



PRESENT DAY TRUTH

A Biblical Study Guide for the Seeking Christian

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

— **John 14:15**

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

— **Isaiah 8:20**

OLD & NEW TESTAMENT EVIDENCE · VERSE BY VERSE · NOTHING BUT SCRIPTURE (KJV)

A promise before we begin: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). Everything in this booklet is drawn from the Bible alone. Do not take our word for it — be like the Bereans, who "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

PART I — THE FOUNDATION: THE BIBLE AND OUR GOD

I The Holy Scriptures — Why We Trust the Bible Alone

Before we examine any doctrine, we must agree on the **measuring stick**. This study rests everything on one foundation: the Bible — and the Bible alone — is the inspired, unbreakable, authoritative Word of God. If a teaching cannot stand on Scripture, it does not belong here.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

John 17:17 · 10:35

*"Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**" "The scripture **cannot be broken.**"*

Acts 17:11

*The Bereans "received the word with all readiness of mind, and **sought the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**" Even an apostle's teaching was checked against the Word.*

Proverbs 30:5–6 · Isaiah 40:8

*"Every word of God is pure... Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee."
"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but **the word of our God shall stand for ever.**"*

2 Peter 1:20–21

*"No prophecy of the scripture is of any **private interpretation.** For the prophecy **came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**"*

Isaiah 8:20

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." The ultimate doctrinal test.

Psalms 119:105

*"Thy word is a **lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**"*

2 Peter 1:19 · Hebrews 1:1–2

*"We have also a **more sure word of prophecy.**" God "spoke in time past... by the prophets... in these last days spoken unto us by his Son."*

Also: Ps 119:160, 89 — "thy word is true from the beginning... settled in heaven" · Mt 5:18 · Heb 4:12 — "quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword" · Mt 4:4 · 2 Tim 2:15 — "study to shew thyself approved" · 1 Th 2:13 · Rev 22:18–19 · 2 Sam 23:2 · Rom 15:4 · 1 Pe 1:24–25. **Why this section comes first:** do not believe us — search the Scriptures (Jn 5:39; Acts 17:11). If it is in the Word, it stands on the authority of God Himself; if it is not, discard it.

II Salvation Is Found in Jesus Christ Alone

The Bible's central claim is not subtle: eternal life is a gift found in a **Person**. From the first promise in Eden to the final invitation in Revelation, Scripture points to one Savior — received by grace, through faith, without works.

John 14:6 <i>"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."</i>	Acts 4:12 <i>"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."</i>
John 3:16 <i>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."</i>	1 John 5:11–12 <i>"God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."</i>
Ephesians 2:8–9 <i>"By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God — not of works, lest any man should boast."</i>	Romans 6:23 <i>"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."</i>
Romans 10:9, 13 <i>"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart... thou shalt be saved." "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."</i>	Romans 3:28 · 5:1, 8 <i>"A man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." "Justified by faith, we have peace with God... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."</i>

Also: Jn 3:36 — belief = life, unbelief = wrath · Jn 8:24 · 10:9 ("I am the door") · 11:25–26 ("I am the resurrection, and the life") · Acts 16:31 · 10:43 · 1 Ti 2:5 · Titus 3:5 · Gal 2:16 (three times: *not* by works) · 2 Co 5:21 · Heb 9:22 · 1 Pe 2:24 · 2 Tim 1:9 · Rom 4:4–5; 11:6 · Php 3:9 · Rev 3:20 — "I stand at the door, and knock." **The OT pointed to Him:** Gen 3:15 · 15:6 (Abraham justified by faith) · Isa 53:5–6 ("wounded for our transgressions... the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all") · Isa 9:6 · Mic 5:2 · Zech 9:9 · Dan 9:26. The whole Scriptures "testify of me" (Jn 5:39; Lk 24:27, 44). **The bottom line:** "He that hath the Son hath life."

III The Trinity — One God in Three Persons

The word "Trinity" is not in the Bible — but the **truth** runs through all of it. There is **one God**, existing eternally as **three co-eternal Persons**: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Not three gods; not one person wearing three masks. One God, in three Persons — all working together for our salvation.

Deuteronomy 6:4 · Isaiah 44:6 <i>"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." "I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."</i>	1 John 5:7 <i>"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."</i>
Matthew 28:19 · 2 Corinthians 13:14 <i>"Baptizing them in the name [singular] of the Father... Son... Holy Ghost." "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost."</i>	Matthew 3:16–17 <i>At Jesus' baptism, all three at once: the Son in the water, the Spirit of God descending like a dove, the Father speaking from heaven: "This is my beloved Son."</i>
John 1:1, 14 · 20:28 <i>"The Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh." Thomas: "My Lord and my God" — and Jesus accepted it.</i>	John 8:58 · Acts 5:3–4 <i>"Before Abraham was, I AM" — Jesus takes God's own name (Ex 3:14). To lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie "unto God."</i>
Isaiah 9:6 · Colossians 2:9 <i>The child born is "The mighty God, The everlasting Father." "In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."</i>	John 14:26 · 16:13–14 <i>The Spirit teaches ("he shall teach you all things"), speaks, guides into all truth, and glorifies Christ — a Person, not a force.</i>

Also: God speaks in the plural — Gen 1:26 ("let us make man in *our* image") · 3:22 · 11:7 · Isa 6:8 ("who will go for us") · 48:16 (all three in one verse) · Pr 30:4 ("what is his son's name?") · Ps 33:6 · 1 Pe 1:2 · Eph 4:4–6 · 2 Co 1:21–22. **Jesus is fully God:** Isa 7:14 (Immanuel) · Tit 2:13 ("great God and our Saviour") · Heb 1:8 · Php 2:6 · Col 1:16–17 · Rev 1:8 (Alpha and Omega) · 1 Jn 5:20. **The Spirit is a divine Person:** Rom 8:26–27 (intercedes, has a mind) · 1 Co 12:11 (a will) · Eph 4:30 (grieved) · Mt 12:31 (blasphemed) · Acts 13:2 (speaks commands) · Gen 1:2 · Lk 1:35. **How the Three save us:** the Father gave the Son (Jn 3:16); the Son *gave himself* (Gal 2:20); the Spirit *renews* all who believe (Titus 3:5). "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8).

IV The Great Controversy — The Conflict Behind All History

Behind every headline and every heartache lies a larger war: a real, historical conflict between **Christ and Satan** over the character, law, and government of God. It began in heaven, moved to earth, and ends with sin's complete destruction. Earth is the arena — and you are in it.

Isaiah 14:12–14 · Ezekiel 28:14–17 <i>"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!... thou hast said, I will be like the most High." The anointed cherub was "perfect in thy ways... till iniquity was found in thee."</i>	Revelation 12:7–9 <i>"And there was war in heaven... the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."</i>
Genesis 3:15 <i>The first gospel promise: her seed "shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The cross, foretold in Eden.</i>	Revelation 12:10 · Zechariah 3:1–2 <i>Satan is "the accuser of our brethren... which accused them before our God day and night." "The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan... is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"</i>

1 Corinthians 4:9 · Ephesians 3:10

*"We are made a **spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.**" Through the church, God's wisdom is shown to "principalities and powers in heavenly places" — earth is the theater of the universe.*

Revelation 12:11 · Colossians 2:15

*"They **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**, and by the word of their testimony." At the cross Christ "spoiled principalities and powers... **triumphing over them.**"*

Also: Rev 12:4 — a third of the angels fell · Lk 10:18 — "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" · 2 Pe 2:4 · Jude 6 · Gen 3:4 — Satan's lie, "ye shall not surely die," is the root of all false teaching on death · Job 1:6–11 · 1 Pe 5:8 — "a roaring lion" · Rom 5:12 · Rom 3:4 — God's character vindicated · Heb 2:14 · 1 Jn 3:8 — Christ came to "destroy the works of the devil." **His end:** Ezk 28:18–19 — "never shalt thou be any more"; Rev 20:10 — cast into the lake of fire. Until then his fury targets the faithful: Rev 12:17.

PART II — THE LAW AND THE SABBATH

V The Seventh Day Is the Sabbath — Saturday, Not Sunday

God blessed **one day** at Creation — the seventh — before any Jew existed. Jesus and the apostles kept it **after the cross**. Scripture never moves it to the first day: the word "Sunday" never appears in the Bible, and no verse commands first-day observance.

Genesis 2:2–3

*"God rested on the seventh day... And **God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.**" No other day in Scripture receives this blessing.*

Exodus 20:8–11

*"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy... **the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God.**" "Remember" — it already existed.*

Mark 2:27–28

*"The sabbath was made for **man**" (mankind, not only Jews) — "the Son of man is **Lord also of the sabbath.**" He is never called Lord of Sunday.*

Luke 4:16 · Acts 17:2 · 18:4

*"As **his custom was...**" — Jesus. "Paul, **as his manner was...** reasoned **every sabbath,**" for 18 months in Corinth.*

Luke 23:56

*After the crucifixion, the women "rested the sabbath day **according to the commandment.**" The cross changed nothing.*

Luke 24:1

*"Upon the **first day of the week**, very early in the morning," the women came to the tomb to work — after resting the Sabbath. The calendar confirms Sunday is the first day; Scripture never sanctifies it.*

Acts 13:42–44

*The **Gentiles besought** Paul to preach "the **next sabbath**" — and "almost the whole city" came. He did not say, "Come back tomorrow, on Sunday."*

Hebrews 4:9

*"There **remaineth** therefore a **rest** [Greek: sabbatismos, a Sabbath-keeping] to the people of God."*

Also: Ex 31:16–17 — "a perpetual covenant... a sign... for ever" · Ezk 20:12, 20 · Mt 5:17–19 · 24:20 — Jesus prophesying AD 70 still honored the Sabbath · Mt 12:12 — "lawful to do well on the sabbath" · Acts 16:13 · 15:21 · Isa 56:2, 6–7 — foreigners included. **All eight "first day" texts examined:** Mt 28:1; Mk 16:2, 9; Lk 24:1; Jn 20:1 — resurrection accounts, no command · Jn 20:19 — disciples hiding "for fear," not worshipping · Ac 20:7 — a Saturday-night farewell meal; Paul walked ~19 miles Sunday morning · 1 Co 16:2 — private storing "by himself," at home. None call Sunday holy; none transfer the Sabbath. **The Sabbath is eternal:** Isa 66:22–23 — "from one sabbath to another, **all flesh** shall come to worship." **The stakes:** Jas 2:10; Rev 14:12; 12:17.

VI Creation and the Sabbath — Established Before Sin, for All Mankind

The deepest answer to "the Sabbath is just for the Jews" is the Bible's opening pages. The Sabbath was made at the **end of Creation week** — before sin, before nations, before any Jew — woven into the fabric of time itself. What God established in Eden for humanity, he never repealed.

Genesis 2:1–3

*"God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it" — at the very **beginning**, in Eden, before sin, before any nation or Jew.*

Mark 2:27

*"The sabbath was **made for man**" — for anthropos (mankind), 2,000 years before the first Jew.*

Exodus 20:11

*The fourth commandment points back to Creation as its reason: "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth... **wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day.**"*

Genesis 26:5 · Exodus 16:4, 22–30

Abraham kept God's "commandments... and my laws" centuries before Sinai; before Sinai, God tested Israel with manna — no manna fell on the seventh day, already "the holy sabbath."

Hebrews 4:4, 9–10

*"God did rest the seventh day from all his works... **There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.**"*

Isaiah 66:22–23

*"As the new heavens and the new earth... shall remain before me... **from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me.**" The Sabbath outlasts sin itself.*

Also: Isa 56:6–7 — "mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people" · Gen 2:24 (marriage) · 4:3–4 (offerings) · 7:2 (clean/unclean) — all Edenic, all enduring · Ps 111:4 — the Sabbath is the memorial of Creation · Ecc 12:13 · Rev 14:7 — the final call echoes the 4th commandment. **The logic of Eden:** if it were merely Jewish, it would have begun at Sinai and ended at the cross — but the Bible places it at Creation (before sin) and at the New Earth (after sin). It is a gift built into the rhythm of time, made for the whole human family.

VII The Ten Commandments — Are They Still Binding Today?

"We're not under the law" is the common objection — but Scripture draws a clear line between the **moral law** (the Ten Commandments, written by God's own finger, placed inside the ark) and the **ceremonial law** (sacrifices, which pointed to Christ and ended at the cross). Jesus came not to destroy the law — but to establish it.

Matthew 5:17–19

*"Think not that I am come to **destroy the law**... I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law.**"*

John 14:15 · 1 John 2:3–4

*"If ye love me, **keep my commandments**." "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a **liar**."*

Colossians 2:14–17 vs. Exodus 31:18

*The "handwriting of **ordinances**" (sacrificial shadows) was nailed to the cross — but the Ten Commandments were "written with the **finger of God**" on stone, placed inside the ark, and are never called a shadow.*

Hebrews 8:10 · Ecclesiastes 12:13

*The new covenant writes the law **on the heart** — not abolished, internalized. "Fear God, and **keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**"*

Romans 3:31 · 7:12

*"Do we then make void the law through faith? **God forbid: yea, we establish the law.**" "The law is **holy, and just, and good.**"*

1 John 3:4 · Romans 6:15

*"Sin is the **transgression of the law**." "Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid.**"*

Revelation 14:12 · 22:14

*"Here are they that **keep the commandments of God**, and the faith of Jesus." "Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life."*

Revelation 11:19 · James 2:10–12

*In heaven, "the **ark of his testament**" is seen in God's temple — the Ten remain the foundation of God's throne. James quotes the 6th & 7th as still binding: "offend in one point... guilty of all."*

Also: Rom 4:15 — "where no law is, there is no transgression" · 7:14 — "the law is spiritual" · 1 Jn 5:3 — "his commandments are not grievous" · Ps 19:7; 40:8; 111:7–8 — "all his commandments are sure... for ever" · 119:97, 165 · Lk 16:17 · Mt 19:17 · Deut 10:2, 5 (inside the ark) · 31:26 (the book of the law placed *beside* it — distinct) · Heb 10:1, 4, 9–10 (the shadow taken away) · Eph 2:15 (the "ordinances" dividing Jew/Gentile abolished) · 2 Co 3:3 · Rev 12:17. **The heart of the matter:** "not under the law" means not under its **condemnation** (Rom 6:14–15). We keep the commandments not to *be* saved but *because* we are saved — the law written on the heart by the Spirit.

VIII The Bible Day Begins at Evening *Sabbath = Friday sunset → Saturday sunset*

God counts days **sunset to sunset**. Darkness existed before light (Gen 1:2), and the Creation refrain never varies — "evening and morning," six times. Then God settled the matter with an explicit command.

Genesis 1:5 (also 8, 13, 19, 23, 31)

*"And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the **evening** and the **morning** were the first day." Evening first — every time, six times.*

Mark 1:32 · Luke 4:40 · Matthew 8:16

*"And **at even, when the sun did set**, they brought unto him all that were diseased." The crowds waited for sunset, when the Sabbath ended.*

Nehemiah 13:19

*"And it came to pass, that **when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath**, I commanded that the gates should be shut." The Sabbath arrived with darkness.*

Leviticus 22:6–7

*The unclean stay unclean "until even... **when the sun is down, he shall be clean.**" The ceremonial day changes at sunset.*

Leviticus 23:32

*"It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest... **from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.**" The clearest definition of a day's boundaries in all of Scripture.*

John 20:1 · Matthew 28:1 · Luke 23:54

*The first day had begun "**when it was yet dark**" — before sunrise. The Sabbath "drew on" as evening fell Friday; Jesus was buried before sunset.*

Exodus 12:18

*Unleavened Bread runs from the 14th "**at even**" to the 21st "**at even**" — seven full days, sunset to sunset.*

Daniel 8:14, 26

*"Two thousand and three hundred **days**" — literally "**evening morning**" (Heb. erev-boqer), listing evening first, echoing Genesis 1.*

Also: Gen 1:2 — darkness existed before light · Deut 21:23 · 24:13, 15 (pledges and wages settled "when the sun goeth down") · Josh 8:29; 10:26–27 (bodies removed before sunset — "that day") · 2 Sam 3:35 · 1 Ki 22:35–36 · Mk 15:42 · Jn 19:31, 42. The **midnight** day is a Roman invention; the **sunrise** day was Egyptian; God's reckoning — established at Creation, commanded in the Law, kept by Jesus — is **evening to evening**. God's holy day runs from **Friday sunset to Saturday sunset**.

IX The Full Sabbath Day Is for Rest *His day — not ours*

The command is comprehensive: **no work, no commerce, no "own pleasure"** — the whole household rests, even the animals. Yet it is a gift, not a cage: God bids us call the day a **delight**.

Exodus 20:10 · Deuteronomy 5:14

*"In it **thou shalt not do any work** — thou, thy son, thy daughter, thy manservant, thy maidservant, thy cattle, the stranger within thy gates." Everyone rests — even the animals.*

Exodus 34:21

*"Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in **earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.**" Even the most urgent economic seasons are no excuse.*

Isaiah 58:13–14

Turn from **"thine own ways... thine own pleasure... thine own words"** on my holy day — and **"call the sabbath a delight...** then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD." His day, not ours — yet a delight, not a burden.

Exodus 16:23–30

The manna test — bake and boil on the sixth day; none falls on the seventh; **"let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."**

Matthew 12:12 · Mark 3:4 · Luke 13:15–16

"It is lawful to **do well** on the sabbath days." Healing, mercy, freeing the bound — "ought not this woman... **be loosed...** on the sabbath day?"

Nehemiah 10:31 · 13:15–19

No buying, no selling, no treading winepresses, no hauling goods — Nehemiah **shut the city gates** "when the gates... began to be dark before the sabbath."

Numbers 15:32–36 · Exodus 35:2–3

The man gathering sticks was judged — even small self-directed labor breaks the day's principle. "Ye shall **kindle no fire** throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day."

Leviticus 23:3 · Luke 4:16

The Sabbath is a **"holy convocation"** — rest plus worship, "as his custom was" in the synagogue.

Also: Amos 8:5 — merchants who couldn't wait for the Sabbath to end · Jer 17:21–27 — Jerusalem fell partly over Sabbath profanation · the land itself rested every 7th year (Lev 25:4), and exile made up the lost rests (2 Chr 36:21) · Mt 12:5 — priests serving in the temple "profane the sabbath, and are blameless" · Jn 7:22–23 · Lk 14:5 · Acts 1:12 — short "sabbath day's journey" for worship · Isa 56:2, 4–6 — "blessed is the man... that keepeth the sabbath." **The principle:** "The sabbath was **made for man**" (Mk 2:27) — a gift of twenty-four hours in which the world stops being yours and becomes his. Rest from your work, your commerce, your entertainment, your agenda — and "call the sabbath a delight." "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (Heb 4:9).

PART III — THE SANCTUARY AND THE JUDGMENT

X The Heavenly Sanctuary — Christ's Ministry for Us Right Now

Where is Jesus, and what is he doing **now**? He is our High Priest, ministering in a real sanctuary in heaven — the "true tabernacle" of which the earthly one was only a model. His present work for you is as real as his cross.

Hebrews 8:1–2

"We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a **minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.**"

Hebrews 8:5 · Exodus 25:8–9

The earthly priests served **"the example and shadow of heavenly things"** — Moses built **"according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."**

Hebrews 9:11–12, 24

"Christ being come an high priest... by a **greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands...** into **heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.**"

Revelation 11:19 · 15:5

"The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament." "The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened."

Hebrews 7:25 · 4:14–16

"He ever liveth to make intercession for them" — "touched with the feeling of our infirmities... let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace."

1 John 2:1 · Romans 8:34

"If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." Christ is at God's right hand, **"who also maketh intercession for us."**

Also: Ps 11:4 — "the LORD is in his holy temple" · 77:13 — "thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary" · 102:19 · Heb 9:9, 23 — the earthly was a "figure" of "the heavenly things themselves" · Heb 6:19–20 — our anchor "within the veil" · Heb 2:17; 3:1 · Rev 4:2–5; 8:3–4 — the heavenly throne, lamps, and golden altar. **Why this doctrine is precious:** the cross was the payment; the sanctuary is the ongoing application. Right now, a living Savior is applying his shed blood on your behalf — "he ever liveth to make intercession." This is what Jesus is doing *today*.

XI The Pre-Advent Judgment — The Cleansing of the Heavenly Sanctuary

Before Jesus returns, a work of judgment takes place in heaven. The Bible's own sequence proves it: a court convenes, books are opened, and the verdict is rendered in favor of the saints — **before** Christ receives the kingdom and returns with his reward already decided.

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

"The Ancient of days did sit... the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Then the Son of man comes to the Father in heaven to receive the kingdom — this judgment precedes his return to earth.

Daniel 7:22 · Revelation 22:12

"Judgment was given to the saints of the most High." "Behold, **I come quickly; and my reward is with me**" — the verdicts are settled before he arrives.

Revelation 20:12 · Daniel 7:10

"The books were opened... and the dead were **judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**" Heaven keeps records.

Malachi 3:16 · Revelation 3:5

"A book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD." Overcomers: **"I will not blot out his name** out of the book of life."

Revelation 14:6–7

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come" — announced while the gospel is still being preached, before the Second Coming.

Leviticus 16:16, 30, 34

The Day of Atonement — once a year the sanctuary was **"cleansed"** and the people **"clean from all your sins"** — is the earthly pattern of this heavenly judgment (Heb 8:5; 9:23).

Acts 3:19–21 · Daniel 8:14

Sins "**blotted out**" just before Jesus is sent. "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; **then shall the sanctuary be cleansed**" (*day-for-a-year*, Num 14:34; Ezk 4:6).

1 Peter 4:17 · 2 Corinthians 5:10

"Judgment must **begin at the house of God**." "We must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**."

Also: Lk 19:12 — he receives the kingdom, *then* returns · Dan 7:26–27 · Ex 32:32–33; Ps 69:28 — names can be blotted out · Dan 12:1; Php 4:3; Lk 10:20 — names written in the book · Ecc 12:14 · Mt 12:36 · Acts 17:31 — "a day appointed" · Lev 16:21–22 — the scapegoat bore confessed sins away · 23:29. **The good news in the judgment:** not terror for the believer, but vindication. Jesus is your **advocate** (1 Jn 2:1); the verdict goes "in favor of the saints" (Dan 7:22); confessed sins, covered by his blood, are blotted out forever (Acts 3:19). Believers have "boldness in the day of judgment" (1 Jn 4:17; Jn 5:24). It settles the great controversy once and for all.

PART IV — HUMANITY, DEATH, AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

XII The Nature of Humanity — Made in God's Image, Body and Spirit

What is a human being? The Bible's answer overturns a pagan assumption: man does not **have** an immortal soul trapped in a body — man **is** a living soul, a whole being, made in God's image. Understanding this unlocks the Bible's teaching on death.

Genesis 1:26–27

"And God said, Let us make man in **our image, after our likeness**... So God created man in **his own image**; male and female created he them."

Genesis 2:7

"The LORD God formed man of the **dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man **became a living soul**." Body + breath = soul. Man did not receive a soul; he became one.

Ezekiel 18:4, 20

"Behold, all souls are mine... **the soul that sinneth, it shall die**." Souls die — they are not inherently immortal.

1 Timothy 6:15–16 · 1 Corinthians 15:53–54

God "**only hath immortality**." The mortal must "**put on immortality**" — at the resurrection, never by nature.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 · Psalm 146:4

At death "the **dust returneth to the earth** as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." "In that very day **his thoughts perish**."

Job 33:4 · 27:3 · Psalm 104:29

"The **breath of the Almighty** hath given me life." "Breath" and "spirit" are interchangeable. "Thou takest away their **breath**, they die, and return to their dust."

Also: Ps 139:14 — "fearfully and wonderfully made" · 8:4–6 — "crowned him with glory and honour" · Gen 9:6; Jas 3:9 — the image remains the basis of human dignity · Gen 1:20–24 — the same Hebrew word "soul" (*nephesh*) is used of animals · Gen 6:17; 7:15, 22 — even animals have "the breath of life" · Rom 2:7 — we must "seek for... immortality" · Ecc 9:5, 10 · Job 14:12, 21. **Why this matters:** once you see man is a soul (not *has* one), death as a sleep becomes clear and consistent — and you are protected from every deception built on "the dead are not really dead," the serpent's original lie: "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen 3:4).

XIII Salvation Requires a Daily Walk With Jesus *abiding — not a one-time claim*

We are justified by grace through faith alone — **but the faith that saves is never alone**. Like a branch to the vine, saving faith stays connected, and fruit follows. The walk is the evidence.

John 15:4–5

"**Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine... **for without me ye can do nothing**." Greek *meno*: remain, dwell, stay — continuous, not one-time.

Luke 9:23 · 1 Corinthians 15:31

"Let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me." Paul: "I die **daily**." Every day a fresh surrender.

James 2:17, 19, 26

"Faith, if it hath not works, is **dead**, being alone." "**The devils also believe**, and tremble." "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead."

1 John 2:3–6 · 1:6–7

"Hereby we do know that we know him, if we **keep his commandments**... he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to **walk, even as he walked**." "If we walk in the light... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us."

Hebrews 12:14

"Follow peace with all men, and **holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord**."

Matthew 24:13 · Hebrews 3:14

"He that shall **endure unto the end**, the same shall be saved" — "if we hold the beginning of our confidence **stedfast unto the end**."

Jeremiah 31:33 · Ezekiel 36:26–27 · Hebrews 8:10

The new covenant writes God's law **on the heart** — "I will put my spirit within you, and **cause you to walk** in my statutes." Obedience from within, not abolition.

Revelation 14:12 · Philippians 2:12–13

The saints: "they that **keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus**." "Work out your own salvation... **for it is God which worketh in you**."

Also: Jn 15:6, 10 · 8:31–32 · 2 Co 13:5 — examine yourselves · Col 1:22–23; 2:6–7 · Gal 5:6 — "faith which worketh by love" · 5:22–23 — the fruit of the Spirit · Lam 3:22–23 — mercies new every morning · 2 Pe 3:18; 1:5–10 — grow in grace · 1 Co 9:27 · Php 3:13–14 · 1 Co 1:30 — Christ our righteousness and sanctification. **The OT pattern is identical:** Enoch "walked with God" (Gen 5:24); Noah "walked with God" (Gen 6:9); "walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen 17:1); "walk humbly with thy God" (Mic 6:8); Deut 10:12; 13:4; Ps 1:1; 119:1–3; Amos 3:3. **The balance of Scripture:** justified by faith alone (Rom 5:1); sanctified through an abiding, daily walk (Jn 15:5).

XIV The State of the Dead *death is a sleep — no one is in heaven or hell now*

The Bible calls death "**sleep**" **over 50 times** — and ~36 times records that kings, good and bad alike, "slept with his fathers" (1–2 Kings, 2 Chronicles). The dead are unconscious, awaiting the resurrection. **No one** has ascended to heaven except Christ.

Ecclesiastes 9:5–6, 10 <i>"The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing... their love, their hatred, and their envy, is now perished... no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave."</i>	Job 14:10–12, 21 <i>"Man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep... His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not."</i>
Psalms 6:5 · 115:17 · 146:4 <i>"In death there is no remembrance of thee" — "The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence" — "in that very day his thoughts perish."</i>	John 3:13 · Acts 2:29, 34 <i>"No man hath ascended up to heaven but he that came down" — and David "is both dead and buried... is not ascended into the heavens" — spoken weeks after Christ's resurrection.</i>
Daniel 12:2, 13 <i>"Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake" — at the resurrection, not at death. "Thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."</i>	John 11:11–14, 24 · 6:39–40, 44, 54 <i>"Our friend Lazarus sleepeth... 'Lazarus is dead.'" Martha knew: "he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Four times Jesus repeats: "I will raise him up at the last day."</i>
1 Corinthians 15:17–18 · 1 Thessalonians 4:13–16 <i>If there is no resurrection, "they which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" — Paul's logic only works if the dead are not already alive somewhere. "The dead in Christ shall rise first" — when the Lord descends.</i>	Hebrews 11:13, 39–40 <i>Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses — "these all died in faith, not having received the promises... that they without us should not be made perfect." The heroes are still waiting — with us.</i>

Also: Ps 30:9; 88:10–12 ("the land of forgetfulness") · 104:29 · Isa 38:18–19 · Job 3:13, 17–19; 7:21 · Gen 2:7 — man *became* a soul · Ezk 18:4, 20 — "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" · 1 Tim 6:16 — God "only hath immortality" · Heb 9:27 — judgment is *after* death · Rev 22:12 — rewards come **with him** · 2 Tim 4:1 · Jn 5:28–29 — "all that are in the graves shall hear his voice" · Acts 7:60; 13:36 · Mt 27:52 · Rev 14:13 · 1 Co 15:51. **Why this doctrine is precious:** the dead are at peace — not suffering, not wandering. And every "message from the dead" is a deception (see Section XVIII). The Christian's hope is the **resurrection**: "I am the resurrection, and the life" (Jn 11:25).

XV The End of the Wicked — Destruction, Not Eternal Burning

The wages of sin is **death** — not eternal life in agony. The fire of God's judgment **consumes**; it does not preserve. Immortality belongs to God alone and is gifted to the redeemed — never said to be possessed by the lost.

Romans 6:23 <i>"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life." Two outcomes — never two kinds of eternal life.</i>	Malachi 4:1, 3 <i>"The day cometh, that shall burn as an oven... and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD... that it shall leave them neither root nor branch... ashes under the soles of your feet."</i>
Psalms 37:9–10, 20 <i>"The wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be... into smoke shall they consume away."</i>	Matthew 10:28 · Obadiah 16 <i>"Fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." The wicked "shall be as though they had not been."</i>
Ezekiel 28:18–19 <i>Even Satan himself: "I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth... and never shalt thou be any more." The originator of sin is annihilated — not preserved.</i>	2 Thessalonians 1:9 · Nahum 1:9 <i>"Punished with everlasting destruction" — destruction whose results are everlasting. "Affliction shall not rise up the second time."</i>
Revelation 20:14 · 21:8 <i>"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Even Death itself dies there. The wicked's part "is the second death."</i>	Jude 7 · 2 Peter 2:6 <i>Sodom suffered "the vengeance of eternal fire" — and is now ashes, "an ensample" of what will happen to the ungodly. Eternal in result, not in process.</i>

The hard phrases explained: "Unquenchable fire" (Mt 3:12; Jer 17:27) = no one can put it out until its work is done — Jerusalem burned "unquenched" and is not burning today. "Their worm shall not die" (Isa 66:24) is spoken over **dead bodies** — corpses fully consumed. "Everlasting punishment" (Mt 25:46) = a permanent sentence of death. The tares and chaff are "burned up" (Mt 13:30, 40). The same fire renews the earth (2 Pe 3:10–13). **More:** Ps 68:2; 145:20 · Pr 10:25; 11:10; 2:22 · Isa 1:28; 41:11–12; 33:14 · Rev 20:9 — fire "devoured them" · 1 Co 15:26. **God's character:** "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked" (Ezk 33:11; 18:23, 32); "he doth not afflict willingly" (Lam 3:33); "neither will he keep his anger for ever" (Ps 103:8–9); destruction is his "strange work" (Isa 28:21); "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8); "he delighteth in mercy" (Mic 7:18). In the new earth there is no torture chamber anywhere — "no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying" (Rev 21:4).

PART V — THE SECOND COMING AND LAST-DAY PROPHECY

XVI Daniel 2 and 7 — The Prophetic Framework of History

God wrote history before it happened. Six centuries before Christ, Daniel saw the exact succession of world empires — Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and divided Europe — down to God's eternal kingdom. Prophecy this precise proves the Bible is true — and it identifies the very power that would later change God's law.

Daniel 2:31–35

A great image: **head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, feet part of iron and part of clay**. Then a **"stone was cut out without hands"** destroyed it and **"became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."**

Daniel 2:41–44

"The kingdom shall be **divided**... they shall **mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another**. And in the days of these kings shall the **God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed**."

Daniel 7:8, 24–25

The **little horn** arising from Rome uproots three kingdoms, **"shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints... and think to change times and laws"** — for "a time and times and the dividing of time" (1,260 prophetic days = years).

Numbers 14:34 · Ezekiel 4:6

The day-for-a-year key: "each day for a year." The 1,260 "days" of the little horn = 1,260 years (AD 538–1798).

Daniel 2:38–40

"Thou art this head of gold" [BABYLON] — "after thee shall arise another kingdom" [MEDO-PERSIA] — "a third kingdom of brass" [GREECE] — "the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron" [ROME]. The Bible interprets itself.

Daniel 7:2–7, 17, 23

Four beasts = the same four kingdoms (the angel says so): a **lion** [Babylon], a **bear** [Medo-Persia], a **leopard** [Greece], and a dreadful beast with **ten horns** [Rome and its ten divisions].

Daniel 7:9–10, 22, 27

After the little horn: **"the judgment was set, and the books were opened"** — **"judgment was given to the saints"** — and the kingdom **"shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High."** God's side wins.

Isaiah 46:9–10 · John 14:29

"I am God... **declaring the end from the beginning**." Jesus: "Now I have told you before it come to pass, that, **when it is come to pass, ye might believe**."

Why this matters to you: The only commandment that is both a **time** and a **law** is the **fourth** — the Sabbath. Daniel 7:25 foretold the very power that would attempt the change (see Section XXIV). Six hundred years of history, foretold in exact order, with no fifth world empire and no reunified Rome — fulfilled precisely. Because Daniel's prophecies have been fulfilled with pinpoint accuracy, we can trust what remains: the judgment now underway in heaven, the second coming of the Stone, and the everlasting kingdom that "shall never be destroyed."

XVII One Visible Return — Why There Is No Secret Rapture *"every eye shall see him"*

Christ returns **once** — loudly, visibly, gloriously. The gathering of the elect happens **after** the tribulation, at the **last** trumpet, on the **last day**. Scripture knows nothing of a secret removal years earlier.

Revelation 1:7 · Matthew 24:27, 30

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**." "As the **lightning** cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Matthew 24:29–31 · 21–22

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days... he shall gather together his elect." The days are shortened **"for the elect's sake"** — the elect are present in it, not raptured before it.

Hebrews 9:28 · Acts 1:11

"He shall appear **the second time**" — not a second and a third. He returns **"in like manner** as ye have seen him go" — visible, bodily, in clouds.

John 17:15 · Acts 14:22 · Isaiah 43:2

"I pray **not** that thou shouldest take them **out of the world**." "We must through **much tribulation** enter into the kingdom." "When thou **passest through** the waters, I will be with thee."

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the **voice of the archangel**, and with the **trump of God**: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." The loudest event in history.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–3, 8

"Our gathering together unto him" shall **not** come "except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed" — whom the Lord destroys with "the brightness of his coming" at the **same** coming.

1 Corinthians 15:52 · John 6:39–40, 44, 54

"At the **last trump**" — no trumpets follow it. Raised "at the **last day**" — four times repeated by Jesus.

Matthew 24:37–39 · Luke 17:37

"As the days of Noe were... the flood came, and **took them all away**." Who was taken? The **wicked** — in judgment. Noah was **left**. "One taken, one left" follows that pattern: "whosoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered."

Also: Mt 24:23–26 — "Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not" · 2 Pe 3:10 — the "thief" arrives unexpectedly, but with "a great noise" and melting elements · Rev 7:14 — saints "came out of great tribulation" · Rev 13:7, 10; Dan 7:21–22, 25 — the Antichrist wars *against* the saints, who are present · Mt 13:30, 41–43, 49 — the tares are gathered **first** · 1 Th 4:17; Zech 14:5; Jude 14 — he comes *with* his saints · Rev 16:15 — "I come as a thief" is spoken *during* the plagues. **Why this matters now:** a church expecting to be whisked away before trouble will not prepare for it. The promise is not escape — it is his presence through the storm, and deliverance at his glorious appearing (Jn 16:33; Dan 12:1). The secret pre-tribulation rapture was unknown to the church for nearly 1,800 years; it arose in the 1830s.

XVIII Recognizing His Coming — and Not Being Deceived

Jesus' first end-time warning was about **deception** (Mt 24:4). Counterfeit comings will be religious, spectacular, and backed by real miracles. The defense: **know the Scriptures — and know the manner of his return**.

Matthew 24:4–5, 24–26

"Take heed that **no man deceive you**." False christs "shall shew **great signs and wonders**; inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." "Behold, he is in the secret chambers; **believe it not**."

1 Thessalonians 4:17 · Zechariah 14:4

We meet the Lord **"in the air"** — his feet do **not touch the earth** until he returns with the saints after the 1,000 years. **Anyone walking the earth claiming to be Christ is a counterfeit — full stop**.

Isaiah 8:20

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, **it is because there is no light in them.**"

1 John 4:1 · 1 Thessalonians 5:21

"Believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits** whether they are of God." "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

Matthew 24:31 · Revelation 1:7

The real return: **every eye sees him**, angels **gather the elect** "from the four winds," the trumpet sounds — global, simultaneous, unmistakable.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 · Revelation 13:13–14

Satan's agent comes "with all power and **signs and lying wonders**" — even "**fire come down from heaven.**" Miracles are not proof of truth; those who refuse "the love of the truth" receive "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

Acts 17:11 · Galatians 1:8–9

The Bereans "**searched the scriptures daily**" — even checking an apostle. "Though we, or **an angel from heaven**, preach any other gospel... let him be accursed." Light, glory, and miracles never outrank the written Word.

Matthew 24:25 · 2 Corinthians 11:13–15

"Behold, **I have told you before.**" "Satan himself is transformed into an **angel of light.**"

The checklist that never fails: His coming is audible (shout, archangel's voice, trump of God — 1 Th 4:16) · visible to all (lightning — Mt 24:27) · raises the righteous dead (1 Th 4:16; 1 Co 15:52) · transforms the living (1 Co 15:51–54) · slays the wicked by his brightness (2 Th 2:8; Rev 19:21; 6:15–17) · gathers the saints **into the air** (1 Th 4:17). Miss any element — it isn't him. **Watch and be ready:** Mt 24:42–44; 25:13 · Lk 21:34–36 · 1 Th 5:4–6 · Rev 16:15; 3:3. **Also:** 1 Jn 2:18 · 2 Ti 3:1–5; 4:3–4 · 1 Ti 4:1 · 2 Pe 1:19 · Rev 16:13–14; 19:20 — the deception will be religious, spectacular, and nearly irresistible.

XIX The Millennium — the 1,000 Years of Revelation 20

Scripture's own sequence — eight steps, Bible alone. The key anchor is **Revelation 20:1–15**; every other passage fits its framework.

1 · Christ returns — the first resurrection. Trump, shout, archangel's voice; the dead in Christ rise; living saints are changed and caught up to meet him *in the air* (1 Th 4:16–17; 1 Co 15:51–54). He takes them to the Father's house: "that **where I am, there ye may be also**" (Jn 14:2–3; Php 3:20–21; Jn 17:24). "This is the **first resurrection**... on such the second death hath no power" (Rev 20:4–6; Jn 5:28–29; Dan 12:2).

3 · The earth lies desolate. "Without form, and void... the heavens, and they had no light... **no man**... all the cities thereof were broken down... yet will I not make a full end" (Jer 4:23–27); "the land shall be utterly emptied" (Isa 24:1–3); rebels "gathered in the pit... shut up in the prison, and **after many days shall they be visited**" (Isa 24:21–22). Ruined, unoccupied — awaiting renewal.

5 · The saints reign in heaven — and review the books. "Thrones, and they sat upon them, and **judgment was given unto them**" (Rev 20:4). "The saints shall **judge the world**... we shall **judge angels**" (1 Co 6:2–3). "The judgment was set, and **the books were opened**" (Dan 7:10, 22, 26–27). "To execute upon them the **judgment written**: this honour have all his saints" (Ps 149:5–9; Mt 19:28; Lk 22:29–30; Rev 3:21). Every hidden thing is brought to light (1 Co 4:5; Ecc 12:14) — every question about God's justice answered before the final sentence falls (Ps 51:4).

7 · The Great White Throne — then fire. "The dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened**" — all judged by the record (Rev 20:11–13). Before the end, **every knee bows** — even the lost, even Satan (Php 2:10–11; Isa 45:23; Ro 14:10–11). "Fire came down from God out of heaven, and **devoured them**" (Rev 20:9). Death and hell are cast in — "this is the **second death**" (Rev 20:14–15; 21:8). The wicked become "ashes under the soles of your feet" (Mal 4:1–3); Satan is "no more" (Ezk 28:18–19); "affliction shall not rise up the second time" (Nah 1:9).

2 · The wicked — all of them — are dead. The living wicked are slain by his brightness (2 Th 2:8; 1:7–9; Rev 19:21; 6:15–17). "The slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even unto the other... they shall **not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried**" (Jer 25:33) — no one is left alive to bury them. As in Noah's flood and Lot's fire, it "destroyed them **all**" (Lk 17:26–30). "The rest of the dead lived **not** again until the thousand years were finished" (Rev 20:5).

4 · Satan is bound 1,000 years. Cast into the "bottomless pit" (Greek *abussos* — the word the Greek OT uses for the "deep" of Gen 1:2): the empty, ruined earth itself. He can "deceive the nations **no more**, till the thousand years should be fulfilled" (Rev 20:1–3) — there is no one alive to tempt. Fallen Lucifer is left amid the "wilderness" he made, an object of solemn reflection: "Is this the man that made the earth to tremble?" (Isa 14:15–17; cf. Jude 6; 2 Pe 2:4).

6 · The 1,000 years end. "The rest of the dead" — the wicked of all ages — are raised; Satan is "loosed," with subjects once more (Rev 20:5, 7). The New Jerusalem descends (Rev 21:2, 10). Now — at last — Christ's feet touch the Mount of Olives, splitting it into a great plain, "and the LORD my God shall come, and **all the saints with thee**" (Zech 14:4–5, 9). Satan launches history's final deception: "Gog and Magog," to gather them to battle, surrounding "the camp of the saints... and the beloved city" (Rev 20:8–9).

8 · The earth made new — God dwells with us. The same fire purifies the planet: "the elements shall melt... nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness**" (2 Pe 3:10–13). "No more death, neither sorrow, nor crying... Behold, I make all things new" (Rev 21:1–5). The meek inherit **the earth** (Mt 5:5; Ps 37:11, 29); the saints reign on it forever (Rev 5:10; 22:3–5; Dan 7:27) — and "from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me" (Isa 66:22–23; 65:17, 21–22).

The millennium in one sentence: Christ comes; the righteous rise and reign with him in heaven for 1,000 years reviewing the records; the earth lies empty with Satan bound; then the city descends, the wicked rise, every knee bows, fire devours sin and sinners forever — and God makes the earth new, his home with us, eternally.

XX The New Earth and the New Jerusalem — Where the Story Ends

The Bible does not end with destruction — it ends with **restoration**. After the fire cleanses, God makes all things new: a real earth, a real city, real bodies, no more death. And God himself moves in. This is the hope toward which every page of Scripture points.

Revelation 21:1–5

"I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**... And God shall **wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying**... **Behold, I make all things new.**"

Matthew 5:5 · Psalm 37:11, 29

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall **inherit the earth.**" "The righteous shall inherit the land, and **dwell therein for ever.**" Heaven's reward is a renewed earth, not a ghostly cloud.

Revelation 21:2–3, 10

"I John saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem, coming down from God**... Behold, the **tabernacle of God is with men**, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people."

Revelation 22:1–5

"The **river of water of life**... the **tree of life**... And there shall be no more curse... they shall **see his face**... and they shall **reign for ever and ever**."

Isaiah 65:17, 21–22

"Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth." "They shall build houses, and inhabit them... plant vineyards, and eat the fruit... mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." Real, joyful, physical life.

Nahum 1:9 · Isaiah 66:22–23

"Affliction shall **not rise up the second time**" — sin will never return. "From one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me."

1 Corinthians 2:9 · John 14:2–3

"**Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard**... the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." "I go to prepare a place for you."

Romans 8:18 · 2 Corinthians 4:17

"The sufferings of this present time are **not worthy to be compared** with the glory which shall be revealed in us" — "a far more exceeding and **eternal weight of glory**."

Also: 2 Pe 3:13 · Isa 65:17; 11:6–9; 35:1–10 · Rev 21:22–27 — no temple, no night · 22:14 — "blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life" · Ps 16:11 · Dan 12:3 — shine "as the stars for ever and ever" · Heb 11:16 — "he hath prepared for them a city." **The end of the story:** God does not abandon the earth — he renews it and moves in. Eden is restored, but better: no serpent, no tree of testing, no possibility of a second fall. Every tear wiped away. This is the home he is preparing for you (Jn 14:2–3).

PART VI — THE FINAL WARNING AND APPEAL

XXI The Three Angels' Messages — God's Last Call to the World

Just before Jesus returns, God sends his final message to every person on earth — carried by three angels of Revelation 14. It is the everlasting gospel wrapped in an urgent, end-time warning: worship the Creator, flee Babylon, refuse the mark of the beast.

1st Angel — Revelation 14:6–7

"Having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth... Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters**." (A direct echo of the 4th commandment, Ex 20:11 — a call back to the Creator and his Sabbath.)

2nd Angel — Revelation 14:8 · 18:4

"**Babylon is fallen, is fallen**, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." "**Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

3rd Angel — Revelation 14:9–11

"If any man **worship the beast and his image**, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall **drink of the wine of the wrath of God**..." — the most solemn warning in all Scripture.

The Saints — Revelation 14:12

"Here is the **patience of the saints**: here are they that **keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus**."

The Harvest — Revelation 14:14–16

"I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat **like unto the Son of man**... and he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and **the earth was reaped**." The three messages run directly into the Second Coming.

Matthew 24:14

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and **then shall the end come**."

The final choice framed: The whole controversy comes down to **worship**. Will you worship the Creator — on the day he blessed — receiving his seal? Or worship the beast's system — receiving its mark? The three angels are God's mercy, sounding the alarm *before* it's too late. "The hour of his judgment is come." **What is Babylon?** In prophecy, Babylon is the system of false worship and spiritual confusion that opposes God's truth (Dan 7:25; Rev 13). God's people are called **out** of every tradition that contradicts his Word (Rev 18:2–4).

XXII The Seal of God and the Mark of the Beast

The end-time crisis divides all humanity into two groups: those who receive the **seal of God** and those who receive the **mark of the beast**. The Bible tells us exactly what each is — and the issue at the center is the authority of God's law versus the commandments of men.

Revelation 7:2–4

"Having the **seal of the living God**... Hurt not the earth... till we have **sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads**." God's people are marked for protection before the final winds blow.

Exodus 31:13, 17 · Ezekiel 20:12, 20

"Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for **it is a sign between me and you**... a **sign between me and the children of Israel for ever**."

What is a seal?

A royal seal bears the ruler's **name, title, and territory**. God's law contains his seal in the **fourth commandment**: name (the LORD), title (Creator — "made"), territory (heaven and earth) (Ex 20:8–11). The Sabbath is God's sign/seal of authority.

Revelation 13:16–17

"He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a **mark** in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that **no man might buy or sell**, save he that had the mark."

Daniel 7:25 · Romans 6:16

*The beast-power would "**think to change times and laws**" — the counterfeit to God's Sabbath sign. "To whom ye **yield yourselves servants to obey**, his servants ye are." The mark is about whom you obey.*

Ephesians 1:13 · 4:30 · 2 Timothy 2:19

*"After that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise." "Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed**." "Having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his**."*

Revelation 14:9–12 · 22:4

*Two allegiances: worship the beast and receive his mark — OR "**keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus**" and bear **his** name "in their foreheads." No neutral ground.*

Forehead vs. hand

*The **forehead** = the mind (conviction, belief — Deut 6:6–8; Rom 7:25). The **hand** = actions (going along to be able to buy/sell, without conviction). One is deceived; the other coerced.*

Also: Ezk 9:4–6 — a mark on those who sigh for the abominations · Rev 13:8 — all worship the beast whose names are not in the book of life · Rev 18:4 — "Come out of her, my people." **The issue is allegiance, settled by worship.** God's seal and the beast's mark are rival signs of authority — the Creator's Sabbath versus a man-made substitute. When enforced by law (the "buy or sell" decree), the choice will reveal every heart. Choose now whom you will serve: "the seal of the living God" — or the mark of the beast.

XXIII The Remnant Church — God's Last-Day People

God has always preserved a faithful few. In the last days, the Bible identifies his end-time people — the "remnant" — by two unmistakable marks. Satan's final war is aimed directly at them.

Revelation 12:17

*"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the **remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ**."*

Two marks

*God's last-day people (1) keep **all** the commandments — **including the fourth, the Sabbath** — and (2) hold the faith/testimony of Jesus. This is exactly why the dragon makes war on them.*

Romans 11:5 · 9:27 · 1 Kings 19:18

*"At this present time also there is a **remnant according to the election of grace**." "A remnant shall be saved." In Elijah's day, "seven thousand" knees had not bowed to Baal.*

John 10:16, 27

*"Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring... and there shall be **one fold, and one shepherd**." "My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me."*

Revelation 14:12

*"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that **keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus**."*

Revelation 19:10

*"For the **testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**."*

Revelation 18:4 · 2 Corinthians 6:17

*"**Come out of her, my people...**" — "**come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you**."*

Revelation 12:11

*"And they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb**, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

Also: Zeph 3:13 · Isa 1:9; 10:20–22; 37:31–32 — God has always kept a remnant. **The call:** the remnant is not a denomination to join but a **people to become** — those who hear God's voice in his Word and follow it all the way, out of every tradition that contradicts it. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (Jn 10:27). If you commit to obeying **all** of God's Word — including the Sabbath — expect the dragon's opposition. And expect God's deliverance. Will you be counted among them?

XXIV The History of Sunday Laws — From Constantine to Today *man's day, by decree — never by Scripture*

How the day of man replaced the day of God — by imperial decree, church council, colonial statute, and Supreme Court ruling. Daniel foresaw it: a power would "think to **change times and laws**" (Dan 7:25) — the Sabbath is the only commandment that is both a time and a law.

AD 321 Constantine's civil decree (March 7; Cod. Just. 3.12.3): "On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed." A pagan title — no mention of Christ, the resurrection, or the 4th Commandment (historian Philip Schaff). Constantine was Pontifex Maximus, kept Sol Invictus on his coins, and was baptized only on his deathbed (337); the next day he issued a decree about pagan diviners. Civil rest came first.

1610–1700s Colonial "blue laws." Virginia, 1610: mandatory church attendance — fines, whipping, even death on the statute books. All thirteen colonies had Sunday laws by the Revolution, modeled on England's 1677 law "for the better observation... of the Lord's day." Massachusetts Bay, 1648: "Whoever shall profane the Lord's Day by doing any servill worke should be fined or whipped."

1961 McGowan v. Maryland — the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Sunday closing laws as constitutional, reframed as a secular "uniform day of rest." Orthodox Jews forced to close Saturday (religion) and Sunday (law) lost — an "indirect burden" (*Braunfeld v. Brown*). Justice Douglas dissented: "A legislature of Christians can no more make minorities conform to their weekly regime than a legislature of Moslems." The precedent stands today.

c. 364 Council of Laodicea, Canon 29 — the religious mandate: "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day... If any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ." Constantine gave the civil law; Laodicea made Sabbath-keeping heresy.

1800s–1900s Peak coverage & enforcement. Nearly every state banned Sunday labor, commerce, alcohol, travel, and amusements; a postmaster was expelled from his church in 1808 for Sunday mail delivery (Sunday mail ended 1912). Early 1900s: stores closed, no sports, no unnecessary travel. Justice Field (1896) praised the weekly rest as "essential to the physical and moral well-being of society."

Today About 28 states retain blue-law remnants: Sunday alcohol restrictions (~12 states), car-sales bans (~13 states), hunting bans (ME, MA), and Bergen County, NJ still closes most retail on Sunday. The legal machinery never left the books — it only slept. Jan 8, 2026: the Heritage Foundation's "Saving America by Saving the Family" (Special Report 323) calls for restoring blue laws as a "uniform day of rest", explicitly citing McGowan and calling the 28 states a "legal reservoir" to "protect and expand." Jan 18, 2026: the SDA Church (NAD) warned it is "a dangerous desire to use state power to advance religious objectives."

Why watch this — the prophetic frame: a second beast rises with "two horns like a lamb" (gentle, Christian-looking) but "spake as a dragon," and it "causeth the earth... to worship the first beast" (Rev 13:11–12); an "image" of the beast is made, and dissenters cannot "buy or sell" unless they receive the mark (Rev 13:15–17) — economic enforcement of a worship-decree. The final contest is worship: "**Worship him that made heaven and earth**" (Rev 14:7 — the 4th Commandment's own words) versus the mark of the beast (Rev 14:9–12). **The pattern of history:** civil rest law (321) → church mandate (364) → penalties for dissenters → colonial and state enforcement (1610–1961) → dormancy → and now, in 2026, a mainstream call to restore a "uniform day of rest" on a legal foundation that was never overturned. The question is never whether the weekly rest is a blessing — it is **which day God blessed**, and whether the state may enforce the one tradition substituted.

XXV The Signs of the Times — the Fig Tree Is Budding

Jesus rebuked those who could read the weather but not the times (Mt 16:2–3), then gave the rule of the fig tree: not *one* sign — **all of them, together**. "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even **at the doors**" (Mt 24:32–33).

Wars & rumors of wars (Mt 24:6–7) — 65 state-based conflicts in 2025, the **most since WWII**; interstate wars **doubled** in one year (8) — most since records began in 1946; ~244,600 killed, the most since 1994 (UCDP). Russia–Ukraine, US–Israel–Iran, Red Sea, India–Pakistan, Sudan.

Earthquakes & disasters (Mt 24:7; Lk 21:25) — disaster events **doubled**: 14,348 in 2020–24 vs. 5,664 the prior five years; \$8.65 trillion in losses since 2000. 2025: Myanmar 7.7 quake (~4,500 dead), record Hurricane Melissa, the costliest wildfires in world history (LA, \$53–61B), ~24,400 dead in Europe's heatwave; people needing aid rose 192M → **433M** in five years.

Pestilences (Lk 21:11) — COVID-19, the century's worst pandemic; mpox emergencies; H5N1 spreading into mammals; WHO warns antimicrobial resistance could kill 10 million per year by 2050.

Moral collapse (2 Tim 3:1–5; Mt 24:12) — since 2001, moral acceptance of out-of-wedlock birth +22 pts; 55% of Americans say right and wrong "depend on the situation," 68% say morality needs no God (Pew); a violent crime every 25.9 seconds (FBI, 2024). "Lovers of self... without self-control... lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God."

Apostasy & deception (2 Th 2:3, 9; 2 Ti 4:3–4) — Christianity fell from 78% to 63% of U.S. adults; "nones" nearly doubled to 29% (Pew). A "form of godliness" without power (2 Tim 3:5); strong delusion for those who refuse "the love of the truth."

"No man might buy or sell" (Rev 13:17) — ~130 nations, 98% of global GDP, are exploring **CBDCs** (IMF) — programmable money that can restrict what you buy; digital ID + AI financial surveillance advancing. For 1,900 years this text read as impossible. **Today it is feasible for the first time in history.**

Knowledge & the gospel to all nations (Dan 12:4; Mt 24:14) — "knowledge shall increase": instant global communication, travel, AI; the Bible now reaches virtually every nation and language. "Then shall the end come."

Scoffers & a Sunday-law revival (2 Pe 3:3–4; Rev 13:11–17) — "All things continue as they were," they mock. Meanwhile the call for a legislated common "day of rest" has re-entered mainstream policy — see Section XXIV.

The fig tree is budding. Not one sign, but all of them — war on a scale not seen since 1945, disasters doubling, morals in free-fall, faith draining from the West, technology that can enforce economic worship-decisions, and Sunday-rest legislation returning to serious political conversation — appearing **simultaneously**, exactly as Jesus framed it. **Jesus' own conclusion:** "When these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Lk 21:28). "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Th 5:4). The wise shall understand (Dan 12:10).

XXVI Baptism — The Call to Commitment

If God's Word has convicted you, Scripture tells you exactly what to do next. Baptism by immersion is the God-ordained response of faith — your public burial of the old life and resurrection to a new one in Christ.

Romans 6:3–4
*"We are **buried with him by baptism** into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life.**"*

Colossians 2:12 · Galatians 3:27
*"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him." "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**"*

Mark 1:9–10 · Acts 8:38–39
*Jesus was baptized "**in Jordan**" and came "**up out of the water.**" Philip and the eunuch "went down **both into the water**" and came "up out of the water." Immersion — baptizō means "to immerse, submerge."*

John 3:23 · Matthew 3:16
*John baptized in Aenon "**because there was much water there.**" Baptism is a burial (Ro 6:4) — a body isn't buried by sprinkling a little dirt on it. Immersion alone pictures the watery grave and the rising to new life.*

Acts 2:38 · Mark 16:16 · Matthew 28:19
*"Repent, and be baptized every one of you... for the remission of sins." "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.**" "**Teach** all nations, baptizing them." Instruction, belief, and repentance come first.*

Why not infant baptism?
*Baptism requires **belief, repentance, and instruction** (Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; Mt 28:19) — none of which an infant can do. It is a command to be obeyed by the one baptized, not a blessing received by proxy. Every NT baptism is of one who **heard, believed, and repented.** There is no command and no clear example of infant baptism anywhere in Scripture.*

Matthew 3:13–15 · 1 Peter 2:21
*Jesus was baptized as our example, "to **fulfil all righteousness**" — "leaving us an example, that ye should **follow his steps.**"*

1 Peter 3:21 · Ephesians 2:8–9
*The water itself doesn't save: baptism is "not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but **the answer of a good conscience toward God.**" "**By grace are ye saved through faith... not of works.**"*

Also: Ro 6:6, 11 · 1 Co 12:13 — "baptized into one body" · Titus 3:5 · Eph 4:5 — "one baptism" · Mt 28:19–20 — Jesus commanded it · Lk 23:43 — the thief saved without baptism (the water doesn't save) · Acts 10:44–48 — Cornelius received the Spirit *before* baptism · 1 Co 1:17. **The consistent pattern in Acts:** hear, believe, repent, be baptized by immersion — Acts 2:41 (3,000 at Pentecost) · 8:12 (Samaritans, "men and women") · 8:36–39 (the eunuch) · 16:14–15 (Lydia) · 16:30–33 (the jailer, "straightway") · 18:8 (Corinthians) · 19:3–5 (re-baptized when taught correctly) · 9:18; 22:16 (Paul). "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

XXVII The Narrow Gate Is Attainable — Everlasting Life Awaits

*"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction... Because **strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**"*

— **Matthew 7:13–14**

The gate is narrow — but it is **not locked**. "Strive to enter" (Lk 13:24), yes — but the striving is not earning. It is the daily choice to stay attached to the One who is himself the door. His yoke is easy and his burden is light — because **he carries it with you**.

John 10:9

*"I am the door: **by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**" Narrow — but not locked.*

Matthew 11:28–30

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest... my yoke is **easy**, and my burden is **light**" — because he carries it with you.*

Philippians 4:13 · 1 Corinthians 10:13

*"I can do **all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me." No temptation will come "above that ye are able" — he always makes "a way to escape."*

Isaiah 41:10 · Luke 13:24

*"Fear thou not; for **I am with thee**... I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." "**Strive** to enter in at the strait gate" — earnest daily effort, made possible by his power.*

Luke 9:23 · Philippians 1:6

*Take up the cross **daily** — and "he which hath begun a good work in you **will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ." Not your grip — his promise.*

Lamentations 3:22–23 · 1 John 1:9

*"His compassions fail not. They are **new every morning**." "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins**."*

2 Timothy 4:7–8 · Matthew 25:21

*"I have fought a good fight, **finished my course**, kept the faith" — the crown is "to **all them also that love his appearing**." "**Well done, thou good and faithful servant**... enter thou into the joy of thy lord."*

John 10:27–29 · 1 John 5:13 · Jude 24

*"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall **never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." You may "**know** that ye have eternal life." He is "able to keep you from falling."*

Also: Jn 15:4–5 — "abide in me" · 1 Co 15:31 — "I die daily" · 2 Co 4:16 — "renewed day by day" · Heb 12:1–2 — "run with patience... looking unto Jesus" · Gal 6:9 · Jas 1:12; Rev 2:10 — the crown of life · Mt 24:13 — "endure unto the end." **The reward:** 1 Co 2:9 · Ro 8:18 · 2 Co 4:17 · Ps 16:11 · Dan 12:3 · Rev 22:14, 3–5. **The invitation is open right now:** Rev 3:20 — "I stand at the door, and knock" · Rev 22:17 — "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly.

*Amen. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus.***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

— **Revelation 22:20–21**

PART VII — LIVING THE FAITH

XXVIII Stewardship — Everything Belongs to God

Everything you have — your body, your money, your time, your abilities — belongs to God. You are not an owner but a **steward**, a manager entrusted with his resources. And one day, every steward gives an account. This single truth undergirds the whole Christian life.

Psalms 24:1 · 50:10–12

*"The **earth is the LORD's**, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills."*

Haggai 2:8 · Job 41:11

*"The **silver is mine, and the gold is mine**, saith the LORD of hosts." "Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine."*

1 Corinthians 4:1–2

*"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is **required in stewards, that a man be found faithful**."*

1 Peter 4:10 · Luke 16:10–12

*"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as **good stewards of the manifold grace of God**." "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."*

Matthew 25:21

*The parable of the talents: "**Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.**"*

Romans 14:12 · 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

*"So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God**." "Ye are **not your own**... ye are **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

Also: Ex 19:5 · 1 Chr 29:11, 14 — "of thine own have we given thee" · Lk 12:42–48 — "unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" · Mt 24:45–46 · 1 Co 4:5 · 2 Co 5:10. **The principle that unifies Part VII:** "Ye are not your own — ye are bought with a price." Therefore we glorify God in our **bodies** (health), our **conduct** (behavior), our **homes** (marriage), our **worship** (the ordinances), and our **means** (tithe). Everything we are and have belongs to him — and to him we will give an account.

XXIX The Health Message — Your Body Is His Temple

Your body is not your own — it is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Since God lives in you, caring for your health is a spiritual duty: what you eat, drink, and do either honors or dishonors the One who dwells within.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

*"Know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you... and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body.**"*

3 John 2 · 1 Corinthians 10:31

*"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest **prosper and be in health**, even as thy soul prospereth." "Whether therefore **ye eat, or drink**, or whatsoever ye do, **do all to the glory of God.**"*

Leviticus 11:3, 7, 9 · Deuteronomy 14:3, 8

*Clean land animals **"part the hoof... and chew the cud"**; the swine **"is unclean to you"**; clean fish have **"fins and scales."** "Thou shalt **not eat any abominable thing.**"*

Proverbs 20:1 · 23:31–32

*"**Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging**; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." **"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red...** At the last it **biteth like a serpent.**"*

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 · Romans 12:1

*"Ye are the **temple of God**... If any man defile the temple of God, **him shall God destroy.**" **"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."***

Genesis 7:2 · 1:29

*Noah already knew "clean" from "not clean" — ~1,000 years before any Jew. God's original diet: "every **herb bearing seed**... and every tree" for food.*

Leviticus 11:44–47 · Isaiah 66:17

*"Ye shall be **holy; for I am holy**... to make a **difference between the unclean and the clean.**" At the end, those **"eating swine's flesh**... shall be consumed together."*

Ephesians 5:18 · Romans 14:21

*"Be not **drunk with wine**, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit.**" **"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth."***

Also: Gen 9:3–4 — meat permitted after the Flood but never with **blood** · Lev 3:17 — never the **fat** · Lev 20:25 · Isa 65:4 · Pr 31:4 · Isa 5:11, 22 · Hab 2:15 · 1 Co 6:10 · Gal 5:21 — drunkards excluded from the kingdom. **The principle:** God gave the health laws not to restrict your joy but to preserve your life and mind — for a clear temple houses clear communion with him. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink... do all to the glory of God" (1 Co 10:31). Honor the temple; the Resident within deserves your best.

XXX Christian Behavior — Godly Living in an Ungodly World

The redeemed are a set-apart people. Holiness touches every area — what you wear, what you watch, what you say, how you live. The call is not to blend in, but to be transformed.

Romans 12:2 · 1 John 2:15–17

*"Be **not conformed to this world**: but be ye **transformed by the renewing of your mind.**" **"Love not the world**, neither the things that are in the world."*

Titus 2:11–14 · 1 Peter 2:9

*"Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live **soberly, righteously, and godly... a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**" **"An holy nation, a peculiar people."***

1 Timothy 2:9–10 · 1 Peter 3:3–4

*"Women adorn themselves in **modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety**; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." **"Let it be the hidden man of the heart... a meek and quiet spirit."***

Philippians 4:8

*"Whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are **just**, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**, whatsoever things are **of good report**... **think on these things.**" *The standard for all entertainment and media.**

Psalms 101:3 · 1 Corinthians 15:33

*"I will set **no wicked thing before mine eyes.**" **"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."***

Ephesians 4:29 · Colossians 4:6 · Matthew 12:36

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth."** **"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt."** **"Every idle word... they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

2 Corinthians 7:1 · 1 Peter 1:15–16

*"Let us **cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**" **"Be ye holy in all manner of conversation...** Be ye holy; for I am holy."*

James 4:4 · 2 Corinthians 6:17

"The friendship of the world is enmity with God."** **"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."

Also: Pr 4:23 — "keep thy heart with all diligence" · 2 Co 10:5 — "bringing into captivity every thought" · Col 3:2 — "set your affection on things above" · Eph 5:3–4 · Jas 1:26 — "bridleth not his tongue... this man's religion is vain." **The principle:** the world measures freedom by how much it can indulge; God measures it by how much it can overcome. "Ye are a peculiar people" — not odd for oddness' sake, but distinct because you belong to a holy God. Let your life — your dress, your screen, your speech, your habits — quietly say who your Lord is.

XXXI Marriage and the Family — God's Design

Marriage is God's idea — instituted in Eden, before sin, for one man and one woman for life. It is the most sacred human relationship and a living picture of Christ and his church. And the family is his appointed school for the next generation.

Genesis 2:18, 24

*"It is **not good that the man should be alone**... Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall **cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**"*

Matthew 19:4–6 · Mark 10:9

*"He which made them at the beginning **made them male and female**... **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**"*

Hebrews 13:4 · Proverbs 18:22

"**Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled.**" "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."

Ephesians 5:28, 31–33

"So ought men to love their wives **as their own bodies**... they two shall be one flesh. This is a **great mystery**: but I speak concerning **Christ and the church**. Let every one... love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she **reverence her husband**."

Exodus 20:12 · Ephesians 6:1–4

"**Honour thy father and thy mother.**" "**Children, obey your parents in the Lord**... And, ye fathers, **provoke not your children to wrath**: but bring them up in the **nurture and admonition of the Lord**."

Ephesians 5:22–25

"Wives, **submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord**... Husbands, **love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.**"

1 Peter 3:7

"Ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, **giving honour unto the wife**... as being **heirs together of the grace of life**; that your prayers be not hindered."

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 · Proverbs 22:6

"These words... shalt be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." "**Train up a child in the way he should go**: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Also: Gen 1:27–28 · Mal 2:14–15 — marriage a holy "covenant" · 1 Co 7:2–5 · 13:4–7 — the love marriage requires · Ps 127:3; 128:3–4 · Col 3:20–21 · Pr 13:24; 23:13–14; 29:15, 17 — loving discipline. **The principle:** the same God who blessed the seventh day also blessed the home. A marriage shaped by Ephesians 5 — a husband's self-giving love, a wife's reverent partnership — is the clearest earthly sermon on how Christ loves his church. Build your home on the Word, and it becomes a fortress against the very collapse described in the last days.

XXXII The Lord's Supper and Foot Washing — Ordinances of Humility and Remembrance

On the same night, in the same upper room, Jesus instituted two linked ordinances: the Supper (remembering his death) and foot washing (the ordinance of humility and service). If one is binding, so is the other.

John 13:4–5

"He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and **began to wash the disciples' feet**..."

John 13:14–17

"If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; **ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you**... If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." A command and an example — not merely a custom.

Matthew 26:26–28

"Jesus took bread... and said, Take, eat; **this is my body**. And he took the cup... saying, Drink ye all of it; for **this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins**."

1 Corinthians 11:27–29

"Whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, **unworthily**, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But **let a man examine himself**..."

John 13:8, 10

"If I wash thee not, **thou hast no part with me**." "He that is washed needeth not save to **wash his feet**, but is clean every whit." A picture of ongoing cleansing after baptism.

1 Timothy 5:10 · Luke 22:24–27

Foot washing continued in the early church: "if she have **washed the saints' feet**." Given amid the disciples' strife over who was greatest: "I am among you as **he that serveth**."

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

"Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me**... For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do **shew the Lord's death till he come**."

A memorial, not a re-sacrifice

The bread and cup are **symbols** — "in remembrance of me." Jesus' physical body sat at the table when he said "this is my body," showing he spoke figuratively (as in "I am the door"). The Supper looks backward to his death and forward to his return — "till he come."

Also: Lk 22:19–20 · Jn 6:53–56, 63 — "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" · Php 2:5–8 · 1 Pe 5:5 — "be clothed with humility" · Gal 5:13 — "by love serve one another." **Why both together:** foot washing (Jn 13) and the Supper (Mt 26) were instituted on the same night and belong together — one cleansing our walk in humility toward each other, the other renewing our remembrance of him. To observe one and drop the other is to cut in half what Jesus joined.

XXXIII Tithing and Offerings — Returning God's Own

The tithe — a tenth — is holy and belongs to the LORD. It existed centuries before the law of Moses, was affirmed by Jesus, and supports the work of the gospel. Returning it is not paying God; it is simply giving back what was always his.

Leviticus 27:30, 32

"And all the **tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD**."

Genesis 28:20–22 · Hebrews 7:1–8

Jacob vowed: "of all that thou shalt give me I will surely **give the tenth** unto thee." Abraham's tithe points to Christ's greater priesthood: "**there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth**."

Genesis 14:18–20

Abraham — ~400 years before Moses — paid tithe to **Melchizedek**, "priest of the most high God": "he gave him **tithes of all**."

Matthew 23:23

Jesus upheld tithing while rebuking misplaced priorities: "ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters... **these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone**."

Malachi 3:8–10

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me... In tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse... and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing."

2 Corinthians 9:6–7 · Proverbs 3:9–10

"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly... God loveth a cheerful giver."
"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase."

Also: Lk 11:42; 18:12 · Num 18:21, 24 — the tithe supported the ministry · 1 Co 16:2 — "lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" · Pr 11:24–25 — "the liberal soul shall be made fat." **The principle:** tithing is the practical acknowledgment of the stewardship truth: it all belongs to God. We return a tenth as holy, and give offerings from gratitude — not to buy blessing, but because we already have it. "Prove me now herewith, saith the LORD." No one has ever out-given God.

XXXIV Spiritual Gifts and Ministries — Equipped to Serve

God does not save you and leave you idle. The Holy Spirit gives every believer a gift — not for self-display, but to build up the body of Christ. Many members, one body; many gifts, one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4–7

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." Every gift is for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

"As the body is one, and hath many members... so also is Christ. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." Every member is needed.

Romans 12:4–8

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us — prophecy, ministry [service], teaching, exhortation, giving, ruling, showing mercy — let each serve in his gift."

1 Corinthians 13:1–2 · 2 Timothy 1:6

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity [love], I am become as sounding brass... and have not charity, I am nothing." "Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee."

Also: Ro 12:3 — "think soberly" of yourself · Eph 4:7 — "unto every one of us is given grace." **The principle:** your gift is not for you — it is "to profit withal," for others. Whatever God has placed in your hands — teaching, giving, encouraging, serving, showing mercy — use it. The branch that abides in the Vine does not stay dormant; it bears fruit. "Stir up the gift of God which is in thee."

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away... Behold, I make all things new."

— Revelation 21:4–5

Malachi 3:11–12 · 1 Corinthians 9:13–14

"I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes... And all nations shall call you blessed."
"The Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

Luke 6:38 · Acts 20:35

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

1 Corinthians 12:8–11

"Wisdom... knowledge... faith... healing... miracles... prophecy... discerning of spirits... tongues... interpretation — but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

Ephesians 4:11–13

"He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

1 Peter 4:10–11

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God... that God in all things may be glorified."

Luke 12:48 · 1 Corinthians 12:28

"Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." "God hath set some in the church... helps, governments..."

Questions? Skeptical? Want to examine the evidence further, verse by verse? We would love to hear from you — no pressure, no cost, no obligation. This booklet is condensed from a fuller study covering the Sabbath, the sanctuary, last-day prophecy, and the Christian life — just ask.

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"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." — 1 Thessalonians 5:21 · "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." — John 17:17