

# The Bible **EXHIBITION**

EXPLORING THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING BOOK



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# THE BIBLE EXHIBITION

Thank you for taking time to visit The Bible Exhibition. We hope that you enjoyed and were helped by the experience.

The purpose of The Bible Exhibition is to display some of the background, history, content, character and purpose of the Bible.

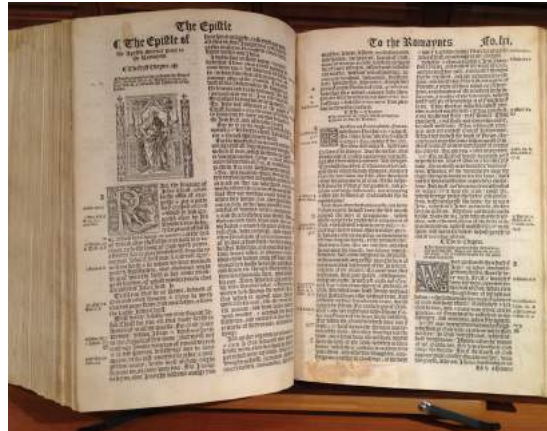
In the Bible, God is seeking to communicate with all of us. He has something important which He wants us all to know and experience. In particular, He wants us to come to know Him personally, as One who is able to deliver us and to bless us forever, through Christ.

This booklet has been prepared to remind you of some of the contents of The Bible Exhibition, and to expand upon some of that content. We hope that you find it helpful.

***“God ... has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son”.*** [Hebrews 1:1-2]

If you would like to know more, please visit our websites: [www.bibleexhibition.net](http://www.bibleexhibition.net) or [www.God-is.net](http://www.God-is.net)

If you would like to have a Bible for yourself, please use the contact details on the reverse of this booklet.



# Australia and the Bible



**Taking the Gospel to the Outback.**

***“Righteousness exalts a nation”***. [Proverbs 14:34]

The first Bible to arrive permanently in Australia came with the First Fleet in 1788. On 3 February 1788, the Chaplain, Richard Johnson, used it to read the following words to the people of the new colony:

***“What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?”***. [Psalm 116:12]

Well might Johnson use those words! God had safely brought almost 1500 people and their goods in 11 tiny sailing ships, over 15000 miles of wild ocean to a land only visited once before, with minimal loss of life! But we can only wonder – did Johnson direct the thoughts of his audience to the following words of Psalm 116: “I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the

Lord.” [Psalm 116:13]? Here, in the psalmist’s response to his own question, they could have found the key to successful nationhood and a successful individual life for all people. We will never know what he said!

Nonetheless, it was a promising start! The presence of Johnson and his successors, during difficult early years, ensured all the convicts and soldiers knew of the importance of moral and spiritual uprightness. The early years of Australian history saw the arrival of fiery preachers such as Samuel Marsden (though a deeply conflicted individual), and more benevolent missionaries, who reached out with kindness to the wider, troubled community. Though Marsden and others found little response in the convicts, soldiers or the Aboriginal people, churches were constructed, and the convicts were required to attend these regularly.



**Mr and Mrs Smith.**

The society which progressively developed in Australia considered itself a “God-fearing”, Christian society, with a strong adherence to Biblical moral and ethical principles. However, there were many occasions in the early history when actions were taken which were very far from Biblical in origin. The treatment





**Frank Jenner**

of convicts in some places was oppressive and sadistic, and the dealings with the native peoples of the continent produced significant destruction of the indigenous people and their culture.

Australia has traditionally been a nation which enjoyed civil and human rights which, while many fail to recognise it, remain firmly grounded in the ethical and moral principles taught by the Bible! There has continued to

be a freedom to publicly preach and teach the truth of the Bible. Jesus taught His disciples that this was their great responsibility:



**Bible Van.**



**Sydney Harbour Bridge year 2000 (Inset: Mr Eternity).**

***“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”.*** (Mark 16:15)

Throughout the course of Australian history this work has continued, with Christians spreading the message of the Bible: a message which the God of the Bible wants all to hear and receive. So, by horseback, by aircraft, by motor vehicle, by post, by radio, by printed literature, by roadside displays, in formal meetings and face-to-face contacts, by personal conversation and bold public pronouncements – in many ways, the Bible and its message of salvation for humanity has been spread to the whole population, so that everyone can hear it.

The spread of the message of the Bible continues to this day – and that summarises the role of this Bible Exhibition!

# The Origins of the Bible



**Johann Gutenberg printed the first Bible in Latin in 1455.**

Many readers might wonder where the Bible came from, why it contains what it does, and why there are numerous translations. Let us try to simply explain its origins.

## **The Bible was Written by Men ...**

The English word "bible" is derived from the Greek *ta biblia*, which means "the books". It was prepared over a period of history covering some 1600 years, and contributed to by over 40

individuals. It is divided into two parts: the Old Testament [OT] and the New Testament [NT].

The Old Testament is comprised of 39 separate books and presents God's dealings with Israel, written in the ancient Hebrew and Aramaic languages. The New Testament contains 27 books and records the coming of Jesus and the teaching of the Christian faith. It was written in Koine Greek (common Greek) over a few decades in the first century AD.

## **... but its Source was from God.**

The words of the Bible are the words of God Himself. The Bible says, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God*" [2 Timothy 3:16]. This means that the "Scripture", the OT and the NT, was "breathed by God". What an astonishing thing! When we read the words of the Bible, we are reading the words which God has said!

## **How did it become a Single Volume?**

When the books of the OT were prepared they were handwritten in separate scrolls, which were then continually copied by hand. Many of the NT books took the form of letters to individuals and groups, who were often widely scattered geographically. In the first century BC (Before Christ), the long process of compiling a single volume of OT books was completed. This became the Hebrew Bible [the Tanakh], the precursor to the OT. The NT was added by early church fathers, and after much thoughtful consideration, the books which we have now were incorporated in 360AD.

### How were its Contents Decided?

The key consideration of the ancient scholars was whether they could be satisfied that the individuals who wrote the books were indeed “*inspired*” by God. The process of making a decision about which books were inspired became known as “canonisation” [“Canonisation” derives from a Greek word meaning “a measuring stick”]. The canon of the Bible is now closed, as the revelation of God has been completed forever.

### Why is there an Old Testament and a New Testament?

The word “testament” means a covenant or a formal agreement. The OT describes a number of covenants. The most notable of these was the Law (including the Ten Commandments), which detailed God’s standards. The NT sets out a “new covenant”, which promises “*forgiveness of sins*” based only on the death of Jesus on the Cross.

### Who has the Original Texts?

The original writings have long since been lost. We are now dependent upon copies of these, painstakingly handwritten by scribes. The scribes used various techniques to ensure accuracy, including counting paragraphs, lines, words and letter details. Many old manuscripts in the original languages do remain. Here are just a few examples, which have contributed to modern Bibles:

- ♦ **DEAD SEA SCROLLS [QUMRAN SCROLLS]** – perhaps the greatest manuscript discovery of all time, these were uncovered in caves

in the Judean desert near the Dead Sea. Recovered from 1946 to the present, the Dead Sea Scrolls consist of some 981 individual manuscripts. The ages of the scrolls range from the 8th century BC to the 11th CENTURY AD, AND THE DISCOVERY INCLUDES MULTIPLE COPIES AND FRAGMENTS OF MOST OT BOOKS.

- ♦ **CODEX SINAITICUS** – discovered in a monastery in the Sinai Peninsula in the 19th century AD, and dating from the 4th century AD, this is one of the oldest Greek manuscripts of the full Bible, although some short sections are missing.
- ♦ **CODEX VATICANUS** – in the possession of the Vatican Library, this is also considered one of the oldest surviving copies of the Bible in Greek, although small sections are again missing. It dates from the 4th century AD.
- ♦ **CODEX ALEXANDRINUS** – discovered in the Egyptian city of Alexandria, it is believed to date from the 5th century AD, and contains all the books of the Bible in Greek, although yet again a few short sections are missing.

Particular mention needs to be made of a manuscript known as the *Textus Receptus* (Latin for “received text”, TR). Essentially, the TR is the first Greek manuscript of the Bible ever printed (as opposed to hand copied), and distributed in a printed form. It was prepared by a Dutch scholar, Desiderius Erasmus, and first printed in 1516. It became the dominant Greek text for the next two or three centuries.

It is important to note that while some variations occur from one

ancient manuscript to another, these variations are insignificant in proportion to the whole, and no major Bible principle is altered by them.

### **What if I cannot speak Hebrew or Greek?**

The fact that the Bible was written in the languages of the day, and not able to be read by many, has been long recognised as a limitation. From very early times, scholars have engaged themselves in the work of translation into other languages, and this continues to the present day.

Many translations have been prepared, too numerous to detail comprehensively, but here are a few significant works:

- ♦ **SEPTUAGINT** - In the 3rd century BC, Jewish scholars prepared a Greek translation of the Jewish sacred writings, which is known as the Septuagint. Whilst not particularly accurate, it was the Septuagint which was widely used in Israel in the time of Jesus, and from which Jesus Himself often made quotations.
- ♦ **VULGATE** - This was completed in about 405AD as a full translation of the Bible into Latin, and became established as the universal Bible used in the western world until the Reformation.
- ♦ **LUTHER** - Luther translated the Bible into German, completing the task in 1534. He and others, such as John Wycliffe and Jan Hus questioned the practices of the Church and the exclusion of the “common man” from access to the Bible. This promoted a

number of translations into languages other than Latin.

- ♦ **ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS** - these will be considered later in this booklet.

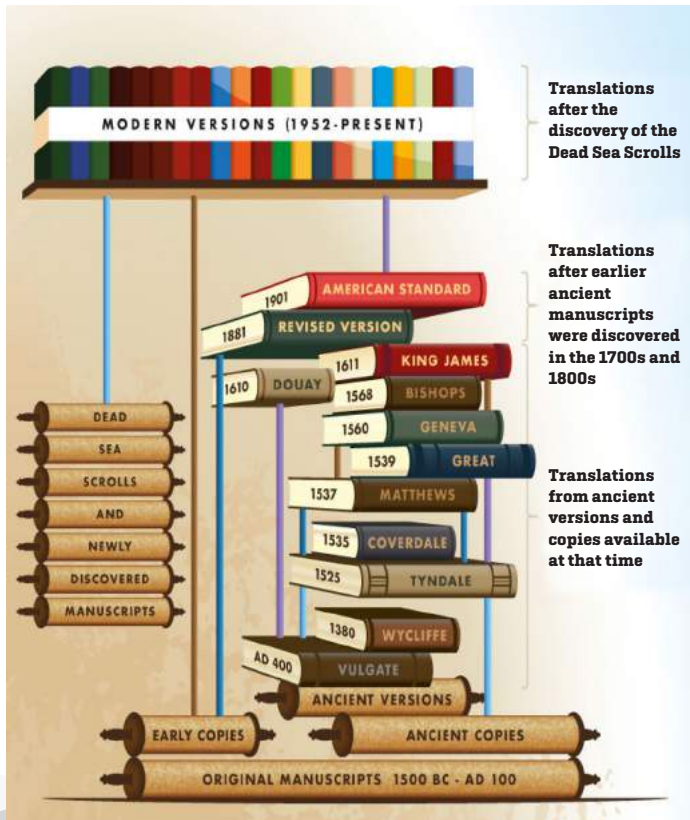
In summary, by 2016, the full Bible had been translated into 636 languages, and parts of the Bible had been translated into no less than 3223 languages! The Bible remains the most prolifically distributed book ever printed!

### **The Preparation of Bible Translation**

Undertaking an accurate translation is a highly specialised and difficult task, requiring an expert linguistic and working knowledge of both languages. Several techniques are utilised. In summary, these techniques include Literal Translation (word for word), Formal Equivalence (word for word, but including variations of style and idiom), Dynamic Equivalence (sense for sense) and Paraphrase (idea for idea). These techniques could be placed along a continuum of accuracy to simplified English, so that, frequently, the more simplified the translation, the less it tends to accurately translate the precision of the inspired text.

### **Key English Translations**

Translations of portions of the Bible into the English language first occurred in the 7th century AD [by Venerable Bede]. The completion of several English Bible translations was a key outcome of the Reformation period. Here is a brief description of some of the most significant translations:



- ♦ **JOHN WYCLIFFE** - a handwritten translation in the 1380s using the Latin Vulgate as a source.
- ♦ **WILLIAM TYNDALE** - Tyndale, in exile from England, prepared the first ever printed copy of the New Testament in common English in 1525, using mainly the *Textus Receptus*. His driving ambition was “if God spare my life ... I shall cause a plough boy to know the scriptures better than you do”. Smuggled into England, the NT was very popular. While working on his translation of the OT, Tyndale was betrayed in 1535, and executed in 1536.
- ♦ **COVERDALE BIBLE** - Tyndale’s work was continued by Myles Coverdale and John Rogers, who published the first printed complete English Bible in 1535, which has become known as the Coverdale Bible.
- ♦ **MATTHEW-TYNDALE BIBLE** - John Rogers (aka Thomas Matthew) continued the work, using both Hebrew and Greek texts, and printed the Matthew-Tyndale Bible. He was burned at the stake in 1555.
- ♦ **THE GENEVA BIBLE** - the death of Henry VIII brought renewed persecution of Reformers, and, while in exile in Geneva, a number of English Reformist scholars prepared and printed The Geneva Bible in 1560, the first to include numbered verses. It became very popular in the English-speaking world.
- ♦ **THE KING JAMES BIBLE** - in 1603, King James I commissioned a new translation. Basing their work on Tyndale, the *Textus Receptus*, and other sources, the translators published the first edition of the King James Bible [Authorised Version] in 1611, setting a benchmark for all subsequent translations.



# The God of the Bible

The source of the Bible is God, and the Bible records the words of God.

But who is God? God cannot be seen visibly (*"No-one has seen God at any time"* John 1:18), except in the things that He does. He is seen in the beautiful creation around us, and from the creation we start to understand some of His attributes:

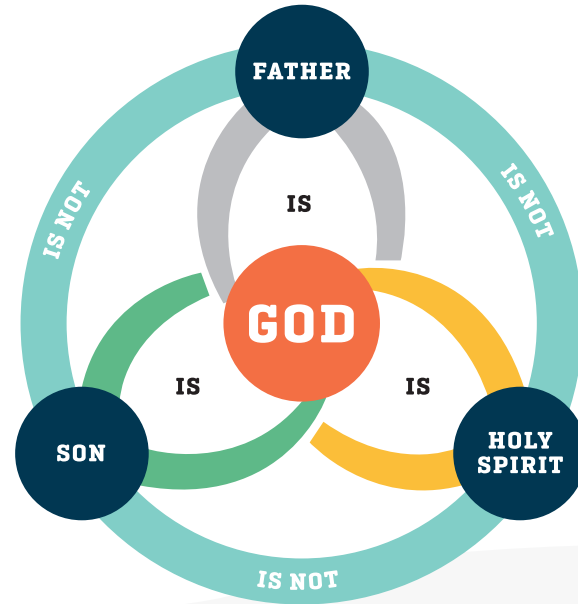
***"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, EVEN HIS ETERNAL POWER AND GODHEAD (DIVINITY)".*** [Romans 1:20]

So, God, who can't personally be seen by our eyes, makes His presence very clear. He does so, for example, in nature [the wonders of His creation], by providing the necessities of creation and caring for mankind, showing His power and divinity. And He also makes Himself known in the Bible.

But what is God like? God is NOT HUMAN, nor was He ever CREATED, but He does have attributes. To help us with these, the Bible uses illustrations which we can understand. Here are just a few:

- The "finger of God" to teach us that He touches;
- The "hand of God" to teach us that He does things;
- The "arm of God" to teach us that He is strong;
- The "eye of God" to teach us that He sees;

The Bible teaches that God has many important attributes which tell us what He is like. We cannot deal with the details in this booklet, but these include that He knows everything, He is everywhere, He is all-powerful, He is holy, just, good, truthful and loving, He is infinite, eternal and unchanging, and He always does what He says He will do. He CANNOT be avoided by anyone!



## Features of Deity

### IMMUTABLE

**unchanging over time**

Hebrews 13:8, Hebrews 9:14

### OMNISCIENT

**all-knowing**

John 2:24-25, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

### OMNIPRESENT

**everywhere at once**

Matthew 18:20, 1 Corinthians 6:19

### OMNIPOTENT

**all powerful**

Romans 9:20

But, if that is what God is like, what is He made up of then? The Bible makes three simple statements:

- “God IS light” (1 John 1:5) – He is the source of all light, and His light exposes every secret;
- “God IS love” (1 John 4:16) – He is the source of love, and all His actions express His love;
- “God IS a Spirit” (John 4:24) – He is NOT created matter.

The Bible teaches us that God is a TRINITY, although the Bible never once uses the word “trinity”. A “trinity”, is derived from the

Latin word “*trinus*” meaning “a single group of three things”. We speak about a triune God, meaning a “three-part God”. This is a very difficult concept to grasp, but let us try!

The Bible says “*there is ONE God*” (1 Timothy 2:5). But the Bible also records, in its very first verse, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1). The interesting thing is that the noun “God” is neither singular, nor dual. It is plural, but the verb “created” is singular! So, this tells us that the Godhead worked together as one, in complete unison and harmony, to create all that is around us!

From the NT we learn that the ONE GOD, is made up of three individual persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each is fully God, and all three work together in perfect unity and purpose, although each fulfils different roles. EACH possesses ALL the attributes of God in equal measure!

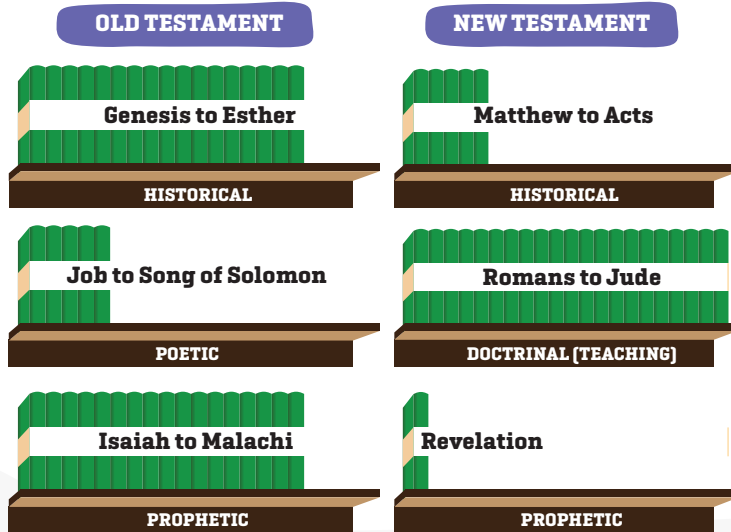
We know God the Son as Jesus. This is a very great mystery! God the Son, possessing all the many attributes of God, has been revealed visibly as a real man to show us what God is like. But while that was so, He never ceased to be fully God!

Why did He become a man? The Bible teaches us that “*The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world*” (1 John 4:14). What a wonderful thing! If He was ONLY man, exactly like us with our failures, He could never be our Saviour. But, UNLESS He became man Himself, He also could never be our Saviour!

# The Themes, Purposes and Contents of the Bible

Those who are not familiar with the Bible might ask, “What is in the Bible? Why was it written?” While these are somewhat complex questions to answer, let us try to do so!

The Bible shows us who God is, and tells us about His many attributes. The Bible also shows us what God requires from us. It tells us what God has done for us, and what He continues to do for us. It is not a textbook of religion, but it does show us how God expects us to live our lives. It is therefore important for us to read and understand it!



The message of the Bible is complete in itself. Every part contributes to its essential unity, and all its parts are consistent and interdependent. None of it can be rightly ignored, rejected or found questionable! While the word “bible” merely means “book”, the title “The Bible” distinguishes a supreme and incomparable book, surpassing all other books for authority, antiquity, literary value, and popularity. Yet, its unique supremacy lies in the fact that it discloses the TRUTH concerning God, the essential sinfulness of man, and the perfect work that God has done to redeem man from the outcome of his failure. Given that this redemptive action was carried out by Jesus, there is one compelling theme which pervades ALL the contents of the Bible – the person of Jesus! Jesus Himself said –

***“Search the scriptures [that is, the Bible] ... for they are they which testify of me”.*** [John 5:39]

The Bible contains sixty-six individual books, each dating from a different time of history and penned by different inspired writers, but each contributes in its own way to the revelation of Jesus and His redeeming work. The OT predicts and prepares for His coming. In the NT, the Gospels tell about His arrival, life, death and resurrection. The Acts describe the spread of His teaching; the epistles explain it. The Revelation proclaims how Christ will exercise His rights as King of Kings, to subdue all power and authority, through His coming again to reign in righteousness.

The character of each of the various books of the Bible is unique, but we can classify them simply as shown in the graphic.

So when we read the Bible, we are looking carefully to see what it teaches us about Jesus. Sometimes it teaches us by illustration, other times figuratively, then by prediction and finally, directly: all of the Bible reveals Jesus Christ! The most important message

for us to understand is that He, by His death on the Cross, has provided redemption. Only the Almighty God, and a unique book, could reveal such an awesome provision for humanity's need! We will explore the uniqueness of this divine book next.

## Christ the Sum and Substance of the Bible Revelation

OLD TESTAMENT		Revelation of Christ as	
Pentateuch	Genesis	<b>The Seed of the woman</b>	Poetry Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon
	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	<b>The Passover Lamb</b> <b>The Atoning Sacrifice</b> <b>The Smitten Rock</b> <b>The Prophet yet to come</b>	
History	Joshua Judges Ruth	<b>The Captain over the Lord's host</b> <b>The Great Deliverer</b> <b>The Celestial Kinsman</b>	Major Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel
	1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	<b>The Promised King</b>  <b>The Restorer of the Temple</b> <b>The Restorer of the Nation</b>	
		Minor Prophets Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	<b>The Coming Prince of Peace</b>  <b>The Coming Prince of Peace</b>

NEW TESTAMENT		Revelation of Christ as	
Gospels	Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	<b>Christ coming to seek and to save</b>
History			<b>Christ risen with His finished Work</b>
Epistles to Churches and Christians	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John Jude		<b>Christ waiting at God's right hand</b>
Prophecy	Revelation		<b>Christ returning to reign</b>

# The Uniqueness of the Bible

Given that the Bible comes from a God who is absolutely unique, we should not be surprised that the contents of the Bible are also unique in their substance and character. The Bible speaks of things which no other book envisages, and it speaks of them in a way which demonstrates that this book could never be a product of the human mind.

Here are some simple observations:

- The Bible is uniquely God's message to the human race, and He is a God who is *"merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth"* [Exodus 34:6];
- The Bible uniquely presents ONE GOD only - *"there is one God"* [1 Timothy 2:5], but as three persons;
- The Bible uniquely presents the fact of creation - *"the worlds were framed by the word of God"* [Hebrews 11:3];
- The Bible uniquely demonstrates that man has rebelled and is sinful - *"all have sinned"* [Romans 3:23];
- The Bible uniquely presents the fact that sin has been dealt with by the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus as a sinless victim, - *"Christ died for our sins"* [1 Corinthians 15:3];



- The Bible uniquely presents a Saviour who is not a dead historical figure, but eternally alive - *"whom God raised up"* [Acts 2:24];
- The Bible, although written by many, is uniquely homogeneous, uninterrupted, harmonious and orderly;
- The Bible uniquely makes predictions of future events, many of which have already been accurately fulfilled;
- The Bible is uniquely a work of paramount literary merit, to a measure beyond the abilities of men;
- The Bible uniquely reveals the purpose and action of God in the establishment of human government over mankind, and remains uniquely relevant, current and refreshing, irrespective of the course of human history;
- The perfections that are exhibited by the Bible merely

serve to reflect the perfections of the God who gave the Bible. Of its considerable content, however, we will limit our presentation to one major, and most significant message, that which God calls **"the gospel"**, beautifully foretold and illustrated in the glorious theme of redemption.



# The Redemptive Theme of the Bible

“Redemption” is a key Bible theme which describes something that has always been the intention of God. It was by means of redemption that God always planned to liberate humanity bound by sin and bring it into greater blessings than Adam ever knew, through the death of the Lord Jesus. Given the importance of redemption, we will explore it a little further.

## What is redemption?

You might already be familiar with the idea of redemption. You will be aware of the idea of paying a ransom for the release of a kidnap victim. In the Bible, ‘redemption’ means “to buy out”, so it describes a process where a slave or a captive was purchased by the payment of a ransom, so that he could be released. Another scenario is where a property which was lost due to poverty could be recovered by its owner on the payment of its ransom price.

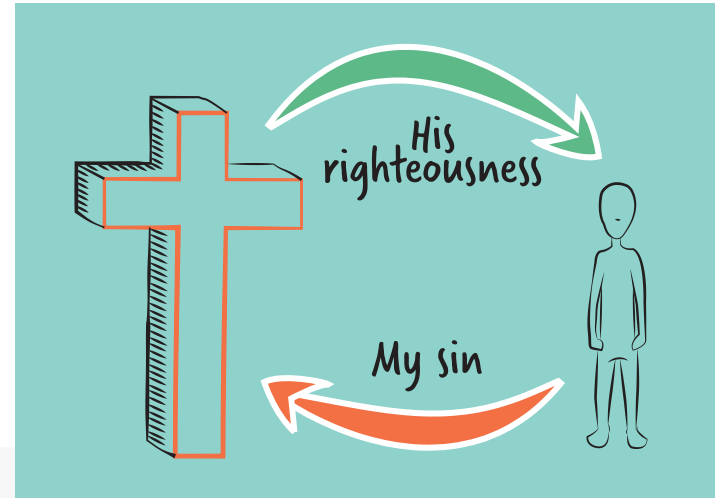
## In the OT redemption was illustrated.

God first of all chose a man [Abraham], then a nation [Israel], and then a king [David], preserving a sacred thread of redemption which would ensure the arrival in the future of the promised Messiah.

Many years ago, God made a choice to favour the descendants of Abraham, a nation we know as Israel. Around 1500BC, the nation of Israel was kept in slavery in Egypt. God intervened on their behalf, and after a series of plagues on Egypt, which failed to influence the Egyptians’ thinking regarding release of the Israelite people, God pronounced a sentence of death on all the

first-born. Israel was protected because every family sacrificed a perfect lamb in obedience to God’s command. When the firstborn of the Egyptians died, the fearful Egyptians immediately expelled the Israelites.

The price paid for Israel’s release from captivity was the life-blood of an innocent, perfect victim, the “spotless lamb”. God showed His power on their behalf to bring them out of Egypt. The nation very soon acknowledged that God had “led forth the people which ...[He] redeemed”. [Exodus 15:13]



This OT illustration highlights some important principles of redemption. People who are in bondage, and unable to be freed, are released, BUT only when the ransom price that is demanded is paid. However, the ransom was not paid by themselves but by another who paid it on their behalf. This substitute himself must be absolutely free and innocent, and capable of paying the ransom price.

#### **In the OT redemption was promised ...**

God had graciously chosen the man Abraham as head of a special nation of people which He later redeemed. Then, about 500 years later, God made another important choice – a king for the nation of Israel, whose name was David. God promised that the nation of Israel would eventually receive a deliverer, who would redeem them and make them the head of the nations of the world. He would be from the nation of Israel [so a descendant of Abraham] and He would occupy the throne of Israel as a King [so a descendant of David].

#### **... and in the NT it was fulfilled with the death of Jesus.**

When Jesus was born, He was identified as “*Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham*” [Matthew 1:1]. He fulfils all the requirements of genealogy and personal purity, and came to redeem those who are in bondage to sinfulness – both Israel and all the world! Given that the penalty for sin is spiritual and physical death [“*the wages of sin is death*” – Romans 6:23], He willingly died so that sin’s captives might be released from that dreaded penalty, through eternal life and resurrection. So, in the

NT we learn that the Christian is “*not REDEEMED with corruptible things as silver and gold ... but with the precious BLOOD OF CHRIST (Jesus) as of a LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH*” [1 Peter 1:18-19]. Peter makes the application clear – the Christian is redeemed and the price paid for his release from the bondage of sin is the blood of Jesus. Jesus is like the lamb in Egypt; a lamb which is absolutely perfect!

#### **Why is redemption important to us?**

The Bible teaches that whoever commits sin “*is the SERVANT [SLAVE] of sin*” [John 8:34]. Given that ALL of us commit sin, then ALL of us are in bondage to sin – something that is entirely beyond our own control, and we NEED to be released from it before we die. The Bible also teaches us that “*Christ Jesus ... gave Himself a RANSOM for all*” [1 Timothy 2:5-6]. So ... God, knowing that we were in bondage and that we could not help ourselves, has intervened on our behalf, and Jesus has paid the price to release us all! He paid that ransom by “*giving Himself*”. That is, He gave His life for us when He died on the Cross and so accepted death, the penalty of sin, on our behalf. Thus, it can be said by those who have benefitted from His payment, that “*we have REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, the forgiveness of sins*” [Ephesians 1:7]. Elsewhere, the Bible teaches that “*we are BOUGHT WITH A PRICE*”. [1 Corinthians 6:20]

Redemption not only looks back to the death of Jesus, where He paid our ransom, and enabled us to be freed from sin, it also looks forward to the prospect that the redeemed people will be

# IN CHRIST REDEEMED WE ARE...

## Justified

By Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.  
**Acts 13:39**

## Free

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...  
**Galatians 5:1**

## Adopted

That we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son in your hearts crying, Abba, Father.  
**Galatians 4:5-6**

## Righteous

...not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:  
**Philippians 3:9**

## Secure

Who is he that condemneth?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ.  
**Romans 8:34-35**

## New

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**

eternally released from the influence of sin at all. That will be true freedom!

But redemption goes even further! The Bible teaches us that all the rest of the natural creation is badly influenced by the effects of man's sin – it is ALL subject to the *"bondage of corruption"* (Romans 8:21). It *"groans and travails in pain"*! And now, the creation waits with anticipation for the day when it will be released, the day the Lord Jesus comes and establishes Himself as the eternal King! Will you be ready?  
[Read Romans 8:19-22]

So ... the availability of redemption poses an important challenge for each of us. We ALL need to be redeemed, for we are ALL in bondage to sin. Jesus died to pay the ransom for our release, but that will not benefit us unless we genuinely accept His action for ourselves as individuals. God has given us the solution BUT we must accept it by faith. So, the Bible wants us to understand that *"by grace* [that is, God gives it] *are you saved, through faith* [we accept it by personal belief and trust]" (Ephesians 2:8). Have you, dear reader, accepted the price that Jesus paid for your release from sin? This is the message of the Gospel. We will consider this next.

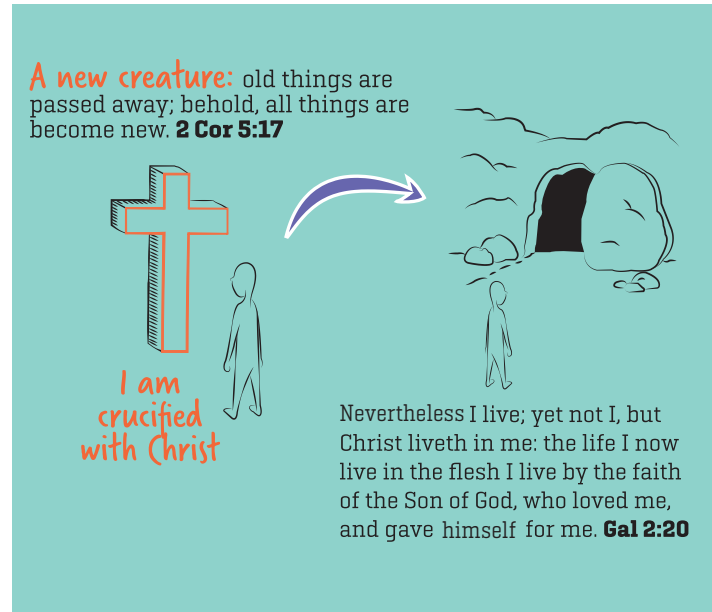
# The Unique Gospel Message of the Bible

Readers of the NT in English translations will not fail to observe the mention of the word “gospel”, found in the title of the first books of the NT. But what does this word mean? A dictionary will show that the meaning is simply “good news”. What good news? The good news of the Bible is that God has provided a full deliverance for men from their sin and guilt before Him, through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Jesus, and that now He is inviting all to acknowledge their need of Him, and receive by faith the salvation He has provided:

***“... the gospel which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and wherein you stand ... how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures”.*** [1 Corinthians 15:1-4]

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”.*** [John 3:16]

Through the gospel, God forgives sins, saves perishing souls from eternal judgement, and freely bestows upon them eternal life, and an everlasting home in heaven. He displays His mercy towards the repentant sinner, He exercises His grace in the gift of salvation, and He displays His love towards the undeserving. Through salvation and the “*new birth*”, He produces a population suited to heaven, makes them His children, and embraces them with constant care and blessing. They can never be lost,

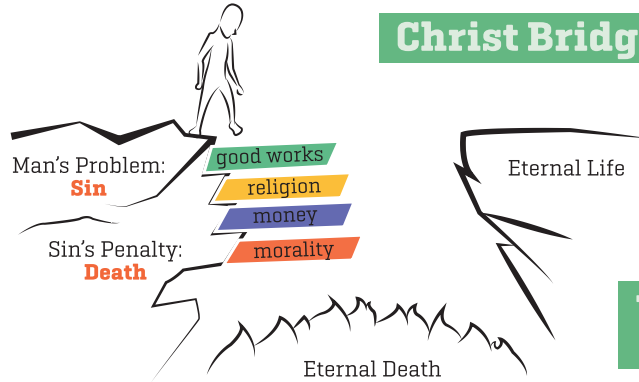


and, even though their natural lives may be characterised by difficulty and end with physical death, they can never be robbed of the permanent enjoyment of life in heaven with the Lord Jesus. All this is possible as a result of the death of Jesus on the Cross, and His resurrection and exaltation. What a God is the God of the Bible!

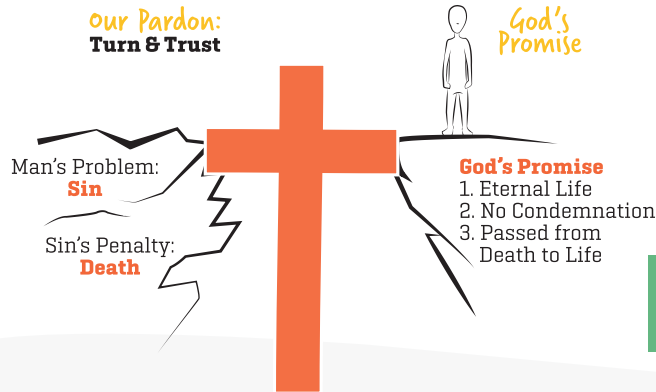
**Here are some bible verses that summarise some of the significant points of the Gospel.**

- Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. [Romans 5:12]
- For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. [Romans 3:23]
- But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. [Isaiah 59:2]
- For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. [Romans 5:6]
- God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [Romans 5:8]
- Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. [John 3:3]
- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [John 3:16]
- He that believes on Him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. [John 3:18]
- Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. [Acts 4:12]

**Christ Bridges the Gap**



**The problem :**  
SIN SEPARATES



**The answer :**  
THE CROSS OF CHRIST



**In the gospel is an immeasurable depth of Bible truth. The Christian gospel incorporates some vital principles which are fundamental to its message, but absolutely unique in their concepts. Let us explore a few of these, and see where they find their application in the gospel message we can receive today:**

**Bible Principle**

**Meaning**

**Gospel Application**

**Love your enemies**



Jesus taught this radical concept, foreign to the normal ideas of men. For men, love is always conditional, but never so with God.

We, as sinners, were enemies of God, but *“when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son”* (Romans 5:10). God loved us without condition, and freely gave us what we didn’t deserve, ***“but God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”***. (Romans 5:8)

**Justified by faith**



“Justification” describes the judicial act of pronouncing someone righteous, and not guilty. “Faith” is a firm persuasion, a conviction held, the act of believing and relying upon the truth of what God has said.

Salvation can ONLY be gained through the faith of the heart. It is perfect, and never depends upon what we have done, just upon our full acceptance of the perfect and completed work that Jesus did for us. When we believe, God pronounces us justified, and cleared of all guilt. We can’t save ourselves. Only God can forgive and save - ***“therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”***. (Romans 5:1)

**A ransom for all**



A ransom is the price which is demanded for the release of someone who is bound or enslaved (Redemption).

By His death, the Lord Jesus paid the price that was demanded from us, releasing us from the bondage into which sin had brought us. Knowing we had no ability to pay, God caused His Son to be responsible for discharging our debt. While religion may teach that it is our own efforts which bring us release, the Bible teaches that it ENTIRELY depends upon what Jesus Christ did for us, ***“for there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all”***. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

### By grace you are saved



Grace describes the action of God to freely give blessing to us which we, as sinners, did not deserve.

Salvation, through the work of the Lord Jesus on the Cross, is freely given, though we did not deserve such a favour, nor could we do anything at all to merit it or pay for it. It is a free gift! ***“For by grace are you saved, though faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast”***. [Ephesians 2:8-9]

### Resurrection



“Resurrection” simply means “raising up, causing to stand”, and is used in the Bible to describe the action of bringing someone who is dead back to life.

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is fundamental to the gospel. Because He was raised, we can now depend upon Him in faith with perfect confidence that He will always be able to deliver what He has promised. So our faith is directed, not to a religious figurehead who is now dead, but to One who is forever alive, ***“God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God”***. [1 Peter 1:21]

### God does not discriminate



God’s actions are always right, just and without bias, prejudice or discrimination. He is perfectly even-handed, irrespective of who we are, or what we have done.

The Bible describes God as being “no respecter of persons”. He offers salvation to ALL, and He is prepared to receive ALL on the same basis – faith in the death of Jesus, ***“the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ, unto all and upon all that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”***. [Romans 3:22-23], ***“Come unto Me, all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”***. [Matthew 11:28]

### New birth



“New birth” describes the action which God takes to give a soul new life through faith in Jesus.

Salvation does not involve the reforming of what we were as sinners, but the giving of new life altogether. Thus, ***“if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new”*** [2 Corinthians 5:17]. In John 3, Nicodemus, the Jewish teacher, struggled to understand how a grown man could ever be reborn. Jesus said to him clearly, ***“you must be born again”*** [John 3:7]. How? ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”***. [John 3:16]

# The Wonders of the Bible

Human scholars have always attempted to question and undermine the Bible. Their attitude to it reflects the natural, human desire to exclude God from their lives, and thus remove themselves from their essential accountability to Him. Their efforts are sadly futile!

The Bible is not a science textbook, but the God of the Bible most certainly understands the rules of science, because He established all natural systems and processes. In fact, He fully knows even those things which are still a mystery to human scholars. All that we observe is divinely controlled by Him. The Bible says of the Lord Jesus, that He is, “*upholding all things by the word of His power*”. (Hebrews 1:3)

Humanity has extended its depth of understanding of the universe in which it lives and it is no surprise that what we discover is absolutely consistent with what God has said, and what God has done. Let us look at a few of the many examples:

♦ **The Earth sits upon nothing:** In mediaeval times, humanity constructed many theories about the support of the Earth on which they lived. At least 3000 years ago, Job understood enough of creation to say “*He [that is, God] stretched out the north OVER THE EMPTY PLACE, and hangs the Earth upon NOTHING*” (Job 26:7). This was not understood by theoretical science until c.1500 AD.

♦ **Pleiades is fixed, but Orion is moving apart:** Modern observations in astronomy have shown clearly that the many bodies of the solar system are rapidly moving apart, but with some exceptions. Amongst the very well known constellations of the solar system are Pleiades and Orion. Pleiades (The Seven Sisters), is a tightly-bound star cluster whose individual stars are held together by their own gravitational pulls; no relative movement is to be discerned. On the other hand, the stars of Orion (The Hunter), although they are among the brightest stars in our sky, are separated by vast distances, and each moves in its own divergent trajectory. The changing geometry of Orion is evident, even in the short time-frame of astronomical observations. God challenged Job: “*Can you BIND the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the BANDS of Orion?*” (Job 38:31) Clearly, Job could not, but God knew all about it, long before it was discovered by astronomers!

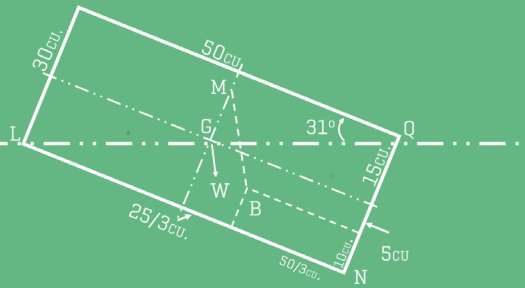
♦ **The sun has a circuit.** Initially many thought that the Earth was at the centre of the solar system; subsequently it was scientifically determined that the Earth rotated in orbit around the sun. Later again, it was further determined that not only was this so, but that the sun itself was also moving on an orbit through the galaxy. All is controlled by God, and He knows exactly how it works! The Bible tells us about the sun, that, “*His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and HIS CIRCUIT unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof*”. (Psalm 19:6)



Gen 6:15: "And this is how you shall make it: the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits."

### Stability Analysis of Noah's Ark

**W** = weight of the ark acting through centre of gravity **G**  
**B** = buoyant force acting through the centre of gravity of water displaced  
**M** = metacentre, where line of action **B** intersects central axis, above **G**



- **The Bible states the optimum dimensions of a ship:** In Genesis 6, God observed humanity and concluded that because of their uncontrolled wickedness, He must destroy them in judgement. He decided to send a flood, and He instructed the faithful man Noah to build a large boat. Helpfully, God provided the exact dimensions: "The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits" (Genesis 6:15). Modern analysis of the dimensions have shown that, dependent upon its precise shape, the dimensions of the ark of Noah were optimally matched to provide the best combination of stability, strength and passenger comfort, and are similar to those which are used today for large vessels. God even knew how to build the very best boat!

The Bible is full of wonders. But there is no greater wonder than the love of God for sinful humanity, demonstrated in the gift of His Son in providing a ransom for sinners through His death of the Cross, and the wonderful eternal salvation that He gives to those who belong to Him. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift". (2 Corinthians 9:15)

# The Prophecy of the Bible

“Prophecy” is a word used to describe how God reveals His plans to us ahead of time, through people, who were known as ‘prophets’. The Bible says, *“He [God] spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets”* (Hebrews 1:1). More particularly, prophecy has become identified with those circumstances where God makes known things which have yet to take place. He can accurately predict the future, for He decides the future!

***“Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world”.*** (Acts 15:18)

Prophecy is a very large subject - we can only touch briefly on it in this booklet. God knows *“the end from the beginning”* (Isaiah 46:10): all that occurs is known by Him in advance, and nothing ever takes God by surprise. He is “omniscient” [all knowing] and “omnipotent” [all powerful] - He perfectly knows His objectives, and He has the sovereign authority and power to bring it all to pass! His abilities are very difficult for us, humans, to understand. However, we will look at some of the prophecies of the Bible.

The following prophecy and fulfilment timelines show how the prophecies of Daniel 11 came to pass - exactly as foretold.

Prophecy Reference	Prediction 530 BC	Fulfilment 522 BC to 246 BC
Daniel 11:2	Three kings shall stand up	Darius, Artaxerxes and Ashashuerus
Daniel 11:3	A great king shall stand up	Alexander the Great
Daniel 11:4	The great kingdom defeated and divided into four parts	After Alexander's death, his empire was divided among his four generals
Daniel 11:5	The strongest would be the southern king	Ptolemy took the southern kingdom
Daniel 11:6	The king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement	Bernice married a son of the king of the north
Daniel 11:6	She shall not retain the power of the arm	Bernice was set aside and lost all influence
Daniel 11:7	One of her same roots would stand up and take revenge	Her brother rose up and took revenge

## Prophecies: Fulfilled in History

In the early chapters of Genesis, God said, *“The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth ... and, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth ...”* (Genesis 6:13,17). One hundred and twenty years later, after Noah had built the ark and preached to the people to warn them of what was coming, we read, *“And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights ... the waters prevailed exceedingly ... all flesh died ...”* (Genesis 7:11-24). It was a time like our own - lawlessness and sin, the inevitability of judgement, the warnings to “flee from the wrath to come”, and the continuing indifference and rebellion of man. God always DOES WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO!

Some 1500 years later, the nation of Israel was divided into two warring parts, “Israel” in the north and “Judah” in the south. God had said long



before that if this nation persisted in disobeying Him He would cause other nations to carry them away as captives, saying, *“the Lord shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth, even unto the other”* (Deuteronomy 28:54). But ... they did not heed the warning! Then, in around 721 BC, we read *“the king of Assyria ... carried Israel into Assyria”* (2 Kings 17:6). What about Judah? After much advice from prophets such as Jeremiah to reform their behaviour, Judah eventually received this word: *“this whole land ... shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years”* (Jeremiah 25:11). The exile commenced c.605BC and was completed c.588 BC, when the armies of Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, burned the temple, and carried away the people!

But, after the promised seventy years, God again acted, and c.536 BC the Persian king, Cyrus the Great, decreed that the temple in Jerusalem be rebuilt, and many of the Jews returned home, as God had promised. In fact, some 176 years before it happened, God named the unborn Cyrus as the man who would do so: *“Cyrus ... saying to Jerusalem “Thou shalt be built”; and to the temple “Thy foundation shall be laid”*. [Isaiah 44:28]. GOD ALWAYS FULFILS HIS PROMISES!

The prophets spelled out the course of human history through to the present day and on into the future. We might ask how the prophets knew all these things, given that they were only men like ourselves? The answer is that they did not know, but God did, for the future is all in His hands.

### **Prophecies: Related to the Lord Jesus Christ**

Much of OT prophecy relates to the promises that God had made long ago about a Man who would come, deliver Israel and the world, and establish His kingdom. God would never forget that promise. We know this Man as Jesus!

There is one outstanding prophecy recorded in Daniel 9, written in about 538BC, which spelled out in precise detail the timetable in which Jesus would come. Daniel’s prophecy tells about seventy weeks of years, that is 490 years, commencing from the rebuilding of Jerusalem which would bring all things to an end. It predicts that after 483 years *“shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself”*. If we follow the actual dates, the fulfilment, in the death of Jesus (for us all!) occurs precisely 483 years after the Persian edict to restore the city of Jerusalem (445 BC). But what, you might ask, about the seventieth week (a period of 7 years)? You and I, beloved reader, are now in a prophetic gap (the dispensation of the grace of God), during which time God, with great longsuffering, calls in compassion for men and women to accept the Saviour whom He has provided, and the world awaits the commencement of the seventieth week, when the unlimited anger of God against human sin will be unleashed in seven years of unparalleled tribulation and bloodshed, until God brings the process to a conclusion with the final establishment of the Kingdom of His Son – after seventy weeks!.

The prophecies of the coming of Jesus are many, and all are either already fulfilled in His first coming, or else will be

## Prophecies that deal with Jesus Christ's first coming (lineage, birth, life, death, resurrection & ascension)

### PROPHECY

#### Prophecies concerning His lineage and birth

**Psalm 35:11** He would be falsely accused; false witnesses would speak against Him  
**Psalm 18:22,23** Rejected by the Israelite priests, elders, scribes, rulers  
**Psalm 16:10** He would be raised out from among the dead [He also said Himself that He would rise again]  
**Psalm 69:3** Jesus would thirst on the cross  
**Psalm 68:18** Jesus would be received into Heaven

1100-1000 BC

#### Prophecies concerning His life on earth

**Hosea 11:1** His move to Egypt and return to Israel again  
**Micah 5:2** His birth must be in Bethlehem

785-710 BC

#### Prophecies concerning His

**Isaiah 7:14** To be born of a virgin  
**Isaiah 7:14** His name shall be Immanuel  
**Isaiah 9:1-2** His ministry was to be in Galilee  
**Isaiah 61:1-2** He would teach, preach, heal and perform miracles  
**Isaiah 6:9-10** His teaching would be rejected  
**Isaiah 50:6** He would be brutally beaten and spat upon by the Sanhedrin  
**Isaiah 53:7** He would be silent before His accusers  
**Isaiah 53:12** He would be crucified with two robbers  
**Isaiah 53:9** His bones would not be broken

740-680 BC

### FULFILLMENT

**Matthew 28:59-61** The chief priests found false witnesses witnesses would speak against Him  
**John 1:11; John 11:53** They took counsel to put Him to death  
**1 Corinthians 15:6** The risen Christ was witnessed by over 500 people at once  
**John 19:28-30** Jesus cried, "I thirst"  
**Hebrews 1:3** He sat down at the right hand of God

**Matthew 2:13-15** Jesus taken to Egypt to escape Herod's massacre. Returned after his death  
**Matthew 2:1** Jesus was born in Bethlehem

**Matthew 1:23-25** Mother Mary was a virgin  
**Matthew 1:23** An angel said His name would be Immanuel  
**John 4:1-3** Jesus carried out public ministry in Galilee  
**Matthew 15:30** The blind, dumb, maimed and many others were healed  
**Luke 22:2** The chief priests sought to kill Him  
**Matthew 26:67-68** The soldiers spat on His face  
**Matthew 27:12-14** He was silent in front of Herod  
**Mark 15:27-28** Two robbers were crucified alongside Him  
**John 19:33-36** The soldiers did not break Jesus' legs, like the others

## which have already been fulfilled

### Crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection

**Jeremiah 31:15** ... to escape the massacre of children by Herod

**Zechariah 9:9** Entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey

**Zechariah 11:12** Jesus would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver

**Zechariah 12:10** He would be pierced by a soldier with a spear after His death

**620-490 BC**

**Matthew 2:16-18** Massacre of innocent children by Herod. Jesus escaped

**Luke 19:35-38** Entered Jerusalem on a donkey

**Mark 14:10-11** Judas betrayed Him

**John 19:34** The soldiers pierced His side

fulfilled in His promised second coming. During the Old Testament period (4000BC to 400BC), there were over 300 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah (Jesus Christ). At least 110 prophecies have already being fulfilled in His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. A Christian mathematician once demonstrated that for just 48 of those specific prophecies to be fulfilled in one person, the chance would be 1 in  $10^{157}$ . That's a number with 157 zeros!

### Prophecies: Future

If God has fulfilled His prophecies in the past, then He will bring to pass His prophecies which are for the future. There are many of them!

As human beings we have no ability to predict the details of our own future, and no control over it at all. So it is both a fascination and a challenge to know that God has mapped the future out in great detail. Our challenge – what part will we play, and will we be ready? For us as individuals, is it to be heaven or the judgement of God?

Again, space hinders us from expanding upon this to a great extent. It is sufficient to say that the prophecy that dominates and relates to all future prophecy is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mentioned in excess of three hundred times in the Bible, His second coming is a certainty: He said, *"If I go ... I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am there you may be also"*. (John 14:3)

Why hasn't He come yet? The Bible anticipated that this question would be used to cast doubts upon the fact of His coming again. But it confirmed that HE WOULD CERTAINLY COME! **Let us just map out the programme of events which God has shown will certainly come soon -**

1. **THE RAPTURE:** Unseen by the world, Jesus will shout for His own and ALL those who trust Him will be immediately transported in a moment, to be with Him. *"The Lord Himself ... with a shout ... the dead in Christ shall rise ... we which are alive ... shall be caught up ... to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"*. [1 Thessalonians 4:16-17]

# Dispensations of Time

**Law fulfilled**  
Matthew 27: 50-51

**Rapture of Saved**  
1 Thess 4:16-17

<b>Judgement</b>	<p><b>Innocence</b> Creation</p>  <p><b>Obey God</b> Gen 1:26-28; Gen 2:15-17</p>	<p><b>Conscience</b> The Fall</p>  <p><b>Do good Blood sacrifice</b> Gen 3:5,7,22;4:4</p>	<p><b>Human Government</b> The Flood</p>  <p><b>Scatter and Multiply</b> Gen 8:15-9:7</p>	<p><b>Promise</b> Tower of Babel</p>  <p><b>Dwell in Canaan</b> Gen 12:1-7</p>	<p><b>Law</b> Exodus</p>  <p><b>Keep the whole Law</b> Ex 19:3-8</p>	<p><b>Church Age</b> Dispersion of Israel Regathering of Israel</p>	
	<p><b>Disobedience</b> Gen 3:1-6</p>	<p><b>Wickedness</b> Gen 6:5-6, 11-12</p>	<p><b>Did not scatter</b> Gen 11:1-4</p>	<p><b>Dwelt in Egypt</b> Gen 12:10;46:6</p>	<p><b>Broke Law</b> 2 Kings 17:7-20; Mat 27:1-25</p>	<p><b>Israel</b></p> 	<p><b>Faith in Jesus; Keep doctrine pure</b> Jn 1:12; Rom 8:1-4; Eph 2:8-9</p>
	<p><b>Curse and death</b> Gen 3:7-19</p>	<p><b>Flood</b> Gen 6:7,13; 7:11-14</p>	<p><b>Confusion of languages</b> Gen 11:5-9</p>	<p><b>Egyptian bondage</b> Ex 1:8-14</p>	<p><b>Worldwide dispersion</b> Deut 28:63-66; Luke 21:20-24</p>	<p><b>Impure doctrine</b> Jn 5:39-40; 2 Tim 3:1-7</p>	<p><b>Apostasy, False doctrine</b> 2 Ths 2:3; 2 Tim 4:3</p>

7 Years tribulation

**Return of Christ  
in glory**  
Rev 19:11-16

**Millennial Reign**  
Eternity



**Obey and worship  
Jesus**

Is 11:3-5;  
Zach 14:9, 16

**Final rebellion**

Rev 20:7-9

**Satan loosed,  
Eternal hell**  
Rev 20:11-15

- 2. THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:** Each Christian will face judgement, not for their sins, which were all forgiven through faith in Jesus, but as an assessment of their works. *"We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ".* [2 Corinthians 5:10]
- 3. THE GREAT TRIBULATION:** We have now reached Daniel's seventieth week! For seven years the earth will experience cataclysmic disease, warfare and bloodshed, as God, after long forbearance, finally responds to man's disobedience. *"Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be".* [Matthew 24:21]
- 4. THE VISIBLE RETURN OF CHRIST TO THE EARTH:** The Great Tribulation will end when Jesus comes again to rescue Israel, which will be under threat of annihilation, and to destroy the armies of the Gentiles at the battle of Armageddon: *"Behold, He comes with clouds, and every eye shall see Him".* [Revelation 1:7]
- 5. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST:** After His return, Christ will establish His earthly Kingdom of righteousness: *"they ... shall reign with Him a thousand years".* [Revelation 20:6]
- 6. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT:** After one thousand years of the kingdom, God will set up a Great White Throne for the final judgement of humanity, and all will be raised and face judgement. Tragically, ALL who appear there, because they have never trusted Christ for salvation in their life-time, will be condemned and "cast into the lake of fire". Will you be there? *"I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it ... I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened ... the dead were judged ... according to their works".* [Revelation 20:11-12]
- 7. THE ETERNAL STATE:** With sin permanently dealt with, God will create "a new heaven and a new earth". All will be renewed, and the redeemed will enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and the bliss of heaven forever. *"I saw a new heaven and a new earth ... God shall wipe away all tears ... there shall be no more death ... sorrow ... crying ... pain ... curse ... the throne of God ... shall be in it".* [Revelation 21:1 - 22:5]

# The Challenge of the Bible

None of us can hear or read the words of the Bible without making a personal response to it – it is intended to challenge us, and it demands a response from us.

Such is the character and the source of the Bible that it CANNOT be ignored or rejected without serious personal implication. Yet, despite this, Australia's modern society would seem to have forgotten its foundation in Biblical principles, and has turned to more rationalistic and liberal ideologies. They do so, as men have done throughout all the course of history, in order to exclude God, and their unavoidable accountability to Him, from their lives. But, God will not be excluded! And, God will always have the final word. Our responsibility to Him, no matter what our attitude, will be assessed by His all-seeing, all-knowing eye.

**“A BIBLE THAT’S  
FALLING APART  
USUALLY BELONGS TO  
SOMEONE WHO ISN’T”.**

Charles Spurgeon

**THE BIBLE MAY HURT YOU WITH  
THE TRUTH BUT IT WILL NEVER  
COMFORT YOU WITH A LIE**

The challenge is – are we ready for that, and are we prepared to meet Him? Consider – *“Prepare to meet your God”* (Amos 4:12).

God speaks in the Bible, but are we prepared to listen? God shows us that we are sinners, but that He has provided the solution for our sins. Are we prepared to believe it?

God has said, *“Christ died for our sins”* (1 Corinthians 15:3), but are we prepared to acknowledge that we are sinners, and that the death of Jesus is sufficient for us?

God has taught *“the soul that sins, it shall die”* (Ezekiel 18:4), but does that trouble us?

God shows us that *“it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgement”* (Hebrews 9:27), but does that cause us to be fearful?

God has indicated to us that Jesus is *“the way, the truth and the life: no man comes to the Father but by Me”* (John 14:6), but have

we been prepared to abandon all other attempts to get to heaven, and just accept Him?

God has instructed that, *“He now commands all men everywhere to repent for He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness”* (Acts 17:31), but have we been obedient to His command?

God has said, *“He that believes on the Son has everlasting life; but he that believes not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”* (John 3:36), but have we believed on Him and trusted Him?

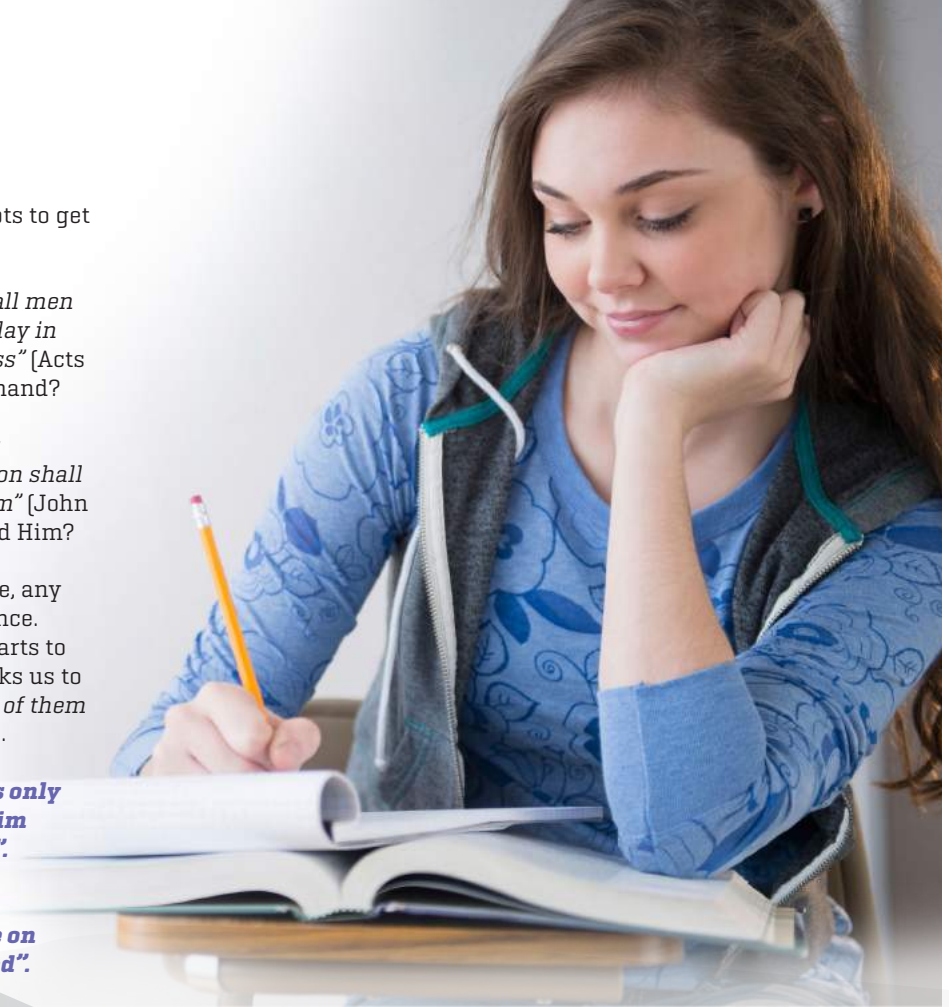
God does not settle for an ambiguous response, any more than He settles for a refusal or indifference. His expectation is clear. He challenges our hearts to accept the truth of His Word, the Bible, and asks us to consider the question, *“What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”* (1 Peter 4:17).

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”.***

[John 3:16]

***“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved”.***

[Acts 16:30-31]





***“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God,  
which lives and abides for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.  
The grass withers, and the flower thereof falls away:  
but the word of the Lord endures for ever.  
And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you”.***

**The Bible: 1 Peter 1:23-25**



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