

THE SOUL-WINNER'S HANDY GUIDE

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Special thanks to Jubina Seah and Christina Tan, two dear sisters in the Lord, for their invaluable time and effort in proofreading this Handy Guide; Jenny and Dolly Yeo for their gracious help and publication of this book; Wong Shih Yaw for the illustrations provided and my co-laborer and fellow pastor, Pastor Jacob Tan, for the front cover picture.

The author also covets the understanding and forgiveness of those whom he may have quoted without giving due recognition as he could not recollect or trace the sources he has taken from.

All Scriptures are taken from the Authorized King James' Version.

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PREFACE

Like any pastor and soul-winner, the author looks for a Handy Guide to carry along so as to have some quick answers and biblical references to "... give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..." (1 Pet 3:15) To this end is the Soul-Winner's Handy Guide written to aid the soul-winner in his task of bringing lost souls to Christ. The objectives are as follows:

- 1) To help the believer in understanding why he believes in what he believes so that he can, in turn, confidently lead another soul to the Lord.
- 2) To aid in the imparting and transferring of knowledge and necessary skills in soul-winning through classroom teaching or personal discipling to those who desire to be "fishers of men" rather than "keepers of aquarium".
- 3) To assist in personal soul-winning in every possible circumstance - after church services, in street tracting or door-to-door witnessing.
- 4) To be used as an evangelistic literature to be loaned or given to the seeking non-believers for their personal reading or study to have a more accurate picture of the essence of Christianity.

The Handy Guide can be used in the following manner:

- 1) To use the textual or pictorial presentations under the heading, "The Preliminary in Personal Evangelism" to share the gospel or to use some familiar verses of each section under "The Plan in Personal Evangelism" to present systematically and progressively the plan of salvation. Every first verse in each section is taken from the book of Romans or what is commonly known as "The Romans' Road".
- 2) To encourage questions after the presentation of the gospel and to answer them with the aid of the Handy Guide as well as from your own personal experiences.
- 3) To encourage the hearer to make a decision and lead him to the Lord as simply and directly as possible.

The Soul-Winner's Handy Guide is written to “sharpen our axes”, “provide the ammunition” and raise up effective soul-winners for this great and glorious work of personal evangelism in these Last Days.

If this Handy Guide has been a blessing to you, may you recommend it to your pastors, church members, local bookstores, et al. or get them for church or mission projects for the furtherance of the gospel.

Portions of this book can be viewed electronically from the website: www.ben-caleb.com or from search engines under the heading, "The Soul-Winner's Handy Guide." It can also be recommended to your friends via the email from this website (www.ben-caleb.com).

The website also serves to provide information on other cults and deviations not covered in this book. It has updates on the author's up-and-coming books, tracts, etc.

In questions (1) & (40), the soul-winner is advised not to use all the points given as it is too time consuming. Instead, he should just share them sufficiently and adequately at the level of the prospect. For question (40) which is on Evolution, if the points are too technical for the soul-winner, he may direct his more technical-savvy inquirer to read for himself.

The 'Notes' section is for the soul-winner to add materials relevant to his culture and customize resources according to his needs in soul-winning. It can include notes on other cults, Christian living, etc.

The author is an Independent Baptist by conviction and seeks, through the ministry of the printed page, to reach out to as many as possible for the gospel of Jesus Christ in this day and age.

A drop of ink may make a million think.

The Author

In humble dedication
to God Almighty who, by
His grace and mercy,
has saved a poor sinner like me;
to Janet,
my dear wife and companion in the faith;
to Benjamin,
Caleb, Greta and little Asher,
four “lovely jewels”
He has so graciously given us;
to the many in
Shalom Baptist Church and Shaddai Baptist Church
whose love,
kindness and understanding
have made our stay in the Ministry of the Lord
both pleasant and joyous;
and to the
Lone Soul-Winner who labors undiscouraged
and undeterred
to give the world the Gospel of
our
Lord Jesus Christ.

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ROMAN CATHOLICISM

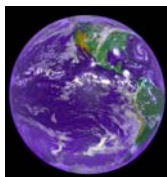
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THE PROBLEM IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM

1. THE BIBLE IS JUST A STORY; OLD FASHIONED AND OUTDATED.

THE BIBLE IS SCIENTIFIC

- a. **IT SHOWS US THE EARTH IS ROUND:** It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth... - Isa 40:22 (740-680 B.C.)



Most ancient civilizations believed that the world is flat. Their mariners would not venture too far out into the oceans fearing that they would go over the "edge" into some unknown, fearsome, watery abyss.

- b. **IT SHOWS US THE EARTH IS HANGING IN OUTER SPACE:** He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. - Job 26:7 (2000 B.C.)

Majority of ancient traditions and legends would speak of the earth as being supported by huge pillars or on the back of some giant tortoise. When these moved, then you will have earthquakes.

- c. **IT SHOWS US THERE ARE UNDERSEA CURRENTS:** ... and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. - Psa 8:8 (1410-430 B.C.)

In 1885, Matthew Maury, a US Navy officer, after reading Psalm 8:8, set off to find these curious "paths of the seas." He eventually discovered these oceanic currents and came to be known as the "pathfinder of the seas."

- d. **IT SHOWS US THE ATMOSPHERE HAS WEIGHT:** To make the weight for the winds... - Job 28:25 (2000 B.C.)

It was only in the 1600's, that Galileo discovered that air has weight.

- e. **IT SHOWS US THE UNIVERSE IS RUNNING DOWN (THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS)**: Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment... - Psa 102:25-26 (1410-430 B.C.)

The sun and all the stars in the Universe are burning themselves out and the process is irreversible. The Universe, like a wound-up clock, is running down today. But the question is: who raise the energy level so high to make life possible - the Universe could have existed as darkness and photosynthesis would not have been possible?

- f. **IT SHOWS US THERE ARE TRILLIONS OF STARS IN OUTER SPACE**: That in blessing I will bless thee (Abraham), and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. - Gen 22:17 (1450 B.C.)



As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured... - Jer 33:22 (627-580 B.C.)

Before the invention of telescope, man could only see, at the most, a few hundred stars with the naked eyes. And yet the Bible knew of the trillions of stars out there in the Universe.

- g. **IT SHOWS US THE UNIVERSE IS STILL EXPANDING**: Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain. - Psa 104:2 (1410-430 B.C.)

Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out... - Isa 42:5 (740-680 B.C.)

The Universe is still expanding today. The whole Solar System which we are in, is being hurled into outer space at about 600,000 miles per hour.

- h. **IT SHOWS US THE EXISTENCE OF DAY AND NIGHT SIMULTANEOUSLY:** Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. - Lk 17:30-34 (58-63 A.D.)

The Bible predicted that when the Lord Jesus Christ comes again, it would be day in certain parts of the world and night in the other parts.

- i. **IT SHOWS US THERE ARE WATER FOUNTAINS UNDER THE OCEANS:** Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? - Job 38:16 (2,000 B.C.)



When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep. - Pro 8:28 (950-700 B.C.)

There are thousands of underwater volcanoes adding millions of metric tons of water into the oceans each year.

- j. **IT SHOWS US THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE OF WATER:** All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. - Eccl 1:7 (950 B.C.)

The process of evaporation and condensation of water were only discovered by Galileo in 1630.

- k. **IT SHOWS US LIGHT CAN BE PARTED:** By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? - Job 38:24 (2,000 B.C.)

White light, while passing through the prism, can be separated into seven colors. This was not understood until the 1600's.

- l. **IT SHOWS US THE SUN IS THE SOURCE OF THE EARTH'S WIND SYSTEM:** By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? - Job 38:24

As the sun heats up the surface of the earth, it causes the hot air to rise and the cooler air to replace it. This creates the wind which we are so accustomed to. The Bible, years ahead of its time, knew the correlationship between the sun and the wind system.

- m. **IT SHOWS US THE WINDS DO BLOW IN CIRCUIT:** The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. - Eccl 1:6 (950 B.C.)

As the land in the equator heats up, it causes the hot air to rise. In the upper atmosphere, the air flows away from the equator. Cooler air will move along to replace it. This produces 6 major wind belts around the world.



- n. **IT SHOWS US THE EXISTENCE OF BACTERIA AND GERMS, AND THE PRACTICE OF QUARANTINE:** All the days wherein the plague shall be in him (the leper) he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without (outside) the camp shall his habitation be. - Lev 13:46 (1444 B.C.)

Between 1347 and 1352, some 25 million people, more than one-third of the population of Europe died because of the Black Plague (Bubonic Plague). Many lives would not have been needlessly lost if only they knew of the existence of viruses and the practice of quarantine as taught in the Bible.

- o. **IT SHOWS US THE REALITY OF ADAM AND EVE:** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth... - Gen 1:27-28 (1450 B.C.)



Mitochondrial DNA is inherited always and only from the mother. A researcher, Rebecca Cann, studied the mitochondrial DNA of the placenta of babies from 147 women from America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. All the babies' DNA could be unmistakably traced to one woman. (Jan 11, 1998, Newsweek, Inc, All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission)

- p. **IT SHOWS US THE PRACTICE OF SANITATION:** Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad: And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee. - Deut 23:12-13

Up till the 1800's, human excrement was dumped onto the unpaved, filthy streets which not only smelled terribly but also caused death due to typhoid, cholera and dysentery. If only they knew of the teaching in the Bible regarding sanitation.

- q. **IT SHOWS US THE PRACTICE OF CIRCUMCISION ON THE EIGHTH DAY:** And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations... - Gen 17:12 (1450 B.C.)

One simple aspect of God's command to Abraham helped prevent excessive bleeding with circumcision of the newborn. That was the instruction that the rite should be done on the eighth day of life. Modern medicine has come to understand the mechanisms at work in the clotting of blood. Of major importance in blood clotting is prothrombin, a compound

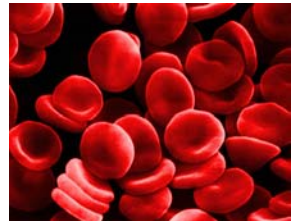
made in the liver and the precursor of the active clotting agent thrombin. It has been well established that within a few hours after birth prothrombin becomes relatively depleted and does not become replenished by the infant's liver until about the eighth day of life. (Russel J. Thomsen, M.D., Medical Wisdom From the Bible, Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1974, pg 17)

- r. **IT SHOWS US THE USE OF RUNNING WATER AGAINST INFECTION:** And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean. - Lev 15:13

Until the 1900's, many hospital patients died needlessly due to infections caused by doctors and nurses washing their hands in a common basin of stagnant water.

- s. **IT SHOWS US LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD:** For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. - Lev 17:11 (1444 B.C.)

Blood is literally the life of the flesh as it carries oxygen, nutrients, etc throughout the whole body. Without it, the creature will die. It is ironical that in 1799, the US President, George Washington, died because of a common but wrong medical practice of his day - blood letting. It is believed then that some illnesses were caused by "bad blood", and by cutting the veins to drain it out, it would heal a person. If only George Washington and the tens of thousands of his days had read Leviticus 17:11, they could have survived their illnesses. Sixty years after George Washington, it was still in use.



Red Blood Cell

Courtesy of Quill Graphics

THE BIBLE IS PROPHETIC

- a. IT PREDICTED THE RETURN OF THE JEWS TO THEIR LAND BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD: And I will bring you (the Jews) out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye (you) are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. - Ezek 20:34 (592-570 B.C.)



israel palestine conflict

I will say to the north (a reference to Russia, et al), Give up; and to the south (a reference to Ethiopia, et al), Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.
- Isa 43:6 (740-680 BC)

The Bible hinted that the world will not end until the Jews are first back in their own Land. Historically, because of their continuous disobedience towards God, the nation of Israel was destroyed and the Jews were scattered in 70 AD by the Romans. However, after World War II, on May 14, 1948, almost 2,000 years later, and against all odds, the Jews were given back their land by order of the United Nations. Israel earns the distinction as being the only people in the world who had been dispersed and re-gathered to their land after almost two millennia. All the present, on-going conflicts in the Middle East between the Israelis and the Palestinians are the results of this in-gathering of the Jews to Palestine in 1948.

On December 21, 1991, under Mikhail Gorbachev, the mighty Soviet Union (USSR) disintegrated to expedite the return of some 800,000 Russian Jews to Israel from behind the Iron Curtain. The world called it "an accident" but we know that God did it – "And I will bring you (the Jews) out from the people... with a mighty hand... and with fury poured out." (Ezek 20:34) In addition, between 1980 and 1991, approximately 85,000 Ethiopian Jews came back to their homeland in Israel. The Israeli population has grown from about 650,000 in 1948 to approximately 6 million today.

The Declaration of Israel's Independence

On May 14, 1948, against all odds, the modern state of Israel was reborn. At four o'clock that afternoon the members of the provisional national council, led by David Ben-Gurion, met in the Tel Aviv Art Museum. Ben-Gurion rose and read the following proclamation to the assembled guests:



"The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here, the spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here, they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here, they wrote and gave the Bible to the world. Exiled from the Palestine, the Jewish people remained, faithful to it in all countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and the restoration of their

national freedom...

Accordingly we, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly today, the day of the termination of the British Mandate of Palestine, by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine, to be called ISRAEL...

With trust in Almighty God, we set our hand to this declaration, at this session of the Provisional State Council, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the fifth year of Iyar, 5708, the fourteenth day of May, 1948."



David Ben Gurion reading the Declaration of Independence

- b. **IT PREDICTED GOD WILL PRESERVE THE JEWS IN THEIR LAND DURING THE LAST DAYS:** And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God. - Amos 9:15 (824-810 B.C.)

From 1948 until today, the mirco-state of Israel survived 5 major wars fought against her by her numerically superior neighbors. Three of these are:

The War of Independence in 1948, where 5 Arab nations - Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, simultaneously attacked Israel to destroy her at birth. The world did not give Israel much of a chance to survive, but miraculously, she not only survived, but enlarged her given territories.

General Shimon Erem said back in 1948: "Twenty thousand untrained civilians, many of them speaking languages which could not be understood took on armies represented by 100 million Arabs, and prevailed. It was a miracle of God, there is no other explanation. God was keeping His word..."



The Six-Day War in 1967, where Israel, on the eve of a planned offensive by her Arab neighbors, launched a pre-emptive strike on June 5, destroying all the air forces of Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Jordan on the first day of the war before mopping up all their land forces within a 6-day period.

The Yom Kippur War in 1973, in which the combined Arab forces, through Egypt and Syria, launched a surprised attack and caught Israel flat-footed on the Day of Atonement - the holiest day in which the Jews were totally at rest. Israel was almost annihilated as the Syrian tanks and Egyptian forces steamrolled into Tel Aviv. For some unknown reasons, the Arab forces hesitated and that break was sufficient for Israel to mobilize her military forces and launch a counter attack that brought her armies deep into Egypt and Syria before the UN intervened and stopped the war.

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. - Jer 31:35-36 (627-580 B.C.)

- c. **IT PREDICTED THE DISPERSED JEWS WILL COME BACK BY AIR AND SEA:** Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. - Isa 60:8-9

In May 1949, under Operation Magic Carpet, the Israeli aircrafts flew some 47,000 Yemenite Jews from Aden in Yemen to Israel. From the March of 1950, under Operation Ezra and Nehemiah, for 18 months, some 121,000 Iraqi Jews came back to Israel by air and sea.

- d. **IT PREDICTED THE RETURNED JEWS WILL RECAPTURE THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM:** Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country; And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. - Zech 8:7-8 (520 B.C.)

Jerusalem is the third most holy city to the Moslems after Mecca and Medina. Some think the miracle of the 6-Day War was that King Hussein of Jordan eventually decided to enter the war against his better judgment. By entering the war, Jordan lost Jerusalem to Israel on June 7, 1967 and this prophecy was fulfilled to the very letter - "... and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." - (Lk 21:24) 58-63 A.D.



- e. **IT PREDICTED THE LAND OF ISRAEL WILL TURN FROM A BARREN LAND INTO A FRUITFUL LAND:** He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit. - Isa 27:6

Israel, which was largely a barren land for centuries before the return of the Jews, literally blossomed. Today, she is the third largest fruit-exporting country in the world. Even from satellite, one can see the greenery of Israel in stark contrast to the vast barrenness of her neighbors.

- f. **IT PREDICTED SOLOMON'S TEMPLE WILL BE REBUILT:** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. - 2 Thess 2:4 (55 A.D.)



The Dome of the Rock

The Moslem Mosque, the Dome of the Rock, now occupies the supposed site for Solomon's Temple. The Bible predicted, when the Anti-Christ comes, he will sit in the Temple of God and showing himself to be God.

The Temple Institute in Israel has prepared and fabricated most of the implements for the coming Third Temple. It is rumored that if the Dome of the Rock were to come down, the Temple will be raised within months.

Most believe that the Anti-Christ, when he appears will, through diplomacy, achieve this near-impossible feat of getting the Temple built. Others believe the actual site for the Temple is somewhere away from the present Mosque and is on the site known as, "The Dome of the Tablets and the Spirits."

The Leader of the Temple Institute, Rabbi Israel Ariel remarked, "Our task is to advance the cause of the Temple and to prepare for its establishment, and not just talk about it."



- g. **IT PREDICTED JERUSALEM SHALL BE A CUP OF TREMBLING TO ALL THE NATIONS:** Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. - Zech 12:2-3 (520 B.C.)

Some 2,500 years ago, Jerusalem was a wilderness in the days of the prophet Zechariah. And yet the Bible predicted that towards the End of the World, it will affect the peace of the whole world - what goes on in Jerusalem will be of great concern to the rest of the world.

THE WORLD

PLEA FOR PEACE

JERUSALEM — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was back in Jerusalem after cutting short his trip to Lebanon, to hold consultations with Israelis and Palestinians.

"We are at risk of seeing a dangerous situation escalate to a crisis that could destabilise an entire region," he said.

PARITZ (France) — European Union leaders yesterday were set to call for an Israeli-Palestinian summit to halt the spiralling violence, according to a draft statement.

There "is no other path than the use of peace and negotiation" on the basis of the Camp David accords, the draft text said.

CAIRO — The conditions for holding a four-way summit proposed by Egypt to try to end the Israeli-Palestinian violence have not yet been met, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa warned yesterday.

The atmosphere necessary to hold a four-way summit grouping Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli premier Ehud Barak does not appear to be in place, he said.

TOKYO — In Japan, Foreign Minister Yohei Kono urged Israel to show restraint as Tokyo share prices tumbled on fears of all-out war and an attendant surge in oil prices.

MANILA — A Philippine foreign-ministry statement said Manila "calls on the two sides to exercise maximum restraint so as to reduce tension in the region and the probability of further clashes occurring."

MISSIONS CLOSE

WASHINGTON — The US yesterday ordered embassies in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia to close until next week, amid fears of continuing clashes between Israelis and Palestinians, and anti-American violence after a suspected terrorist attack in Yemen.

US missions in 13 Arab and seven African nations and Pakistan have been told to shut and remain closed to the public until Monday, a State Department official said.

TIME TO PROTEST

TEHRAN — Iran said yesterday that it expected the world community to take serious action against Israel after it bombed Palestinian cities in retaliation for the lynching of three Israelis.

JAKARTA — Thousands of Muslims across Indonesia and Malaysia staged angry anti-Israel protests.

— AFP

- h. **IT PREDICTED THE JEWS TODAY DO NOT HAVE ALL THE LANDS ORIGINALLY GIVEN BY GOD TO ABRAHAM:** In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates. - Gen 15:18 (1450 B.C.)

I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. - Joel 3:2 (795-755 B.C.)

- i. **IT PREDICTED THE PRESENT UNBELIEF OF THE RETURNED JEWS:** For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved... - Rom 11:25-26 (58-60 A.D.)



And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that

is in bitterness for his firstborn. - Zech 12:10 (520 B.C.)

So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward. - Ezek 39:22

Spiritually blinded, the Jews today are still looking for their coming Messiah. They failed to realize that He had already come - the Lord Jesus Christ whom their forefathers had rejected and had Him crucified. Israel, as a nation, will be converted in the future Tribulational Period.

- j. **IT PREDICTED THE POSSIBLE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES OF THE JEWS IN THE LAST DAYS:** And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel... And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. - Ezek 38:18-23 (592-570 B.C.)

Apparently, in the Tribulation period, Israel, in the defense of Jerusalem, which was retaken from Jordan in the 6-Day War in 1967, will unleash her nuclear arsenal - "And this

shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth." (Zech 14:12) Those caught in a thermonuclear explosion at a certain distance, will literally have their flesh – eyes, tongues, noses, etc instantaneously obliterated while they are still standing. It is rumoured that Israel today has about 200 nuclear warheads.

The Straits Times, Singapore, Aug 16, 2002, states:

Israel 'may resort to N-strike'

JERUSALEM - Israel could respond with nuclear weapons to a non-conventional attack by Iraq, according to American intelligence sources.

'If Iraq strikes at Israel with non-conventional weapons, causing massive casualties among the civilian population, Israel could respond with a nuclear retaliation that would eradicate Iraq', the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported yesterday, citing an assessment from United States intelligence presented to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week... (AFP)



- k. IT PREDICTED THE ARRIVAL OF THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONS: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. - Mt 24:21-22 (37 A.D.)

... lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood... And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. - Rev 6:12-14 (96 A.D.)

With the invention of thermonuclear warheads, the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) have finally arrived, and unless God intervenes, there will literally “no flesh be saved”. Phrases like “the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became as blood” is indicative of a “nuclear winter” (where the sunlight is blocked out by the dust in the aftermath of an all-out thermonuclear war) and “the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled away” possibly refers to the vast displacement and expansion of the atmosphere due to thermonuclear explosions. Currently, there are more than enough thermonuclear warheads to destroy this earth several times over (Strategic Nuclear Weapons: US – approx. 7,300; Russia – approx. 6,000; etc).

Other biblical references to a possible nuclear holocaust are:

Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. - Isa 24:1 (740-680 B.C.)

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. - 1 Thess 5:3

- I. IT PREDICTED THE COMING ONE-WORLD LEADER (THE ANTI-CHRIST) AND GOVERNMENT: ... and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb... - Rev 13:7-8 (96 A.D.)



Towards the end of this age, countries all over the world will largely gravitate towards a “One-World Government” with a “One-World Leader” – the Anti-Christ. Presently, the political leaders of the world are awakening to the stark reality that their nations cannot survive in isolation. The onslaught of

globalization, the new, borderless economy, the advent of the Internet, the possible environmental catastrophes facing

mankind – global warming, ozone depletion, etc, and international conflicts and crises, which require multinational cooperative efforts to resolve, are inevitably forcing all these nations to come together in interdependence.

The latest trend in the world is towards the concept of “The New World Order,” “Globalization” and “Global Governance.” The formation of international bodies like the UN (United Nations), WTO (World Trade Organization), ICJ (International Court of Justice) IMF (International Monetary Fund) and ICC



UN general assembly

(International Criminal Court) are systematically laying the groundwork for this coming New World Order. These, together with the formation of the Common Markets (NAFTA, EU & ASEAN) are drawing the nations of the world into a “One-Collective Government”.

The world today is crying for a “someone” to take charge of the endless political, economical, social problems that are plaguing mankind. That someone will eventually appear on the horizon – the Anti-Christ, the greatest deceiver of all times – “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” (2 Thess 2:9-10)

The Advance of the New World Order

(CBN) With nation linked to nation through the economics of trade and the financial markets, and certain regions of the world almost perpetually on the brink of war, some believe there’s a real need for world government. Author Gary Kah has researched groups which support global government. “I believe that we are quite possibly one major world crisis away from world government becoming a reality,” says Kah. “I’m talking about either an economic crisis or a

military crisis, or possibly a combination of both.” Kah says war has often been associated with moves toward global government. The formation of the League of Nations followed World War I, and the United Nations was formed after World War II. The 1991 Gulf War brought a lot of popularity to the term “New World Order,” a catch phrase often used by President George Bush.

In the San Francisco Weekly, Jim Garrison, Jr., the head of the Gorbachev Foundation USA, said the planet needs a “Council of Elders” drawn from the highest echelons of politics, science, the arts, and commerce. Garrison predicts that “over the next 20 to 30 years, we are going to end up with world government - it’s inevitable.”

Richard A. Falk, in an article entitled “Towards a New World Order: Modest Methods and Drastic Visions,” in the book “On the Creation of a Just World Order” (1975):

“The existing order is breaking down at a very rapid rate, and the main uncertainty is whether mankind can exert a positive role in shaping a new world order or is doomed to await collapse in a passive posture. We believe a new order will be born no later than early in the next century and that the death throes of the old and the birth pangs of the new will be a testing time for the human species.”

Wiring the West, Steve Harris, May, 1999, The Age Melbourne:

For older heads like Lee Kuan Yew and Yehudi Menuhin, the rapidity of change, life at the speed of thought, is challenging man’s ability to cope. Lee has masterminded the success of Singapore, a country whose technology, education and national unity is the envy of many a world leader. But even he is worried.



“The world is changing so fast I’m not sure Singapore can adjust fast enough to keep up and find a niche in the powerful knowledge-based economies,” he said at Davos. “The speed with

which societies are being interlinked to each other, the ease with which they can influence the other, will make for a totally new world. It may erode long-held values that have held our society together. I see signs of it already."

- m. **IT PREDICTED THE COMING "MARK OF THE BEAST" (666):** And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save (except) he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. - Rev 13:16-17

The Anti-Christ, when he appears in the coming Tribulation period, will cause everyone to have a particular mark in their right hands or foreheads in order to buy or sell. This technology to control the world's commerce is already at our doorstep – the Human ID Implant or the RFID (radio frequency identification) tags.

Presently, we are heading towards a cashless system where eventually all economic transactions may be made through the microchips, implanted in our right hands or on our foreheads. The "plastic card" (ATM, VISA, MASTERCARD, etc.)



is the intermediate medium which will eventually lead to the use of microchips. Already, in the USA, microchips are implanted in dogs and cats so that their owners can be located when they (the pets) go astray. Generally, the Westerners are wary of any form of the "Big Brother Program", but with the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, USA, on September 11, 2001, the American government, in the fight against terrorism, is apparently pushing for some form of universal identification of her citizens with the use of the microchip technology – today, national security supercedes personal privacy. However, we are not exactly sure of the final version of this "Mark of the Beast" – the implanted microchips could be just one step away from it.

AP, February, 2002, "Answer to Security Prayer? – Human ID-chip implants", it states:

"Sept 11 catapults security industry into an era of uncharted possibilities - not to mention a human-rights minefield.

WASHINGTON - Embedding a computer chip the size of a long grain of rice beneath a person's skin could be the answer to a need for foolproof security at vital installations.



A Florida technology company is poised to ask the government for permission to market a first-ever computer ID chip that could be inserted under the skin for use at airports, nuclear power plants and other high-security facilities. But privacy advocates warn the chip could lead to encroachment on civil liberties. The implant technology is another case of science fiction evolving into fact.

Other uses of the technology on the horizon, from an added device that would allow satellite-tracking of an individual's every movement to the storage of medical records and other sensitive data, are already attracting interest across the globe for tasks such as foiling kidnappings or helping paramedics.

Applied Digital, based in Palm Beach, Florida, says it will soon begin the process of getting Food and Drug Administration's approval for the device..."

The Straits Times, Singapore, March 26, 1998 states:

In 10 years you will have... a chip in your head

Take out your wallet and count the number of cards you carry, not to mention all the Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) that you have to memorize for every possible transaction...

Everything from employment and medical records to financial status can be written into the chip. Add a short-range wireless transmitter-receiver, implant the whole thing under your skin,

and you have a personal transponder, just like those in aeroplanes... Even grocery-shopping could be easier. Just walk into a store and pick up whatever you want to buy. No more queues at the cashier's counter. All this could be a reality in 10 years' time.

THE STRAITS TIMES

Fast Forward

No more cards, just a chip in your head

Yes, no more worries about PIN numbers and other personal details. Everything can be stored in a chip implanted under your skin, in your head. This is not sci-fi, but something that can come about in 10 years' time, says BT Laboratories' Peter Cochrane.

Cover Story
PAGES 2 and 3



Photo Illustration by DOMENIC WONG

n. IT PREDICTED THE SPEED OF TRAVEL AND THE EXPONENTIAL INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE IN THE END TIMES:

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. - Dan 12:4

The Bible predicted that in the Last Days, many people will be traveling to and fro at incredible speed and there will be an explosion of knowledge. In the last 5,000 years of observable, human history, technology has hardly changed – man lived off the land and the fastest speed he can travel is on horseback. But in the last 100 years or so, we are communicating with the speed of light and traveling pass

the speed of sound. The Twentieth Century alone saw the invention of cars, trains, planes, radio, television, satellites, rockets, computers, the internet, et al. Knowledge is estimating to be doubling every two years. Technology is moving so fast that what's new today will be obsolete in less than a year's time.

Hurried Century

(AP) The Twentieth Century. It started with horses and hours. It ends with Maseratis and microseconds, with cars speeding across highways, airplanes streaking across skies, microprocessors burning across desktops and space shuttles circling the earth. This century's mad dash of innovation has produced all of these things - and the most frantic human era ever.

We phone. We fax. We page. We e-mail. We race from one end of life to the other, rarely glancing over our shoulders. Technology, mass media and a desire to do more, do it better and do it yesterday have turned us into a world of "hurriers".



1908: the Ford Model T, top speed 45 mph.

1933: the Boeing 247 (600 miles in four hours).

1947: test pilot Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier (700 mph).

1969: Apollo 10's three astronauts become the fastest humans ever (24,791 mph).

"No century has been like this. And we're only speeding up," says David Grubin, producer of the recent PBS documentary "America 1900."

o. IT PREDICTED THE DRYING UP OF THE RIVER EUPHRATES AND THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON:

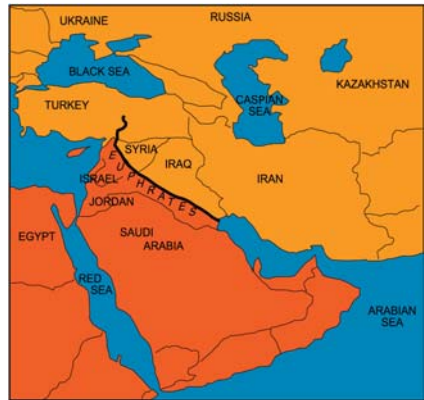
And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared... which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. - Rev 16:12-16



The Ataturk Dam

The Bible tells us that towards the end of the Tribulation Period, the River Euphrates will dry up to allow an assemblage of formidable armies from the East (China, etc) to cross into Israel for the last great battle – the Battle of Armageddon, the Mother of all Battles, where all the great armies of the world will converge. It is also of interest to note that today, we are seeing the reemergence of China as a world economic and military superpower.

Turkey has built one of the world's largest dams - the Ataturk Dam on the River Euphrates. On January 13, 1990, she began to fill the reservoirs behind the giant Ataturk Dam. Anticipating her neighbors' complaints, the Turks increased the water flow 50% before cutting it down to a trickle. Both Iraq and Syria protested to no avail. Today, it is possible to "dry up" this huge, gigantic river - the River Euphrates.

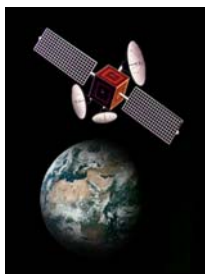


Facts about the Anatolia Project (GAP):

The Euphrates River, or the *Furat* in Arabic and Turkish, flows from its origins in Turkey through Syria and into Iraq.

Turkey's Southeast Anatolia Project, known by the Turkish acronym GAP, is causing concern in Syria and Iraq about the future of their access to the waters of the Euphrates. GAP, a concept as early as the 1930's, was begun in 1997. The project includes more than 20 dams and 17 electric power plants, which will eventually supply over half of Turkey's electricity requirements. However, filling the reservoirs behind these dams will reduce the flow of water downstream to Syria and Iraq.

p. IT PREDICTED THE INVENTION OF TELEVISION AND SATELLITES:

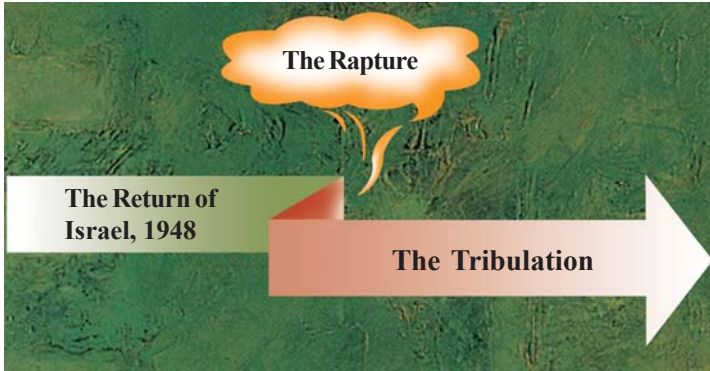


And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days (1,260 days)... And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city... where also our Lord was

crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer (allow) their dead bodies to be put in graves... And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. - Rev 11:3-11 (96 A.D.)

In the Tribulation Period, God will send two prophets to prophesy against the world for three and a half years. After that, the Anti-Christ will be allowed to kill these two prophets and the whole world will be able to view their bloodied bodies in Jerusalem within a three-and-a-half day period. This is only possible through a live telecast of the event with the aid of television and satellites.

THE END TIMES PROGRAM



The Rapture

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. - 1 Thess 4:16-17

The Tribulation

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. - Mt 24:21

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains... For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? - Rev 6:15-17

2. I CANNOT SEE GOD.

- a. We can believe in the invisible Creator by seeing the visible things He has created.

- i. **FROM CAUSE AND EFFECT:** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. - Jn 1:3

The Universe is a vacuum. Where then did matter and energy come from? Who placed the sun, moon and the constellations of stars in the outer space? Other than God Himself, something cannot come from nothing.

- ii. **FROM DESIGN AND INTELLIGENCE:** 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; so that they are without excuse. - Rom 1:20

Gravity will draw two body masses together while the same pole of two magnets coming together will repel. Water, when cooled, will contract until it reaches 4 degree Celsius, after which, it will expand. This property of water causes the lakes during winter to remain unfrozen beneath the surface and allows the fishes to survive. Two atoms of hydrogen when covalently bonded with one atom of oxygen will give us water (H₂O). Who laid down all these "invisible laws" of physics and chemistry that harmonized together in such a wonderful and intricate way to make life possible?

By looking at the watch, we know that the watchmaker exists even though we have not seen him. Likewise, by looking at the complexity, beauty and orderliness in creation, we can know of the existence of an intelligent Creator even though we have not seen Him.

- iii. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. - Gen 1:1 This is the most scientific statement about how this intricate world came into existence.

- b. Even if we can see God we may not automatically believe in Him.
 - i. **MAN HAS REJECTED GOD:** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed (shown) it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen... Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.
- Rom 1:19-22
 - ii. **MAN HAS REJECTED THE TRUTH:** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. - Jn 3:19-20
 - iii. Man will not go to God for the same reason a thief will not go to a policeman.
 - iv. Man is a peculiar, puzzling paradox, groping for God and hoping to hide from him at the selfsame time.
- William A. Ward

3. **I CANNOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT THE BIBLE.**

- a. We make use of many things we do not fully understand.
 - i. We do not understand everything about medicine or electricity, and yet we use them. Imagine a dying man saying to a doctor, "Doctor, since I cannot understand everything about medicine, I will not take it."
- b. We can understand our need to be saved from hell.
 - i. **We have sinned:** The Bible teaches it, our conscience attests to it, and our experience confirms it.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. - Rom 3:23

- ii. We will be judged: As moral beings, we judge one another all the time. One day, we will be judged by a Perfect and Moral God.

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. - Heb 9:27

- iii. We cannot save ourselves: We keep falling into sins and can never be perfect, no matter how much or hard we try.

For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. - Eccl 7:20

- iv. We will be sent to hell: A perfect God hates sins thoroughly and will send the sinner to hell forever.

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. - Psa 9:17

- v. We can be saved by faith through Jesus Christ who died for us: Jesus Christ is God who came to die in our place as a sinless sacrifice for our sins.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. - Rom 5:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. - Eph 2:8-9

- c. Someone once commented, "It is not what I don't understand that bothers me. It is what I do understand that bothers me - I am a sinner without hope on my way to hell."
- d. Many things in the Bible I cannot understand; many things in the Bible I only think I understand; but there are many things in the Bible I cannot misunderstand. - Moody Monthly
- e. The man with cancer needs first to know how he can be cured from cancer. All other knowledge is secondary. Likewise, the sinner needs first to know how he can be saved from Hell.

4. WHY WOULD A LOVING GOD SEND A SOUL TO HELL FOREVER?

- a. God is a God of supreme love.
 - i. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - Jn 3:16
 - ii. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. - Jn 15:13
- b. God is also a God of justice.
 - i. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne... - Psa 89:14
 - ii. A nation has justice when her criminals are punished in accordance to the law for their crimes. A nation has no justice when every crime is excused and every criminal is freed. Likewise, God's justice demands that every sinner be punished accordingly.
- c. The more perfect and righteous we are, the more we will hate sins. God is one hundred percent perfect and holy, and He hates sins thoroughly. No sinner can dwell in His holy presence and He will send every sinner into hell forever.
 - i. For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing (falsehood): the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man. - Psa 5:4-6
 - ii. The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. - Psa 9:17
 - iii. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. - Mt 25:46
 - iv. The very animals whose smell is most offensive to us have no idea that they are offensive, and are not offensive to one another. And man, fallen man, has just no idea what a vile thing sin is in the sight of God. - J. C. Ryle

- d. When a person dies, his character is fixed. This is another reason why hell is forever.
 - i. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. - Rev 22:11

This verse is true only in the light of eternity where the human character becomes fixed.
 - ii. Death stamps the characters and conditions of men for eternity. As death finds them in this world, so will they be in the next world. - Nathaniel Emmons
- e. God does not desire to see any soul in hell.
 - i. Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? - Ezek 18:23
 - ii. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. - 2 Pet 3:9

5. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS SIN - EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE.

- a. Some things in life are relative.
 - i. Depending on the circumstances, the one who kills can be either a murderer or an executioner. However, some things in life are absolute: the one who kills because of greed is a murderer, while the one who kills because of justice as required by the State is an executioner.
- b. Some things in life are absolute.
 - i. Those who have convinced themselves that everything is relative still get mad at the wrongs done to them - when someone robs their homes, hurts them or kills their loved ones. Why? Because they, in their hearts, still believe in absolutes - that these crimes are morally

wrong. They would not smile at such injustices done to them and explain them (the injustices) away as, "everything is relative."

- c. In reality, those who advocate the idea that "everything is relative" just want to enjoy their sins without being made to feel guilty.
 - i. Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents... Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. - Rom 1:29-32
- d. FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Do you believe that everything is relative and nothing is absolute?

Yes!

Is that an absolute statement?

Yes!

But, I thought you just said that there is nothing absolute?

6. I AM SINCERELY DOING THE BEST THAT I CAN.

- a. Sincerity and truth are not identical. Sincerity is sincerity and truth is truth. Sincerity without truth is sincerely wrong.
 - i. If, by accident, we board the wrong bus, will our sincerity and faith in that bus amount to anything? Will it bring us to our destination? So likewise, sincerity without truth is sincerely wrong.
 - ii. In life, there are numerous examples of people who were sincerely wrong: hospital patients who sincerely trusted in their physicians and died because of wrong or overdosed medication, or airplane passengers who

sincerely placed their faith in the aircraft they were traveling in and never made it to their destinations due to some mishaps. There is nothing great about sincerity if it lacks the truth.

- b. The Jews were sincere in going about to establish their own righteousness, and yet, they were sincerely lost in their sins.
 - i. Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise... That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. - Rom 10:1-9
 - ii. What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone. - Rom 9:30-32
- c. What saves a soul is not sincerity alone but sincerity coupled with the truth.
 - i. ... Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. - Acts 16:30-31
 - ii. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. - Jn 8:32

7. I CAN MAKE IT TO HEAVEN BY MY GOOD WORKS.

- a. In order to be saved by good works, we must keep all the laws of God without breaking any one of them. The breaking of just one law will render us guilty.
 - i. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. - Gal 3:10-11
 - ii. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. - Jas 2:10
 - iii. Technically, most criminals have kept all the laws of the country and broke just a couple of them. Yet, they are guilty before society.
- b. In reality, good works cannot wash away our sins.
 - i. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. - Jn 8:24
 - ii. Imagine a robber who stole from a bank and, after feeling bad about it, decided to give away all his fortunes to the poor. What will happen when the law finally catches up with him? Will it say that since he has done such a noble and charitable deed, he should be forgiven? Of course not! Likewise, judicially speaking, good works cannot wash away our sins.
- c. Nobody in the world can do good perfectly.
 - i. For there is not a just (righteous) man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. - Eccl 7:20
 - ii. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do... I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me... O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? - Rom 7:19-24

- d. No man can be saved by depending on their good works.
 - i. To be saved by good work or the keeping of the laws is like a man clinging on to a chain and hanging over the cliff. The chain is as good as each link. One broken link will send the man down the precipice to his death. One sin is enough to send the sinner into hell for ever.
 - ii. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. - Jas 2:10
- e. We are saved by grace through our faith in Christ and not by depending on our good works.
 - i. ... Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. - Acts 16:30-31
 - ii. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. - Eph 2:8-9
 - iii. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. - Rom 11:6
 - iv. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. - Rom 1:17
 - v. If a man were to owe a creditor a hundred million dollars, and he can never in his lifetime repay that debt, then, the only logical option left is for someone else to help him pay that debt, and for him to freely receive with gratitude that generous help. Similarly, we can never repay our debts of sins and therefore, the only possible recourse left for us is for God to pay for our sins, and for us to freely receive by faith this gift of eternal life - "... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 6:23)

8. DOESN'T SALVATION BY FAITH SOUND TOO EASY?

- a. In life, everything we do or refuse to do is due to our "faith" or innermost beliefs.
 - i. The reason why we want to make more money and lead a comfortable life is because we believe that it is good for us. The reason why we do not want to be poor or suffer hardship is because we believe that it is not good for us. All our thinking, attitudes, behaviors and actions are shaped and determined by our innermost beliefs or faith. This is why God would rather focus on our belief or faith than on our external works.
 - ii. In reality, it is harder to believe than to work. Also, we can do many things in life without believing (like pleasing our bosses), but we cannot believe without doing (like giving our best to our loved ones).
- b. If God were to focus on our external works, then we can end up doing good works perfunctorily or artificially without any real personal conviction.
 - i. We can become hypocritical by doing good works to ease our conscience or to make an impression on others.
 - ii. But all their works they do for to be seen of men...
- Mt 23:5
 - iii. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres (graves), which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. - Mt 23:25-28
- c. A true, saving faith will result in us doing the works of God.
 - i. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen

as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house... By faith Abraham, when he was called to go into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. - Heb 11:7-8

- ii. We are saved by faith without works, but never by a faith that is without works - "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (Jas 2:17)
 - iii. Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated.
 - iv. Faith is like the root of which work is the fruit.
- d. Because we are saved by faith we can be free to love and obey God.
- i. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. - Rom 5:1
 - ii. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. - Jn 8:32
 - iii. If we were to be saved by good works, then we will have to keep on keeping on without any assurance that we will make it. It is like a burden we carry and cannot put down. The real motivation for our good works is more out of fear than of love. We are afraid that we will not make it. Whereas, because we are saved by faith through the perfect and sinless sacrifice of God for us, the Lord Jesus Christ, we will never be in hell - not because we are good or perfect but because of Christ's goodness and perfection. He died in our place and paid the penalty of our sins. This truly sets us free to love and obey Him.
 - iv. "There is a great difference between your religion and mine," said a Christian to his neighbor. "Indeed!" was the reply. "What is that?" "It is this: Yours has only two letters in it, while mine has four." "What do you mean?" said he. "Well, yours has 'DO'. Mine has 'DONE'."

9. WHY IS CHRISTIANITY THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

a. Religion is basically man's attempt to reach God, and it is hopeless.

- i. **THROUGH GOOD WORKS:** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess... for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. - Lk 18:11-14

Those who seek to be justified by their good works will be condemned by their good works - because their good works will never be good enough - "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (Jas 2:10)

- ii. **THROUGH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS:** They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus... said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her... And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last... - Jn 8:4-9

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. - Rom 3:10

- iii. **THROUGH THE KEEPING OF THE LAWS OF GOD:** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. - Gal 3:10-11

The system of the Law is such that either we keep all the laws or we are guilty of them all - "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (Jas 2:10)

The law of God is like a mirror; it can reveal flaws, but not remove them.

- b. Christianity is God's attempt to reach man. This is man's only hope to be with God.

- i. **IT IS THROUGH HIS SON:** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. - Jn 3:16-17

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. - Rom 5:8

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. - Heb 2:9

- ii. **IT IS A GIFT OF GOD:** ... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. - Rom 6:23

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. - Eph 2:8-9

The weakest hand can receive a precious gem.

Salvation is free, but it costs the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- iii. **IT IS SURE:** In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began. - Tit 1:2

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life... - 1 Jn 5:13

Salvation is sure because it is a gift. Whereas, if it is a matter of works, then no one can be sure of getting saved.

- iv. **IT IS JUST:** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (conciliation) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission (forgiveness) of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. - Rom 3:24-26

In order for God to be just or righteous, sins must be paid for. We cannot pay for our sins and the Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross to pay for our sins with His blood. This is the only way in which God can be both "just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Through this, God's justice is upheld, sins are paid for, and sinners can be forgiven and pardoned.

c. Jesus is the only way to God.

- i. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. - Jn 14:6
- ii. What separates Christianity from the religions of the world is the sin question: how is our sin forgiven - through our good works or through the Savior Jesus Christ? All religions teach self-effort and self-righteousness, while Christianity teaches us the only way to God is through His sinless sacrifice for our sins - His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. All our human attempts to reach God by our own effort will leave us with no guarantee, assurance or peace of mind that we will make it. At best, we can say, "I hope so." But would you want to jump off into eternity with an "I hope so"? Remember, a chance of eternal salvation also means a chance of eternal damnation.

10. ALL RELIGIONS ARE THE SAME.

- a. If all religions are the same, then why do they teach so differently, and in many places, contradict one another?
 - i. The belief of Christianity will exclude all other religions: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- Jn 14:6
 - ii. The belief of Hinduism will embrace practically all kinds of deities.
 - iii. The belief of Buddhism denies the existence of a personal, supreme God.
 - iv. The belief of Islam will preclude the belief and worship of all the other deities and "isms".
- b. All religions may teach us to do good but no one can do good perfectly no matter how much or hard we try.
 - i. Sooner or later, all the religious leaders and their ardent followers will, like Paul, discover to their utter confusion and disillusion, their sincere but futile attempts to be perfectly good - "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I... O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom 7:15-24)
 - ii. The problem is not with the religions but with us - our fallen, sinful and depraved nature can never keep the laws of God or of any religion perfectly. We can suppress our wicked desires for a while but we cannot annihilate them - like a spring, they will bounce back to life again when temptations avail themselves anew to us.
 - iii. If we can save ourselves, Jesus would not have to die for us. We can't and this is why He has to die and pay for the multitude of our sins.

- c. Just as not every kind of medicine can heal a particular life-threatening disease, so, not every religion can save a soul from hell.
- i. If we, by necessity, must be extremely careful in treating a life-threatening disease, how much more precautions must we take with regard to issues pertaining to our eternal estate.
 - ii. We can be wrong with our opinions but we cannot be wrong with our facts.
 - iii. If you die wrong the first time you cannot come back to die better a second time. - Robert Murray M'Cheyne
- d. Since we have wronged God through our sins, we must come to Him on His terms and conditions.
- i. **NOT BY OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS:** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. - Rom 3:10

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. - Isa 64:6

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.... - Tit 3:5
 - ii. **BUT BY GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS:** ... This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. - Isa 54:17

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness... But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works. - Rom 4:3-6

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. - Rom 3:22