



Christian Spirituality:

GENESIS, REVELATION, and SUPPLEMENTATION

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Genesis, Revelation, and
Supplementation

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*All scripture quotes are referenced from the English Standard Version Bible,
unless otherwise noted.*

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Special thanks to Megan Joy whose love and faith in me, and more importantly Christ, have greatly helped make this book possible

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PREFACE

Before beginning my studies into Theology, I was a third-year engineering student at the University of Colorado. When I began my higher education, my focus was on exacting the highest value I could out of my natural gifts in the fields of Math and Science. However, it turned out, the more I pursued these fields, the less fulfilling they became.

It was while begrudging down that path that I had my first spiritual encounter. It was so convincing and powerful, I knew the pursuit of which was something I could truly be passionate about. It was in 2015 when this happened. Since then, the study of which, has been my greatest focus in life.

Sure, there is much out there in the world of the supernatural, but for me the teachings of Christ become the most influential to me. As I pieced together the Bible to understand this phenomenon in which it describes, I put the greatest emphasis on being able to live the Bible as much as I understood it. To me, faith had to have that element of function, and that element of function required the experience of God.

Through my years dedicated to this study, I had many unique experiences that have helped shape my knowledge and understanding on Christian Spirituality. Most importantly though, I found much of what I was looking for. To help me document this process and what I learned, I wrote a series of essays, which I would prune over time as my intuition of the Spirit was developed. In this, I didn't start with an outcome for a book and never thought to follow its creation in a process which was mechanical. For me, it was essential for it to be a guided process.

For this reason, this book has been in the works for almost 4 years at the time of publishing. It has had evolved as much as I have throughout its formation. In effect, it is written to contain my observations of the Spirit and act as a tool to further testify in the full testimony of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

I do recognize that faith is personal, but I hope that the reader can keep in mind that the thoughts presented in this book are all tested in living to the teachings of Christ to my fullest capacity. Inasmuch as, they are not simply thoughts and theory, but based on experiences based upon a highly dedicated walk with our Lord. While I surely do not claim to be inerrant, I do consider the following ideas to be of the highest approximation of His truth. Of which, the genuine pursuit of truth is fundamental to everything I submit for your consideration.

If one is unwilling to challenge their beliefs, they say that either their beliefs are perfectly true or that all things are relative, including the reality of God, the actuality of truth, and the declaration of His Will.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Genesis, Revelation, and
Supplementation

AMONG THE CALLED

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2 KJV

Among the Called of Jesus Christ,

As the darkness increases, the appearance of the light becomes even brighter. So forth, as the promise of life diminishes, the promise of salvation comes to be even easier to find. Wherein iniquity and wickedness fornicate, they cannot help but seed their own destruction. We thus find, while we witness the darkness of these times, an abounding joy in proclaiming the greater triumph of our Lord and Savior. Therefore we know the end and our final victory, and so we do not evade the trials of life. For, as we have felt in our hearts, it will one day pass where each mountain that lines our path shall become before us like the pebbles in a riverbed.

Fittingly, as we act courageously and with abandon for ourselves, it should be our devotion to do whatever good work is necessary to keep this world fit for its creator. So then, for us who till the Lord's field, may we each perform in concordance to His divine instruction, enhance ourselves to be His instruments, groom the world to reflect His love, and, by the works which transpire through us, exhibit the truth of the gospel. In seeing this undertaking to its perfect outcome, our fervor must then be to endure whatever is required to see His will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven.

Correspondingly, while we dedicate ourselves to His culminations, let us be prudent and avoid getting too far ahead of our daily objective. Inasmuch as the accursed neither rest nor do they wait for another day. Theirs is not patience, for what they have wilts just as the flower cut from its stem. Verily their time ends in totality, and they do not waste even a second to prepare their approach. So then take great caution in their angst! Just as the devouring lion stalks its prey, so does that, which hungrily looks to consume us, hide in the brush nearby.

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 3:16

Christian Spirituality: Introduction

Let us nonetheless, while we fight the good fight, be complacent of our individual ambitions. As a simple matter of fact, this body of ours was not made to glorify our own being. With assurance we proclaim, we are lowly before that which has true Glory. So forth, let our lives instead glorify the only one worth glorifying – our Father in heaven. In doing so, let us avoid permitting the problems which pertain to one outweigh the problems which pertain to Him.

So, as it should always remain constant without cessation, let us work in unity, love, and with our full effort towards making this world fit for Christ. In doing so we should not rest until this world reflects the love He has for us. As Christians, who confess in the sovereignty of our Lord, let us always be brave in living to our faith. Whether these days are the last or the first, we should honor our God with each and every second. Additionally, in being bold in our faith and acting on our faith's behalf, let these things be the standard we set for each and every one of our days.

Truly the Lord does not call to us without great expectation, and, for those of us He has chosen, He has chosen to become great. However, He did not come and give His life so that we may be greater than Him! So then, He did not bring us into this calling such that He might serve us, but instead that we might serve Him.

Let you my brothers and sisters fully understand, we have been and always are called to live by God's Word, which is to love above all else. So then there is no sacrifice we can make to the world with our body, our mind, or our soul that is greater than the sacrifice we can make to our Father in Heaven. As such, if we must choose one, let us always choose the One in Heaven who has made all things.

Finally, with overflowing vitality, let us all then live to the Word with our fullest strength. Let us have the teaching of our eternal Father outweigh the teaching of our earthly one. Let us seek the wise counsel of the one with all wisdom. Let us know of the infallible Word which was made to sustain the test of all time. Let us be mindful attendants. Let us be a warm family full of joy in our brotherly union.

Let us have the light of our faith light up the world. Let us have the resolve of our conviction move the earth. Let us put hope into the heart of all those who question our Lord's existence. In keeping to all these matters, let us give back to the Lord who had given to us first. Fully let us do each trusting without fault that every offering we make to Him will never be made in vain.

God Bless,

SECTION I

CHRISTIAN GENESIS

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4: 11-16

In the following section, our goal will be to build the ideas which support a spiritual understanding of the Christian narrative. The ultimate purpose of these chapters is to heighten the way in which scripture is commonly perceived, challenge each to examine their understanding of scripture, and establish the scriptural foundation for all forms of Christian Spirituality.

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:5

In beginning our journey towards a deeper spiritual view on the Christian narrative, let us start by examining why it is such an elusive thing for many people to discover. As one can naturally presume, in order for one to rightfully establish spiritual truths, one must first be of a spiritual awareness. Decisively, the reason why earthly minded individuals cannot 'see' or 'enter' the Lord's kingdom is because His kingdom exists beyond the reaches of basic perception. So forth, where our physical being seeks physical stimulation, it will not be able to perceive that which is otherwise.

As well, where Heaven is eternal, only that which is also of everlasting continuance can ever endure to truly circumnavigate and understand its territory. Rightfully as our physical mind is finite even its greatest comprehension is incapable of withstanding any such grand realization. The fact of the matter is that something which is flawed cannot ever perfectly understand that which is perfect, and it is impossible for that which has an end to ever measure anything that does not.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:6

So then, when we are of the world, we only know of the world, and only when we are born of Spirit, we may know what is beyond the world. Therefore all truth on God and His qualities must come from His Spirit, and all understanding of God must be by intimacy with His Spirit. In this fashion, seeing and entering into the kingdom of God is a process of Spiritual birth where one also receives a spiritual insight such as to transcend the great limitations of our worldly perceptions and paradigms.

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:35

However this division between flesh and the Spirit would tell the tale of mankind's greatest inward conflict. So forth the separation between man and God would ultimately be a result created by the inherent rift, amid our flesh and the Spirit, within man.

Born of the Spirit

Accordingly, the meaning behind the story of the fall of man, through Adam and Eve all the way to our modern day, is that our flesh and His spirit have been made to exist refuting one another. In this manner, what has been the gain for one has had to come at the expense of the other.

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other...

Galatians 5:17

Where it were ever since man was cursed to return to the dirt in which he came from (Genesis 3:19), it has been for man that obeying the greater passions of his flesh were set to be spiritually divisive to the Father. These very acts, which are sin producing death, would also be included as part of the very thing scripture was written to expose. In essence, that the things of the flesh will perish as the flesh perish, and the things of the Spirit will endure as the things of the Spirit endure.

To this end, in order to fully edify the heavenly and divine in us, all things earthly and vain would have to become thoroughly rejected within. In this higher objective scripture would consistently affirm that in order for us to become truly perfect before our Creator we would have to fully overcome the selfish and insatiable nature of our flesh. As it would be, failure to adequately do so would then yield formation to the body of Sin.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21

As we note the morality of our flesh, we can then surely conclude that its desires cannot coincide with the higher order of our Lord's established Kingdom and the completeness of His ordained will. Surely then, we can also conclude that there exists a fundamental flaw in our flesh's reasoning stemming from its propensity for making fundamentally irrational decisions. However, where we accept its limitations, we also open ourselves up to the guidance of His Spirit.

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2:7

Just as our mother gave birth to our physical body, God gives life to our spiritual body. Where our spiritual self is manifest by the very body of God eternal, it desires to do the righteous things that our flesh resists. It is this spiritual presence which then gives us wisdom to grow and develop in a manner which is according to His intention.

Born of the Spirit

For we know that the law is spiritual

Romans 7:14

I delight in the law of God, in my inner being

Romans 7:22

This also applies to God's laws and His given commandments. We subsequently embrace God's commandments inwardly, for the commandments bear the same origin as the Spirit which fills us. However, the law was never made for the flesh because it, being rebellious to God, is unlike His Spirit. Wherever we find discord with the commandments of God, we then find accord with that which is also against God.

This implies that the highest state of living in His Spirit is to be free from all our flesh's falling into temptation, destructive compulsions, addictions, and fear dominated behavior. Because His Spirit is perfect and eternal, being of God born by God, in Him we can follow without fail any instruction our spiritual Father may impart. In such a way, it is therefore only in fully abiding in the Spirit that we may be able to walk as God made us to do so. In all that we are and can be, without a doubt, our greatest limitations occur as a result of needless submissions to inherently flawed desires; whereas, when we satisfy the wants of our spirit instead, we truly begin walking the greater path God calls us to walk.

THE RANSOM

just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

Romans 5:12

Unfortunately for all of humanity, from the very first of mankind to walk, their sin would transpire to become the sin of all mankind's as well. By the narrative of Christianity, this would then explain how we came to be, sold under sin, captives to our faulty and often irrational mortal passions. Through a curse of God spoken into existence because of ancestral ties to rebellion against Him, our first birth into the world includes being made a prisoner to our base physical urges and having a strong relationship with the death of our flesh.

but I am of the flesh, sold under sin

Romans 7:14

Where a living creature requires the breath of God, it is sufficient to consider ourselves, when without this breath, as spiritually dead. Where an eternal creation requires the Spirit of God, it is sufficient to consider ourselves, when without the Spirit, being in a state of spiritual death. As we see, because of the fall of man, the life without death meant for mankind was expunged, and humanity became set to live a short while being fully dependent upon the passions of his destructive flesh-born desires. Nonetheless, God was not satisfied with the state of His creation.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

The event of damnation through an act of humanity's own propensity towards transgression set the stage for God, in His great love, to reveal to him the full quality of His Virtue, Mercy, and Good nature. Such that as darkness and despair descended upon the Earth, His light did shine and purge death away, and salvation from all tyranny and corruption came to the world in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. In this act, not only might humanity once more spiritually live, but that he may live internally at peace in a world purged into chaos.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:28

Where it was that man had been doomed to eternal death, in their flesh and by their flesh, the only remaining way for him to come to redemption was through the grace of God. Because of man's fallen state, there was simply nothing of his own to give in reconcilable sacrifice that could adequately atone him from the destruction he had wrought upon himself. The appropriate ransom could then only be made by something else acting on his behalf.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Romans 5:15

Therefore, in order for us to receive everlasting life and become recipients of the Spiritual birth, something far greater than us had to warrant our life with its own life. As we consider the hefty price that had to be levied – which was the crucifixion and humiliation of One who was innocent – we can surely conclude, by our own shortcomings, that none of us were ever entitled to such a giving of mercy and grace. In no way did humanity deserve this reconciliation, for his plight was justified through his own willful election of sin.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 3:23

THE RECEPTION

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in the life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

Through the perfect act of God's love, man's redemption became free and available to all. This gift, as scripture affirms in the words of the Apostle Paul, is then a gift and offering which can wash away any sum of sin. There is simply no sin, or amount of sin, that can outweigh the redemption presented to us through the Christ. Therefore peace and the foundation for a charitable heart is made accessible for whomever allows for themselves the opportunity.

Inasmuch as, where we see sin as both disobedience to Life and obedience to Death, we see how all sin is sin and generally is not separable by degree. For in God's righteous judgment any one sin, regardless of our perceived sense of severity, is considered as giving power to body of death. As all sin is then apart of one body, it is punished as one body. Accordingly, the free gift of grace is equal for each to receive as no individual is ever worthier than another, because all have sinned and we all will sin again.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

When we were sold to death, in disobedience, we were made a servant to death doing only the will of death. It is then only by acknowledging our death in sin that we come to find the true fullness of life in God. Such life, otherwise known as living in the Holy Spirit, begins only with the birth of our spiritual self by the Spirit. It is only through this spiritual birth, does one genuinely gain the perspective to shed their sinful tendencies and honestly adopt the ways of righteousness. It is only by this birth do we ever come to transform back into the image of God we were first intended to be.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

As we make this transformation, we should always remember and account for the fact that we are always under grace never having been truly worthy for any portion of

The Reception

blessings from the Spirit. As a matter of fact, it is actually only through abolishing the idea of 'righteousness through works' that we can ever truly be empowered to earnestly overcome the sinful passions of our bodies in the first place. Such that, the more control and glory we give to God, the more we understand how little control and how little glory we have.

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

Romans 7:5

In this manner, where there is a consequence of death, death has power over us. However, where there is no consequence of death, death has no power over us. Since all things lead to grace, the desire of our flesh to rebel becomes nullified and void through grace. Naturally then, the words of the gospel are such that we may be led from our flesh in every way.

But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code but in the new life of the spirit.

Romans 7:6

In this manner, living according to the old law, which is in essence 'righteousness through works,' is also living according to the flesh. So then, for those who try to earn their salvation or be made worthier by their actions in the eyes of men, they are also trying to indulge their pride in their accomplishments – which is certainly an aim to satisfy the flesh. For the flesh leads man away from God, all things which lead away from God must be of the flesh.

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 2:16

Where by the old law alone no one could ever be deemed righteous, without doubt, no one who now alone lives by the old law can be deemed righteous either. As such, all those purely living under the judgment of the law do so live without vindication before God. Where faith has become greater than works, it is only through faith (though this faith is established in the genuine act of humbling ourselves to God) that we receive the Lord's mercy and grace. It is then only in faith that we are ever justified before the Father. It is then only in this justification that we ever become married with the Spirit which also resurrected Christ from His tomb.

The Reception

...brothers, we are debtors, not of the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 8:12-13

Where our unrighteousness to the old law had made us slaves to death, our new-found righteousness, as manifested only by the pure faith in God's giving grace, has freed us from our slavery. In this liberation established through faith, we are then given a new authority over the hateful ambitions of our flesh. Where in love we cannot sin, we are therefore set free to love our brother and sister, our neighbor, our stranger, and our enemy and to love them demonstrating the presence of God's love.

Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:21-24

CARRYING THE CROSS

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life (in the world) loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world (and gives it over to God) will keep it for eternal life.

John 12:24-25

The more we examine the spiritual teachings of gospel-based faith, the more we may understand its spiritual intention, which is to manifest a renewal of self. So forth, being in the purity of faith is not a part-time affiliation, a casual adoption, or a weekend habit. Consequently, in observance of the Spirit, we must be truly removed from a lifelong carnal attitude – which is a self-centered sense of existence predicated on carnal ambitions – and gain a renewed perspective, attitude, and life ambition constantly searching for the Spirit of God.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Romans 8:5-7

So then those of us made new by the Spirit, because the Spirit is God eternal and far removed from the things of the Earth, we find ourselves moving beyond all materialism and all corporeal ideology. As it should be, we then move towards valuing ourselves and others above any sum of metal, gem, or printed paper and none in any quantity can ever come close to compare to the true value of the Spirit. For the things of the Spirit are forever and they have no end or countable substance.

Where the Spirit's value is genuinely beyond price and the Spirit is given to us through faith, we see that it is purely through faith that the value of ourselves becomes increased beyond any portion of earthly accumulation. Surely, to any redeemed soul, this must be the way we see ourselves, and, to us, this must be how we perceive all things of tangibility. As such, it must be in our hearts that even the least, which is forever, is worth more than the greatest that which is not.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live

Carrying the Cross

for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

1 Peter 4:1-2

The idea of a spiritual exclusion from all worldliness is at the core of approaching full empowerment by the Spirit and best performing God's will. In this manner, doing so is how we truly become renewed in spirit and mind to act accordingly to the will of our Lord. Inasmuch as, when we lived for things which were dead, we were dead, and when we came to live for things which are living, we were made alive. For the most refined Christian all life and all joy should emanate purely from the relationship we have with God.

In this way, in contrast to common teaching and practice, Christianity is very much so a spiritual based belief system which fully supports the idealism of spiritual substance over tangible substance. The purpose of this chapter is to fully demonstrate this understanding through an exhaustive list of scriptural verses which similarly support this belief. Though we could make many more references to the prophets in the Old Testament, we will only use New Testament verses starting from the book of Matthew.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Accordingly, our greatest treasures should not be of worldly substance, but instead being solely of heavenly substance, and they should be strongly entrenched in the promises of God and appreciably expressed in one's demonstration of faith thereof.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Matthew 16:24-26

The first part of the above verse is certainly very poignantly suggesting we emulate the characteristics and life of Christ in the way we live our own. Where Christ did not revel in the things of the world, so then might we do the same when we follow in Christ. For the second part of the above verse the significant difference between the value of our soul and the value of the entire world is clearly defined. As we see written in scripture eternal life is so far and above the world, we ought to have no great need to seek excessive

Carrying the Cross

worldly riches in addition to our salvation. Without a doubt, Christ even more so viewed his eternal reward, in contrast to worldly things, accordingly.

And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Mark 4:18-19

Here it is the wisdom of Jesus Christ to say that worldly riches ultimately lead us to confusion and misunderstanding of God's spiritual word. Therefore there is certainly a contradiction maintained by us who attempt to, while trying to separate ourselves through wealth, understand the gospel.

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Luke 16:10-13

In this particular verse, we see the Lord referring to worldly wealth as unrighteous wealth. In contrast we see Him refer to eternal blessings as being true riches. In this context we can see what our Christian focus should be in life. Now, who is a Christian and who is not? No one is perfect, and we all sin. Nonetheless we, who believe in the gospel, are called to recognize the will of our Father and seek to obey it. Once more we see the will of our Father, and His will is for us to strive towards being devoted only to Him. As such we are not to be dedicated to ourselves, which accumulating worldly excess certainly is a self-serving ambition.

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

Philippians 3:7-9

As Paul was communicating, having knowledge of Christ, and being with Christ, is greater than any sum of worldly wealth. Then when we possess this righteous wealth, we should not be overly preoccupied with the unrighteous wealth.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Colossians 3:2

Carrying the Cross

Therefore, through the Bible's wisdom, we should not be focused on the short-term goals the world would have for our little life, but be more focused on the long-term goals that we should have for our souls in eternal life.

Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Upon the theme of this chapter, we once more see why we should be wary of securing more of the unrighteous wealth than we need – especially when we cause division in the church. In this process, we then should be happy as soon as we have enough, and follow through by living in thanks. Wanting more and more is absolutely an expectation established by the world that happens to be detrimental to ourselves, and it is only a means of those who know no better. So forth, the spiritually wise follow a different path than what the worldly would follow. As such, when we are blinded by worldliness, we walk liberally to suffering we would much rather be without.

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4

In several cases the bible refers to a binary reality in that one cannot satisfy two conditions at the same time. Perhaps the most notable of these examples was where Christ said one cannot serve two masters. In this verse, that concept is once again upheld. Spirituality on its highest level is also being beyond the world in what one expects in life. As we see here this verse clearly establishes that one who places too much value on the things of the world fails to properly unify in God as God is beyond worldly substance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Carrying the Cross

Here we see how, according to the Apostle Peter, how meaningless tangible wealth is. In regards to things that truly matter in life, scripture clearly states that tangible wealth pales greatly in comparison.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

1 Peter 3:18

Once again, this verse clearly affirms the spiritual focus of the gospel, and strongly implies a greater means to prosperity above material accumulation.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

John once again shows the importance of detaching ourselves from the world in order to be in relationship with God's love. John also once again continues the well-documented biblical narrative that loving things of the world are not from our soul but of our flesh, which is inherently divisive to God's Spirit. As a consequence, if our focus is on doing the will of the Father, then we will not be selfishly motivated for worldly gain because worldly gain will have the opposite effect on how well we can truly serve God.

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

1 John 3:17

Finally, we see a verse which once more affirms the caustic acquisition of material wealth. Wherever we love something without life, we give it more importance than our own. The simple solution to this problem is to value life as greater than objects.

While of course, considering the garden of Eden, God did create man to enjoy life and, in some capacity, it's material value. However, the first thing to note is that in the act of crucifying oneself to the world, is overcoming the snares of our carnal nature. Inasmuch as, seeking the higher body of Christ is first and foremost receiving the Spirit and therefore denying the submission to our carnality. Doing so is as well the highest demonstration of faith. Lastly, once we have committed ourselves to the Spirit, we are then to live in understanding of the transcendence of the Spirit and to live with a sense of transcendence to the material, the unrighteous wealth, in all that we do.

ENTERING BY THE NARROW GATE

The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

Luke 16:16-17

The "Law and the Prophets" refers to the Old Testament law. "John" is referring to John the Baptist who taught people about the opportunity for remission of sins and a greater opening of the gates of heaven to humanity - which by all reason should likely be restricted in access. As we can see here, Christ was referring to the common attitude that we may easily be redeemed. However Christ, as quoted in Luke, made the point that people will get in to heaven purely according to the law, and there is no exception to what's required.

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Matthew 7:13-14

Where it is natural for us to think we are special, it is spiritual for us to accept that we are not. We don't get to arbitrarily determine our fate, because the Law is greater than each of us. Realizing this is essential to understand the law established by Christ. Otherwise we will count ourselves saved and remove the cross from our backs. Truly we should be very mindful of those who will deceive us in this manner, for they will satisfy their sins through taking advantage of our innate desire to similarly sin.

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

On the contrary we see that faith in Christ is a constant call to action and the crucifixion of the self. Where we abide in Christ we must then love, show mercy, give grace, and edify one another. We must work towards truly bettering ourselves, and we must work towards truly bettering others. Where we see injustice to others, we must work against for them as His ministry was predicated upon bringing justice to the world. However, as we see a call to righteousness in the finest of our choices, by our humanity we see ultimate impossibility, and we are therefore once again called to greater obedience towards love and grace.

Entering by the Narrow Gate

Where the law is ultimately to love, the proud and selfish perish and only the humble receive the veritable higher blessings of God. Though love can be hard at times, it redeems us with sacrifice and builds unity among Creation. Though love often comes at a price, that price is little next to the reward we naturally and spiritually receive. Inasmuch as, where we obey the law in its premise we increase our heart to flourish in the short life, and we increase our blessings to flourish in our eternal life as well. In God's loving wisdom, we see the law not only corresponds and facilitates the spiritual maturation of the self, but it simultaneously does so for the world when adequately obeyed by the majority.

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

Matthew 7:21-23

Through the very teachings of Christ we see that salvation and labels are entirely irrelevant. So then, according to Matthew 7:21-23, the true challenge of salvation only comes with being genuinely obedient to God's will. Albeit this is a concept in stark contrast to the belief of many in the church, the words of scripture remain the words of scripture. Those who wish to remain purely subjective in their views on the gospel and don't reach out for the full truth are likely to be more distant from the Lord than they might boast. As is, the Lord is not the Lord of our understanding, but the Lord of all, objective and universally similar to each.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

As Paul demonstrates here, entering into heaven also takes a commitment each and every single day to do one's best in concentrating their focus on this outcome. In this we might be committed in renewing ourselves and be most effective in cooperating with one another to help create a world which is fit for Christ. In maintaining this scriptural focus, we not only improve the condition of ourselves, but we also directly improve the condition of the world around us. As we become spiritually refined in this manner, we

Entering by the Narrow Gate

also help improve the state of the world which simultaneously creates the view of a much more tangible and fairer God to others.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

However doing the minimum will net the minimum - though we should all be so blessed to still have done at least the minimum! By the metaphor above, which references eternal riches, we see eternal life is not the only objective of a Christian. The reality is the Bible clearly teaches the aspirations of a Christian are greater than simply receiving eternal life. Such that, as Christians we should be anticipating that the magnitude of our faith, which is ultimately expressed by our actions, will be proportionately rewarded in the new life.

For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

2 Corinthians 5:10

Though the gift of eternal life is certainly sufficient, the just will of God is He not only gives eternal life to the righteous, but, He also rewards us in accordance to the righteous faith of our work. In this justice, we might have ample motivation and incentive to fully pursue the works of the Father. Where there is much to be done in this world, there is also much to be given for those whose faith brings them to do more for God.

For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

Matthew 16:27

Once more we see where the Bible is calling humanity to do greater acts service through greater acts of faith. However we must be setting our sights on heavenly rewards and not earthly rewards (unrighteous wealth), for the Bible clearly states, as we have seen in the previous chapter, that God most seeks to reward us with heavenly reward. In consequence, seeking glory in Heaven is not against scripture, for not even once did Christ condemn his apostles for having that attitude. Merely it is the self-deceit of worldly ambitions that hinder our spiritual relationship with God.

For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

Luke 22:27

Obedience to God is trust in God and trust in God is how the Spirit expresses itself through us. As we take on a servant's mentality like Christ we do so proclaiming we believe upon Christ, and that we believe in the righteousness of the Father. So then

Entering by the Narrow Gate

performing acts which support the teachings of the Bible are at the core of receiving reward from the Father in one's eternal life.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true)

Ephesians 5:8-9

As we examine the Christian narrative it is clearly the calling of each child of the light to bring light into the world with strong and righteous faith. In this those of the light, those who possess the fruit of the Spirit, are called to work together for a common purpose. Nonetheless, there is a contrasting spiritual distinction known as darkness which creates obstacles in our path.

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

John 3:19-21

Here, we clearly see within scripture, the world is not like the light because it desires to maintain spiritual darkness. Accordingly, the world hates the light, and it will ultimately resist those who are of the light. This is not a guess or an uneducated rambling, it's at least a 2,000-year-old adage which has been proven true throughout the history of mankind. Naturally part of representing the truth comes with the burden of resisting those who are ignorant, and part of representing love comes with the burden of resisting those who hate. As is, the world is both ignorant and hateful for its truth and love are in darkness.

Such that, we can appropriately identify, from a spiritual sense, this supernatural mechanism as the origin of all injustice in our world. Consequently, where there are those who do right, there are those who hate others for doing right as it exposes the masked personal faults they desire to stubbornly deny. So forth, where there are those without light, there are those who are convinced of themselves, and those in this condition unwittingly will not change. Rather than change, when one thinks like this, they will seek to harm those that do not adequately exalt them as they do in their own imagination.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

Entering by the Narrow Gate

As soon as we manifest qualities of God's light we become a target, not just for the people of the world who are trapped in following the darkness of the world, but for that which emanates from the spiritual realm of darkness as well. In regards it is the will of darkness to bring destruction and division to the light. Consequently it is very much so the motive of evil to prevent the power of the light from shining in the world.

Remember the word that I said to you: "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

John 15:20

Where Jesus Christ is referred to as the light in the gospel, as we see from His ultimate persecution, those who follow in Him will ultimately similarly experience unjust persecution for following in His ways. Unfortunate to the well-being of all, these ways to persecution are of love, grace, truth, wisdom, self-sacrifice, and compassion. As this world and the worldly have often hated these qualities, there can be no question why this world is so far short of what it can be, and why bringing positive change to the world can be so close to impossible. However, any opposition to this result will ultimately end in defeat, and any injustice incurred upon those who make this change happen will come with a greater blessing from God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12

Ultimately the weight of the cross is then obedience to God and His commandments of love. It is being a servant of Him and acting with a graceful and humble heart set on tending to the Lord's world. It is also remaining in faith and building oneself up to be more refined in the ways of Christ. It is also building the world up, so that the light of God may more so reach throughout. Furthermore it comes with the threat of persecution as well. Where Christ was unjustly persecuted, so then might we also experience unjust persecution when we follow Him. However hefty the weight, scripture consistently affirms God is a Righteous God who justly rewards our faith and commitment to Him and His will. While all His promises do not necessarily apply to this short life of ours, they certainly do in our eternal life. As per the Word of God.

SECTION II

CHRISTIAN REVELATION

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12: 1-3

In this section, the epoch of tribulations, as defined by scripture, will be explored in detail. Topics will include the two witnesses of God, the abomination of desolation, the mother of harlots, the beast, the events which will transpire during tribulations, and lastly the resurrection of the dead.

TWO WITNESSES OF GOD

And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left. And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

Zechariah 4:4-5, 4:13-14

What the Bible refers to as tribulations is approximately a seven-year period that ushers the world into being fully under the authority of God, the creator of Heaven and the Earth. Hence, after the events of tribulation, God's throne will be established on this Earth, and He will govern man.

As we will see from scripture, the period of tribulation has two basic components. First there will be a 42-month period where God will send two divine messengers to prophesy to the world, and then, after about 75 days, another 42-month period will eventually ensue where the anti-Christ rules and has authority over the entire Earth.

For the beginning of this exploration, we will start with discussing the initial 42-month period. As such, this will begin when the events discussed in Revelation chapter 11 start occurring. So forth, since our interests are with the epoch of tribulation, this is where we will begin exploring the book of Revelation.

But do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth (presumably the two spoken previously in Zechariah).

Revelation 11:2-4

In the book of Revelation, chapter 11 begins sometime after the sixth trumpet has been sounded. Here we see a 1,260-day (1 month = 30 days and 30 X 42 = 1,260 days) period being referenced. This is significant because it tells us that there is a lengthy period of peace which takes place after these witnesses are made evident (I personally presume these witnesses are an incarnation of the two angels Michael and Gabriel).

In other words, the time leading up to the chaos of the antichrist's rule will not be about death and destruction. It will, more or less, be a period of normalcy where these

Two Witnesses of God

witnesses testify the kingdom of Heaven to the world and call for a form of repentance to every individual on Earth. As far as the sackcloth goes, I interpret this to mean that they will be very poor, or at least strongly refrain from worldly indulgence. Inasmuch as, their treasures will be truly perceived by them as residing in Heaven.

Regardless of who or what these witnesses are like, we can see from scripture that the appearing of these witnesses will serve as the most significant sign that the world is truly on the brink of destruction. They will essentially be the greatest sign to show that the world will soon go through its most violent period of transformation.

And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.

Revelation 11:5-6

Essentially, they will undoubtedly have tremendous authority making it very clear that there is a God, and the world should abide first and foremost in the will of God. Nonetheless, given the severity of their ministry, they may perform feats, which without doubt, are, in fact, miraculous. Nonetheless, the world will not honor their feats because the world (lovers of dust) does not recognize the Father as God, nor does the world wish to humble itself to even the possibility of needing redemption through the Son, Jesus Christ.

And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.

Revelation 11:7-8

I would like to note the usage of the term beast. As we see in the upcoming chapter titled "Nature of the Beast," that particular term does not refer to Satan, but it instead refers to some other end-time body. Anyway, whatever the beast is, it will end the witnesses' reign and expose itself at the same time.

As for the great city, this term is used again in Revelation 18 denoting a very specific place on Earth. As the term is giving a definition in Chapter 18, it's reasonable to assume the usage of the term is consistent in usage from Revelation chapter 11 and 18. As such, where and what the great city is will be explored in the upcoming chapter titled "The Great Prostitute."

Two Witnesses of God

For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

Revelation 11:9-12

The first thing to mention here is that these witnesses are not out making a lot of friends, at the very least, with the people of the Earth. The fact of the matter is that the Bible says they were a torment to those who "dwell" on the Earth (I imagine this to only include those who similarly dwell on earthly things against the Father). After they are dead for three and a half days, they will resurrect in a similar manner to that of Jesus Christ. This will be a literal and observable sign to the whole world that through Christ we have power over death. It will also demonstrate to the faithful to endure what will be coming next, because what happens soon after this is the period of tribulations where the whole world is forced to suffer exceedingly (for the world will be handed over to Satan's rule).

While the epoch of tribulations will be full of evil, where evil will be granted power to test, accuse, and persecute all Christians, Jews, and whoever else may be faithful to God's Spirit, it should be noted and taken with a sense of ease that there will be great signs which happen beforehand that prepare God's children to endure the ultimate time of trial.

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

In this chapter, I will mention other books in the Bible which describe the antichrist, with specific reference as the abomination of desolation. In doing so, I will look at the following biblical books: Daniel, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. To begin, I will start off with Daniel exploring his prophecies as they parallel with the prophecy awaited by Paul and foretold by John in the book of Revelation. We will conclude with the Olivet prophecy, but before we do, we will begin by exploring the book of Daniel

Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.

Daniel 11:31-32

In reading through the entire chapter of Daniel 11, there is repeatedly referred to a king of the North who deals with the South. This king of the North is in fact associated to the anti-Christ himself, as we see him referenced in the following verses.

And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.

Daniel 11: 36-37

In regards, the king of the North will literally be some figure from a territory north of a point that divides the Earth into four. Determining the exact location is quite speculative, but naturally it should reside in a location near Jewish land, perhaps specifically where the Holy Temple should stand. Furthermore, determining the exact meaning of Daniel's prophecy, and who each figure is, is also something that is quite speculative with many possible interpretations. What is to note though, for this chapter's purposes, is that Daniel chapter 11, specifically from verse 29, deals with the same prophecy mentioned in Revelation 13.

Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be

Abomination of Desolation

till the end of these wonders?” And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

Daniel 12:5-7

A “time” is generally interpreted to be one year, “times” is then to be two years, and a “half” is thought to be a half of a year. This would add to three and a half years. Which, if a month is counted as 30 days, is 42 months or 1,260 days.

In this first passage, we read about two figures standing on the sides of two different river banks. In purely my own intuition, I interpret this to be the **“two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth (Rev 11:4)”** or otherwise known in Revelation 11 as God’s two witnesses. The man in which they are speaking to, the man clothed in linen, is possibly the Son of Man, existing in the role of Creator of Earth.

What the man clothed in linen declares, is the length of time for the faithful in God to lose all authority in the Earth. Because of some correlations to the end-times mentioned in coming verses, it is quite rational to assume that, this man in linen, is referring to the same 42-month period mentioned in Revelation where the Beast is given its power to make war with the saints.

I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days (42 months).

Daniel 12:8-11

The abomination that makes desolate is likely to be the antichrist AND a system of world unity under Satan’s influence, which will seek to kill all of God’s faithful on the Earth. The statement that he will be able to stand in God’s temple could therefore be an allusion to the reality that he has the ability to act as God over the Earth, ruling over all four corners.

Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days (45.5 months).

Daniel 12:12

I imagine that this verse is making a reference to the rapture (Rev 14:16). This would then imply there is even some more time after the two witnesses ascend into Heaven

Abomination of Desolation

before the antichrist is ultimately in power (75 days to be exact in the literal view of Revelation's interpretation). As we will see later on, what ends the antichrist's reign of forty-two months will be the total annihilation of God's children by evil, and it will be the full outpouring of God's wrath on those who chose to worship the beast.

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus also spoke about the end of days while on Mount Olive. As a result, this account is commonly referred to as the Olivet prophecy. We will see here that a lot of the same words and descriptions in Daniel are used there as well.

So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place

Matthew 24:15

But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be

Mark 13:14

These verses are clearly referencing the same time period and figure spoken of in Daniel 12:11. More or less, the abomination of desolation will make the Holy Temple his own temple as he blasphemes the things of God (rules the Earth as if he is God). It is also possible, as per scripture, that in a similar fashion to Hitler the anti-Christ will have a particular aversion to the Jews themselves, and at the very most towards all loyal to the God of Abraham.

then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

Matthew 24:16-21

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near.

Luke 21:20

As soon as the antichrist is in power, he will be bearing down on the Jews to persecute them like never before. I would also like to point out the verse Matthew 24: 21. As we can see here, the reason why biblical prophecy still remains is largely because of just this one statement. The tribulation period in which it describes will be the greatest conflict in the history of the entire world. It will be so immense, there will be nothing to compare it to. Currently, we see that the stage is set up for even greater war.

MOTHER OF HARLOTS

READER BE ADVISED: This chapter presents ideas which some may and probably will find highly offensive. Notwithstanding, the relationships explored in this chapter relate to an objective understanding of a literal interpretation of Revelation. If this is a false basis, then surely this interpretation may be false as well.

In this analysis of Revelation Chapter 17, we are going to focus on what is referred to as "the great prostitute who is seated on many waters". While only in hindsight will we know exactly who or what the Bible is referring to, I want to help identify what is the likeliest candidate in our modern day. Of course this is all speculation, so let it be kept in mind that I am merely expounding on my own individual perspective of scripture, based on the spiritual paradigm provided in scripture.

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls (seven bowls of wrath poured at the end of Tribulations onto those who received the mark of the beast) came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters."

Revelation 17:1

As we read this verse, we get the understanding that this great prostitute will have influence around the world (hence the reference to being seated on many waters) and will be decadent (hence the prostitute imagery).

To the dismay of a lot of decent and faithful people, there really are few who better compare to this figure other than the Catholic church. However, it really is very hard to imagine that there is any other perceivable organization who could better fit this description.

Clearly, the fact that the Catholic church is "seated on many waters," being in that it is an international institution, is just one of the many facts which support the argument that the Catholic church fits with the profile of this great prostitute. As we can see, the Catholic church does have significant influence in many different continents. So forth, let us also realize that it has been in existence throughout the ages being around since the Roman empire. Consequently, I - and history - suggest, because of its long-time influence, it has come to have an extreme influence on all sorts of ruling regimes throughout its duration.

Mother of Harlots

with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk

Revelation 17:2

This implies that the people of the earth share a relationship, with this figure, which causes among them each corruption

For the second verse, I imagine this "sexual immorality" to be figurative – even though the Catholic church does have a very long history of actual sexual immorality AND has probably used sexual persuasion, in some sense, to gain in its far-reaching influence. However, for the sake of this interpretation brief, I am only going to suggest the church, instead of being faithful in the teachings of Christ, has adopted a false ideology removed from the teachings of Christ. As with our modern-day religious culture, they have - instead of staying honest with Christ's teachings - abandoned them for worldly gain. So then, they have denied the commandments of God in favor of the commandments of men.

This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

Matthew 15:8-9

Christ was referencing Isaiah here, and here I find it appropriate to reference Isaiah once more in this manner

As should be obvious to anyone diligent in the Words of Christ, this institution is simply not godly adding human things to the worship of God (the exact definition of harlotry as outlined by the prophets in the OT). Furthermore, instead of inspiring people to the true spiritual worship of God (John 4:24), where Godly worship is far above systematic worship, it keeps its believers chained to worldly machinations that have no relationship to the gospel.

Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:3

The purpose of mentioning this verse is the connection that this woman has with the beast. First and foremost, she has been riding on the back of the beast to gain all of her power and might. Once again, if we consider the woman to be the Catholic church and the beast to be the long-emerging world system (examined in the next chapter "Nature of the Beast"), this would imply that the church has been establishing and using a world system to grow in its prosperity. So then, whatever it is about worldliness which opposes God, the Catholic church has been, rather than resisting, indulging in this form of vanity such

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that a few, its highest officials, could gain the most power, influence, social status, and luxury in regards to worldly standards.

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

Revelation 17:4

For this verse, we in fact see the first half of the given description truly portray what the Catholic church has been throughout history and now is. There was a reason that before His ministry Jesus lived as a humble carpenter. There was a reason that during His ministry Jesus lived as a humble teacher. There is furthermore a reason why He taught against excessive materialism. Where there is an accumulation and fascination with the material, there is a dearth of Spirit and spiritual fascination.

So forth, the inventions of this church, blinded by its earthly lusts, have all been snares of the Spirit for those who have followed it. Inasmuch as, the Spirit offers freedom from flesh, and the flesh offers appetite only for things of the flesh. In the worship of tangible substance, the Catholic church has led many down the same dark path they are on causing even greater suffering in the world as many have and do look to them as a guiding light.

And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Luke 16:15

As we see here, the riches the people admire among themselves are an "abomination" in the sight of God. I hope all those that read this reflect heavily on this statement such as to gauge their genuine faith in the wisdom of Jesus Christ. Regardless, we see plainly that the way of the Pope is to be arrayed is in purple (the color of royalty), gold, jewels, and pearls. As such, the bible states pretty evidently that all should be careful if their ambitions in life revolve around societal glory as well as material objects. Naturally, understanding this verse strongly suggests, specifically due to the duty this church places on itself to be a representative of Christ, that the institution of the Catholic church, in this practice, is this apocalyptic figure.

Without any doubt, we should be able to easily see that the Catholic church has violated several teachings of its Messiah by trying to gain worldly power, riches, and authoritative influence. All of which are in conflict to Christ and His teachings. Simply, He did not establish the Catholic church. Instead He established a way for all to find a way to salvation in God - a salvation in which, through the indiscretion of this church, has been made even harder for a great multitude to receive.

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And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations"

Revelation 17:5

As a quick reference, Babylon was a city, in the Old Testament, accredited to destroying Jerusalem, which was also known as Zion and the greatly heralded Jewish city of David. As for being the mother of prostitutes and earth's abominations, it would be so if it has intentionally manifested, throughout its long tenure, the coming of the One World System by its relationship with other nations, simply for the greedy sake of aiming to increase its dominance over the whole Earth. If it did this and violated its relationship with the Lord, it is not just a prostitute but a great prostitute.

In observance of our current day and age, the immensely corrupt system, in which this church always has and currently presents to the world, is in fact a perversion to Christ's teachings. In this way, we can safely say this church is an abomination, and we can safely say this church has spawned those, which are similarly decadent, other church bodies who imitate and maintain this corrupt system of worship which is against the many wisdoms of heaven.

And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus

Revelation 17:6

Of all the terrible attributes of this church, the worst of which might be the innocent blood it has on its hand as it has persecuted and brutally tortured countless many throughout history simply to maintain its own oppressive rule. As such, it has their blood – the blood of the innocent (saints) – on its hands, and that blood is to be repaid only at the very end of tribulations.

In concluding this chapter, I hope I have communicated well-enough to show how these descriptions best fit with previous Popes and the Catholic church as a whole. While this chapter itself is an extremely brief exposition on the matter (I do recommend the reader to further investigate the full corruption of this church on their own), I hope it argued itself sufficiently to support the basis of my claims.

Please understand that the future is certainly far from being a fixed story, and interpretation of end-time scripture is still simply speculation. If the Bible lends us any support for what would be an end-time scenario in our time, simply, in my opinion, it appears that the Catholic church is by far the closest and most recognizable figure who fits this particular profile given by the Word of God.

NATURE OF THE BEAST

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

Revelation 13:1

In the event of the confusion that the beast is Satan, as made evident in Revelation 12:3, the dragon is Satan, and this particular character is distinct from him.

From the description of the beast given in Revelation chapter 13, we see it rising out of the sea. However, we also see described, in other places of Revelation (such as chapter 11 and 17), the beast described as rising out of "the bottomless pit." The latter description infers the beast will come from the demonic spiritual realm and be an incarnation of true evil. I find this is true for cases where the Bible refers to the anti-Christ as the beast.

However, as provided in Revelation, the Bible also refers to the beast as a body with a form of government consisting of many people. Therefore, I find the distinction made about the beast for a clear purpose. So forth, the governing body of the beast, which is described differently as rising out of the sea instead, indicates its hidden presence on Earth. Accordingly, this implies that the depths of the sea represent its long-sustained hidden existence from the people on Earth. Such that, near the very beginning of the second half of tribulations, this entity will become fully exposed for everyone to see for themselves, as well as the anti-Christ who is the leader of the beast's body.

And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

Revelation 13:2

Researching this, as these animals are most likely retreads from the animals given in Daniel chapter 2, it is widely held that these figures relate to either specific nations or regions on the Eurasian continent. The imagery the bear represents Persia, or present-day Iran. The imagery the lion represents Babylon. Lastly, the imagery of the leopard represents Greece.

But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.

Revelation 17:7

This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen,

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one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

Revelation 17:9-10

Something I particularly fixate on here is that “five of the heads have fallen.” This means (to me) five of these heads have already lived and died in the course of human history. Since kings rule as one, this would imply that these five heads are distinct men throughout time. As in, Hitler is one of the heads. Therefore, the anti-Christ will be another head of this beast where its other heads have come to show themselves in various times throughout world history.

As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.

Revelation 17:12-13

These ten kings appear to be behind-the-scenes-men of influence who will, basically, usurp the dominion of the existing world leaders. Essentially they will be working in conjunction with the anti-Christ, who will be their champion so to speak, that is literally hell bent on making war with God and God’s people. We will eventually find our world’s movement towards a One World Order to be an extension of Satan’s will and Satan’s opposition of God. Therefore, a major component to the body of the beast, will be a one world system that attempts to make all men a servant to Satan’s system of control.

So then, as we attempt to understand what the fullness of the beast will be, we should begin by understanding that the beast portended in scripture is much, much more than just one man. Metaphorically speaking, it also has horns, a body, feet, and it has existed for a very long time.

As such, we can see how these figurative representations certainly imply literal representations. Regardless, even though the anti-Christ will be just one head of the beast, he draws his power from the other heads, horns, and body such that he is the captain of all its members.

Inasmuch as, the anti-Christ will have tremendous power over the entirety of the world to impose his order and control over mankind. However, the singular greatest source of strength for the beast, which is its literal body, will in fact be the One World Order and network that allows its influence to be truly global and authoritative over all. Nonetheless, this body is nothing without its individual cells; a system among men is nothing without its individual constituents who uphold the system. Therefore, as

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unfortunate as it may be, also constituting the body of the beast will be people we know, either through social or familial ties.

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

Revelation 17:8

and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Revelation 13:8

In reading scripture, we see that the problem of a spiritual war is that the quality of spirit doesn't pass down from bloodline to bloodline, or is essential for people to relate to one another while cooperating in society. The fact of the matter is that, since Spirit is had or void by individual experience and choice, it comes and it goes like the wind, and that choice we make isn't inherited by genes or acquired through social influence. The familial bonds, in our spiritual nature, is far beyond the mortal associations and concepts of groupings understood by our scientific textbooks. At the very least, according to scripture.

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit

John 3:8

As demonstrated in scripture, there is no demographic that the Spirit readily presides in. So forth, we also understand Christ's proclamation that He did not come to bring peace.

Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a 'man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be enemies of his own household.

Matthew 10:34-36

As people come to see the reality of this prophecy, assuming it truly does describe what will happen in the world, there will be a divide from people, not from top to bottom, but instead from side to side. Those who consider themselves the same and equal will come see themselves as different from those they have established the strongest of bonds. So then, many who have felt divided by worldly things, will come to see themselves as the same, at the very least, for the children of the Spirit.

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By this logic, all those of the light will recognize those of the light, and they will be able to recognize that which pertains to darkness. This truth will naturally expose itself as the circumstances of these extreme times will demand as much.

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

Revelation 17:14

As we can see, the purpose of the beast will be to make war with God's children. Therefore, in understanding who belongs to God in this way, I encourage each to have a broad mind. Jesus said in Matthew 5:9, that the pure of heart will see God. So then, it's not about one's cultural interpretation of God, but about the purity of heart of any particular faithful person. Therefore, the beast will be about killing and ravaging those who truly abide in the Love of the Living God.

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:23-24

Nonetheless, we have the word of the Lord, as we will see in the next chapter, that He will conquer the enemies of His children. In the end, there will be justice, and the Lord makes this His promise. Inasmuch as, I suggest that we all take comfort that this tyranny, like all things of this world, shall pass, and justice will weigh on those who create injustice, and justice will bless those who are made innocent.

ARMAGEDDON AND THE END OF DAYS

So now that we have covered the major agents mentioned in the Bible's description of tribulations, it's time to start exploring what will happen as the second 42-month period ensues, and what will happen, according to scripture, after the end of the world.

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Revelation 12:7-9

It appears that at the time of the witnesses rising up into heaven, shortly afterward this war in heaven breaks out. The end result of this war will be Satan (and his angels) being thrown down to the Earth. The very fact that the witnesses and their bodies literally rise into the heavens where there is a battle, should lend the reader to the possibility that this battle is between physical beings and takes place in physical space simply somewhere beyond the immediate boundary of the Earth.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

Revelation 12:10-12

This is where the Earth gets into real trouble. Satan (could appear to the world as a benevolent extraterrestrial) and his angels (also could appear to the world as benevolent extraterrestrials) are now marooned on the Earth left alone with its inhabitants.

Moving on from here, if one reads into Revelations 12, they will see that Satan's first move is to kill a woman who is pregnant with a child (Earth's future monarchical ruler).

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Once he fails to do so, he will move on to set his sights on to the rest of the Earth. To do so, he will empower the beast to rule over mankind.

And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

Revelation 13:5-6

While of course these blasphemies will include insulting the power and benevolence of the Lord our God, they will also reach an even deeper level. In the interpretation that a version of the beast has the One World Order as part of its body, which is established to subjugate the masses to the will of a few, then these blasphemies against God will include declarations to God on how to govern mankind.

In this event, we can see from other scriptures, such as Luke 22:25-27, that the Kingdom of Heaven is where the greatest serve the least instead. So forth, the governing principle of this apocalyptic and tyrannical governing system is the opposite. Inasmuch as here, in this dystrophic and ultimately unsustainable system, is the pyramid scheme where the greatest are served by the masses rather than themselves serving them. In other words, this system, which the Bible insinuates originates by the mind of Satan, insults even the most basic wisdom's of God.

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. If anyone has an ear, let him hear: If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:7-10

The Bible has this theological concept of Satan's seed (children) being mixed in with God's seed (children). In other words, Satan has corrupted the world with evil people who have evil hearts. So then, these people were never meant to be on this Earth, and, when the Earth was made, it was not made for them. That is what is meant by names not written before the foundation of the world.

The latter half is essentially saying that God will allow the beast to kill any Christian (or faithful person to God) on the planet, and – if you are a Christian (or faithful person to God) – you will have little choice but to let perfect faith in God transpire. Any resistance against the beast will be met by greater opposition. According to scripture, God has made

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this the way it must be. However, we can also be consoled in scripture that we do so heading towards God's further aged promise of resurrection and eternal life.

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

Revelation 13:11

In this verse we see mentioned another beast. As we read, we will see that his primary role is to serve the antichrist. Furthermore, because no other references can be found, I will stick with the translation that a horn represents a person with power and influence on the Earth. Perhaps the lamb part suggests that, whatever this entity is, it will be trying to seem as though it is making peace.

However, the forceful tone of its voice, being as a dragon, implies that while it is seeming' peaceful, it will be using the full authority of the world government to force people into what they are falsely declaring is a peaceful resolution, all of which will happen at some point AFTER the antichrist has come into power.

Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

Revelation 13: 15-17

Unfortunately, we can see the world moving in this direction today. As is, we already are steadily moving towards a "RFID" (Radio Frequency Identification) technology that will perform this exact function. Underneath this use of technology - which is not sophisticated by any means - because it is possible to always emit a signal that can be received over a distance such that one's location would always be traceable. Accordingly, if a person were ever sufficiently out-of-line with the government, that person would easily, by the press of an enter key, lose complete access to all their property and wealth in an instant. Ultimately, this form or rule will be the most oppressive authoritarian state mankind has ever observed. I find it would be so oppressive and innately evil, I cannot imagine who would choose it even over death.

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe. So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Revelation 14:14-16

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So now, as accounted for by Daniel and mentioned in the chapter “Abomination of Desolation,” is the conclusion of the 1,260 (42 month) day period, the 1,290-day period, and the 1,335-day period after the 42-month period of the prophets witnessing. Now, the remaining obedient to God will be blessed by being saved from what will soon happen to those who have received the mark of the beast, worship the beast, and are members in the body of the beast.

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

Revelation 15:1

Inasmuch as, after this rapture event, we have the releasing of these seven plagues onto the Earth. If the reader is interested, the details of which can be found in chapter 16 of the book of Revelation. From here, tribulations come to a fairly quick and dramatic conclusion culminating in the second coming of Christ.

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

Revelation 16:1

The true judgment of the world and those who curse the Father and the Son begins immediately after all the remaining elect are removed from the Earth.

And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

Revelation 16:13-14

As we move through this judgment period, we see that, during the pouring of the sixth bowl, three unclean spirits leave out of the mouth, of Satan, the beast (here this is referencing the anti-Christ), and the false prophet. As we can see here, they do so to gather the world toward the final battle of man vs. God (which the Bible says will be at Megiddo – hence Armageddon).

Once the seven bowls are poured, the next judgment will fall upon the great city.

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he called out with a mighty voice,

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. For all nations have drunk the wine of

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the passion of her sexual immorality, the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,

“Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; For her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.’ For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

“Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

Revelation 18:1-10

Whatever this great city may happen to be, we can say with certainty that it will not be doing to well when the Lord comes to bring it its justice.

Finally, after the pouring of the bowls, and after the judgement on the great city, we have Christ leading the army of God such as to destroy Satan and his followers.

And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written,

“King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh

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of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.”

And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Revelation 19:11-21

Finally! Evil on earth has been overcome, and the true end of tribulations has arrived! As we read this scripture, we can, without doubt, see that the Lord is not all-forgiving. He isn't numb to the suffering caused by evil. So, while He is patient with evil, ultimately He seeks retribution for all pain caused to all things that are loyal to Him.

Now that everyone on the Earth has passed on, it's time for it to become populated once more.

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4-6

Here we see the first resurrection described (which is mentioned in various places throughout scripture). It is essentially a special tribute to all those who lived, resisted the beast, and died during the times of tribulations. Here we can see that these people will be considered priests of God in the time to come. After this resurrection, we can see in scripture, that this period will remain for a full millennium.

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.

Revelation 20: 5

After this 1,000-year period, we see God turn His attention to the rest of those who have lived and died.

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Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

At this time we see the fullness of justice established. Such that, at this moment, all wrongs will be righted, and those who stood faithful to truth will be with God. Likewise, those who essentially would not open themselves to the Light of God, they, as if like a cancer, are removed from creation.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Revelation 21:4

Now, for all those who the Earth was made for, the Lord shall give them the true life they were meant to have. There will then be no more sorrow, suffering, or death. They will all live as immortal beings free of the burdens created by mortality

SECTION III

CHRISTIAN SUPPLEMENTATION

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

John 15: 9-17

In the third section, the following chapters will supplement the aforementioned material, while in the subjective reference of Christian spirituality. They are mostly ecclesiastical in nature, but the final chapter intends to draw a general conclusion and call to each, whether of the faith or not, based on the prior material.

DENYING CHRIST

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "'Lord, Lord,' did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

Matthew 7:21-23

Through scripture we see that the lawless act of denying Christ is far from the basic act of denying the life of Jesus Christ. As we can infer, it is only in abiding by God's law that we receive salvation, such that Calling Christ Lord is clearly not what it takes to fulfill God's law. Therefore denying Christ is not denying whether or not He is who He said he is, but is found in adhering to the two commandments He taught.

And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Mark 12:32-34

Since at the core of Christ's commandments is to love God with all our being and to love our neighbor as ourselves, these are the only conditions which need to be met to inherit the kingdom of God. So then, at the core of denying Christ, is both refusing the Spirit of God and refusing to love one's neighbor to the extent that one loves themselves. There is no religious doctrine, dogma, and worship which equates to following these commandments (in fact organized worship can be very obstructive to these purposes).

Truly then, Christ's legacy is much more than a belief in one basic absolute which absolves us from all divine penalty. In this manner, His greater legacy is about connecting us to the Spirit of God and showing us all how to walk with God's presence. His greater legacy is about ensuring that we might be woven into the body of Creation, and that we may acquire the necessary awareness to do so as intended. As a result, we should understand that the heart of all scripture, in personal regard, fully pertains to only these key accomplishments.

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Consequently we see how denying Christ is not a religious topic. Instead we see how it is actually a universal topic which breaches over into every single religion, every single belief, every single society, every single interaction between two people, and every single stirring within that a person may either satisfy or quell. Therefore denying Christ has little to do with what we say, but it instead has everything to do with what we do. So forth it is not merely in verbal confession, but instead it is denying the Spirit of God within. Whereas we accept self-exaltation, attachment to objects, or erroneous ideology we live in denial of Christ because we also live in denial of God's Spirit.

In this deeper understanding it then becomes clear that denying Christ is, generally speaking, being overly concerned with some aspect of Self and worshiping instead some form of false idol. As such we observe that with misplaced selfishness comes darkness and ignorance and with appropriate giving of self comes the light of God and the understanding of Him.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

Such that, as we pursue to have our worship of God's Spirit show through our actions, we should fully consider any appropriate practice to be far beyond the words in which we use. In doing so, those of us who seek spiritual worship ought to focus on much more than the vocabulary we use in our praise. Simply put the cultivated children of God ought to speak a higher language, being a spiritual language based on action, then that of the children of men.

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love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

John 4:7-8

In the above verse, we first note that loving is an essential quality of God. After which, we see the importance of love and loving others as essential to building our relationship to God. Finally, we see that people who do not seek to love, both greatly and always, risk backsliding in their relationship with God. For this reason, the greatest fundamental to Christian practice is love and loving others.

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye. Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5

Now, through the existence of God there certainly is absolute truth, a definitive moral code, and a correct way to live, the Bible is also highly expressive that our primary concern should be to try to identify these things for the sake of ourselves above all else. In this wisdom, it is then only as we perfect our understandings of these things we can truly help others come closer to understanding these truths as well. So then we may find that living scripture is the highest form of attempting to apply scripture to others lives. Conversely we may find that under no circumstance is it proper Christian practice to force our understanding on another. In this manner virtually all evangelizing is best to be done through simply being an example of the love Christ has shown us and trusting the Spirit to guide others to Him.

In committing ourselves to this worship, we should then be highly focused on the way God has treated us. Because of this, where all are only saved through grace and faith, we also then should see it as important for us to always focus on showing grace to others through faith. In such regard we must be diligent to never assume we have figured everything out or have somehow evolved beyond ourselves to express this obvious

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pretense. Naturally, where our focus is in Christ, our evangelism then should likewise be one of acceptance and tolerance with the appropriate sense of humility.

Nonetheless while we may seek to surround ourselves with those who have greater principles of faith, it is important for us to be inviting to all others in an effort to promote equality in Him and His will to love. Truly, as God has called us, we must put edifying the church and being a light to the world above our own life, as our Lord Jesus Christ did as well. As such, each of these only becomes possible as we reject being conformed to the image of man and accept our Spiritual identity as a Christian.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14

Through love and grace it is ideal to be tolerant of others simply on the basis of beliefs and opinions. Perhaps a convicted Christian may feel strongly otherwise, but the reality is that none of us are perfect and consequently have no true absolute moral authority to impose our many different understandings of truth on another. Perhaps through absolute self-perfection we may have the right as with the Christ, but often times we simply jump to deride others for our own lack of perfection instead. So then, we must conversely channel our faith inwardly and strongly resist from ever judging others. While the Lord expects us to a certain style of life, He also expects us to love our brother and sister, our neighbor, our stranger, and even our enemy, bearing in mind how He has loved us always regardless of our own lack of worthiness as well.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14

Where we may perceive another's errant choice, it's best to first consider our own false perception, then, if we are genuinely without mistake, we should seek to show the truth the love and patience it affords. At the end of the day, our only responsibility is to live as the Lord tells us to live and to live accordingly. In doing so, we will ultimately be as a lighthouse of the truth and best allow the Lord to guide and correct the error in our and others hearts and actions.

REFLECTION ON GOD, SATAN, AND THE WORLD

The greater problem with this world is not how it lives outside of God's walls, but more so how it lives within Satan's walls. Accordingly what causes humanity his greatest strife is his obedience to the rules established by that which is otherwise to God – Satan. Inasmuch as one of the greatest ways the Father of Lies has humanity lead to confusion and conflict is through mankind's innate desires for earthly attainments. Naturally then it would seem that the strings of Satan tie tightest to the hearts of those who, above all else, seek earthly satisfactions. As these strings are tautly wound, his control over those who are compelled by worldly temptations is near absolute.

Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Proverbs 27:20 KJV

As such, earthly and carnal passions are the primary motivations Satan inspires to misdirect mankind from truth. Consequently it is paramount for each of us to identify the tactics in which Satan uses to ensnare us with his hooks. In this, generally speaking, wherever we can see people in mass being led to their ultimate demise (vanity), we can rightfully recognize the architect of that system is most certainly the Adversary. Because the Son of Perdition's objective is known, where he seeks vindication in man's rejection of God, it is also evident what pertains to him. In this manner, where we can say the Lord acts in mysterious ways, we can simultaneously say that Satan acts in obvious ways.

This truth then begs to ask, how do we get everyone to become aware of Satan's existence? For as much, it is only when this task is completed – the task of getting all people aware of the one who aims for their destruction – are we, as one, able to properly defend against the death he brings upon us. Surely it is so that in order to solve a problem one must first identify the problem. So then, how do we get the world to recognize the greatest problem it faces in the first place?

Concurrently, we must also question how, if so we could get the world to become aware of its enemy, how too might we get the world to overcome this enemy by its strength alone? Insofar as Satan is certainly formidable having power far greater than men. This must mean overcoming Satan additionally requires a strength which is greater than the strength of men. As fortune would have it, even if Satan's power vastly supersedes that of our own, his power in no way can match the power of God.

Reflection on God, Satan, and the World

I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Luke 10:18

So then, if we could get humanity to acknowledge the existence of Satan, how could we get the world to come to the realization of God such that we may all draw upon His strength? In our blindness, how may we see the truth in the light and submit ourselves, as any lesser thing must do before any greater thing which compels, to the one true righteous God? Isn't a fact that a blind person can neither see the brightness of day, nor the darkness of night, but can still know each by the radiant warmth of the sun and the cold chill of earth's shadow? Consequently, it must be true that if we are willing to use our full sense of perception, we may then rightfully perceive the greater forces that exist.

In earnest, may we all become so observant. However, what good would it do if we are not willing to give ourselves over to God and His instruction? Truly, getting a person to submit to God should be like getting an ant to submit to a sugar cube; unfortunately, causing great conflict for many of us, is the fact that we are often far too zealous in our pride. As such, in great numbers, we people would much rather scurry, through and over one another, for specs of sweetness to claim as our own – in contrast to – seeking the much greater abundance of God. In doing so, we unwittingly aspire to rebuke the very cube where each grain had loosened. Sadly, it is simply in our nature to praise the fallen grains with our mouths and to forsake the cube, which the grains had fallen from, with our hearts.

For those of us full in ignorance and self-serving desires, it makes little difference to us if our volume is that of a teacup. We will trust in our little portion all the way until we stumble and it all pours out. It furthermore makes little difference to us, if we simply add our little portion into the ocean of life, that we may, in turn, become likewise as full as an ocean. It is simply too hard for us to practice such a humiliating exchange. So then, we will impudently refuse to do so until our cup becomes empty, and we have nothing left to pour in offering.

How then might we, when we fall victim to this way of thinking, ever know of the ways of our Lord? For there is neither a man-made logic which can substitute for His establishment of faith, nor is there any amount of reason which may add to His sum. How so might us, who imagine ourselves as having out-thought our need to believe, seek the wisdom of the one we have denied?

As we wait for our great sign, do we not know of the signs which we have already overlooked? Do we sincerely believe the Lord of lords acts as vainly as we do? If we possess such a hardened heart to trick ourselves to believe in prosperity without Him, how then might we seek the fullness of prosperity which comes by being in Him? How

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then might us, who had hated our Lord so much so as to deny even His existence, repent of our contempt such that we may have His light and wisdom once and forever?

These things are certainly greatly worth wondering about, but the means of our Lord are greater than the ways of ourselves. Therefore we have seen how He is not purely the God of the elect. In truth, He makes all of His creation to be with Him forever, and He, before us, comes as the God of love and mercy. As we see in scripture, His plan for salvation was also made for the sake of those who do not know Him. When He died on the cross, He did it for both the faithful and the unfaithful.

By this narrative we say, in such great love, the Lord gave His life in ransom for the entire world. In such great love, He gave His life in ransom for the most unbelieving and blind as well. As He did so, He gave each and every one a veritable path to eternal life living in His eternal kingdom. So forth, may we each know our Holy creator and live by Him who has set out, with His own well-being at stake, our salvation. As it is, only then might evil be put to rest, and we may have true peace in the world.

ACTS OF WORSHIP

This chapter will strongly focus on searching through the book of Matthew and determine acts of spiritual practice which Christ called for His faithful to perform. We will see, in doing so, a unique path for us to walk, so that we may better enable ourselves to possess the full ability to be free from the blinding carnality of the world. In the end, this work, through scripture, aspires to engender, for the reader, a more developed spiritual connection to God and a more developed connection to His spiritual universe.

Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.

Matthew 9:17

Where we are a child of God, we are meant to strongly resemble our Spiritual Father. For all those who do, the severity of the spiritual darkness within the world becomes apparent. However, until we walk above the world, we may never recognize how we have or still do help contribute to this outcome. For as much, all of us who strongly follow in the pursuit of earthly obtainment, in selfish pursuit, cannot help but augment this circumstance. In regards, it is only through spiritual acknowledgement that we may ever fully observe the relationship between the increase of corruption and the decrease of our awareness to the source of corruption.

Because it is only as we live in darkness we cannot see, our individual focus then ought to be to help cultivate a light, within and throughout, such that all things are made visible to us. In an attempt to accomplish the aforementioned result, organized in this chapter is an approach to achieving that result. Where Christ's ministry was about teaching and delivering the Holy Spirit to humanity, these acts are so forth founded firmly upon His and the prophet's instruction alike.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:24-25

Serving one master, God: We are all servants to something (Matthew 6:24), and it is ultimately our actions which determine what we serve. To this end, we should try and understand what our actions imply. We are all accountable to Him and Him alone, and we should strive diligently to live our lives honoring Him over the world.

Acts of Worship

Denying the love of wealth and money: We are worth more than all the riches of the world (Matthew 6:25). There is nothing we can buy, purchase, or wear that will make us any more valuable. In truth, that which is of the Spirit is always greater than anything which is of the earth. In effect, allow one's wealth to be measured solely by one's light alone.

Laboring only for the Lord: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men," (Colossians 3:23). Therefore, we should be solely focused on doing everything we do for the Lord, and we should seek spiritual blessings far before we seek worldly riches. As is, it is unwise to labor for what can be taken in one's sleep (Matthew 6:20), and it is much better to labor towards that which cannot be lost.

Foregoing earthly attachments: "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy" (Jonah 2:8). If something is anchored to the Earth, for whosoever should hold on to it, they will be anchored to the earth as well. How can God be to blame for one's ill-gain when there were such obvious ends to one's willful action? As we loosen our grip onto the things which hold us to the fleeting, the Spirit within us will begin to thrive. So then, strive to fast often, drink only water, read scripture, pray silently (Matthew 6:6), and seek the Spirit within. In doing so, one will learn to live on the Lord's guidance, and they will become most empowered to walk upright and by the Spirit.

Living by the day and do not worry about tomorrow's requirements: Relent from feeling stressed about things in life (Matthew 6:27, & 6:30), and focus most on the present day (Matthew 6:34). In doing so it is imperative we see our life as being worth more than our possessions (Matthew 6:25). In practice, live trusting in God, not the fear of what may come. If so many creatures in nature can live in harmony with its environment – as it lives by the day – then why can't the most sophisticated and prized creation on the earth easily do the same (Matthew 6:26)? There is an expectation that comes with the way 'this' world tells us to live, and that expectation is not inherent but being merely established by men, not Christ. If we want more, and we give our trust to God, then we will get more.

Doing away with internet/television obscenity: Once more, we are searching for what supports the narrative of freeing ourselves from carnal vices which quell our spiritual vitality. Such that, when we suppress our spirit, the desires of the flesh will grow, and, as we overcome the desires of the flesh, the vitality of our spirit will grow. All in all, this even includes avoiding things such as social media overuse and everything overly graphic. In following, search to keep the spiritual greater than the physical in every conceivable way.

Taking one's self less seriously: Remember that in heaven the one who is greatest is as a humble and respectful child (Matthew 18:4). Be like the greatest in Heaven and do not

Acts of Worship

take one's self so seriously being humble and respectful – just like those who are the greatest in heaven (Matthew 18:1-5).

Being confident as a child of God: One puts a lamp where it lights a room (Matthew 14-15). Do not let those who walk in darkness impede oneself, for light is greater than darkness. Inasmuch as, trust in the light knowing that it is simply not possible to put a light out with darkness.

Being forgiving and not judging: Forgive and be forgiven (Matthew 6:14), and do not judge others or condemn them (Matthew 7:2). As such do not be guilty of stealing the seat of the Lord who is the only one that presides over another person's fate. Accordingly only let the truly righteous accuse the wicked (John 8:7). Remember, all acts of judgment divide the body of God, and testify against His love, mercy, and patience.

Being charitable in heart: It is better to get into heaven with one arm, then to be cast out with two (Matthew 18:8). Therefore we should aim to lose whatever is vain, and only carry with us that which furthers ourselves to true riches. If so one says "I want to give this away," and that something is not good, we should give it away right there (Matthew 6:3-4). All we should want, desire, and hold onto is nothing but the Spirit. If something should make one lose that, then it is best for them to lose that something. In doing so, return to the world that which belongs to the world (Matthew 22:21), and allow oneself to be filled with light instead of darkness (Matthew 6:24).

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12:24

Accordingly, at least by the words of the gospel, when our focus is solely on heaven and trusting in God's promises, we become most enabled to live according to Christ's instruction, and we become most enabled to sow the seeds of the Spirit and light the world. Simply that believing in them is not enough to manifest this result. As we follow the instruction, we move toward the actualization of who God made us to be, and we move toward discovering our purpose in Him. Lastly, we become most empowered to bringing about His will in Earth as it is in Heaven.

ELECTION OF THE SPIRIT

There can be no doubt, we always have a choice. Do we continue to feed the appetites of our flesh, which are never satisfied, or do we instead learn to feed the appetites of our spirit, which are easy to satisfy? Insofar as, do we choose to remain as the worldly who are a prisoner to their flesh, or do we aim to become as the spiritual who are loosened from the chains of their flesh?

Although some of us may not believe, the truth is that this empowerment of self, which is the means to freedom from our unyielding carnal desires, is always available for us to achieve. Truly, where we are willing to seek this truth, we will find this truth. As we see others who have obtained this greater state of self-expression, we even more so see in the most plain of manners how, through clear scientific evidence, our paradigms, habits, and desires are all – to some extent – malleable. This is true whether it be by our will or by the will of another.

Consequently it is not a matter of what change we cannot make. It is only one of what change we will make. This maturation of self is only a matter of will, practice, and perseverance, such as with the development of all skills. Naturally, where we can learn something through repetition and practice, we can also unlearn something through repetition and practice. As a result the slate of our mind is always being rewritten day in and day out.

It is only in bondage to our flesh that we may be controlled to act in accordance with the suffering of our flesh, so we should thoroughly recognize the spiritually deprived state of the modern man. Inasmuch as, who among us would not prefer the more agreeable state of freedom from want? As the desires of the spirit are few and easy to satisfy and the desires of the flesh are many and can never be satisfied, we must choose to live exceedingly against ourselves where we foolishly have many desires.

As such, only through a worldly focus can we be kept so blind to not recognize our inherent freedom. As we collectively fail to see, the great majority of us will willfully submit to a lesser existence. However if we all were fully aware that we could obtain freedom from the insanity of selfishness, would we choose to live any differently? Surely if we are rational we would not willingly act in a way of life that causes so much suffering to ourselves, to others, and to the many environments in which we depend upon for survival.

We must then ask ourselves for what reason does the state of humanity abide – as an organism which can always change – in a perpetual state of self-defeat? Even in a world

where we have enough to satisfy every basic need, we opt instead to fight against one another in egregious conquest. We even do this making our necessities harder to acquire all for things we merely want. What's driving us then? It can't be the will to survive, because we're committing suicide in the process.

If by all accounts it's beyond a blemish by the hand of nature, perhaps it is even more, a force of nature instead. The more and more we maintain our recklessness in choice, the more and more we can conclude it must be a force rather than an accident. If then it is an undisclosed force, which creates confusion and isolation among us, then we may rightly call this force spiritual darkness. If so these things are true, we may say this world is wrought in this darkness, for the confusion and isolation in our world is dreadful, and it becomes more dreadful by the day.

How then can we not see the burdens of vanity? A body is made up of cells which work together for the integrity of the whole and one another. However the things which make up a body that cause it and its cells to die is not a member of the body. In this regard we have to be very careful in how we balance out our lives and the impact we make with our choices. The more selfish we are the more we burden both ourselves and others; the more entrenched we are with the tangible, the more we burden both ourselves and others as well. Furthermore the more others are burdened the more they may even more burden us in return.

By this, we may fully appreciate the value of a spiritual focus. Not only do we further open ourselves to the opportunity to receive greater peace and lasting happiness in our lives, but we also increase our social cohesion and environmental stability when we all share this focus. Accordingly we see the great difference between choosing self-centered desires over this deeper connection to life. In doing so we even more see how making a choice is the greatest thing we possess, and how it is often times the thing we are most willing to give away.

Ultimately, where we don't, as a whole, change and develop ourselves to become more than what the world would have us be, we elect the chaos of the tangible and finite to rule our lives. We say then, even though we know how little we actually know, what we think we know is what we consider to be all that matters. At the very least, we fail to secure our own fate. As is, in the process of choosing a more limited notion of self, we pay the opportunity cost of having the ability to choose something more, which is even more in our best interest.

SECTION IV

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4: 1-5

This final section will briefly propose the basis of Ministry the supporting material in this book is intended to provide. In effect, we will see the rational argument for faith and genuine Christian worship that is fully rooted in the humble dedication to the Father.

PRISONER'S DILEMMA AND ECUMENICAL SOLUTION

To start this chapter, I am going to start by first describing the rational dilemma which provides the rational basis to my proposed ministry. I will then provide the rational motivation, in what I have prepared, for why we should take a literal and objective view of Christianity. I will hopefully demonstrate a perspective on Christianity which is not only fully consistent with the Gospel's teachings, but is also essential for every Christian to follow in their Christian worship.

First, let us explore the prisoner's dilemma. This dilemma is one that assumes two prisoners are made to compete with one another. They are given two options where three different outcomes can ensue. Their two options are to either cooperate or defect from one another. In the case they both cooperate with one another, their sentence will be one year. In the case only one of them chooses to cooperate, the one who defects will receive no sentence, and the one who chose to cooperate will receive a three-year sentence. In the event they both defect, they will both receive a two-year sentence.

Naturally, it would be in both of their interests to cooperate. They would still have to serve a sentence, but they would be sure it won't be either two or three. However, people have an innate bias to assume one, that they will be able to get the highest reward in serving no sentence and that the other will seek to do the same. They, in a rational sense, are driven to a lesser outcome than the optimal one, because they desire the maximal outcome, and they assume others do as well. However, underlying this rational motivation to settle for a less than optimal outcome, is a particular form of bias called systemic bias, and it is one that undermines cooperative behavior at the rational level of thought and action.

"In reality, humans display a systemic bias towards cooperative behavior in this and similar games despite what is predicted by simple models of "rational" self-interested action. This bias towards cooperation has been known since the test was first conducted at RAND; the secretaries involved trusted each other and worked together for the best common outcome"

(Wikipedia, "Prisoner's Dilemma").

As this implies, we have our greatest opportunity in the highest level of cooperation. While we may think our ability to act is independent of our actions upon another, the reality is that in doing so, we fail to best serve our own best interest. In the event of the

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prisoner's dilemma, if we assume the other will defect, they will naturally assume the same about us. This will inevitably lead to greater punishment. However, through objective reasoning common to all, we can begin working on a solution to this problem.

In particular, my solution is in an ecumenism that best leads to us overcoming this bias. Inasmuch as I see, our greatest solution to the most optimal form of civilization, can only be achieved through the individual rational adoption of deep-seeded faith in God, and that God is Jesus Christ. While this may seem like it is an absurd conclusion, further examination yields greater reason.

First and foremost, it promotes accountability to the objective nature of reality to the highest level. Truly, I cannot imagine how a moral person cares about if God is literal or not, as he should only care about ensuring accountability. In this, the idea of God personally provides this accountability equally to ourselves and others as well.

The idea of God as Jesus Christ further provides the basis of the Righteousness of God. Righteousness being an objective quality, establishes a common understanding and further pursuit of righteousness in our own deeds. In that, we seek the objective righteousness of God, such that we don't become corrupted from objective reasoning by the immorality of self-deceit by selfish desire. As well, this foundation of faith, further supplements that we can trust in not only God, but in the idea of righteousness as fundamental to everything in existence, which can never be violated.

The idea of God as Jesus Christ as well provides the basis of God's love. The act of Christ's journey through life, and the ultimate sacrifice He made, is a sufficient source of inspiration that no man could realistically reproduce without great deception. The reality is, the idea of Christ is greater than the idea any man can reproduce for himself. Furthermore, that any man who attempts to supplant him, history and sociology provide us he will become biased to the admiration of those who follow him, and he will not be able to adequately demonstrate objective reasoning as a result.

The last reason is simply marketability. The cross is a symbol that many people identify with, because of the self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ. To attempt to build societal cooperation, many need to be integrated into the cause. Integrating millions into the cause is essential to fully demonstrating how powerful cooperative behavior, through objective reasoning and loving motivation, can truly be. What's more, in the literal teachings of Christ, is the wisdom that underlies what is perhaps the highest form a just society can achieve as well. Inasmuch as, there are many expressions a truly cooperative civilization can achieve, but the further rooted in Righteousness and Love, the more it will be tyrannical.

For these reasons, I wholly encourage us to cooperate in this manner. In effect, we cooperate in the belief that the Bible is essentially the inerrant Word of God. As such, the

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Bible only needs the correct context, as determined by rational insight, to be accepted as truth. As well, I would encourage us to accept that the Holy Spirit is literal and therefore only guides us towards unity, never division.

In all these beliefs, our cooperation, as truly faithful Christians, can best allow us to build against the division in the world which undermines our optimum benefit in life, testify in the greatest testimony that Christ Was and Is, best secure our greatest future, and give the world its greatest ability to manifest the highest level of social prosperity possible. Now, even though I say it is rational to cooperate in this manner regardless of factual validity, I do because of personal account, in a very literal sense, also hold them to be true. Of which, I am highly motivated in this cause and solution. In regards, we only speak of what we know.

Furthermore, as we have concluded from the prisoner's dilemma, we see, without the cooperation in the Holy Spirit to regard each other as ourselves, that the inevitable outcome for our world society will be a totalitarian One World Government dictated by the inferior bias of men. This is the natural fate of the world, and it cannot be challenged in any more effective means than in unity with Christ and His teachings. In fact, unity in Christ is our only solution, as all other solutions will be tainted by some innate bias. As such, we cannot invent anything that can solve this crisis, and we must cooperate in a universal and unbiased source material, such as the information we have been handed down in the Gospel.

So then, failure to truly collude in Christ, yields against ourselves and testifies that man has the right to govern our lives above anything else. For any Christian, this is denying Christ in the most fundamental way, and it is serving the self and the world instead. Therefore, I am compelled by reason just as much as I am compelled by faith to work towards the process of true Christian unity. I understand this will not be a readily accepted mission, especially in the deepest circles of Christianity, but my devotion is to Christ and the righteousness of God above all. It is not to people, except that it be in Him if so.

The structure of this ministry will be rooted in a more secular approach to the worship of God. Though it could be helpful to eventually establish a tax-exempt status, I do not envision using this information to form a church for a place of worship. As is, I fully believe that the highest worship is personal and strictly between God and one's personal inner devotion of which is best done in private. Consequently, overcoming all sense of piety and glory among men will be essential for each member of the church body.

Therefore, we will find the greatest acts of worship to be found in how we silently worship God in our hearts, and how we demonstrate obedience to His will. We will therefore put first and foremost the teachings of Christ. We will refrain from putting

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others down and judging them. We will seek to build one another in the love Christ has demonstrated to us. We will never be perfect in the flesh, so we need to be forgiving of one another always. We are all called against sin, but the greater sin is in causing division in the body by judging one another as if we are fully free of sin ourselves.

Exactly how this ministry will grow over time will depend heavily on what those I collaborate with feel is important. I will not envision all the details, but I trust my cooperation with others will lead to greater ideas on how to mature this seed. Over time, the primary objective will be bridging the gap between each Christian, to move them to unity, and to testify to the world, in the most sincere and genuine fashion, there is much more truth to Christianity than the worldly or skeptical have supposed. For now, my objective will be gathering support, financial and social, and seeking to find and integrate as many of us who share in the crusade of faith and service. I will start then by promoting my supporting material to gain awareness.

Though of course I take a leadership role in supporting this outcome, the truth is I am not here to lead, but merely motivate. However, I am fully dedicated to the cause, and I am fully dedicated to serving the cause with the fullness of myself. To best ensure this, we will need a dedicated system of checks and balances that divides His authority among us, those of us who are not subjects to man but God alone. This way, we may all feel equally important in the pursuit of the highest attainable prosperity, which He calls us to work towards. Furthermore, in true cooperation, we may best safeguard our works and best ensure our work will always continue to mature.

I encourage you to visit my website, listed at the bottom of the back of this book, and get in contact with me if you wish. I will definitely admit that my studies are not truly rigorous enough to be fully applied without third-party review. This intuitive approach was truly an act to avoid being swayed by what might be another's bias. While I am trying to identify the true and objective gospel, my work should be considered more of an arrow pointing to the fullness of the quest, not as inherently infallible in any sense. Surely, I may not be everything the world needs, but I hope to be enough to help ensure it gets everything it needs. Please be considerate as my consideration is for what is right and good.

END OF BOOK

EPILOGUE

Dear Reader,

In the first section, a theory on Christianity, and reality in general, was inferred. A theory which postulated a means to a genuine individual experience of God through the faithful following of the teachings of Christ, the Apostles, and even the prophets. In the second section, a hypothesis was inferred, one that allowed the interpretation of the final prophecy of scripture. In the third and final section, supplemental information was provided to give the reader an additional frame of reference, so that to better understand, the theory being maintained throughout the informal dissertation provided in this book.

While these things do have an academic basis, they are intended to be factual at the deepest level, containing useful information that anyone can apply to their lives. In full belief and confirmation, I am inspired to promote this work to the world as evidence of the discoveries I have made along the way. I furthermore encourage anyone to consider practicing the ideology presented throughout this work, such as to receive a similar understanding and perspective on life. I also encourage anyone to help support this work and support the ministry in which it establishes. In doing so, as is predicted, the world will be provided the greatest opportunity to understand all hidden truths which underlie our everyday reality.

Regardless of how you proceed, I greatly appreciate your time in reading through my work as well as your audience, and I genuinely look forward to your continued presence moving forward.

Matthew,

APPENDIX

The itinerary for the End of Days, in accordance with a literal view of biblical prophecy

God's end-time witnesses start witnessing

- Phase one of tribulations begins
- Their ministry will be highly remarkable and noticeable
- Witnesses preach the gospel and prepare the faithful for phase two of tribulations
- Witnesses call forth for repentance (against worldliness in general) and are hated by all those who cannot/will not
- They perform great signs
- No telling when this will happen but it will be apparent when it does

+1,256.5 days

- God's witnesses are killed by the emergence of the beast

+3.5 days, the first 42 period of Tribulation ends

- Witnesses resurrect into heaven
- Seventh trumpet sounds

1,335-day period begins

- Michael and His army defeat Satan and his angles casting them down to earth
- Satan attempts to hunt down and kill a woman pregnant with Earth's new king (Rev 12)
- Satan turns his attention to make war with God's people on Earth

+45 days and the beginning of the 1,290-day period

- The beast steps foot in the "Holy Temple" in Jerusalem
- Satan gives his authority over to the 'beast' (probably because it serves him)

+30 days, the second 42-month period of Tribulation begins

- The beast has permission to kill Christians and those faithful to God
- Full rise of the antichrist the false prophet
- "One World Order" underneath evil dominion
- Private property exchanges and monetary exchanges will be regulated electronically
- The mark of the beast (RFID variant) will be instituted

+1,260 days, end of 1,335-day period and Tribulation

- Rapture of the remaining children of God (rev 14:17)

7 bowls of wrath are poured

- The remaining servants of the beast are tortured by God's wrath (Rev 16)

The fall of the great city

Presumably the Catholic church (Rev 17:18, Rev 18)

Satan deceives man to battle against God at Megiddo

The remnants of men go to make war with God (Rev 16:12-16)

Christ returns and defeats Satan

The second coming (Rev 19:11-16)

The end of evil on earth (Rev 20:1-3)

The First Resurrection

Those righteous killed by the "beast" during tribulation are resurrected to live with Christ (Rev 20:4-6)

1,000 years of peace under God's rule

Those first resurrected live on a peaceful earth for 1,000 years with Christ (Rev 20:4-6)

+1,000 years, the day of Judgment

God creates a new heaven and new earth (Rev 21:1)

God judges all others who have lived (Rev 20:11-15)

The remaining righteous will be resurrected to life (Rev 20:11-15)

The damned will be thrown into hades (Rev 20:11-15)

Death and hell a.k.a. hades will be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev 20:11-15)

Bible's prophecy is entirely fulfilled