

Bible Trek 4 The New Testament actually mean NEW Covenant!

The Gospels

- **Mark:** 1st gospel written, eyewitness account of Peter through Mark. Miracles, events etc., Most exciting book. Best book to read first if a new Christian. Written to Gentiles.
- **Matthew:** 2nd book written, had Marks gospel as a outline. Written primarily to converted Jews. **Presents to the *Jews* (who would have the toughest time accepting this) that Jesus fulfilled the OT prophesies.** Probably written within 20 years of Jesus resurrection and some even place it as written within 8 years. Placed first by the first church because it was considered the most important book-it is the transition book of the OT-NT.
- **Luke:** 3rd gospel written. He was a historian (and doctor) and probably a Gentile. He was not a eyewitness, he had both Matthew and Mark's gospel. Very detailed, precise. Has the birth recorded. Luke also wrote Acts, the account of the start of the early church.
- **John:** last gospel written. 7 events (signs) and gives us the full account of these. He is the one who said "if all the events that Jesus did were recorded all the books in the world could not contain them."
- Note: All the gospels were written within the time of the eyewitnesses to Jesus...therefore it is highly unlikely that they would have survived this first scrutiny if they were not true!
- Reading the gospels is like 4 people watching an accident, each is from a slightly different perspective.

Did Jesus Really Live?



Some people say that Jesus never really lived-he was made up by the disciples and that the only account of Jesus is in the bible and therefore we can't trust it.

Actually... There are:

- 19 pagan authors who wrote about Jesus (most significant was Tacitus)
- 18 were Romans
- 1 was a Greek (Celsus wrote a complete discourse about Jesus)
- 6 wrote complete books about Jesus trying to refute him
- 3 Jewish writers including Josephus who was a:
 - Jewish general
 - Jewish priest
 - Jewish historian

All of these were contemporaries of Jesus and while some wrote books against Jesus - none doubted he existed!

<p style="text-align: center;">Did Jesus Really Live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actually there are 39 Extra-Biblical sources of information about Jesus. • These sources document over 100 reported facts about Jesus life! • There is more and better information about Jesus than for any other founder of any ancient religion in the world including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohammed - Zoroaster - Buddha 		<p style="text-align: center;">If you threw away the New Testament and any favorable Christian writings, we would still learn...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •That Jesus was a Jewish teacher. •That a multitude of people believed he performed miracles, healings and exorcisms. •That people believed he was the Messiah. •That he was rejected by the Jewish leaders of his day. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •That he was crucified by Pontius Pilate. •That despite dying a “shameful death”, his followers believed he was alive. •That there were multitudes of them in Rome in 64 AD and that he was worshipped as GOD! 			

Other people have stated that only dumb, illiterate or low intelligence people could believe in Jesus Christ.

There are millions of examples of the opposite, but here are a few of those “dumb” people:

William Shakespeare

Leo Tolstoi
Charles Dickens
Lord Byron

Alexander Solzheitnizn
Daniel Webster
James Greenleaf Whittier

Christopher Columbus (remember BT1)



Johann Sebastian Bach
Abraham Lincoln
Napoleon Bonaparte

George Washington
even Charles Darwin!
(*a death bed James Greenleaf Whittier conversion*)

The Book of Matthew

- 1. Matthew is writing primarily to *Converted Jews* so *he must get their attention fast!***
- 2. Matthew starts by declaring the reason they should pay attention to Jesus.**

The Reason is - Jesus is the Messiah because ...

<p>Jesus is the Messiah because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• His genealogy• The virgin birth  	<p><i>Matthew 1:1</i> <i>A record of the genealogy</i> <i>of Jesus Christ the <u>son of</u></i> <i>David, the son of</i> <i>Abraham:</i></p>
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Which Covenants can Jesus fulfill?

- ***The Davidic and Abrahamic covenant...by virtue of his genealogy Jesus is qualified.***

Jesus is the Messiah because ...The virgin birth

Matthew 1:18
This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 7:14
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Q. Was the birth of Jesus really a miracle?

No; *the conception was!!!*

Emmanuel means "God With Us"

- **This is how he was protected from Adam's curse.** Adam was the father of SINNERS.
- **Adam and All his offspring make what? SINNERS!**
 - Jesus conception was made possible by the Holy Spirit and therefore **SIN NATURE – or the Curse of Sin was Not passed to Jesus.** He was however, still fully human and had to deal with Human desires.
- Ever since Genesis 3:15 we have been **expecting a miracle birth – "the seed of the woman"**. Women do not have seed they have eggs!

This is a tenant of the faith ...this belief is something to die for!!!!

- The genealogy of Jesus in Matthew and in Luke traces Joseph from David. Joseph however, is never called the father of Jesus!!! (Matt 1:16, Luke 1:26,27).
- **Note: Mary was probably only 12-14 years old.**

God authenticates his ministry

Matthew 3:16-17

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus is the Messiah because..

The Holy Spirit indwells Jesus.

- Just as we saw in the first book of the OT (Genesis) **God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus** are all there and in agreement even though they know what will happen when they create the world.
- In the first book of the NT, **all three are here**, in agreement and know that in three years, Jesus will be killed for the redemption of the world!
- **Note: this is why he had to be fully human – so he could Physically die!**

Jesus chooses his 12 disciples and he instructs them to only go to the Jews and preach... ***what?***

<p>Matthew 10:5-7 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. [6] Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. [7] As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'</p>	<p><u>Q. What did Jesus preach???</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The kingdom of heaven is near" • <i>Which is - The fulfillment of the Davidic covenant!</i> • And the people knew it – although the religious leaders REFUSED to believe...
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<p>Matthew 12:23-24 <i>All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"</i> <i>[24] But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."</i></p>	<p>Next is...The Great Confession!</p>	<p>Matthew 16:13-16 <i>When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"</i> <i>[14] They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."</i> <i>[15] "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"</i> <i>[16] Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."</i></p>	
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This is a very important passage of scripture

- He gives them **THREE** specific **NEW** revelations:
- But first he **RENAMES** Simon to *Peter* (*this is why he is referred to most of the time as Simon Peter. He was Simon when the events happened but Peter when they were written down*).
- He plays a word game on Peter...

<p>Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.</p> <p>Peter = Rock <i>petros</i> masculine</p> <p>rock = Foundation stone <i>petra</i> feminine</p>	<p>What Rock?</p>	
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"I tell you that you are Peter
"Petros" –and on this rock"- "Petra"
(= the foundation stone), I will build
my church...

The foundation of Christianity
is:

" you are the Christ, the
Son of the living God."

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Revelation #1 THE CHURCH

- This is the **first reference** to the **church** in the bible
- We are 1,000 pages into the bible before we get it.
- *You see that the bible has always said we were in a **relationship** not in a **religion!***

Revelation #2 He must be killed and ...

Revelation #3 But he will RISE from the dead

- *They forgot this part until later*

Matthew 16:21-23

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

[22] Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

[23] Jesus turned and said to Peter, "*Get behind me, Satan!* You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Q. Was Peter Satan??

- No, but even if you are a disciple, Satan can wiggle the lips on your earthsuit!

Q. What's Peter's problem?

- The Davidic covenant said he was to be an "eternal" king. How could he die and be an eternal king!!!!

Jesus is the Messiah because of ... His triumphal entry.

- This fulfilled the prophecy in Zach 9:9.

<p style="text-align: center;">Zech. 9:9</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.</i></p>	<p>A conqueror rode in on a white horse, a King coming in peace would switch animals and ride in on a donkey symbolizing that he came in peace.</p> <p>Jesus enters <u>exactly to the day</u> the prophecy of <i>Dan 9:24-26</i></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Daniel 9:24-26</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.</i></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: according to this prophesy, the Messiah (<i>Anointed One</i>) had to come before the temple was destroyed. • Since it was destroyed in 70 AD, <u>even to a Jew</u> this proves that Jesus could have been the Messiah.
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Dan 9:24-26 is the official announcement from the OT that the King has arrived.

<p style="text-align: center;">Christ enters <u>exactly to the day</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Jews used a 7 year period (7 is the number of perfection) in the same way we use a Decade for 10 years. ▪ The commandment to rebuild the walls was given by persian King Artaxerxes Longimanus. The Royal Observatory, Greenwich, UK has computed this day as March 14, 445 BC. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Christ enters <u>exactly to the day</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From this commandment there is a period of 7 weeks (7 x 7 = 49 years) then 62 weeks (62 x 7 = 434 years) for a total of 69 weeks (69 x 7 = 483 biblical years) • This period of 483 years = 173,880 days (only 360 days in the Jewish calendar).
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Christ enters exactly to the day

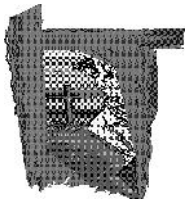
- .At the end of this period the Messiah will be “cut off” or killed.
- The total # of days from March 14, 445 BC to April 6 AD 32 =
 - **EXACTLY 173,880 Days**
 - Palm Sunday AD 32

**On to the Cross –
The whole OT points TO THE Cross,

The NT looks Back on the Cross – it is
the focal point of all History!**

Why did Jesus have to die?

- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23*



Romans 5:18,19

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. [19] For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The Scapegoat:

- In the OT when the Priest would offer the one sacrifice one day a year for the sins of the nation of Israel, they would take two animals to the temple or tabernacle; a lamb and a goat.
- The goat would be set free to roam the desert and the lamb would be slaughtered. This symbolized God’s mercy.
- This goat was called the “Scapegoat” since he would “escape” being sacrificed.
- When Jesus, the “Lamb of God” was sacrificed a man named Barrabus was set free and Jesus took his place. Barrabus was the scapegoat. We still use the term today.


The sinless “Lamb of God” becomes sin for us, becoming the substitute for our sins.

- God will pour out his wrath for our sins on his “son, his only son whom he loved” for the sins we commit. This is the perfect example of fairness, and mercy.
- God who cannot condone sin because he is righteous must still exact the penalty for sin.

- **He made the rule, He is the judge and yet he also pays the penalty for the crime.**

<p>God the father turns his back on Jesus. Why?</p> <p><i>Deu 21:22</i> if a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is <u>under God's curse.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Was Jesus guilty of a capital offense? NO!</i> – This is why he had to be killed by crucifixion-
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- Since he was sinless and had committed no offense, he had to be “hung on a tree” to come under the Old Testament law so that he would be under God's curse!
- If he was a sinner he would have had to die for his own sins but if he personally was not guilty- he could be our substitute and he could bear our sins.
- Satan killed an innocent man - **(had it been us he would have had every right to kill us because the penalty for sin under Gods law is death.)**
- But because he had Jesus killed, he himself lost the keys to earth's kingdom at this exact moment of Jesus death. (These are in I Peter 3:18 and Eph 4)
- Adam unwittingly gave the dominion of the earth to Satan when he bowed to his rule in the garden. **Adam was guilty and therefore Satan had the right to rule over him.**
- **As long as we have sin, Satan has power over us.** Jesus had no sin so Satan did not have the right to rule over him.
 - However, when Jesus became sin for us, God says that anyone who believes that the penalty is paid and accepts it will be imputed the righteousness of Jesus and therefore be declared **justified** or **just as if I'd never sinned.**

<p>Who killed Jesus?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Jews • The Romans • You and Me • All of the above 	<p>According to the Laws of Probability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For any man to fulfill all of the prophecies concerning the suffering Messiah by chance are a staggering... • Twenty Trillion to One!!
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In other words, it is impossible unless a sovereign God was controlling all of the events!¹

Jesus is the Messiah because... The veil of the temple is torn in two!

Listen to Josephus reference to the veil in his book "The Jewish Wars".



Matthew 27:51-53

At that moment *the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom*. The earth shook and the rocks split. [52] The tombs broke open and *the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life*. [53] They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

Again, if an angel or other heavenly being, or God Himself, takes human form to fulfill his purpose, and after living among men dies and is buried, he can rise again at will. Moreover it is stated that he could not have been stolen away, as guards were posted round his tomb, 30 Romans and 1,000 Jews.

***The veil of the temple is torn in two....
Q. Why?***

- God himself destroys the Holy of Holies. **The barrier to God no longer exists.**
- Before only the high priest, once a year, only with blood from the Passover lamb could go in it and now...
- **There is no more need of a priest to be our intermediary** - Jesus is our high priest (Hebrews 7:28, 8:1)

The Resurrection: the most documented historical fact in all of ancient history!

Lee Strobel, former Legal editor for the Chicago Tribune with a Masters of Studies in Law from Yale and an award winning journalist came home one day to find his wife had become a Christian. Lee was an Atheist so he set out to prove that his wife was crazy to become a Christian. In the process, he became a Christian. I highly recommend you read

¹¹ Yeshua, Yacov Rambsel Frontier Research publishing 1996 Page 93

his two books: The Case For Christ and the Case For Faith (published by Zondervan Publishing House).

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The three major proposals of what happened are</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Theory: the disciples stole the body... ◆ Swoon theory • It happened as stated: 		
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Theory #1: the disciples stole the body...

- Every Jew in the Jerusalem was looking for this body. If you have a body you have no resurrection
- There was a 2,000 lb. stone in front of the tomb
- There were at least 16 Roman guards on duty (possibly 100 Jews)
- The "chicken" disciples would have done all this?

Theory # 2) Swoon theory –

- Jesus didn't die he just fainted and then revived later in the tomb- you need more faith than in the resurrection to believe this.

Theory # 3) It happened as stated:

- The disciples all died for this belief- would you die for a lie?
- **Note:** if the disciples had *manufactured* the story that Jesus resurrected they would **not have had women finding him first** since in this society-woman were not allowed to be witnesses even at a trial. They were not considered credible...no matter what!

<p>The Disciples Died How?</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• Peter - Crucified <li style="width: 50%;">• Andrew- Crucified <li style="width: 50%;">• Matthew-Sword <li style="width: 50%;">• John-Starved <li style="width: 50%;">• James- Crucified <li style="width: 50%;">• Philp- Crucified <li style="width: 50%;">• Simon- Crucified <li style="width: 50%;">• Thaddeus-Arrows <li style="width: 50%;">• James*-Stoned <li style="width: 50%;">• Thomas - Spear <li style="width: 50%;">• Bartholomew- Crucified <li style="width: 50%;">• James - Sword <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">• * Jesus Brother</p>
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The resurrection is God's proof that he accepted Jesus death as the payment of our sins!

- **WHY?** *Since Jesus personally carried our sins to hell, **if God had not accepted the death of Jesus** as "payment in full" he would have had to **leave Jesus in hell.***
- *But **because "IT IS FINISHED"**, the resurrection and subsequent return of Jesus to the right hand of the father **proves** that God has accepted this substitutionary sacrifice as "**payment in full**" for our sins.*
- *In the days of Jesus when you were condemned of a crime, they would place the written charge against you on ... say your cell in the Jail. When you completed your sentence, they would stamp this charge with the word : Totelisti (you can see where we get TOTAL from) which means IT IS FINISHED! Jesus charge was placed over his head and he himself cries out "It is Finished" at exactly the moment when the High Priest in the Holy of Holies had slit the Lamb's throat for the sins of the Nation of Israel and cries out so all can hear: Totelisti !*

Q. Up to the death and resurrection of Jesus who has the authority over this world?

A. Satan

- But the barrier between God and Man is no longer in place due to Jesus payment of our sin.
- **Since the authority Satan has over us is our sin** (both our genealogical condition born in a condition of sin as well as our choice to sin),
- **this sin is now done away with, Satan no longer is the rightful ruling power**

After Jesus Resurrection – who now is the Ruler over this world?

<p>Who now has the Authority over this world?</p> <p><i>Matthew 28:18</i></p> <p>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.</p> <p>If Jesus has all authority why doesn't he take this world back?</p>		<p><i>2 Peter 3:9</i></p> <p>The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but <u>everyone</u> to come to repentance.</p>	
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God knows the last person who will accept him with a free will choice

- He is waiting for us to take the gospel into the entire world until the last one makes that choice.
- To stop this world anytime before the last one makes that choice is to condemn him and all those in between him to hell.
- So God, who is absolutely fair and merciful, will not do it.

Finally Jesus is the Messiah because...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the prophecies that foretold of the Messiah were beyond the control of human beings. <p>These prophecies were specific and yet told over a 3000 year period.</p>	<p>Using only 17 clear prophecies...</p> <p>The odds of these coming true by random chance are:</p> <p>1 chance in 480 billion X 1 billion X 1 trillion</p>	
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Until now, God has worked through the Jews only : He placed them at the Center of the World to be the "Light unto the Gentiles"

note: he will do this again during the "Last Days". The Jews will once again be the center of attention of the whole world!!!


Now God will witness to the world through something called the church.

- The Jews and Gentiles are treated equally – **based on their acceptance of the Messiah.**
- At a later day, God will come back to the Jews *"when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled"*² (Daniel's 70th week)

The Kingdom age has been set aside for the Church age

*"The Christian church is the largest institution that exists or has ever existed in the history of the world. The Christian church is 5 times larger than the Roman empire at its greatest extent. More than one billion three hundred million people this day profess to worship Jesus Christ as the living risen Son of God."*³

- ***Let's switch gears now..... (good place to stand up and stretch the legs)***

 <p>The New Covenant Will Happen!</p>	<p>Acts 1:6-8 So when they met together, they asked him, <i>"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"</i> [7] He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power <u>when the Holy Spirit comes</u> on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."</p>	
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This is the question of the day - when will the kingdom happen?

- Now **if there were to be no kingdom** this is a great time to tell them.
- But instead Jesus says in ***vs. 7...***

*"It is not for you **to know** the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.*

² Luke 21: 24

³ Why I believe by James Kennedy pg 108 published by Word Publishing

No longer is it: go only to the house of the Jews it is... go to all the world!

- **This is called the great commission** (all 4 gospels say the same thing)
- ****very important!!.....our commission is not to build the kingdom...**It is to witness **(the death and resurrection of Jesus and how that has changed OUR LIVES)** into all the world and make disciples!!!

New Covenant had three parts to it:

- **Forgiveness** - (not covered up) (Jeremiah 31:34).
- **Cleansing** (forever cleaned- the old is gone we are made entirely new in the spiritual sense) (Ezekial 36:25)
- **Holy Spirit** (Ezekial 36:27)
- **Jesus fulfilled 1 & 2 at the Cross**

We are now **JUSTIFIED!**

- Jesus must go to the Father* so that the final part of the New Covenant can take place – the Holy Spirit returns to indwell us.

Q. Up until now the Holy Spirit has resided in whom?

A. Jesus - since his baptism in the river Jordan.

- **On the Day of Pentecost** - exactly 50 days after Jesus resurrection, the Holy Spirit returns to Planet Earth - inhabiting from that day until now - **All Believers!**

In Acts 9, God calls Saul- on the Road to Damascus.

- Saul was a persecutor of Christians, had been a witness to Stephen's death (the first martyr).
- In order to make sure that Saul knows the old way is gone and he is now new (forgiven and cleansed) **Jesus changes his name to Paul.**

It is estimated by Biblical Scholars that at the time of Saul's/Paul's conversion he had already killed 5,000 Christians!

FYI - Don't read:

Acts 22:4

I persecuted the followers of this **Way to their death**, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, (One reason is because even years later, when the church in Jerusalem heard that Paul was coming to visit them they had terror in their hearts that the old Paul was coming – not the new one) .

Does God have a sense of humor?

- Yes...who better to **deliver the theology of saved by grace** (a free gift) vs. saved by adherence to the law, than a Pharisee (the religious of the religious) who upheld the law to the point of killing 5,000 converted Jews -Paul!.
- Paul will go on to evangelize many of the areas of Europe and Asia Minor.
- As he lives a life of a missionary, he writes to the churches he has set up as they encounter problems in doctrine, how they are to live, how to discern between false teachers and Godly ones and a host of other problems.
- Most of the New Testament are the recorded letters that Paul wrote to church's such as Ephesus (the book of Ephesians), Romans , the church in Corinth (I and II Corinthians), the church at Thessalonica (I & II Thessolonians – probably the first books written in the New Testament) etc.

<p>Up to now we have been on a semi-historical journey in our Bible Trek.</p>	<p><i>Our Trek has been ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Man's journey <u>with</u> God. ◊ Man's journey <u>away</u> from God. ◊ God's relentless efforts to <u>restore</u> His relationship with man.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piecing together the significant events that have happened to man since Adam took his first gulp of air. 	

We now are going to look at the three most important things to know regarding our **RELATIONSHIP with God.**

- As we already know God is in the **RELATIONSHIP** business not the **RELIGION** business.
- God also is willing to enter into Covenant relationships with man as evidenced by the Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and the New Covenants.
- In other words, God will make a contract with us and he will not break it.

The question is will we enter into this covenant with God?

<p>The three things to absolutely know are these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How do I enter into this relationship with God? ◆ What do I have to do to maintain this relationship? • Can I lose this relationship once I have it? 	<p><i>Why is this critical?</i></p> <p>According to a USA Today study: <u>43% of all Americans state they are "Born Again."</u></p> <p>(USA Today December 5, 1997)</p>
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Yet surprisingly, according to another study also published by USA Today just days later (USA Today Dec. 9, 1997)

- 1. 50% of those polled stated that they feel that when they are approaching life's end they will be CUT OFF from God.**
- 2. 56% stated that they are concerned that they won't be forgiven by God.**

How can you ABSOLUTELY know for sure?

**How do I enter into
this relationship
with God?**

The Jews thought (wrongly) that their relationship with God depended on whether they observed the Law and followed the Levitical system.

- This is why Jesus was so angry at the Priests since they had the word of God (there were no mass produced bibles then) and the people did not. They relied on the priests to tell them how to have a relationship with God.
- The priests stressed **the "doing" of the law** as religious duty rather than the **"spirit" of the law** ... following God because **you love him, he loves you** and you have realized that all you have and your eternal hope is a result of God's relationship with you.
- Jesus was therefore a major radical when he claimed that God was not interested in their sacrifices but in their **relationship** with God.
- ***The word gospel means "good news" SO WE BETTER FIND SOME!!!!***

The "bad news" is:

*Romans 3:23
for all have sinned and fall short of the
glory of God,*

The "good news" is:

*Rom 5:8 but God demonstrates his own
love for us in this: while we were still
sinners, Christ died for us.*

The "bad news" is:

*Rom 6:23 for the wages of sin is death,
...*

The "good news" is:

*...but the gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The word gospel means "good news"

- Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Rom 10:10 for it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Therefore, according to the bible, the only way to escape eternal condemnation is to:

- 1. believe in your heart**
- 2. confess with your mouth**

And you will be what?

SAVED! (born again)

- Romans 10:9-10 makes it very clear that our **ONLY** action to enter into this contract or covenant relationship is these two things.
- This is very different from the Law which always had a conditional ... **IF**. Notice there is no **CONDITIONAL IF** in this contract - therefore:

The only IF is whether you will accept it!

- Just as in the Abrahamic covenant when God's action of walking through the blood alone signifies **that God will do it** and Abraham has no part in insuring the contract will happen,
- Jesus action, dying on the cross alone shows us **that He will do it** and He alone is the guarantor of the covenant

VERY IMPORTANT: According to the bible, our salvation is based on what Jesus did - not on what we have done!

- We have no part from a "**doing**" perspective other than **accepting** this gift .

The Holy Spirit ((New Covenant) is our guarantee that we have been saved!

Ephes. 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

In my opinion The next verse is one of the most important verse's in the bible!

VERY IMPORTANT:

According to the bible...

Eph 2:8

For it is by **grace** you have been saved, **through faith**--and this **not from yourselves**, it is the **gift of God** - **not by works**, so that no one can boast.

Through faith = believing is action!

Illustration: tightrope walker

- A tightrope walker strung his cable across Niagara Falls and then walked across and back. He had a nice crowd by the time he returned and he asked them “ Can I do it again?” “You can do it” they cried. He then picked up a wheelbarrow and put it on the cable. “ Can I do it with this wheelbarrow?” he asked. “You can do it” they cried. “Then hop in!”

Belief is getting in the wheelbarrow.

- Many people say they believe in Jesus... but they don't hop on.



BELIEVING IN GOD DOES NOT MAKE YOU SAVED! WHAT!

- The Bible declares that the demons believe in Jesus, so believing in Jesus is not the criteria or the demons would be saved.

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.

The reason the demons are not Christians are that while Jesus makes them shudder, *he is not the Lord of their life!*

1. **Making Jesus the Lord of your life is “Hopping on the Wheelbarrow.”**

Making Jesus the Lord of your life is how you become saved!

There are many things in the bible where disagreement is not only possible but inevitable.

However, when it comes to Salvation;

1. Jesus either did it all or....

2. if he didn't –
- then we must know (from the bible) what (if anything) we must do or add to what Jesus accomplished on the cross..

There is only one entity in the world who wants to make what Jesus did on the cross LESS than what it was. Who is that?

Our adversary - Satan.

- Therefore, **ANYTHING** that makes his agonizing death on the cross **anything less than the total payment for our sins** must be looked at very seriously.

<p><i>But what about doing good stuff?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eph 4:1 ...therefore as a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. • Romans 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 		<p><u>The balance of the law:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 8:8 those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God, you, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 	
<p>New Covenant!</p>			

The issue is not the sin - it is the control!

- Remember Adam & Eve....the issue was **not the act of eating** the fruit it was....giving **control** to Satan.
- You act at times like you are controlled by sinful nature but if you have given your heart to Christ you are really **controlled by the Holy Spirit.**

<p>1 Cor. 6:9-11</p> <p><i>Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders [10] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.</i></p>		<p><i>And that is what some of you were.</i> <i>But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.</i></p>	
<p>This should cover everyone in this room!</p>		<p>The New Covenant</p>	

Doing Good stuff is great but it is the result of the changed life.

- ***IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR SALVATION.***

Salvation and how we live out this Christian life are TWO SEPARATE ISSUES!

- We are ***accepted*** by God based on our ***POSITION*** not our ***PERFORMANCE!***

How does God want us to live out this Christian life after we are saved:

- *Paul addressed this to the Church in Ephesus. The entire book (6 chapters) of Ephesians. The Ephesians came out of a Pagan society (they were not Jews), and needed to know how God wanted them to live. READ IT and you will know!*

Ok, we have a relationship (not a religion) with God because:

- Our sins are forgiven,
- The debt is paid
- And doing “good stuff” is a result of God through the Holy Spirit working through us.

This is the BIG QUESTION:	<i>CAN I LOSE THIS RELATIONSHIP?</i>	
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Ask your self this?

<p>Question: Why would God save us and then take our salvation away?</p>	<p>Question: If Salvation is the SOLUTION for sin, how can we say then that our (or a) sin will cause our salvation to be taken away?</p>
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<p>Question: If there is an unpardonable sin than Christ did not die for <u>ALL</u> sin. This would mean that John 3:16 (and a host of other verses) is not valid.</p>	<p>John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.</p>
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Once again we must look only to the bible, not man's opinion.

<p>What Does God really want? <i>2 Peter 3:9</i> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, <i>not wanting anyone to perish</i>, but everyone to come to repentance.</p>	<p>Ephesians 2:8-9 said: <i>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is <u>the gift of God</u>-- not by works, so that no one can boast.</i> Romans 11:29 for God's <u>gifts</u> and his call are <u>irrevocable</u>.</p>
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Since our salvation is a gift of God, this verse says that Gods gifts are irrevocable!

- *If your Drivers license is REVOKED it means you don't have it anymore! God says his salvation is IRREVOCABLE! God's words not mine!*

Paul, the greatest of the Apostles says the following:

<p>Romans 7:14-17 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. [15] I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. [16] And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. [17] As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.</p>	<p>Paul...the great Apostle had a problem.....<u>What was it?</u></p> <p>SIN!</p>
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- Now, if Paul says he can't stop sinning and he is a **slave to sin**, how can I ever hope to stop **sinning**.
- **And if I can't stop sinning, EXACTLY which sin is it that will get me thrown out?**
- If there is one sin that will cause me to lose my salvation, **it only makes sense that a fair God would tell us what it is...but he doesn't.**
- According to the bible **AFTER WE BECOME CHRISTIANS** we will **still Sin**, but it is "***sin living in me that does it***" (vs. 17).
- Our **position in Christ has not changed.**

In the next verse Paul gives the Solution to his Sin problem

<p>Romans 7:24-25 What a wretched man I am! <u>Who will rescue me</u> from this body of death? [25] <u>Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord!</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul, the slave to sin, most certainly was not thrown out of God's Kingdom although he could not stop sinning. <p>What or <u>WHO</u> is the solution for sin?</p>
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<p>Paul, the <i>slave to sin</i> says... <i>Romans 8:38-39</i></p> <p>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, <i>nor anything</i> else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Since NOTHING can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p> <p>The only way we can be separatedis to never have been joined.</p>
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Which Brings us to the Next question for US Sinners living in a sin Machine

<p style="text-align: center;">What do I have to do to maintain this <u>relationship</u>?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTHING... but when we truly understand what God did for us, we will be motivated (by our growing love due to an increased understanding of God) to allow God to accomplish the things he wants to do in our lives. <p>Love is our NEW MOTIVATION - not I gotta do it or God will throw me out</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>John 14:23</i></p> <p><i>Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and <u>make our home with him.</u></i></p>	<p>How does God make his home with us?</p>
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New
Covenant!

<p>Matthew 22:36-40</p> <p>"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"</p> <p>[37] Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." [38] This is the first and greatest commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40] All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."</p>	
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There is only one way we can be placed out of God's salvation.

- That is to reject God's provision for our sin - The Death of Jesus Christ.
- **Our performance** (compared to God's standard) will always be inferior, poor and full of sin. ***But our Position will not change.***

We are either out or in. Once in - never out because Jesus himself said...

<p>God is our assurance</p> <p><i>John 10:28-29</i></p> <p>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; <u>no one can snatch them out of my hand.</u> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; <u>no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.</u></p>		<p>God is our assurance</p> <p><i>1 John 5:11-12</i></p> <p>And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <u>He who has the Son has life;</u> he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.</p>	
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The question then is:

<p>Can I lose this relationship with the "Son" once I have it.</p> <p>• The answer is NO!</p> 		<p>IF NEEDED</p> <p>John addressed this issue of those who appeared to be Christians but later fell away from the faith:</p>
		<p><i>1 John 2:19-20</i></p> <p><i>They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. [20] But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.</i></p>