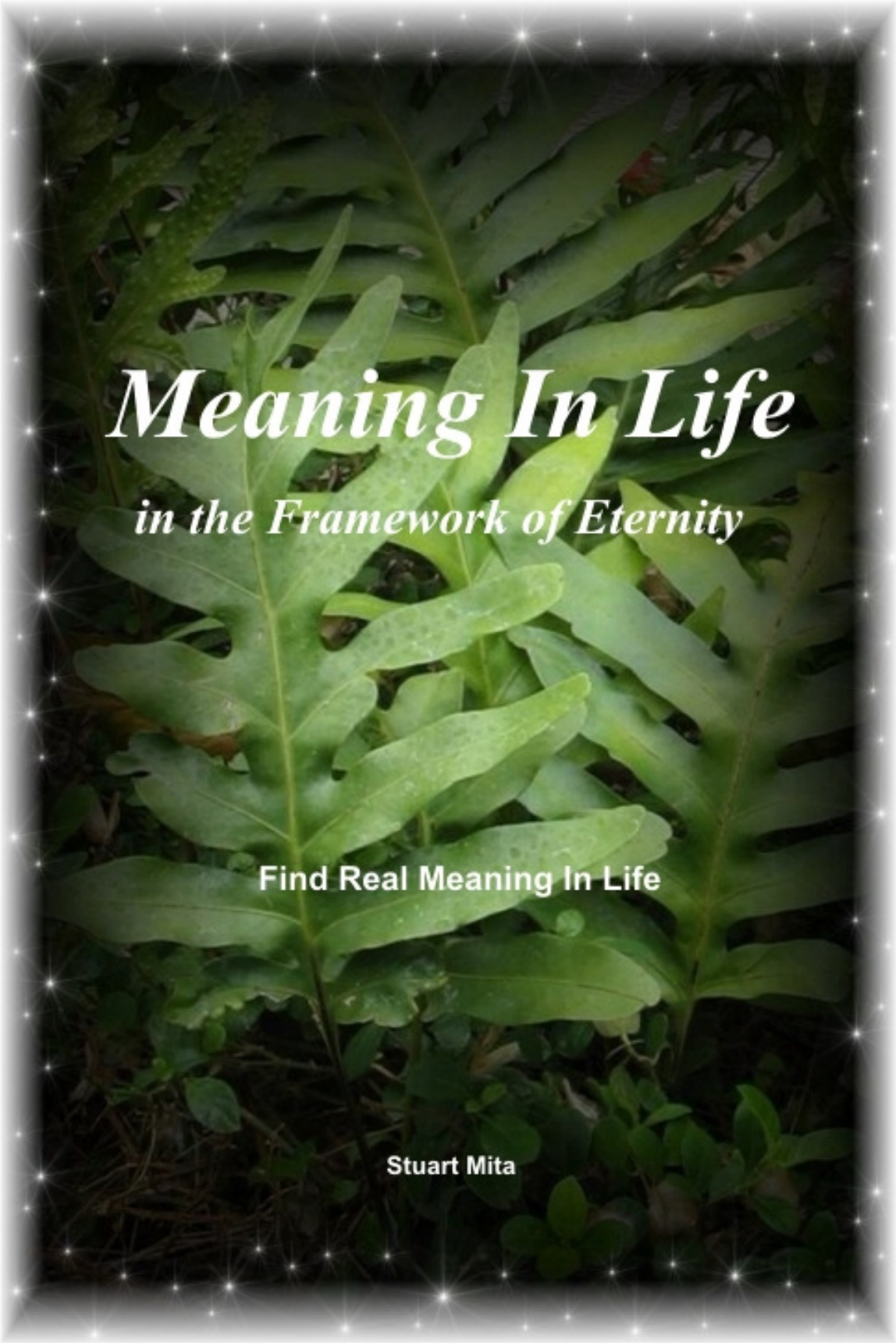




Meaning In Life

in the Framework of Eternity

Find Real Meaning In Life

Stuart Mita

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Meaning In Life in the Framework of Eternity (PDF format)

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Chapter 1

A Question, Truth and the Holy Bible

How Can I Have Real Meaning in My Life?

Many people have asked, ***What is the Meaning of Life?*** This is a very important general question about life. A more **practical, personal** question would be ***How can I have Real Meaning in My Life?***

This document explores **How to Have Real Meaning in Life** as it relates to **highlights from eternity past to eternity future**. Besides reading this document straight through from the beginning to the end, you may take one of the less detailed paths mentioned below.

If you only have time right now to read 3 pages of this book, please read the **summary** concerning the **most important decision that you will ever make**. Please go to the **last section of chapter 6** with the heading, “**Summary of How to Have Real Meaning in Life.**”

If you have time right now to only read **one chapter**, I would recommend reading the **most important chapter** of this document, **chapter 6, “How to Have Real Meaning in Life,”** which is on page 41.

I am not attempting to answer the question *What is the meaning of life?* I’m not sure what the answer is. I believe the Holy Bible is God’s manual on life (more will be said about this later). Since the exact question is not in the Holy Bible and since I am not aware of any verse or group of verses in the Holy Bible that directly answers the question, I’m not sure what the ultimate answer is.

The Holy Bible—as I understand it—does have much to say to answer the question *How can I have Real Meaning in My Life?*

Let’s begin by looking at what truth is.

Source of Truth

Truth is unshakeable. Truth will be truth no matter what anyone thinks, believes, says or does. I believe the Holy Bible was written by men who were inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16) (all Holy Bible references in this document are viewed from the standpoint of the text of the Authorized Version (AV) (also refer to as the *King James Version (KJV)*). I believe the Holy Bible teaches truth. This is why I have based this document on the Holy Bible (hereafter the *Bible*)—as I currently understand it.

[For more information about other versions and interpretations of the Bible, refer to appendix A, "More Information About the Bible and Which One to Use."]

As I study and apply what the Bible teaches, I understand it better and better. We need to be like some of the people of Berea, who the Bible writes about in Acts 17:10,11. They were praised for their search for truth. They listened to what was spoken by Paul (an apostle), who wrote many of the books in the New Testament (the second of two main parts of the Bible), and *searched the scriptures daily, **whether those things were so*** [emphasis is mine]. The events of Acts 17 occurred around 50 AD on Paul's first visit to Berea (refer to the *Illustrated Dictionary and Concordance of the Bible*, 1986; p. 765).

(For more information on references, refer to the Bibliography section.)

(When the events of Acts 17 occurred, the term *scriptures* probably referred to some or all of the books of the Old Testament and to some other writings. This is due to the fact that the Old Testament was not canonized (*permanently* compiled) until around 90 AD. (Refer to the *Illustrated Dictionary and Concordance of the Bible*, 1986; p. 211.) The Bereans may or may not have had access to all the books of the Old Testament.)

[Berea (or Beroea) is modern Veroia (Greece) (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Micropaedia (2007) 12:326).]

We should ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) so that when we study the Bible we can properly interpret it (2 Timothy 2:15).

We can listen and read about what other people say the Bible teaches, but we need to go back to the Bible **to see if what people say is true is in fact true** and **only believe what we see the Bible teaches**. You should study the Bible. Only believe what I have written **if** it agrees with the Bible.

I believe that God has given the Bible to the human race so that we can have a good understanding of who He is and how we can please Him.

Many times when I apply the teachings of the Bible, especially the more straightforward ones, it works! I also see other people follow what it says and get the results the Bible said would occur.

The Bible also foretells the future. Some events that have recently taken place or will take place shortly are mentioned in chapter 8, "From Jesus' Life on Earth to Eternity Future."

For more information about the Bible, please refer to appendix A, "More Information About the Bible and Which One to Use."

Free viewing of the online version of this document can be found on the World Wide Web (Web) at www.StuartMita.com/life.htm .

A free downloadable file is also available on the website.

Some Opening Comments About This Document

To make this document understood by as many people as possible, I have attempted to use simple words and ideas to present this most important topic.

Normally, only the most direct and simplest Bible reference is given concerning a statement. It is not necessary to look at the references.

Some parts of this document may have ideas that must be considered and can't be read quickly.

As mentioned earlier, all references in this document are viewed from the standpoint of the text of the Authorized Version (AV) (also refer to as the *King James Version (KJV)*).

In this document (including quotations from the Bible), I have capitalized the first letter of certain pronouns such as those referring to God.

The Next Chapter

There are some foundational truths of the Bible that must be discussed so that we can better understand how to Have Real Meaning In Life. In the next chapter, we will look at some things concerning who God is.

– End of Chapter 1 –

Chapter 2

Who God Is

Who God Is

Let us now see who God is. Below are some of the main things about God that many people who study the Holy Bible believe.

- God is—and will always be—greater than anyone or anything in the universe (Revelation 11:17).
- God is eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27; Genesis 1:1; Revelation 11:17). He existed before eternity, He exists now and He will always exist.
- God created the universe, the Earth, vegetation, animals, human beings and so on (Genesis 1 and 2).
- God is holy (Leviticus 11:45). When we disobey God's commands, we are doing evil (committing iniquities or committing sin) in God's sight. That sin causes separation between God and us (Isaiah 59:2).
- God's judgments are righteous—God is fair (Revelation 16:7).
- God is love (1 John 4:8).
- **God Loves Everyone in the World** (John 3:16), but He doesn't like it when we disobey His commands, as mentioned earlier.

To summarize the above statements, **God** is the **supreme power in the universe** and **everyone and everything** is **inferior to God**. Basically, God determines the consequences of every action in the universe—**He determines what truth in the universe is. God Loves Everyone in the World**, but He doesn't like it when we disobey His commands.

God is Fair

Some people who read the above statements about God's righteous judgments and His love immediately have a question in their minds. The question may go something like this: If God is love, why is there so much suffering in the world?

I believe that God will righteously judge everyone. Even though people don't have any access to the Bible, Romans 1:17-21 says that they are without excuse, because God's eternal power and divinity can be seen by the things in the universe that He has created. Because of this, people, who don't have access to the Bible, can't say they have no understanding of God.

I believe as we start to understand what the Bible teaches, we will find that God is more than fair. Basically, He promises a lot of things, but many of the promises have conditions. He also requires us to trust His righteous judgments, even though what we see doesn't seem to be fair. Many times He allows things to happen, so that the end result may be a lot of positive things. He has higher purposes that we can't see. Some of the things that are discussed in this document (especially at the end of chapter 6, "How to Have Meaning in Life") should bring some understanding to this issue.

How God is One and Three

On the important issue of who God is, there are different viewpoints—even among people who base their beliefs on the Bible.

God always existed and is omnipotent (all-powerful) (Revelation 19:6).

Many people believe that, according to the Bible, there is one true God. As Deuteronomy 6:4 [bold emphasis is mine] says:

...The LORD our God *is* **one** LORD:

The Bible also teaches that God is one but at the same time is **three divine Persons**. The three divine Persons are God the Father, the Son of God (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost). Refer to Matthew 28:19 below.

...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

It is not easy to understand that God is one and at the same time three. The reason for the difficulty may be that God is so much greater than our minds can understand. An explanation of God being one and at the same time three is found on the Assemblies of God webpage

(http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/Statement_of_Fundamental_Truths/sft_full.cfm#2 (accessed August 4, 2009)).

People who believe that God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are three and yet one often refer to God as the *Trinity*. The term *Trinity* is not found in the Bible, but many Christians believe it is a good term when referring to God.

Some Things about the Three Divine Persons

God the Father is love (1 John 4:8) and all-powerful (as mentioned earlier).

The Son of God (Jesus) is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11), Saviour (2 Timothy 1:10) and the Lamb (that takes away our sins) (John 1:29). Jesus has all power (authority) (Matthew 28:18). Jesus has authority over death (Revelation 1:18)

The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and Comforter (which has a meaning of one who can bring aid) (W. Vine's dictionary) (John 14:26).

The Most Important Things About God

The explanation on the webpage mentioned above may not be the true explanation of God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit being three and yet one. The true explanation may be something else.

The main thing to understand in this chapter is that **God** is the **supreme power in the universe** and **everyone and everything** is **inferior to God**.

The next section will discuss God and Creation and a possible Re-Creation.

– End of Chapter 2 –

Chapter 3

God and Creation

How Did Things Come into Existence

There are various viewpoints concerning the origins of the universe, living organisms and human beings. Typically, each viewpoint has different versions of that viewpoint.

Because we can't see how the universe and Earth actually came into existence and how they have changed from that time to this, there are different viewpoints about what happened.

Viewpoints Concerning the Origins of the Universe

Two popular viewpoints of how the universe came into being are 1) through what is many times referred to as the *Big Bang Theory*; and 2) by God.

(Some scientists don't believe in the Big Bang Theory, which consist of only one universe. They believe that there are more than one universe. They are looking at theories like the string theory and the superstring theory.)

An explanation of the Big Bang Theory follows. The universe came into existence—without an act of God—through a cosmic explosion approximately 13 to 14 billion years ago (World Book (2007) 20:206). After many random events and natural processes stars and galaxies were formed. Around 4.6 billion years ago, after more random events and natural processes, the sun (Encyclopaedia Britannica (2007) 16:767) and Earth (Encyclopaedia Britannica (2007) 17:569) were formed.

There are two popular viewpoints that say that God created the universe. According to some interpretations of the Book of Genesis and other scriptures in the Holy Bible, **God** created the universe about 6,000 to 15,000 years ago. This viewpoint is often referred to as *Young Earth Creationism*.

Another popular viewpoint says that billions of years ago the Big Bang occurred or something similar to it and **God** was the One Who caused it according to some interpretations of the Book of Genesis and other scriptures in the Holy Bible. This viewpoint is many times referred to as *Old Earth Creationism* or *Day-Age Creationism*.

The Holy Bible and Creation

The Young Earth Creationism and the Old Earth Creationism are based on the Bible. One of the main places that the Bible mentions the creation of the universe and the Earth is in chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis.

Generally speaking, I think scientists and those who believe what the Bible says have opposing viewpoints on the origins of the universe and the origins of life. But I'm quite sure there are many scientists that believe certain interpretations of chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis. And I'm quite sure there are many people who believe what the Bible says also believe a lot of what science says on these topics.

How Long was Each Day

In chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis the word *day* is used. I think there are three main views on how long each day was.

Many people think that each day was 24 hours long, especially since there was an evening and a morning in Days 1 to 6.

Other people think that each day was 1,000 years because of what 2 Peter 3:8 states (see below) [italicized word was provided for a better understanding of the verse when the Bible was translated into English].

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Notice that the verse **doesn't say** that *one day with the Lord **is** a thousand years* [bold emphasis is mine], but it says *one day is with the Lord **as** a thousand years* [bold emphasis is mine]. In other words, the verse may be conveying the idea that the word *day* in Genesis is **a long period of time**—not necessarily one thousand years. This is why some people think that **each day** (or **era**) was **some period of time** like **billions of years**.

Also, Genesis 2:4 states *These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in **the day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens* [emphasis is mine]. *In the day* is described as *generations*, not a 24-hour day. (Fischer, Dick. "Young-Earth Creationism: A Literal Mistake." *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, Volume 55, Number 4 (2003): 224) (www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/2003/PSCF12-03Fischer.pdf (accessed May 29, 2009))

I think many scientists have less disagreement with the Creation (or Re-Creation (explained later)) account in Genesis 1 and 2, if Creation (or Re-Creation) viewpoints say that the word *day* (in most instances in Genesis 1 and 2) means millions or billions of years.

Young Earth Creationists say the word *day* (in most instances in Genesis 1 and 2) means a 24-hour day or a thousand years.

Young Earth Creationism

Young Earth Creationism is a popular view of those who believe what the Bible says. Young Earth Creationists believe that Genesis 1 and 2 should be taken literally and chronologically. To see some timelines concerning Creation, refer to the end of this book to diagram 1A, “Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future – Young Earth Creationism;” diagram 1B, “Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future – Old Earth Creationism” and diagram 2, “Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future – Human Beings Created.”

Young Earth Creationists believe that events occurred in the order below.

- On **Day 1** (Genesis 1:1-5), God created the heavens and the Earth.

God made light.

I think there are different views as to what this light was. If one looks at these verses literally and chronologically, this part of Creation can bring up questions. For example, *Was this light the Earth's sun?* It was probably not the Earth's sun because the Earth's sun seemed to have been created on Day 4 of Creation (Genesis 1:14-16).

The light may have come from the creation of matter. (Refer to a webpage of Dr. Walt Brown's book, *In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*: www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/FAQ115.html (accessed on May 25, 2009).) (There is free viewing of his online book at www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/ (click the Next Page button on each webpage as desired) (accessed on May 25, 2009).)

Dr. Walt Brown also has an interesting theory about how God made the heavens and Earth and then He *stretched* the heavens that made the heavens seemed like billions years had passed. (Refer to the starting webpage on the issue, www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/FAQ18.html (accessed May 25, 2009).)

The Earth was completely covered with water.

God also *divided the light from the darkness*. This may be the day-night cycle (refer to previously mentioned webpage of Dr. Walt Brown's book). (Genesis 1:3-5)

- On **Day 2** (Genesis 1:6-8), God created the firmament. According to J. Strong's concordance-dictionary, *firmament* is probably an *expanse*. So the firmament could be the Earth's atmosphere.

Dr. Walt Brown thinks that the firmament was the Earth's crust
(www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/FAQ37.html (accessed on November 12, 2008)).

- On **Day 3** (Genesis 1:9-13), God moved a lot of the water into seas.

The water that formed the seas may have come from a thick canopy of water vapor surrounding the Earth.

Somehow, dry land appeared—maybe the Earth's crust broke into many pieces and moved around. He also created vegetation.

A very interesting theory about the waters is found in Dr. Walt Brown's book, where Dr. Walt Brown discusses the Hydroplate Theory
(www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/FAQ312.html (accessed November 11, 2008)).

- On **Day 4** (Genesis 1:14-19), God made the Earth's sun, the moon and the stars.
- On **Day 5** (Genesis 1:20-23), God made whales, creeping things, birds and sea creatures.
- On **Day 6** (Genesis 1:24-31), God made more creeping things, cattle and other creatures. **God also created Adam and Eve** (Genesis 2:7,18-23).

Around this time, He also made the Garden of Eden, The Tree of Life and The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Genesis 2:7-9)

- On **Day 7** (Genesis 2:1-3), God rested.

Old Earth Creationism

Old Earth Creationists say the word *day* (in most instances in Genesis 1 and 2) can mean millions or billions of years. This viewpoint is many times referred to as *Old Earth Creationism*.

Origins of Living Organisms

Some of the popular viewpoints on the origins of living organisms are the Theory of Evolution, Intelligent Design, Young Earth Creationism and Old Earth Creationism.

Theory of Evolution

Let's start by looking at the Theory of Evolution. Evolution can't be called a fact of science because no one has actually seen Evolution occur (refer to the article, "The Scientific Case Against Evolution: A Summary Part 1," by Henry M. Morris. El Cajon, CA: Institute for Creation Research. *Impact* magazine No. 330. Copyright 2000. Webpage: www.icr.org/article/scientific-case-against-evolution-summary-part-1/ (accessed August 11, 2009)).

An explanation of the Theory of Evolution follows. Maybe millions or billions of years after the Earth was formed, more random events (including possible mixtures of gases affected by lightning discharges or ultraviolet light) occurred that eventually caused microorganisms to come into existence (Encyclopaedia Britannica (2007) 22:972).

As more time passed, microorganisms evolved into more advanced organisms (such as vegetation, sea creatures, insects and animals). They evolved through adaptation, mutation and so on. Eventually, the human race evolved.

There is a viewpoint that is sometimes called *Theistic Evolution*. It says that God started life on Earth and through evolutionary principles, eventually, man was formed (refer to Matthew J. Slick's article, "Theistic Evolution." Escondido, CA: Christian Apologetics Research Ministry, 2003. Webpage: www.carm.org/evolution/evtheistic.htm) (accessed September 25, 2008).

One problem with Theistic Evolution is that it conflicts with what Genesis 2:21-22 says. These verses say that the first woman Eve was miraculously created from Adam's rib—not through evolutionary principles.

Some people disagree with the Theory of Evolution because of the issue concerning species of organisms evolving into more advance life forms. My understanding is that Ernst Mayr, who some consider the father of modern evolutionary biology, states that there is no hard evidence of transition from one species to a new species and other types of transitions. (Refer to "Macroevolution," *CreationWiki, The encyclopedia of creation science*, <http://creationwiki.org/Macroevolution> (accessed May 23, 2009).)

(Also refer to the article, "The Natural Limits to Biological Change, Neo-Darwinism Under Attack," by Raymond G. Bohlin. Published by Probe Ministries International, 1994. Webpage:

www.probe.org/site/c.fdKEIMNsEoG/b.4218197/k.FB1/The_Natural_Limits_to_Biological_Change.htm (accessed May 22, 2009) or search their website using keywords *natural limits*.)

These are some of the reasons why the Theory of Evolution seems to be wrong.

Intelligent Design

The Intelligent Design viewpoint doesn't look at how the universe and living organism originated. This viewpoint says that the universe, living organisms and human beings didn't happen by laws of nature. These things came into existence by pre-existing intelligence.

For example, Intelligent Design theorists don't believe that bacterial flagellum (a group of parts that causes a bacterium to move) is the result of Evolution. The bacterial flagellum requires at least three parts to even function—to remove just one part will cause the bacterium not to be able to move (refer to Michael J. Behe's article, "The Bacterial Flagellum." 1998. Webpage: www.arn.org/docs/mm/flagellum_all.htm (accessed September 25, 2008)).

Origins of Living Organisms - Young Earth and Old Earth

Young Earth and Old Earth creationists say that God created all species of living organisms, but differ on when they were created.

There are many views and many issues concerning the origins of the universe and the human race. One place to get information on this subject is on the Web. You can go to the major search engines and search the Web using the word *creationism* or the word *evolution*.

If you don't want to read about other views about Creation at this time, you may skip to the heading, "Summary of Various Views on Creation."

A Popular View of Genesis 1:1, 2

I would like to share two of the many views of Genesis 1:1-2 that people have as they attempt to interpret the Bible. The verses are presented below.

Verse 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the Earth.

Verse 2 And the Earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

A popular view says that God created the Earth in Day 1. In this view, God **initially** created **the Earth without form and void**.

A Less Popular View of Genesis 1:1, 2

A view, which I think is less popular, says that God never **initially** creates anything without form and void. In this view, when God **first** created the Earth **it was beautiful**. The people who have this view think a lot of things happened between verses 1 and 2. They believe that the Earth **became** *without form* and *void*. This view is sometimes referred to as the *Gap Theory* or the *Ruin-Reconstruction Theory*.

It is important to note that Genesis 1:2-19 **could be** a description of what was happening to the Earth from the viewpoint of someone near the Earth's surface.

For example, the light mentioned in Genesis 1:3 could be describing sunlight getting through the atmosphere, but the atmosphere was not clear enough to see the shape of the sun. In succeeding verses (Genesis 1:14-18), the lights mentioned are probably the sun, moon and stars, which could be seen in that later period of time because the atmosphere had cleared. (Refer to Hugh Ross' article, "Summary of Reasons To Believe's Testable Creation Model." Pasadena, CA: Reason To Believe, 2000.

Webpage:

www.reasons.org/summary-reasons-believes-testable-creation-model

(accessed May 22, 2009) or search their website using keywords *summary reasons*.)

Some people believe that between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis 1 that there was some kind of global destruction. This caused the Earth (as mentioned in verse 2) to become *without form* and *void*—the Earth became completely covered with water. Some Bible verses that may indicate these events are Isaiah 14:4-17.

(Some who believe in this view have a certain interpretation of the phrase, "replenish the Earth," in Genesis 1:28. The word *replenish* may have a meaning of refilling. They say that the verse implies the Earth was filled before Genesis 1:2 and that that the Earth had to be refilled after Genesis 1:2. [I heard it said that when the Holy Bible was translated into English in the 1600's, the word *replenish* may not have necessarily meant a filling again of something. This point may be supported by a dictionary that was written somewhat near that time (1755). It was Samuel Johnson's dictionary, *A Dictionary of the English Language*.])

This view says that God initially created the Earth beautiful, then something caused a lot of destruction before Genesis 1:2. In this view, God had to re-create everything on the Earth (Genesis 1:2-31). This is sometimes referred to as *Re-Creation*.

A Possible Scenario

What follows is a possible scenario of Creation. One of the articles that has influenced me was written by Matt Perman (“Science, the Bible, and the Promised Land: An Analysis of John Sailhamer’s *Genesis Unbound*”) (webpage: www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/8449/genesis.html (accessed September 25, 2008)). The article brings out various ideas as he analyzes John Sailhamer’s book *Genesis Unbounded* (Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Books, 1996).

Genesis 1:1 may be a general statement of what God did and Genesis 1:2-31 discusses things, specifically, concerning the Earth.

God started to create the heavens about 13 to 14 billion years ago. It may have occurred in a way that is described in the Big Bang Theory. This caused stars and so on to be formed. About 4.6 billion years ago (the Earth’s sun and moon were created by this time), the Earth was formed.

(The scenario below doesn’t take the position of the period of destruction between verses 1 and 2 of Genesis 1 in the Gap Theory.)

For Days 1 to 6, the length of each day could have been 24 hours, a thousand years, thousands of years, millions of years or billions of years. Also, the length of each of the six days didn’t have to be the same. I think the length of each day was in the billions or hundreds of millions of years.

On Day 1 of Creation, God created the heavens and the Earth. The Earth was completely covered with water—there were no landmasses. There was a very thick atmosphere, which prevented sunlight from going through it. The Spirit of God began to do something to the waters of the Earth (Genesis 1:2). Next, God said *Let there be light*. The atmosphere became less thick, so if someone was near the surface of the Earth and looked up, the person could see some light, but not the sun itself.

On Day 2, God created something or things (I don’t know what it was or they were) in the Earth’s atmosphere.

On Day 3 (Genesis 1:9-13), God moved a lot of the water into seas. Somehow, dry land appeared. He also created vegetation.

I believe that God is so awesome that He just created all species of organisms (including vegetation). God may have instantly made them out of nothing or He may have instantly made them from the elements He previously created. He created new species **in whatever order** that He wanted to and **when** He wanted to. I realized some of these things could have happened after reading Hugh Ross’ article, “Summary of Reasons To Believe’s Testable Creation Model.”

On Day 4, God cleared the Earth's atmosphere so that the Earth's sun, the moon and the stars could be seen from the surface of the Earth.

On Day 5, God instantly made species of whales, creeping things, birds and sea creatures.

On Day 6, God instantly made more species of creeping things, cattle and other creatures.

I believe God instantly made the first human being, Adam, from **existing material**—soil (*dust of the ground*) (Genesis 2:7). Adam named the animals (Genesis 2:19, 20). This could have taken days, months or years. Adam didn't have a human companion. Next, God instantly made Eve from **existing material**—one of Adam's ribs (Genesis 2:22). Around this time, God also made the Garden of Eden, The Tree of Life and The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

This is what may have happened up to Day 6. Now let's look at Day 7.

Some People Believe We are Still in the Seventh Day

According to Hebrews 4, some people, including myself, believe that after Day 6, Day 7 started and we are still in it. (Refer to Ray C. Stedman's article, "The Seventh Day." Palo Alto, CA: Discovery Publishing, 1967. Website: www.pbc.org/dp/stedman/genesis/0310.html (accessed May 22, 2009).)

I read an article—I don't remember where I saw it—that stated that in Day 7 God is resting from creating **new things**. God still creates things but probably not new species of living organisms. I believe God still does miracles. (I believe if an eardrum, which was diseased, was removed by an operation, God could create a new eardrum for that person.) I believe the article also said that after Day 7, God will start creating again when He creates a new heaven and a new Earth (Revelation 21:1).

As others have noted, the phrase *the evening and the morning* was used in Days 1 to 6 in Genesis 1, but the phrase was not used when Day 7 was mentioned in Genesis 2:2-4. In other words, Day 7 hasn't been completed yet.

How About the Dinosaurs?

It could be that the dinosaurs were created in Day 5 and Day 6. Each of those days could have been 24 hours, thousands of years, millions of years or billions of years long.

Dr. Walt Brown's Hydroplate Theory has some interesting theories about when and how some fossils occurred. (Refer to the starting webpage on the issue www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/HydroplateOverview.html (accessed November 14, 2008).)

As you can see there are many views of what happened before there were human beings.

Summary of Various Views on Creation

Even though there are many views on Creation, I don't believe that we must know how the universe and the human race were created. I believe that if a person believes that God (the all-powerful One) existed before the universe was made, that person could still believe in the wrong view of how the universe and how the human race was created, but still receive God's Gift of Eternal Life, which is very important, as explained in chapter 6, "How to Find Real Meaning in Life."

In the next section, we will look at what happened to Adam and Eve.

– End of Chapter 3 –

Chapter 4

The Human Race Becomes Polluted by Sin

Lucifer and His Fall

Before we discuss issues concerning Adam and Eve, let us look at Lucifer.

God created at least three special heavenly beings that are mentioned by name in the Bible. They are Gabriel, Michael and Lucifer. Gabriel is an angel, whose main job seems to be a messenger (Luke 1:19). Michael is an archangel (Jude 9), whose main job seems to be to fight (Revelation 12:7). Lucifer was a cherub (heavenly being with wings) (Isaiah 14:12) (Ezekiel 28:14) (Exodus 25:20). [*Cherubims* is the plural form of *cherub* (refer to J. Strong's concordance-dictionary).] Lucifer may have been the highest-ranking cherub because he was "**the** anointed cherub" [emphasis is mine].

Lucifer was created before or during Day 6. Adam and Eve were created in Day 6. God probably planted the Garden of Eden in Day 6 of Creation (Genesis 2:8,9). God didn't seem to have any problems with Lucifer during (at least part of) Day 6 (Ezekiel 28:13).

Later, Lucifer decided to be equal to God (Isaiah 14:12-14). Because of this, God probably took away all of his heavenly authority. Lucifer then **fell from heaven** (Isaiah 14:12) and was brought down to hell (Isaiah 14:15). Luke 10:18 says that Satan **fell from heaven**. Many believe that Lucifer is Satan, also referred to as the *Devil* (Revelation 12:9). I think Satan is mad at God for taking away his heavenly authority. Satan now wants to destroy the lives of everyone on Earth (1 Peter 5:8), so that they will not be able to access all the benefits that God has provided that can be received now and in eternity.

Adam and Eve

On Day 6, God created Adam from the dust of the ground (Genesis 1:26,27 and 2:6) and breathed into him the breath of life.

In the Garden of Eden, there were two special trees, the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil—the fruit was pleasant to look at and was good for food (Genesis 2:9). God commanded Adam not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:16,17).

Adam didn't have a companion and God knew that it was not good for Adam to be alone (Genesis 2:18). This being the case, God put Adam into a deep sleep. God then took one of Adam's ribs and made Eve (Genesis 2:21-25).

Adam and Eve Sinned

Eve was aware of the command that God gave to Adam about the fruit of the certain tree (Genesis 3:2,3).

The Serpent, which is Satan or Lucifer (Revelation 12:9), started to talk to Eve to destroy her and Adam. Satan talked to Eve to make her question—make her doubt—what God said not to do, which was to not eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:4-5).

Satan persuaded Eve that she wouldn't die if she ate of the fruit of that particular tree. He persuaded her that God would not do what He said He would. She decided to eat of the forbidden fruit. During or after she ate the fruit, she said something to Adam and he listened to what she said (Genesis 3:17). Adam ate the fruit (Genesis 3:6), but he could have obeyed God by refusing to eat the forbidden fruit.

Both Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command—they both **sinned**. This is how sin polluted the human race. Sin caused Adam and Eve to break the awesome relationship they had with God.

Sin occurs when we do something God doesn't want us to do or when we don't do what God wants us to do. The Bible explains many of God's commands. His commands are not just the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), which include commands about only worshipping God, about not stealing and about not killing people.

God's commands are summarized in Matthew 22:38 and 39. The main thing that we are to do is to **Love God** with our whole being. The other important thing that we need to do is to love others as we love ourselves. When we don't love God and others, we sin.

Adam and Eve were now stained with the sinful nature. After considering the definitions of the word *nature* from the *Webster's College Dictionary* (Second edition) (Random House, 1997), the word *nature* can mean *a particular quality of something*. So the phrase **sinful nature** can mean **a particular quality to want to sin**. Adam and Eve's descendants—including you and me—also *inherit* this sinful nature (Romans 5:12). [If you, I or anyone else was in Adam or Eve's place, disobedience would probably still have occurred.]

Because of Eve's disobedience, it seems that women's suffering will be *greatly multiplied* during childbearing (Genesis 3:16). Because of Adam's disobedience, the ground will have weeds and the vegetation will need to be tended (Genesis 3:18-19).

The disobedience of Adam and Eve caused God to put them out of the Garden of Eden. God also put cherubims to guard the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24). This was to prevent Adam, Eve and any other human being from eating the fruit of the Tree of Life. (If anyone had eaten of the Tree of Life in their sinful condition, it may have been that it would be impossible to kill them even though they were in a sinful condition.)

(I am not aware of any verse in the Bible that explains what happened to the Garden of Eden. God may have moved it to heaven. It seems that one of the trees of the Garden of Eden, The Tree of Life, will be moved to the midst of the paradise of God or is already there (Revelation 2:7).)

Sin and Its Consequences

If Adam and Eve didn't sin, they would have lived as they were forever. But because they sinned, all their descendants—everyone in the human race—are born with the sinful nature. Even today, every person sins (Romans 3:23). Romans 2:12-16 says that people sin even if they don't have laws written on paper—they have it written on their hearts.

Adam was disobedient to God. Because we are descendants of Adam, we are “children of disobedience” and God's wrath is directed towards us (Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 5:5,6)—we are sentenced [condemned] to eternal torment in the Lake of Fire (John 3:36; Revelation 20:15).

Because God is holy and because we have disobeyed God's commands, He has every right to release His wrath on us.

The consequence of the sins, which we commit, is **death** (Romans 6:23). Below are **four major aspects related to death for those who do not believe in Jesus**. (Chapter 6, “How to Have Real Meaning in Life,” explains what believing in Jesus is about.)

- For those who do not believe in Jesus, they may be human beings who are breathing, but they don't have the life of God flowing in them. (Ephesians 4:18)
- Physical death is death of the body. When this occurs, the rest of the person (many believe to be the spirit and soul) is separated from the body.

(Some people (who believe the Bible) believe that the spirit and the soul are the same thing, but others (who believe in the Bible) believe they are not the same thing. Refer to the article, "What, Exactly, is Saved When One is Born Again?" by Lance B. Johnson. Come and See Ministries. (www.comeandsee.org/SAVING/Cpart2.html (accessed June 1, 2009)).)

- After physical death, the person (many believe to be the spirit and soul) who does not believe in Jesus will temporarily reside in Hades (one of a few places that the Bible refers to as *Hell*) (Luke 16:19-31).
- At a later time, some believe that Hades and everyone in it will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (refer to the note in the next paragraph) (another of a few places that the Bible refers to as *Hell*), where there is eternal torment (Revelation 20:14,15).

(I believe that the Greek word *Gehenna* (or *Geenna*) is referring to the Lake of Fire. This Greek word is translated in the King James Version of the Bible as *Hell* as in Matthew 23:29-33.)

As you can see, the ultimate consequence of sin of those who do not believe in Jesus is horrible.

(Please note that **when those who do believe in Jesus** physically die, they may have still committed sins, but they will still live with God in heaven. This is explained near the end of chapter 7, “Benefits and Responsibilities for Those Who Receive God’s Gift of Eternal Life.”)

In the next chapter, we will see the solution to the sin problem that God provided so that we can have the awesome relationship with Him that Adam and Eve had before they disobeyed His command.

– End of Chapter 4 –

Chapter 5

The Final Solution to the Sin Issue

Sin Issue

In the last chapter, we found that sin has separated us from God; sin causes us to walk without the life of God flowing in us; sin will eventually cause us to physically die; and sin will ultimately separate us from living with God forever.

But there is good news! God has provided the final solution to the sin issue!

God's Special People

To help us understand the solution, let us look at a people in the Middle East that the Bible says a lot of things about. The Bible refers to these people as the Israelites. They were the descendants of Abraham (his original name was *Abram* (Genesis 17:5)). God said that from Abraham would come a great nation, as mentioned in Genesis 12:2,3.

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the Earth be blessed.

Abraham's son was Isaac (Genesis 21:3). Isaac's son was Jacob, whose name was changed to *Israel* (Genesis 32:28). So the descendants of Israel are the Israelites.

God didn't only say that He would bless them, but He said that He chose them to be His special people (Deuteronomy 7:6-8).

Passover Lamb

Around the thirteenth century BC (refer to the Encyclopaedia Britannica (2007) 4:632), the Israelites were slaves to the Egyptians.

Exodus 3 to 12 describes what happen around this time. God used Moses to get the Israelites out of Egypt. God told Moses to ask the ruler of Egypt, Pharaoh, to let the Israelites sacrifice to Him (the Israelites' God) in the wilderness.

When Moses asked (actually, Aaron, his brother, did the speaking) Pharaoh if the Israelites could sacrifice in the wilderness, Pharaoh refused to let them go. After a period of time, Moses told Pharaoh that because he didn't let the Israelites go, the river would turn into blood (it may or may not have been actual blood). This would kill all the fish in the river and the decomposing fish would make the river smell awful. Pharaoh refused to let them go, so the river turned into blood.

God told Moses to again ask Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh refused again, so God sent another plague. This scenario was repeated seven more times. Each time Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, the Egyptians were hit with a different plague.

Before God performed one more plague, He told Moses that Pharaoh would allow the Israelites to permanently leave Egypt. God also gave Moses instructions for a special ceremony that the Israelites were to perform.

Each Israelite household was to perform the special ceremony on a certain night. As part of the ceremony, the household was to **sacrifice a lamb** (or a young goat) (Exodus 12:5). Some of the **blood** from the sacrifice was to be put on the doorpost of their home. During this night, everyone in the household had to stay in the house.

Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go one more time. Pharaoh still refused to let them go. God then told Moses which night the Israelites were to perform the special ceremony.

When that certain night came, the Israelites performed the special ceremony. That night God had the destroyer (probably an angel) (Exodus 12:23) go throughout Egypt. The families that didn't have the blood on the doorpost of their homes, their firstborn (the oldest son of the family) were killed. But the families that had blood on the doorpost of their homes, their firstborn weren't killed—the destroyer **passed over** their houses (Exodus 12:13). This is why the ceremony that celebrates the exodus from Egypt was called the *Passover*.

So there was death in the households of the Egyptians (including Pharaoh's household) because they didn't perform the proper ceremony with the sacrificial lamb. But there weren't any deaths in the households of the Israelites because they did perform the proper ceremony, which included putting the **blood** from the **sacrificial lamb** on the doorposts.

After this plague, Pharaoh let the Israelites leave Egypt. God led and provided for the Israelites while they were in the wilderness.

Before Jesus, Sins Were Only Partially Dealt With

In the wilderness, God wanted Moses to build a large, portable temple (it was relatively easy to assemble and disassemble). God showed him what everything should look like (Exodus 25:9) and the ceremonies (explained in Exodus 29 and in other books of the Bible) that were to be done in the temple.

Various ceremonies were done according to different situations. For example, a ceremony had to be done whenever a sin was committed—whenever God's law was broken. The Israelite that committed the sin had to have one or more animals killed in a ceremony done by the priests in the temple. The ceremony required certain types and number of animals to be killed which depended on who committed the sin (Leviticus 4 and further on). In God's mind, the animal sacrifice only dealt with the person's sin in an incomplete way. The animal sacrifice **could not wash away or take away the person's sin** (Revelation 1:5 and Hebrews 10:4).

Another ceremony—a very special one—was done once a year called the *Day of Atonement* (Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:1-10), which had many requirements. This ceremony **dealt with all the sins** committed by all the Israelites in the past twelve months but only in an **incomplete way**. The ceremony **didn't wash away or take away the sins completely**.

The ceremony took place in the temple in one of the rooms, which was sometimes called the *Most Holy*, the *Most Holy Place* or the *Holiest of All* (Hebrews 9:3). This room was the most holy room in the temple and contained an item called the *Ark of the Covenant*. The highest-ranking priest, who was called the *high priest*, could only go into this room during this once-a-year ceremony.

In this ceremony, various animals (including at least a goat and a bullock (which was probably a bull)) that **didn't have any blemishes—it had to be perfect**—had to be killed. The high priest—no other person would be acceptable to God—had to take the blood from the animals into the Holiest of All and sprinkle the blood on what is called the *mercy seat*, which was the top part of the Ark of the Covenant. If this ceremony, in which blood was a very important part, was done properly, God would **deal with all the sins of the Israelites but only in an incomplete way**.

If a single thing was performed incorrectly, God would kill the high priest at that moment. [It has been said that the high priest had a rope tied around his ankle, so that if he was killed he could be pulled out of the room. No one could go into the room to pull him out because that person would be killed since he wasn't the high priest.]

(I am not aware of any verse in the Holy Bible that states that a high priest was killed in the Holiest of All on the Day of Atonement.)

Jesus Paid the Penalty for Our Sins so that They Can Be Washed Away or Taken Away

God wanted to provide a better way to deal with people's sins. God didn't want to deal with people's sins in an incomplete way, He wanted to **completely wash away or take away** (Revelation 1:5 and John 1:29) the sins that people commit. In God the Father's mind, only **a person who never sinned** (Hebrews 4:15) could completely wash away or take away the sins of others (Romans 5:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:1-18). In God the Father's mind, blood is required to provide remission (pardon or forgiveness) of sins (Matthew 26:28) or the washing away of sins.

Because of God the Father's love towards every person (John 3:16), He had His Son (Jesus) be the ultimate sacrifice that would once and for all pay the penalty for all of our sins. God the Father offered His **sacrificial Lamb (Jesus)—a perfect sacrifice**—so that the **Blood** of His Lamb would pay the penalty of our sins, so that we can approach God the Father. The next few paragraphs briefly explain how God the Father accomplished this.

God the Father had Jesus leave heaven and had Him be born as a human being (so somehow Jesus was God and man at the same time) on the Earth around 6 BC (Encyclopaedia Britannica (2007) 6:542). He grew up and walked on the Earth but never sinned against God the Father (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus was both God and man and experienced such things as human emotions and physical pain.

Matthew 26 to 28, Mark 14 to 16, Luke 22 to 24 and John 18 to 20 explain the last few days that Jesus was on the Earth. Here are highlights of what happened.

One night when Jesus was about 33-1/2 years old, God the Father showed Him that it was the time that He (Jesus) would have to take the sins—lying, stealing, hate, murder and so on—of all the people in the world on Himself (2 Corinthians 5:21).

For hours, Jesus prayed in anguish to God the Father and asked if there was another way for people's sins to be washed away. There was no other way. So in obedience to God the Father (Philippians 2:8), Jesus took the sins of every person on Himself (Romans 5:18-21).

At this point, Jesus took all the sins of every person. Because of this, God the Father had to forsake Jesus (Matthew 27:46) and it meant Jesus would have to die because the penalty of sin is death (physical death and separation from God) (Romans 6:23).

Jesus is Crucified

A few moments after He took the sins of every person on Himself, a group of men came to arrest Him because they and others didn't like what He was doing and teaching. Jesus had been teaching things that were against many of the practices of the religious officials. That night, He was taken to various religious and government officials, who interrogated Him. After this, Pontus Pilate (a high-ranking government official) was to make the final judgment, but he could not find enough evidence to accuse Him of anything. The people at the proceedings, bullied Pilate to have Jesus crucified. (Crucifixion involved hanging a person (in Jesus' case, using nails through His hands (John 20:25-29) and maybe His feet) to a wooden cross.) Pilate yielded to the will of the mob and had Jesus whipped. Next, he sentenced Jesus to be crucified. They nailed Him to a cross. After he died, he was put in a tomb.

Sins can be Washed Away

I believe that Jesus paid the penalty for all of our sins once He died. (Those who understand some of the Bible know that the veil in the Temple was ripped apart (Mark 15:38). From what I understand, the veil was very thick—not easily ripped apart. I heard that reason it was ripped from the top to the bottom was because God the Father did it. The ripping of the veil illustrates that God the Father has opened the way for those who believe in Jesus to fellowship with God the Father.)

After Jesus' death, God the Father no longer forsook Jesus because the sins that were in Jesus were now completely paid for through His death.

Jesus was dead for three days, but after the third day, God the Father (Galatians 1:1) and the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11) raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus was Resurrected from the Dead!

Even now, **Jesus is Alive!** He is with God the Father in heaven.

Jesus conquered death and hell! (Revelation 1:18)

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He went before His Father as our high priest (Hebrews 9:11) (Hebrews 9 and 10:1-22). Jesus, the Lamb of God, presented His Blood to God the Father (Hebrews 9:14). **God the Father accepted Jesus' Blood—the Lamb of God's Blood. His Blood can now wash away our sins because of His death and resurrection.** Our sins can now be **completely washed away**, instead of being dealt with in an incomplete way (Revelation 1:5).

Summary

In God's eyes, animal sacrifices no longer serve any purpose because Jesus paid the penalty—took the punishment—for all of our sins. God's act of sacrificing Jesus provides the final solution to the sin issue. The next chapter will explain how this solution can be applied to your life.

– End of Chapter 5 –

Chapter 6

How to Have Real Meaning in Life

This chapter discusses how **You** can have **Real Meaning in Your Life**. This chapter is the **most important** of this document and can be read without the need of reading any other chapter.

If you only have time to read **a portion** of this chapter, please read the **summary** of the **most important issue of this document** that is found in the **last section of this chapter** with the heading, “**Summary of How to Have Real Meaning in Life**,” which is on page 42.

Chapters 1 to 5 provide more details about many of the things stated in this chapter. (Some parts of chapters 1 to 5 will be repeated in this chapter for the sake of those who may not, initially, have had time to read those chapters.)

How can I have Real Meaning in My Life?

Have you ever asked yourself ***What is the meaning of life?*** This is a very important—but general—question about life. A more **practical** question is ***How can I have Real Meaning in My Life?***

I am not attempting to answer the question *What is the meaning of life?* I’m not sure what the answer is. I believe the Holy Bible is God’s manual on life (more will be said about this later). Since the exact question is not in the Holy Bible and since I am not aware of any verse or group of verses in the Holy Bible that directly answers the question, I’m not sure what the ultimate answer is. (For more information on the Holy Bible, refer to point 2 below and to chapter 1, “A Question, Truth and the Holy Bible.”)

The Holy Bible—as I understand it—does have much to say to answer the question, *How can I have Real Meaning in My Life?* Below are **seven major points** concerning this issue. **Point 6** is the main point to remember.

Point 1: God is more than Awesome!

Below are some of the main things about God that many people who study the Holy Bible believe. (The Holy Bible is referred to as the *Bible* in other parts of this document.)

- God is—and will always be—greater than anyone or anything in the universe (Revelation 11:17).
- God is eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27; Genesis 1:1; Revelation 11:17). He existed before eternity, He exists now and He will always exist.

- God created the universe, the Earth, vegetation, animals, human beings and so on (Genesis 1 and 2).
- God is holy (Leviticus 11:45).
- God is love (1 John 4:8).
- **God loves every person in the world—including You!** (John 3:16)
- God's judgments are righteous—God is fair (Revelation 16:7).

More will be said about God's love and justice later in this chapter.

[Normally, only the most direct and simplest Bible reference is given concerning a statement. It is not necessary to look at the references.]

[All Bible references in this document are viewed from the standpoint of the text of the Authorized Version (AV), which is the same as the King James Version (KJV), of the Bible. The text in other versions of the Bible may convey something different than the King James Version. See appendix A, "More Information About the Holy Bible and Which One to Use," for more information on various Bible versions.]

On the important issue of who God is, there are various viewpoints, even among people who base their beliefs on the Bible.

One of the things that the Bible teaches is that there is one true God. The Bible teaches that God is one but at the same time is **three divine Persons**. The three divine Persons are God the Father, the Son of God (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) (Matthew 28:19).

It is not easy to understand that God is one and at the same time three. The reason for the difficulty may be that God is so much greater than our minds can understand.

The following is a summary of point 1. **God is the supreme being in the universe and everyone and everything is inferior to God.** Basically, God determines the consequences of every action in the universe—**He determines what TRUTH in the universe is.** God is one but at the same time is **three divine Persons**, God the Father, the Son of God (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

For more information about this and other things about God, refer to chapter 2, "Who God Is."

Point 2: The Holy Bible is the Best Book on Truth.

As mentioned in chapter 1, truth is unshakeable. I believe the best way to find the truth on how to have **real meaning in life** is to learn it from the One Who created us (the human race). **God** created the human race. **God Himself** inspired a few people of the human race to write the Bible. This is why the Bible is the best book on truth. You could say that the Bible is the operating manual for everyone on how to have real meaning in life.

(For more information on the Holy Bible, refer to chapter 1, “A Question, Truth and the Holy Bible.”)

Point 3: God’s Wrath is Directed Towards Us.

The Bible teaches that God created the universe including the Earth. On the Earth, God created the first two human beings, Adam and Eve, and the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:7,15-25). When God created Adam and Eve, they were both perfect. According to Genesis 3:8, it seems that they could fellowship with God.

God told Adam that fruit from any of the trees could be eaten **except** from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:15-17). Eve was also aware of this command of God (Genesis 3:2,3).

According to Genesis 3:1-21, the Serpent, which is Satan or Lucifer (Revelation 12:9), persuaded Eve to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree. During or after she ate of the fruit, she said something to Adam and he listened to what she said (Genesis 3:17).

Next, Adam ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. By doing that, he **disobeyed** God’s command—Adam **sinned**.

Sin is disobeying one of God’s commands (many are found in the Bible). God’s commands include the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 3-17). We disobey His commands when we do such things as steal, lie (including half truths) and so on. We also disobey His commandments when we worship anything or anyone besides God (verses 3-5). A command of God sometimes is just for a particular person (Genesis 12:1). Romans 2:12-16 says that people sin even if they are without God’s written laws. Verse 15 states that the law (commands) is written on their hearts. If you disobey one of God’s commands, you are no longer blameless of His commands as a whole (James 2:10).

When Adam sinned, there was no way to have sin taken away completely. To God, animal sacrifices could not take away sin completely—sin couldn’t be fully dealt with (Hebrews 10:4).

The Bible teaches that all human beings are descendants of Adam and Eve. Since we are their descendants, we inherited the nature to sin from Adam—we were born with the nature to sin (Romans 5:12).

We have all sinned—disobeyed God’s commandments (Romans 3:23). **All human beings** are **children of disobedience**, so **God’s wrath is directed towards us** (Romans 5:12-19; John 3:36; Ephesians 5:5,6). When we disobey God’s commands, **we deserve to be punished**. He has every right to release His wrath on us.

(I believe when young children and younger die, they get to live with God forever because they are too young to understand eternal choices. I believe God fairly determines, on an individual basis, whether the child is too young or not to understand the choices.)

The nature that we inherited is often called the **sinful nature**. It is a **particular quality to want to sin**. That nature inside of us leads us to sin (Romans 3:23). For more details, refer to chapter 4, “The Human Race Becomes Polluted by Sin.”

Point 4: The Punishment for the Sin in Us is Death (Romans 6:23). The Worst Aspect of Death is Eternal Separation from God, which means Eternal Torment in the Lake of Fire.

Below are **four major aspects related to death** for **those who do not Trust (Believe) in Jesus**.

(How to Trust (Believe) in Jesus is explained in point 6.)

- For those who do not believe in Jesus, they may be a human being who is breathing, but they don't have the life of God flowing in them. (Ephesians 4:18)
- Physical death is death of the body. When this occurs, the rest of the person (many believe to be the spirit and soul) is separated from the body.

(Some people (who believe the Bible) believe that the spirit and the soul are the same thing, but others (who believe in the Bible) believe they are not the same thing. Refer to the article, "What, Exactly, is Saved When One is Born Again?" by Lance B. Johnson. (www.comeandsee.org/SAVING/Cpart2.html (accessed June 1, 2009)).)

- After physical death, the person (many believe to be the spirit and soul) who does not trust in Jesus will temporarily reside in Hades (one of a few places that the Bible refers to as *Hell*) (Luke 16:19-31).

- At a later time, some believe that Hades and everyone in it will be thrown into the **Lake of Fire** (another of a few places that the Bible refers to as *Hell*) (refer to the note in the next paragraph), which is the place of **punishment** through **eternal torment** (Revelation 20:14,15).

(I believe that the Greek word *Gehenna* (or *Geenna*) is referring to the Lake of Fire. This Greek word is translated in the King James Version of the Bible as *Hell* as in Matthew 23:29-33.)

God is holy (Leviticus 11:45). Our iniquities (sins) (the things that we do that disobey God's commands) separate us from God (Isaiah 59:2). God the Father doesn't like the sin that is in people. He doesn't want people with sin to be near Him.

The children of disobedience that will not trust in Jesus have God's wrath directed towards them. Their ultimate end will be punishment through eternal torment in the Lake of Fire—what a horrible existence that will be.

(Please note that when **those who do trust in Jesus** physically die, they may have still committed sins, but they will still live with God. This is explained near the end of chapter 7, "Benefits and Responsibilities for Those Who Received God's Gift of Eternal Life.")

Point 5: There is Awesome News! Jesus Took the Punishment for All of Our Sins!

Jesus, Who is sometimes referred to as the *Word*, is God (John 1:1,2,14). Jesus was God the Father's *only begotten Son* (John 3:16). Jesus was **the** Son of God. (We can be children of God—a son of God or a daughter of God—when we put are faith in Jesus (Galatians 3:26-29)). Jesus was with God the Father **before** the heaven, the Earth and human beings were created (John 1:1-3,14) (John 17:5 also applies here as mentioned in Albert Barnes' New Testament note set). Jesus **always existed** with God the Father (W. Vine's dictionary, look under *only begotten*).

[For details on references, refer to the Bibliography section.]

God the Father wanted to provide a way for **our sins to be completely washed away** so that we can fellowship with Him. To pay the penalty for our sins, God the Father required someone who lived a perfect life—someone who always did what God the Father wanted and never did anything wrong in His sight. The only Person that met the requirements was God's Son, Jesus.

So God the Father sent Jesus to the Earth by having Jesus be born as a human being (so somehow Jesus was God and man at the same time) (Matthew 1:18-25, Hebrews 2:9-18). Eventually, Jesus became an adult. Though He was tempted, He lived a perfect life—He always did what God the Father wanted Him to do. He didn't commit any sins (Hebrews 4:15).

Because Jesus had never sinned, He could be the **SACRIFICE to take the punishment (pay the penalty) for all of our sins**. Jesus allowed all of our sins to be put on Himself. Since He took on Himself all of our sins, He had to pay the penalty for all of those sins. That punishment (penalty) was **suffering and death**. God allowed an earthly government to kill Jesus by crucifixion. The government did that by hanging Him on a wooden cross—nails were driven into His hands (and probably His feet) to hold Him to the cross.

He not only suffered and died, but God the Father **forsook—stopped fellowshiping, communicating or helping**—Jesus because our sins were in Him (Jesus). This was probably the worst thing that either of Them ever had to go through.

After Jesus died, He was put in a tomb. Three days later, God the Father (Galatians 1:1) and the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11) raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus was Resurrected from the Dead!

Even now, **Jesus is Alive!** He is with God the Father in heaven (1 Peter 3:22).

His death on the cross and His resurrection were probably the most important events for the human race. This is why the cross is probably the most important symbol to Christians (followers of Christ or, in other words, followers of Jesus because He was also called *Christ* (Matthew 1:16)) (Acts 11:26).

After Jesus' death, God the Father no longer forsook—resumed fellowship and so on—Jesus because punishment for all our sins that He (Jesus) took on Himself was **completely paid for through His suffering and death**.

Jesus conquered death and Hell! (Revelation 1:18)

So now **Jesus' Blood can wash away all of our sins!** (Revelation 1:5)

This is where two of the statements mentioned in point 1 are demonstrated. Below are the two statements.

God is Love.

God's judgments are righteous—God is fair.

Because we are children of disobedience, God the Father is justified to direct His wrath towards us. When each person dies, God would be justified to, eventually, punish each person with eternal torment in the Lake of Fire. God could have just left everything this way.

God is fair. Actually, **God is more than fair. GOD LOVED US SO MUCH** that **He exercised His Grace** and **Mercy**. **God's Grace** has to do with **His kind actions** towards people (W. Vine's dictionary). **God's Mercy** has to do with the act of **meeting people's needs** (W. Vine's dictionary) including spiritual needs.

So what God did was send His Son, Jesus, to die to take our punishment for all of our sins. **Jesus took our punishment so that we don't have to!** God can **pardon** us—**cancel the punishment** we deserve. When **God pardons people**, it means that they are **SAVED from His Wrath!** God will pardon people only **if** they choose to receive it.

It is **our choice to receive God the Father's pardon or not**. Yes, God is more than fair.

The next point explains very important things that God says.

Point 6: We are to Change Our Thinking and Trust (Believe) in Jesus.

In Mark 1:15 Jesus said, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.* In Acts 26:20, the apostle Paul said that people *should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.*

The word *repent* (W. Vine's dictionary) has to do with changing one's thinking. I believe this means we are especially change our core beliefs. The above two verses are saying that we are to acknowledge that we have broken God's commands and are on our way to Hell. We are to change our thinking—with God's help. We are to start doing what the Bible teaches. We are to be sorry to God for breaking His commands and start obeying His commands. If we are truly sorry, there will be evidence that our core beliefs are beginning to line up with the Bible.

When we do these things, we show God that we **love Him**, which the Bible says is the **most important thing** that **we** must do (Matthew 22:37,38). When we **Keep His Commandments** as taught in the Bible, we show that we **love Him** (John 14:15).

The Bible says that we must **TRUST (BELIEVE) IN JESUS** (Acts 16:31; John 3:16,17). When we **Trust (Believe) in Jesus**, we are **trusting that what He said is true**. The most important written document explaining Jesus' teaching is the Holy Bible (John 5:39).

One of the main things that He said is that **He is the Only One through whom you can be Saved from God's Wrath** (John 14:6) (Romans 5:8-10). Only after You are SAVED can You have Real Meaning in Life.

As mentioned earlier, because all of us have sinned (disobeyed God's commands), **God has every right to direct His wrath towards us.** (As noted in point 3, Romans 2:12-16 says that people sin even if they are without God's written law.)

Also mentioned was the fact that **Jesus took the punishment that we should suffer!**

The reason Jesus took our punishment is found in John 3:16 below.

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

The phrase *He gave His only begotten Son* is referring to the fact that God **gave** His Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for all of our sins—Jesus suffered the punishment for all of our sins. **GOD LOVED EVERYONE in the World So Much that He allowed JESUS to be the SACRIFICE to take the Punishment that we should suffer.** All that God did will not do us any good unless we Believe (Trust) in Jesus. When we do **Believe (Trust) in Jesus** we will have **everlasting life!** Everlasting life is having abundant life now (John 10:10) and abundant life with God after we die.

(The reference verse *John 3:16* is one of the most important verses in the Bible. That is why this reference of the verse is sometimes seen as *Jn 3:16* written on posters being held by sports fans at sporting events.)

Let's look at the word *believe* used in the verse. There are different levels of believing. The word can mean to have an opinion about something or to suppose (*An American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), Noah Webster).

(Noah Webster considered *education useless without the Bible*. (Wikipedia contributors, "Noah Webster," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noah_Webster (accessed May 22, 2009))

(You may search the 1828 dictionary one word at a time at <http://1828.mshaffer.com>.)

Believing in Jesus is not just believing that Jesus was a real person, who lived in the first century; just believing He was a really good person or just believing He was a great religious teacher. Believing in Jesus is much more involved than that.

The word *believe* can also have a meaning of putting one's **TRUST** or **CONFIDENCE** in someone or something (*An American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), Noah Webster). To my understanding, the word *believe* in the above verse has this meaning. The verse is saying that people that **put their Trust in Jesus** or that **place their Confidence in Jesus** will have everlasting life.

Below is information that further explains what it means to **TRUST (BELIEVE) IN JESUS**.

- **You are putting your TRUST or CONFIDENCE of your entire life in Jesus.** When you put your trust in Jesus, you are also **putting your trust in God the Father** (John 14:44) **and the Holy Spirit**; the Three are one, some refer to them as the *Trinity*.
- **You will start to base your entire life on His teachings**, which are **found in the Bible**.
- **You will endeavor to do what God** (God the Father, Jesus or the Holy Spirit) **tells you to do**. I believe many times it is the Holy Spirit Who tells us what to do. I believe as you get to know the Holy Spirit better, you will be able to know when He is speaking to your inner being for such purposes as teaching you truth (John 16:13) and telling you what to do. I believe God the Father (Matthew 17:4,5) and Jesus (John 10:27) speak to people—sometimes audibly (Acts 9:3-5).
- You are **not** to put the **trust or confidence** of your entire life in any thing (such as a statue, Nature, force or concept), any church, any government, any organization or any human being (such as a Christian leader, spouse, relative, friend or even your own self). You are to put the trust or confidence of your entire life **in Jesus**, which also means you are putting your trust in God the Father and the Holy Spirit, because They are one.

When you **TRUST IN JESUS**, you are **choosing to change** your beliefs—**especially your core beliefs**—so that they start to match what the Bible teaches. To put it another way, the decisions that you make—especially the important decisions—must start to be based on the teachings of the Bible.

One important area of change is in regards to sin. You are to be sorry that you have committed those sins. You are to change your attitude towards the sins. Like Jesus, you are to hate sin, but love doing right (Hebrews 1:9). You are to realize that when you did those sins, you were disobedient to God. Your desire should be to obey God. Your actions should start reflecting your change in attitude. The great thing is that **God is there to help you** to obey Him—to help you live in a pleasing manner before Him (Hebrews 13:21). The Bible explains how to get His help.

God doesn't ask you to clean up your life before you Trust in Jesus. God just asks you to come the way you are in your imperfection. God wants you to Trust in Jesus, then He will help you to live in a manner that is pleasing to Him.

Let's look at another verse, Acts 16:31.

...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...

The verse says that when you **TRUST (BELIEVE) IN JESUS**, You will be **SAVED from God's wrath!**

Another verse, Romans 6:23, says that when people **TRUST IN JESUS**, they will not have eternal torment when they die, but have **God's Gift of Eternal Life!**

Jesus suffered the punishment for the sins that you and I have committed and that we deserved to be punished for. Through Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection, God the Father has provided—if you accept it—a **Pardon** from the punishment that you deserve from all the sins that you have committed. You are putting your **Trust in Jesus** when you receive the pardon.

IF you do not accept the **Pardon** that God the Father has offered to you, eventually, you will be punished in the Lake of Fire, even though Jesus already suffered the punishment. If you do not accept the pardon, His suffering would have been for nothing as far as you are concern.

Here is a summary of point 6 so far. When you change your thinking and **TRUST IN JESUS**, some of the things You receive are a **pardon, God's Gift of Eternal Life**—abundant life now and in the future—and You will receive **salvation** from God's wrath! This is also referred to as **God's Gift of Salvation**.

The message that we can be Saved from God's wrath is awesome news!

Faith and Trusting in Jesus

To **Trust in Jesus** requires **faith**. Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as *the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*. The word *substance* can be interpreted as *confidence* (W. Vine's dictionary). The word *hope* can mean *to expect* (J. Strong's concordance-dictionary).

To summarize the previous paragraph, the following can be said of **faith**:

- Faith is having **confidence in Jesus** that **He will keep His promises**. We are to have confidence in Jesus that He will cause to come to past that which we have **an expectation for** (because it is based on His promises). The Bible is full of His promises and **He keeps ALL His promises**.

(Please be aware that most or all of His promises have conditions. We need to met the conditions before we can receive the promise.)

- We may not get what we have an expectation for, because we are expecting it to occur for the wrong reasons (James 4:3).
- There is **no visible (tangible) evidence** of what we have an expectation for.

So faith is having confidence in Jesus that He will cause to come to past that which we have an expectation for (after we have met all applicable conditions), even though there is no visible evidence that it will happen. Trusting in Jesus, which can be done by saying a suggested prayer (found later in this chapter), will require faith because most people can't see Jesus with their natural eyes and don't see the visible (tangible) results of what Jesus' has promised (such as abundant life now and in the distant future).

Hebrews 11:6 below [bold emphasis and words in square brackets are mine] [italicized words were provided for a better understanding of the verse when the Bible was translated into English] states some other things related to faith.

But without **faith** *it is* impossible to **please Him** [God the Father]: for he that cometh to **God** must believe that **He is**, and *that* He is a **rewarder** of them that **diligently seek Him**.

When we have **faith in God, He is PLEASED with us!** When we go to God, we must believe what the Bible says about God—He is all-powerful, loving and so on—and believe that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.

God is not pleased when we think that enough of our good deeds can cancel (wash away) our bad deeds (sins) to allow us to live with God forever. Neither is He pleased when we think that we can go to Him through a way other than through Jesus.

GOD is PLEASED when we have **Faith** that—because of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection—we can be Saved from God's wrath. This is why **Trusting in Jesus**—which takes faith—will **Save us**.

How to Trust in Jesus

Verses 9 and 10 of Romans 10 state important things on **how to Trust (Believe) in Jesus**. Below are the two main things that you must do **by faith** to be **Saved** from God's wrath.

- **Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus.** This means that you acknowledge that the **Lord Jesus rules** with God the Father in heaven right now (John 5:22; Acts 10:36; 1 Peter 3:22). Also, this means that you align yourself with Jesus and the teachings of the Bible—you are going to be on Jesus' *team*. (Refer to Matthew Henry's commentary on the Bible.) Jesus is going to be the boss (lord, ruler) of your life.
- **Trust (Believe) in your heart that Jesus,** through **His sacrificial death and resurrection,** has provided the way so that **you** can be **Saved** from **God's wrath**.

When you do the above two things by faith, you show that **you Love God** because you are keeping His commandment (John 14:15) of **Trusting (Believing) in Jesus** (Acts 16:31). These verses show that when you come Jesus' way, you will be **Saved** from God's wrath.

The Bible is God's operating manual to have real meaning in life. After you are **saved from God's wrath**, start to learn and do what the Bible teaches and do what God wants you to do, **You will have real meaning in life!** (John 10:9,10)

Having real meaning in life doesn't mean He promises a life without problems, but He does promise to **always be with you** (Matthew 28:20) and to help you with those problems when you go to Him (Hebrews 4:16).

Point 7: Some Benefits and Responsibilities of Those Who Trust in Jesus.

Some of the Benefits:

- The **sins that they have committed will be washed away!** Acts 10:43 says that they will *receive remission of sins*. The word *remission* can mean a *pardon* (J. Strong's concordance-dictionary). They are **pardoned** from the punishment of eternal torment!
- Because the sins that they have committed will be washed away, they will no longer be children of disobedience (mentioned in point 3 above), but they will become **children of God! God's wrath** will no longer be directed towards them—they will not be punished with eternal torment. They are **Saved** from God's wrath! This is sometimes referred to as **God's Gift of Salvation**.

- **Their names will be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

Next to the Holy Bible, the Lamb's Book of Life is probably the most important book in the universe for human beings. Jesus is sometimes referred as the *Lamb* because animal (sometimes lambs) sacrifice was an illustration of God sacrificing Jesus. People who are **Saved** from God's wrath (those who choose to put their **Trust in Jesus**), will have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Revelation 21:2,4,10,22-27). The people who have their names in the Lamb's Book of Life will be allowed to **live with God forever!** People who don't have their names in that book will be punished with torment in the Lake of Fire forever.

This is why Trusting in Jesus is so very important.

- They become adopted children of God—they are adopted into the family of God (Ephesians 1:3-6; Galatians 3:26).
- They received **God's Gift of Eternal Life!** They can have abundant life now and when they die they will live with God forever! (Revelation 21:2,4,10,22-27). They will have pleasures forevermore (Psalms 16:11).

Some of their Responsibilities:

- Love God by doing what He wants them to do.
- Learn what the Bible teaches about what God expects of them and what they can expect from God.

Review of the Points

Point 1: God is more than awesome!

Point 2: The Holy Bible is the best book on truth.

Point 3: God's wrath is directed towards us.

Point 4: The punishment of the sin in us is death (Romans 6:23). The worst aspect of death is eternal separation from God, which means eternal torment in the Lake of Fire.

Point 5: There is awesome news! Jesus took the punishment for all of our sins!

Point 6: We are to Change Our Thinking and Trust (Believe) in Jesus.

Point 7: Some benefits and responsibilities of those who Trust in Jesus.

The next section has a suggested prayer to Trust in Jesus.

Will You Trust in Jesus?

The **most important decision that you will ever make in your life** is whether you **will** or **will not TRUST IN JESUS**. The decision that you make on this issue will determine how you will live in eternity—**abundant life with God** or **punishment through eternal torment in the Lake of Fire**.

In this section there is a suggested prayer to **Trust in Jesus to be Saved** from God's wrath. Prayer is talking with God.

You may continue reading to the end of this chapter and then return to say the suggested prayer.

Or **if you would like to Trust in Jesus right now**, you may first look through the suggested prayer below. If you can sincerely pray it in faith, please do so. It is good to speak the prayer audibly.

(If you are in a situation right now where it may not be appropriate to pray audibly, you may say the prayer in your heart. If this is the case, it would be good that you pray it audibly the next opportunity you have, since the Bible does state for you to *confess with your mouth* that you are aligning yourself with Jesus. It is even better that you tell someone—confess with your mouth—that you have put your trust in Jesus. Please be aware that only people who themselves really trust in Jesus will truly understand what you are talking about.)

Jesus is the mediator between people and God the Father (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus is the Person that we go to in order to bring our concerns to God the Father (John 14:6). So we ask Jesus to save us.

(Please continue to the next page)

A suggested prayer to TRUST in JESUS:

Jesus, I believe that You suffered and died to take the punishment for all of my sins.

I believe in my heart that after You were in the tomb for three days, God the Father and the Holy Spirit raised You from the dead and that You are alive even now.

I confess with my mouth that You are the Son of God and that You are ruling the universe with God the Father. I now submit my life to Your rulership.

I am sorry for sinning against You. I turn away from those things that I believe break Your commands.

I put my Trust in You. Because of this, I believe that **You have now washed away the sins that I have committed, I receive the pardon from the punishment that I deserved, I'm saved from God's wrath and My name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

I believe You have given me Your Gift of Eternal Life. This means **I can have real meaning in My life now!** And when I die, I will have a great life with You.

Thank You for saving me!

I understand that You will help me to walk in a manner that is pleasing to You. Help me to understand the Holy Bible so that I can live as You want me to live. I ask these things in Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

If you **sincerely** said the prayer, I believe **You are now Saved!** I believe **Your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life!** Whatever happens in the future, just keep pursuing the God of the Bible—just keep trying to get to know God more and more based on what the Bible says.

(Please see the next page with fill-in-the-blanks that can be used to provide some written **evidence** if you said the prayer.)

If you prayed the prayer above, I encourage you to fill in the blanks below to provide some written **evidence** of when and where it happened. It may be of great encouragement to you in the future.

(If applicable, you may copy or print this page and the previous page, then fill in the blanks.)

I, _____ (your name), have sincerely said the prayer on the previous page in faith. I have changed my thinking and I put my **Trust in Jesus**—I put my confidence of my entire life in Jesus. I believe that God has forgiven me of my sins. I believe that **God has pardoned me** from the punishment of eternal torment that I deserved. I believe I am now **SAVED** from God's wrath. **I believe that my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.** I believe that I can now have **real meaning in My life.** I believe that when I die, **I will live with God for eternity!** I believe I am now **a child of God!** I will pursue God to get to know Him better and to do what He wants me to do.

Your signature: _____

Location (optional): _____

_____ Check here if this is the first time that you have asked to receive God's Gift of Eternal Life. Date: _____

_____ Check here if you are re-committing your life to God.

Date: _____

To learn more about the **new life** of those who are now saved, please continue reading this chapter and the next.

If you received God's Gift of Eternal Life in the past and would like to re-commit your life to God, you may sincerely say the suggested prayer above and fill in the blanks.

Summary of How to Have Real Meaning in Life

Many people have asked the question ***What is the meaning of life?*** This is a very important—but general—question about life. A more **practical** question is ***How can I have Real Meaning in My Life?***

To answer this question, I believe we must get the information from the One Who created human beings. I believe that God is the One that created the human race and that He chose a few people to write about how to have Real Meaning in Life. That document is the Holy Bible. The next few paragraphs briefly explain how to have Real Meaning in Life.

According to the Holy Bible, God is Holy and more than awesome. He created the human race such that His laws are written on our hearts (Romans 2:12-16). All of us have disobeyed these laws (Romans 3:23) by doing things such as lying (which includes telling half-truths) and not doing everything God wants us to do. Our disobedience to these laws is called *sin*. Because we have sinned, God has the right to not allow us to be with Him. He has the right to punish us with eternal torment in the Lake of Fire after we die.

But **GOD LOVES EVERYONE So Much** that He did something about it. Instead of prohibiting us from being with Him and instead of punishing us with eternal torment, **HE Provided the Way** so that we can always be with Him! He provided this by having His Son, Jesus, to walk on the Earth as a human being (so somehow Jesus was God and man at the same time) (Matthew 1:18-25, Hebrews 2:9-18).

Because Jesus lived without disobeying any of God's commands, Jesus was qualified to take the punishment for all of our sins. That punishment was the punishment that we deserved. He agreed to take our punishment by allowing all of our sins on Himself. The penalty for our sins was paid through the suffering and death of Jesus. God allowed an earthly government to cause Jesus to take our punishment by Jesus' death through crucifixion. (Crucifixion involved hanging a person (in Jesus' case, using nails through His hands (John 20:25-28) and maybe His feet) to a wooden cross.) After Jesus died, He was put in a tomb.

But three days after Jesus' death, God raised Jesus from the dead!

Jesus was Resurrected from the Dead!

Even now, **Jesus is Alive!** He is with God the Father in heaven.

Because Jesus took the punishment for all of our sins through His suffering and death, God will **pardon** us (**cancel the punishment** we deserve), IF we choose to receive the pardon.

We receive God's pardon and provisions by **Trusting in Jesus**.

The **most important decision that you will ever make in your life** is whether you **will** or **will not TRUST IN JESUS**.

God is not pleased if we try and suffer for the punishment that Jesus already suffered for us. God is pleased if we receive His pardon, be obedient to Him (do what He wants us to do) and seek to fellowship with Him.

IF you choose to believe that Jesus took your punishment for all your sins and if you **choose** to put your **Trust in Jesus** and what the Holy Bible teaches, you can **fellowship with God while you live on Earth**. And after you die, you will **be with God!** You will not be punished with eternal torment in the Lake of Fire.

By putting your **Trust in Jesus**—putting the confidence of your entire life in Jesus—and learning and doing what the Bible teaches, **You will have Real Meaning in Your Life now** and will **live with God for eternity**.

If you **choose not** to Trust in Jesus, after you die, you will be punished with **eternal torment** in the Lake of Fire.

If you would like to Trust in Jesus right now, please go to the **preceding** section, “A suggested prayer to TRUST in JESUS.”

If you are not going to choose to **Trust in Jesus right now**, please continue to **seek Jesus** because **He is the only Way** (John 14:6) **to Have Real Meaning in Your Life now and forever**.

If you have only read the summary of this chapter, I would encourage you to read this whole chapter for a better understanding of what Trusting in Jesus is about.

If you have not read chapters 1 to 5, I would encourage you do so at the next opportunity.

Chapter 7 discusses the benefits and responsibilities of those who have put their Trust in Jesus. Those who have not put their Trust in Jesus may want to read the next chapter to see what is involved in the life of those who have received God’s Gift of Salvation.

Chapter 8 explains some of the things that the Bible says will occur in the future.

– End of Chapter 6 –

Chapter 7

Benefits and Responsibilities For Those Who Received God's Gift of Eternal Life

All are Encouraged to Read This Chapter

This chapter explains some of the important benefits and responsibilities for those who now Trust (Believe) in Jesus. **Everyone—whether you trust in Jesus or not—is encouraged** to read this chapter to see what is involved in the life of those who Trust in Jesus.

As was explained in chapter 6, “How to Have Real Meaning In Life,” **when you Trust in Jesus you are putting your confidence of your entire life in Jesus** that includes **basing your life on His teachings**. If you have just Trusted in Jesus, I believe **You are Saved—Saved from God's wrath!**

Basically, all the phrases below mean the same thing.

Trust in Jesus

Believe in Jesus

Believe on Jesus

Be Saved

Receive God's Gift of Salvation

Receive God's Gift of Eternal Life

Benefits

If you have received God's Gift of Eternal Life, below are some **very important benefits** for **You!** This is the **best package deal ever offered in history!**

- **The sins that you have committed have been washed away** (Acts 10:43; Matthew 9:2-6) because you believe that Jesus paid the penalty for those sins.

(Since Jesus paid the penalty, animal sacrifices are no longer of any value to God—animal sacrifices are no longer needed, as mentioned in chapter 5, “The Final Solution to the Sin Issue.”)

- **God no longer remembers the sins that you have committed** (Hebrews 10:16-18).

(Even though God has forgotten all of those sins, the consequences of those sins may continue.)

- The Bible says that even **before** you were saved (Romans 5:8), **God the Father loved you** so much.
- **God the Father provided the Gift of Salvation through Jesus** (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8).

When you receive the Gift of Salvation, you get saved from God's wrath. **God's Grace** saves you. You are **NOT** Saved by doing enough good deeds—**NO Amount of good deeds** can Save a person.

- **God's wrath is no longer directed towards you!** (John 3:36)

The Passover ceremony (refer to chapter 5, "The Final Solution to the Sin Issue") is an illustration of this. God's wrath (punishment) wasn't executed on the family that performed the ceremony. After they killed their lamb—their Passover lamb—and applied its blood on the doorpost of their house, the destroyer (probably an angel) passed over and didn't kill the oldest son of the family. In a similar way, God's wrath is no longer directed towards you when you Trust in Jesus. The Passover lamb in the above-mentioned ceremony is symbolic of the real Lamb of God, Jesus, Who came as a human being (so somehow Jesus was God and man at the same time) (Matthew 1:18-25, Hebrews 2:9-18). He was killed (but came back to life) so that His Blood can be applied to your spiritual life. When this happens, God's wrath is no longer directed towards you!

- You are **justified** in God's sight.

The word *justified*, as used in this document, can be *to pardon and clear from guilt* (Webster's dictionary (1828)).

All of us have sinned (Romans 3:23), all of us are guilty and all of us are deserving of God's punishment in the Lake of Fire. **When WE BELIEVE that GOD CAN JUSTIFY the UNGODLY** (those who have sinned, including you and me) (Romans 4:2-8), **HE SEES our FAITH and HE PARDONS US. HE JUSTIFIES US—HE CLEARS US from GUILT and CANCELS OUR PUNISHMENT of eternal torment!! HE also ACCEPTS US as RIGHTEOUS** (explained later).

As I have heard it mentioned before, you are ***justified—just as if*** you never committed the sins!

Before you Trusted in Jesus, the sins that you committed were on your—metaphorically speaking—spiritual legal document of your life. It is like God looks at that document and sees the sins. Those sins prevent God from fellowshiping with you. But when you Trusted in Jesus, your sins were washed away by the Blood of Jesus—in God's eyes the sins are gone. You have been **pardoned** of your sins and you can go before (Hebrews 4:16) and fellowship with God.

- You are **righteous** in God's sight.

Before we Trusted in Jesus, we were **not righteous** because of the sins that we committed. God provided the way for us to be made righteous. He did that through Jesus' obedience. Jesus took the punishment for all of our sins. This caused Jesus' death.

Because of Jesus' obedience, when you put your confidence in Him, **you were made righteous** (Romans 5:19). You are, spiritually, in the **right legal standing** in God's sight.

- You have **peace** with God.

Those who are justified by faith have peace with God through Jesus (Romans 5:1).

- You have **your name written** in the **Lamb's Book of Life**.

This means that you will get to **be with God forever**, where there is awesome joy and where there is no pain, tears or death. (Revelation 21:2,4,10,22-27; Psalms 16:11)

- You can have **abundant, eternal life—real meaning in life—now and forever** (John 10:10; Psalms 16:11) **and you will live with God forever**.

- You become **a child of God**, so you become part of God's family (Galatians 3:26-29).

This means that you get the **benefits** and **responsibilities** of being **in the family of God**.

- **GOD the Father WANTS to HELP YOU** live in a pleasing manner before Him (Hebrews 13:21).

- **You can go to God's throne of grace** (Hebrews 4:16) and **ask God** to supply your needs (Philippians 4:19) and to supply your wants (Psalms 37:4).

He may not give you everything that you want, but HE will do everything so that His purposes are fulfilled.

- You are born of water and of the Holy Spirit, so you are **born again** (John 3:1-13).

(The word *water* may be referring to water baptism (John 3:5 and Matthew 3:11 per Matthew Henry's commentary of the Bible).)

- You are now **a Christian**, a follower of Christ (Jesus) (Acts 11:26; Matthew 1:16).

- You are saved from the kingdom of darkness and now are in the kingdom of light—the kingdom of God (Colossians 1:12,13).

You are fellow citizens with the saints (Ephesians 2:19). A saint is **anyone** who has put their trust in Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:2).

The phrases **kingdom of God** or **kingdom of heaven** used in the Bible (the King James Version) refers to **the spiritual realm where everything is done God's way**. The kingdom of God has dominion over *regular* reality. In regular reality, natural laws operate. In the kingdom of God, **God's laws (commands)** can **override (supersede) natural laws** in regular reality.

When **Christians apply God's laws by faith** according to God's will, the **supernatural** can occur! Christians, if they meet God's conditions, can do such things as pray for the sick and they will recover (Mark 16:16-18)—instantly sometimes. Only Christians can really begin to understand this reality where the Spirit of God operates (1 Corinthians 2:6-14).

By faith in God, You can live in **God's reality**, which is a **higher reality than regular reality!**

- The Holy Spirit will teach you how to live—how to **please God** (John 14:26).

These benefits are so awesome!

Responsibilities of Those Who are Saved

If you have received God's Gift of Eternal Life, below are some of your responsibilities.

- The most important thing that you are to do is to **LOVE GOD** with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Matthew 22:37-38).

You **show that you love Him** by **doing His commandments** (John 14:15). We learn of His commandments from the Bible.

Sometimes God wants us to do **a specific thing**, which may not be specifically written in the Bible. Occasionally, God speaks to a person in a voice heard by one's ear (Acts 9:1-5).

More commonly, God impresses His thoughts on a person's inner being. Sometimes God speaks to a person through another person. But no matter which way God speaks to a person to do a specific thing, it should not conflict with what the Bible teaches. We must also learn to know when we get impressions, or when someone directs or advises us, or when we get directions by other means, whether it is really what God wants us to do or not.

- Love those around you as you love yourself (Matthew 22:39).

- Keep God as the boss (lord) (ruler) of your life.

You should seek to do God's will, just as Jesus did (John 5:30). God only wants what is best for you.

- Be thankful to God for the Gift of Eternal Life that He has given to you.

The Gift of Eternal Life has not come by what you have done—it is **not by your good deeds** (Ephesians 2:8,9). **God has provided** the Gift of Eternal Life **through His love, grace and mercy**.

- Make an effort to fellowship with God daily (1 John 1:3).

Fellowship is interacting with God. It is God sharing with you what is on His heart and you sharing what is on your heart. (I'm trying to get to that place of fellowship with God.) Times of fellowship with God are probably the greatest experiences you can have! Ideally, you want to be in fellowship with God throughout the day, everyday.

Praising and worshiping God (explained in the next point) helps you to get to that place of fellowship with God. During times of praising and worshiping God, sometimes it's best just to be quiet and try to hear God speaking to you or impressing things on your heart.

While fellowshiping with God, you may ask Him to meet your needs or the needs of others. This is a great situation to pray to God. Of course, you can pray to God at any time in any situation.

- Praise and worship God daily.

The words *praise* and *worship* seem to have somewhat similar meanings in the New Testament of the Bible.

To me, *praising God* (Acts 2:46,47) is telling others about how awesome He is, telling others of the great things He does, telling Him how awesome He is and telling Him of the great things He does.

I believe part of *worshipping God* is honoring Him with your words, songs, bowing before Him, telling Him of His awesomeness and so on. But I think the *real* worship of God (John 4:24) occurs when the attitude of your heart and the actions of your life are pleasing to Him, which includes doing what He wants you to do (1 Samuel 15:22). Only God is worthy of worship.

Praise and worship God by doing such things as thanking Him for the Gift of Eternal Life that He has given to you, thanking Him for what He has provided for you and others, thanking Him for the things that He has done in your life, telling Him of His greatness, living according to the teachings in the Bible and doing what He wants you to do.

- Pray to God daily.

Prayer is talking to God about your needs or the need of others and requesting help.

- Read the Bible daily so that you can learn things such as what God expects of you and what you can expect from God.

It is probably best to start reading from the Book of John in the New Testament of the Bible. Also, study the Bible for a deeper understanding of God's ways (2 Timothy 2:15).

Recently, I've read some articles about different versions of the Bible in the English language. I believe one of the best English versions is the King James Version. One of the disadvantages of the King James Version for people today is the fact that it is not written in the English used today. The King James Version was written in 1611. Another disadvantage is that the scholars, who produced that version of the Bible, didn't have the information on the languages of the Bible and other information related to the Bible that is now available.

For those who would like to read a version of the Bible in modern English, the New King James Version may be a good choice.

To interpret the Bible, it is good to use the *best* Biblical resources (including good Bible dictionaries and commentaries) that you have access to. Please be aware that because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, some things in the Bible like animal sacrifices aren't to be done. Those things just show us how things were before Jesus' sacrifice.

For more information concerning things mentioned in the few preceding paragraphs, refer to appendix A, "More Information About the Holy Bible and Which One to Use."

- Meet regularly with a good group of Christians (church) (Hebrews 10:24,25).

Typically, Christians meet in a church building, but this is not required.

A good group will help you to grow in your new life.

In a good group, there will be evidence of God's love—Christians in the group will be sincerely helping each other and those outside the group. People in the group should be trying to develop the character of Jesus.

The group of Christians should allow honest questions about the group's doctrines. The doctrines should not conflict with the teachings in the Bible.

There are all kinds of Christian churches. Many people think that the only way services in Christian churches can honor God is by having solemn activities and solemn music. Please be aware that there are, I believe, many good Christian churches that have services that honor God that include lively activities and lively contemporary Christian music. If what occurs in these churches doesn't conflict with the teachings of the Bible, it is okay.

To find a church, you may need to visit the services of different Christian churches to see which church you would like to be a part of. Some churches are part of a denomination (an organization of a group of churches) (like a Baptist organization). I'm quite sure there are many Baptist churches that honor God with solemn activities and music. I'm also quite sure that there are many Baptist churches that honor God with lively activities and lively contemporary Christian music.

You may want to visit a church that is a part of an organization like the General Council of the Assemblies of God organization (Springfield, Missouri) (www.ag.org), the Vineyard International Consortium (www.vineyard.org) or Vineyard USA (Stafford, Texas) (www.vineyardusa.org) (part of the preceding Vineyard organization).

One Christian organization that has various resources is the Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN) (a television network) (Santa Ana, California) (www.tbn.org). Please note that the four organizations mentioned above may have lively activities and lively contemporary Christian music.

One organization that may give good guidance on large religious organizations is the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry (www.carm.org) (Escondido, California). You may want to look at the website and see if there is information about the churches that you are thinking of visiting.

When you are part of a church, learn more about God and learn what the Bible teaches. There may come a time in the future that God may want you to go to a church that more closely follows your understanding of what the Bible teaches. Whatever Christian church you become a part of, its people should more and more be living according to what the Bible teaches.

- Find out what is (are) the gift(s) that God has placed in your life (Ephesians 2:10), if you don't already know what it is (they are).

I believe God has designed an awesome and unique destiny for each person. After being a Christian for a while, try to find out what God wants you to do with the gift(s) He has placed in you. One of the ways you may find out what your gift(s) is (are) by God impressing His thoughts on your heart. Another way is by what mature Christians (Christians who have a good understanding of God's ways and the Bible) around you tell you. Get advice from mature Christians on how and when to begin using your gift(s). As you use your gift(s) to bring honor to God, life will be more and more meaningful.

- If you do commit sins in the future, you can confess your sin and ask God to forgive you of your sin.

He will forgive you (1 John 1:9). After He has forgiven you, continue to pursue Him. If you sin, you should be truly sorry of the sin. When you are truly sorry, you will be determined to change—with God's help—such that you will live a more pleasing life before God (2 Corinthians 7:8-11).

Once we sin, there are consequences. If we ask for forgiveness, God will forgive us. We **may** still have to bear the consequences, but not the punishment of eternal torment in the Lake of Fire.

If we Trust in Jesus (our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life) and if we sin before we die, I believe that Jesus will forgive us of those sins from His side (Matthew 9:1-8) and we will live with God forever.

- Learn about water baptism, and then get water baptized (Acts 8:35-39).
- Learn more about Jesus' life on the Earth by **watching the Free 2-hour online movie *Jesus*** at www.jesusfilm.org/languages/ by Campus Crusade for Christ International. The movie can be watched in more than 1,000 languages.
- Put the **confidence of your entire life in God**, not in any thing or any human being such as a Christian leader, spouse, relative, friend or even your own self.

As you do the things mentioned above, you should get to know God and His ways more and more.

Summary

There are so many awesome benefits when we **Trust (Believe) in Jesus**, but there are also responsibilities. When we are trying our best—with God's help—to do what He wants us to do, we are showing that we Love God.

To those who have received God's Gift of Eternal Life, God Bless You in Your New Life with God. As you **LOVE GOD** and **do what He wants you to do**, you can **Have Real Meaning In Your Life** even if you go through difficult times.

To those who have not yet received God's Gift of Eternal Life, God Bless You. I pray that you will soon **Trust (Believe) in Jesus** so that you, too, receive His Gift of Eternal Life and can **Have Real Meaning In Your Life** as explained in chapter 6, "How to Have Real Meaning in Life."

The next chapter will show what the Bible says will happen in the days ahead.

– End of Chapter 7 –

Chapter 8

From Jesus' Life on the Earth to Eternity Future

Getting Saved is More Important Than Knowing the Future

It is more important that you **Trust (Believe) in Jesus**, so that you can be **Saved** from God's wrath than it is to know what might happen in the future. Those who are Saved receive God's Gift of Eternal Life. They are the only people that can have Real Meaning in Life.

If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to read **chapter 6, "How to Have Real Meaning in Life,"** which is the **most important chapter** in this document.

If you only have time to read **a portion** of a chapter, please read the **summary** of the **most important issue of this document** that is found in the **last section of chapter 6** with the heading, **"Summary of How to Have Real Meaning in Life."**

This chapter discusses some highlights from the time Jesus walked on the Earth to eternity future as shown in diagram 3, "Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future – Jesus, the Son of God," at the end of this book. Please refer to this diagram as you continue in this section.

Jesus' Life on Earth

As mentioned in chapter 5, "The Final Solution to the Sin Issue," God sent Jesus to be born as a human being (so somehow Jesus was God and man at the same time) (Matthew 1:18-25, Hebrews 2:9-18) on the Earth. From God the Father's point of view, only a person who had never sinned could pay the penalty of the sins of every person in the world. Since Jesus walked on the Earth without ever committing any sin, He was the only person that could pay the penalty for the sins of the world.

Near the end of Jesus' life on the Earth, He obediently took the sins of the world on Himself. The consequence of taking the sins of the world was death. He was killed on a cross and put in a tomb. Jesus died about 30 AD (Encyclopaedia Britannica (2007)16:542).

Three days later—by the power of God the Father and the Holy Spirit—**Jesus rose from the dead! This was the resurrection of Jesus!**

Jesus' death and resurrection are probably the most important events in history, because the penalty for all of our sins was completely paid for and Jesus is alive and ruling with God the Father in heaven. The way was provided for our sins to be washed away! We can now be Saved from God's wrath and receive God's Gift of Eternal Life (refer to the first section in this chapter on where to find more information).

Some of Jesus' Prophecies

While Jesus was living on the Earth, He prophesied what would happen at the end of the world (Matthew 24:3-31). Prophecies are declarations about what will happen in the future.

In Matthew 24:15, Jesus mentions an event (Daniel 9:27) that was prophesied by the prophet Daniel. In fact, chapters 7 to 12 of the Book of Daniel are mostly prophecies concerning the events of the same period of time Jesus mentioned in Matthew 24.

In Matthew 24:21, Jesus said that there will be **great tribulation**, *such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, **nor ever shall be*** [bold emphases are mine]. This time of great tribulation is often simply referred to as the *Tribulation*.

Many believe the Tribulation lasts, figuratively, for half a week (Daniel 9:27). They believe the prophetic meaning of the word *week* in this verse is not 7 days but **7 years**. Some believe the Tribulation will be half of seven years, which is 3-1/2 years, because of the phrase *in the midst of the week* in the same verse. During this time, there will be horrible famines, plagues, earthquakes in different places (v. 7) and other awful things.

One of the most important things that will happen is that the **gospel will be preached in all the world** (v. 14). The gospel is the good news (good message) that those who **Trust (Believe) in Jesus will not receive God's wrath** and will be able to **fellowship with God!** This message is explained in chapter 6 of this document.

Jesus Will Come to Earth the Second Time

Before, during or after the period of great tribulation, Jesus (the Son of man) will come to the Earth, which will be His second time. He will come in great glory (v. 30). This event is many times called *The Second Coming of Jesus*. This event is sometimes called the *Rapture*, although some believe the Rapture is a different event. Please note that this phrase and this word are not found in the Bible (King James Version), but many find them useful when discussing Jesus' return.

According to Matthew 24:29-31, Jesus will come to the Earth in the clouds with power and great glory to gather people (those who have died and those who are still alive) that **Trust (Believe) in Him** (Mark 13:27). These, who are living on the Earth, will be instantaneously changed into incorruptible bodies and meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58). He will gather Christians so they can inherit the kingdom that God the Father has prepared for them (Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 11:15).

There are three popular beliefs concerning Jesus coming the second time. One belief is that Jesus will come **before** the time of tribulation mentioned in the Book of Revelation (the time of tribulation starting from Revelation 6). This belief is sometimes referred as *Pre-Tribulation* or *Pre-Trib*. Another belief says that Jesus will come **during** the time of tribulation mentioned in the Book of Revelation. This belief is sometimes referred to as *Mid-Tribulation* or *Mid-Trib*. Still another belief says that Jesus will come **after** the time of tribulation mentioned in the Book of Revelation. This belief is sometimes referred to as *Post-Tribulation* or *Post-Trib*.

The Second Coming of Jesus will occur at some point during the events prophesied in the Book of Revelation. Some of these events will be described later in this chapter. Currently, I believe that the Book of Revelation teaches that Jesus will return at the end of the Tribulation—the Post-Tribulation belief. A good book on the Post-Tribulation belief is *Of the Last Days: Listen, I Tell You a Mystery* (Second Edition) (2003) by Richard H. Perry. He also has a good book about the last days including the Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib and Post-Trib viewpoints.

Israel Became a Nation in 1948

The prophet Jeremiah prophesied that the Jews will *dwell in their own land* (Jeremiah 23:1-8). Some people believe this important event in history occurred when Israel became a nation in 1948. Many Christians believe that the fig tree mentioned in verses 32 to 34 of Matthew 24 is referring to the Nation of Israel (Jeremiah 24).

If this is the case, the verses seem to say that when Israel becomes a nation that many people that were alive in that year will still be alive at the end of the world as we know it. At that moment in time, Christians will meet Jesus in the clouds when He comes to the Earth the second time. (I'm not sure what happens to those who don't meet Jesus in the clouds—their ultimate end may not be good.)

The year 1948 was probably a very important year because some of the people that were alive in that year will probably be alive when the world, as we know it, comes to an end. **If** people alive in 1948 can live no longer than 130 years, then it may mean the world, as we know it, will end sometime between 2009 AD and 2078 AD (= 1948 + 130 years).

The Book of Revelation

Many of the things that will happen in the last years of the Earth, as we know it, are foretold in the **Book of Revelation** in the Bible. According to Wikipedia.org (Wikipedia contributors, "Book of Revelation," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Revelation (accessed May 22, 2009)), the Book of Revelation was written around 68 AD, 69 AD, 95 AD or 96 AD. I believe that the prophecies in the Book of Revelation may have already started or will start to come to pass in a matter of a few years.

When you read the Book of Revelation, please be aware that some things are not literal. For example, when Revelation 1:16 mentions seven stars, it doesn't mean stars that can be seen in the night sky. The seven stars are *the angels of the seven churches*, according to Revelation 1:20.

Basically, this interpretation is only for the Book of Revelation. Since not everything stated in the Book of Revelation is literal, it can be very difficult to determine what should be taken literally and what should not. Proper understanding of the Book of Revelation requires careful study and insight from God.

According to the Book of Revelation, people whose names **are written** in the **Lamb's Book of Life** may go through difficult times, but if they continue to follow God, they will eventually live with God and no longer have sorrow or pain.

The people whose names **are not written** in the **Lamb's Book of Life** will receive God's wrath because they don't repent of (turn away from) their sins—and they want to continue to do the things that the Bible says not to. Eventually, these people will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 9:13-21; 20:15)

Order of Events in the Book of Revelation

Some people believe that the events in the Book of Revelation are basically in chronological order, but others—including myself—do not. Below is the order that I think (with a Post-Tribulation viewpoint) the events will unfold. Some of the information is partially based on Richard H. Perry's book *Of the Last Days: Listen, I Tell You a Mystery* (Second Edition) and Jason Dulle's article "Themes in Revelation" (www.apostolic.net/biblicalstudies/revelationthemes.htm) (accessed September 25, 2008).

First 3-1/2 years of the Great Tribulation:

Revelation 4; 5; 6:1-6 and 8:2-11.

Second 3-1/2 years of the Great Tribulation:

Revelation 6:7-17; 8:12-13; 9; 11:1-10; 12:6-17; 13; 17 and 18.

(Revelation 12:1-5 is about Israel and Jesus up to Jesus' resurrection around 30 AD)

After the Great Tribulation:

Revelation 7; 8:1; 10; 11:11-19; 14; 15; 16; 19 and 20:1-6.

Let's discuss more events foretold.

Other Events that the Book of Revelation States Will Occur

Below are some events that the Book of Revelation foretells. When you see these things happening, realize that the Bible is not fiction but is the greatest book of truth. God uses the Bible to tell us what life is all about, how to live life and what will happen in the future. So it is best to do what the Bible teaches—Trust (Believe) in Jesus to be Saved as explained in chapter 6, “How to Have Real Meaning in Life.”

A Third of Many Things Will Be Destroyed

Revelation 8:7-12 seems to indicate that the things listed below will somehow be destroyed or polluted before the Second Coming of Jesus.

One third of the trees of the Earth will be burned.

One third of the grass of the Earth will be burned.

One third of the seas of the Earth will be turned to blood (or probably polluted somehow).

One third of sea creatures of the Earth will die.

One third of the ships of the Earth will be destroyed.

One third of the rivers and springs of the Earth will be polluted.

One third of the water on the Earth will be polluted.

One third of the moon and stars will be darken.

One third of the day will be dark.

When you see these things, know that God is **starting** to very harshly punish those who are not turning away from their sins.

Two Billion People May Die

Before the Second Coming of Jesus, Revelation 9:13-21 seems to state that there will be 200 million horsemen riding horses. The meaning of this could be literal or figurative. The verses state that these horsemen on horses will kill one third of the population of the world. Verse 15 states *for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year*. Some people think that this event will occur at a specific hour, day, month and year. Other people think that this event will take a little over a year and a month. Either way, a lot of people will be killed.

The population of the world in the Year 2000 was over six billion people (World Book. *World Book Encyclopedia*. Chicago: World Book Inc., 2007; 15:672). If there is about six billion people when one third of the population is killed, then it means about two billion people will be killed.

Two Prophets

According to Revelation 11:3-13, there will be two persons, who are referred to as the *two witnesses* (v. 3) or the *two prophets* (v. 10). These two prophets will prophesy for 3-1/2 years. Within those 3-1/2 years, they will foretell things and those things will happen.

They will probably prophesy of all kinds of judgments or disasters on those who do not Trust in Jesus. The two prophets will have power to prevent rain. They will also be able to cause plagues to occur as often as they want.

I think almost everyone in the world will want them killed because of their prophecies of judgment. People will try to kill them but they won't be able to. Those who try to kill them will instead be killed in the same manner that they tried to kill the two prophets.

At the end of the 3-1/2 years, they will be killed and left in the streets for all to see. This will cause rejoicing in the world and cause people to send gifts to each other. After 3-1/2 days, God will make them come back to life. Of course, this will put great fear in people. Next, God will take the two prophets into heaven.

I think this is one of the first prophecies of the Book of Revelation that will show that there is little doubt that the prophecies in the book are true. This prophecy not only states what kind of power the two prophets have, but it specifies how long they will perform these things and it specifies how long they will lie in the streets before they come back to life. So if you see these things happening, know that the end of the world, as we know it, is near.

The Worshiping of a Beast

Revelation 13:1-18 indicates that there were two beasts (probably world leaders). The first beast will seem to be killed and then be amazingly healed. This beast might seem to be healed by Satan (the dragon) (Revelation 12:9). Because of this, Satan and the first beast will be worshipped.

The second beast, which will have powers like the first beast, will seemly have power to do miracles when in the presence of the first beast. This will cause people to think that he is a god or something (Revelation 13:13-14). He will demand that everyone worship an image of the first beast (maybe some kind of huge statute or idol) or else they will be killed.

It seems like these two beasts are top leaders of a very powerful group of governments or of one government that rules the whole world.

For those who Trust in Jesus (Christians), the Bible says not to worship any statue (idol or graven image) (Exodus 20:3-5). The government, which the beast is part of, will kill the Christians that they find that will not worship the idol.

Consider What Could Make Life More Efficient, Safer and Easier

In order to discuss another prophecy in the Bible, some things must be mentioned. Let us consider one of the things that could be done, globally, that could make things (like business and security) operate more efficiently and make life safer and easier.

One thing that could make many things in life more efficient, safer and easier is to have a system where every person in the world is uniquely identified. Of course, such a system would only work if each verification or transaction can be done quickly and in a secure manner—it should be impossible or very difficult for someone to illegally use another person's identity.

The use of biometrics could accomplish this. Biometrics, in part, deals with various measurements of living things. Biometrics is already being used for security reasons such as to restrict people's access to a room, a building or to certain types of computer data. (Of course, one way to find more information about biometrics is to search major search engines on the World Wide Web (also referred to as the *Web*) using the keyword *biometrics*.)

Currently, equipment using biometrics can measure such things as the features of people's fingerprints, hands, faces, voices or retinas of their eyes to uniquely identify them with some level of confidence. Practical factors that probably limit the level at which people can be uniquely identified are the cost of the more precise equipment and the limited amount of time given (maybe a fraction of a second) to complete the identification process, which may include scanning, processing of the data and searching for data on the person in question. With advances in technology, these issues may already be resolved or will soon be resolved.

With a **global identification system** such as this, things in life could be made much easier. Such a system could be connected electronically to various computers of all the countries of the world. The system could be setup so that just by scanning people's hands there can be quick access to various things. This would make it harder for a person to steal another person's identity. Many times people don't know that their identities are being used by someone else. Stealing a person's identity is sometimes referred to as *identity theft*.

Such a system could also do away with the need for passports, because people's hands could be scanned and certain data could be electronically retrieved from the country they are from (and from any other country with pertinent data) to verify whom they are and if they should be granted entry.

Security at border crossings and entryways to airports, certain rooms and certain buildings could be setup so that the scanning of the hands of only authorized people would unlock (and probably open automatically) the doors to those places. This could eliminate the need for keys, security cards and passwords.

The system could virtually eliminate the need for credit cards and the need of carrying cash. When people go to a store, they would select the items that they would like to purchase, take them to one of the store's checkout counters and scan the items. Next, they would have their hands scanned. The amount of their purchases would then be deducted from their bank accounts and they could leave with their purchases.

Cars could be made such that the doors would only unlock and start after people's identities have been verified by hand scans. This means people won't have to carry car keys and the stealing of cars should become very difficult.

Implanted Microchips

Another thing that could accomplish all of the above things is the implanting of a microchip (a small computer chip) inside the hands of everyone in the world. Each person could have a microchip that would have a **unique internationally-approved code**. This microchip would wirelessly communicate to the appropriate equipment and computers, which could be in any country in the world. [Technically speaking, each code could be some kind of a real-time authentication process (using hardware and/or software) with encryption or whatever is necessary.]

If people want to enter a country, all they need to do is to be close enough to the appropriate electronic equipment (which would be located at border crossings between countries) for their microchip to communicate with it. The equipment would then process whatever is necessary to grant or deny entry into the country. This would provide the means to more easily keep track of undesirable people like terrorists and criminals. In a system that uses implanted microchips, processes similar to those previously mentioned (concerning the scanning of people's hands) could be used.

The implanted microchip could be used another way. Instead of getting information on a person from various computers around the world, the information concerning that person could be in the microchip and updated wirelessly. Information in each person's implanted microchip could be their name, date of birth, address, phone numbers, the level of authorization for all types of activities (such as business and so on), financial status (including the amount of money in the person's bank account(s)), medical history, employment history and religion. Each organization that would communicate with the microchip would, ideally, be able to access only information that the person allows.

Implanted microchips for humans are already available. (One way to find what is currently available, is to search major search engines on the Web using the keywords *microchip* and *human*.)

Vein-Scan

One possible way to uniquely identify a person is by scanning the vascular pattern in a person's hand. This biometric technology sometimes is referred to as *vein-scan* or *hand vascular pattern identification*. An IR (infra-red) camera acquires an image of the vascular pattern in the person's hand and puts it in a database. The next time the person interfaces with equipment that uses this technology, the newly acquired imaged is compared to the image in the database for verification.

Ink with RFID Functionality

A more likely type of universal personal identification will be a tattoo using high dielectric **ink (chipless) with RFID functionality**. *RFID* stands for *radio-frequency identification*. This technology is made by Somark Innovations (www.somarkinnovations.com).

More information can be found on their webpage

<http://somarkinnovations.com/technology/> . Click on the link "Click to read SOMARK Platform Technology Capabilities Paper," to view the document, "Platform Technology Capabilities" (<http://dev.somarkinnovations.com/wp-content/somark-platform-technology-capabilities-r21.pdf> (accessed October 11, 2008)).

One of their US patents is the "Microwave readable dielectric barcode" (patent 7,205,774), which was filed in 2005. The patent may be found by using the search tool at the United States Patent and Trademark Office webpage (<http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-bool.html>) and entering 7205774.

Other information on their RFID ink can be found in the article, "Invisible RFID Ink Safe For Cattle And People, Company Says" (2007) by K. C. Jones (www.informationweek.com/shared/printableArticle.jhtml?articleID=196802844 (accessed October 13, 2008)).

They are currently testing it on cattle (refer to "Field Demo Brings Company Closer to Launch" (2008) <http://somarkinnovations.com/2008/01/field-demo-brings-company-closer-to-launch/#more-8> (accessed October 13, 2008)). It will be used on cattle so that livestock can be tracked, which will help if there are scares like the mad-cow disease (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)).

The RFID ink is put into one-time-use capsules. The ink is injected with an array of micro-needles into an animal's skin so that the animal has a tattoo but it is not visible. At that point, a RFID scanner can determine the unique identification (ID). Some of the features of this system are 1) the RFID scanner can "read" the ink up to 4 feet away; 2) the scanner doesn't need to be in the line of sight; 3) the ink can be invisible; and 4) the scanner can "read" the ink through the animal's hair.

It is said that it is safe for people and animals. Other target markets for ink with RFID functionality include dogs and cats, prime cuts of meat, and military personnel (should be especially helpful in identifying friend or foe in the battlefield).

Mark in the Hand or Forehead

Over 1900 years ago, the Book of Revelation foretold of a situation that could be like one of those mentioned above. The Bible says that the second beast (mentioned earlier) will **require people** that want to **buy or sell anything (including food)** to have **a mark, the name of the beast or the number of the beast (666)** (Revelation 13:16,18).

The mark, often referred as the **mark of the beast**, will be put on (or in) the right hand (back or front) or on (or in) the forehead. The mark could be something **stamped** or **tattooed** on the hand or forehead with the name of the beast or the number of the beast (666) using non-removable ink that would be **visible** or **invisible** (can only be seen under a special light or by a certain type of equipment).

In the past, I've always thought that if there was a mark on the back of the hand, that the ink used would be invisible. Actually, the ink may be always **visible**. For many, as I have read before, it may be a mark of pride—pride in participating in some kind of a great system or organization. Whether it is a mark of pride or not, another issue is if there is a requirement that the ink be visible, then those who don't have the mark can be easily spotted. Although, a person could hide the fact that they don't have the mark by covering their hand with a glove, bandage or something, but having those things may become objects of suspicion.

The J. Strong's concordance-dictionary indicates that the word **mark** in verses about the mark of the beast in the Book of Revelation is the Greek word *charagma* (5480). In part, it states that mark is a *scratch* or *etching*. So the **mark of the beast** seems to be something stamped or tattooed instead of being an implanted microchip.

The **mark of the beast** could be an **ink tattoo with RFID functionality**. The mark could be a coded unique ID using straight lines like barcodes. The mark of the beast could be a visible design having a unique ID camouflaged in the design.

So the **mark of the beast** could be **ink with RFID functionality tattooed with an awesome visible design** having a **camouflaged unique ID on the hand or forehead of each person in the world**.

Different kinds of identification systems, which will probably have a lot of data on many people, will become more and more common and will be accepted to a large degree because it will probably make life so much safer and easier or because they will have to be used for society to operate. Whoever controls the personal data in these identification systems will have more and more control of the people using their systems.

Eventually, a government or a group of governments or a powerful organization that rules the whole world will probably have access to enough personal data on most of the people in the world to control all of them.

Spiritual Strength Required

The Bible also says that anyone that worships the beast and his idol and that **takes the mark** will *drink the wine of the **wrath of God**, will be **tormented with fire and brimstone**, the smoke of their torment* will ascend up forever and will have *no rest day or night* (Revelation 14:9-11)[bold emphases are mine].

Anyone who doesn't worship the beast's idol and doesn't take the mark of the beast will be killed by those who worship the idol. God will protect those who are walking close to Him, although He may allow some (for reasons only He may know) to be killed who refuse the mark of the beast and refuse to worship the beast and his idol.

More Destruction

Revelation 14:13 to 16:11 state more destruction that will occur on the Earth.

The Second Coming of Jesus may occur at This Point

The Second Coming of Jesus may occur (Revelation 7; 8:1; 10; 11:11-19; 14:12-16) before the battle at Armageddon that is described next.

Armageddon

According to Revelation 16:12-21 and 19:1-21, the first beast and the second beast (maybe the false prophet) (Revelation 20:10) and those who do not obey God will fight against Jesus (Word of God) and His armies. This battle will take place in Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), which is near Meggido in Israel.

It seems that after Jesus and His armies win the battle, Jesus throws the first and second beasts and many of those who followed them into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20).

Christians Reign on the Earth for a Thousand Years

Next, an angel throws Satan into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. At this point, I think there will be a group of Christians (Revelation 19:15) who will rule with Jesus with *a rod of iron* over whoever is living on the Earth (Revelation 20:1-6).

After the thousand years, Satan will be loosed for a period of time. Satan will then gather those who are not Christians and surround the city that the Christians are in. Satan, his angels and his people will want to kill the Christians, but God will send down fire from heaven and kill all His enemies. God will then throw Satan into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:5-10)

Great White Throne Judgment

According to Revelation 20:11 to 22:21, **everyone who has not been judged yet** will be judged by God in what is sometimes referred to as the *Great White Throne Judgment*. Those who **do not** have their names written In the Lamb's Book of Life will be thrown into the **Lake of Fire where they will be in torment forever**.

Next, God will destroy heaven and Earth, but He will create a new heaven, new earth and a huge, new Jerusalem. People that **have their names written In the Lamb's Book of Life will live with God in the new Jerusalem forever**. There will no longer be death, sorrow or pain. They will forever be with and worship the Lord God Almighty, Who is worthy of all worship.

Trust (Believe) in Jesus to be Saved If You Haven't Yet Done So

What the Bible says, including what the Book of Revelation says, will come to pass. Just be sure you choose to be on God's side because the eternal consequences of not being on His side are horrible.

If your name is already in the Lamb's Book of Life, **continue to pursue the God of the Holy Bible. Do what God wants you to do** so that you will be able to be with Him (Matthew 7:21-23). Our desire should be to want **to please God** because **He Loves Us So Much!**

If you haven't done so, you should choose to **Trust (Believe) in Jesus**. In other words, **put Your confidence of your whole life in Jesus, in what He said and what the Bible teaches. Jesus was the ONLY acceptable sacrifice that could pay the penalty for our sins**. When You put **Your confidence in Jesus, You will be Saved from God's wrath**, have **Your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life** and receive **God's Gift of Eternal Life**. **Trusting in Jesus** is the only way that You can have **Real Meaning in Your Life**. Information on how to Trust in Jesus to be Saved is found in chapter 6, "How to Have Real Meaning in Life."

God Bless You!

– End of Chapter 8 –

Appendix A

More Information About the Bible and Which One to Use

Original Text of the Bible

The Bible has two main sections. The versions of the Bible that Protestant churches (Christian churches, which have major beliefs that are different from Catholic churches) rely on 66 specific books. Those specific books are found in the King James Version (KJV) (also referred to as the *Authorized Version* (AV)) and many other versions of the Bible.

The first section is the Old Testament, which has 39 books. The original text of the Old Testament is mostly written in Hebrew. The 39 books were written approximately between 1500 BC and 400 BC (*Illustrated Dictionary and Concordance of the Bible*, 1986; pp. 211-216).

Please be aware that some of what is mentioned in the Old Testament is not to be done any longer such as many of the ceremonies. The New Testament (refer to the next paragraph) explains about the changes.

The second section is the New Testament, which has 27 books. Its original language is Greek. The 27 books were written from about 49 AD and 150 AD. (Wikipedia contributors, "New Testament," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Testament (accessed May 22, 2009))

(In 397 AD at the Council of Carthage, the selection of the 66 books were for the most part agreed on.) (*Illustrated Dictionary and Concordance of the Bible*, 1986; p. 215)

No Original Writings

The original writings are referred to as *autographs*, but there are no original writings of the books in the Old or New Testament (Gunn, George. "King James and Other Versions." Redding, California: Shasta Bible College and Graduate School. Webpage: www.shasta.edu/articles/gunn/kingjames.asp (accessed October 18, 2008)).

(Please continue to the next page)

Evidence shows that the New Testament is accurate, because of the fact that the copies (manuscripts) of the original writings closely match one another and there are more copies of the original writings of the New Testament than copies of writings by Plato or Aristotle (even though they are more recent than the New Testament). (Refer to Matthew J. Slick's article, "Manuscript evidence for superior New Testament reliability," Escondido, CA: Christian Apologetics Research Ministry, 1995-2008. Webpage: www.carm.org/questions/textualevidence.htm (accessed September 25, 2008).)

There are manuscripts with all 66 books of the Bible, but many of the manuscripts are just portions of the Old or New Testaments.

The copies of the original writings of the books closely match one another, but when the text of the copies don't exactly match each other, some questions can arise as to what was trying to be conveyed. This is part of the reason why there are different versions of the Bible.

Interpreting the Bible

To properly interpret the Bible, we need to use the best text of the original writings available of the 66 books; the best current information on the Hebrew, Greek and other languages of the Bible; and the best current information obtained by science (including archeology) and other disciplines that provide more accurate understanding of the Bible.

(Unfortunately, in this appendix, the word *best* is subjective. For example, there are different copies of the original writings, some are from the 4th century AD or earlier. There are different views (e.g., the main views are often called the *Critical Text* and the *Majority Text*) of which manuscripts are the closest to the original writings. So the *best text* depends on what information you have and your thoughts about that information.)

But because most of us are not biblical scholars, we have to do our best to look to the resources that may provide the best understanding of what the Bible is saying.

There are many versions of the Bible. Each version interprets the Bible differently. I believe it is okay to use various versions of the Bible, but **we must believe** what matches **the best text of the original writings**.

I've read articles about different versions of the Bible in the English language. I believe a good English version is the King James Version. One of the disadvantages of the King James Version for people today is the fact that it is not written in the English used today—the King James Version was written in 1611. Another disadvantage is that the scholars, who produced that version of the Bible, didn't have the information which has been acquired since then.

The King James Version of the Bible is based on a Greek text of the New Testament often referred to by the Greek phrase *Textus Receptus* (or Received Text) published in the 1500's. (Anderson, G. W. "What today's Christian needs to know about The Greek New Testament." London: Trinitarian Bible Society. Webpage: www.trinitarianbiblesociety.org/site/articles/grktxt.asp (accessed May 22, 2009).)

"The Translators to the Reader," which is the preface to the King James Version of the Bible, provides important insights about the version and about the mindset of the translators. (The preface is the equivalent of about 20 pages.) The Christian Classics Ethereal Library provides the text and some notes on it (www.ccel.org/bible/kjv/preface/pref1.htm (accessed October 18, 2008)).

The Received Text was based on certain manuscripts, which are part of a group of manuscripts sometimes referred to as the *Majority Text*. Some scholars believe the Majority Text is more reliable than another major group of Greek manuscripts, the Alexandrian Text (the text most modern English Bibles are based on). (Refer to the Preface of the *The Holy Bible, New King James Version* (NKJV) published by Thomas Nelson Inc. in 1982.)

For those who would like to read a version of the Bible in modern English, the New King James Version (NKJV) may be a good choice. The New Testament of the NKJV is also based on the Received Text. The NKJV is not based on the Alexandrian Text, but it has many footnotes related to the Alexandrian Text. These footnotes are noted with the abbreviation *NU*. *NU* refers to a text of the Greek New Testament that is published in the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament (26th edition) (N) and in the United Bible Societies' Greek New Testament (3rd edition) (U). The abbreviation *M* refers to the Majority Text, which is similar to the Received Text. (For NKJV information on abbreviations *NU*, *M* and others, refer to the Preface of the NKJV.)

I have heard that the Bible was inspired by God in such a way that if we are not sure of the right interpretation of a verse, there may be other verses in the Bible that will help us interpret it properly.

Understanding the Bible

The verse in 2 Timothy 2:15 says to *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* (KJV)

We should ask God to help us understand and practice what He is expressing in the Bible and He will help us. We can also read and study various versions of the Bible and other biblical resources.

Ultimately, we want to have the right understanding of the Bible, not just to understand it, but also to do what it says to do.

– End of Appendix A –

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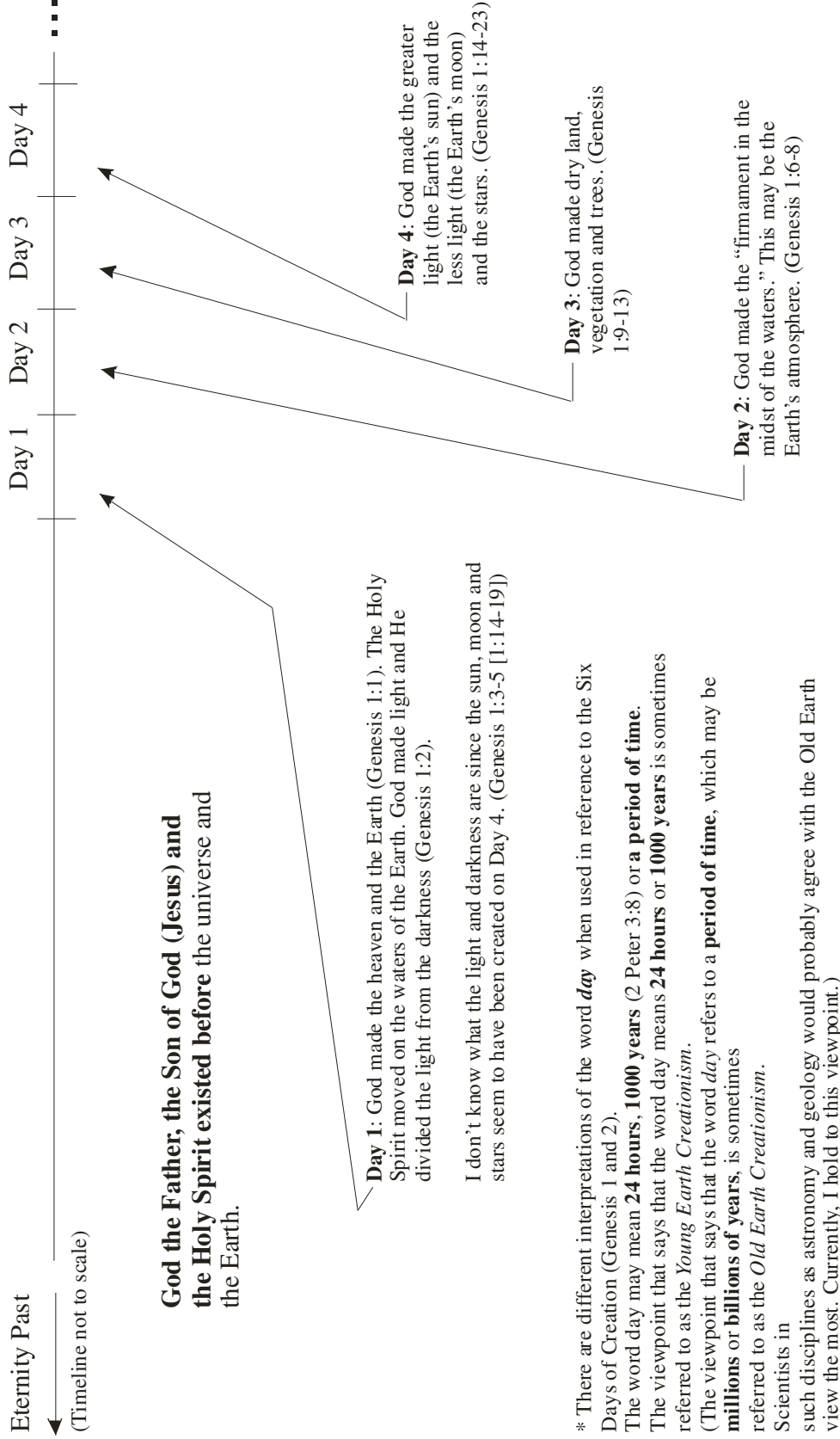
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Diagram 1A: Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future - Young Earth Creationism

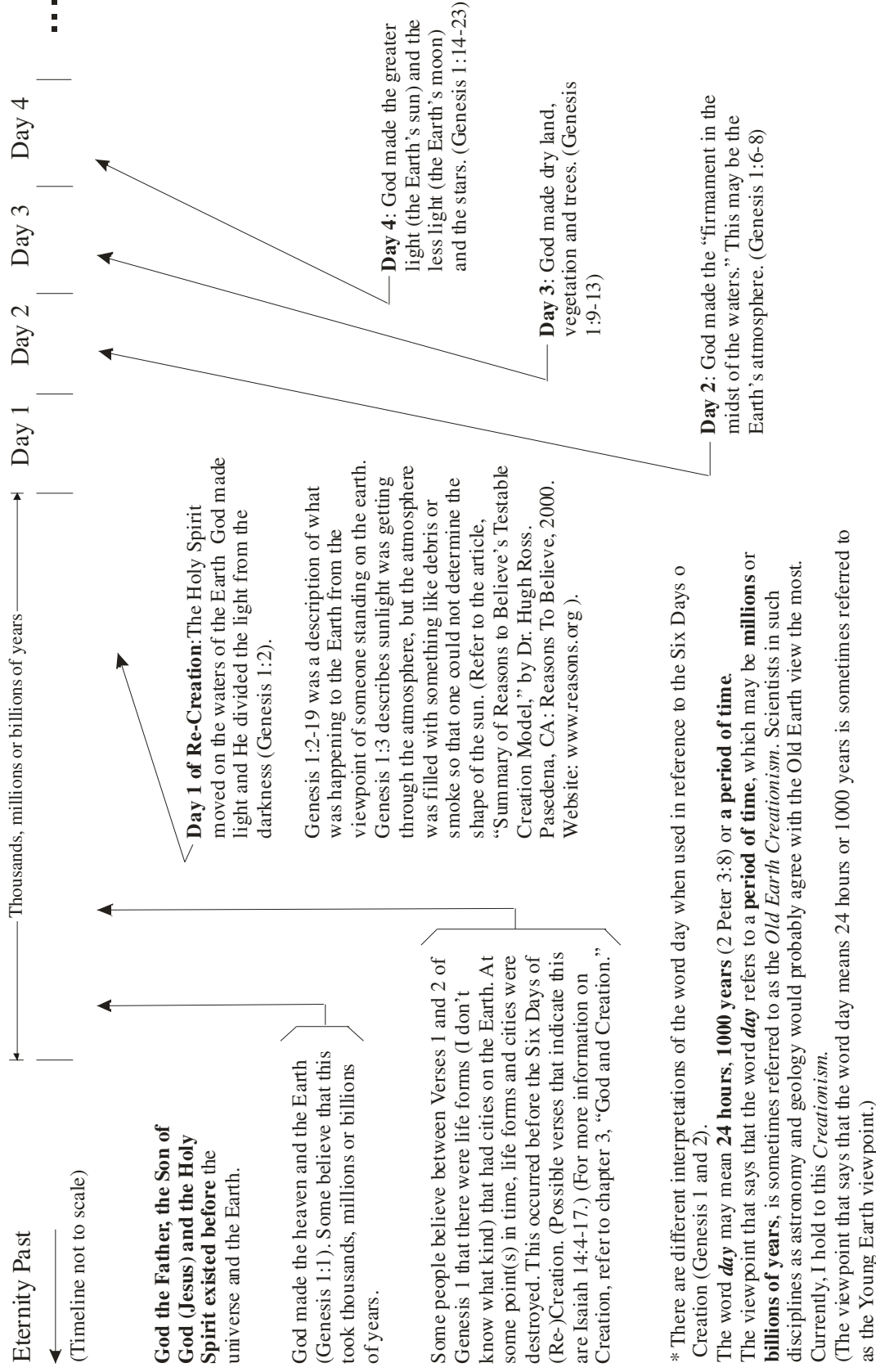


* There are different interpretations of the word *day* when used in reference to the Six Days of Creation (Genesis 1 and 2).
The word day may mean **24 hours**, **1000 years** (2 Peter 3:8) or a **period of time**.
The viewpoint that says that the word day means **24 hours** or **1000 years** is sometimes referred to as the *Young Earth Creationism*.
(The viewpoint that says that the word *day* refers to a **period of time**, which may be **millions** or **billions of years**, is sometimes referred to as the *Old Earth Creationism*.
Scientists in such disciplines as astronomy and geology would probably agree with the Old Earth view the most. Currently, I hold to this viewpoint.)

For more information about God, refer to chapter 2, "Who God Is."

The explanation and text version of diagrams 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 can be found in this document *Meaning in Life in the Framework of Eternity*. It may also be found on the Stuart Mita Enterprises website (www.stuartmita.com).

Diagram 1B: Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future - Old Earth Creationism



* There are different interpretations of the word day when used in reference to the Six Days of Creation (Genesis 1 and 2). The word *day* may mean **24 hours**, **1000 years** (2 Peter 3:8) or a **period of time**. The viewpoint that says that the word *day* refers to a **period of time**, which may be **millions** or **billions of years**, is sometimes referred to as the *Old Earth Creationism*. Scientists in such disciplines as astronomy and geology would probably agree with the Old Earth view the most. Currently, I hold to this *Creationism*. (The viewpoint that says that the word day means 24 hours or 1000 years is sometimes referred to as the Young Earth viewpoint.)

Diagram from *Meaning In Life in the Framework of Eternity* (Copyright 2009) by Stuart Mita

For more information about God, refer to chapter 2, "Who God Is."

Diagram 2: Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future - Human Beings Created

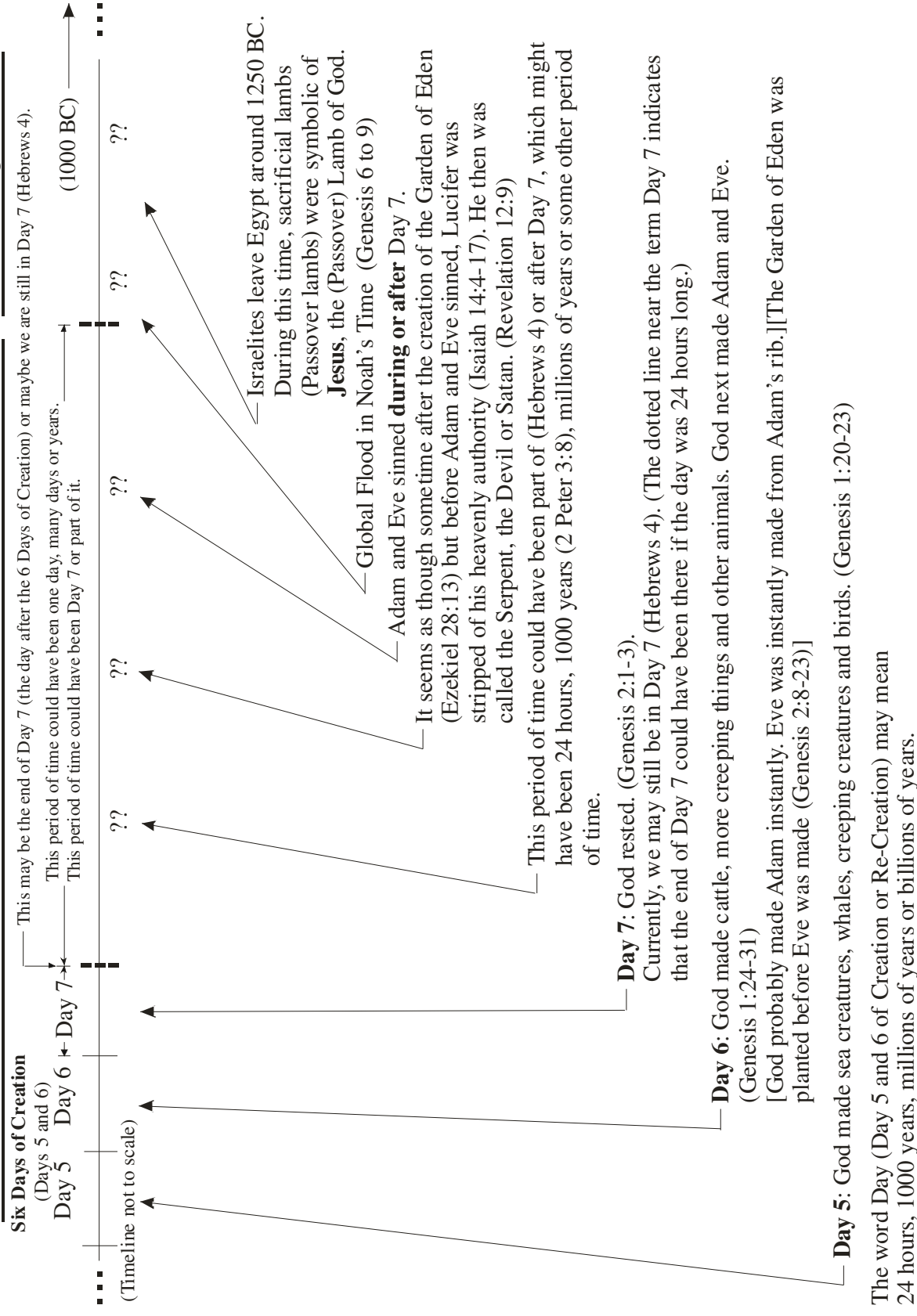


Diagram 3: Some Highlights (Including Some Theories) of Eternity Past to Eternity Future - **Jesus, the Son of God**

Is this still Day 7 (the day after the 6 Days of Creation) (Hebrews 4)?

*** It is **more important** to have **Your Name written** in the **Lamb's Book of Life** (refer to chapter 6, "How to Have Real Meaning in Life), than to know what happens in the future.

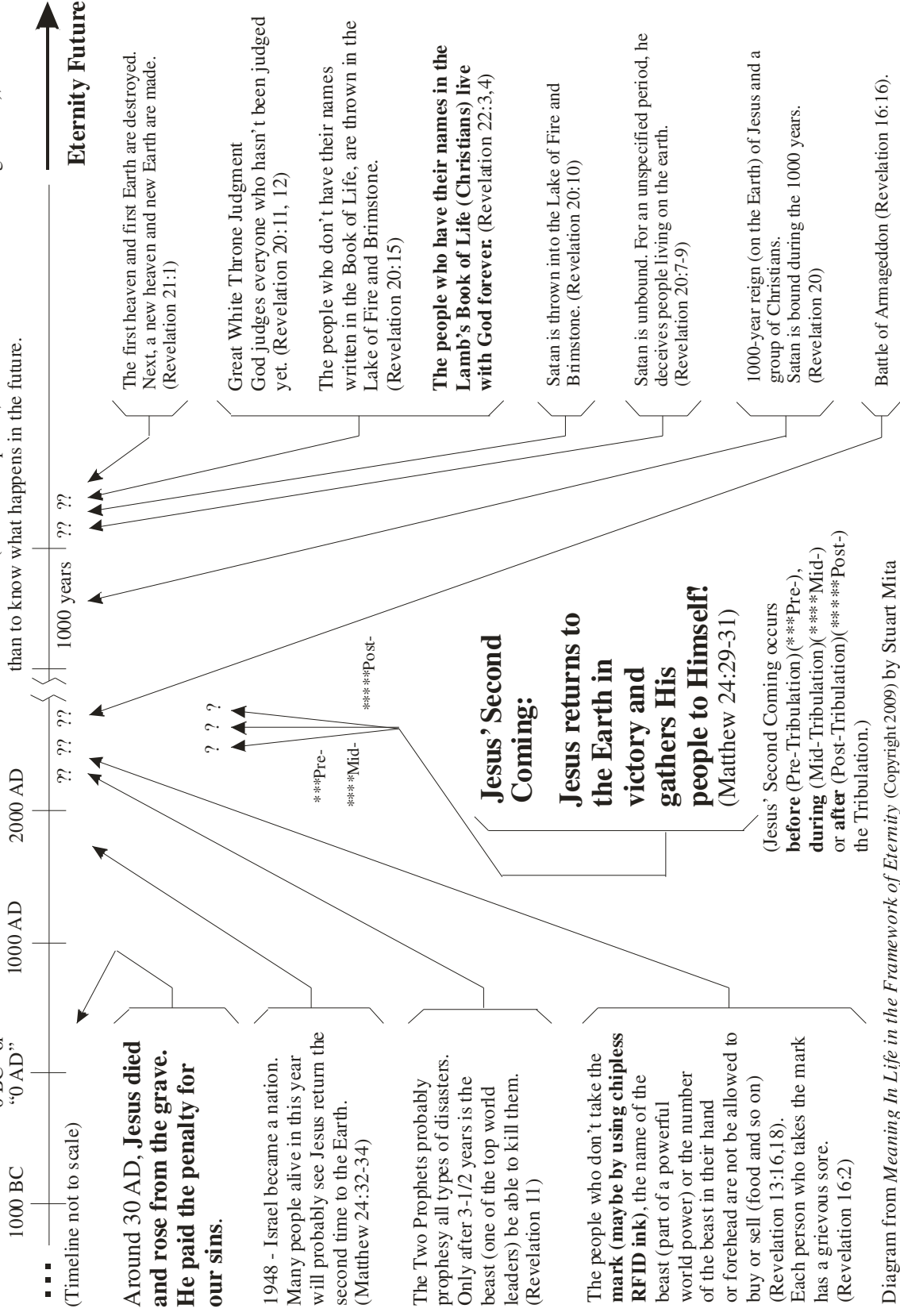


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