

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Revelation 12:11 THEY OVERCAME HIM (ie Satan) BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB (ie Jesus) and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Part 1 of a three part ministry of understanding on...

THE WAY OF SALVATION



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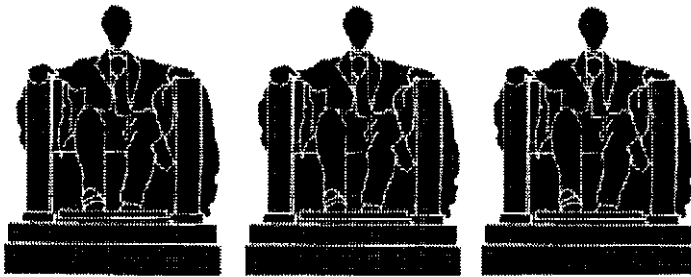
PART 3

Jesus Is Lord

GOD IS REAL ! BUT WHAT IS HE ?

What God is Not !

One person or three people sitting on thrones in Heaven !




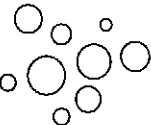

Who God Is - The Mystery of the Godhead.

There is but ONE GOD with ONE NATURE expressed in three different ways :-

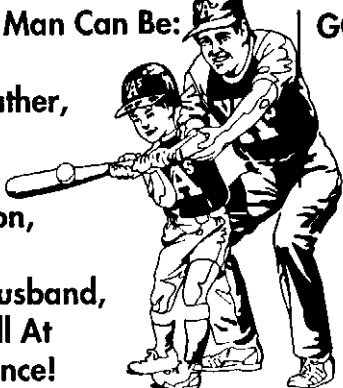
1. **God the Father** - The universal planner and ruler, living in blinding light unable to be seen - [1 Timothy 6:15-16, John 1:18]
Anyone seeing Him directly would die ! [Exodus 33:20]
2. **God the Son** [Jesus Christ] God revealed in human form.
The creator and ruler of the universe. [Colossians 1:15-17, John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2]
3. **God the Holy Spirit.** Our teacher, guide and comforter.
On the Christian walk, He reveals Jesus to us [John 14:26, 16:13-14]

It is untrue that it is 'IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND THE GODHEAD';
As we mature as Christians, the Holy Spirit reveals more of the mystery to us. JESUS IS GOD. The more we understand Jesus, the more we understand GOD. [Matthew 1:23]

ILLUSTRATIONS TO HELP OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD.

 RAIN
 HAIL
 SNOW
3 FORMS OF PRECIPITATION

 The Father (Sun) -source of light.
 The Son (Moon) Reflector of God's light
 The Spirit (Stars) - Distributor of God's light.
3 PARTS OF 1 SKY

A Man Can Be:
 Father,

 Son,
 Husband,
 All At Once!
3 ROLES OF MAN
3 ROLES OF GOD

GOD
 Father (Invisible)
 Son (Visible)
 Spirit (Invisible)
MAN
 Body (Visible)
 Soul (Invisible)
 Spirit (Invisible)
3 PARTS OF 1 MAN
3 PARTS OF 1 GOD

HOW CAN I UNDERSTAND GOD?

What is God?

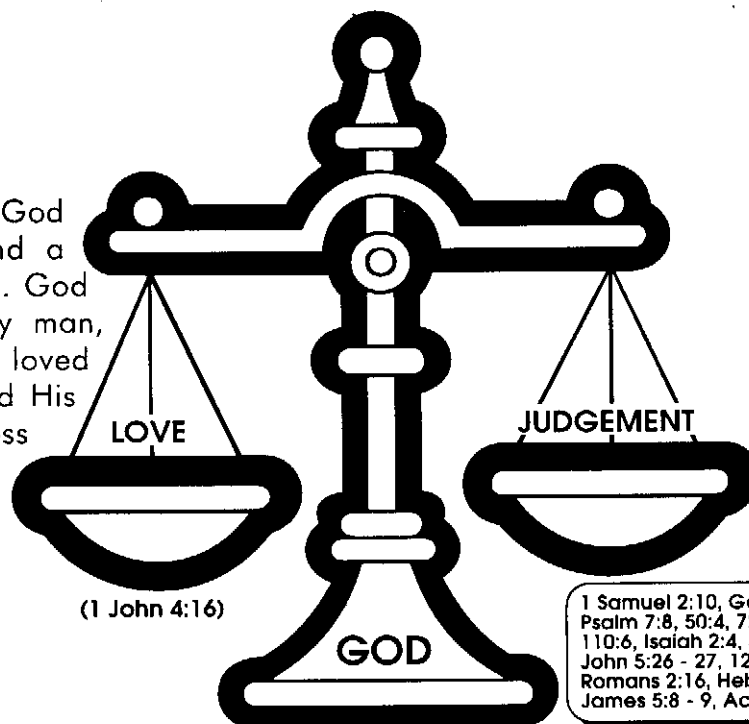
There are three essential areas to understanding what God is:

1. **God is Eternal** - Where did God come from?
He has always been there! 'from everlasting to everlasting' (Psalm 90:1-2)
Our human concept of time makes this difficult for us to understand.
In eternity there is no beginning and no end! (Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, Hebrews 13:8)
2. **God is Infinite** - He knows everything!
Nothing happens that He doesn't know about or allow to happen.
(Jerimiah 23:24, 1 Kings 8:27, Job 37:5 & 23, Psalms 147:5, Isaiah 40:28)
3. **God is a Spirit.**
A living being without a visible form, therefore not subject to decay. Able to be everywhere at once! (John 1:18, John 4:24, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Hebrews 11:27)
Most commonly described as the ultimate source of light and power, far more powerful than the sun! (Isaiah 60:19, Job 29:3, Psalm 43:3, 118:27)

God the Father - The Source of Light
God the Son - The Light of our Path
God the Spirit - The Light Within Us

Gods Nature

Contrary to popular belief God is equally a loving and a judgmental (but just) God. God loved and judged early man, loved and judged Israel, loved mankind enough to send His Son Jesus to die on the cross for us and will finally judge ALL mankind on Judgment Day.
(Revelation 14:7)



The Bible Reveals Gods Love, Judgment, Love, Judgment,...

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEAVENLY ORDER

Factual Speculation

The origin of Angels, Satan, Demons, etc. , and how they all fit into the scheme of things is a subject of much speculation.

Based largely on your interpretation of Isaiah 14:12-17 & Ezekiel 28:1-19, such speculations include:

1. God created the Angels as His servants, with Lucifer at their head.
2. Lucifer possibly ruled over a pre-Adamic creation on earth. (Isaiah 14:13 'My throne', Genesis 1 :28,9:1. KJV 'replenish' i.e 'refill' the earth).
3. Lucifer wanted to become God (sin of pride)
4. Lucifer (now Satan) and the fallen Angels (demons) were thrown out of Heaven to inhabit the earth's atmosphere. (Ephesians 2:2)

Spiritual Certainty

The spiritual implications of the Heavenly order however are quite clear:

1. God wished to create mankind with a free will - free to love Him by choice, not by compulsion, eg.
 - a. A computer or robot cannot love
 - b. A parent cannot force a child to love them - it's the child's choice.
2. To accomplish this, God had to set up a system of alternatives for man, i.e provide the choice of love for God, or sin.
3. God achieved this by setting up Satan as 'Prince of this world' John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11 (world in Greek translates as 'governmental system'.) God controls Satan, but Satan has been given control over the world by God, to enable man to exercise his free will.
4. When Adam and Eve sinned, they committed all future mankind to a life of sin. Direct fellowship of man with God was lost and man was put under Satan's control.
5. God in His great mercy and love, offered a way out - through the death of His Son Jesus, on the cross at Calvary.

The terrible state of the world and the evil things that happen in it are not God's fault, but man's choice. The way back to God is man's choice also.

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

A history of Covenants (Binding agreements) given by God to man, broken by man and renewed by God in a new form. All the covenants point towards the eventual coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as the final perfect sacrifice on our behalf. The covenants (contracts) consist of three parts, the Promise (purpose), the Sacrifice (consideration/cost), and the Seal (sign/ binding signature).

COVENANT NAME	DEALING WITH	THE PROMISE	THE SACRIFICE	THE SEAL (ACTUAL)	THE SEAL (SPIRITUAL)	HOW BROKEN	SOME SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
EDENIC (Genesis 1-2)	Man before sin (fruit eating)	Perfect creation and life. To become like God through obedience by testing	Shedding of Adam's blood to create Eve. (Picture of Jesus)	The perfect union (marriage) between Adam and Eve	Represents the marriage of Christ and His church	By Eve - eating the forbidden fruit	1. Creation 2. Man ruling the earth 3. All nature living in harmony 4. No death 5. No rain
ADAMIC (Genesis 3)	Man after sin (plant eating)	1. Antagonism between the snake & man (Satan and the church) 2. Satan will bruise the woman's seed. (Jesus on the cross) 3. Satan will be crushed by the woman's seed. (Jesus at the end of the age)	God provided clothes (to replace previous spiritual covering) for Adam and Eve out of skins. i.e. Sacrifice of the innocent blood of an animal. (Picture of Jesus)	Participants to suffer: 1. Serpent - Lost it's legs, hated by man 2. Woman - pain in childbirth - submission to her husband. 3. Man - Hard toil to live - death. 4. Earth - Produce weeds.	Picture of : 1. Satan and the church 2. The price of sin. 3. The ultimate price of sin - death. 4. Sinners and saved.	By the wickedness of Man - God regretted He had made Man (Genesis 6:6)	1. Exit from Eden through sin (death) 2. Multiplication of Mankind 3. Division into Godly (Abel & Seth) & ungodly (Cain) groups of people on the earth. 4. One obedient man Enoch, taken to Heaven without first dying 5. All men degenerate except Noah 6. The flood to destroy Mankind.
NOAHIC (Genesis 9)	New race through Noah (meat eating)	Mankind not to be destroyed again by a flood of water. (By a flood of fire at end of age) 2 Peter 3:5-7	A burnt offering. (Picture of Jesus)	The rainbow	The broken (refracted) light, a picture of Jesus broken on the cross for mankind's sins.	Noah getting drunk and being found naked.	1. Deterioration of the new race from Noah back to the pre-flood state of evil. 2. God's chooses Abraham to father a new race separate to the majority
ABRAHAMIC (Genesis 17) C. 2000 BC.	Birth of a Holy Nation	Abraham promised : 1. The land of Israel. 2. To be the father of the Jewish nation.	1. For the land - sacrifice of animals. 2. For the seed (Nation) - Sacrifice of Isaac. (Picture of Jesus)	Circumcision	The setting aside (cutting off the flesh) of the Christian through baptism.	Deterioration of Abraham's descendants.	The Jewish people led into Egypt where they come under the domination and control of the Egyptians for 400 years
MOSAIC (Exodus 3) C 1500 BC.	Giving of the Law	Release of the Jewish nation from Egypt and entry into the Holy Land	The blood of calves and goats. (Picture of Jesus)	The Sabbath (Day of rest)	A picture of our rest in Christ - not just 1 day a week but for the full 7 plus eternity, living by God's guidance - not our own efforts.	Disobedience of the Jews to God's Law	1. The Passover 2. Deliverance from Egypt 3. Giving of the Law 4. Building of Moses' tabernacle 5. Separation of the Levites as priests 6. 40 years wandering in the desert 7. Entry to the Promised Land
DAVIDIC (2 Samuel 7) C. 1000 BC.	Eternal Throne and Dominion	David promised a descendant (Jesus) who would bring Eternal Life.	Solomons self sacrifice. (Chronicles 6:12-18) - (Picture of Jesus)	Continual repetition of day and night (Jeremiah 33:19-22)	A picture of the faithfulness of God & the certainty of His promise of Jesus to make a NEW COVENANT with all mankind.	Disobedience of the Jews to the House of David ending in the death of Jesus on the cross	1. Building of David's tabernacle 2. Building of Solomon's temple 3. Destruction of Solomon's temple & fall of Jerusalem in 586BC 4. Exile of Jews to Babylon 5. Rebuilding of the Temple by a remnant - beginning 536BC 6. Romans take over Israel 63BC 7. Building of Herod's temple 20BC



THE NEW COVENANT **(Latin 'New Testament')**

The Power of 3!

A 3 part covenant (promise, sacrifice and seal) from a triune God (Father, Son and Spirit), to triune man (body, soul and spirit) with a triune soul (mind, emotions and will)

The Promise (from God the Father to man's 3-part soul)

As prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah around 600 years before the birth of Christ! 'This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put the laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people' (Jeremiah 31:33, confirmed in Hebrews 8:10)

a. 'I will put the laws in their minds' (man's mind)

By replacing the outward laws of the 10 Commandments with an internal law, a 'renewed mind' (Romans 12:2) able to discern God's will, in each one of us. (Ephesians 4:21-24)

b. 'and write them on their hearts' (man's emotions)

That we will do God's will because we want to, not because we are meant to, until we reach the stage where Christ is formed in us! (Galatians 4:19)

c. 'I will be their God and they will be my people' (man's will) The restoration to God of a people doing His will by their own choice. This is the ultimate purpose of God's plan for mankind. (Jeremiah 24:7) i.e, re-establishing the relationship with God lost when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. (chose sin over righteousness)

The Sacrifice (by God the Son in place of man's body)

The ultimate sacrifice. God sacrificed himself in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. A single sacrifice made for all mankind, now being the only sacrifice acceptable to God. (Hebrews 9:13-14, 10:9-10)



The Seal (of God the Holy Spirit to replenish man's spirit)

The Holy Spirit of God, promised by the Father through Jesus before his death (John 14:26), again after the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 1:4-5), and finally received on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), as a deposit, guaranteeing our ultimate inheritance of eternal life with God. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

THE POWER OF THE BLOOD

Revelation 12:11 'They overcame him (i.e. Satan) by the Blood of the Lamb (i.e. Jesus)'

In the Bible BLOOD represents LIFE (to obtain blood you must sacrifice a life)

The Basic Principles of God

1. Mankind was created spiritually and physically perfect, with a free will, to obey or disobey God (man's perfection to be proven through testing).
2. Mankind exercised this right of choice to disobey God. (sinned)
3. Mankind is punished by God for the choice freely made by our ancestors.
 - a. Spiritually - fellowship lost with God.
 - b. Physically - through pain, sickness and death.
4. To re-establish our relationship with God, God requires the sacrifice of an innocent life (blood) as a substitute for our sinful life.
5. In Old Testament times, (before Christ) God required the sacrifice of innocent animals as a substitute for sins (Leviticus 17:11).
6. In the ultimate act of self-sacrifice, reflecting God's unsurpassed love for us, He sent His innocent Son Jesus Christ (God's self sacrifice), to die on the cross (shed His blood) to save the sinner (us) once and for all. (Romans 5:8).

The Blood of Jesus represents the ultimate sacrifice of a loving God to bring about reconciliation with His disobedient creation - mankind.

What the Blood of my Jesus has done for me:

Incredibly to me, the whole Bible, from the first page to the last, progressively reveals God's masterplan for my personal salvation (and yours too!) through the death of Jesus on the cross at Calvary. This masterplan is not visible to the sceptic but is progressively revealed to us, as we earnestly seek to understand more about the Saviour we love.

Pictures of the sacrifice Jesus made for me, are seen in 'The Sacrifice' (i.e. consideration or cost) sections of all of God's Covenants with man (see 'A journey through the Old Testament').

The sacrifice of Jesus for me (and for you) was planned and foretold from the beginning of creation!



In Moses' Tabernacle the High Priest on the annual, most holy, 'Day of Atonement' (at one with God) foretold the suffering of my Jesus, for me, during His last hours before His death, for me, on the cross at Calvary. The High Priest took the blood of a goat and sprinkled it seven times (meaning completion in Hebrew) on the Mercy Seat (symbolic of Jesus) of the Ark of The Covenant. (The Presence of God) (Leviticus 16)

1500 years later the symbolism of this ritual was fulfilled by Jesus. On the day that my Jesus sacrificed His love for me, He shed His blood seven times on my account:

1. **At Gethsemene** - As Jesus was praying in the garden for release from the coming agony His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground' (Luke 22:44)
'My Jesus shed His blood for me'
2. **At the house of the High Priest** - 'Then they spat in His face and struck Him with their fists' (Matthew 26:67; see Micah 5:1 - 'struck with rods' - prophesied 700 years before Christ)
'My Jesus shed His blood for me'
3. **Jesus flogged** - 'But he had Jesus flogged' (Matthew 27:26)
'My Jesus shed His blood for me'
4. **Jesus' beard pulled out** - prophesied by Isaiah, (50:6) to come with, His beating, around 700BC.
'My Jesus shed His blood for me'
5. **The crown of thorns** - cruelly set on His head and beaten down by a staff again and again! (Matthew 27:29-30)
'My Jesus shed His blood for me'
6. **Pierced His hands and feet** - as prophesied by King David 1000 years before hand in Psalm 22:15-18.
'My Jesus shed His blood for me'
7. **A spear in His side** - 'bringing a sudden flow of blood and water' (John 19:34) as prophesied by Zechariah around 500 years earlier.
'My Jesus shed His blood for Me'

Will you share today in the shedding of the blood of YOUR Jesus for YOU?



THE WAY TO SALVATION

(to receive God's gift of eternal life)

What does the Bible say? *(All from Today's English Version)*

1. **Salvation is God's free gift.** (through belief in Jesus)
'For sin pays it's wage-death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) .

2. **God in His love sent His Son to die for us.**
'But God has shown us how much He loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us. By His sacrificial death we are now put right with God: How much more then, will we be saved by Him from God's anger! We were God's enemies but He made us His friends through the death of His Son. Now that we are God's friends, how much more will we be saved by Christ's life ?'
(Romans 5:8-10)

3. **Repentance is necessary for our sins to be forgiven.**
'Repent then and turn to God, so that He will forgive your sins' (Acts 3:19)

4. **We are saved by God's grace through faith.**
'For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts but God's gift so that no-one can boast about it'
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

5. **Belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus.**
'If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved.' (Romans 10:9-10)

6. **There is only one way to God (salvation)**
Jesus answered him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.' (John 14:6)

7. **Jesus is waiting for you to ask Him into your life.**
'Listen, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his house and eat with him, and he will eat with me'
(Revelation 3:20)

THE 3 KEYS TO SALVATION



1. Repentance of sin (The basic message of the Gospel)

a. What Repentance is NOT!

1. Not just conviction of sin - You can realise you are a sinner without repenting of your sin! eg. The Story of the rich young ruler who was not prepared to make the sacrifice necessary to receive salvation. (Mark 10:17-22)

2. Not just worldly sorrow - It is neither sorrow for the consequences of your sins on others, or yourself, neither is it sorrow at being caught! (2 Corinthians 7:10)

3. Not turning over a new leaf - Not New Year's resolutions or other pledges based on your own efforts.

4. Not simply becoming religious - eg. attending church on Sundays without repenting. The pharisees fasted and prayed without repenting and were condemned. (Matthew 23:27-28)

5. Not just mental acceptance of the truth - You have to live, not just know, the truth. (James 2:19-20)

6. Not merely a fire escape from hell - just in case God and hell do really exist!

b. What Repentance Is!

Repentance is a complete acknowledgement of sin without excuse, of admitting that Christ is always right and we are always wrong in every matter. To hear, to believe and to obey God.

Repentance involves:

1. God's spirit visiting us to awaken our conscience (Revelation 3:19-20)

2. Our awakened conscience reminding us of our sin and making us want to do something about it. (2 Corinthians 5:11)

3. A conviction bringing about humility, a genuine Godly sorrow for what we have done. (2 Corinthians 7:10)

4. The realisation that we are without God and without hope.
(Ephesians 2:11-12)

The sign of true repentance is 'restitution' - the putting right of wrong things we have done to others (Luke 19:8). This is a continuing process as the Holy Spirit chooses to reveal new areas of repentance required of us at various stages of our Christian walk. If we are not prepared to put things right with those we have wronged, we are not genuinely saved. True faith (belief) must be accompanied by a genuine and continuing repentance to God and to others who are, or have previously been, affected by our sinful acts. Repentance runs contrary to our human nature and can only be accomplished with the prompting and help of the Holy Spirit.

REPENTANCE IS THE MOST OBVIOUS SIGN OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN!



2. Faith (Belief) in the deity and saving grace of Jesus.

To obtain salvation we must believe:-

1. That Jesus is the Son of God - of heavenly not earthly origin. (Matthew 3:17)

2. The Virgin Birth - that Jesus came from God and not from the semen of a man. (Matthew 1:20).

3. That Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins.

In doing so He substituted His life for ours, doing all that was necessary to reconcile us, as sinners, with God. (Colossians 1:19-20).

4. That Jesus rose again from the dead.

By overcoming death (caused by sin) He has enabled us to receive God's promise of the New Covenant - eternal life. (Romans 6:21-23)

5. That salvation is obtained through God's grace - not by our own efforts.

(Ephesians 2:9-10)

6. That God dwells in the believer today - in the form of His Holy Spirit.

(John 14:26, 16:13, Acts 1:8)

7. That Jesus is coming again - In final judgement of all men and to rule over the world He created. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

3. The Lordship of Jesus - **He is to be the ruler of our lives!**



True faith results in the submission of our lives to the will and direction of the Lord Jesus Christ for each one of us. It is reflected in the 'Fruits of the Spirit' (Godly attributes) progressively being developed in our lives through total submission to the will of Christ for us. God's will is revealed in His word, the Bible, and through the personal guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

(2 Corinthians 5:7) 'If any man is in Christ he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold new things have come'. (Revised King James)

Salvation In a Nutshell

Salvation is a gift received from God
by His grace through:

1. **Repentance** of your sins and
2. **Faith in Jesus** reflected in your
3. **Submission** to the Lordship of
Jesus Christ in your life.

Nothing less is acceptable to God to receive His gift of eternal life.

Are you ready to make the committment necessary to receive the ultimate reward of eternal life today?

To receive God's ultimate gift, you must ask Him for it, in prayer. Specifically you must ask for:

1. **Forgiveness of your sins.**
2. **God to save you by His grace.**
3. **Jesus to take full control of your life.**

You may wish to pray your own prayer or you might like to use the following sinners prayer, if it truly reflects your confession.

Lord Jesus,

I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I know You died on the cross for me. I now turn from my sins and ask You to forgive me. I now invite You into my heart and life.

I now trust You as Saviour and follow You as Lord. Thankyou for saving me, Lord of my life.

Amen.



Welcome to the Eternal Kingdom of the Lord!

*Congratulations on taking the first step on your Christian walk!
Please, please ask us, a Christian friend or pastor, for support
and help in developing your new found faith.
May God bless you richly!*

THE TWO MARATHONERS

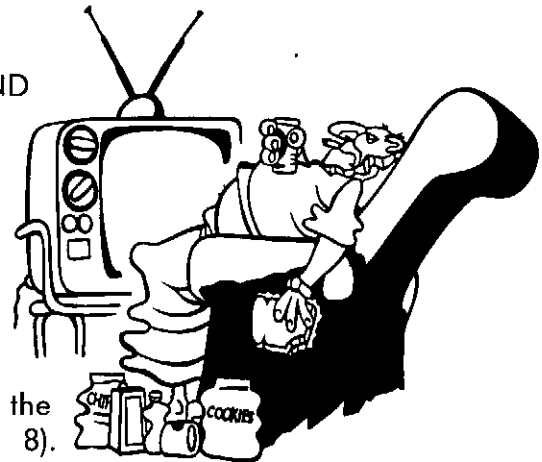
PART 1

The Decision (a)

Two friends, Jeremy Jogger & Roger Runner were watching the Olympic Marathon on T.V. As they relaxed on the couch with an ALE (1) in their hands, they chatted to each other about life, as good friends do. Roger remarked to Jeremy how the RUNNERS (2) in the RACE (3) appeared to be focused, to have a purpose in life. Jeremy agreed & upon reflection, both conceded that the MARATHONERS (2) had a source of inspiration & motivation their own lives lacked, a worthwhile GOAL (4) to strive for.

The race leader and eventual WINNER (5) impressed them most of all, inspired them even, for the way in which he led and the manner in which he won the RACE (3). The obvious sacrifice and pain he suffered, particularly over the LAST KILOMETRE (6) was far in excess of the other competitors, but the joy of victory, coupled with his obvious humility, seemed to make all the pain and suffering worth while.

At the end of the RACE (3) a FRIEND (7) OF THE OLYMPIC CHAMPION (5) was interviewed. He talked about the amazing feats of the WINNER (5), how he was a great guy, of the places he had been to, his good health, the money he had earned, and how good, marathon running was for his whole life! Both Jeremy & Roger were enthralled and inspired. Jeremy was so excited with the emotion of the moment that he could already see himself on the podium, being presented with the GOLD MEDAL (8).



In his excitement, he missed hearing the WINNERS FRIEND (7) mention, almost in passing, that the CHAMPION (5) had had to spend many hours training before he had reached the STANDARD OF FITNESS (9) required to win the race. Roger was also very enthusiastic but he listened intently, in order to hear everything the OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS FRIEND (7) said, not wanting to miss a word that might help him to emulate the VICTORS (5) feats.

Our two intrepid T.V sportsmen, i.e COUCH POTATOES (10) were finally convinced when the CHAMPIONS FRIEND (7) told them that all they had to do to become successful marathoners, to become like the OLYMPIC CHAMPION (5) was to believe in their hearts that they could do it. While perhaps they might not be able to run the RACE (3) as fast as him, belief (11) in their ability to complete the COURSE (3) would enable them to do it.

As the interview with the CHAMPIONS FRIEND (7) concluded, Jeremy and Roger looked at each other amazed by the enthusiasm the INTERVIEW (12) had generated in them.

Our two COUCH POTATO (10) mates realised that they didn't look at all like the MARATHONERS (2) they had seen on the television, in fact both were amply endowed with ROLLS OF FAT (13), around that mystical, middle area. In spite of this, they turned to each other and made THE DECISION (14) that they were going to become MARATHONERS (7). In line with the CHAMPION'S FRIEND'S (7) positive self motivation suggestion, they declared to each other, 'We are now MARATHONERS (2).' Both felt on top of the world.

The enthusiasm of the moment was dampened a little however, when Roger thoughtfully asked, 'Jeremy, when are we going to run this RACE (3), to prove that we are really MARATHONERS (2)?' Jeremy was stopped in his tracks. 'Well Roger, I guess you are right. I was having so much fun imagining myself on the podium receiving the GOLD MEDAL(8) that I hadn't given the race itself a thought.'

'I know,' said Roger ' the other day a MARATHONER (2) friend of mine was telling me that the next ROTORUA MARATHON (15) is on the 2nd of May next year. I guess you know that it is New Zealand's biggest marathon and there will be plenty of OTHERS (2) to run with, which should make it easier for us. What do you say?' 'I guess you're right Roger' said Jeremy, 'we will have to run THE MARATHON (16) someday.' (to himself he quietly thought, ' that doesn't sound too bad - it's still 9 months away') 'O.K Roger' Jeremy spoke aloud again, 'We'll meet in Rotorua on R.M DAY (15)'.

Both of them went on their separate ways, amazed at the events of the day and wondering what they had let themselves in for.

Underlining Spiritual Meanings **For words in Part 1.**

Parable Words

1. Ale, Christmas spirit
2. Runners, marathoners, friends, others
3. Race, course
4. Goal
5. Winner, Olympic Champion, him, champion, president, victor
6. Last kilometre
7. Champions friend, his friend, he
8. Gold medal
9. Standard of fitness
10. Couch Potato
11. Belief (and derivatives), knew
12. Interview
13. Rolls of fat, flab, kilos
14. The decision, will do it
15. Rotorua Marathon, marathon, R.M Day, the day
16. Run the marathon

Spiritual Meaning

- Satans deceit
- Christians
- Race of life
- Eternal life
- Jesus
- The Cross
- The evangelist (pastor or teacher)
- Eternal life
- Death on the Cross
- Worldly
- Faith (and derivatives)
- Crusade, meeting
- Worldly pleasures
- Decision for Christ
- Judgement Day
- Face judgement

INTERPRETATION OF 'THE TWO MARATHONERS' - PART 1

The Decision (of Life's Direction)

The parable compares two men, both of whom realise they need a new direction in life, 'coming to Christ'.

The first (Jeremy Jogger), sees Christianity as a religion. He believes on the theory of Jesus as shared by the evangelist. He is sold by the benefits he expects to receive. He believes in the evangelist. He realises that he will have to face God's judgement one day, but it still seems a long way off. He is prepared to fit religion into his lifestyle.

The second (Roger Runner) however, sees Christianity as his new life. His conversion is focused on Jesus and the cross, not on the evangelist (pastor or teacher). He realises that there will be costs as well as benefits in attaining his goal of eternal life with Christ. He believes in Jesus.

Parts 2 & 3 of this parable (the training and the race) are included in our next 2 studies. Please join us and find out how our two friends made out!

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR LIFE'S DECISION YET?

'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.' (2 Corinthians 5:10)

YES, JUDGEMENT IS CERTAIN.

What will Jesus say about you?

- Will you be placed to His right?

'Then the King will say to these on His right, come you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.' (Matthew 25:34)

- Or will you be placed to His left?

'Then He will say to those on His left, " depart from me you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels."' (Matthew 25:41)

Where do you wish to spend eternity?

Do you want:

- Eternal life with Jesus?

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me. In my Father's House are many rooms; (literally 'dwelling places') If it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.' (John 14:12)

- Or Eternal Hell with Satan?

'and the Devil who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever'. (Revelation 20:10)

Going to church, (being religious) is not enough!

'Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.' (Hebrews 10:11)

Salvation Comes Only Through Jesus.

'Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved.' (Acts 4:12)

Remember, Jesus Died for You

'I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.' (John 10:11)

Jesus is interested in you personally. He wants you to follow Him now.

'He calls His sheep by name and leads them out. When He has brought out all His own, He goes ahead of them and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.' (John 10:3b-4)

You need to make your decision now!

- For tomorrow you may die.

'Why do you not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.' (James 4:14)

- Or the Lord may return.

'so stay awake and be prepared, for you do not know the date or the moment of My return.' (Matthew 25:13 Living Bible)

Will you say "YES" to Jesus today?



DEFINITIONS OF 'RELIGIOUS TERMS'

There are a number of concepts used within the Bible to explain aspects of Christianity which can be difficult to understand, often even to those within the church. Man has in some instances, built complicated and sometimes differing doctrines (teachings, principles of belief) around these. The following, I hope simple explanations, are designed to convey the basic principle behind each concept. These can be built upon as the believer receives, through God's grace, (see definition) a deeper understanding of God's Word.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Atonement	'at-one-ment' - at one with God
Baptism	A symbolic acknowledgement that a believer has been crucified and buried with Christ and is now living a new life in Him.
Believer	One who believes Jesus died for them, and has therefore received eternal life through establishing a personal relationship with Jesus.
Christian	Literally means 'Christ-like'
Eternal	
Judgement	The bringing to account of all mankind at the end of this age.
Eternal life	A promise to the believer of an everlasting existence with Jesus after death on earth.
Faith	Trust in Christ. The positive assurance that all the promises revealed to us in God's Word (the Bible) are true.
Glorification	To be made like Christ.
Grace	God giving us freely what we don't deserve.
Justification	'just-as-if-I'd' never sinned. Being made righteous (i.e right with God) by Jesus, who took away our sin and gave us His sinless life. Being acquitted of our sin.
Priest	A mediator between man and God. A New Testament Christian is to be a priest i.e we must come to God ourselves.
Reconciliation	Being made friends with God through the death of Jesus on the Cross.
Redemption	To be set free from our sins.
Repentance	1. A complete acknowledgement of sin, without excuse, of admitting that Christ is always right and we are always wrong in every matter. 2. To hear and to believe and to obey God. 3. Admitting our wrong, turning from our wrong and obeying God
Resurrection	A raising up from the dead. In Christianity 3 elements are involved. a) Past - the resurrection of Jesus Christ b) Present - the spiritual resurrection of the believer. c) Future - the bodily resurrection of everyone (not just Christians).
Righteousness	Right with God, right with man.
Salvation	The saving of man from the power of sin through the death of Jesus on the Cross.
Sanctification	The process of being made like Christ (to be made Holy).
Sin	Our refusal to obey God and to reject His gift of salvation in Jesus



TIPS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND

The spiritual meaning of your Bible

Many words in the Bible have implied spiritual meanings as well as literal ones. For instance, numbers in Hebrew have an underlying meaning as well as a numeric value. e.g the number 7 speaks of completion or perfection. Other words have a spiritual significance as well as a literal meaning. e.g when scripture talks of a lamb it is usually a type of Jesus.

I trust that this list will help you better understand some of the amazing spiritual truths hidden in the pages of God's Word, the Bible. Do be careful however, to apply these types and pictures sensibly. The relevance of their application must be considered in the context in which the words are used in the passage being studied and in the Bible as a whole.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Often speaks of</u>	<u>Word</u>	<u>Often speaks of</u>
Numbers			
1	God	Olive Tree	Anointing
2	Witness	Palm	Victory & righteousness.
3	The Godhead		Oil
4	Earth-man	Pine	Life, spiritual man.
5	Atonement or grace.	Seed	Non-Christians
6	Fallen man	Thorns	Non-Christians
7	Completion, perfection, maturity	Thistles	Non-Christians
8	New beginnings or resurrection.	Weeds	Weeping
9.	Eternal perfection.	Willow.	
10	Trial & testing.	Of Nature	
12	Divine government.	Clay	Man
40	Trial & testing.	Darkness	Sin, Satan.
144 (12x12)	New man in Christ, ultimate government of God.	Dew	Devotion
666	Man setting himself up as God.	Drought	Judgement
888	Jesus	Dust	Natural man.
		Fire	Judgement
		Flood	Judgement
		Light	God, (personal revelation have received of
		we	
Animals		God).	
Dove	Holy Spirit	Lightening	Judgement
Other birds	Demons	Mountain	Authority
Lamb	Jesus	Moon	Jesus
		Rain	The Holy Spirit
Plants		Rock	Jesus
Almond Rod	Word of God	Sand	People
Fig tree	Strength	Stars	Holy Spirit, Christians.
First fruits	Overcoming or mature Christians	Stones	Christians
Fruit/s	Results of being a Christian.	Sun	God the Father.
Hyssop	Faith	Water	Cleansing purification.
Myrtle	Joy, fragrance	Wind	The Holy Spirit

Word**Colours**

Blue
Red
Yellow

Metals

Brass

Gold
Silver

Other

Armour
Babylon
Door, gate
Egypt
Linen
Rod
Sword
Yeast, (leaven)

Often speaks of

Holy Spirit (Sky & Sea)
The Son (Blood)
The Father (Gold)

Judgement, strength against
sin.
Deity (God), faith.
Redemption, atonement.

Protection
Religious confusion.
Jesus, i.e entrance to God.
World
Righteousness
Authority
The Word (Bible)
Sin, human weakness, false
doctrine, corrupt practices.
(Not Matthew 13:33)