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Salvation In The Book of John. (2013)

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

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Salvation in the Book of John.

Topics.

- Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
 - Unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.
 - What is born of the flesh is flesh and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
 - As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness.
 - All who are in tombs will hear his voice and come out.
 - Eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of man.
 - When a grain of wheat dies, it bears much fruit.
 - In my Father's house are many mansions.
 - I will come again and will take you to myself.
 - I am in the Father and the Father is in me.
 - God and Jesus are one and Jesus and the disciples are one.
 - God is in Jesus, the disciples are in Jesus and Jesus is in the disciples.
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John 1

In the Beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.

John chapter one begins with the words: -

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-3).

Since there are various interpretations of these verses and this chapter is a major chapter of the Bible and has been badly interpreted by some religious leaders of all generations it has been done in detail as a separate topic. To discover what John is saying in these verses and in John chapter one, see the title: -

- Salvation in John chapter One in, Salvation (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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John 2

Destroy this Temple, and in Three Days I will raise it Up.

John 2:18-22 ----- ¹⁸So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he (Jesus Christ) was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Prior to these verses Jesus had driven those doing business in the temple out they no-doubt wondered what gives Jesus the authority to do such a thing so they ask him to give them a sign to authenticate himself, but Jesus instead of performing a miracle says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." From Jesus

reply to the Jews we learn that even in this early period of Jesus ministry he was fully aware of the brutal torture and horrific death he is destined to suffer at the end of his ministry on earth. Jesus prophetic words, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Obviously refers to his own body, but by extension it embraces all those who belong to him since they are called the body of Christ and the temple of God, but when we go to sleep in Christ we will have to wait longer than three days before the angel sounds the last trumpet and we are woken from our peaceful sleep and resurrected to eternal glory.

NOTICE: when Judas betrayed Jesus and he was taken before the Jewish council to be judged his false accusers accused him of saying that he would destroy the temple, but Jesus never said he would destroy it in fact the language implies that those asking him the question would destroy it which they did by their evil act of having Jesus (the true temple of God) put to death because of the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes prideful, hypocritical and self-serving ministry. The Romans destroyed the literal temple in 70 AD.

John 3

Unless one is Born Again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

John 3:1-8 -----²Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again. ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus no-doubt knowing that the religious organisation he belonged to was against Jesus approaches him secretly during the night. It is interesting to notice that even though Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews he humbles himself before Christ and addresses him as Rabbi which means master added to this he recognised that Jesus was sent and favoured by God because of the miracles he did. When Nicodemus hears Jesus words, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." He is stunned and confused by Jesus statement because he thought Jesus was talking about a natural birth, so Jesus repeats his statement adding that to enter the Kingdom of God one must be, "Born of water and born of the Spirit," Otherwise no-one can enter the Kingdom of God.

The fact Jesus told Nicodemus twice that he must, "Be born again to enter the Kingdom of God," Shows how important it is to understand the expression, born again." The words born of water refers to being water baptised while born of the Spirit refers to believing the message of the cross and the Good News of the Gospel of grace, repenting before God, and having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for ones salvation to eternal life. A person is born of the Spirit in that moment when their mind is enlightened to their sinfulness before God, the heart is full of remorse and repentance and they accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour. In this supernatural moment a person's heart and life is transformed toward the things of God and toward God Himself and they are delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13)

That which is born of the flesh: refer to a natural birth and the words, "It is flesh" means those born by a natural birth remain flesh (i.e., they are earthly minded meaning that their mind gives no thought toward God it is solely focused on the things of this world it is caught up in either the cares and anxieties this world brings or on gaining material possessions or chasing after the pleasures of this world. They are separated from God and more concerned about protecting and satisfying their own ego, pride and wellbeing than they are about how their life reflects God to others.

That which is born of the Spirit is spirit: refers to those whose minds at the hearing of the message of the cross and the Good News of the Gospel of grace and are illuminated to their sinfulness and separation from God and brought to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and eternal salvation in this spiritual moment their sins are forgiven and God's eternal favour is toward them.

A person's life and heart is supernaturally transformed toward God when this life changing event happens they are now transformed from being earthly minded to being heavenly minded which means that their mind is more concerned with the things that concern God and His Kingdom than the things of this world, added to this they now care about how their life reflects God's character and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ more than they are about their own ego, pride and wellbeing. The apostle Paul explains this life changing event with the following words: -

- God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:13-14).

The wind blows where it wishes: carry the following two ideas: -

1. Jesus is likening the Spirit of God to the wind in the sense that the wind appears to have a mind of its own, no-human can control it or stop it from going in any direction the wind simply blows north, south, east or west it goes wherever it wishes regardless of obstacles or what is in its way, but everyone feels it. Jesus is telling Nicodemus no-one can control the Spirit, it cannot be controlled, or stopped from saving those God is going to save, the Spirit goes where it will and saves who it will, whether they are rulers of Jews or Pharisees whether they are Jewish or Gentile, male or female rich or poor no-can tell who the Spirit will convict and save.
2. Another aspect of Jesus words is the fact that everyone born of the Spirit no matter who they are, rich or poor and no matter what rank they may or may not hold in life all who are born of the Spirit no matter where they are in the world share the Good News of the Gospel whereas under the law only the Levitical priesthood proclaimed God's word to the people and then only from the temple.
3. Nicodemus was a teacher of Israel and should have recognised Jesus Christ and the great revival that was taking place. The wind could be seen as the enormous revival that was taking place among the Jews and the Gentiles at that time.

Nicodemus would have heard the voices of all those proclaiming the Gospel and of all who were being saved but he can't understand it. Jesus seems almost amazed at Nicodemus question, "How can these things be?" Nicodemus has seen the enormous revival taking place throughout the land of Israel and no-doubt has heard multitudes of testimonies and amazing stories of the miracles Jesus has performed and yet he still does not understand that it is the promised seed of Abraham and of David Israel's Messiah the Christ that he is talking too. Nicodemus being a teacher and ruler of the Jews should have understood that Old Testament prophecy was being fulfilled right before his eyes especially since when he first approached Jesus he said: -

- Rabbi (master) we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him (v2).

No one has Ascended into Heaven except He who Descended from Heaven.

John 3:13-18 ----- ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except (but in KJV) he who descended from heaven *even* (in the KJV), the Son of Man. ¹⁴as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." ¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever 'believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

These verses show us that no-one prior to Jesus resurrection ascended to heaven we know this because Paul says: -

- That God's Son was the firstborn (resurrected) among many brothers (Rom. 8:29).

In the book of Colossians he writes: -

- Jesus is the beginning, the firstborn (resurrected) from the dead (Col. 1:18).

Added to these are the following words of the book of Revelation: -

- Jesus Christ the faithful witness is the firstborn of the dead (Rev. 1:5).

Obviously if anyone has ascended to heaven prior to Christ then not one of these verses can be believed and Jesus certainly cannot be the first resurrected from the dead to heaven. Certainly there were some who were resurrected from the dead, but they were only resurrected to mortal life to die once more whereas as Jesus was resurrected to eternal life to see death no more. For further information see the title; "Heaven" in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

He who descended from heaven: carries the idea that Jesus origin was heavenly (as the context states in John 3:31-32) and that he was born of God by the Holy Spirit and sent from above. At his water baptism God spoke from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son" (Matt. 3:17) and Jesus is the only man God has given all authority to (v35) preparing him for his ministry. Added to all these Jesus teaching was not his own, but his Fathers it is in this sense that Jesus Christ descended or came from above meaning he was born of God and sent by God. (See also the notes following (John 3:30-36) under the title, "He who is of Earth belongs to the Earth He who is from Heaven is above all" (below).

Jesus conversation with Nicodemus; Jesus begins telling Nicodemus that no-one has yet ascended into heaven, then the conversation changes with the word but, i.e., but the Son of Man who descended from heaven will be in heaven with God. Jesus is telling Nicodemus that the Son of Man will be the first man to ascend to heaven. Obviously Jesus is not yet in heaven since he is talking to Nicodemus on earth. Jesus had previously asked Nicodemus, if he can't understand earthly things how will he understand heavenly things? (v12).

Jesus is now speaking heavenly things to Nicodemus, things that not even the apostles understood until Jesus appeared to them after his death and resurrection. Jesus is explaining to Nicodemus that a major future event is about to take place which of course is his death and resurrection to heaven. We know Jesus is talking about a future event because after telling Nicodemus that no-one has ascended into heaven he says that "as Moses was lifted up so will the Son of Man be taken up." Jesus is telling Nicodemus that he will be the first man to ascend to heaven.

Jesus words, "He who descended from heaven even the Son of Man," does not mean that Jesus pre-existed as a conscious spirit in heaven and then descended into the womb of Mary to become a foetus. The words, "He who descended from heaven," Is a Jewish idiom which means, he was sent by God and had God's favour and blessing. Jesus was sent from God and also born of God and it is in this sense he descended from heaven.

Ponder for a moment: we understand that Jesus ascended to heaven because we look back in history, but this conversation Jesus is having with Nicodemus would be causing his mind to race in all directions, imagine his confusion as he listens to the man standing in front of him telling him that he will be the first man to ascend from earth into heaven, from the grave into eternity even the apostles who lived with Jesus for three years did not understand what Jesus meant when he said, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day" (Matt. 17:22-23).

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness: (v14) refer to the following words recorded in the book of Numbers: -

- So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live (Num. 21:9).

Here we see the majestic wonder and beauty of Bible prophecy. The story of the serpent on the bronze pole fabulously echoes Christ on the cross. A little after Israel's deliverance from Egypt (called the house of bondage) the people of Israel sinned by speaking against God and against Moses so the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people so that many people of Israel died. So Moses prayed for the people and the LORD said to Moses: -

- Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.

Moses erected a bronze serpent on the pole and if a serpent bit anyone, they would look at the bronze serpent and live (Num. 21:5-9). How majestic and beautiful is the word of God, especially when we think of the following words of Jesus: -

- When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he (John 8:28) and, "Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out and when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all people to myself (John 12:31-32).

Bronze is a symbol of judgement and the serpent of course symbolises sin, which means the serpent on the bronze pole is also a wonderful picture of Christ dying for the sin of all mankind, (though he never sinned himself). Just as the people of the Old Testament look at the serpent on the pole and live, so it is now whenever a sinner comes with repentance to the Saviour who died for them on the cross their sins are forgiven and they are promised life eternal.

For God so loved the world: this is the Good News of the Gospel and the simplicity of salvation, God loves humans so much that He sacrificed His only Son so that whoever believes in His Son would inherit eternal life and everlasting glory. This is how simple salvation is, many like the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees, and scribes) had made it almost impossible for the people of Israel to find God because of all the traditions and extra customs and laws they had added to the Law of Moses. God seeing how difficult it had become for those seeking Him made salvation enormously simple, so simple most can't accept it, especially intellectual religious leaders. God has placed all His eternal promises in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ whoever repents and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and faithfully follows him will inherit eternal life and everlasting glory.

NOTICE: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world meaning Jesus did not come to condemn sinners, but to save them, his ministry was one of mercy and grace not judgment, in fact the only people Jesus spoke harshly off was the religious leaders of his generation because they were full of pride and hypocrisy and using their privileged position as priests before God to fulfil their own selfish ambition.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned (v18) whoever accepts the Lord Jesus Christ is saved to eternal life and everlasting glory, not because of any righteousness of their own, but because of the faith they have in Christ, no-one has the power to save themselves because we are all creatures of sin (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, jealousies, anger and such like things etc. If it was possible for us to attain to the perfection the law demands, the perfection of God's Holiness and a sin-free life Christ died from no reason

Whoever does not believe is condemned already: these words of Jesus should totally change our attitude to witnessing and how we view the secular world. In a natural court of Law if a criminal has been tried, found guilty and sentenced to death there is no point in judging or condemning them anymore. This is what Christ is saying, he is the way to God, without him everyone is separated from his heavenly Father so what is the point of judging and condemning a person if they are already destined to death. Jesus spent all his effort trying to save people by showing them mercy, kindness and compassion how much more should those who belong to him do the same. It is only common sense that it is pointless to spend effort and time on judging' and condemning people that are already sentenced to death surely like Christ, Paul and Peter etc., our hearts should be focused on salvation not judgement and condemnation.

He who is from Heaven is Above All.

John 3:30-36 ----- ³⁰John the Baptist said; Jesus must increase, but I must decrease." ³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

The words, "He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way." Refer to John the Baptist, it means John was born of a human father who was a descendant of Adam who is from the dust of the earth. Adam was made of the earth so all humans can be referred to as being earthy or earthly minded, it is in this sense that John refers to himself as belonging to the earth. The words, "He who comes from above is above all" refer to Jesus who was not born of a human father but by the creative power of God and the Holy Spirit, it is in this sense that Jesus is referred to as being from above and from heaven.

The words, "He who comes from above," does not mean that Jesus was a spirit being living with God in heaven as His Son prior to the virgin birth that would mean that Jesus as an existing spiritual entity with a mind and conscience descended from heaven into Mary's womb for nine months to become a baby that fed on her breasts until weaned. Jesus came from heaven or from above simply means that Jesus Christ is the only man (without a human father) to be born of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit and that he was sent by the voice of God from heaven at his water baptism and is the only man God has given all authority to (v35). See also the notes following (John 3:14-18) under the title "He who descended from Heaven" (above).

Obedying the Son of God: to obey Christ means to endeavour to follow all the commandments of God which Jesus summed up with the following words: -

- The most important commandments are to believe the Lord God is one and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these (Mark 12:29-31).

Loving your neighbour as yourself means do- good to others not harm it carries the idea of doing to others as you would wish them to do to yourself.

The wrath of God: John says that the wrath of God remains on whoever does not obey Christ this shows that God's wrath is already upon everyone who does not believe and who does not obey. The wrath of God in this context is death in contrast to eternal life. We are all destined to death, but whoever believes and faithfully follows the Lord has life eternal. From these verses we learn that: -

- John the Baptist (the greatest of all prophets) was willing to surrender his ministry so that Jesus would abundantly increase in his.
- Jesus is fully loved by God and is exalted above all mankind in authority.
- Jesus spoke the words his heavenly Father gave to him.
- Whoever believes in the Lord and receives his testimony has eternal life.
- God poured His Spirit upon Jesus without measure (meaning without any limitations).
- We are all destined to death (the wrath of God), but whoever belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God has eternal life.

Whoever Abides in Jesus has Eternal Life.

John 4:13-14 ----- ¹³Jesus said to her (the woman of Samaria at the well) "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

This is an absolutely beautiful story simply because the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) would have nothing to do with the Samaritan people let alone give their time to talk to a Samaritan woman, but Jesus the most holy of all men to ever walk on planet earth not only stops, but sits down with her and asks for a cup of water. Then brilliantly uses the water to explain to her who it is she is sitting and talking to.

Imagine for a moment: this woman has absolutely no idea who Jesus is and this stranger is telling her that he can give her living water that if anyone drinks off they will never thirst again and that this water will become a spring within a person welling up to eternal life. This Samaritan women still thinks Jesus is talking about natural water because she asks him to give her the water he's talking about so that she will not be thirsty and have to come to Jacobs well again to draw water. The living water is the Lord Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

This is because it is the Gospel that brings a sinner to repentance and reveals Jesus Christ the Saviour and it is Jesus who gives eternal life to all who come to him.

David when echoing Christ wrote:-

- Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me (Psalm 40:7).

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees saying: -

- You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me (John 5:39).

The author of Hebrews says of Christ: -

- Behold, he came to do your will, O God, as it is written of him in the scroll of the book (Hebrews 10:7).

The living water that wells up in the heart of every faithful brother and sister in Christ is God's love and eternal life that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ he is the living water the scrolls and the cannon of the Bible speaks of and the prophets said was to come.

Jesus is the Messiah the Christ that was to Come.

John 4:21-26 ----- ²¹Jesus said to her (the Samaritan woman at the well) "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

The mountain the Samaritans fathers worshipped on was Mount Gerizim a mountain of Samaria it was here Moses commanded the Israelites when they came into the Promised Land to speak the blessing and the curse of the Law. The Jews of Judah worshipped at their temple in Jerusalem while the people in the land of Samaria worshipped in their temple on Mount Gerizim, but even though these were the two major worship centres of Israel Jesus tells the woman that a time is approaching when no-one will need these two centres to worship God.

Salvation is from the Jews: means that the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2) they are Israelites and children of Abraham because they are his offspring (Rom. 9:4-5, 7), to them belong the adoption, the glory and the covenants they were given the law, the worship and the promises, to them belong the patriarchs and from their race, according to the flesh came the Christ who is Lord over all.

NOTICE: this woman and the Samaritan people knew that a Messiah was coming who is called the Christ and who will be full of wisdom and explain all things (i.e. prophecy, God's plans and His purposes).

Jesus twice says: -

- The Father is seeking true worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and truth.

These words carry the idea of worshipping from the heart without concealing anything before God, in truth means being honest before God as opposed to being hypocritical like the religious leaders of Jesus generation who Jesus rebuked with the words: -

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness (Matt. 23:27).

Worshipping in spirit and truth is not about understanding every detail of doctrine the focus is honest worship from the heart (i.e., worship without any pretence) and also embraces the idea of acknowledging one's own sin before God contrasted to living a life of self-righteousness as the religious leaders of Jesus generation did.

Ponder for a moment: when the early church came together after Christ's death and resurrection it was made up of Jews who had been indoctrinated with Moses Law for nearly four-thousand years, Samaritans who had married foreign wife's and adopted their pagan practises, and Gentiles who knew nothing about God or the Old Testament Scriptures. These groups of vastly different mindsets were coming together in home churches to worship God. Though there was amongst their meetings a multitude of different views all had one thing in common, Jesus was central in their lives; he was the one that they were coming together for.

They no-doubt loved talking about Christ and studying the Scriptures together, I suspect much like university students who when given an assignment get together in a spirit of friendship so they can learn from each other by sharing their thoughts, ideas and discoveries to improve their knowledge and their marks. They don't argue and impose their thoughts onto the group, but simply share in a spirit of discovery their ideas, and all have the understanding that some ideas will be accepted and others may end up in the bin, but they have learnt through their school years that to improves their knowledge, enhances what they are studying and enriches their learning they need to be with others who have an interest in the same thing. Likewise this is the reason the early church gathered together in homes in the regions they lived in.

God is Spirit: Jesus says his heavenly Father is Spirit meaning God is an eternal Spirit with a Fathers heart this is why God wants those who worship him to worship from a true heart because it is in the heart of humans that God desires to dwell in and through the Spirit that worshipper's commune with Him.

NOTE: worship is not limited to musical instruments and singing; worship is about communion with God. It can be a simple prayer, a cry of help, seeking God in depression or despair, worship is not something that is only about joyous times it covers every moment we are in communion with God that is why it is so important to worship and communicate with God with an honest heart and without any hypocrisy and pretence.

Jesus is the Saviour of the World.

John 4:42 ----- ⁴²They said to the woman (the Samaritan woman at the well), "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe for we have heard for ourselves and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world."

The town folk believed in Jesus because of the Samaritan woman's testimony, but after hearing Jesus speak, they not only believed he was Israel's Messiah the Christ but also believed he was the Saviour of the world.

This shows us the power of personal testimony and teaches us a good lesson, "What is that some might ask?" Simply this: some new converts can feel intimidated to share their faith because of their past ungodly lifestyle, but this Samaritan woman had six husbands yet her personal testimony resulted in many believing in Jesus.

John 5

Jesus is Accused of Making Himself Equal to God.

John 5:18 ----- 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

One of the reasons the Jews were persecuting and seeking to kill Jesus was because they considered he was making himself equal to God by calling God his own Father. Philip said: -

- Though Jesus was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped (Philip. 2:6).

God at Jesus water Baptism poured out His Spirit on Christ and gave him all judgment and power to grant eternal life to whom he will added to this God has given Jesus a name above all names, resurrected him to his right-hand side in glory and exalted him above every authority, principality and power even with all this glory and power Jesus remained a humble, faithful and obedient Son before his Father he did not count equality with God a thing to be understood or comprehended.

Following is a simple explanation that helps explain the concept of being equal with God. When a son reaches an age and proves to his father that he has all the abilities and skill to take control of his father's business the father then give to his son the authority and power to take control of the fathers company.

The son now has total authority over his father's business in this sense the son has been made equal with the father, but that does not mean the son has become the father (as some believe), but that he has all the authority and power of his father. Given all the Fathers authority and power the son could easily become puffed up in pride because he has been made equal to his father in status, but Jesus did not allow the ugly head of pride to puff itself up but remained a humble servant to those he came to save even though he had been given all the authority and power of his Father.

In the form of God: Jesus was in the form of God, means, he was the express image of the Spirit character and nature of God the Father, he manifested God's love, grace, mercy and power and the plans, promises and purpose of God on earth. The character of Jesus on earth is an exact copy, image or form of the character of God the Father in heaven it is in this sense that Jesus Christ was in the form of God.

It should be noted that being in the form of something does not make the form of the object the object itself it is a copy or image of the object meaning Jesus though he is a perfect image of God is not God Himself. Concerning this Philip said: -

- Jesus being born in the likeness of men and in in human form made himself a servant (Philippians 2:7).

Jesus was born of a woman, had the same body as all humans and was tempted as all humans are but without sin and even though he had all of God's authority and power available to him rather than exalt himself, he humbly made himself a servant of others setting the example for all those who belong to him.

Whoever Believes God who sent Christ has Eternal Life.

John 5:21-24 ----- ²¹For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²²The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³that all may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life (eternal).

It is interesting to notice the words, "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life." Jesus does not say whoever understands the Bible from Genesis to Revelation has eternal life, but whoever believes in God and the words Jesus has spoken therefore a person reading the Bible can be saved by simply reading the red print in the New Testament (i.e., Jesus words), applying them to their life and believing in God who sent him added to this they will not even be judged (no-one has to be a walking Bible encyclopaedia to be saved to eternal life).

NOTE: the words, the Son gives life to whom he will, means Jesus will give eternal life to whoever believes in God who sent him and believes the words he spoke and endeavours to live their life in a manner that honour his name. Jesus said, "Whoever (rich or poor, noble or lowly, Jew or Gentile) comes to me I will never cast out" (John 6:37).

From these verses we learn that: -

- God has given Jesus the power to raise the dead to eternal life.
- God has given Jesus all judgment.
- Honour Christ is honouring God his heavenly Father.
- Whoever hears Jesus words and believes in God has eternal life.
- Whoever endeavours to do-good and honour Christ will not come into judgment.

All who are in Tombs will hear his Voice and Come Out.

John 5:25-29 ----- ²⁵Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Jesus words, "An hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (v25) can be applied to that moment when Jesus on the cross cried out with a loud voice and yielded up his Spirit and many tombs were opened and the bodies of the faithful who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after the Lord's resurrection and went into the holy city Jerusalem and appeared to many (Matt. 27:50-53). But the ultimate application of Jesus words refers to Christs return when those sleeping in Christ will be raised. The words those who have done good will rise to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment can be understood in the following two ways: -

1. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) there will be two groups that are raised to stand before the Lord, those who have done-good and those who have done evil. The group that has done-good will be immediately welcomed into the eternal Kingdom of Christ without any judgment while those classed as evil will be Judged to condemnation which no-doubt refers to the false prophets, and leaders, who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves that use their privileged position for their own selfish gain and ambition. Jesus, with these prideful, hypocritical teachers in mind said: -

- Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness' (Matt 7:15-23).

Doing the words of Christ: there are only two commandments God and Christ gave, the first is, "Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind" (Matt. 22:37-38) and the second is, "Love your Neighbour as Yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39). Love your neighbour as yourself means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing." (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour.

Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought, "What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person." It is all about doing right to others. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). A wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans.

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see: -

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).
2. The words, "All who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28-29) could refer to the first resurrection, and the second death since it could be reasoned that only the faithful who have endured in their faith and are sleeping in Christ will hear the voice of the Lord and therefore only those who belong to Christ would be resurrected in the first resurrection to eternal life. Concerning this the book of Revelations says: -
- The faithful who have died in Christ come to life and reign with the Lord for a thousand years. *The rest of the dead do not come to life until the thousand years are ended.* This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with him for a thousand years (Rev 20:5-6).

The resurrection to life eternal refers to the first resurrection, only those who belong to Jesus and hear his voice will be resurrected to eternal life, while those who do not hear the voice of Christ do not come to life until Jesus reign on earth

as King of kings and Lord of lords has ended. At the end of Christ's glorious Kingdom reign the book of Revelations says: -

- God descends on a great white throne and the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead and the great and small, stand before the throne of God. Then the book of life is opened and some others books. Whoever name is not found in the book of life is cast into the lake of fire. If a person's name is found in the book of life then the other books are opened and the dead who remain standing before the throne of God are judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done (Revelation 20:11-15).

Whoever attains to the first resurrection the second death will have no power over. The second death is also called the Lake of Fire which means that the resurrection of condemnation refers to the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction) (Rev. 20:4-6) (Rev. 20:11-15). The first resurrection, takes place when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory and the second resurrection takes place at the end of Jesus millennial reign on earth which means there is at least a thousand year gap between the resurrection to life and the resurrection to condemnation.

NOTE: though it maybe exciting and spiritually rewarding for some to reason together in a spirit of peace concerning which of these two scenario's might be the one to apply it should always be kept in mind that it is not important to our salvation to have an exact understanding. Since both these scenario's clearly show that the faithful will be welcomed into God's eternal glory while the prideful and hypocritical who have used the Gospel for their own selfish gain and the corrupt and wicked will be judged to condemnation. Therefore to argue or even worse to divide over which of the two scenarios is correct could only be judged as an exercise of vanity and pride.

The Scriptures Declare Christ.

John 5:39-40 ----- ³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is they that bear witness about me ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life (eternal).

The Jews are searching the Scriptures thinking that in them they will have eternal life, but the entire purpose of the Scriptures is to lead people to Christ because it is in him that eternal life is found this is because forgiveness of sin, the promises of God and eternal life are in Christ, it means whoever has Christ and faithfully follows him has forgiveness of sin, the promises of God and eternal life. David when echoing Christ, wrote; -

- Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me (Psalm 40:7).

The author of Hebrews says of Christ: -

- Behold, he came to do your will, O God, as it is written of him in the scroll of the book (Hebrews 10:7).

Though the Scriptures reveal God's eternal plans, promise and purposes, salvation and eternal life is in the Lamb of God Israel's Messiah the Christ and Saviour of the world, the unique King and Son of God that the Scriptures speak off. Since the Jews held Moses in high esteem they should have recognised Christ when he came, especially since he wrote the following amazing verse: -

- God would put enmity between the serpent and the woman, and between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed and that the seed of the serpent would bruise the heel of the woman's seed, but the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent's seed (Genesis 3:15)

The woman's seed in this verse refers to Christ, for greater detail of this amazing and fantastic prophetic verse see: -

Genesis 3:15.

In, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Moses also wrote: -

- The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—And I the LORD will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak all that I command him, it is to him you shall listen (Deut. 18:15-19) (the prophet like Moses is of course Christ).

In the New Testament Philip said to Nathanael: “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph (John 1:45) and Paul said: he testifies both to the small and the great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass (Acts 26:22).

The following is also a few verses showing the prophets wrote of Jesus: -

Isaiah prophesied, saying: -

- There will come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge with equity for the meek of the earth (Isaiah 11:1-4) (the shoot that came forth from Jesse refers to Christ).

Isaiah also prophesied that: -

- A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and call his name Immanuel, (Isaiah 7:14) he will grow up before God like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground and have no form or majesty that we should look at him or beauty that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2) but the Spirit of the LORD GOD will be upon him because the LORD will anoint him to bring Good News to the poor; and to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound (Isaiah 61:1). At the end of his ministry he will give his back to those who strike, and his cheeks to those who pull out the beard; he will not hide his face from disgrace and spitting (Isaiah 50:6) (Isaiah is clearly speaking of Christ).

Jeremiah said: -

- The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness” (Jer. 23:5-6) (the righteous Branch is Christ).

Daniel wrote: -

- I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his Kingdom one that shall not be destroyed (Dan 7:13-14) (the one that came like a Son of man refers to Christ).

Hosea prophesied of Christ calling Israel to return to the LORD their God that He may heal them then Hosea proclaims in his prophetic message: -

- After two days the LORD will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth. (Hosea 6:1-3) (His going out is echoing Christ’s death and as the dawn he will come is echoing his return).

Micah prophesied: -

- Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days (Micah 5:2) (the one to come forth is Christ).

Zechariah wrote: -

- If one asks him, “What are these wounds on your back?” he will say, “The wounds I received in the house of my friends” (Zech. 13:6).

And prophesied that: -

- A man whose name is the Branch will extend out from his place, and build the temple of the LORD (Zech. 6:12).

Zechariah also tells Jerusalem: -

- To rejoice greatly because their King is coming to them; righteous and having salvation, he is humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zech. 9:9).

Latter in his letter he pens the beautiful words: -

- The LORD will pour out on Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:9-10) (Zechariah clearly writes of Christ).

Malachi prophesied: -

- The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts, but who can endure the day of his coming, he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and refine the sons of Levi like gold (Malachi 3:1-3) (it is Christ who will suddenly come to his temple).

Paul when speaking of Jesus says: -

- The religious rulers of Israel did not recognize him (Christ) nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him (Acts 13:27) see also (Psalm 22) and (Isaiah 53)

Naturally there is many more, Jesus himself said: -

- I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book. (Hebrews 10:7).

The scroll of the book refers to the Old Testament and Jesus said to the Jews: -

- You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me (John 5:39).

The Jews held Moses and the prophets in enormously high esteem and not only meticulously kept the scrolls and studied them daily, but also read them every Sabbath day so they should have recognised their Messiah the Christ (especially the religious leaders) when he came since Moses and the prophets spoke and wrote about their Messiah the Christ to come throughout the Old Testament and especially since he was performing supernatural miracles that could only be done by a man who God's power was flowing through in such a majestic and awesome manner when did appear.

This shows the utter spiritual blindness of the Jews and how foolish it is to be so dogmatic that our minds are not even open to consider what people might be saying.

Paul when speaking of Jesus said: -

- The religious rulers of Israel did not recognize Christ nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him (Acts 13:27).

Now here is the majestic glory of God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal foreknowledge and God's sovereignty, even though the prideful, hypocritical and murderous religious leaders and Judas were acting from their own free will all that Christ suffered was not only in the perfect eternal sovereign will of God, but also

according to His eternal plan of salvation that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundations of the world. We know this because Jesus said to his disciples: -

- We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished (Luke 18:31).

Everything that is written about Jesus applies to all things prophesied and spoken of him in the Old Testament. Who can understand such eternal wisdom? Clearly this is why the LORD proclaims: -

- For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

John 6

Labour for the Food that Endures to Eternal Life.

John 6:27-29 ----- ²⁷Do not labour for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

The food that perishes is of course natural food while the food that endures to eternal life is spiritual. Notice God the Father has given this spiritual food to His Son to give to whoever will come to him, as this conversation comes closer to its end Jesus explains in greater detail how to obtain this eternal and spiritual food, but many who hear what he says think it is too hard so they walk away. These verses show that Jesus is the food that endures and that he is the true bread of God who came down from heaven and gives life to the world (John 6:33).

The work of God is to believe on the one God sent, it is not about strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to earn salvation, but about repenting and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is called work because repentance may involve some form of personal sacrifice and following Christ may bring about persecution, suffering and hardship because of a person's faith. The Scriptures talk about enduring in the faith which implies it may not always be easy to follow the Lord this would especially be true of the Christians during the time of Rome's brutal and cruel persecutions and the hard-line Jewish religious leaders who after Christ's death and resurrection aggressively set about to destroy those who confessed to believe in Christ.

John 6:38-40 ----- ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day."

It is God's will that everyone in His Kingdom endures in their faith and is raised to eternal life on the last day. The last day does not refer to our death, since we will not be raised up until the Lord returns in glory when all who are sleeping in Christ will be raised together. The last day refers to the last day of this age as we know it and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness justice joy and peace on earth.

John 6:47-51 ----- ⁴⁷Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Manna: when the people of Israel were in the wilderness the LORD gave them bread from heaven (called manna) (Exod. 16:1-4) it was not only to feed the

people, but also to teach them that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD (Deut. 8:3). Israel ate manna forty-years till they came to the border of Canaan (Exod. 16:35) and the day after they ate of the produce of the land of Canaan (the Promised Land) the manna stopped (Joshua 5:12).

Jesus is the true bread that came down from heaven: Jesus tells the crowds he is the true bread of life this means that in him is forgiveness of sin, fellowship with God, eternal life and everlasting glory. These and the following words of this conversation should clearly teach everyone that eternal life is not in intellectual knowledge, doctrinal perfection, reading a certain amount of verses every day, attending church or even in praying every day, though they may all be good and have some spiritual benefit eternal life is not in them.

There is only one place eternal life can be found and it is not in a doctrine, but in a person and his name is the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God. Jesus clearly states whoever by faith has him in their life has eternal life and equally as majestic and beautiful as this truth is, are his words that state that no-matter who you are or what you have done if you come to him in honest heartfelt repentance he will never turn you away.

Whoever Feeds on this Bread will Live Forever.

John 6:52-58 ----- ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

The analogy with the manna provides the key to the right understanding of the following phrases: -

- I have come down from heaven (v38)
- I am the living bread that came down from heaven (v51)
- This is the bread that came down from heaven (v58)

The expression, the manna from heaven, does not mean that it was actually manufactured in heaven and descended through the atmosphere, but rather that it was produced on the earth by the creative power of God's Spirit. The term from heaven emphasises the divine origin of the manna.

Similarly, "Christ came down from heaven does not mean he literally descended from heaven, but that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Virgin Mary to effect the conception (Luke 1:35) the term, from heaven emphasises Jesus divine origin as a person (his Father was God) and the divine origin of his teaching, but unlike the manna which profited only temporarily, his words were Spirit and life (v6). The words "Come down from heaven" mean the same as "God who sent me" and "Sent from God."

I am the Bread that came down from heaven: (v58) these words of Jesus in this context means that his origin was heavenly (i.e., he was conceived by the creative power of God and the Holy Spirit). The Jews understood that Jesus was claiming to be born of God because they immediately start talking about his natural mother and father (Joseph and Mary). Jesus after listening to them protesting tells them that no-one can come to him unless the Father draws them. Hanani the prophet wrote, "The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him" (2 Chron. 16:7-9) showing that God by His Spirit is always roaming throughout the populations of the world seeking for those who have a right heart attitude.

Jesus in this conversation is using very strong language in an attempt to change the mindset of doubting Jews. Again, and again Jesus is trying to break the mindset of the Jews who believe that eternal life is in intellectual knowledge and knowing the Scriptures and the law, throughout this conversation he is constantly repeating the fact that eternal life is in him, whoever believes in him will not eternally perish, but be raised to everlasting glory. The manna sustained the Jews for mortal life, but Jesus is telling them the bread he will feed them with is eternal life. The bread that Jesus is about to give so that mankind can receive eternal life is his life. Is it any wonder Jesus is repeating this truth again and again, he knows his fate is set, he is fully aware, that for mankind to be able to eat of this eternal food he is going to have to suffer brutal whippings, cruel torture and a lingering tormenting death.

NOTE: the Jews understood what eating the flesh and drinking the blood meant. Roman Caesars used this term when calling their soldiers to follow them the people knew it meant Caesar had to be the king of their life even to death. This is why in (v60) many said this is a hard saying and turned away. The thing the Jews did not fully understand was how Jesus was going to give his flesh to eat (v51-52).

Eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of Man: eating Christ's flesh and drinking his blood means making him pre-eminent in one's heart, mind and life it is making him the supreme desire of the heart and the best thought of the mind as well as being prepared to lay down one's life for him if called to do so. It is to mentally and outwardly believe that Jesus is the Son of God and sent by God and that he died and rose again to the right-hand side of God in glory. It is having faith that his death and resurrection atones for sin and trusting in him for God's forgiveness, it is being confident that God freely imputes righteousness and grants salvation and eternal life to all who belong to Christ.

Jesus is speaking in a synagogue in Capernaum he is no-doubt fully aware that the mind of most in the audience have been indoctrinated in the idea that salvation is attained by keeping Moses Law and the added rules, and religious Traditions and customs the religious leaders of his generation had established throughout the nation of Israel over many generation or as many believed (even today) that if they gained enough Scriptural head knowledge they could be saved by their knowledge in the word of God this is most likely the reason Jesus is repeating the fact that salvation and eternal life are in him so many times and in so many different ways.

John 6:60 ----- ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying who can listen to it?"

Many considered Jesus words, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" (53) far too hard to embrace so they turned back and no longer walked with him. This statement is interesting when it is remembered at the beginning of the chapter the crowds were following Jesus with great excitement because of the miracles he was doing at that time because of the food he had miraculously produced and later the crowds were seeking miracle signs before they believe that he was the one God sent. The people had no problem accepting him as a great prophet, teacher and miracle worker, but when he told them to receive eternal life they had to make him the Lord of their life they could not accept it. How true are the following words of the prophets Peter and Paul: -

- Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law, why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works, they have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

(Rom. 9:31-33) (1 Peter. 2:6) cited from (Psalm 118:22) (Isa. 8:14) (Isa. 28:16).

It is interesting to notice in (v66) many disciples also turned away from the Lord.

Jesus Words are Spirit and Life.

John 6:63 ----- ⁶³It is the spirit who gives life, the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.

Jesus words are spiritual because they lead a sinner to God's Son the Saviour of the world and have the power to deliver even the lowest of sinners from the domain of darkness and transfer them into the Kingdom of his beloved Son, (Col. 1:13). There are no other words on earth that carry this eternal power.

John 6:66-69 ----- ⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Jesus asked his disciples if they want to leave him and Peter makes an insightful statement: -

- Where would we go, you are the Holy One of God and have the words of eternal life.

Jesus response to this is amazing, he tells them that he chose them all even though he was fully aware that one of them was a devil and would betray him. This shows us that Jesus brutal torture and cruel death was all in the plan of God's eternal mind before the world began, this is stunning to the natural mind, God has an eternal plan that is going to climax in majestic glory for those who belong to His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and though we might have an overview of God's plan no human on earth can fully comprehend the micro detail of how God will bring His plan to its final climax. Who would ever think that Jesus would deliberately and knowingly chose the very man that would betray him to such brutality for a handful of silver coins?

The Jewish people and Jesus today: though the Jewish nation had the most convincing evidence, the most powerful preaching, the clearest call from Christ himself and from his apostles, ever since the first preaching of the Good News of the Gospel of grace multitudes of them have remained even to this day hardened and blinded to the glory of God's grace in Christ by their obstinacy and unbelief from generation to generation. In (2011) I attended a public meeting in which an Israeli lecturer who travelled the world speaking for the Jews today and about Israel's land and their history as recorded in the Bible. At the end of her lecture the meeting was opened up to the audience for questions. One lady asked: -

- How do the Jews view Jesus today?

The Jewish speakers' answerer was: -

- Our Messiah has not yet come.

There was a sudden silence over the meeting at this moment, then the same lady obviously a Christian quoted a few Scriptures to show that Israel's Messiah did come, the lecturer was kindly patient, but after a short while turned and picked up a Jewish Bible, held it in the air and said: -

- This is our Bible and there is no New Testament in it."

A man stood up and asked: -

- How do the Jewish people view a Jew who converts to Christianity?

The speakers replied: -

- We would consider that they have left the faith.

As she spoke it was clear that the Jewish people love God and love their Messiah the promised seed of Abraham and David they just haven't recognised him yet (and even this is in God's eternal plan) but it reminded me of the following fabulous and prophetic words of Zechariah: -

- The LORD will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be

great, the land and the priests shall mourn, and all the families that are left each by itself shall mourn (Zech. 12:9-14).

When this momentous and beautiful moment takes place the entire world will change as we know it today, and a glorious New Age will begin, one of righteousness, justice, joy and peace because the King of peace will be the Head and Shepherd of all nations.

John 8

Jesus is the Light of the World.

John 8:12 ----- ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them (the scribes, Pharisees and the Jews) saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Light means to shine, figuratively it carries the idea of showing or making known ones thoughts it is a symbol of righteousness and all that is good whereas darkness symbolises wickedness and all that is evil. Christ is the pure light in every sense he was full of grace, kindness, compassion, love and lived the perfect life without sin and his word exposed wrong motives and sinful thoughts.

The words, "Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Means whoever hears the words of Christ and does them will not have anything to do with wickedness or be tempted by it, because they will have the "Light of Life" referring to Christ and his words of wisdom, insight and good judgment and therefore will know in any given situation what the right thing to do is.

All will die in their Sins unless they Believe in Christ.

John 8:24 ----- ²⁴ I told you (the Pharisees) that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

The Pharisees and Jews understood the Law of Moses and the Ten Commandments carved in letters on stone. This law was referred to as the ministry of death (2 Cor. 3:7) because it states, "Whoever does not perfectly keep all its commandments is condemned (2 Cor. 3:9). This ministry of death carved in letters on stone is also called the, law of sin and death because this law also it states: -

- The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

This means that whoever's sins must die, but the Good News is that there is a much higher law that overrides the law of sin and death. This divine law (called the, law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus) states that death has no legal right or power to hold in the grave those who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, this glorious law supersedes the, law of sin and death. This is one of the reasons the Gospel of Christ is called the Good News.

Paul states all who trust in Christ have been granted the free gift of God which is: -

- Eternal life in the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23), because, the law of the Spirit of life has set them free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8:2)

This means that the universal law of sin and death has no power over those who believe in Christ and faithfully follow him. This promise is guaranteed because it is not dependent on our self-effort, but on our faith this is why the Scriptures state: -

- Faith is counted to whoever believes in God who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead who was delivered up to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification (Rom. 4:22-25)

And why Paul wrote: -

The promise to Abraham depends on faith in order that it may rest on grace and in this way be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring (Jews and Gentiles) (Rom. 4:16).

God in his foreknowledge and knowing human nature knew if He had made eternal salvation dependant on our self-effort there is no-way He could guarantee or promise it to any of us, this is the reason God in His great wisdom made eternal salvation dependant on faith and upon His grace. This is another reason the Gospel of Christ is called the Good News.

NOTE: it is not the Ten Commandments that are at fault, since they are not only perfect, but also express God's perfect will, it is our corrupt fallen nature with all its sinful dysfunctions and aberrations (self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, jealousies, anger and such like things) that that are the problem since they prevent all of us from attaining to the perfection the law demands.

If you abide in My Word, you are Truly my Disciples.

John 8:31-32 ----- ³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

Amongst the Jewish crowd there were Jews who believed in Christ. Jesus tells them that: -

- If they abide in his word they are truly his disciples.

This does not mean that they are to sit at home all day and become a Bible encyclopaedia, abiding in Christs words is about doing them, it is about showing the fruits of the Spirit, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, grace and love etc., to all people as we go about our everyday life.

The truth will set you free: means it will set you free from the condemnation of the law." The truth in this context is the Good News of the Gospel which states, "Those who hear Christ's word, and believes on him that sent him, has everlasting life and will not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24) (Rom. 5:16, 18) (Rom. 8:1).

Everyone who is of God Hears His Words.

John 8:47 ----- ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

Those who hear God's word are those who have a humble and right heart attitude, those who are seeking power and full of pride and hypocrisy and oppress others for their own gain or use others for their own selfish ambition and to establish their own religious empire as the religious leaders (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) of Jesus generation were doing will not hear the words of God because God's word does not advantage their own agenda and their heart is not seeking God, but rather serving self.

Whoever keeps Christ's Words will never see Death.

John 8:51 ----- ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word he will never see death.

The focus here is not mortal death since it matters not how brilliantly we know the Scriptures and how will we keep them we are all heading for the grave (with the exception of the faithful who are alive when Christ returns). The death in focus here is the second death in which those judged unworthy at the great White Throne Judgment are cast into the Lake of Fire. At the end of Christ's glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total and utter extinction) (also called the, second death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see title: "The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment in, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who Laid Down His Life' for the Sheep.

John 10:9-11 ----- ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15 ----- ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Jesus is the majestic, royal and golden door to the Kingdom of God and the true Shepherd of the sheep. The statement the shepherds who came before him are thieves and robbers refers primarily refers to the religious rulers of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes), but by extension it can refer to any to prideful and hypocritical religious ruler especially those who claim to be the Christ or stand in the place of Christ as a mediator between God and man.

The sheep that did not listen to them (the thieves and robbers) refers to the lost sheep of Israel who Jesus came to (Matt. 12:24). Jesus words, "They will go in and out and find pasture," means they will find freedom because they will be set free from the bondage of the law and self-effort to attain righteousness, because eternal salvation comes by grace and God imputes (credits) righteousness as a free gift to those who are in Christ.

The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy: false shepherds are only interested in achieving their own religious empire and their own goal they crave power, control and fame and will use their sheep as merchandise to achieve their selfish and prideful ambition such were the religious leaders of Jesus generation. They mistakenly believed that because they were Abraham's descendants they were children of God and as long as they strictly adhered to Moses Law and the Jewish ceremonial rites and holy days etc., they were in God's favour.

How they treated others and the wrong attitudes they held in the heart (pride, ego, greed etc.) and the lack of good attitudes in their heart (kindness, mercy, compassion etc.) for them had nothing to do with salvation it was all about outwardly keeping the law. Even today there can be a danger that regularly reading the Bible, attending church meetings and functions, etc., (though good in themselves) is considered by some religious people more important to God than developing the fruits of the Spirit and treating other humans with decency and respect.

I am the good Shepherd who came to give abundant life: Jesus came so that the sheep would not only have life (eternal), but that they would have it abundantly. This abundant life is not about having a charmed life or greater material possessions, riches and wealth. The abundant life Christ is talking about comes by being fully confident that in God's eyes we are seen as righteous because of our faith in His Son and saved to eternal life by grace in contrast to striving to attain righteousness that leads to eternal life by the law and self-effort.

A true Shepherd and a false shepherd: a good shepherd of which Christ is the perfect example lays down their life for the sheep which means they put the needs of others before their own and will remain with their sheep no matter what dangers may lie ahead contrasted to a false shepherd who cares more about their own opportunities than they do for the sheep and therefore will desert them as soon as their own selfish ambition is threatened or they see better opportunities elsewhere.

The Works and Miracles Jesus Did, Testify that He was the Son of God.

John 10:24-28 ----- ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,

and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life and they will never perish and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Miracles authenticated and testified that Jesus was the Christ: no man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following words: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Messiah the Christ to come will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isa. 29:1-24) (Isa. 35:1-10) (Isa. 42:1-10) speak of all the miracles that Jesus did. Added to this Jesus when speaking to the Jews said: -

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard. (John 5:36-37).

I give my sheep eternal life and they will never perish: the Jews ask Jesus, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." But Jesus knows that if they do not believe him now after all they have heard and the miracles they have seen anything he tells them now is also going to fall on deaf ears and blind eyes, so he simply tells them they do not belong to his Kingdom because they refuse to believe.

NOTICE.

Because Jesus is confident that those who have the right heart attitude will hear what he is saying he never has to argue or quarrel, he simply speaks and accepts those who have ears to hear and lets those who don't go their own way added to this he is assured that God will not allow anyone to snatch those who faithfully follow him out of his Kingdom.

John 11

Whoever Believes in Christ shall never Die.

John 11:25-26 ----- ²⁵Jesus said to her (Martha) "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

The words, "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die" (v25) appear to contradict each other, but it means that whoever believes in Jesus will never die eternally and those who are raised to eternal life will never again see the darkness of death.

Martha had tremendous insight and great faith she believed Jesus was the Christ and the Son of God who had been promised by Moses and the prophets to come into the world and even before Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead she believed in the resurrection and that her brother would be raised in it. Here is the heart of the Christian faith Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life whoever believes in me will live" (John 11:25). This shows that salvation to eternal life does not come by adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions, but by faith in Christ.

When a Grain of Wheat Dies, it Bears much Fruit.

John 12:24-26 ----- ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves me, he must follow me and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

The grain of wheat in this story is Jesus himself, he is the grain of wheat who after laying down his life to rise again and bear much fruit (v24). The words, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" means whoever loves their life and this world so much that they refuse to accept Christ will eternally die, but whoever is prepared to humble themselves forsake this world and follow Christ will eternally save their life. Jesus words, "If anyone serves me, he must follow me," means they must follow his example (i.e., they must be prepared to put others before themselves and lay down their life for Christ if called to do so), Christ will be with whoever serves him in this way and God his heavenly Father will honour them.

John 12**Jesus is the Light.**

John 12:35-36 ----- ³⁵Jesus said to them, "The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them.

Jesus words, "Whoever walks in darkness does not know where they are going, refers to eternal life, it means they do not know their eternal destination, contrasted to those who believe in the light (Christ) and walk in the light (being doers of Jesus words and followers of his good ways) know they will become sons of the light meaning sons of God (v35-36). Jesus knowing the religious authorities are plotting ways to murder him departs from the crowd.

Walking in the light: means hearing Jesus words and doing them, all the commandments of God and of Christ are summed up in the following two commandments: -

- 1 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matt. 22:37-38).
- 2 You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Matt. 22:39).

These are the only two commandments anyone needs to know this is because if a person loves God and their neighbour as themselves they will never hurt or harm another human in anyway therefore no other commandment would ever be broken. Love your neighbour as yourself means do not deliberately do harm to other humans it means treat everyone with respect, honest justice and decency.

Jesus came so that Whoever Believes in Him may Not Remain in Darkness.

John 12:44-50 ----- ⁴⁴Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶I have come into the world as light so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. ⁴⁹For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

The reason Jesus says, believing in him is the same as believing in God is because he is the perfect image of the character of God he is a mirror image of the Father who sent him. Jesus words, "I have come into the world as light means that he has come to reveal the mind, character, plans and the eternal purposes of God so that whoever believes in him will not remain in darkness.

Jesus did not come to judge the world: Jesus does not judge those who hear his words, but does not do them neither does he judge those who reject him and his words. He did not come to judge anyone, his sole purpose until the end of this age is to save those separated from God. Those who hear the words of Jesus and do not do them and those who reject him and his words are already judged by the words Jesus has spoken this is because what he has spoken are not his words, but the words of God the Father. Most religious people's concept of God's judgment is of everyone lining up in a queue before God and waiting their turn to be judged, but Christ in these verses is saying everyone is already judged according to his word, (i.e. if people reject Christ and his word or if they hear his word, but don't do them they are already judged).

NOTE: the words of Jesus that we are called to do are about walking in the fruits to the Spirit (i.e. showing mercy, compassion, kindness and love to others) and helping those in need when able contrasted to deliberately harming people physically, financially, sexually, verbally emotionally or spiritually and using or oppressing others for one's own gain

John 14

Jesus is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.

John 14:1-6 ----- ¹Let not your hearts be troubled. believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

During this conversation Jesus is sitting at the table having the Last Supper with the eleven apostles while Judas has gone to betray him (see John 13). When Jesus said to the eleven apostles, "Let not your hearts be troubled" he was fully aware that he was about to be whipped, brutally tortured and cruelly nailed to the cross as a common criminal and that all this horror would leave his disciples totally confused and defeated since they think he is going to be made the King of Israel. This no-doubt is why he is pre-warning them not to let their hearts be troubled. By extension the principal applies to all faithful brothers and sisters in Christ it means if we believe in God then we should also believe surrender and trust in God is working an eternal purpose in our lives and knows what He is doing even if we don't.

In my Father's house are many mansions: the word mansions is fabulously perfect for what Jesus is telling his disciples since it can refer to the act of staying in a place of abode or to the literal place of abode, this means that it applies to both the act of abiding and the place one abides in. Added to this it carries the idea of abiding in a state of expectancy. Spiritually this implies that everyone who belongs to Jesus will have his or her own personal and spiritual relationship that is unique to them.

NOTE: a believer's personal and devotional relationship with Christ should always be a separate issue to the Gospel. There is only one Gospel, but each individual will have their own unique and personal spiritual relationship with Christ and his heavenly Father. Much like a married man is a father to his children, a husband to his wife, a servant to his boss, a son to his parents and a mate to his friends though he is a single individual he will have a different relationship with his children, his wife, his boss, his parents and his friends such is the way it is in the global body of Christ with brothers and sisters concerning our devotional and loving relationship with God and His Son.

Though we all come to Christ through the one Gospel not all of us have the same devotional relationship since each of us comes to the Lord with different mindsets and many from vastly different cultures, different levels of education (especially religious) and different degrees of past baggage and hang-ups and the list goes on. For this reason though there is only one Gospel there will be many different personal experiences and devotional relationships since God does not turn us into clones, but allows each to have their own unique and individual and personal heartfelt spiritual relationship with Him and His Son.

This is why what God does in one person's life should never be made a blanket teaching that this is what God will do in every other believers life (as often happens), when it comes to relationship God deals with each one as an individual according to His eternal purposes.

In my Father's house are many mansions also carries the idea that in the body of Christ there is room for Jews and Gentiles, there is a place for people from every language and every nation, there is room for the rich and the poor, the famous and the lowly meaning everyone is invited there is a place of abode for all contrasted to the Kingdom only being for the nation of Israel and the Hebrew and Jewish people.

I go to prepare a place for you: Jesus tells his apostles that he is leaving them for the sole purpose of preparing a place in the mansion of God (a symbol of eternal glory) for them and by extension and eternal place of abode for everyone who belongs to Christ.

I will come again and will take you to myself: Jesus fully aware that Judas is about to come with an armed group of soldiers who will take him to face an agonising, bloody and brutal death pre-warns the apostles that he is leaving them, his words: -

- I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

This immediately takes the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following glorious words of the apostle Paul: -

- Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For we who are alive who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:14-17).

You know the way to where I am going: Jesus said this to the eleven apostles, because he had told them many times while he was with them, but they did not fully understand what he meant, until he appeared to them after his death and resurrection this is the reason Thomas said, "How can we know the way?" Jesus answered Thomas question by saying, "'I am the way, and the truth and the life (v6).

The way means: -

- Jesus is the way to the Father and the perfect example of how to behave and live.

The truth means: -

- Everything he spoke is true and the way he lived is right there was no hypocrisy or pretence in him.

The life means: -

- In Christ is eternal life and all who belong to him will not only have abundant life now, but they will be granted eternal life when he returns in glory.

The words, "I am the way and the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except through him" does not only mean that one has to believe in Christ, but also embraces the idea of doing what he says and walking in the fruits of the Spirit with the desire to be a good testimony to God and the name of Christ contrasted to

oppressing or using others for one's own gain and being prideful, egotistical and driven by greed and craving for the things of this world such as power and wealth etc.

No-one comes to the Father except through me: Jesus words, "No one comes to the Father except through me" (v6) clearly show that he is not saying he is God (as some believe), but that he is the way to God his heavenly Father. He is God the Father's word manifested in the flesh (meaning in human form). Jesus perfectly manifested God the Father's eternal plan and His character, mercy, grace, power and love to all humanity; he was the mirror image and exact copy of God the Father's character. It is in this sense that Jesus can say, if you have seen him you have seen the Father.

Every man or woman who wants to know the character of God only has to look at the life of Jesus Christ, because he faultlessly manifested God the Father's love to all humanity even unto death, but the eleven did not fully understand that he was, the word of God manifested in the flesh (a human body) nor did they understand that he was not only the Saviour of Israel but also of the Saviour entire world (Jews and Gentiles).

I Am in the Father and the Father is in Me.

John 14:11 ----- ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

I am in the Father and the Father is in me means that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son are united in perfect unity and in perfect love they are of one mind in purpose, they have the same goals and eternal plans and are both motivated by the same love. The statement, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" does not mean they are one and the same person (as much of traditional Christianity teaches), but that they are identical in mind meaning God the Father and Christ his Son have the same mind, purpose, goals, plans, motivation and character, this is what Jesus means when he says, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" there is no division or tension between them everything Jesus does is the perfect will of the Father they are perfect in love, unity and purpose.

Believe on account of the works themselves: Jesus understands the eleven apostles are having difficulty in understanding what he is saying so he tells them to believe on account of the works that he has been doing (v11). This refers to the miracles and wonders they have seen. These alone should have been enough to testify that Jesus was who he said he was. The miracles Jesus performed authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, thus his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of. We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the following words: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." (Matthew 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isa. 29:1-24) (Isa. 35:1-10) (Isa. 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did and Jesus when speaking to the Jews said: -

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard (John 5:36-37).

Jesus will manifest Himself to those who Keep His Commandments.

John 14:21 ----- ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

These words of Jesus clearly show that simply confessing that one believes in Christ does necessarily mean that they love him, (i.e., a person confessing to have faith in Christ, but who lives contrary to the fruits of the Spirit is according to these words of Jesus deceiving themselves and everyone else who believes that what they are saying is true). Loving Christ is outwardly evidenced by behaviour that is in accordance to the commandments of Christ and of God and a lifestyle that brings a good testimony to God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Doing what pleases the one that is loved and what they desire outwardly manifests a person's love for that person, if there is no action to please the one loved then love is a fantasy and an illusion of the mind because for love to be real there must be action. This is why doing the commandments of Christ is an outward manifestation of God's love dwelling in the human heart. If a husband verbally praises his wife and constantly tells her he loves her while he is having an affair with another woman he is not only deceiving himself, but his wife as well since true love does no harm to another person (Rom. 13:10) 1 Cor. 13:2-7) (1 John 4:8). This does not mean that those who belong to Christ will live a perfect life or never offend anyone, but it does mean that their primary desire and consciousness in life is to be a good testimony to God and to Christ's name. The commandments of God and the Lord Jesus Christ are summed up in Jesus words: -

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and you shall love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31).

Jesus goes on to say that there is no other commandment greater than these two. No sane person deliberately harms themselves and will do everything in their power to protect themselves from hurt and harm; this is what it means to love others as we love ourselves it is doing unto others as we would wish they would do unto us.

Jesus will manifest himself to those who love him: Jesus statement he will manifest himself to those who love him (v21) means that those who keep his commandments will be given wisdom, insight and understanding of his word and spiritually know his love and at the resurrection he will appear and say to them: -

- Well done, good and faithful servant (Matt. 25:21) (Matt. 25) (Luke 19:17).

And will literally dwell with them in eternal glory for all eternity.

NOTICE: whoever loves Jesus and follows his ways is loved by God the Father.

John 16

God Loves those who Love His Son.

John 16:27 ----- ²⁷the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

The Father does not need Jesus to plead the case of those who belong to Christ since He sees their devotion and love for His Son and therefore loves them and accepts them into His eternal Kingdom.

John 17

Eternal life is Knowing the Only True God and Jesus Christ.

John 17:3 ----- ³this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

This verse shine a brilliant floodlight on the truth that God the Father is the only true God the immortal invisible Almighty God the creator and source of all life and the Lord Jesus Christ is the one who He sent. Since much of traditional Christianity believes that Jesus is God we will spend a little time examining this belief to see if it is what the Bible teaches or stems from the traditions of men. To do this we will begin by looking at a few Old Testament verses that show that there is no other God than the God of creation, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God Himself says: -

- He is the LORD who alone stretched out the heavens, and spread out the earth by Himself (Isaiah 44:24).
- I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; though you do not know me, there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5-7).
- There is no other God besides me, a righteous God and a Saviour; there is none besides me turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other (Isaiah 45:21-22).
- Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me (Isaiah 46:9).

The only true God in the New Testament: the following New Testament verses show that God the Father is the only true God and that Jesus and God are two separate individual eternal beings.

- Jesus said, "This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).
- Peter wrote, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).
- James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ (James 1:1).
- Jesus himself said, "The most important thing is to know that the Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Mark 12:29-32).
- Paul said, "For the apostles there is one God, the Father and one Lord, Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 8:6).
- Jesus said, "Call no-man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Matt. 23:9).
- Paul wrote, "It will be counted to us who believe in God who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 4:24).

God the Father, Jesus and all those in Christ are One.

Jesus prayed: -

- I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one (John 17:11).
- May all be one, just as the Father is in him and he is in the Father that they also may be in the Father and the Son so that they may be one even as the Father and the Son are one, I in them and you in me that they may become perfectly one (John 17:21-23).

Jesus is praying that that a collective group of individuals would be one as God the Father and Jesus Christ are one. Obviously being one does not mean that a collective group of disciples become one single individual, but that they become one in thought, mind, motive, goals and purpose and in love and unity. This idea of being one carries the same idea when Jesus and God are spoken of as being one, it does not mean they are the same person, but that Jesus and God the Father are one in purpose plans and motivation they have the same mind and are in perfect

unity together this is what Jesus means when he prays that his disciples will become one as he and his heavenly Father are one. Being one is about becoming one in mind, love and perfect unity. It is in relationship to being one that the Father is in Christ and Christ is in the Father. Jesus is saying that he is in the Father and the Father is in him in the sense of being one in mind and purpose. Putting these verses together it becomes very clear that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Son) are not the same person but one in perfect unity and one in perfect love. Jesus tells his disciples when he appears to them after the resurrection that, "They will know that he is in his Father and they are in him and he is in them." (John 14:20).

I am in my Father: does not mean Jesus Christ is the Father, just as the expression, "The disciples are in Christ" does not mean that the disciples are Jesus, the same principal applies to the expression "Jesus is in the disciples" obviously does not mean Jesus is the disciples. I am in the Father simply means Jesus Christ completely embraces all that the Father is, likewise the expression "The disciples are in Jesus" means they completely embrace all that Jesus is and the expression, "Jesus is in the disciple's" means Jesus has totally invested his life in those who will believe in him.

I in you and you in me: carries the idea that one person entirely embraces another person and accepts all that they are and do, it means that they will do everything they are able to do, to benefit the other person and vice versa, both persons embrace the same plans goals and purposes and have the same mind, both are completely devoted to each other in love and unity (John 17:22-26).

They may be one, even as we are one: (John 17:11) here Jesus is praying that multitudes of believer's would be one just as he and the Father are one. This clearly shows that Jesus and the Father are not one God or one individual because multitudes of believers cannot become one person just as Jesus the Son and God the Father cannot become one individual showing that becoming one in this context means becoming one in mind it is about having the same plans goals and purposes and becoming one in perfect love and perfect unity. A few verses on in the same prayer Jesus prays, "That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us" (John 17:21) this does not mean they will all become one person, it carries the idea that multitudes of individual believers will all become one in love, unity, mind plans, goals, motivation and purpose. Jesus prayer is that multitudes of individual believers become one in perfect love and perfect unity. Jesus and the Father are one in the same sense that multitudes of individual believers are one in Jesus Christ.

God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son are both the same in mind, plans, goals, motivation and purposes making them both one in perfect love and perfect unity. Jesus in this prayer is praying that, multitudes of individual believers will be in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:21), this means that the believer's lives would become entirely devoted to the will of God and to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. It carries the idea that the emotions, affections thoughts and feelings are set on God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and that the heart and minds greatest desire of those who belong to Christ is to please him and God the Father.

I in you: when Jesus says, "That he is in the Father" (John 17:21) he does not mean that he is the Father, the expression, "I am in the Father," carries the same idea as his prayer for his disciples to be in him. It means that Jesus has the same mind plans goals motivation and purposes as God the Father they are in perfect unity together in all that they think, do and plan, it is by perfect love that Jesus is in God and God is in Jesus and it is by this same love that Christ is in us and we are in him.

That they may be one even as we are one: Jesus prayed, "That multitudes of individual believers will be one as Jesus and God the Father are one" (John 17:22). Obviously multitudes of believers cannot be one person, just as Jesus Christ the Son cannot be God the Father or God the Father be Jesus Christ the Son. Jesus words, that they may be one even as we are one means his desire is that multitudes of individual believers would become one in mind, plans, goals, motivation and purposes, so that they will be one in perfect love and unity just as God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are one in mind, plans, goals, motivation and purposes and are therefore in perfect love and perfect unity together.

SUMMARY: Jesus desires that the love with which his heavenly Father has loved him would be in his disciples, and that Christ's love would also be in them (John 17:26). These words of Jesus show that God the Father is in Jesus by His love and Jesus is in Father by his love toward Him. It is by love that God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God. Jesus desire is that the love of God that is in him would also be in his disciples.

Jesus is in his disciples by his love toward them and likewise they are in him by their love toward him. When two people love each other with all their heart, soul and mind and all their affections, emotions and feelings it can be said that they are in each other and have become one in love and unity. Jesus desire is for those who belong to him to have this kind of relationship with himself and with his Father.

For further information see the title: -

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU)

John 19

Jesus is Crucified.

John 19:16-20 ----- ¹⁶So he (Pilate) delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.

The following is an overview of the events that have taken place so far. From sunset Friday the 14th Passover Day Jesus and the apostles ate the Last Supper. Officers of the Pharisees came and took Jesus captive to the high priests Annas who sent him to Caiaphas who took him bound to Pilate. Pilate sent him to Herod who after hearing him sent him back to Pilate who then handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers who brutally tortured and mocked him. Annas, Caiaphas and the Jews with them had not entered Pilate's headquarters because they wanted to remain clean to eat the Passover Meal which they ate sometime after they had handed Jesus over to Pilate. The chief priest's then demanded Pilate have Jesus killed.

Pilate sits on his judgment seat before Christ: this is stunning and the epitome of spiritual blindness to the extreme, Pilate a Gentile secular man was willing to recognise Jesus as the King of the Jews while the Jewish religious rulers of Israel rather than exalt their Messiah and King not only call to have him murdered, but also confess the secular king of Rome as their king. They no-doubt rejoiced when they saw Christ being cruelly nailed to a cross as a common criminal. Is it any wonder Jesus said: -

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness (Matt. 23:27, 29) (Luke 11:47-48).

Jesus Gives up His Spirit.

John 19:28-30 ----- ²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

It is finished: means God's plan for eternal salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ for all mankind (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundation of the world and was spoken of by the prophets is complete.

Gave up his spirit: means Jesus knowing the joy that was set before him (Heb. 12:2) accepted his death and gave up his life (i.e., he breathed his last breath) trusting that God his heavenly Father would raise him from the dead. The following is a beautiful glimpse of the beauty and wonder of the language of the Bible. Jesus words: -

- I thirst and a sponge of the sour wine on a hyssop was held to his mouth (v28-29).

Are absolutely fabulous as it immediately takes the mind of the ardent Bible reader back in time to the following words of David the king and prophet: -

- They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. (Psalm 69:21).

These suffering words of Christ take us back to (Psalm 69) which is majestic reading as it is a beautiful example of a Bible echo and a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ on the bloodstained cross of Calvary.

John 20

Mary Magdalene, Peter and John go to the Tomb.

John 20:9-17 -----⁹for as yet they (Peter and John) did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹But Mary (Magdalene) stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (Meaning teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

When the Jewish High Sabbath was almost past Mary Magdalene is the first to go to the tomb very early Sunday morning the first day of the week (so early it was still dark) she arrives and upon seeing that the stone was no longer covering the tomb she runs to tell Peter and John (the disciple Jesus loved). Mary Magdalene tells Peter and John someone has taken the Lord from the tomb upon hearing this Peter and John run to the tomb. Mary Magdalene follows them, but because Peter and John were both running she lags behind. John outruns Peter and arrives at the tomb first, but he did not go in, but when Peter arrived he entered immediately into the tomb then John followed him.

Mary Magdalene is still coming up behind them. Though Peter and John believed Jesus was the Messiah and the Christ they still did not understand the Scripture that said, "He must rise from the dead," or the meaning of what Jesus had told them when he said, "The Son of man must be killed and rise again on the third day," so they returned to their homes not knowing what has happened to the body of Jesus (v1-10).

The Folded Linen Cloth.

The fact the fine linen cloth (Mark 15:46) that Joseph had wrapped Jesus body in was left in the tomb and the linen cloth that had been wrapped around his face was folded was a sign that his body had not been stolen since thieves would not waste time unwrapping a body especially considering how many foldings the Jews used to wrap a corpse in. Added to this is the fact that any one stealing a body would rather carry it wrapped than naked. The fact that the linen cloth was folded shows that the resurrection of Jesus was not hurried, but orderly showing with what grand tranquillity, Jesus had risen from the dead.

Christ left his grave-clothes behind: we are not told what clothes Jesus appeared to his disciples in, but we do know he never appeared to them in his grave-clothes, as ghosts are supposed to do; no, he laid them aside because he arose to die no more; unlike Lazarus who came out with his grave-clothes on and was to use them again, but Christ in contrast to Lazarus was rising to immortal life and came out of the tomb to be clothed with the robes of glory and set free from his graveclothes.

Perhaps symbolising the majestic truth that when we arise from the death of sin: -

- And our perishable body puts on the imperishable, and this mortal body puts on immortality and when the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:53-54) and our grave-clothes are left behind us with all their corruptions.

Testifying to Christ and the Good News of the Gospel: even though the Old Testament spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah the Christ, and Peter and John believed him to be the Messiah and he himself had often told them that according to the Scriptures of the Old Testament he would rise again, John tells us that neither Peter or John understood the Scriptures that stated: -

- He must rise again from the dead (v9).

And therefore though they believed he was their Messiah they neither had wisdom nor understanding of mind to explain his missing body. Luke in his writings states that their lack of understanding was because: -

- As yet Jesus had not opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:44-45).

The eleven apostles knew the Old Testament Scriptures concerning Christ, they lived with him for three years and he told them at various times that: -

- He would be put to death but will rise again on the third day.

Yet they still did not understand until Jesus opened their minds to the Scriptures. This should be a great encouragement and bring peace to the mind of all who witness or share their testimony, since it teaches us that the only power we have is to share our faith and testify to the Good News of the Gospel, but it is the Holy Spirit that convicts the human heart and opens a person's mind to perceiving Christ and understanding the spiritual reality of his words, therefore no-one should feel despondent when those they are witnessing to do not receive their message, but rather rejoice in the knowledge that they have done all their Lord expects of them.

The climax of John's Gospel Message is the Resurrection of Jesus.

John 20:19-21 ----- ¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

It is certain that Mary Magdalene immediately raced with enormous joy and excitement to tell the disciples that she had seen the Lord and most likely that they all remained together in joyful fellowship talking with absolute wonder about everything Jesus had spoken to them. On the evening of this very same day, the first day of the week (Sunday) they are all together in a room with the door locked because of the fear of the Jewish religious leaders.

No-doubt they were in great anxiety after seeing how cruelly and unjustly the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes had treated Jesus and feared that officers sent by them would storm their homes to take them captive as they did Jesus and treat them with the same brutal torture they had inflicted on Christ, but they were in for a great and joyful surprise, rather than their enemies storming their home their beloved and resurrected Lord appears in the room and speaks peace to them. To assure them that it is him and not some kind of ghost or spirit aberration he shows

them the marks of the nails in his hands and the scar in the side of his body (v25-27) that had been pierced by a Roman spear. Remember though people in Jesus era believed in life after death it was considered more in the form of an eternal soul (i.e., some spirit like being or spiritual eternal consciousness no-one (except a few prophets) thought the human body could be raised from the dead to eternal glory and everlasting life).

The Purpose all Scripture is Written.

John 20:30-31 ----- ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

These verses show that Jesus miracles were to authenticate and testify that he is the Christ the Son of God so that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. The stunning miracles Jesus performed authenticated and testified that he was the prophet to come like Moses, the promised seed of Abraham and of David, Israel's Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

No man on earth could do the things Christ did without the full power of God flowing through him, his sign miracles evidenced that he was approved of God, sent by God, had God's favour and was God's beloved Son and the one Moses and all the prophet spoke of (John 20:30-31). We know Jesus miracles were to authenticated that he was sent by God the Father because when John the Baptist was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the one who is to come and Jesus answered them with the words: -

- Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me" (Matt. 11:2-6) (Luke 7:18-23).

It is stated in the Old Testament that the Christ will open the eyes of the blind, heal the ears of the deaf, cause the crippled to walk and the mute to speak with joy (Isa. 29:1-24) (Isa. 35:1-10) (Isa. 42:1-10) all the miracles that Jesus did and Jesus when speaking to the Jews said: -

- The works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me and the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard (John 5:36-37).

NOTE: the reason the Scriptures are written is so that people will have evidence that Jesus is the Son of God and that eternal life is not in having abundance of Scripture head knowledge, but in believing in Jesus the Christ and Son of God and faithfully following him.

The Scriptures are written to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ to those seeking God so that they may believe in him and be saved to eternal life. We know this because Jesus told the Jews (primarily the religious leaders of his generation) that they did not have God's word abiding in them because they did not believe the one whom the Father has sent. Then he rebuked them saying, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

End.