



THE NARROW GATE

"Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life..." - Matt 7:14

A Free Newsletter about Truth, Life & Destiny

WHAT IS TRUTH?



We live in a fast-changing world. Today, we have a mine of information available at our fingertips without leaving the comfort of our homes. Trends have changed. Fashion has changed. Development has improved. Attitudes are changing. On the darker side though, ours is still an unstable world. Economies have been collapsing overnight. Governments overthrown. Families breaking down. Lives being lost. We are all beginning to realise that the forces at work in our world are beyond human understanding or control.

So in our desperation, we turn to God. In an unstable natural world, we all need a supernatural stability that we can rely on. Different communities of people, have come up with different concepts of who they think "God" could be. Each school of thought or concept of God has with it a supporting evidence - a revelation of who their God is or is not. They call this revelation - Scripture or Holy Book(s). It's this scripture that they depend on to know, learn and understand their "God" - the only one they think that they could depend on.

That's what they think. But what's the truth? Books can be written by man, stories and mythologies can be handed down a thousand generations. But that does not in anyway make the book supernatural, no matter how many millennia they have been preserved. If we can trace the origins of this universe to an eternal, uncaused first cause - God, has this true God revealed Himself? We do not want mythologies and fantastic literary works. We want a stable, unchanging and true revelation of that singular, eternal, unchanging, first and last, perfect and supreme God.

There are many books that different people consider "Holy" and "True". Some have a book written by a single man who claims a revelation from a god or gods. Others have collected sayings and inspired words of enlightened men having no claims to divinity or knowledge of God. There is one book however, that is unique and peculiar. Unique in its origins, its historicity, its claims and impeccable preservation. This book does not have traits of the highly intellectual ramblings of a philosopher, yet has timeless wisdom. It contradicts every other religious holy book ever written. It is simple to comprehend in any language. It does not strive to market itself to it's readers. But, very plainly and bluntly refers to itself as the only true revelation from God - take it or leave it. No one person can claim its authorship. Yet more than 2 billion people depend on it as the only truth - **The Bible**.

The Bible claims that it is the eternal, everlasting truth inspired by God Himself :

"The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever." -
Psalms 119:160

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." - ***2 Timothy 3:16***

If this is the Truth - the Word of God Himself, it must be the textbook and manual for every human being on earth. But, is it what it claims to be? Let's find out.

Understanding the Book

The Bible is a collection of books divided into 2 parts : The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament claims to speak about the origins of the world as we know it, about how Man rebelled against God, how God dealt with him and a promise - Salvation from eternal punishment due to the rebellion. This portion also speaks about God's dealings with a chosen race and nation - Israel. The New Testament speaks about the fulfillment of the promise - in the person of Jesus Christ - God come down as man, His gruesome murder, His miraculous resurrection and the power of God unleashed in the lives of all those who believed. All this seems good. But how is the Bible different from any ancient mythological works? An unstable world needs proven stable truth to depend on. Is the Bible that stable truth?

Accurate History

Fictions are an interesting read. They help us escape the pressures of reality into a world of romance and adventure. Mythologies can be interesting too. It adds spirituality to fiction and helps us escape into unreal supernaturalism. It stimulates our intellect and can uplift our emotions. It shapes our worldview. But most importantly it shapes in our mind, a man made concept of "God". The kind of books that really make sense are history. A true and proven account of something that happened in the past. Its these books that help shape lives. Firstly, History helps us learn facts that shape our present.

Secondly, history warns us of something no other category of books can - about *Mistakes*.

Modern Civilization has learned from mistakes of the past. Is the Bible History or Myth? Is there any corroborating archaeological evidence of the so-called historic events mentioned in there?

If you are a sceptic, you will be shocked. History is found in almost every book of the Bible. In fact, most of the books appear to be a news report of sorts about actual historical events.



Take for example, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, that mention lives of the various kings of Israel. It's Israel's second King - David, that really caused uproar. There was absolutely no proof of his existence outside of the Bible. No mention in any other ancient document around that time or any archaeological evidence.

Historians and scholars had reached a common conclusion that King David, was nothing but religious myth.

Until 1993. In that year, archaeologists uncovered a 3000-year old inscription mentioning King David. This verified that King David was an actual historical figure.

The geographical locations mentioned in the Bible are true to the minutest detail. Infact, thousands of archaeological discoveries in the past century, confirmed the historicity of the Bible. No archaeological discovery till date has overturned a single Biblical reference.

And there is more. Most of the events have historical corroborations from non-biblical accounts. For example, 2 Chronicles 36:23 and Ezra 1, reports about how King Cyrus the Great of Persia, after conquering Babylon, permitted Jews in Babylonian Captivity to return back home. The inscriptions on a clay cylinder from the year 539 BC found at Babylon, confirms this event completely. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

The clincher is the crucifixion of Jesus.

Many historians believed that Romans (who had conquered Israel in the days of Jesus), never used Crucifixion as a punishment in Israel in the years when Jesus was around. Although John 20:25, says Jesus had nails through His hands and feet. In 1968, they found the remains of *Yohanan Ben Ha'galgol*, from around 70 AD. His heel

bone still had a nail driven through it. But, even if crucifixion is a verified punishment - what about Jesus? Was He really crucified? Or Still worse was He real? He was. And so was His Crucifixion.

These facts are corroborated by non-Christian sources from the time of Christ :

Flavius Josephus (37 AD - 101 AD) - a Jewish Historian in his work Antiquities, Tacitus (55 AD - 117 AD) - a Roman Historian, Pliny the Younger (112 AD) - Governor of Bithynia-Asia Minor and Lucian (around 120-180 AD). As if that was not enough, the Bible claims that Jesus, rose again to life on the third day.

The evidence for this is an empty tomb, along with eyewitness accounts in the New Testament of the Bible and of course, the bitter enemies of Jesus who believed in His Resurrection almost overnight.

A lot of other persons and events mentioned in the Bible have corroborating evidence in Archaeology and non-biblical, non-christian sources to utmost accuracy. Such high levels of accurate historical evidence is unparalleled and cannot be found in any religious holy book in the world.

The Supernatural Factor : Prophecy

Even with accurate evidence, just being historical, does not make a book supernatural in anyway, much less the Word of God. There has to be something in a book that goes beyond the unstable natural world we live in.

Prophecy is that 'something'. Without it - you could just pass off the Bible as just another history textbook.

Since the Bible is a collection of books, written by different people in different centuries; it is just amazing to see prophecies made in one book in a particular year, fulfilled in some later century.

The Bible's prophecies are so numerous, entire volumes could be written about it. Let's take a look at a few.

Cyrus the Great the persian king from 539 - 530 BC, mentioned earlier, releases the Jews back to their land and helps to rebuild the Temple of God in Jerusalem. All this is perfectly verified historically. What's shocking, is that this event has been predicted by the prophet Isaiah, more than 150 years before Cyrus was even born:

*Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who makes all things,...**Who says of Cyrus,** 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."*

- Isaiah 44:24-28



Another famous prophecy by Isaiah is found in Isaiah 66:7-8, which says "Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?". Before 1948, the land of Israel was ravaged, first in 70 AD the Romans destroyed it, then it was captured by Arabs, then overrun by the Crusades and ultimately it was under British control.

But on May 14, 1948; in a 24-Hr span of time, the United States of America issued a declaration recognizing Israel's sovereignty, the UN mandate expired and the British control over Israel ended, making it an Independent Jewish Nation after 2900 years.

After 70 AD, the Jews were scattered across the world for many years. Hundreds of Bible verses prophesy their return to their homeland. And today after about 1900 years they are back fulfilling the prophecies accurately.

As usual, the more you will look for evidence in the Bible, the more it will shock you. The books in the Old Testament are full of promises of the Messiah - who would save the world from Sin.

They prophesied the virgin birth, the miraculous life, his gruesome death and his resurrection.

- In Zechariah 2:10, the Zechariah prophesies that His Crucifixion - hundreds of years before the invention of crucifixion by Romans. In 30 AD Jesus Christ was crucified.

- In 700 BC, the prophet Micah accurately predicted His birth in the village of Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2).
- Before 500 BC, the prophet Daniel predicted that the Messiah would begin his ministry 483 years after a decree for the rebuilding of Jerusalem would be issued. And right enough, the decree for rebuilding of Jerusalem was issued by Persian King Artaxerxes in 458 BC.
So exactly 483 years later, Jesus began His ministry in Galilee.

There are so many prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament that the odds of its fulfillment are staggering. Yet every single one of them has been fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

There are more than 2000 fulfilled prophecies out of the 2500 in the Bible!

The remaining 500 have not come to pass since the time has not yet been fulfilled.

With each passing year, more prophecies are coming to pass, like the Egyptian Crisis in 2011-14, has been predicted in Isaiah 19.

Still worse, the state of affairs in our world, the perversity, the wars - all have been predicted in Biblical Prophecies. A verse written in 67 AD gives a glimpse of today's world :

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power." - **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

The book of prophet Zechariah written around 518 BC tells us how the peace of the whole world hinges on one city: *"Behold, I will make **Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people** round about when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem."* - **Zechariah 12:2**

A brief glance through the world news in the past few years will reveal one undeniable fact : if World War 3 occurs, it will be over this city - Jerusalem.

Principles of Science

Unlike many other Religious Holy Books, another area with ample evidence for us to consider the Bible, is Science. The Bible virtually contains no scientific errors. There are scientific facts mentioned in the Bible centuries before science came up with the answers. Here are a few :

- Although many Holy Books make the unscientific claim that the Earth is flat, the Bible tells us that the Shape of the Earth is round - way before science even thought about it : **Job 26:10 & Isaiah 40:22**
- Before Isaac Newton discovered the laws of gravity, many would think, that the Earth rested on something. Some thought, it rested on the backs of elephants, Greeks thought it rested on the shoulders of Atlas; but the Bible said in Job 26:7 - **"He [God] hangs the Earth on nothing"**.
- Ecclesiastes 1:6 describes the circulation of winds, **Psalm 135:7** tells us about the Hydrological Cycle thousands of years before Science thought about it.
- The Book of **Leviticus** gives us an insight into sanitation and hygiene much before it was adopted by the medical world in recent centuries.
- Matthew Maury discovered Ocean Currents only in the 19th century AD, but the Bible spoke about **"..paths in the sea.."** in **Psalms 8** - around 1015 BC
- Up until 120 years ago, sick people were bled, and many lost their lives in the bargain. But Thousands of years ago the Bible stated in **Leviticus 17:11** : **"..the life of the flesh is in the blood.."**
- The Second Law of Thermodynamics was formulated in 1850 AD , but in about 1000 BC, David's **Psalm 102:25-26** already speaks about universe wearing out like an old garment.

And the list is endless. The Bible is not only historical and supernaturally prophetic, but also has a rock solid scientific foundation. Any other holy book which has obvious scientific errors, cannot be a revelation from the true living God. Whereas, the Bible has no scientific errors, and thus qualifies to be a complete reliable revelation of the true God - who is the maker of all things - always getting His science right!

Manuscripts and Internal Consistency



There's one other thing. How do we know that this book has not been corrupted by people planning to start a new cult? How do we know that the books of the Bible we have today, are identical to the original?

Since all books of the Bible, have been written before the invention of the Printing Press, they had been written on Scrolls. The original scrolls are called Manuscripts. These Original Manuscripts were copied and passed down. The more copies of the originals we have, the more we can compare between them and know if it corresponds to the original. It is like a witness to an event. There is a chance that the witness may exaggerate and errors may creep into his testimony. But if we have many witnesses,

there is a higher probability, we would know the truth. Today there are around 25000 partial & complete copies of the original manuscripts of the New Testament and thousands of copies of the Old Testament.

Compare this with only 5 surviving copies of the works of Aristotle, only 10 copies of the writings of Caesar's *Gallic Wars* and only 20 copies of Tacitus' *Greek History*.

The entire New Testament of the Bible was complete by the end of the 1st Century AD. Jesus was crucified in 30 AD. This means the New Testament was completed within 70 years. Also the earliest copy of the original manuscripts in our possession today, is within 29 years of the writing of the original.

All that we know about Alexander the Great today can be traced to 5 literary sources. The earliest of which has been written 300-400 years after his death.

The Bible we have today is absolutely in agreement with the original manuscripts.

That's not all. The bible is a collection of many books written by around 40 different authors, with different careers and cultural backgrounds, separated geographically (and at times hundreds of miles apart), in different eras and across a span of around 1500 years. Yet, the bible is absolutely harmonious and consistent, with no contradictions. Any apparent contradiction is a misunderstanding of context or the underlying language (Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic). The Odds of this happening under normal circumstances are staggering.

The Message

The Main message of the Bible is one of Hope and Joy. It tells us about the existence of a Mighty and Majestic God - His Power & Perfection. It tells us that there is only one God - a God who loves us.

And since this God is perfect, his justice and love is perfect. Perfect Justice demands that rebellion against Him, or Sin - has to be removed. Sin cannot just be removed by a snap of fingers. This is because, each one of us has been created with a Free Will. The only way to remove sin is to destroy the Sinner.

Paul's letter to the Romans says : "*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*" - **Romans 3:23** and that "*..the wages of sin is death..*" - **Romans 6:23**.

If God destroys all of us, we cannot say that His Love is perfect. That's why God came up with a solution :

If there be a man who is perfect - without sin, then the blame of our sins and the punishment due to us could be put upon him.

But there is no perfect man. Everyone has sinned. Are we doomed? Are we lost, having no hope?

The Old Testament shows us this very problem; man, his sin and the desperate, hopeless life he lives.

But the New Testament, shows us the only solution, that man has at his disposal.

The only sinless one is God himself. So God sent His Son - Jesus Christ - fully God and fully Man. He died a cruel death on the cross - bearing the blame of our sins and our punishment upon himself. On the Third day, Jesus was raised from the dead. Whoever has faith in Him, is justified and made righteous before God.

On the last day, when this World ends, everyone who has believed will be raised from the dead - just like Him. This is the message of Hope that the Bible gives us - Death has been conquered.

The disciples of Jesus were persecuted for it, killed, burned, beheaded, sawed in two, poisoned, crucified - but none of them denied what they believed.

They believed that there is only One God. The One who has been revealed in the Bible - in the person of Jesus Christ.

Whoever believes in Him, receives a New Life and a New Peace, like no power in this world can give. He is saved from eternal punishment and receives Eternal Life. Such a believer in Jesus Christ, is forgiven of his sins and his guilt and shame is removed. He now has Peace with God. The Bible says : *"For whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* - **Romans 10:13**.

We have verified in this article, that the Bible is a Historically Proven, Prophetic, Scientific, Consistent and Purely Preserved Revelation of God. But for someone who wants to know if the Bible is that stable, true and dependable revelation of God, to be used as a compass and direction in this unstable world, no amount of evidence is sufficient. The only way to verify the Bible - is to read it & accept its open challenge: Call on the Name of Jesus in sincerity. If you are saved and encounter Jesus in your life, you will have encountered something more precious than *"Gold or Silver"*.

My dear brother/sister, you do not have to live under the burden of sin and guilt anymore. You do not have to live your life as a slave to the world's pressures and stress. The Bible provides us with the answer :

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. - **John 8:32**



Do you want to know more about the Bible - this Reliable, Stable Truth?

Do you have any more doubts or queries ?

Do you want a copy of the Bible to read ? Contact us, for a free copy.

See the last page for Contact Info

YESHUA MAN OR GOD?

More than 2000 years back, a man walked the earth. His life was the most defining factor in world history. For millennia, men have fought over Him, been inspired by Him, talked and written about Him, and even worshipped Him. Love Him or Hate Him - His birth and Life have been the dividing point of History. Born in Israel, He has been called a great Teacher, an excellent Master, an enlightened Being and even God. They claim He raised the dead to life, healed the sick, cast out demons and even rose to life Himself, after dying the most gruesome death. His existence has undeniable historical evidence. He was a man - a Human like the rest of us. Yet there is something about Him - that would make you think of the Divine.

His Name : Yeshua (*in Hebrew*) or Iesous (*in Greek*) or more commonly - Jesus (*in English*) - also known as the Christ or Messiah. What is it about Jesus that gets people the world over, unsettled or joyful? Why does one

man's life, born in an obscure little village, who died a death of a criminal, impact the whole world so much? Was He truly God - or was He just another Human Champion who has been idolized over the years? As we have seen, the most reliable historical, scientific and prophetic book that we can rely on for the stable truth, is the Bible. Does Jesus or any of His followers ever claim that He was God? What about His Humanity? Let's find out.

If Jesus is truly God, and the Bible is real, there would surely be instances where He claims Divinity.

However, there is not a single verse where He says, "I AM GOD".

But neither does He say "I am a Prophet" or that "I am a man". That did not make Him less of a man or prophet in any way. Much like, no President of a Country would ever enter into a room and say - "I am the President".

It would be too proud of him to do so. It's always others who recognize him and proclaim his arrival. But of one who is the leader of a nation, there is a certain authority in speech and behaviour. This is what we see in the personality of Jesus, as reported in the gospels. He had the authority that only God could have.

If we read deeper into what Jesus says about Himself, we find that in *John 8:58*, Jesus claims that He is the "**I AM**". A name describing an eternal existence - no beginning, no end - a name only God can claim. Seen throughout the Old Testament. Especially seen when God reveals Himself to Moses in *Exodus 3:14* - "*And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM***".

An even more extra-ordinary claim, is the one He makes on the night before His death in *Mark 14:62* - "*Jesus said, **I AM**. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.*".

The title "**Son of Man**" was a special one that the Jews gave to the prophesied Messiah. This title has been specifically used by the prophet Daniel in the *Book of Daniel 7:13-14*, where he says that He saw the "Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven" and was given a kingdom in which all nations would serve Him. This kingdom is described as having an *everlasting dominion*.

In the Gospel of John gives Jesus the title of **the Word and the Creator**. John 1:1, goes on to say that *the Word* was God. And that all things were made through Him and nothing was made without Him. Just like Jeremiah 51:19 in the Old Testament, which says that God is "*Maker of all Things*".

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus Himself claims **Omnipresence** - present always and everywhere - a quality of God. He says towards the end of Matthew, "*... I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" *Amen.*" (Matt 28:20). Earlier in Matthew's account of Jesus' life, He says that when two or three believers in Him are gathered, He is there in their midst.

In some places, Jesus exhibits His **Omniscience** - All Knowing ability. Something only God can have.

In John 1:48, He tells Nathanael about his location when another disciple called Philip, came to call Him.

At another place, the disciples of Jesus bow down and acknowledge that "*..You know all things*" (John 16:30).

That's not all. Jesus even says that He is **Omnipotent** - All Powerful.

In John 14:14 He says, "*If you ask Me anything in My name, **I will do it.***". After Jesus performed the miracle whereby He walked on water - He showed that He had control over this World, the Laws of Physics that govern it. Then Peter had faith and walked on water himself. By this, Jesus showed that He could have supernatural miracles worked out in the lives of those believing in Him. At the end of the same incident, the disciples "came and worshipped Him" (Matthew 14:30-33).

Stephen, the first Christian Martyr, as He was being stoned for his faith - in his dying moments prays to Jesus saying - "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59).

These and many other references in the Bible show that, not only did Jesus Himself claim to be God, but also His disciples looked to Him as God.

But there is another issue. Why does Jesus in so many places refer to God as *His Father*, as though God were another person?

In John 17, He makes a prayer to God as a Father.

In Matthew 4:1, Jesus is led to the desert and actually tempted by Satan himself.

In Luke 2:52, Jesus as a young boy, is said to grow in Wisdom and Stature. Why did He have to grow in Wisdom if He is God?

In 1Timothy 2:5, Paul calls Jesus the only One Mediator between God and men - *"the Man Jesus Christ"*.

In Mark 13:32, while talking of the last day, He says, *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but only the Father."*

As He was dying on the cross, He cries out saying : *"**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**"* (Matthew 27:46).

The New Testament speaks about Jesus' birth and death (although He rose again) - like as though He was finite and not eternal like God. Still worse, He says *"...**My Father is greater than I**"* in **John 14:28**.

If God, referred to as Father here, is greater than He, how can He be God? All these instances show Jesus to be a good, faithful but Human person. Yet the instances seen previously show that Jesus claimed Divinity.

How can Jesus be omniscient and yet *not omniscient* at the same time. How can Jesus be God and yet not God, forsaken by God, tempted by Satan, less than God at the same time? How can He claim an eternal nature and yet have a visible finiteness? These doubts and questions loom large in the mind of any sceptic to Christianity. The problem is that, we tend to assume that Jesus is either fully God or fully Human.

The key to understanding Jesus, is to understand that, He was fully God and fully Man. He makes this clear in the Gospel of John, *"**I and my Father are One.**"* - **John 10:30**. It is soon after making this statement that the Jews were about to stone Him. The reason they give is, *"...because You, being a Man, make yourself God"* - **John 10:33**. The Jews understood very well that Jesus, who they saw as Human, was actually claiming to be God. This was blasphemy. No one in the history of man has come forward, looked, lived and walked like a Human Being ever claimed to be God. This has been the only exception.

If we want to accept Jesus *just* as a good teacher or prophet, we have to accept every word He spoke. By the words He spoke, it is evident - Jesus claimed to have the authority, glory and power that only God could claim. And yet, He also made statements like He was just a Human Being.

Jesus was Fully God and Fully Man. Two natures united in one person. Not separate. Not sometimes God and sometimes Man. Not a Man who had God in Him. But a complex union of two Natures - Man and God - yet one and the same Person. No one can accept any one nature separately and reject the other. These natures are indivisible, unchangeable and inseparable. That's why He never refers to Himself as "We" but always "I".

But then why the "Father" and "Son" relationship that He keeps referring to in the New Testament?

That is because God is not Human, but in fact He is much more complex.

On a normal human level, each separate being is necessarily a separate person.

But God being more complex is more than one person in one being.

For example, let's look at a boy called "Raymond". Who is He? - "Raymond" - that's his **person**.

What is he? - he is human being - that's his **being**.

When man invents a god, He either imagines a singular, unitarian (*one person in one being*) god or multiple gods (like humans).

But the God who really exists will always reveal Himself as more than one person in one being. That's how He reveals Himself in the Bible - 3 persons in 1 Being - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All equal, all united, All powerful. If one person does not exist, God does not exist.

Who is He ? - **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** - three **Persons**. What is He? - **He is God** - that's His **Being**.

(For more on Trinity - read Vol.#6001)

It's the second person of the Triune God, that became flesh.

As it is revealed in scripture, in Philippians 2:7, *“but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”*

And also, Hebrews 2:9 says, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”*

So we see that Jesus was for a little while made lower than the angels as He became man. The works that He did, were under the power of the Holy Spirit - the third person of the Holy Trinity - not His own intrinsic Divine Power.

Fully God - being the second person of the Godhead, fully Human - being born of a virgin Human Woman.

But why? Why did He have to come through such a complex route - complex for us to comprehend?

The complexity lies in the problem that man has put himself into - **Sin**.

Sin can be defined in many ways, but the one definition that really says it is this, *“Independence from God”*. As

Isaiah 53:6 says, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way”*.

We all want to be independent from God and rebel against Him. All of us have a tendency to *sin*.



God is perfect, and so is His Love and Justice.

As Job 34:12 says, *“the Almighty will not pervert justice”* - which means, that injustice - or sin - will be removed. But how can God remove sin from the world?

By meting out His Perfect Justice. What is the perfect way to destroy Sin? Perfectly destroying the sinner - forever. Just like a murderer who is destroyed, will not murder anymore. A robber who is destroyed, will not rob any more. The only way to destroy Sin is the Death of the Sinner. Romans 6:23 says, *“For the wages of Sin is Death”*.

But destroying the sinner brings us to an interesting problem : **All of us have sinned - without exception.**

This means all of us would have to be destroyed to fulfill the perfect justice of God. However, if this is the solution, how is God's love perfect? Perfect love does not kill.

But the Perfect God, came out with the Perfect Solution : *a substitutionary victim*.

He gave His chosen Jewish people a vivid foretaste of what He was going to do. When anyone sinned, the only way to remission and forgiveness was to sacrifice an animal - an unblemished animal (a lamb, goat, etc.). The sin of the man was transferred to the animal, and the punishment due to him was meted out to the animal and by the blood of that animal - the man's sin was forgiven. But this was temporary and restricted only for the Jews.

For it *to be worldwide and perfectly effective* - it had to be a Man to represent all of Mankind. But where would we find an unblemished, perfect, sinless man?

The only one who is perfect is God.

So God Himself - specifically the second person of the triune God - the Son, came down and was born as a normal Man. Not the fruit of a sexual union, but by His power, through a virgin woman - Mary.

In her womb, did the greatest miracle of all time take place - Human and Divine Natures were united inseparably. This is Jesus, the Christ (*“anointed one” - in Greek*). He bore the blame of our sins upon Himself, and the punishment that You and I as sinners should have gone through.

His murder was brought about by the most gruesome Roman Crucifixion.

By His Blood which was shed, we have remission and forgiveness of our sins.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are saved and receive peace with God.

This peace is one that surpasses all understanding. By His free grace, we are justified and are in right standing with God - no longer rebels but children of God.

It is important to understand that God's Divine Nature did not die - but the Human Nature of Jesus. He felt the pain we would, He bled like we would and He died like we would. He was Fully Human and Fully God. If He was *only* God, He could not represent Man and his sin and most importantly, He would not be able to die.

If He was only Man, He could not be a perfect, sinless representative - since all have sinned.

He had to be the Perfect Man - perfection of God yet Human.

Jesus bore our shame, guilt and humiliation. And we will never fully understand what He went through on that day! Your Sin has been paid for. The charges against you have been cleared. All He asks us, is to repent of our ways, believe in Him and accept what He has done for us on that day.

That's not all, on the third day after His Death, Jesus rose again from the dead - **bodily**.

Not spiritually, not figuratively. But in reality. The tomb of Jesus was found empty. His disciples and followers saw Him alive. Over 500 eye-witnesses saw Him, met Him, spoke with Him and even ate with Him.

They vouched for it - even to the point of death. They went around the world, with zeal and joy that no one could explain. Willing to face any danger. All so that **the good news** could be proclaimed - that He is Risen.

That's all the proof that was needed to prove that Jesus was Divine. That's all the proof that was needed to prove that Christ had authority to forgive all sin - that He paid the wages of sin and emerged victorious.

That's all the proof that was needed to know that He won the victory over death. Because all those who repent and believe in Him, the *wages* being paid, although they die - yet are not dead. They will be raised back to life on the last day - **bodily**.

That's why, one of the most bitter persecutors of Jesus' followers - Paul, after He saw and believed in Jesus almost overnight, exclaimed : *"O Death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).*

When we give our life to Christ and put our faith in Him, we receive a new heart, a new nature - a nature that depends on God, a nature that desires to do His Will and a heart that is at peace. We receive His Holy Spirit, who guides us, equips and empowers us to a life as *adopted* children of God.

Because now you are set right before your Maker.

One day, this world will come to an end. On that day, Jesus Christ - who ascended into heaven, will come again - this time in all His Glory. He will come again as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Those who have given their life to Christ, put their faith in Him and lived their life delighting in Him - will also be raised to life - *bodily*. They will live forever - an eternal life - with no more death. Because the wages of their sin has been paid. But everyone who has not believed will be condemned.

Man has made many gods - gods that he can control and manipulate, gods that he can appease and please by doing something, gods that are unreachable or high up there or he just makes a god of himself. But ask yourself, amongst all these man-made gods, who among them has ever done an act of perfect humility? None. Who among them has done anything to remove and wipe out sin? None. Who among them is real, loving and yet just? None. There's only One who has done all of this and is worthy of all our praise, worship and adoration : JESUS CHRIST - the true, uncreated, eternal, living God.

"I am the light of the world.

He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

- John 8:12

***For Any Prayer, Counselling, Doubts or Queries about the Existence of God
or to know more about Jesus,***

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