

# God, a Personal Reality



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# Divine Revelation

## Introduction

Do you have certainty that God exists? Did you know that you can have certainty about eternal life? You are hereby invited to make the most wonderful discovery about the most important reality of your life

When it is affirmed that eternal life is a reality, it's also affirmed simultaneously that:

- There is a God that makes eternal life possible. A God that gives eternal life, and can do so. He is the Creator of eternal life and that distinguishes Him from any other being of human invention.
- God interacts with man and reveals Himself in a specific way. The Hebrew Scriptures (Tanakh) are a very good example of this. This was undoubtedly created by God to give man the opportunity to acquire knowledge about Him. In this letter you will see why this is said. Think about the following:
  - Miracles took place. There must be an intelligent God with a personality behind it all.
  - The miracles are not simply strange natural phenomena, but beneficent and goal oriented. That includes revelation about God, even the salvation of man.
  - The Tanakh exists because the miracles that they saw God do through judges, prophets and priests were written down by men. God speaks to people who know Him so that other people can get to know Him. Scripture also includes prophecies where God used prophets to predict future events. These prophecies came true long after the prophets died. It shows that God, from outside space and time, speaks to man. So, as a Person, He is involved in His creation and has decided to reveal himself in a specific way. The prophecies that came true also confirmed that the prophets gave the words of God. The prophecies do not honour the prophet, but introduce God.
  - God made a distinction between His message, His messengers and the miracles that make the messengers authentic. Prophecies were made to reveal God to man without depriving man of his ability to make a free choice.
  - More than 2,000 prophecies can be seen in the Tanakh dealing with the land of Israel, its people, and relevant events. More than 300 of these deal with a specific Person, the Messiah. If that is not enough, over 60 of these Messianic prophecies are very specific and are fulfilled in detail.
  - The perfect ministry of the Messiah on earth, faithfully and as foretold in the Tanakh, is made by God a personal reality for any person who accepts Him.

God has thus turned man's attention to Himself and He has revealed His Person, and Being, through the Messiah. We sometimes get caught up reasoning with the question: "Is there a God?" It can lead to interesting topics like "evolution" and the "big bang", but it does not offer personal security. It limits you to human wisdom. It is like discussing the shape and properties of a copper wire, but not being aware of the electricity that flows through it. Only when you touch the wire will you feel the electricity. It brings us to the question:

What are the principles of Divine revelation? The works of the Creator are clearly visible in nature. However, to experience His Being is a personal privilege. This requires language, content and understanding. You cannot tell a one-year-old baby a story because he does not yet have the language to understand it. The more the child's language develops, the more he

develops his ability to understand and can gain more and more knowledge through what he experiences. What he (or she) experiences can now be articulated and his thoughts imagined into what makes sense. God speaks to man through the Hebrew Writings so that we can gain knowledge about Him. It becomes God's Word that helps us get to know God. It is known as the Tanakh which today can be read fully in the Old Testament of the Bible.

About a thousand years before Christ, the Psalmist testifies as follows. If it is said that someone testifies it means that he or she is talking from personal experience. In other words, not a myth or a scam, but a dialogue and personal experience with the Creator:

*"<sup>9</sup>How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. <sup>10</sup>With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! <sup>11</sup>Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. <sup>12</sup>Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes. <sup>13</sup>With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. <sup>14</sup>I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. <sup>15</sup>I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. <sup>16</sup>I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word."* (Psalm 119:9-16)

*"<sup>102</sup>I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. <sup>103</sup>How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup>Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. <sup>105</sup>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* (Psalm 119:102-105)

## When and how does God reveal Himself to a person?

When one respects the Person of God and searches for Him with an open mind, he will reveal Himself to you. It is written:

*"God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God."* (Psalm 53:2)

*"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."* (Jeremiah 29:13)

*"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."* (Jeremiah 33:3)

When you invite God into your life and engage in His Word, you will come to know Him as Prophet, Priest and King of eternal life. As you are brought up in the knowledge of Him, He becomes a personal reality to you, you can acknowledge Him and His Spirit can dwell in you. He is thus no longer an external supernatural miracle, but part of you and conceptualizes with you.

About 1000 years before Christ, David testified as follows:

*"<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness."* (Psalm 51:11-14)

## Authentic Scripture

The Hebrew Scriptures are undoubtedly inspired by God. It is by a chosen people, the descendants of Abraham who brought about revelation to all people on earth. It is undoubtedly authentic, and we will look at why this is said.

## What is the Tanakh?

It consists of the Torah (Law), the Neviim (Prophets) and the Ketuvim (Scriptures). Jointly referred to as the Tanakh. It is also summarized in the Bible and is known as the Old Testament. These writings are between 2400 and 3800 years old and contain a common message of certainty about eternal life.

## What is the Torah?

The Torah is Hebrew Scriptures consisting of the following books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It is also known as the Pentateuch, or the Five Books of Moses. It is also found in the Bible as the first five books of the Old Testament. The Torah is a collection of ancient writings dealing with the revelation from God to Israel, the Jewish people. The Jewish people acted as witnesses so that the whole world can come to the knowledge of God. It also includes God's teachings and guidance for man and the promise of future revelation. The Torah dates back to about 1312 years before Christ.

## Wat is the Neviim?

The Neviim is a collection of prophetic writings: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the 12 smaller prophets. These Scriptures have a strong condition they had to comply with. They contain a prophetic sign that the author confirms (authenticates) who declares that he speaks on behalf of God. A prophet is a person used by God to convey His will and message to man. The prophet is confirmed as authentic when he predicts things will happen in the future and it comes true. The Bible available to us today contains both of these prophecies in the Old Testament and its completion in the New Testament.

## Wat is the Ketuvim?

The other books of the Tanakh considered authentic scriptures are books such as: Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms, and Proverbs because there are many commentaries about them. Their content, context and inherent message have this in common with the Torah and Neviim. No other script has elicited as much response as these books. The Psalms, part of the Ketuvim is a collection of 150 Hebrew poems, prayers, hymns and meditations.

Although there are several types of Psalms, they have something in common. This is the language of wonderful experience. The Psalms date back more than a thousand years before Christ.

## Why is the Tanakh considered authentic?

### *Preservation of the original Scripture and Message.*

The Tanakh can be read in its entirety in the Old Testament of the Bible. The Author, God Himself, clearly inspired the writers to write it and the church made sure it was kept pure and well-preserved through the ages. Besides the fact that several writers from different regions have documented the same message over different periods, there are other aspects that give us the assurance that the Bible we have today, is authentic. For example, think about the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. It is a collection of about 900 documents. It is located in eleven caves in and around Wadi Qumran discovered between 1947 and 1956 near the murals of the ancient Khirbet Qumran settlement in Israel. These Hebrew Scriptures date between 150 and 70 BC and include the whole Old Testament except the book of Esther. This is 95% similar

to the Greek translations of the Old Testament. The 5% difference is unimportant stuff like misspellings, and it does not change the message.

The Tanakh was translated into Greek around 250 BC and is known as the Septuagint. The fact that the Hebrew Dead Sea Scrolls and the Greek Septuagint are a 95% match is unequivocal proof that the message has remained authentically preserved. The Septuagint we read today is undoubtedly still exactly the same as the original Hebrew Scriptures. Both still available today.

### ***Detail found in the Tanakh shows that it is not fiction.***

In all the events described in the Bible, the following can be observed:

- The genealogies of persons referred to are known. They were real persons and not mythical figures.
- The events described include details such as who was present, where and when it happened, hand gestures, etc. All events in the Tanakh are described in this way and is undoubtedly not fiction.
- The stories include miracles observed by more than one person and have been documented.
- Thousands of cross references are found in Scripture making it a prophetic whole for the person studying it.

### ***Detailed Prophecies that have come true prove Divine revelation.***

In other words, God spoke to us from outside our natural existence, time and space in such a way that it is undoubtedly Divine revelation. The same theme has been seen in up to 40 authors who testify unanimously over the course of a thousand years, from different regions.

Two types of prophecy are found in the Old Testament:

#### **1) Prophecies about Israel, its people and allied cities**

Over 2,000 Old Testament prophecies on the land of Israel, its people with related cities and peoples have come true. For example, prophecies about famous cities such as Nineveh (Jonah 3), Babylon (Isaiah 13), Moab (Isaiah 15), Petra (Jeremiah 49: 17-18), Tyre and Sidon (Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 26), Jerusalem (Jeremiah 24:8-9; 29:21; 35:17; Isaiah 4:3-6), Samaria (Micah 1:5-6) etc. Events and persons involved are also accurately predicted, such as actions of Antiochus IV (Daniel 11:31), Alexander the Great (Daniel 1:2-4), John the Baptist (Malachi 3:1), etc.

#### **2) Messianic prophecies**

These are prophecies concerning a specific Person, the Messiah. The word "Messiah" means "Anointed". In other words, it is special and about a specific Person who came to do an important job. According to the Old Testament, it is a specific Person who would be:

- a) Born of a virgin from the seed of Abraham (Genesis 22:18) (Isaiah 7:13-14), the Son of Isaac (Genesis 21:12), the son of Jacob (Numbers 24:17) from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10 and Micah 5:2) from the blood line of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1,10) from the house of David (Jeremiah 23:5). Jesse was David's father.
- b) He will be known as the Son of God, as a sign He was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:13-14).
- c) His own people will reject Him and He will be pierced (crucified) (Isaiah 53). Please note, this prophecy was made long before crucifixion was in use.
- d) After three days He will rise from the dead (Jonah 1:17 and Psalm 30:3) and bring reconciliation between God and man (Malachi 3:1-3).

- e) Thereafter He will be present in the hearts of believers through His Spirit to reveal Himself to them (Jeremiah 31:33).
- f) This act of atonement will stand as a banner for all nations (Isaiah 11:10; 42:1-7) so that any man can know the true God and be in His presence through faith (Genesis 22:8-14)
- g) The prophecies continue to come true and indicate that the Messiah will return (Isaiah 11:11) to rule on earth after which the new heaven and earth are created (Revelation 20).

Above are just a few of the more than 300 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament that have already come true so that there is no doubt. The fact that the prophecies came true leaves no doubt that what lies ahead, such as the Second Coming of the Messiah, will indeed take place.

Eyewitnesses observed and wrote down the fulfilment of these prophecies for us. Today it can be read in the New Testament of the Bible. Not only does the New Testament confirm the authenticity of the Old Testament, but confirms the prophecies in the Old Testament about who the Messiah is, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Think of the following:

That the Messiah would come to earth (Genesis 3:15); that He was to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1); that He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14); that He would do miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6); that He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, the money would be thrown into the Temple afterwards and that with it the Potter's land would be purchased (Zechariah 11:12-13); that He would be crucified (Isaiah 53); when He would be crucified (Daniel 9); detailed events and words when He was nailed to the cross (Psalm 22 and 69); that His bones would not be broken on the cross (Exodus 12); that He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10). All the prophecies mentioned in this paragraph are documented in the Old Testament more than 450 years before Christ and were accomplished by Jesus Christ, who is undoubtedly the Messiah.

The prophecies that have come true confirm the Old Testament and the New Testament (in other words: The Bible) are God-inspired Scriptures. It is also confirmed by miracles that took place around and through the prophets. All the many detailed prophecies that God did through them came true. These prophecies were not done randomly, but are all in context to the salvation message to man. This salvation was accomplished by the Messiah. Salvation in this context means that you have come to know God as a Person and will live in His presence forever. About 750 years before Christ, God challenged the false gods and prophets to prophesy, and specifically about the Messiah. They could not logically because they did not know the true God. God also points out that the Messiah will come and reveal Him on earth publicly:

*"<sup>41:26</sup>Who has declared from the beginning, that we may know? And former times, that we may say, 'He is righteous'? Surely there is no one who shows, surely there is no one who declares, surely there is no one who hears your words. <sup>27</sup>The first time I said to Zion, 'Look, there they are!' And I will give to Jerusalem one who brings good tidings. <sup>28</sup>For I looked, and there was no man; I looked among them, but there was no counselor, who, when I asked of them, could answer a word. <sup>29</sup>Indeed they are all worthless; Their works are nothing; Their molded images are wind and confusion. The Servant of the Lord <sup>42:1</sup>Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles."* (Isiah 41:26 – Isiah 42:1)

Luke, the author of the New Testament book of Acts, testifies as follows:

*"<sup>18</sup>But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, <sup>20</sup>and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the*

*times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. <sup>22</sup>For Moses truly said to the fathers, the Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.” (Acts 3:18-22 – also see Deuteronomy 18:18)*



Here are some quotes from the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and confirmation in the New Testament of how it was fulfilled:

<b>Prophecy in the Old Testament</b>	<b>Prophecy in the New Testament</b>
<p><b>The Messiah is going to be in the form of a human being on earth.</b></p> <p>God speaking to Satan in Eden: Genesis 3:15: <i>"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."</i></p> <p>About 750 years before Christ (BC), Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 7:14: <i>"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."</i></p> <p>About 600 years before Christ, Daniel 7:13 prophesies: <i>"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him."</i></p>	<p>God impregnated the Virgin Mary to give birth to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Joseph, out of the descendants of David acted as the earthly father to him: Matthew 1: 20-23: <i>"<sup>20</sup>But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup>Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"</i></p> <p>Colossians 2:9-12: <i>"<sup>9</sup>For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup>and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. <sup>11</sup>In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup>buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."</i></p>
<p><b>The Messiah will manifest the glory of the Father on earth and as King bring salvation to all the nations:</b></p> <p>About 1000 years before Christ, David prophesied about the Lord Son of God as King:</p> <p>Psalms 2:6-12: <i>"<sup>6</sup>Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. <sup>7</sup>I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup>Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. <sup>9</sup>You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' <sup>10</sup>Now therefore, be wise, o kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup>Serve the Lord with</i></p>	<p>The apostle John testifies as follows: John 1:14: <i>"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."</i></p> <p>Jesus' words to His disciples: John 14:9: <i>"Jesus said to him, 'have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'"</i></p> <p>The author of the book of Hebrews in the Bible confirms that Jesus Christ was the essence of God on earth:</p> <p>Hebrews 1:3: <i>"who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the</i></p>

<p>fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup>Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.”</p>	<p>word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”</p>
<p><b>The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.</b></p> <p>About 730 years before Christ, Micah 5:1-2 prophesies: <sup>1</sup>Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek. <sup>2</sup>But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”</p>	<p>Fulfilled about 730 years later, see Matthew 2:1-2: <sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.' ”</p>
<p><b>The Messiah will be born of the seed of David</b></p> <p>Jesse was David's father. About 750 years before Christ Isaiah 11:10 prophesies: "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.”</p> <p>Isaiah 9: 6-7: <sup>6</sup>For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”</p>	<p>In Romans 15:12 Paul confirms: "And again, Isaiah says: 'There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope.' ”</p> <p>Not only do many Old Testament prophecies indicate that the Messiah would be born from the David's offspring, but we also see it confirmed in the Lord's genealogies contained in the New Testament from both paternal and maternal sides: Matthew 1:1-17: Father's side and Luke 3:23-38: Mother's side. Luke did use the Jewish way of thinking to indicate Mary's genealogy by repeatedly referring to the male figure. For example, Joseph is referred to as the son of Heli but the latter had no sons of his own, in other words, here it is referring to the son-in-law. Both genealogies indicate that Joseph was not the genetic father of Jesus, but the legitimate (earthly) father. Matthew 1:16: and Luke 3:23.</p>
<p><b>Much detail of what the Messiah would do and how He would act is prophesied:</b></p> <p>For example, consider the fact that He would enter the city of Jerusalem on a donkey at the start of Easter. About 450 years before Christ, Zechariah 9:9 prophesied: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”</p>	<p>The gospel writers were all eyewitnesses of what Jesus Christ did and said on earth. Examples are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Luke was a medical doctor and went to great lengths to write down events in their right chronological order. He also testified that Christ entered Jerusalem on a donkey:</p> <p>Luke 19: 33-35: <sup>33</sup>But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, 'Why are you loosing the colt?' <sup>34</sup>And they said, 'The Lord has need of him.' <sup>35</sup>Then they brought him</p>

	<p>to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him.”</p>
<p><b>The time when the Messiah would be crucified:</b></p> <p>Daniel 9: 24-26: <i>“<sup>24</sup>Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. <sup>25</sup>Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. <sup>26</sup>And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.”</i></p>	<p>About 450 BC King Darius ordered the Temple to be rebuilt  Ezra 6:12: <i>“And may the God who causes His name to dwell there destroy any king or people who put their hand to alter it, or to destroy this house of God which is in Jerusalem. I Darius issue a decree; let it be done diligently.”</i></p> <p>7 x 62 = 483  483-450 = 33</p> <p>Jesus Christ was crucified about 33 AD. The Temple is destroyed by the Romans during 70 AD.</p>
<p><b>The Messiah would be delivered for 30 pieces of silver:</b></p> <p>Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him, regretted it afterwards and brought the money back to the priests in the Lord’s Temple. The priests refused to take the money back so Judas threw it into the Temple. The money was then taken to buy land from the potter.</p> <p>About 450 years before Christ, Zechariah 11:12-13 prophesies: <i>“<sup>12</sup>Then I said to them, ‘If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.’ So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. <sup>13</sup>And the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.”</i></p>	<p>Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot for thirty pieces of silver. Look how this prophecy is fulfilled about 450 years later:  Matthew 26:14-16: <i>“<sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”</i></p> <p>Not only were the thirty silver coins accurately predicted by Zechariah, but even the fact that the coins were thrown into the Temple, and the money later ended up with the Potter!</p> <p>Matthew 27:3-7: <i>“<sup>3</sup>Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, <sup>4</sup>saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What is that to us? You see to it!’ <sup>5</sup>Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup>But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, ‘It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.’ <sup>7</sup>And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in.”</i></p>

<p><b>The bones of the Messiah will not be broken on the cross:</b></p> <p>Around 1250 BC Easter was set. The command of the Lord to Moses and Aaron, concerning the Passover lamb was as follows: Exodus 12:46: <i>"In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones."</i></p> <p>(Also see Numbers 9:12)</p>	<p>The gospel writer, John, who was present at the cross himself, testified as follows: John 19:32-37: <i>"<sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. <sup>34</sup>But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, 'Not one of His bones shall be broken.' <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, 'They shall look on Him whom they pierced.'"</i></p>
<p><b>The Messiah's words on the cross and events around the cross:</b></p> <p>The Psalms are the language of supernatural (wonderful) experience and revelation. About 1000 years before Christ David writes as follows:</p> <p>Psalm 22:1: <i>"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?."</i></p> <p>Psalm 22:18: <i>"They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots."</i></p> <p>Psalm 69:21: <i>"They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."</i></p>	<p>Look at Jesus' words as He hung on the cross: Mark 15: 33-34: <i>"Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"</i></p> <p>Also see what Jesus saw around him from the cross. These words were written by the apostle John who stood together with Mary while Jesus was on the cross. He thus testifies to what he saw himself:</p> <p>John 19: 23-24: <i>"<sup>23</sup>Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. <sup>24</sup>They said therefore among themselves, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,' that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: 'They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.' Therefore the soldiers did these things."</i></p> <p>John 19: 28-30: <i>"<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst!' <sup>29</sup>Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. <sup>30</sup>So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."</i></p>

<p><b>The Only Son of God, the Messiah, will die and that there will be darkness when He dies.</b></p> <p>About 760 years before Christ, Amos prophesied as follows:</p> <p>Amos 8:9-10: <i>"<sup>9</sup>And it shall come to pass in that day,' says the Lord God, 'That I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight; <sup>10</sup>I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, and baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son, and its end like a bitter day.'"</i></p>	<p>Jesus was God's only Son on earth. During His suffering on the cross there fell three hours of darkness on earth:</p> <p>Mark 15:33-34: <i>"<sup>33</sup>Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"</i></p> <p>We can even read today how secular writers from that time speculated on what caused this darkness. A good example of this is Thallus.</p>
<p><b>The Messiah will rise again from the dead:</b></p> <p>About 1000 years before Christ: Psalm 16:10: <i>"For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."</i></p> <p>In the original Hebrew Scriptures it makes reference here to the "Holy One" which clearly does not refer to David himself. The same thing seen in Psalm 4:3.</p> <p>See also Psalm 30:3: <i>"O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit."</i></p> <p>Psalm 22, cited earlier, can be seen that the crucifixion of the Messiah was seen by David.</p> <p>Jonah 1:17 - 2:2: <i>"<sup>1:17</sup>Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. <sup>2:1</sup>And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly. <sup>2</sup>And he said: 'I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, and He answered me. 'Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.'"</i></p>	<p>On the day of the Feast of First Fruits, which has been celebrated for 1500 years, the Messiah was Risen from the Dead as the First Fruit to Eternal Life:</p> <p>John 20:11-17: <i>"<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. <sup>12</sup>And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. <sup>13</sup>Then they said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' <sup>14</sup>Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?' She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, 'Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him, 'Rabboni!' (which is to say, Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "</i></p> <p>Jesus affirms the Old Testament prophecy of Jonah as His Crucifixion and resurrection from the dead: Matthew 12:40: <i>"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."</i></p>



**50 days after the Messiah ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit will be poured out:**

About 1500 years before Christ came, the exodus from Egypt happened. As mentioned before, Easter is set afterwards to celebrate this event every year on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month Nisan. Fifty days after that they receive the law at Mount Sinai. The will of God is given to them. This day was commemorated every year thereafter as the Feast of Weeks. Later it became known as Pentecost (Means fiftieth). During this festival they read from Scripture for example: Ezekiel 1: 4; 3:12 and Habakkuk 3:3-5. These Scriptures prophetically pointed to a great event in the future, that with a whirlwind (power) and fire (Light and revelation).

Ezekiel 1:4: *"Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire."*

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied that the law in the future will be spiritually given to people.

Jeremiah 31:33: *"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

**The Messiah will not be an earthly (Levitical) priest, but will be and act as the eternal Divine High Priest (Melchizedek):**

Only the sinless and Divine Messiah could forgive the sins of man. David prophesied this about 1000 years before Christ:

Psalms 110: 4: *"The Lord has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.' "*

Fifty days after the Israelites were delivered from Egypt (Passover, Nisan 14, rescued by the blood of the lamb) they received the law of God (the law indicates God's will). This brought them to the Feast of Weeks. They celebrated it that way too about 1500 years before Christ. Jesus Christ was crucified on Nisan 14 and then indeed, the Holy Spirit was poured out in the Feast of Weeks, fifty days after Easter. The disciples gathered to celebrate the Feast of Weeks, in large anticipation, and then received the Holy Spirit as Jesus told them it would happen.

Acts 1:7-8: *"<sup>7</sup>And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

See what happened to them right on Pentecost:

Acts 2:2-4: *"<sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

Hebrews 5: 5-6: *"<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' <sup>6</sup>As He also says in another place: 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek' "*

Hebrews 9: 24-28: *"<sup>24</sup>For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup>not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— <sup>26</sup>He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has*

*appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. <sup>27</sup>And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."*

# God is Personally involved with man

## You were created with a purpose

There are many opinions about who God is and how one can experience Him. The philosophers seek Him in the world of thought. Panentheism wants to believe that God is part of nature, in other words, a product of nature. Pantheism also sees God as one with nature, but the Creator. The reality of these views is that it is the limited human frame of reference, keeping man trapped to himself. The same way you can't get to know a person without engaging with him / her as a person, so will you even less come to know God if you do not respect and get to know Him Personally. One gets to know a person through spoken word (dialogue), character traits, to know his likes and dislikes. You need to connect with the person by listening and surely sharing your own emotions. Then a relationship arises between you and the person. The Almighty Creator has done relationship work with man from the earliest times. After all, He created man in His image (Genesis 1:27) for the purpose of being in a special relationship with every human being. The famous Dr Ravi Zacharias has said: "What makes sense to your life does not depend on who and what you are, but to Whom you belong. If you are looking for your purpose in life, first find your Creator who will help you with a purpose."

God revealed Himself to man through the people of Israel and their prophets (Exodus 31:12-17), cast out evil (Leviticus 20:1-5) and entered into covenants with man to be in relationship with Him.

## What is a Covenant?

A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties. Both parties are committed to the fulfilment of specific promises based on certain conditions. The covenants between God and man are monopolistic and God-ordained. God has priority but has committed to the fulfilment of the conditions and promises. Which brings us to the Greek word used in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures) for the Divine Covenant, "Diatheke" (Genesis 15). This is where one party is the provider and the other party the recipient. It also refers to a will. In other words, the recipient receives it after the provider dies.

Man receives all the blessing as a gift of Divine grace through faith in God's promises. When talking about "people of the covenant", it includes Israel which under Jehovah's (God of salvation, the Lord) unconditional covenants (Old Covenant: Deuteronomy 30:20 and prophetically the New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34). This also includes the Church. The Church is the believers in Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:27-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:25).

The Hebrew verb used for covenant originally in Genesis 15 (covenant with Abraham) is: "Barah". It means "to cut," in other words: blood flowed. Jesus is the perfect Lamb whose body has been broken and whose blood has flowed for our salvation (See Isaiah 53 written about 750 years before Christ). Jesus set out the communion for us and pointed out that the wine was representative of His blood that flowed for us, and we must drink it in His memory. The bread that is broken, represents Jesus' body that has been broken for us (Matthew 26: 26-28).

## The Divine Covenants are mainly in two categories:

### ***Unconditional***

- Based on God's omnipotence and grace for fulfilment



- No conditions to the recipient except that they must accept the covenant and have faith in God's promises.
- Covenants with Noah and those with Abraham are examples of this

***Conditional***

- There are conditions that the recipient must meet to enjoy the benefits of the promises and for the covenant to be valid.
- Covenants in Eden and with Moses are examples of this. See page 107 in the free ebook: "Let the Word Testify" available from [www.matthew28.co.za](http://www.matthew28.co.za) for a detailed description of the concept, covenant.

Here is a summary of the covenants God made with man in the Old Testament and an explanation of how the Messiah accomplishes it.

<b>Summary of the covenant</b>	<b>Man in context to the covenant</b>	<b>The covenant and prophetic reality</b>	<b>The Messiah</b>
<p><b>The Sabbath</b></p> <p>God ordained the Sabbath, blessed and sanctified it during creation (Genesis 2:2-3). The word Sabbath is derived from Hebrew which means "to rest". By blessing the day and to sanctify, means God set this day apart for devotional use. This day refers to God in a unique way as the true Creator of the universe. The focus is on God, His presence, and miracles. Later, the Sabbath was also singled out to remind the Israelites of their miraculous salvation from Egypt (Deuteronomy 5:15).</p>	<p>The Sabbath applies to all people (Isaiah 56:2-7) and is regularly confirmed, such as for example, Exodus 16:23, Exodus 20:8-11; Leviticus 23:3; Isaiah 58:13-14, Mark 2:27-28.</p> <p>It was set long before the Jewish people existed. Abraham, the ancestor of the Jews, already maintained the Lord's day (Genesis 26:5). The Sabbath is set for the Lord, to stop one with what he is busy with and be reminiscent of God who is the Creator.</p>	<p>Christ is the One through whom God created everything (John 1:1-3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2-3).</p> <p>So, Christ is the One who also set forth the Sabbath. The world's attention is on God, established through the Sabbath and the chosen people, the Israelites (Jews) that are set apart by it (Exodus 31:13).</p> <p>Salvation for all people and nations come from the Jews (John 4:22). The world came to know the Name of God through the Messiah (John 17:17-26) which according to the scripture was the offspring of David (Isaiah 11:10).</p>	<p>Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28). In His presence the Sabbath is made perfect. His faithful followers are recognized as those who have reverence for the Sabbath. Believers in the future will still honour the Sabbath (Matthew 24:20; Isaiah 66:22-23)</p>
<p><b>Covenant in Eden and later with Adam</b></p> <p>(Genesis 1:28-30; 2:16-17) -responsibility and perfect submission to the will of God. Life abounds with provision, and in the presence of God. Disobedience to God (Sin) did not exist. There was perfect spiritual unity between God and man. God's command was that Adam and Eve not eat</p>	<p>Man was disobedient to God and has transgressed the covenant (Genesis 3:6, Hosea 6:7). Man's disobedience toward God had the following consequences</p> <p>(Genesis 3:14-19):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The spiritual death (separation from God) and physical death occurred.</li> <li>• The earth is cursed and starts producing thistles and thorns and man will have difficulty eating of it</li> </ul>	<p>The Messiah will come from the Seed of the woman and overcome evil (Genesis 3:15). He will therefore be born as a man and known as Immanuel (God with us) (Isaiah 7:14).</p> <p>The cities under Satan's control are already destroyed by God and speaks prophetically of Satan's final judgment.</p> <p>Think of cities like Tyre (Ezekiel 28:1-19), Sidon (Ezekiel 28:20-26) and Babylon (Isaiah 14:1-23). In</p>	<p>The Word of God, the Messiah, became flesh and came and dwelt among us (John 1:14). He came to break the works of the Satan (1 John 3:8) and to bring about Eternal Life to those who believe in Him (John 6:47).</p>

<p>from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they did, they would die (Genesis 2:17). Disobedience to God (sin) causes death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Man must work so he can eat until his death</li> </ul> <p>Satan in his rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-16; Ezekiel 28:13-17) has power over death by deceiving man into disobeying God (2 Corinthians 11:14; Hebrews 2:14-16; Revelation 20:10). The wages of disobedience to God (Sin) is death (Romans 6:23).</p>	<p>the book of Revelation, it is prophetically referred to as the final judgment on Satan who is conquered through the blood of the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) (Revelation 12:9-11).</p>	
<p><b>The covenant with Noah</b></p> <p>The wickedness of man on earth was very great. God has regrets because He created man and wanted man annihilated (Genesis 6:5-7). God does not endure evil and disobedience (Leviticus 20:1-5; Deuteronomy 4:24-26; Matthew 10:28)</p>	<p>The principle of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and knowledge of the Holy One (Proverbs 9:10).</p> <p>Noah and his family have mercy found and is with the Lord, saved. The Lord blesses those who fear Him (Psalm 115:13).</p> <p>God makes a covenant with Noah and his family that all living beings do not pass through a flood on earth again to be wiped out (Genesis 9:8-17).</p>	<p>Sin and wickedness are unacceptable to God, it brings separation between man and God and leads to death (Romans 6:23; 1 John 5:18). Believers in the atonement death of Christ obtains eternal life by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). Worldly wisdom is spiritually blind, Christ Jesus is wisdom from God unto righteousness, sanctification, and salvation (Isaiah 11:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31).</p>	<p>Christ the Righteous has suffered once for the unjust, to bring us to God. He who was killed as man, but made alive by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).</p> <p>Man can overcome evil by believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God and observing His commandments (1 John 5:3-5). Jesus Christ has made it possible for many believers around the world to have eternal life (Hebrews 2:10; John 6:47).</p>
<p><b>The unconditional covenant between God and Abraham</b></p> <p>(Genesis 12, 15, 19). The way in which the covenant was established was true to the ancient custom because blood flowed. The party who breaks the covenant must walk the path of death. It is a</p>	<p>The importance of the Covenant of Abraham can be seen in the fact that the Jewish people survived in the desert after the exodus from Egypt despite their disobedience to God. They lived in the desert for forty years after exodus as punishment but still entered the promised land (Land Covenant).</p>	<p>This covenant was the foundation for the Jews to be established as the people of Israel. From this people the Messiah came (Deuteronomy 18:18; Isaiah 11:1-2; Jeremiah 23:5). The whole world's attention will be drawn to the events in the land of Israel (Isaiah 11:12, 25:6-9; Ezekiel 36:36) and the final rescue and restoration of Israel</p>	<p>The Messiah was born from the descendants of David, who were also the descendants of Abraham (Matthew 1:1). Jesus Christ confirms that salvation comes from the Jews and that He himself is the Messiah (John 4:21-26).</p> <p>Belief in God the Father that raised Jesus Christ from the dead brings justification (Romans 4:24 - 5:2).</p>

<p>monopolistic covenant where God is the Provider and Abraham the privileged ("Diatheke"). The following is promised to Abraham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great offspring</li> <li>• Promised Land - Land Covenant</li> <li>• Salvation for all nations throughout Abraham's offspring – New Covenant</li> </ul> <p>Abraham is saved based of his faith and obedience to God (Genesis 22:15-18; Romans 4:1-5, 16-25)</p>	<p>Reconciliation between God and man will be accomplished through the Jewish people (Israel) to make salvation of all nations possible. So, this covenant is also confirmed with Isaac (Genesis 26:24) and to the twelve sons of Jacob who are the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49).</p>	<p>(Jeremiah 23:5-8, 33:15-16; Ezekiel 36:24-38).</p>	<p>Those who believe in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, has eternal life (1 John 5:9-12)</p>
<p><b>The conditional covenant with Moses</b> (Exodus 20:1 to Deuteronomy 28:68). This covenant with Moses confirms the Covenant with Abraham. It was entered into with the Israelites after their salvation from Egypt. It was about respecting the holiness of God and showing gratitude for the deliverance from Egypt.</p> <p>It was an attempt at justification before the Holy One, God and Creator.</p> <p>Between God and Israel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Commandments</li> </ul>	<p>Man breaks the covenant (Isaiah 24:5) through disobedience and worship of idols (Exodus 32:8).</p> <p>The human priesthood is set according to the order of Aaron - Levites. They had served as mediators between God and the people so that the people would not be destroyed (Exodus 32:9-10). Sacrifices have been around for centuries and used by man to seek reconciliation to God. The Levitical priests have this process facilitated according to the will of God. However, the sacrifices were only the covering of sin, they did not take away sins. The blood sacrifice came strongly to the</p>	<p>The Sabbath is the sign of the Lord's covenant with Moses – message to all nations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Israel is set apart by God (Exodus 31:12-17)</li> <li>• Sign of the exodus (Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Ezekiel 20:10-12)</li> </ul> <p>The law of Moses made the Israelites yearn for a Saviour. The Greek word used for covenant, "Diatheke" means will. Something gained after the death of the person.</p>	<p>The Messiah perfected the law on behalf of man. The law serves no more than means of justification (Galatians 2:16).</p> <p>Salvation is by faith in the Messiah alone, not works. The Messiah's blood has taken away our sin. His body was cut on behalf of man - "Barah" (Hebrews 10:1-4). He serves as Mediator of a New Covenant (Hebrews 9:13-18)</p> <p>Divine Priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek's was realized in the Messiah Himself. Foretold by the prophets (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-13) and perfected through the Messiah (Hebrews 7:11-28). The dividing wall between the Jews and other nations, between</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 613 ceremonial laws</li> </ul> <p>Civil law:</p> <p>The law of Moses is given to the Jews for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have a sacred relationship with God (Leviticus 11:44; 19:1-2; 1 Peter 1:15-16)</li> <li>• Joy and security through proper rules of conduct. (Psalm 19:8; Psalm 119:77, 97, 103- 104; 159)</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for worship (Leviticus 23)</li> <li>• To distinguish the Jews from other peoples (Exodus 19:5-8; 31:13)</li> <li>• To expose sin (Romans 3:19-20; 5:20; 7:7)</li> </ul>	<p>forefront. Blood makes atonement for the soul (Leviticus 17:10-11)</p>		<p>God and man are broken down (Ephesians 2:14-18).</p>
<p><b>Land Covenant: Unconditional covenant between God and Israel</b></p> <p>(Deuteronomy 29:1 - 30:20). A widening of the covenant with Abraham.</p> <p>Confirmation that the land belongs to Israel.</p> <p>Not Palestinian covenant. The latter name is given to the country by the Roman emperor Hadrian in 132-135 AD during the second Jewish rebellion under Bar</p>	<p>Israel breaks the covenant and commits spiritual adultery through idolatry. Israel is punished through scattering.</p> <p>A sincere heart in obedience receives grace (Jeremiah 29:8-9).</p> <p>God has made unity in faith possible by His salvation and revelation through Israel. By this people the Bible is made available today that teaches man the truth about God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).</p>	<p>Ownership of the land is unconditionally that of Israel's but habitation depends upon obedience to God.</p> <p>The future recovery and blessing of Israel will occur under the New Covenant - new heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34; 32:36-41; Ezekiel 36:25-27)</p> <p>The final salvation of Israel will be by faith in Jesus Christ the Bridegroom and Saviour (Isaiah 54:4-8)</p>	<p>The question may be asked: "With what god are you dealing?" A God beyond or outside the revelation of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? it is then a god as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-worship</li> <li>• A god, or gods, devised through human fantasies and taught to their offspring</li> <li>• A God who obeys man and his lust</li> <li>• Definitely, not the God who gives you eternal life!</li> </ul>

<p>Kochba in an attempt at eradicating any Jewish sentiment in the land.</p> <p>Prophetically the prediction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salvation for all nations throughout Israel (29:14-15)</li> <li>• Israel's worship of idols and resulting punishment and scattering around the world (29:17-18)</li> <li>• Israel's ultimate recovery, repentance and return to Promised Land (30:1-5)</li> <li>• Israel will get a new heart in to love the Lord. Requirement for the New Covenant (30:6)</li> <li>• Blessing of Israel through obedience (30:8-10)</li> </ul>		<p>Determined time for the day of the Lord (Romans 11:25-27)</p>	<p>Jesus Christ wasn't merely a Rabbi. He is from God Himself (John 8:42), the giver of eternal life (John 6:47). The One Who will render judgment (John 5:19-24). He did not die on the cross and rise for nothing, the whole world will be called into account (Romans 14:11). You have to deal with this! The only way to get rid of idols is faith in Jesus Christ</p>
<p><b>The covenant of David</b></p> <p>David's son Solomon will establish the eternal kingship and the Temple building.</p> <p>His disobedience will be punished but God's kindness (covenant loyalty) will not be taken away (2 Samuel 7:11b-16)</p>	<p>Provisions of the covenant of David:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eternal Kingdom (2 Samuel 7:11b-12; 16; 1 Chronicles 17:10-12)</li> <li>• Solomon would ascend the throne after David (2 Samuel 7:12)</li> <li>• Solomon would build the Temple (2 Samuel 7:13a)</li> <li>• Unconditional covenant. Despite Solomon's sins an eternal kingdom was</li> </ul>	<p>The covenant of David is a widening the covenant of Abraham. Eternity is brought in with the promises of an eternal home, eternal Throne, eternal kingdom and eternal Descendant (The Messiah)</p> <p>The Messiah will come from the descendants of David to take up eternal throne (1 Chronicles 17: 10b-14).</p>	<p>Jesus Christ was born as a human being (Daniel 7:13; Philippians 2:6-11) of the Virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18) and is God with us (John 1:14; Colossians 2:9). The Messiah will come again (Acts 1:11; John 14:3, 18; 28).</p> <p>After the Second Coming, the Messianic kingdom on earth will be established (Revelation 5:1-10)</p>

	<p>established (2 Samuel 7:14-15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Messiah will come from the Seed of David (1 Chronicles 17:11)</li> <li>• The Messiah's kingdom will exist forever (1 Chronicles 17:12-15)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>The New Covenant</b> (unconditional and of eternal power). The Lord will with the house of Israel and the house of Judah make a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).</p> <p>It is a covenant with the whole Jewish nation, descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.</p> <p>It is a replacement of the conditional covenant of Moses which has been broken by man. Do so that you may be blessed.</p> <p>The New Covenant promises the renewal of Israel (Jeremiah 31:33 and Isaiah 59:21) and is based on grace.</p> <p>The New Covenant extends the blessing aspect of the Covenant of Abraham about Salvation.</p>	<p>The New Covenant does that the covenant of Moses could not do. It provides for the remission of sin (Jeremiah 31:24-25).</p> <p>The indwelling of the Holy Spirit becomes a reality (Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26-27)</p> <p>The Shrine will be rebuilt (Ezekiel 37: 26-28). The Covenant of Moses has provision made for the erection of the Tabernacle, the Covenant of David provided for the erection of the first Temple. The New Covenant provides for the erection of the Messianic or Millennial Temple.</p> <p>The New Covenant does not contain the law of Moses, but the law of the Messiah (Romans 8:2 and Galatians 6:2). It shows how the spiritual blessings of the Lord in Jewish covenants overflow to the non-Jews.</p>	<p>John the Baptist will identify the Messiah as the Lamb of God. The Messiah is the Angel of the Covenant from the tribe of Judah. (Malachi 3:1-4)</p> <p>With the New Covenant, the Messiah becomes the new representative.</p> <p>Grace and truth have come through the Messiah (John 1:17; 8:31-32).</p> <p>The Old Covenant of Moses has one's imperfect actions as standard.</p> <p>The blood of the Messiah has salvation brought in the New Covenant (Hebrews 8:1-10)</p>	<p>John the Baptist identifies Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Lamb of God (John 1:29), Jesus Christ, the Divine High Priest (according to the Melchizedek priesthood - Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:11-13) came to act as Mediator (Ephesians 2:13-18) around the New Covenant fulfilment (Hebrews 8:6). He came to break down the wall between Jew and Non-Jew so that eternal life is available to all who believe in Him (Ephesians 2:8; John 6:47)</p>



# God, A Personal Reality

The world wants you to believe that everything is in unity or oneness. We can say that everything falls into one indistinct pool without identity. God must then also be one with it. God must then take on any identity as it is considered good to man. The peculiarity and holiness of God's creation is also downgraded to a decaying state. There should be no more boundaries neither right nor wrong. It then gives man the room to move around and manipulate his worldview as he wishes.

*"Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord! will not enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 7:21).

## Renewal of thinking

The fact that you can read, think, and form an opinion is no accident. You are so created to gain knowledge, to experience and to conceptualize. You have a consciousness. Your frame of reference is fed by what you observe. Your thinking articulates your observation so that you can understand and conceptualize it. You can set yourself apart for something special and make choices. All this is not for nothing.

When you are only concerned with earthly things, you remain limited to human reasoning, opinions, and fantasies. When you concern yourself with the Word of God, revelation takes place. It depends therefore upon to which kingdom your thinking belongs. Do you only maintain an earthly frame of reference of limited concepts and fantasies, or do you enter God's presence for revelation?

God is invisible. He is above the human frame of reference. As a dog cannot explain where you come from, ignorant thinking cannot imagine the supernatural God or get to know Him. The Word of God not only spoke to man through prophets, but He became visible on earth and spoke directly to man. The Apostle John testified about Jesus Christ as follows:

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us - and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. "* (John 1:14).

*"After God spoke many times and in many ways in the old days to the fathers through the Prophets, He spoke to us in these last days through the Son that He is heir of all things, by whom He also made the world. He, who is the apparition of his glory and the imprint of his being, and all things bear by the word of his power, after working through Himself the cleansing of our sins, sat down at the Lord the right hand of the Majesty in height. "* (Hebrews 1:1-3).

God is a wonderful reality. He wants to renew your thinking and reveal Himself to you (Romans 12:1-2). He does it through His Spirit and uses His Word powerfully to do so. In Old Testament times man did not have Scripture available like we do today. Through earthly practices and ritual, they sought God. When one seeks out God, or enters His presence, you do so in reverence of His Holy Person. We refer to this as worship. Worship is therefore a process during which you seek to draw close to God so that your thinking can be renewed and come to know God. You cannot impress God with what you do. God is not stupid, and He knows your heart (2 Chronicles 6:30). The best "ritual" we can perform today is to enter into worship by studying the Word of God and thus being educated by the Holy Spirit to get to know God. Jesus Christ, who speaks only the Words of the Father (Deuteronomy 18:18; John 12:49), still speaks to us today through His Holy Spirit that lives in our hearts (John 16:13-14).

The question can now be asked: Who educates you? How do you structure your life? Do you have only a Christ consciousness? The demons have it too (James 2:19). What is the difference



between you and a devil when it comes to awareness about God? Both know that God exists, and that Christ is the Son of God (Luke 8:28).

Whose kingdom does your thinking belong to? Your own god you created in your imagination who acts as you think he should act? Typical of these is the god of love alone. The false Christ. Also typical of this is some or other form of nature worship.

The Word says: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will leave him worrying about his own things. Every day has enough of its own evil."* (Matthew 6:33-34)

*"Call upon Me, and I will answer you and make known to you great and unfathomable things that you don't know."* (Jeremiah 33:3)

*"<sup>13</sup>When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, <sup>14</sup>if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

Love for God and His Holy Identity comes first, then wonderful revelation follows:

*"<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. <sup>24</sup>He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.'"* (John 14:23-26)

The realization is that if you deal with the lie, you are given over to the lie by God to believe the lie. You get blinded! (2 Thessalonians 2:11; Romans 1:24-27). The Bible shows that God is the Most Holy Person in the universe (1 Samuel 2:2). God expects the person seeking to approach Him to be holy as well (Leviticus 19:2; Ephesians 4:17-19; Galatians 5:16-22). When one says that one is holy, it means that you are set apart for God and renounce sin. The latter is impossible for the man who does not know God (Hosea 4:6). To be holy requires knowledge of God.

Knowledge of God brings change in one's life and one's thinking.

*"<sup>17</sup>This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup>having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup>who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. <sup>20</sup>But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup>if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup>that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup>and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup>and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."* (Ephesians 4:17-24).

*"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* (Romans 12:2).

So, the mind of a believer in Jesus Christ is one with his Creator, because he is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). The Apostle John testifies to how they experienced Christ and got to know Him:

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

We learn that when one gets to know the true God through His Son, one experiences true love because love comes from God. In other words, love gets meaningful content when you get to know God, the origin of God as the most important Person in our lives to bless our neighbour.

*"<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."* (1 John 4:7-14)

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2)

The Holy Spirit lives in the believer and is embodied in his / her life:

*"<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."* (Galatians 5:22-23)

The believer receives revelation from God through Jesus Christ, he / she receives hope in Jesus Christ for everlasting glory.

*"<sup>26</sup>the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."* (Colossians 1: 26-28)

## Forever Unchanged Reality

In preparation for Moses' great task of leading the Israelites out of Egypt, God had His Name and the meaning of His Name, "Yahweh", revealed to Moses:

*"<sup>14</sup>And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.' <sup>15</sup>Moreover God said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'"* (Exodus 3: 14-15)

The meaning of the Hebrew Name (Yahweh - Lord) of God is: "I Am". In other words, He is eternal, He is always present, He is unchanged. He provides. You can trust in Him that He will not change. His Name is salvation from the beginning. God is the Provider. He provides for those who ask for Him. He keeps His Covenant with Abraham and all the nations.

When Moses was inspired to write down the Scriptures and testify of how God made the covenant with the patriarch Abraham, he already knew the Name of God as Yahweh. In Genesis 15, the name Yahweh was used for God. In English it is translated as "Lord".

*"<sup>18</sup>On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: 'To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— <sup>19</sup>the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup>the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup>the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.' "* (Genesis 15:18-21)

The Name of God He gave us, "Yahweh," is linked to salvation, in other words: Meaningful revelation to man. His Name was also used during the command to Moses to lead the people out of slavery in Egypt. Both events have eternal value and are clearly linked to God who revealed Himself by, and through, Israel.

God's revelation to Israel and the covenant that He made with Abraham indicate all believers, of all nations, today have the assurance that we, through faith, are also part of the promise:

*"<sup>1</sup>Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' "* (Genesis 12:1-3)

By faith Abraham received grace. When he was instructed to sacrifice his son Isaac, God provided a lamb to be sacrificed in the place of Isaac.

*"<sup>12</sup>And He said, do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.' <sup>13</sup>Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, 'In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.' <sup>15</sup>Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said: 'By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— <sup>17</sup>blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.' "* (Genesis 22:12-18)

Abraham clearly believed in the promise of the covenant God made with him: *"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."* It could not come true otherwise because the covenant God made with Abraham had a great offspring in store for him. If Abraham would sacrifice Isaac his son, by whom would the offspring come?

*"<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, 'Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup>Then Abram said, 'Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!' <sup>4</sup>And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.' "* (Genesis 15:2-4)

Just like Abraham who received grace through faith in God's providence, so can we today also receive grace through faith in God's provision: His Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sin. Just as God provided a lamb to replace Isaac who was to be sacrificed, so God provided His Lamb, the Messiah - Jesus Christ, on behalf of man to fulfil the covenant. Through the people of Israel, this event has become a historic fact. It gives context to what God did through the preconceptions and customs of the ancient peoples. It challenges myth to bow to true Salvation, according to the Scriptures, through the Messiah Jesus Christ. God has revealed the Spiritual calendar on earth. He has reconciled the Eternal with the natural by revealing His Name on earth. This act of salvation is challenging the whole world to accountability. No imitation is possible here. We can now better understand what Jesus Christ meant in His prayer:

*"<sup>25</sup>O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. <sup>26</sup>And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."* (John 17: 25-26)

## What role does God play in my life today?

From the above we can now understand that God is the Holy Person who is intervening with us. He is part of our lives. Let us look at three important attributes of God as we have come to know Him in Scripture and how He is personally involved with us today: (King, Priest and Prophet):

## The King

God is the Eternal Supreme Being. "I am". He was, is and will be the King of the universe. There is frequent reference in the Bible to the Kingdom of God. A king is someone given authority to rule over a group of people. More than 400 years before Christ Zechariah prophesied saying: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zechariah 9:9).

Jesus Christ is merciful and undoubtedly this King. Read in Matthew 21:6-9 how Jesus also fulfilled this prophecy:

*"6So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' "*

Note that this event occurred on Nisan 9. Already from about 1500 years before Christ the pilgrims arrived in Jerusalem annually on this day for Easter preparation. They had to take a lamb without blemish to the priest and offer it at the Temple so that it can be confirmed as without blemish. The lamb is then slaughtered at 3pm on Nisan 14 (Easter). Jesus Christ arrives on a donkey in Jerusalem Nisan 9. He was offered to Herod and Pilate and they declared that they could find no wrong with Him. He is crucified on Nisan 14 and dies on the cross at 3:00 pm. Jesus Christ is thus clearly seen in Scripture as the perfect Lamb of God. No doubt must therefore exist that He is also the Word of God who reigns and judges as King. The apostle John testified to the revelation he received and what the angel told him:

*"6And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.' 8And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9Then he said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' And he said to me, 'these are the true sayings of God.' 10And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.' 11Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God." (Revelation 19: 6-13)*

The King is the Good Shepherd (John 10) and is concerned for his people. He is the loving Bridegroom who stays true to His Bride. About a thousand years before Christ, David prophesies as follows:

*"5Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. 6Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat. 7The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." (Psalm 19: 5-9)*

Jesus Christ refers to Himself as this Bridegroom: "And Jesus said to them, 'Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.'" (Matthew 9:15)

Faithful to the use of a Jewish bridegroom, Jesus Christ, the Divine Jewish Bridegroom, gives the believers peace of mind: "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)

God created opportunity so that those who know Him can find joy in Him. He as King has changed the world's calendar and thus given us hope for the future in Christ. A good example of this is the annual festivals He has set up. It is celebrated over specific days commemorating His revelations of the past, His powerful presence made a reality and to place future events prophetically in context so that the believer can have certainty about His saving grace. The setting of the festivities can be seen in Leviticus 23. Jesus Christ has completed all the spring festivals and so will also complete the future autumn festivities. The ebook "Let the Word Testify" can be downloaded free of charge from [www.matthew28.co.za](http://www.matthew28.co.za). Please read the chapter: "The Messianic Reality in the feasts of the Lord " which extensively discusses the feasts. In short, note the following important facts: These feasts are set about 1300 years before Christ and are celebrated every year on specific days (Leviticus 23). See how Jesus Christ is also the Central Figure and the King in this:

<b>Spring Celebrations</b>	
Easter - Nisan 14: Easter is celebrated every year on Nisan 14 to commemorate the redemption of slavery from Egypt. During the tenth plague, the blood of the lamb without blemish was painted on the door frames of the Israelites' homes so that the angel of death passes by (Pass over them). So, the Passover lamb's blood was shed for the salvation of man.	Jesus Christ was crucified on the same day, Nisan 14, and died the same hour as the Passover lamb who had to be slaughtered. He is the Passover Lamb who died for our sins. He took the path of death on behalf of man and died in our place (John 1:29; Revelation 12:11; Revelation 21:27 - 22:5).
Feast of first fruits - Nisan 17: The first sheaf of grain from the spring harvest is sacrificed to the Lord. The first fruits were dedicated to the Lord. A movement offering to the Lord.	Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, is sacrificed and resurrects on the same day (Nisan 17) from the dead and moved out of the grave / death. He is the Giver of Eternal Life. He is our First Fruits to Eternal Life (Matthew 28:1-6).
Feast of Unleavened Bread - Nisan 15-21: Yeast represents fermentation and sin in one's life. No leaven is used during this festival and is removed from their homes.	Jesus Christ, the Holy One's body did not decompose in the grave. He took away our sin. He has raised from the dead (Psalm 16:10).
Festival of Weeks - Sivan 6: Seven weeks after Easter (7X7 = 49) on the fiftieth day (Pentecost) the people of Israel received God's law on Mount Sinai and the nation of Israel were born.	On the same day, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles, and the Church was born (Acts 2:1-4).



## Autumn Celebration

<p>The Feast of Trumpets - Tishri 1-2: The beginning of the Jewish New Year. With trumpet sound the Lord is celebrated as King. He is! He Is the Creator of the Universe. He is the King forever present in our lives. A period of self-examination and spiritual growth. Gracious, He is King over all our problems. There is no God other than Yahweh. The blowing of trumpets is a sign of the return of Christ and also an anniversary of the Lord's grace to Abraham when He provided a lamb to sacrifice by Abraham instead of Isaac (Genesis 22). Isaac is a prototype of Christ. Just as Abraham had to sacrifice his son on the altar, so the Lord sacrificed His Son on the altar of Calvary. About 600 before Christ Daniel prophesies as follows:</p> <p><i>"<sup>13</sup>I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."</i> (Daniel 7:13-14).</p>	<p>See Jesus Christ's words when Pilate asked Jesus if He was a king:</p> <p><i>"<sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.' <sup>37</sup>Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Are You a king then?' Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.'"</i> (John 18:36-37).</p>
<p>The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) - Tishri 10: Once a year on this day, the Levitical (human) high priest enters the Most Holy place of the Temple to do atonement for his own, and the sins of the people.</p>	<p>Jesus Christ is the Divine High Priest (according to the Divine order of Melchizedek) who has perfectly reconciled God and man through His accomplished work on the cross to pay for our sins (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:22-25).</p>
<p>Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) - Tishri 15: The word "Sukkot" refers to tents, or temporary places of residence. It reminds the Israelites of how they had to stay in the wilderness after they were freed from the slavery of Egypt.</p>	<p>The Lord has built a tabernacle for Himself among them so that His presence could be a reality to them. We are dealing with one Almighty God Who was there throughout the ages and was always present. In Jesus Christ He comes to earth to tabernacle with us. He is Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14). The Holy Spirit is still God with us today (John 16:7).</p>

As a believer you can look forward with great joy and certainty to the coming of the Lord our King. In chapters 8 to 10 of the book of Revelation, the "hidden meaning of God " will be revealed with the sound of the last trumpet. See Revelation 10:5-7: *"<sup>5</sup>The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven <sup>6</sup>and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things*

*that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, <sup>7</sup>but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets."*

Look at Jesus' prophecy of the Second Coming, Matthew 24:30-31: "<sup>30</sup>*Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

*"<sup>14</sup>Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.' "* (Mark 1:14-15)

Do not let mythic stories and other gods distract you from the Truth. The revelation of God through the Messiah, Jesus Christ, clearly experienced by, and through the Jewish people, have been properly documented, placing the Bible dominantly in the forefront. The Bible makes it possible for man to get to know the Kingdom of God firsthand.

*"<sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* (Matthew 6:31-34)

When Jesus Christ told parables, His intention was for them, and also us today, to be introduced to the Kingdom of God. For example, consider His words: "*Another parable He put forth to them, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.....'*" (Matthew 13:24)

The believer of today has hope in Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 1:1; Romans 15:13; 1 Peter 3:15) and looks forward to the Kingdom of God being established on earth. This wonderful Kingdom works quite differently from earthly kingdoms. Instead of needing to buy and sell, you receive by giving (Luke 6:38). Evil is overcome by love (Romans 12:19-21). By giving up your personal problems and to seek the Kingdom of God, you receive what you really need, life (Matthew 6:33; Matthew 16:24-25). True leaders are those who serve others (Matthew 20:24-28). The biggest Leader ever on earth has served us by dying on the cross so that the whole world can take notice of His personal love for us.

*"<sup>9</sup>As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."* (John 15:9-14).

He taught us to pray as follows:

*"<sup>9</sup>In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."* (Matthew 6:9-13)

The loving King does not tolerate sin. He has nations that have committed abominable acts (like sacrificing their children to idols: Deuteronomy 18:9-14), expelled before the Israelites. How else should a loving King act? He destroys evil. So, His presence also removes evil from our lives and He takes up the throne room of our hearts as King.

## The Divine High Priest

In the Old Testament times, a priest was someone who offered sacrifices to God on behalf of himself, and the worshiper, for the remission of sin and worship. It was a tremendously responsible process and the priest was punished with death should he take it lightly (Leviticus 10:1-2). The priest thus acted as mediator between God and man.

When you approach the Person of God in respect, God reveals Himself to you (Jeremiah 29:13). It is a wonderful experience. We clearly have to do with the Almighty Person of God who chose intentionally to concern Himself with man. He is a Person who wants to be in relationship with man and has formulated this relationship unto salvation of man by a covenant. Making a covenant was an ancient custom which the people of that time understood. The Divine Covenant (Genesis 15) contains mainly two components: Respect for the Holy Person of God and eternal life from God to whosoever accepts Him through faith. No god outside the Tanakh will make a covenant with his creatures and himself to that end and do not commit, because he cannot fulfil it. Other gods outside the Tanakh were thus uncovered as inventions.

As can be seen above, the Lord has remained recognizably involved throughout the ages. He has the Levitical (human) priesthood established to bring man closer to Himself in an orderly fashion so that they could be educated properly. The Levitical priests acted as mediators between God and man. However, the human priests were imperfect and needed to repeatedly seek to restore reconciliation. Mercifully, and according to the scriptures (John 5:39), the Lord established His kingdom through a human bloodline (the offspring of David - Isaiah 11: 1-10; Revelation 22:16) on earth and the Divine Priestly Order (Melchizedek - Hebrews 6 - 9) was established to finally give the human believer reconciliation to Himself. The latter was accomplished by the greatest miracle that has ever occurred on earth: The Grace ministry of the Divine High Priest on earth: The Messiah, Jesus Christ.

What better High Priest and Mediator than the Being of God Himself (Colossians 2:9), wouldn't you want the Divine Bridegroom and High Priest to intercede for you with God? Jesus Christ, the Crucified One. He is the Word of God that became man himself:

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

More than 400 years before Christ, God speaks to man and predicts that John the Baptist will identify the Messiah. Jesus Christ, the Anointed, the Lamb of God, the special Person, the Messiah, is the Angel of the covenant:

*"<sup>1</sup>Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. 'Behold, He is coming,' says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap.' "* (Malachi 3: 1-2 over 400 years before Christ)

In the book of John we can read today that the above prophecy has also been fulfilled. John the Baptist paved the way for the Messiah: *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29)

There can only be one Angel of the covenant, and that is the very being of God himself. He is the perfect Person and exposes all wandering and doubt so that man can purely come to the knowledge of God:

*"<sup>8</sup>Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup>and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."* (Colossians 2: 8-10)



*"<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.' <sup>8</sup>Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father?' " (John 14:6-9)*

Man still has the choice: Do you die in Christ or without Christ? If you do what is wise and do the right thing and accept Christ as your Saviour, then you have eternal life in Christ through His Redemptive Act that has brought about reconciliation for you with the Father. If you die without Christ, you will be judged by Christ according to your works and not that of Christ's works (2 Corinthians 11:15). Christ is the Only Way for you to the Father because you must take account for your works to Him, or His works for you. The choice is yours, He has not died on the cross in vain.

About 1000 years before Christ, David prophesied that the Word of God: The King, comes and He sits at the right hand of God, He is the eternal Priest according to the order of Melchizedek:

*"<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.' <sup>2</sup>The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! <sup>3</sup>Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. <sup>4</sup>The Lord has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.' <sup>5</sup>The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. <sup>6</sup>He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. <sup>7</sup>He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head." (Psalm 110)*

The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews encourages the believer and gives hope from the Word that God will fulfil His promise to Abraham: Christ has on our behalf as High Priest, passed through the veil and enters the Most Holy Place and thus brought about perfect eternal reconciliation with the Heavenly Father:

*"<sup>19</sup>This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, <sup>20</sup>where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 6: 19-20)*

*"<sup>11</sup>But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. <sup>12</sup>Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." (Hebrews 9: 11-12)*

The Divine High Priest, Jesus Christ, encourages man to draw near to God to seek in His Name:

*"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." (John 16:24)*

By reconciling to the Lord you get what is greater than any earthly reasoning, you get life, eternal life. The Angel of the Covenant and High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek has made atonement for you with God the Father. Jesus Christ, the Word of God, say unto you: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life." (John 6: 47-48)*

## The Prophet

A prophet is someone who announces the will of God to man. He reveals God by speaking God's Word. He will sometimes also predict the future. Moses was such a prophet and was used

powerfully by God. The Divine calling and works of prophets can also be seen, for example, with Isaiah (Isaiah 6), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1 and 2) and Daniel (Daniel 1).

All these prophets made many prophecies that came to fruition after their time. The same prophets' works include many prophecies about the Second Coming of the Messiah and the end time. The fact that their prophecies came true gives hope and context to the future for us today.

In Deuteronomy 18:18 we can see how God spoke to Moses again and have the assurance that the Messiah will come to make His Word visible on earth:

*"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."* (Deuteronomy 18:18)

Jesus Christ confirmed that it is He who fulfils the prophecy and speaks only the words of God the Father.

*"<sup>49</sup>For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. <sup>50</sup>And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."* (John 12:49-50)

Notice that Jesus Christ did not speak of His own, but all He said was the Words of the Father. It came directly from the Father, He is from the Father, He is the Word of God that appeared as a human on earth:

*"<sup>8</sup>Philip said to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.' <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.'" (John 14:8-10)*

*"<sup>28</sup>I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.' <sup>29</sup>His disciples said to Him, 'See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! <sup>30</sup>Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.' <sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Do you now believe?' " (John 16:28-31)*

The apostle Peter confirms that the prophet referred to in Deuteronomy 18:18 is Jesus Christ and that He will return:

*"<sup>18</sup>But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, <sup>20</sup>and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. <sup>22</sup>For Moses truly said to the fathers, The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you." (Acts 3:18-22)*

Jesus Christ is described by the Apostle Paul as follows:

*"<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup>And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup>And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. <sup>19</sup>For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, <sup>20</sup>and by Him*

*to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross." (Colossians 1:15-20)*

The Lord still speaks to us today. His Word continues through His Holy Spirit who lives in the believer who knows Him.

*"<sup>16</sup>And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16-18)*

*"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26)*

Every year, the Israelites celebrated Pentecost on the fiftieth day after they left Egypt. So, they were together again on this day, which is also the fiftieth day (Pentecost) after the Messiah was crucified. The Holy Spirit was poured out:

*"<sup>1</sup>When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4)*

It is wonderful to realize that this outpouring of the Holy Spirit had also happened prophetically accurate according to how they celebrated every year on this day, Sivan 6 from about 1300 years before Christ. During these celebrations, they read Scripture from Ezekiel 1:4; Ezekiel 3:12 and Habakkuk 3:3-5 referring to a whirlwind and fire.

As already said, a prophet reveals the will of God, he speaks the words of the Father so that man can get to know God. Jesus Christ wants to reveal God the Father to you because He is the Word of the Father:

*"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him" (Matthew 11:27)*

The most effective way to get to the Word and to know the Father is through Bible Study. And you can do it in great anticipation in the Name of Jesus Christ:

*"<sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?' <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.' " (John 14:22-23)*

The ministry of the Divine High Priest, Jesus Christ, takes your heart's throne room over. His Holy Spirit lives in you to a meaningful life.

## What about uncertainty?

Man was created with the ability to make his own choices. Otherwise we would have acted like robots that makes no sense to the Creator. God is Spirit and man worships Him in the Spirit (John 4:24). The Spirit of God recognizes the will of God and reveals God to man. He is a reality and a Holy Person to the believer, but strange to the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

In Scripture, man is encouraged to examine all things through the Spirit of God (Supernatural revelation), knowing that Scripture is authentic (prophecy), and thus to obtain complete hope in Jesus Christ.

*"<sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies. <sup>21</sup>Test all things; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil. Blessing and Admonition. <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:19-23)*

The Word of God was undoubtedly given to man to objectively gain knowledge of God and come to faith (Acts 17:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:16). When you read the Bible, study and experience the Salvation Plan of God, and experience it, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Word stands back for nothing. The Word of God is the Spiritual Revelation of God. There are explanations for heresy.

## Typical questions people struggle with

### *Question: What about Mythology?*

It is said that the mythological stories date from before the Bible. It describes figures and events found in the Bible. Even saviours who were crucified and got up. Stories like the creation of the universe in 6 days and the flood story are also found in mythology. This raises the question of whether the stories can be believed that the Bible describes are true stories.

### **Answer:**

With all the events described throughout the Bible the genealogies of the people are available, places where it happened are mentioned, people's actions are mentioned, eyewitnesses were present, etc. More than one eyewitness describes the same events that saw them happen. This includes the crucifixion of Christ, the tomb that was empty after the Lord's resurrection, Christ's appearance to people after His resurrection from the dead and His Ascension. On one occasion Christ appeared to more than 500 people and the author challenges the people of that time to try and prove it wrong. Please read 1 Corinthians 15:1-9 for a witness, between witnesses, about Christ's appearances to many people after His death on the cross. The Bible is definitely not fiction. Christ's Divine Appearance on earth is a historical fact.

The Bible, therefore, undoubtedly describes true events, so how is it possible that in the mythical stories are similarities? This issue can be confusing if one seeks the answer only from the natural and human frame of reference. There are very good explanations for this. One of the simplest explanations for this is that the earliest mythology dates from about 800 BC, and beyond. So not long before the time of the Bible as claimed. Much research has been done on this and evidence rendered to the contrary. However, the important premise is to look at the source, or origin of the mythical tales. The latter can only be two: God himself, or the one who is against God, the impersonator: Satan. Think about the following:

### **God, the Creator, as Source:**

We must realize that we are dealing with God who is Spirit. He is outside of time (2 Peter 3:8). He spoke to man from the earliest times through imagery. There is also reference to the Apocalyptic Scripture. This was especially necessary for those who did not know Him. It was done so in a time that people of that time could identify with and understand. God spoke logically to other peoples, other than the Israelites, before the Bible was written. There are important, and interesting, previews of events occurring in the archives of other peoples found perfected in the Bible. This time by the chosen people of Israel through whom the events became a reality.

The highlight is the salvation work of the Messiah, according to the scriptures (Hebrews 1:1-2). It was no longer mythical figures, but real persons and the world's attention was focused on it. (Deuteronomy 29:24-26; 1 Kings 9:8-9; 2 Chronicles 7:20-22; Isaiah 11:10; Jeremiah 16:10; 22:8). This makes it very interesting and proves that the Bible is true. Preconceptions that have come true confirm true events as Divinely inspired and that these are revelations from God.

For example, think of the book of Daniel written about 600 years before Christ. Not only does he accurately predict the year during which the Messiah would be crucified (Daniel 9:22-27) but gives a picture of what would happen, and happened (the desecration of the Temple by Antiochus IV) and also that which will remain in the future during which the great tribulation will take place (Daniel 11:31). More of this can be read in the free book: "Let the Word Testify", page 161 available from [www.matthew28.co.za](http://www.matthew28.co.za)

The apocalyptic book of Revelation also makes wonderful use of this. Think, for example about the wedding feast of the Lamb in heaven (Revelation 19:7-9). No doubt according to the Scriptures, compare Isaiah 25:6; Luke 12:35-41; 13:29 and 22:29-30.

We can also read in the Bible today how God prepared man for the covenant that He would enter into with Abraham. Uses of the ancient peoples to make a covenant is used in the covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15). Animal carcasses were cut in two, placed opposite each other and the covenant partners moved in between. The path of death is run which is a reflection of what will happen to the party if that covenant is broken. It gained strong context in the Messiah's body that was cut for all believers, and that Christ died as a man in the place of man who was disobedient to the Lord's covenant (refer to discussions about covenants earlier in this write-up).

Jesus Christ is certainly not a mythological figure. Not only do many prophecies indicate that the Messiah is the Lamb of God in the Old Testament, and was born of the descendants of David, but we also see it confirmed in His genealogies on both father's and mother's side are available: Matthew 1:1-17: Father's side and Luke 3:23-38: Mother's side. The important thing for us today is to be able to say: God has spoken.

### **The Satan as source**

As mentioned before in the discussion of the covenants, Satan was an angel in heaven. Satan has tried to exalt himself as, and against God (Isaiah 14:12-16; Ezekiel 28:13-17). Remember, Satan was created by God as a heavenly being. He is not within the earthly dimension of time and space. He knew what was coming, and that was the Messiah's victory and Satan's downfall (Revelation 20:10). The Lord wants the gospel of the kingdom preached to all nations before the end comes (Matthew 24:14). Satan wants to delay it for as long as possible.

Satan transforms himself as the angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). With the knowledge of his downfall and the work of the atonement of the Messiah, Satan seeks to imitate it through mythology and idolatry which he inspired among man. A great imitation is the worship of the so-called Queen of Heaven, the female god. The origin of the Baal religion by Cush and his son Nimrod, grandson and great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:8-9).

Nimrod took his own mother, Semiramus, as a wife (lust) and begat her a son, Tammus. Semiramus is then depicted with the halo around her head with Tammus on her lap. She was also represented in mythology by many names. She becomes then represented as the Mother of God. This god is then her son Tammus who is logically trying to replace the Messiah. In many images, her foot is placed on a snake's head to create the impression that it is her offspring that crush Satan's head, such as mentioned in Genesis 3:15. Semiramus (the original Madonna) is worshiped as the Queen of Heaven after her death (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19; 44:25). This Queen of Heaven inclusion in mythology is considered by many as existing long before the time of the Bible. This however, Scripture had refuted because its origins are found in the Bible. She was the wife of Cush, Noah's grandson.

The Roman emperor, Constantine, also had to make way for the Queen of Heaven when he brought freedom of religion in around 320 after Christ. She is then portrayed as Mary with Jesus on her lap. That is why Catholics to this day still attach divinity to Mary. Constantine also had to provide for the main mythical god Zeus. The latter's birthday was on December 25th. It was then proposed as Christ's birthday. The sun god Ra had to also be brought in. The Sabbath was



then changed to Sunday, worship of the sun. Remember, Satan is spirit, he is aware of things that will happen in the future. He will bring in his own imitations, including other saviours who will also be crucified and raise up. He seeks to divert man's attention from the redemptive work of God.

One way that Satan uses it is to attack the Jewish people. Before Christ he has tried to eradicate them and thus postpone the Messiah being born. We see this when Pharaoh killed all Jewish boys (Exodus 1:15-22). Then Herod killed all Jewish boys under two years in an effort to also bring about the death of the Messiah (Matthew 2:16). After Christ, he tries to make the world believe that the Jewish people are not a chosen people. To focus the attention away from the Godhead and uniqueness of the Messiah.

He tries to destroy them by people like Nietzsche, Marx and Hitler. He influences the media to report against them. The longer he can persuade man to disobey God the longer he delays his own downfall.

The question can be asked: In which country, and city, in the world does everyone know what is going on? The answer is unequivocal: Israel and Jerusalem!

*"<sup>10</sup>And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious." <sup>11</sup>It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. <sup>12</sup>He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:10-12 - 750 years before Christ).*

The purpose of this writing is not to go into heresy. Do not waste time getting into this because heresy is created so that man can be blinded by Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4). Interestingly, lots of the heresy fans cannot tell you what is the source, because the lie is inherent within it, Satan. Rather, study the Bible and act thus in true dialogue with our Creator.

## ***Question: Is the God of the Old Testament also the God of the New Testament?***

It is claimed that the God who comes to know man in the Old Testament is not the same as the God of the New Testament. It is claimed that the God of the Old Testament is cruel and the God of the New Testament is a God of love.

### **Answer:**

It is precisely the God of the Old Testament who acted out of love. He has expelled evil peoples who followed the Baal religion of lust, and Moloch to whom they gave and sacrificed their children. (Deuteronomy 18:10). How else would a God of love behave? He chose the people of Israel to reveal Himself to man and to accomplish His plan of salvation. Including the final salvation of all the Jews (See the discussion on the New Covenant earlier in this writing). In doing so, He also dislikes their disobedience clearly demonstrated by punishing them when they do the above evil idol worship. If you look at the Ten Commandments mentioned in Exodus 20 given to the people, it is about love for God and for your neighbour. Evil and love is irreconcilable.

## What does Satan want you to believe?

### *The Satan typically wants you to believe that:*

- That he and his demons do not exist.
- The Bible contains many myths and that would declare the Bible invalid.
- That the Son of God, the Messiah Jesus Christ, is not unique.
- That God did not elect the people of Israel. In other words, also that the Messiah would not come from the people of Israel.
- That it will always go well with a chosen people. In other words, Satan's evil among them is concealed and that reconciliation between God and all believers on earth is not a reality.
- That one is justified by good deeds and rituals. The focus in other words is away from the revelation and salvation work of the Messiah. The reality is that one obtains complete reconciliation with the Creator, and also eternal life, through faith in the Messiah, Jesus Christ (John 6:47)
- Satan also wants man to believe that the Bible has many laws and laws regulations. The truth is that regulations and laws set out in the Old Testament to reveal and expose sin (Wickedness) through the people of Israel. The believer of today lives under the New Covenant and his / her hope is fully established in Jesus Christ.
- That there is a "golden line" in all religions. The reality is that all other gods outside the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, are not the Creator and giver of Eternal Life.

The heresy of myths and idols is quickly revealed when one keeps the following in mind:

- The detailed Messianic parallels and prophecies in the Old Testament that undoubtedly were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. To name only two out of more than 360: Please read Psalm 22 and Psalm 69 (1000 years before Christ) and see Christ's words on the cross and events around the cross. Read Zechariah 11: 12-13 (400 years before Christ) where it can be seen that Christ was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, after the crucifixion the money was thrown into the Temple and potter's land was purchased with it.
- Divine revelation by the people of Israel and that the Messiah from the offspring of David (the Israelites) would be born (Isaiah 11: 1-2 - 750 years before Christ).
- The Divine Order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5-9). Cannot be cloned because the origin is from God Himself.
- The testimonies of many Bible-based revelations. A good example of this is that of Paul where even the street name, origin and names of persons were given (Acts 9:11)

There are hopelessly too many prophecies and cross-references in the Bible concerning the Messiah, Jesus Christ, that something else can replace it or invalidate it. The person who seek answers outside the Bible, and only outside the Bible, will be blind, mythical, spine-less and caught up in liberal comfort zones (2 Thessalonians 2). The Spirit of God withdraws from such a person (Psalm 51:13) and he / she cannot see that Jesus Christ is the Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3).

## In Closing

The believer today can joyfully live a meaningful life by growing in his / her relationship and knowledge of God the Lord. Our thoughts are directed to the Father to glorify Him through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:13). The disciple of Christ strives to imitate the Person of Christ, respect the Word of God, and live a fruitful life.

In doing so, the Father is glorified (John 15:7-8). The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the believer (Acts 1:8) and educates him / her to pure faith and knowledge of God (John 16:4). The believer does not stagnate at conversion to Christ (Hebrews 5:12-6:2). His / her life bears fruit (Isaiah 58:7-14; John 15; James 2:14-18).

Bearing fruitful works become reverence for the Holy Person of God with the realization that salvation through faith comes from God and not from human rituals (Ephesians 2:8-10). The believer experiences joyful hope from God who is set in Jesus Christ, the Giver of Eternal Life (1 John 5:11-12; Romans 15:12-13; 1 Timothy 1) with the assurance that reconciliation with God the Father and salvation for our souls was accomplished for us through the wonderful eternal plan of salvation of God (1 Peter 1:3-12). The death on the cross and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, took place wonderfully according to the Scriptures (John 5:39; Acts 3:20-21; Romans 15:4; Hebrews 1:1-2). The fact that it was exactly according to the scriptures, the Bible proves to be God inspired Word. It cannot be imitated, nor replaced, nor added to (Revelation 22:6-21). It brings every people to account before the cross of Christ (John 14:6; Romans 14:11-12) which is undoubtedly a historical event.

The plan of salvation of God is holy and visible from Genesis to Revelation because the Son of God, Jesus Christ, clearly plays the leading role in this. The believer is delivered from human wisdom and philosophy (Colossians 2:8) and wisely seek the Face of God (Jeremiah 33:3). The Bible as a whole becomes the Holy Book of Revelation.

Encouraging and joyful thinking is gained through the true search for the will of God in His Word (John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Revelation 3:20). In all circumstances the believer can call on authority, and that is the Word of God. It becomes a unique (Holy) dialogue between God and the believer with historical context, wonderful revelation, and future hope. In this way the works of Satan are exposed and like heresy, become a waste of time to take your focus away from the Son of God.

Divine joyful discipline becomes an eternal reality (John 16:24). The focus is rather on the Giver of eternal life, Jesus Christ (John 6:47) who, according to the Scriptures, shall return to fetch you. Please read the wonderful invitation of God that has been addressed to you 750 years before Christ:

" <sup>1</sup>Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David. <sup>4</sup>Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people. <sup>5</sup>Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you. <sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, <sup>8</sup>For He will abundantly pardon. <sup>9</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. <sup>10</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>11</sup>For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>12</sup>so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>13</sup>For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>14</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle



tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.' " (Isaiah 55:1-13).

God who according to the Tanakh (Old Testament) became human through the descendants of David (the people of Israel), Jesus Christ (Isaiah 11:1-2; 7:14) came to give you the following assurance:

*"<sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."* (John 14:1-3).

*"<sup>24</sup>The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup>The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup>The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26)