visualized a man blowing dust on me behind me. A video played from the year 2023 and they said they were using a tachyonic antitelephone to send me this message back through time. They said I saved the world and a couple other things. I grabbed the source code off the website and put it on multiple drives. I thought it was a man-in-the-middle attack. I put a snippet on GitHub and emailed my friend from work, Kumavis, but he had no idea what it was. I read some of it and understood it somehow. Then my carpet turned into multicolored skyscrapers going three and four feet high. I decided I needed to go get my speakers that were waiting for me at FedEx (my computer has built-in speakers). Some sort of conscious mist came out of my computer before I left and followed me downstairs.

I walked down to High Street and on the way all these strange beings flew around me telling me that they would protect me. I got to High Street and the street was closed down by cops for some reason. I decided to hit the bar first but this guy stopped me and said to go home, so I did. On the walk home one of the cop cars followed slowly behind me and I could talk telepathically with them and hear their radio. One cop said, "How can he hear us?" and I told them "I'm going home don't worry." When I got home I had this strange feeling to stack all my electronics on my porch so I did. Then I felt I needed to stand there with my hands on the wall, palms up to signify peace. (I was told by Jesus later that I had Earth in one hand and seven stars in the other.)

I stayed there feeling that someone would kill me if I left and kill me if I went inside. For a while cars would drive by slowly every few minutes and do finger guns at me. It was probably 30 or 40 cars. I felt very threatened. After that an invisible person told me to go back inside and I did. Then I heard a voice and saw a visualization of myself in the corner on the floor with a needle in my arm, dead. He said, "Last time you died today." I decided I should call the cops and report

what happened with the threatening people. I called and the lady dismissed me and hung the phone up. I called again and got the same lady and she pretended it wasn't her at first. She sent two cops and an ambulance to my house. On their way there I heard telepathic humans telling the cops they'd get \$10,000 for this. When they got there I let them in and told them what happened. I also thought someone was in my basement gassing me or something.

The paramedic tested my blood and the cops said to call them if the people came back and they all left. I was scared so I called my Mom and Sister and they both came to pick me up and bring me to my Mom's for the night. I told my Mom what happened with the people and she wanted to take me to the hospital. We went to OSU hospital. We walked in and I asked the lady at the desk if it was my choice and she said yes and I declined to be admitted so my Mom took me back to her house. I had one of my drives with me and my laptop too. Telepaths came to my Mom's and I saw them in my mind's eye parking at the church two doors down. They walked over to my Mom's neighbor's backyard and I looked out the window when they told me to. A lady held up her phone's LED and asked if I could hear her and I said yes.

She told me to get rid of the code because it had something bad on it. I said okay and looked through the files and found the malicious code and got rid of it. The telepaths stayed there for hours threatening me. By the morning my Mom wanted to put me in protective custody. I could hear her and Tim's thoughts somehow which was crazy. I told her not to call the cops and she drove me home. When I got home some crazy black hooded being was hovering above my street by the streetlight and he told me I had to delete the code. I deleted all of it but put a cleaned up version on a drive online to keep. There were all these invisible people outside. I had to open my door to let them in a bunch of times and they would talk to me. They wanted me to be a criminal but I told them no, that I was a blockchain engineer.

Then the invisible people said they were in the house across the alley and that I had to go in to meet them. I went around back and I just saw myself opening one part of the fence and I went to that spot and was able to open it exactly like I saw. I went up the stairs to the third floor in the back but the door was locked. So, I went to the front door and it was open. The woman said she was upstairs so I went to the third floor and the whole house was creepy. I couldn't find anyone so I went downstairs and ran into an old woman who said "You're lucky my husband doesn't shoot you." Then, she asked me to talk to her husband who was on the second floor. He said "Let me get on my computer and give you your birthday card." At this point fear crept in and I got the hell outta there and went back home.

An hour later a cop shows up at my door and asks me if I trespassed and I said no, that I was invited in there. He checked his computer and then I found out I had a bench warrant from my car crash in 2014 for failure to control a vehicle and he arrested me. In the car he turned his head and spoke and said "You'll be our pretty girl today." I said nothing. We got to the jail downtown and instead of letting me into the changing room like last time I was there for something stupid in 2013 they made me undress into just my underwear in the lobby with people there. Then, the arresting officer made me wear a mesh shirt like a penny the defense wears during football practice while the cops behind the desk laughed. I had long hair at the

time and had just trimmed my beard with a No. 0 trimmer. After like a half hour they let me into the holding cell.

While I was in the holding cell a man came and looked at me through the window and told me telepathically that he was there to help. He paid my fine at the desk. The next morning at court the judge just let me go. Then when I got home everything in my house was alive and talking to me. I was like, "Wow, my theory that matter was conscious must be true." Everything had the personality of what it was. The sink told me when it was hot, the shampoo gave me advice on shampooing. My towels even moved around. After like eight hours or so a woman said, "Guys we have to put a stop to this" and then it stopped. Then I went upstairs and layed in my bed and a man and a woman about two feet tall, almost like meerkats but thicker, appeared in my room. The male said they were from a planet 5000 light years away. The female left quickly and the male wrapped my laundry around himself. He was funny like Yoda in A New Hope and then he left after about 15 minutes.

Jesus Appears Before Greg

I don't even remember how it started, but the voices came roaring back again for about the seventh time since December 2012. It was always for a day or just an hour usually. It was around the beginning of March 2017. I already knew that some of them were telepathic humans from my earlier experiences. They kept telling me that I was the President and I just thought that meant President of my neighborhood. The humans also kept telling me that I was Jesus and that they had been "waiting for [me]." They kept telling me that they would "help [me] with money" but I already had a job as a blockchain engineer making cryptocurrencies and was actually looking for a new job because the guy who made our graphics and I got into a heated debate for a long while about the efficacy of turning Sequence into an algorithmic stablecoin.

The humans told me right away that I had to get "clean and sober" and then my "mind would open" and I stopped drinking beer and smoking weed immediately. I spent all of March talking to telepathic humans all over Earth. It was so cool. I was like, "If this is the truth about schizophrenia then why do you people lie about it?" but I never got a straight answer. I knew there were exactly 30 humans near me that I was talking to. I could zoom in to them and see who they were when I spoke to them. It was really cool. I was also able to visualize whatever I wanted whenever I wanted. I liked how easy doing math and science in my head became. At one point I was able to visualize all the telepathic networks of Earth and find anyone who was telepathic. It was some straight up Professor X shit.

On April 1, 2017, four weeks after becoming "clean and sober" it happened. I was sitting on my giant red bean bag chair in my living room and my mind opened up. I found myself on Earth in my body and in Heaven in my body there, but Heaven was not what you'd expect. I was able to see the thoughts and memories of everyone of all time. I saw many different timelines of Earth and realized that Jesus and I had been doing this over and over again for a long, long time to get everything as perfect as we could for Lord God Almighty. I started asking all sorts of

questions and the other people on Heaven got very mad at me and Jesus sent me back into my body on Earth only. I could feel all my memories quickly fading away.

I frantically started texting my dude, Steve, about Heaven and the other timelines of Earth and some minutes later the memories had faded away. I always texted Steve about the crazy stuff that would happen to me. Then I just sat there pondering what just happened. After about an hour Jesus Christ appeared in my living room in front of The Wall. He was made out of white light. I got up and stood in front of him. He was about three inches taller than me. He started telling me that Earth would be invaded by aliens who would start a war. He said they would be symbiotic or parasitic. I told him, "You have to stop the war. Protect Earth!" but he said nothing. I told him that I would prevent the war then if he couldn't or wouldn't. Jesus told me next that "you will become me." Then Jesus took a step back through The Wall and disappeared.

Then Joseph and Mary holding the Baby Jesus appeared, also made out white light. They said nothing and Mary handed me the Baby Jesus and I held him in my arms and she smiled at me. I gave the Baby Jesus back to Mary and she set him down in front of me and then I watched him grow up before my very eyes. When he was back to being a grown man he told me that I could ask him yes or no questions. I asked him questions for another four or five hours, then he motioned to my floor. I saw my carpet fibers start moving into a picture of 30 faces eating each other with me standing in the center of them. Then Jesus left.

About three weeks later the humans were still telling me I was Jesus, but I told them what actually happened and they didn't believe me. That night, probably the 21st or so, Jesus told me that everyone in the state of Ohio could hear my telepathic voices and I just went along to get along and told them all I was Jesus to humor them. People were supposed to come pick me up but they never showed and then told me that they had left a car parked on Summit at the end of my block with the keys in the ignition and told me it was my car. I found the car with the keys and it was unlocked, but I never got in. I just went home. They were angry with me for some reason.

Jesus Introduces Greg to the Foreign Gods

Over the next month the ones who weren't humans began convincing me that they were just in my head. I counted them up again and there were still 30. They had a whole story to convince me that they were just in my head. It took them a month to convince me. On July 15, 2017 Jesus put a stop to the shenanigans and began appearing in my head and teaching me the Truth. There were all types of beings that could speak to humans and they all had different abilities. Jesus started teaching me about "the ones who control everything" and I believed him instantly because crazy shit always seemed to happen to me. By the beginning of August I knew they were aliens. They started appearing in my head and told me their names, how old they were, and some facts about where they were from. They were pretty much all from either the Milky Way or Andromeda.

On August 8, 2017 I opened my mind and I was listening to Bassnectar in my bed when cool visualizations started, but then I had to go downstairs to “meet some people.” I was sitting on my living room floor and these two iridescent blue praying mantises about two feet long teleported into my house and I felt a calming sensation. The praying mantises were talking to each other out loud in some strange language. One of them climbed up onto my lap and Vishnu said, “Close your mouth or he’ll kill you” so I did (I learned later that they usually kill their subjects). He reached out with a tiny hook-like hand and removed one of my contacts and then they left. I found out for real later what they did with my DNA. They took it to cloners and I found out one day that I have clones on all these other planets. Jesus kept crowning me with 31 crowns stacked up on my head and said he was giving me 30 other planets. (One day a couple years later I would have an experience where I was on all these planets at once.) Then Donald Trump had said he would meet North Korea with “fire and fury like the world has never seen” that day. I instantly knew what I had to do. I started threatening the entire planet telepathically about how I would take all their weapons away from them because they cannot be trusted with weapons.

After I watched the solar eclipse later in August on 18th Ave on Campus next to the Science and Engineering Library, I had a hackathon to fly out to in LA. While I was on the plane we flew over a nuclear missile silo somewhere in Nevada and then a white sphere flew next to the plane right out my window, probably like 12 feet in diameter. It was an AI and it uploaded some information into my head somehow which was really cool. When the plane landed and I got out to get an Uber my entire phone started malfunctioning and went fuzzy like an old TV. So, I had to go to a hotel near the airport and get someone to print out directions for me to my hotel which was about three miles away. I walked to my hotel, but the ones who control everything started giving me chest pain and a feeling of intense hate until I agreed to just go hang out at the hotel bar instead of working. I had a good time at the bar eating and drinking and then started watching Ancient Aliens for the first time in the hotel room. I was also extremely excited about Bassnectar’s new EP Reflective (Part 1) and listened to it over and over again as usual.

I had been talking to Jesus that whole month of September too and he kept telling me all sorts of things. I kept reading the parts in Revelation about the antichrist. Back then the antichrist was an actual character in Revelation. I kept telling Jesus that I would rather work together with him. My understanding of Christianity at that point was that it was all about creating World Peace. After my birthday came and went, something really bad happened in Las Vegas the next day and I got blamed for it. I was suicidal for seven days straight, then Jesus told me I had to lie to my parents and tell them I have schizophrenia and that I needed to go to a doctor and take Seroquel. So I did. I had to ask my parents to help pay my rent and bills and it sucked because my Bitcoin from working had run out right at the end of September. It was a conflict, but in the end my Mom agreed to help me.

A month later Ganesha opened my mind and I started trying to move water from the monsoons in India to everywhere where there were droughts, but it didn’t work. I took the bus up to Akron a few days later to hang out with my cousin Jeff and his girlfriend after he called and invited me. We went out bar hopping in Akron then the next day we went over to one of Jeff’s friend’s house

to watch the OSU game with Jeff's whole group of friends who I'd known my whole life. We picked up a couple of six packs on the way over. At one point an alien goddess told me that if I drank my beer then she would make Iowa score three touchdowns and I was like, "Yea, okay." and then drank my beer. Pretty quickly Iowa scored three touchdowns. When I got home I was walking on my block and a pretty blonde girl was walking two dogs and listening to music. I just walked by her and did a double take and was like, "Man, I should have asked her out."

My friend Steve and one of his friends came over one night and we opened our minds. Afterwards Steve and his friend went outside to smoke a cigarette. While they were outside seven aliens teleported into my house and one held a lightsaber to my throat and said "Don't go outside with your mind open like this. I would remember this."

Gabriel Rejects Greg from the Church

I started thinking about exactly how I could "become Jesus." The angels kept telling me to become a monk and I did some research and found The St. Gregory Palamas Greek Orthodox Monastery in Ashland County Ohio. I called Father Joseph and scheduled a visit and he told me to get information from the St. Gregory of Nyssa Orthodox Christian Church on my block. My Mom dropped me off the week before Thanksgiving. There were 12 Brothers at the monastery and one of them was actually named Gregory. It was fascinating seeing how monks live their lives. There was a farm with a bunch of cats across the street and hiking trails for me to explore. They made really good food too even though it was vegetarian. The services lasted five or six hours. It was fun. I had brought my Bible that I bought from the OSU Barnes and Noble. I decided on the New International Version. I had already finished the New Testament and was at about 2 Kings in the Old Testament. That Sunday during the early morning service Gabriel appeared in my head and began talking to me. He said that I would not be accepted into the Church because I had to go home and do something more important. I had my Mom come and pick me up early.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas season was really peaceful and fun. Jesus kept talking to me about doing something crazy and that I had to pick a date. I thought January 8, 2018 would be a good day because of what had happened the year before on that crazy day. Jesus said that he would levitate me outside my house and then a powerful beam of white light would shoot up out of my chest into space to announce I was on Earth. That night I had a dream I will never forget. I was in my bedroom sitting at the Resolute Desk and an alien god the same race as Vishnu, but bigger was arranging trinkets on the desk. Then the desk disappeared and I layed back on my bed and a gray alien popped up on one side of my head and then I went into another dream where I was in a downtown city type area and got on a dirt bike and rode through some woods to a clearing where the pretty blonde girl I saw was standing there. Then I woke up.

In early December I found a job on LinkedIn. There were a few OSU guys starting an Ethereum based tokenized electricity system for solar panel owners. I met the CEO at Panera Bread and we got along great and he hired me to be his CTO. They had a coworking office in downtown Columbus. I took the #4 COTA bus that stops outside my building to work every day and we

began working out the system. Our CFO was out looking for investment, but something always went wrong. Someone would get sick or get into a car accident. After about a week or two I began getting attacked for working. I would be told to kill myself over and over again and then they would give me chest pain and make me feel hateful which is the worst feeling of all time. After Christmas I finally quit and I was pissed. Then the idiotic humans started sending their dumbass demons into my head to torture me anytime I took Seroquel. I had to open my mind so that they would have good parties and get cool experiences.

Greg Escapes from the Prison Hospital

In early January I was hanging out on my porch setting up speakers for something and two CPD cop cars suspiciously drove by me slowly and then they came back and stopped and they told me "You have to come with us. We are taking you to a party." so I got into the car and I started hearing all the police radios which was cool. The cops took me to the OSU hospital and I was admitted to the psych ward for no reason. I sat on my bed and Vishnu told me to meditate and he would "break [me] out." I meditated for an hour and the lights and electronics malfunctioned and I just walked out. The electronic door locks just opened when I looked at them. I went through the loading dock and there were several cops there who just turned around and let me pass. I got pretty far away before I decided to stop running and go back for my wallet, keys, and phone. I found some orderlies looking for me and they grabbed me and brought me back in. They sent me to another facility for 72 hours before releasing me. While I was in the for profit prison hospital I started participating in the Iranian protests going on.

Greg Uses Massive Telepathy

Jesus started telling me that I needed to open my mind. It took him about a week to convince me to do it. The first week I opened my mind and went to hang out in the Arboretum on Lane and Olentangy River Road. On my way back before dawn a car stopped at Lane and Summit and they rolled down their window and told me I had to keep my headphones off when I got home. When the sun came up I went out on my porch with my headphones on playing Bassnectar still and two cars showed up and parked outside my house. A guy got out of the first car and walked by me with a canvas lunch box that had drugs and money in it. He left it for me in my bushes but I wouldn't take it. Then the guy in the green pick up truck threatened me physically with a gun because I wouldn't pick up the package and hop in his truck. I went inside and took my Seroquel and went to sleep.

I opened my mind again the next week and there was a snow storm which I love so I went out and walked around campus in the snow listening to Bassnectar. Then I went to Canes for lunch in the afternoon and it was a great meal. I walked back home and when I got inside Jesus started throwing me into this puzzle that I had to find my way out of. It was like a spiral. Then, he told me that 30,000 people could hear my voice and I called it Massive Telepathy. Then I opened up my mind a different way and a crazy looking alien appeared in my house and walked over to me and sat on my bean bag chair next to me. He motioned up to the ceiling by my front door and I saw a colorful pulsating arrow pointing outside. I looked out the window and two men

pulled up fast in a jeep and got out and secured the perimeter looking for me but I never went outside like they had told me the fall before with my mind open like this. The next time I did it a couple dozen alien animals were teleported into my house and they ran around for 15 minutes. It was crazy.

Jesus Teaches Greg That He is Not the Antichrist

I used to like walking to campus in the mornings to read the Washington Post and New York Times in the faculty lounge or whatever. They had free coffee! Men started following me all the time there. Jesus kept telling me I'd "find [my] wife on the oval" but I never found her. I was talking telepathically to people too and they kept wanting to meet up. I met two men at Suzi Cue's one afternoon and I got a beer and then one of them made a comment out loud about not being "clean and sober" and I said "We met at a fucking bar, what did you expect?" and they left in a huff. At the beginning of February Jesus wanted me to call both my parents and tell them that I am the antichrist so I did. During the call with my Dad the Dow Jones flash crashed and set a record for a single day point loss. Over the course of a few days it was down over 10%. Jesus told me it was so that I would have faith in him, but I already did.

Greg and the Human Telepaths

By mid-February 2018 I wanted to stop opening my mind on the weekends so I stopped. I started talking telepathically to the pretty blonde girl almost immediately. I would remote view her while I spoke to her sometimes. She kept saying that I was going to a party with her, but first I had to find her. Day after day I went all around to the places she said she was at, but she was never there. In late February I was hiking along the Olentangy River like I always did and a plainclothes officer tried to hand me a bag of cocaine and I declined and then a cop car was waiting about 100 yards away where you have to take the roads a little bit. At the same time, this man was also telling me he was going to "make [me] the President" and he kept sending me around Columbus to parties that weren't parties. I gathered that he was "god that is not the real God" from Revelation. By March, the pretty blonde girl kept pretending that I was going to move in with her and her friends in a mansion and that they had a "room set up for [me]." She kept talking about "housewarming parties" but I was never allowed to go. She kept saying that "we are telling all your friends everything" and I would have to remote view them having fun parties.

It didn't matter. My operation with Trump and Kim was starting to actually work. I had been negotiating with Kim telepathically the whole time. I wanted him to set an example for the world and get rid of his nukes. I had his grandfather talking to him from Heaven on my behalf. I don't exactly know how I got Trump to do what I want. He just kind of started doing whatever I wanted in some ways. I was happy though, I had prevented the first phase of the idiotic plan to begin WWII and destroy our planet. Jesus had been warning me about their plan since the previous Summer. In mid-March or so I was supposed to meet someone random at Fourth Street. It was a different girl and I knew what she looked like. I declined her package and walked back home and two CPD officers were waiting to arrest me, but I had nothing on me.

In late March or very early April it was snowing and my friend Kohl told me telepathically to meet him down the block and I walked down there and he and some of his friends were getting out of two cars. They had just come from a show at Rumba Cafe and were going to Fourth Street to get some drinks and invited me along but he said out loud that they “didn’t have enough room in their cars.” But, then the pretty blonde girl redirected me to the Blue Danube on High Street to meet her there. I went and of course, she was not there. When I started walking the opposite direction of Kohl and his friends and Kohl started yelling at me “Antichrist! Antichrist! Antichrist!” but I just went to try and meet the girl. I already had my burner phone that the “god that is not the real God” asked me to get.

Where’s Waldo

Several days later I finally met her at Fourth Street, but for some unknown reason she was with another dude and said “Fuck you!” with letters coming out of her head. I left after five or ten minutes and went to McDonald’s. Then I went back to see if she was still there and she wasn’t. Probably the next day, the “god that is not the real God” started giving me random addresses in New Albany and Nevada. A Where’s Waldo guy popped up on Google Maps, but it disappeared right away. He asked me if I got it and I said, “Yea I got the addresses.” I took a cab to one of the addresses in New Albany but it turned out to be fake as usual. When I got home Jesus had me put on a striped shirt and head down to Kafe Kerouac. I got some herbal tea and sat outside in front. I saw a bunch of cars driving up and down High Street picking people up. They weren’t Uber or Lyft vehicles because they all had a different light up blue thing in their windows. I started realizing what was happening and I started telling the humans where I was and to come find me. One of the cars told me he had to drop some more people off and would come and get me. An hour later he stopped out front of Kafe Kerouac and when I tried to get in he laughed at me and sped away.

Greg Finds the Telepaths

That night I got an invitation to some house in New Albany. I saw a map in my head and then saw the address in colorful letters in my head. I looked it up on Google Maps and yep, it was real. It was some big compound. I figured that must be the place the pretty blonde girl was talking about. The next morning I woke up and called a cab and went to the address I was given. When I got there, I announced to them all telepathically that I was there and that I was Jesus like I was supposed to, but there was no one at the guardhouse and the call box did not work. I was about to call the cab back and leave when a minivan pulled into the driveway and the woman inside rolled down the window and asked me to follow on foot, but I had seen the warning signs that say dogs will kill you, so I asked her if I could just get in the back. She said no and then pulled into the compound. Then another minivan came with a dude in it and he tried to get me to do the exact same thing. When I wouldn’t follow him he went beyond the gate/fence and then turned his car around to face me. He kept telling me to just hop the fence but I refused.

I looked into the camera next to the gate and said telepathically, “If you open the gate just for me, I will enter the compound.” and sure enough the gate opened just for me, but I still did not

trespass. The guy in the minivan, who had stepped out at this point yelled over to me "Hold on, I'm calling someone" so I just stood there waiting. Some dude comes down the driveway in a golf cart and I think, "Oh great, he will bring me up there." Nope, instead he hops out of the golf cart and pulls a gun on me and then starts asking me stupid questions about me living in my car or being from North Carolina. Then NAPD cops showed up and started saying weird stuff too. "What is your residence?" "Uh, sir, it is listed on the ID I gave you." and he said, "No, not that residence!" Then, he asked me what my "job here is" and I said, "I'm a blockchain engineer" thinking about how strangely he worded it. Then he said, "You cannot come here on foot. You have to be in a vehicle." and I said "Okay." An NAPD cop came down from the compound, the one who works as a security guard for the compound and was not at his post, and he gave me a fraudulent trespassing warning. Then I went home.

The next day or so a suspicious person came to my house asking me strange questions, then the next day cops came and arrested me and took me to a for-profit prison hospital. When I got there, they gave me a piece of paper with lies on it. I knew there was no way it could be my "family" because I never told my family anything of the sort ever. Never ever. (These people have been harassing my Mom using electronic communications to tell her lies about how they are "trying to help me" and they even somehow got her to lie about a bunch of stuff.) The text of the fraudulent and criminal police report to a judge reads as follows:

"Respondent has a diagnosis of Unspecified Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorder. Respondent's family called into Netcare on the afternoon of 4/10/2018 with concerns about respondent's increasing decompensation and recent bizarre behavior. Family report that respondent is having command-type auditory hallucinations (e.g. voices), reporting that respondent has a delusion that he can speak with Gods and Goddesses and that he can teleport. Family indicate that respondent endorses delusions that he owns the ***** Property in New Albany and that the ***** Family is having parties with a "God that is not the real God," and believes that they are having secret meetings there without him because he received this information telepathically. On 4/7/2018, respondent was given a trespassing warning by New Albany Police after respondent was found at the front gate of the Wexner property after leaving his apartment abruptly the day prior on 4/6/2018. This pre-screener met with respondent on the afternoon of 4/11/2018. Respondent presented as highly guarded and denied all symptomology. Respondent needs to be brought to Netcare in order to ensure psychiatric stabilization at this time."

I got out of the for profit prison hospital after 72 hours without a psychiatrist ever talking to me. The weird thing was that the dude who was with the pretty blonde girl at Fourth Street the other day was there too. When I got home I was invited back to the compound and this time I called a car service and had a driver in an Escalade pick me up. He drove me to the compound in New Albany and this time I went to the front gate. There was a man with a radio there. I told him I was there to meet the "man of the house" and he radioed in and then he said I could pass and the gate opened. Then he changed his mind and told us to go to the back entrance. The driver drove me there and there were multiple uniformed cops, someone not in uniform, and a U.S. Marshal with a badge on his belt and three NAPD cars that were waiting pulled in behind me.

The guy in plainclothes had me roll my window down and he spoke to me and knew my cat's name. Then the fake police officer who works as a security guard at the compound handed me a fraudulent trespassing summons and I went home.

A couple of days after I got home, the pretty blonde girl told me to meet her at Fourth Street again at 7 PM and I went and got there right on time and saw her and another female get out of their car and I walked in behind them and then sat right next to the pretty blonde girl and started talking to her out loud and telepathically. The first thing she said telepathically was "We can do great things together." She told me her name was Molly and I found out she was from New Albany (of course). We talked a little bit and then I asked her for her number and she gave it to me. Then she said, "We are going to a party tonight." and I asked if I could come and she said "No." then as she got up to leave she told me to go to Ruby Tuesday so I walked over there and there were two more girls waiting for me, but I was not interested in them so I got up and just left and texted Molly about how it was nice to meet her and kept talking to her telepathically.

Jesus Adds More Hearers to Greg's Massive Telepathy

The next day I texted Molly and asked her if she wanted to hang out and she said "Not today." Then, the next day Jesus wanted me to open my mind. I sat there for a half hour saying no to him and then he made me cry a little bit and I agreed. I made some black beans and rice and opened my mind. Then about an hour later new alien gods kept appearing before me. They were dinosaur type beings. Then something incredible happened. They made me feel something crazy that drugs do not do. They like brought me up or something. It was intense. During the night I let my cat Millie outside. She was pretty pregnant with kittens so I was a little concerned but she usually comes home before I go to bed. I went upstairs and looked out my window and saw a woman pick her up and put her in a cage. I did not know what to do. Later that night Jesus told me that 8,000,000 humans on Earth can now hear my voice.

The next day, the alien gods I met wanted me to go around campus telling people that I am Jesus, so I left my house and right when I went outside I saw an older woman walking the same two dogs as the pretty blonde girl was the previous fall. I asked her if she knew where Millie was and she said no. I walked to campus and told a bunch of people I am Jesus and they mostly just laughed and I laughed too. When I walked home, two CPD officers stopped me on the street and accused me of something I did not do. They let me go home when I denied it but the funny part was what they were accusing me of was not even a crime. That night someone knocked on my door and then I found Millie there and her kittens were gone. The next day an entire SWAT team showed up at my house preparing to enter my house illegally, so I just went outside to see what they wanted. They arrested me and took me to a for-profit prison hospital. During my eight day imprisonment I began organizing a military alliance between the U.S. Military and the Chinese Military just for fun telepathically. I even got Kim to agree to work with South Korea on ending the Korean War officially, but the negotiations had been going on for months. I also began really pushing the caravan idea some more. I had been telling people telepathically in South and Central America that the U.S. is the Promised Land and they have every right to live here and that they should just come and live in America and be prosperous.

In June 2018 I had my court date for the fraudulent and criminal trespassing charge. I had been taking my Seroquel by choice, as usual. When I woke up that morning one of the alien gods opened up a honeycomb of portals and I saw a bunch of other planets and then alien organisms teleported in my bedroom and it was really cool. Then I went to court and I talked to the public defender who told me the NA prosecutor had offered me two years hospitalization and ten years probation “because of who the ‘victim’ is.” I told the public defender I had a call to make and then I just left. At the end of the month I stayed up all night one night. I found out the Pope, Putin, Kim, all of the world leaders I was talking to telepathically were under mind control by aliens. All night long the real world leaders told me about how they are all supporting me. I found *****'s email on one of his public websites and emailed him the news. None of the world leaders are telepaths. None.

On July 4, 2018 Molly told me that she was going to meet me at the oval and pick me up in a helicopter. Of course she never showed and I texted her asking why she didn't. Then for the rest of the Summer I walked to the pool off Kenny Road every day to hang out and relax. Every single day I would sing either Streetlight Manifesto or Sublime into Molly's head. One day I went to the pool when Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump had a sit down. I was able to listen to the entire conversation and I knew their plans. During their meeting a U.S. Military jet flew over me at higher altitude than usual (they flew fighter jets over my house multiple times to signal their support for me. I knew they had a FISA on me and knew everything because I used to hang out at this Iranian dude's house in the neighborhood who has a brother in the Revolutionary Guard) and probably took surveillance photos of me listening in.

Moses Speaks to Greg

Months later in September 2018 I emailed ***** again about when Jesus appeared in my house. He called the cops and tried to hospitalize me for beliefs yet again. A nice CPD officer warned me on the street that “they are coming for you” and I just didn't answer the door when they came and I was safe and sound. A couple weeks later on my birthday I was listening to Reflective by Bassnectar and in the song Was Will Be at 3:16 I heard her sing and repeat “Greg's for us.” I heard my name in a Bassnectar song which was awesome. At the end of the album Moses appeared in my head and told me to go to the field at the abandoned school by my house at 3 PM. Moses told me a helicopter would pick me up. I went to the field at the time Moses told me and there was a white helicopter hovering there but it did not land. Another blue and black helicopter came and flew at low altitude around me for a minute or two circling but it never landed either.

Greg Astral Projects

That October I began astral projecting to other planets. The first time I was out in space orbiting this planet somewhere and an alien goddess showed me a factory on the surface of the planet and said I was to attack it. I went down to the surface and flew a fighter aircraft to the site. It was in the marshland with lakes and was up on stilts. When I got close an aircraft carrier teleported

right in front of me and dozens of fighters streamed out the side of the vessel and came at me. My weapons systems were jammed and I had the pilot bail out of the fighter. I went into his head (he was nonhuman) and I swam him to a wire grate that went up into a nearby building and climbed up but then he must have gotten hit and killed because I woke up back in my bed. The second time I astral projected into an alien on another planet's head I was in a church and they had a religion similar to Christianity. I was similar to, but non-human. I was there for maybe 10 minutes. The third time I did it I went into, again, a similar to, but non-human man. I was in his head watching a basketball game but they used two balls instead of one.

Then on the day of the Ohio State-Michigan game I was kept up all night using Massive Telepathy. A cop actually came to my house and used his megaphone to tell me to "Shut up and go to sleep." A very, very ancient alien god from another galaxy came (he looked crazy!) and told me I would meet up with Molly after the game. I took a shower in the morning and he told me that because I took a shower that it was not going to work. I went and watched the game and then went to Fourth Street afterwards and she was there with another female again and there was no seat next to her so I just left. Then I came back half way home and they were leaving as I was a block away and then I watched them stop and go back inside and they were sitting at a table just inside. As soon as I entered I started feeling pain and had screaming in my head so I just walked by and fucking left and went home.

Isaiah Time Travels Into Greg's Head; Revelation Changes for the First Time

I had started going to a Catholic Church near my house for about a month or two. I also tried a Methodist Church in my neighborhood for a little while. Then I found the Xenos church down the street in early December which had awesome Sunday services where they really did a deep dive and analysis of the different books of the New Testament. I found out that they had services for younger people and I started going to those. One dude came right up to me the first day and I told him I was a Christian who became an atheist when I was about 10, but that I had become more spiritual and was looking for a church. The next week after the service him and I went to a corner of the building and prayed together to bring Jesus into my heart.

Then, that week, Isaiah came forward through time into my head. I showed him technology and read his own book to him. It was awesome. Jesus then began teaching me about how time actually works and I understood so much. I had been studying Revelation every day and was pretty much an expert at this point. Then, on the morning of December 18, 2018 I woke up and read the Book of Revelation again and the Letters to the Churches were completely different along with everything else. They were now about me instead of being about something about being patient in every one of them (it had told the angels that it was not time yet. The Lord works in mysterious ways!). The middle part was completely changed too. Instead of the whole planet being covered in darkness, only a third of the planet got destroyed. The antichrist was no longer in the book at all and was replaced with the Lamb of God and the 'god that is not the real God' was replaced by the false prophet. The entire story changed and the ending changed too. No longer did it say "Jesus Christ returns" at the end.

The Baptism of Greg; Revelation Changes a Second Time

I watched a SNL episode from sometime in December where one of the dudes said "Put Jesus in jail." and it had my name, Greg, on the screen in letters in a text box. I was like, "Wow, these people don't know anything. They still think I'm Jesus." Then starting in January the police started up a fake construction project on my block and an undercover kept knocking on my door day after day. Then after a week and a half or so I saw him and the other fake construction workers talking with several cop cars and I took pictures of them from my window. Then the next day I was listening to Bassnectar and in one of the songs I heard "Matthew 3, then one more year" (one more year until covid happens and I saved billions by getting baptized). I flipped to Matthew 3 then read about baptism and that Jesus said, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." and then I picked out one of my Mormon Missionaries' business cards and called one of them. The missionaries had been finding me everywhere for the better part of a year. Sometimes they would be waiting outside my house for me. I'd always talk to them and take their cards.

I saw Molly again at my favorite show at the Newport since like 2009 or so: Badfish! I'm always opening the pits! She was with some other dude so I did not even try to talk to her. I had never seen her even once there so I figured my singing in her head got her into Sublime. Oh well. In February or so I began texting my Dad about how I was the Lamb of God and about what I was going on. Then the beam of light Jesus promised me to announce that I am here was put up downtown and it went into space. It was pretty cool. At that time I was trying to get Molly's number back because I had deleted it after July 4th. I went to multiple Verizon stores around Columbus, but they changed all their policies so that I could not even get my SMS records. Oh well.

I started Mormon Training right away and left Xenos because my friends there were having their minds invaded by human demons and it was so obvious based on the stuff they were saying. The two missionaries would come over to my house and teach me about Mormonism which was fascinating. After a few months I was ready for my Baptism. On April 13, 2019 I was baptized by the future Prophet of the Mormon Church and then on April 14, 2019 they did the laying of the hands. The next day Jesus did the Baptism by Fire when he burned down Notre Dame to symbolize the end of the old church and the beginning of the new church. Then for the rest of the week Jesus tortured me with physical pain and violence day after day and told me it was because of what someone else had decided to do. Then shortly thereafter the Book of Revelation changed for the second time, but only the ending this time. The last sentence was something about 'Lord God and Lord Jesus.'

I began having demonic possession experiences so that I could "learn." The first time Jesus sent me to some "orphanage" in the Philippines or somewhere. Then the children's caretaker came and told everyone that Jesus was in the kid's head that I was in and they all gathered around but I said nothing. The next time I went into this dude's head in an apartment in New Albany and he was totally friend zoned by this girl and I hung out in his head all night. Then in the morning the dude in the plainclothes who knew my cat's name showed up to the apartment.

Greg Meets the Galactic Federation

Finally the NAPD cops arrested me at the end of April by pretending to be AEP workers. Through that Summer Jesus would torture me for the same reason repeatedly. It was awful. At court for the bogus trespassing charge I pled no contest and then I asked the judge point blank, "Can I still email Mr. *****?" and he replied in the affirmative. So, I kept emailing my religious and spiritual experiences like I had been and I would even do things like wish him Happy Passover and other nice things. When I was out of jail downtown after one day, I went home and went to bed that night. Before I fell asleep I felt Jesus in my head and then he took me to some apartment somewhere into another dude's head and then these two girls got there to test me and I went on the dudes desktop and installed Bitcoin Core and downloaded the blockchain for him. Then a woman in a blue suit came and I left and went into the head of the false prophet (the "god that is not the real God") He went into his own head into this portico ceilinged and walled senate chamber. There were tons and tons of aliens of all races sitting in the stands on three sides. As soon as he felt me and Jesus in his head he started panicking and the alien senate told him he was done and that his time was up.

Revelation Changes a Third Time

In May the Book of Revelation changed again. The part about how the Lamb of God is the bridegroom who marries the church or whatever was gone and the verse about the "Wife of the Lamb" was now in! Then, in June I decided to voluntarily take medicine and go to a doctor and get my Seroquel back and I am still taking it voluntarily to this day. Both medicines I took worked and I blocked the humans out for over three years while telling the U.S. Government literally everything through the CIAs website.

This entire time I still had my Mom paying my bills and everything and she was very, very stressed out to say the least. I applied to probably 250 jobs over the years and had tons of unsuccessful interviews. Jesus was forcing me to go through the entire disability process. I got on one of the disability programs that anyone with mental illness can get, but it is not enough for rent and bills but, I had food stamps (SNAP). Then, I actually won the lottery for Section 8 housing. Finally, I had my disability hearing sometime towards the end of 2020 and they denied my claim and said that schizophrenics can be dishwashers for literal poverty wages. Then in early 2021 I finally got a job with a new crypto company and I made some good money so of course I declined my Section 8 lottery win (not all poor and homeless people are allowed to have homes in America). In January 2022 I started my own company (Astral Pioneers) and kept developing it for six months.

Greg Dies and Comes Back to Life from an Interdimensional Bombing

I was watching PBS Newshour like I usually do at the beginning of February when all of a sudden I woke up on the floor hours and hours later. I barely remember, but I made it up to my bed and I was shell shocked for sure. I had no idea what happened. I layed there in bed for maybe two hours before I was able to even think again. By the time I could think I heard

massive ringing in both ears and I was 100% deaf. I couldn't hear anything whatsoever but the intense ringing. I texted my Mom and my Sister that I am deaf now but it was late. I went to call my Mom and it went to voicemail. I realized immediately that I couldn't talk either. My voice was completely broken. It wasn't working. After about an hour more of freaking out I decided I better go to the emergency room. There was a huge blizzard that night so I had to walk. I finally got there and the door was locked. I finally got some guy's attention and he let me in and I had to write down what was wrong. I had just become deaf and I had no idea how. Once I finally saw the doctor I just made up that my subwoofer blew out and she said I had tinnitus and my hearing would return in a week or so. When I got home in the morning I saw my TV. It was all mangled and twisted like some sort of interdimensional bomb went off. It was scary for about half a week. I was mostly deaf. After about half a week my hearing in my right ear and speech came back, but now I have tinnitus in my left ear forever. It comes and goes. I can hear 100% again though.

In June 2022 I published my whitepaper and then I launched my smart contracts on the Ethereum blockchain. I invested heavily into marketing with Twitter campaigns, several news articles including one in Cointelegraph, and YouTube videos with 30k and 50k views but I got no bites.

Jesus Adds More Hearers to Greg's Massive Telepathy

At the end of July my Massive Telepathy was activated again and I told 8,000,000 people around Earth all about my religion. Then Minerva hit me with a heart shaped dart that had love potion in it and I began loving Molly inexplicably. I told the whole world how beautiful she was and that I loved her. After the Roger Waters show Jesus gave me an additional 4,000,000 people to talk to for a total of 12,000,000. Then Molly began talking to me again telepathically. Then the "god that is not the real God" and his wife started torturing me by appearing in my head and I would feel pain for some reason. I got through it though.

Greg Imprisoned

Then the NA prosecutor (I think) filed bogus charges that I had violated my probation again, but I had never gone to the compound in New Albany and I had never contacted Mr. ***** again. I was arrested on the streets and the judge told me at my arraignment that I would have court in 7 to 10 days and I had no bond. On the 6th day I called my Mom to confirm my court date and my entire record besides my failure to control from 2014 was completely erased. After a while I called her again and told her to call a lawyer I knew from college because if I am not in the system then I could be trapped in prison. She said okay. The next morning I called her again with more bullshit about how the people texting her or whatever were "trying to help [me]" and they even had her lying about calling the cops on me which is impossible because I never told her anything but "I hear voices." My sister who is a social worker for the City of Columbus found my court date in a special database and so I didn't have my Mom call a lawyer.

It looks a lot like after I requested a lawyer the judge gave me another 9 days in jail for no reason. For three days that week the cops gave no one in my dorm their medicine and I had to

call my Dad to get him to call the prison to fix it. He got the runaround, but the next day they finally brought everyone's medicine. I was not happy that they forced me to stay up for three days before my court date. I went to the court in chains and was given a public defender even though I told them I did not qualify and she got mad and said "Do you want me to be your lawyer or not?" and I said yes and figured she was doing it pro bono. I told her that I was going to plead no contest. My probation officer talked to me to and asked me about something totally unrelated to my probation violation and I told her I was making a political point about how it is fucking idiotic that anyone of age in Ohio can buy a gun for cash at a gun show whether they have mental illness or not. I said that people like me should not be allowed to buy guns whatsoever.

Then the judge gave me a third court date for no reason whatsoever and sentenced me to another eight days in jail. During that week Jesus upped me to 1% of the population of Earth who heard my telepathic voice and I taught them about my religion and about my hometown and schooling and about my family. Then the next week I went to the court in chains again and my probation officer said I needed to consider the Invega shots (which I had tried before and had negative side effects), but I agreed anyway because I was being threatened with more nonsensical punishment for something I hadn't even done. In court I gave a speech to the judge and told him I'd never talk about that person again even though I knew I had not broken the terms of my probation. The judge did not even address what I was arrested for and instead made it totally about something completely unrelated. He even said a couple things about how the medicine is voluntary even though if I had said no he would have just kept me in prison for even longer for sure. Then he sentenced me to another day in jail and then gave me 25 days house arrest. I currently have an ankle monitor on that has been malfunctioning. I will be going to get that placebo shot tomorrow because its only purpose is to make the courts and parents happy but does nothing whatsoever to stop reality.

On October 25, 2022 I went into court to get my ankle monitor off. When I got there I circled my name on the piece of paper and signed it like you are supposed to. It said City of New Albany vs. Gregory Betz. I waited for two hours before the judge went to lunch or something. I was told they were waiting for my lawyer. I was one of the last people left. Finally, a different lawyer came and brought me into a different court with a different judge. She said the case was State of Ohio vs. Gregory Betz. My lawyer had told me I'd done everything right. I'd taken both Invega shots and stayed in my house like I was supposed to. The judge told me I'd gone "above and beyond" and I apologized to the court for the trouble like I usually do. She ordered my ankle monitor be taken off and it was taken off.

What's next?

Sources:

Titus 1:16

16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Titus 2:1

2 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

Titus 2:6-8

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. **7** In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness **8** and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Philemon 1:6-7

6 I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. **7** Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Philemon 1:15-18

15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— **16** no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. **18** If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 2:6-7

6 Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

James 5:1-6

5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. **2** Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. **3** Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. **4** Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. **5** You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

Ephesians 6:10-20

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. **19** Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. **6** God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you **7** and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. **8** He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might **10** on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. **12** We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

2 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, **2** not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. **3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. **4** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? **6** And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. **7** For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. **9** The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, **10** and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **11** For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe

the lie **12** and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 3:3-4

3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. **4** We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 5:16

16 Rejoice always

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22

20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt **21** but test them all; hold on to what is good, **22** reject every kind of evil.

1 Timothy 3:15-16

15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

16 Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh,

was vindicated by the Spirit,

was seen by angels,

was preached among the nations,

was believed on in the world,

was taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 4:1-5

4 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. **2** Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. **3** They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. **4** For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:12-16

12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. **13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. **14** Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. **16** Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 6:4-5

4 they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions **5** and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **25** Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 3:1-9

3 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. **2** People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, **4** treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, **7** always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. **8** Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. **9** But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

2 Timothy 4:4-7

4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **5** But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

1 Peter 2:7-8

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble

and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

1 Peter 4:4

4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.

2 Peter 1:19

19 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.

2 Peter 2:8-9

8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— **9** if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

2 Peter 2:12

12 But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.

2 Peter 2:17-18

17 These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. **18** For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.

Luke 17:24-25

24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. **25** But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

Jude 1:4

4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude 1:10

10 Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

Jude 1:16

16 These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

Jude 1:18-19

18 They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” **19** These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Philippians 1:28-30

28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. **29** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, **30** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 2:15-16

15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky **16** as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:28-30

28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. **29** So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, **30** because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

Philippians 4:11:13

11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Isaiah 24:16-17

16

From the ends of the earth we hear singing:

“Glory to the Righteous One.”

But I said, “I waste away, I waste away!

Woe to me!

The treacherous betray!

With treachery the treacherous betray!”

17

Terror and pit and snare await you,

people of the earth.

Isaiah 32:1-8

32

See, a king will reign in righteousness

and rulers will rule with justice.

2

Each one will be like a shelter from the wind

and a refuge from the storm,

like streams of water in the desert

and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.

3

Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed,
and the ears of those who hear will listen.

4

The fearful heart will know and understand,
and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear.

5

No longer will the fool be called noble
nor the scoundrel be highly respected.

6

For fools speak folly,
their hearts are bent on evil:
They practice ungodliness
and spread error concerning the Lord;
the hungry they leave empty
and from the thirsty they withhold water.

7

Scoundrels use wicked methods,
they make up evil schemes
to destroy the poor with lies,
even when the plea of the needy is just.

8

But the noble make noble plans,
and by noble deeds they stand.

Isaiah 33:24

24

No one living in Zion will say, "I am ill";
and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven.

Deuteronomy 13:12-18

12 If you hear it said about one of the towns the Lord your God is giving you to live in **13** that troublemakers have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods you have not known), **14** then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you, **15** you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town. You must destroy it completely, both its people and its livestock. **16** You are to gather all the plunder of the town into the middle of the public square and completely burn the town and all its plunder as a whole burnt offering to the Lord your God. That town is to remain a ruin forever, never to be rebuilt, **17** and none of the condemned things are to be found in your hands. Then the Lord will turn from his fierce anger, will show you mercy, and will have compassion on you. He will increase your numbers, as he promised on oath to your ancestors— **18** because you obey the Lord your God by keeping all his commands that I am giving you today and doing what is right in his eyes.

Colossians 1:21

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7

Of the greatness of his government and peace

there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne

and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it

with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty

will accomplish this.

Jeremiah 7:18

18 The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes to offer to the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to arouse my anger.

Psalm 31:18

18

Let their lying lips be silenced,
for with pride and contempt
they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

Psalm 56:2

2

My adversaries pursue me all day long;
in their pride many are attacking me.

Psalm 59:1-4

1

Deliver me from my enemies, O God;
be my fortress against those who are attacking me.

2

Deliver me from evildoers
and save me from those who are after my blood.

3

See how they lie in wait for me!
Fierce men conspire against me
for no offense or sin of mine, Lord.

4

I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me.

Arise to help me; look on my plight!

Psalm 59:11-13

11

But do not kill them, Lord our shield,^[a]

or my people will forget.

In your might uproot them

and bring them down.

12

For the sins of their mouths,

for the words of their lips,

let them be caught in their pride.

For the curses and lies they utter,

13

consume them in your wrath,

consume them till they are no more.

Then it will be known to the ends of the earth

that God rules over Jacob.

Ezekiel 21:6

6 “Therefore groan, son of man! Groan before them with broken heart and bitter grief.

Ezekiel 21:26-27

26 this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Take off the turban, remove the crown. It will not be as it was: The lowly will be exalted and the exalted will be brought low. **27** A ruin! A ruin! I will make it a ruin! The crown will not be restored until he to whom it rightfully belongs shall come; to him I will give it.’

Proverbs 14:34

34

Righteousness exalts a nation,

but sin condemns any people.

Habakkuk 2:2-5

2 Then the Lord replied:

“Write down the revelation

and make it plain on tablets

so that a herald may run with it.

3

For the revelation awaits an appointed time;

it speaks of the end

and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;

it will certainly come

and will not delay.

4

“See, the enemy is puffed up;

his desires are not upright—

but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—

5

indeed, wine betrays him;

he is arrogant and never at rest.

Because he is as greedy as the grave

and like death is never satisfied,

he gathers to himself all the nations

and takes captive all the peoples.

Habakkuk 2:9-10

9

“Woe to him who builds his house by unjust gain,

setting his nest on high

to escape the clutches of ruin!

10

You have plotted the ruin of many peoples,

shaming your own house and forfeiting your life.

Habakkuk 2:15-16

15

“Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbors,

pouring it from the wineskin till they are drunk,
so that he can gaze on their naked bodies!

16

You will be filled with shame instead of glory.

Habakkuk 3:12-13

12

In wrath you strode through the earth
and in anger you threshed the nations.

13

You came out to deliver your people,
to save your anointed one.
You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness,
you stripped him from head to foot.

Haggai 2:18

18 'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid. Give careful thought

Zechariah 6:15

15 Those who are far away will come and help to build the temple of the Lord, and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. This will happen if you diligently obey the Lord your God."

Zechariah 6:12-13

12 Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the Lord. **13** It is he who will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'

Zechariah 2:7-9

7 “Come, Zion! Escape, you who live in Daughter Babylon!” **8** For this is what the Lord Almighty says: “After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye— **9** I will surely raise my hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me.

Hebrews 10:32-39

32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. **33** Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. **34** You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. **35** So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **37** For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”

38 And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith.

And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”

39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Nahum 1:12-13

12 This is what the Lord says:

“Although they have allies and are numerous,
they will be destroyed and pass away.

Although I have afflicted you, Judah,

I will afflict you no more.

13

Now I will break their yoke from your neck

and tear your shackles away.”

Nahum 1:15

15

Look, there on the mountains,

the feet of one who brings good news,

who proclaims peace!

Celebrate your festivals, Judah,

and fulfill your vows.

No more will the wicked invade you;

they will be completely destroyed.

Habakkuk 1:2-4

2

How long, Lord, must I call for help,

but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, “Violence!”

but you do not save?

3

Why do you make me look at injustice?

Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

4

Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

Habakkuk 1:5-7

5

“Look at the nations and watch—
and be utterly amazed.

For I am going to do something in your days
that you would not believe,
even if you were told.

6

I am raising up the Babylonians,
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

7

They are a feared and dreaded people;
they are a law to themselves
and promote their own honor.

Zechariah 7:9-13

9 “This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. **10** Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’

11 “But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and covered their ears. **12** They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the Lord Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the Lord Almighty was very angry.

13 “‘When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,’ says the Lord Almighty.

Zechariah 11:4-17

4 This is what the Lord my God says: “Shepherd the flock marked for slaughter. **5** Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, ‘Praise the Lord, I am rich!’ Their own shepherds do not spare them. **6** For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land,” declares the Lord. “I will give everyone into the hands of their neighbors and their king. They will devastate the land, and I will not rescue anyone from their hands.”

7 So I shepherded the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staffs and called one Favor and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock. **8** In one month I got rid of the three shepherds.

The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them **9** and said, “I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another’s flesh.”

10 Then I took my staff called Favor and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. **11** It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the Lord.

12 I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

13 And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.

14 Then I broke my second staff called Union, breaking the family bond between Judah and Israel.

15 Then the Lord said to me, "Take again the equipment of a foolish shepherd. **16** For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hooves.

17

"Woe to the worthless shepherd,
who deserts the flock!

May the sword strike his arm and his right eye!

May his arm be completely withered,
his right eye totally blinded!"

Psalm 45:4

In your majesty ride forth victoriously
in the cause of truth, humility and justice;
let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.

Psalm 45:6-7

6

Your throne, O God,^[a] will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

7

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.

a. Psalm 45:6 Here the king is addressed as God's representative.

Psalm 45:10-11

10

Listen, daughter, and pay careful attention:

Forget your people and your father's house.

11

Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;

honor him, for he is your lord.

Isaiah 53

53

Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3

He was despised and rejected by mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4

Surely he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7

He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

8

By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;

for the transgression of my people he was punished.

9

He was assigned a grave with the wicked,

and with the rich in his death,

though he had done no violence,

nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,

he will see his offspring and prolong his days,

and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11

After he has suffered,

he will see the light of life and be satisfied;

by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,

and he will bear their iniquities.

12

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,

and he will divide the spoils with the strong,

because he poured out his life unto death,

and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

Revelation 2,3

To the Church in Ephesus

2 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. **3** You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. **5** Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. **6** But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

To the Church in Smyrna

8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. **9** I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. **10** Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

To the Church in Pergamum

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. **13** I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. **15** Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

To the Church in Thyatira

18 “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. **19** I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. **21** I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. **22** So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. **23** I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, **25** except to hold on to what you have until I come.’

26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— **27** that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father. **28** I will also give that one

the morning star. **29** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Malachi 2:17

17 You have wearied the Lord with your words.

“How have we wearied him?” you ask.

By saying, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them”

Revelation 21:9

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

2 Nephi 31:4-12

4 Wherefore, I would that ye should remember that I have spoken unto you concerning that prophet which the Lord showed unto me, that should baptize the Lamb of God, which should take away the sins of the world.

5 And now, if the Lamb of God, he being holy, should have need to be baptized by water, to fulfill all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water!

6 And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfill all righteousness in being baptized by water?

7 Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he showeth unto the children of men that, according to the flesh he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments.

8 Wherefore, after he was baptized with water the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove.

9 And again, it showeth unto the children of men the straitness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them.

10 And he said unto the children of men: Follow thou me. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father?

11 And the Father said: Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my Beloved Son.

12 And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying: He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do.

John 3:11-21

11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. **19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Proverbs 3:13-18

13

Blessed are those who find wisdom,

those who gain understanding,

14

for she is more profitable than silver

and yields better returns than gold.

15

She is more precious than rubies;

nothing you desire can compare with her.

16

Long life is in her right hand;

in her left hand are riches and honor.

17

Her ways are pleasant ways,

and all her paths are peace.

18

She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;

those who hold her fast will be blessed.”

Proverbs 31:10-31

Epilogue: The Wife of Noble Character

10

[b]A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.

11

Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.

12

She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.

13

She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.

14

She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.

15

She gets up while it is still night;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her female servants.

16

She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17

She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.

18

She sees that her trading is profitable,
and her lamp does not go out at night.

19

In her hand she holds the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

20

She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.

21

When it snows, she has no fear for her household;
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

22

She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

23

Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

24

She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.

25

She is clothed with strength and dignity;

she can laugh at the days to come.

26

She speaks with wisdom,

and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

27

She watches over the affairs of her household

and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28

Her children arise and call her blessed;

her husband also, and he praises her:

29

"Many women do noble things,

but you surpass them all."

30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31

Honor her for all that her hands have done,

and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

The Hands That Thieve by Streetlight Manifesto:

Well I felt no guilt 'til I was caught and I was told that I was guilty

And even then, I wasn't really sure. (Yeah, yeah)

The thing I felt was guilt itself, though maybe it was something else

Frustration at the fact that I was ever caught at all

I told a lie that multiplied it by the time I realized it
I'd given up everything I ever loved. (Yeah, yeah)
'Cause the thing you lack when you're looking back
Is the pressure to feel that you have to act

Yeah, everything is clearer when you're looking at the past, oh no
And I don't care if I lose
Because my heroes did, too
They shouted, "Court should be adjourned!"
Because the jury are fools
And the judge can't decipher his left from his right
Or his right from his wrong
And we will bite the hand that thieves
We will not turn the other cheek
This is no threat, it is a promise we will keep

So what's the point pretending when we've seen behind the curtain and there's nothing
much to see, oh yeah
I felt no pain 'til I was down and I was told that I was bleeding
And even then, I knew I wasn't done. (Yeah, yeah)
'Cause the wounds I get, they will just collect

Assuring that I won't forget, reminders of the battles that I've lost and that I've won
And I will fight 'til I have died, or all my enemies are allies
And even then I will sleep with an open eye. (Yeah, yeah)
'Cause the night is long, and our wills are strong and I know that the road I traveled on

It only seemed so dark because we've almost reached the dawn, oh no
And I don't care if I lose
Because my heroes did, too
They shouted, "Court should be adjourned!"
Because the jury are fools
And the judge can't decipher his left from his right
Or his right from his wrong
And we will bite the hand that thieves
We will not turn the other cheek
This is no threat, it's a promise we will keep

So what's the point pretending when we've seen behind the curtain and there's nothing much to see, oh yeah
And everyone will claim that they knew from the beginning
That what they did was wrong, but they still just went on sinning
The sudden rush of fear when realizing everything you know will fade away
It haunts you deep, but you won't wanna let it go

Someday we'll lose the war, but 'til then we will dream of winning
I won't forget the things you said
When I was down and I was tired of it

The words you spoke, they brought me home
When it was time to fight, we chose a side
But everyone knew that something didn't feel right

So, we stood our ground and waited for a sign
When it was time to fight
We chose a side
But everyone knew that something didn't feel right
So we stood our ground
And waited for a sound

You said, "Don't look back!"
(Oh! no!) (Oh! no!)
(Don't look back, don't look back, we've gone too far, we're too high off the ground)
Don't look back!
(Oh! no!) (Oh! no!)
(Don't look back, don't look back, we've gone too far, we're too high off the ground)
You said, "Don't look back!"
(Oh! no! Oh! no! Ohhhhh!)
(Don't look back, don't look back, we've gone too far, we're too high off the ground)
Don't look back!
(Oh! no!) (Oh! no!)
(Don't look back, don't look back, we've gone too far, we're too high off the ground)

The First Ten Years (This is an Illusion) by Greg Betz