

#20 \*FORUM POST ON THE EARLY AND LATTER RAIN

**THREAD TITLE:** IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE BIBLE NEVER TAUGHT THAT HELL WOULD LAST FOREVER?

We are told that hell is, at worst, a place of eternal torture, or at best, a place of eternal separation from God. Either way, we're taught it's a sad place for the rest of forever and ever. AND we're taught that God, who IS love (that is to say, Love IS God), created us knowing the majority of mankind would go there.

But, the words translated 'everlasting' and 'ever' and 'for ever' in both the Old Testament and the New Testament don't have to be translated that way. And they aren't always translated that way. For example, the word used for how long hell lasts in [Revelation 14:11](#), translated 'ever' in "for ever and ever" (the plural of Greek αἰών, or in English, "aion") is also translated "world" in [Matthew 12:32](#), [Mark 4:19](#), [Luke 1:70](#), and more.

And it's the same in Hebrew. עולם ('Olam' in English) is translated "everlasting" in [Daniel 12:2](#), but "world" in Psalm 73:12, [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#), [Isaiah 64:4](#) and elsewhere; and "days of old" in [Amos 9:11](#), [Micah 7:14](#), [Malachi 3:4](#) and elsewhere.

Why does Jesus say in [Matthew 5:26](#), when speaking about hell, "You will by no means come out of there, until you have paid the uttermost penny," if He meant "there is no such thing as paying the uttermost penny, no matter how much you beg for mercy, even a million years later, the payment will never be enough. You're going to pay forever and ever and ever." (And that word 'until' in Greek, ἕως, means exactly that - until.)

Is it possible the Bible never taught hell would last forever?

E\_\_\_\_\_

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

I read your post and you seem to be on the right track. You possibly have much more to say so I may be stating things below that you already know and believe.

Here is my understanding:

There is no single word in the Greek language at the time the scriptures were written that means "eternal" or "everlasting". The Greek word used for those incorrect translations is "aion", which means age or eon. It can never mean eternal or everlasting. I believe those definitions were added much later to accommodate the Doctrine of Hell.

Here is how "aion aion" should be translated:

**Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for the ages of the ages (not for ever and ever).**

The proof for as you correctly pointed out, comes from the fact that Christ's reign DOES come to an end someday. It ends because He has no more work to do after 100% of mankind has been saved.

Now look at this verse:

**Rev 11:15 And the seventh messenger trumpets. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of this world became our Lord's and His Christ's, and He shall be reigning for the ages of the ages (not for ever and ever)!"**

Both **Rev 20:10** and **Rev 11:15** use the phrase "aion aion". If it meant "for ever and ever", then **1Cor 15:20-28** cannot be true since it clearly says that Christ's reign will come to an end someday.

Now concerning the teaching on hell: Hell does not exist as it is commonly taught. Hell (Lake of Fire) means a place of judgment, nothing else. It is not literal. All the book of Revelation is taught in physical symbols which carry spiritual meanings. Fire is one of those symbols and it means the judgment of Christ. It is not eternal nor is it literal fire. Christ's judgment comes to an end when the desired purpose for the judgment is satisfied.

Here is the purpose for Christ's judgment:

**Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**

**Isa 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.**

In case those two verses are not convincing, here are a few more:

**Psa 9:8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.**

**Psa 33:5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

**Isa 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

**Isa 4:4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning (fire).**

Mankind has perverted the judgment of Christ into a ghastly nightmare of eternal fire without it having any loving purpose to it.

**Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.**

**Prov 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.**

The God I know is loving & merciful and He is not willing that any should perish. The Doctrine of Hell is a lie from Satan.

By the end of the final age when Christ's reign ends, ALL who died in Adam will ALL be made alive in Christ. Then God will be "all in all" because no one has been left out of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Then this verse will be testified to be true:

**1 Tim 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Extremely excellent verse presentation! Like, super awesome excellent and wonderful. There's another little piece to the puzzle! I'm not ashamed to say I love you, my friend. Well done!

Sometimes I feel alone, surrounded by a sea of contradiction, trying to wave to those around me who are drinking the poison of serpents while chanting, "The god of this poison is good! The god of this poison is loving!" I'm waving to them, trying to reason with them, saying, "No - Love cannot do this thing you are talking about; that is poison you're drinking. That is poison you're sharing. How can you not see that?"

I am well-pleased to meet you.

So, the piece of the puzzle you have added is confirmation on a surmise I've held for decades; that being, in my own words, hell is a hospital of sorts. I have inferred this mostly from the last three chapters of Revelation, but never considered the verses you've presented as greater illumination on what I had found. They give a foundation to me, something solid to plant God's purpose on. If you don't mind, I'd like to return, gift-for-gift, what you've given to me.

I cannot see any possibility other than that there are only two places people are relegated to after the judgment, The Lake of Fire or New Jerusalem.

Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Combined with:

[Revelation 21:27](#) "And there shall in no wise enter into it (New Jerusalem) anything that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

So then, If the following is true...

[Revelation 21:4](#) "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Then who is this for...

[Revelation 22:2](#) "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Backing up just a smidge from there, we see...

[Revelation 21:23-26](#) "And the city (of New Jerusalem) had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it (New Jerusalem)."

The kings that are allowed into New Jerusalem must be, in part at least (and I would guess entirely), those that God chooses as His elect...

[Revelation 1:5-6](#) "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

[Revelation 22:3-5](#) "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever (or as you have graciously pointed out - for ages of ages)."

If a king rules over a kingdom, and a priest mediates between man and God, and we are to be kings and priests, who exactly are we reigning over? Who are we mediating for?

King Jesus said in at least two different places that the prison we'll be handed over into lasts until our debt is paid.

[Matthew 5:26](#) "Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing."

[Matthew 18:32-35](#) "Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Should not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses."

A king in heaven isn't like a king on earth. We function exactly the opposite of the way they do...

[Matthew 23:11](#) "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

[Luke 22:25-27](#) "And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sits at meat, or he that serves? is not he that sits at meat? but I am among you as he that serves."

Ok - to put all the pieces together as I see it. There are only two places we go after the judgment, either heaven or hell. If we go to hell, we have to pay the penalty for our sins. If we go to heaven, we will become kings and priests. Since we're not likely to be kings of one another, since that's silly, and since we're not likely to be mediating for one another, since that's sillier yet still, and if the only people left are those outside the city wall - then we are kings over and priests for the folks that went to hell. But heaven's kings are servants, and we have a job to do. We go outside the city, a city those folks can't ever come into, and we do two things. We bring those nations healing from the tree of life, and we bring their glory back inside. And in so doing, they too are saved - from sin, because they've paid their price, and they're getting healing from heaven, and they don't sin anymore. And in this way, the world is saved.

This is how I see reconciliation between both damnation to hell, and salvation for the whole world.

Here is the often overlooked [John 3:17](#) "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

[1 Corinthians 15:22](#) "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (Who all died because of Adam?)

And now - to this wonderfully good news I've found, hidden within the texts of the corporate Christian faith, I add:

**Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**

And

**1 Tim 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

And that isn't to overlook the other passages you provided. It's just that, those two are...MEGA.

Thank you for your gift. May God's wisdom be with you, around you, and in you. Peace to you and those you love.

E\_\_\_\_\_

Dear E\_\_\_\_\_,

Thanks for the kind words and for the questions. I have good answers for your questions BUT they are quite involved.

The Truth of God is given in stone blocks which must be stacked upon one another so that the building of Truth can be understood. As more and more of the stone blocks are put into place, the knowledge of God is revealed.

**Isa 28: 10-12 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.**

You said:

**I cannot see any possibility other than that there are only two places where people are relegated to after the judgment, The Lake of Fire or New Jerusalem.**

You must remember that Christ uses PHYSICAL symbols to teach SPIRITUAL truths. The Lake of Fire and New Jerusalem are no exceptions. They are not literal places. As I said earlier, the Lake of Fire is the judgment of Christ. New Jerusalem represents the Kingdom of Heaven where Christ's Elect dwell. They are the First-Fruits of Christ's harvest of mankind. Neither the Lake of Fire or New Jerusalem are literal places.

The Elect are being saved in this age, whereas, all others will be saved in the final age (which I call the Lake of Fire age).

You said:

**Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**

Combined with:

**Revelation 21:27 "And there shall in no wise enter into it (New Jerusalem) anything that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."**

My comments are a little involved.

Here is a little foundation to what the verses are teaching:

Mankind is saved in TWO groups. The Elect make up the first group. They are the FIRST-fruits of His harvest of mankind. Their salvation occurs in this age before they physically die. Christ is not trying to save anyone else at this time. The second group is the rest of mankind who remain lost at the time of their physical deaths (from all ages). They will be saved at the end of the Lake of Fire age. The Feast of First-Fruits and the Feast of Tabernacles represents these two groups.

At the end of the Lake of Fire age, Christ will make this call to everyone who remains lost:

**John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

Those found written in the Lamb's Book of Life are the Elect who were saved in this present age. The rest of mankind is cast into the Lake of Fire (judgment which results in their conversion).

Christ is the only one who is perfect. Only Christ can enter New Jerusalem for this reason. Christ's "work" of saving mankind is based on this truth.

Mankind, as created from birth, must be destroyed and made into Christ.

**Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.**

Mankind was made spiritually marred and as a result, we all become carnally minded. Because we are carnally minded, we sin. Christ came in the same physical body as mankind but He was spiritually perfect and because of such, He never became carnally minded nor did He ever sin.

Because of mankind's marred spiritual condition, we all sin and will all receive the penalty of sin which is death (not hell). When Christ died on the cross, He did not die in our place so that we would not have to die. He died so that we can live again after we pay the penalty of death.

The death we pay is our spiritual death. In other words, the marred vessel must be destroyed (die). Because of Christ's work on the cross though, He earned the keys to death and hell (the

unseen place) which gives Him the power and authority to resurrect us from that death. Upon our spiritual resurrection, Christ gives us a new birth (New Vessel) by the same perfect spirit (Holy Spirit) that dwells in Him. Once we are "in Christ", we are a new creature who is a child of God. We can then enter New Jerusalem (Kingdom of Heaven). The Old Man (mankind) can never enter New Jerusalem because he has sinned.

You said:

So then, If the following is true...

**Revelation 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."**

Then who is this for...

**Revelation 22:2 "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."**

Rev 21:4 is speaking only about the Elect who were found in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev 22:2 is speaking of the Kingdom of Heaven (New Jerusalem). The river represents the Holy Spirit. The Tree of Life is Christ who bears 12 manners of fruit (the Elect). The leaves represent the "works" of Christ which heals (saves) the nations (mankind).

You said:

Backing up just a smidge from there, we see...

**Revelation 21:23-26 "And the city (of New Jerusalem) had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it (New Jerusalem)."**

The kings that are allowed into New Jerusalem must be, in part at least (and I would guess entirely), those that God chooses as His elect...

**Revelation 1:5-6 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."**

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**candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever (or as you have graciously pointed out - for ages of ages)."**

If a king rules over a kingdom, and a priest mediates between man and God, and we are to be kings and priests, who exactly are we reigning over? Who are we mediating for?

The Elect, who dwell in the city (Kingdom of Heaven), have no need of natural light because their sun has been darkened and their moon has been turned to blood. In other words, they no longer receive their truth (light) from the world (Satan's world) because they now receive their truth from Christ.

The night represents spiritual darkness (blind to the truth) and the day represents spiritual light (knowledge of God).

You are right about the Elect being kings and priests. They will be used by Christ to bring in the remaining harvest of mankind.

You said:

Ok - to put all the pieces together as I see it. There are only two places we go after the judgment, either heaven or hell. If we go to hell, we have to pay the penalty for our sins. If we go to heaven, we will become kings and priests. Since we're not likely to be kings of one another, since that's silly, and since we're not likely to be mediating for one another, since that's sillier yet still, and if the only people left are those outside the city wall - then we are kings over and priests for the folks that went to hell. But heaven's kings are servants, and we have a job to do. We go outside the city, a city those folks can't ever come into, and we do two things. We bring those nations healing from the tree of life, and we bring their glory back inside. And in so doing, they too are saved - from sin, because they've paid their price, and they're getting healing from heaven, and they don't sin anymore. And in this way, the world is saved.

The Lake of Fire is not a place. It is judgment. Also, Heaven is not a place, it is a spiritual state of being just like God's spiritual state (Holy Spirit).

Yes, the Elect will be kings and priests who will be used by Christ to bring salvation to those who remain outside of the Kingdom of Heaven (New Jerusalem). The healing (leaves) of the nations come from the works of Christ.

As for paying the price down to the last penny, this is referring to the destruction of our carnal nature (the old vessel). Everyone pays this price. Here is where it shows the Elect paying the price:

**Mat 21:44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**

The stone is the Corner Stone who is Christ. When an unbeliever trips on this stone, they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit. The stone will cause them to fall away and be Broken. A person cannot be saved by tripping on the stone. However, for Christ's Elect, Christ will come a second time to them with the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This time, the stone grinds them to powder. This is the complete destruction of their Old Man and from it, they are saved.

Everyone will someday pay the full price. If not in this age, then in the final age.

Mankind's salvation is 100% the work of Christ and He cannot fail.

There are MANY wonderful scriptures that teach that Christ is truly the Savior of the world. You are certainly seeing some of them.

Important tips on "rightly dividing the Word":

1. The Old Covenant is man's works which attempt to make us righteous from the outside. It is literal and physical. The New Covenant is Christ's work which He does within mankind. It is inward and spiritual. The New Testament's teaching must be spiritually understood (another tongue) and must be applied within mankind where Christ does His work.
2. Christ is saving mankind in TWO groups. The Elect are saved now and everyone else will be saved at the end of the Lake of Fire age.
3. Salvation requires BOTH the [Early Rain of the Spirit](#) and the [Latter Rain of the Spirit](#). We are called out from the world at the time of the Early Rain but we quickly fall away and are Broken. This happens because we remain spiritually blind after being called out. This allows Satan to quickly and easily deceive us. When the Latter Rain falls, it will baptize us with the Spirit and heal our spiritual blindness. That is the point of conversion when we go from being an Old Vessel to a New Vessel. This is when we enter New Jerusalem. In this age, MANY are called out, but only a FEW of them will also receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit. They are the Elect who have been chosen from the foundation of the world.

If you have any other questions, please make them specific and only a couple at a time. Just one question can require a great deal of information to properly answer it.

Thanks again for your kind words. From your comments, it seems that you are receiving (or have received) the Latter Rain of the Spirit. If so, you are highly blessed!

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Question one:

If the Lake of Fire is judgment and not a place, what does that look like?

Question two:

If New Jerusalem is not a place, where is this 'life of the ages' we'll be experiencing taking place?

Question three:

What is this 'early rain' and 'latter rain'?

I don't mind reading long posts. Hit me!

Emet Ziton

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

You asked:

**If the Lake of Fire is judgment and not a place, what does that look like?**

A person can't see judgment with human eyes because Christ's judgment occurs within a person. In other words, judgment happens spiritually to a person. But from that judgment, they will learn righteousness.

But you can see evidence of a person's judgment manifested in the world by the events and trials a person is experiencing. For example, if Christ wants a person to stop gambling, He will cause certain events to happen that will cause the person to never want to gamble again. Judgment is specific to what each person's needs are. In the end though, the person's carnal nature which produces those sins will be destroyed and all that will be left is a child of God governed by the Holy Spirit. The Old Man will be gone.

As for how long judgment takes, I'm sure it varies depending on the needs of the individual. But one thing is for sure, it will last until the last penny is paid.

**Luke 12:59 I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”**

As for where the judgment of the Lake of Fire occurs, scripture doesn't say. After a lost person's resurrection, will they live on this earth or will it be another earth? I don't know. There are many things about the final age that are not explained in scripture.

A large part of scripture teaches about the spiritual events that happen "within" Christ's Elect which causes their conversion. Nearly all End-time prophecy is teaching about the pathway to salvation each of Christ's Elect will travel. Those verses use the physical to teach about the spiritual. Most carnally minded believers only see the events as being literal and out in the world and not really applying to themselves. But I can assure you, at least some of those events apply to them because those end-time events started happening "within" mankind at the time of the Apostles and they have been repeating over and over again within the lives of others since that time.

The End-time scriptures get their name because they teach on certain aspects that deal with the end-time of the Old Man AND because, for most of mankind, their End-time happens at the end of the final age. However, for the Elect, whom the "ends of the ages have come upon", those end-time events apply to them now.

One final thought...the New Covenant is spiritual because that is where Christ does His work. The physical location is not that important and that is probably why Christ leaves us in the dark about the literal future location of the lost after their resurrection from the grave.

You asked:

**If New Jerusalem is not a place, where is this 'life of the ages' we'll be experiencing taking place?**

New Jerusalem represents the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is not a place but a spiritual state of being. When scripture says the Elect dwell in heaven, it is speaking about their

spiritual state of being. Scripture equates unbelievers as dwelling in the sea and Early Rain believers as dwelling on the earth. Once an Elect person is saved, they are said to dwell in heaven, even though they are still in the flesh here on earth.

As for a literal location for the Kingdom of Heaven, scripture doesn't say. It is not like the physical world and may not need a specific location. This unrevealed knowledge may be why Paul said we see through a glass darkly. The next life may be so different, we can't understand it now, even if Christ tells us.

You asked:

**What is this 'early rain' and 'latter rain'?**

There are many scriptures that teach the Early and Latter Rain but James is one of the few places where scripture actually uses those spiritual terms. Here is James' teaching:

**Jam 5:7-8 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**

James says a lot in these two verses and its meaning is hidden in spiritual language.

Christ is the Husbandman who is a farmer. The Precious Fruit of the Earth is the New Man in Christ who is to be harvested from the Earth. The Earth represents the carnal & sinful world. The farmer "hath long patience for it" because birthing many new Sons of God is a long process and is now just getting started with the harvest of the First-Fruits in this present age.

Christ even said:

**Luke 12:49 I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!**

FIRE is a spiritual term for the judgment of God. Without His judgment, no one would be saved. In the above verse, Christ longs to start that process of judgment upon mankind (The Elect first, then all others in the final age) but the time was not yet at hand. Since before the creation began, Christ has been waiting patiently for that day - the Day of the Lord. It is no wonder that patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit.

At the end of verse 7, James says that the growing season for Christ's harvest of mankind starts with the Early Rain. It is at this point in time that an unbeliever will enter the Church. The Early Rain represents the receiving of the Holy Spirit. However, the gifts accompanying Early Rain of the Spirit are not sufficient for us to grow to maturity and produce fruit. We also need the Latter Rain which occurs when Christ appears a second time and baptizes us with His Spirit. After the Baptism of the Spirit, we finally have the ability to see Christ and to know the Truth. The sanctification process can then start so that we can grow to maturity and produce fruit.

There are more scriptures I could show you so if you have an interest to know more, please let me know.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

We do not have the free will ability to choose Christ as is commonly taught.

If we don't have the free will ability to choose Christ, why bother with creating us with free will in the first place? Why not just skip the 'sin' step and go straight for the perfected man, since it's all Him and none us?

FaithWillDo said:

Since scripture says that no one can call Jesus "Lord" but by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (**1Cor 12:3**), we know that this event happening to Paul is the Early Rain of the Spirit.

I have known many people that call Jesus Lord whom I am quite convinced were not indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Not that I'm judge, I'm just saying that if you can tell a tree by its fruit, these 'disciples' were thorns and thistles. And, what do you do with [Matthew 7:22-23](#)? "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

FaithWillDo said:

Because Paul remains carnally minded, he believes that he must "do something" to earn the Lord's favor.

What do you do with [2 Peter 1:10](#)? "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" The 'these things' he's talking about are listed from verses 5-9, and are as follows: faith (or trust), virtue (moral excellence), knowledge, temperance (self-control), patience (or perseverance), godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity (the kind of love that is chosen, not the kind that is natural affection).

And with that, what do you do with [Matthew 25:31-40](#)? Without listing it all, the sheep are referred to as 'the righteous', and every single item in the list provided as to why Jesus created the kingdom for them from the foundation of the world is a compassionate action they personally took.

FaithWillDo said:

The Lord answers him by saying to arise and go into the city. The "city" represents the Great City which is Sodom and Egypt. Once in the city, someone (ministers of Satan) there will tell him what he must do. At that point, the new believer becomes deceived and "falls away".

I'm extremely dubious here. Jesus sends us into the great city in order for us to fall away? He sends us to be deceived?

And if we fall, and die fallen, did He not send us to our damnation?

I look forward to your reply.

E\_\_\_\_\_

Dear E\_\_\_\_\_,

You asked:

If we don't have the free will ability to choose Christ, why bother with creating us with free will in the first place? Why not just skip the 'sin' step and go straight for the perfected man, since it's all Him and none us?

Why do you believe we were created "with a free will in the first place"? There are no scriptures that teach this false doctrine. This is a tradition of man.

God created us spiritually "marred" for the purpose of teaching us good and evil and to humble us. Without a knowledge of evil, we cannot be like God who knows good and evil.

**Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.**

God even acknowledges that He gave us an experience of evil:

**Prov 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.**

**Ecc 1:13 An experience of evil God has given to the sons of humanity to humble them by it.**

**Isa 45:5-7 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.**

God even created Satan to be evil:

**Isa 54:16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.**

**Job 26:13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.**

To be one of God's children, we must be of the same character of God who knows the difference between good and evil. Without that knowledge for ourselves, we could never appreciate the goodness of God or know the difference between good and evil.

Here is what scripture teaches about mankind's supposed free will:

**Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

Since we live by every word that comes from the mouth of God, how can we have a free will to do differently?

**Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

As the above verse says, God "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will". That doesn't leave any room for mankind to make decisions that are contrary to God's will. In fact, the verse says "God worketh all things" which removes the idea that God allows us to act outside of His "will". All things are caused by God and He leaves nothing to chance, especially our salvation.

Here are a few more:

**Prov 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.**

**Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?**

**Isa 26:12 O Jehovah, Thou appointest peace to us, For, all our works also Thou hast wrought for us.**

**Jer 10:23 I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.**

God has planned His creation to produce His offspring. He has worked out the details, even the timing of them:

**Ecc 3:1 To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.**

And since God wanted to give His children an experience of evil, it became necessary for Him to provide a way back to Him. For this reason, He sent Christ:

**1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**

But in our created spiritually marred condition we have from birth, no man can understand God or for that matter, even have a desire to seek Him.

**Rom 3:10-11 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.**

Since no man has the "free will" ability to choose Christ, Christ must come to us first (just as He did with Paul) and give us the gifts of faith and the Holy Spirit. This happens during the Early Rain. Without those gifts, no man will seek to know God, much less have any ability to call Jesus "Lord".

**1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.**

Christ is our Savior and He does all the work. He changes us from within so that we will seek to know Him and accept Him as Lord. Without His work within us, no one would accept Christ as Lord and be saved. Our salvation is totally under the control of God, especially the timing of it.

**Eph 1:4-5 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**

**John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

God has chosen His Elect and predestinated them to be saved in this age. He did the choosing based upon the "good pleasure of His will" and not according to any Free Will choice that some say we can make.

The Doctrine of Free Will is a works based belief system and is closely tied to the Doctrine of Hell. It produces very self-righteous Christians. After all, if mankind has the ability to make a Free Will choice as to accept or not accept Christ, there must be something special about Christians who made the right choice. For that reason, Christians believe that they are smarter, or wiser or just not as evil as those who reject Christ. And for that reason, they believe that those who reject Christ are worthy of eternal torment in the fires of hell. It is no wonder that this belief in Free Will is the sin that leads to death. Salvation only comes by faith in Christ. There is nothing good within mankind in our created condition. To save us, Christ must come to each of us, without our invitation or permission, and do His work within us. Our salvation is 100% His work. He prepares our heart to receive Him by giving us the Holy Spirit. Once we have this gift, our ONLY choice is to accept Him as Lord since no man who has the Spirit will "call Jesus accursed". Our salvation is a 100% certainty for one reason only: it is God's "will" for us to be saved.

**Isa 45:22-23 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.**

**Phi 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

You said:

I have known many people that call Jesus Lord whom I am quite convinced were not indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Not that I'm judge, I'm just saying that if you can tell a tree by its fruit, these 'disciples' were thorns and thistles. And, what do you do with [Matthew 7:22-23](#)? "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."



Iniquity means lawlessness. These are Early Rain Christians who have fallen away and committed the sin that leads to death. They lost their salvation because they were deceived by Satan and turned to approaching God by their own works (Doctrine of Free Will, etc.). They remained under the Law.

You said:

And with that, what do you do with [Matthew 25:31-40](#)? Without listing it all, the sheep are referred to as 'the righteous', and every single item in the list provided as to why Jesus created the kingdom for them from the foundation of the world is a compassionate action they personally took.

The sheep are the Elect. They are the work of Christ's hands and He is the one who caused their works. We do the works but Christ is the cause of us doing them.

Remember this verse?

**Isa 28:10-12 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little...**

Just because scripture doesn't give every detail of a certain subject in one spot, don't believe there is nothing more to consider in order to understand what is being taught. We must look at the whole of scripture since it is taught "here a little, and there a little". The "sum" of God's Word is truth. We must put the pieces together:

**Psa 119:160 The sum of Your word is truth, And all of Your righteous ordinances are eonian.**"

You said:

I'm extremely dubious here. Jesus sends us into the great city in order for us to fall away? He sends us to be deceived?

Yes, that is what scripture teaches.

You said:

And if we fall, and die fallen, did He not send us to our damnation?

It is not IF we fall away, it is WHEN we fall away. We live by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Everyone who is called out (even the Elect) will fall away. God is not a respecter of persons. We all must travel the same path. The Elect complete the path in this age because Christ returns to them with the Latter Rain. If a believer is not chosen, Christ will not return to them in this age. They, along with the rest of mankind, will complete the Pathway to Salvation by the end of the Lake of Fire age.

Also, all mankind is condemned already. Falling away merely returns us to our created fate. Christ wants us to become "worse than before" so that we experience our Day of Evil. After we have devolved into a Man of Sin, then the time is right for Christ to come again to us IF we are chosen. We must be destroyed so that we can be "born again. That is conversion.

**2Thes 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that Man of Sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

Jesus ONLY appears to us at the Latter Rain after He heals our spiritual blindness. After He does, He reveals the Man of Sin to us and we find that we were that Man of Sin all along.

I'm sorry this is a brief answer here but I am out of time. If you have a specific question on this or anything else, please ask. I'll have more time tomorrow.

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

Thanks for your kind comments!

You said:

There are a few things in your presentation that I'm wrestling with. I was going to point out the issue with 'no free will', but you cleared that up in a semi-satisfactory way. It's still sort of like mixing fish with ice cream, but one can be nourished by such a meal. I have a slightly different take on it that removes the bad taste of a God who causes child beaters to kill innocent babies, and if you find yourself interested, I'm happy to share it with you, but otherwise - I'm satisfied.

I do want to express again the importance of approaching Christ by faith alone rather than a mixture of faith and works. That difference is key to whether a person is saved or not. Unfortunately for mankind, we all have carnal natures and that nature prefers "works" rather than faith.

**Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.**

The Old Wine represents the blood of the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant of Law and the New Wine represents Christ's blood of the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. Because we prefer the Old Covenant of works, Satan EASILY deceives us and turns our faith into religion (man's work to be acceptable to God).

A converted believer (who has received the Latter Rain) comes out from practicing religion. They heard this call from Christ's when He appeared to them a second time:

**Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**

This verse is referring to Mystery Babylon the Great. It is not a church or something that is out in the world as most carnally minded believers teach. Mystery Babylon is spiritual and is built into

mankind's carnal nature. It is the part that causes us to practice religion instead of trusting Christ by faith. It is our "works" based belief system that we have from birth. When it is coupled with Satan's deceptions, a Man of Sin is produced.

When one of Christ's Elect hear Christ's call to "come out of her", the Man of Sin whom they have become is revealed to them. Then in "one hour", she is judged and destroyed from within the Elect believer.

**Rev 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.**

Until that destruction occurs, they cannot be saved. But after her destruction, the Elect believer will begin approaching Christ by faith alone. This is the moment of conversion, when a believer goes from "works" to "faith". That is the only way mankind is saved and it has always been that way.

The Old Testament fathers were justified by their faith but they are still not perfect. No one from the Old Testament has been saved yet.

Even John the Baptist, who was the greatest born of women, has not been saved, yet. He still needs the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, judgment and to be sanctified by the truth (have His spiritual blindness healed). Then after He matures and produces spiritual fruit, He will be ready to be harvested into the Kingdom of Heaven. For him to be perfect, Christ will use the Elect of this age to complete his salvation:

**Heb 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they, without us, should not be made perfect.**

Faith vs. works is the spiritual battle that mankind must win. And thanks to the work of Christ within us, that battle will be won for every person who has ever lived.

You said:

The intricate 'reading into the text spiritual meanings' is difficult to swallow. While I appreciate the idea behind much of it, at the same time - I dunno - maybe its because the idea is foreign to me that it doesn't have that 'gospel' ring to it. I'll have to think on it, and will likely have many more questions for you.

Concerning the spiritual language of scripture, Paul explained it this way:

**1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

Scripture is written in the spiritual language of Christ. It uses Greek and Hebrew words BUT those words are spirit (**John 6:63**) and they carry meanings that man's wisdom does not teach.

Here is a very easy example:

**Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.**

Does Christ really mean that if you use a sword to kill others, then you must likewise be killed with a sword? Literally, that is what He is saying. So if we are to understand it literally, then that statement can easily be proven to be FALSE. There are countless examples of people who have used violence to kill others but then do not die from that same type of violence - it almost goes without saying. So is Christ mistaken or is His message something else?

Since Christ's words are spirit, His message must be spiritually understood. Christ's spiritual message is quite different from what He is literally saying.

In **Matt 26:52**, Christ is using a spiritual "symbol" to give us His spiritual message. Here Christ uses the symbol of a Sword. To understand what that symbol means, we must look at how it is used elsewhere in scripture – we must compare spiritual with spiritual (1Cor 2:13).

**Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

From this verse above, it is easy to understand that a Sword represents the Word of God.

So Christ's hidden spiritual point He is making in **Matt 26:52** is that all who take up the Word of God (those who are "called out"), must perish (death of the carnal nature) by the Word of God.

Here is a parable that teaches the Pathway to Salvation which of course includes the Early and Latter Rain of the Spirit. In fact, all the parables that start off with the phrase "the Kingdom of Heaven is like" are teaching on the Pathway to Salvation. We all must travel the Wide Path (Called Out believers) and the Narrow Path (converted child of God).

You said:

**But - in regard to heaven and hell not being real places, just symbolic in nature...uh - this one's sort of a doozy. I have to present you with my view first in order to ask you for a solution, and my view is often poorly regarded, for what I think are good reasons. If I weren't me, I'd think I was a bit kooky. But, since it turns out I actually am me, I cut myself some grace.**

Hell does not exist as defined by the church. The spiritual term FIRE is symbolic of the judgment of Christ and nothing else. It is not a place. The spiritual term Heaven is a state of being which is like God's state of being. It is not a location. God is SPIRIT and is everywhere. Once we are saved, we dwell in heaven because we are now children of God. The spiritual world is not like the physical world.

Thanks for the pictures. As I have said, the Old Testament is literal and physical. All the events (like those you mentioned), actually happened. They are history and evidence of them can still be found as you showed. BUT, since the Word of God is spiritual, those same events carry a spiritual message to God's Elect.

**1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them (Old Testament fathers) as types, and have been written for our (the Elect) admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.**

The "ends of the ages" come upon the Elect now because their "days are shortened" (**Mat 24:22**) and they do not have to wait until the end of the final age for their salvation. And since the Elect are no longer spiritually blind, the Old Testament events provide spiritual lessons for them.

Joe

Hi Joe:

I'm very interested in what you're presenting, but I see a major potential argument against it all, namely, the physical object seen in Exodus and Ezekiel is seen in [Revelation 4](#). And in [Revelation 4](#), John says he's in the spirit. Could you review the verses I posted previously, and then help me understand how they fit into your view? I only want to accept whatever is proven to be true. I'm sort of a stickler on that point.

Thank you for your patience with me!

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

Like John, Ezekiel also saw a vision:

**Eze 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw VISIONS of God.**

Visions are not physical realities. The symbols used in the visions are there to convey spiritual messages.

As for what took place in Exodus, I see no reason to believe that it wasn't real. It is not stated to be a vision. Moses and the rest literally saw and met with Christ (not God the Father). But those real events, like a vision, also teach spiritual messages.

Here is something else to consider:

**Mat 17:1 after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.**

**Matt 17:9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the VISION to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.**

Moses and Elias appeared in this vision. They were not real. The real Moses and Elias are dead and in the grave waiting for the resurrection.

So what is concerning you about the vision that John saw in Revelation?

Do you believe the throne described by John is literally and physically real?

Do you believe New Jerusalem is real?

As with everything John saw, New Jerusalem was a vision which used physical symbols to describe spiritual truths. The pearls on the gates represent the truth of Christ. To enter New Jerusalem, we enter by understanding God's truth. We are sanctified by it. The tree in the middle of the city represents Christ. He is the center of those who live there. Everything about New Jerusalem is a symbol which teaches a spiritual truth. The city does not literally exist nor will we spend eternity there. What eternity might be like, scripture does not tell us.

As for Christ saying that He will build us a mansion in which to live, He is speaking of our new spiritual bodies that we will someday be given. When that day arrives, we will not need physical things. Our carnal needs of the flesh will be gone. But beyond that, scripture is silent.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thank you for your quick reply, and for taking the time to look at what I actually posted.

First, to answer your questions:

FaithWillDo said: ↑

So what is concerning you about the vision that John saw in Revelation?

Do you believe the throne described by John is literally and physically real?

Do you believe New Jerusalem is real?

To date, yes and YES. I certainly do. But I'm missing a ton of data here. First off, I'm not sure the word 'physical' applies, because that speaks of our experiences here in the temporal realm. However, I see things like:

- Angels can manifest physically, and interact with the world.
- Jesus says after death we will be like the angels, and John says we will be like Jesus, and Jesus was either physical, or able to physically manifest Himself.
- Jesus went up into the clouds. That's straight-up flying. I don't know by what means, but Jesus was flying

I have a soul. It is not a part of my body, but it is confined to my body, and plugged into my body. I know it is not OF my body, because there's no way to logic that out. (I do not imagine the atoms of my body are inherently self-aware, and that they just had to line up in the right way to make my ego become ME. I don't imagine chemicals in a particular network, accompanied by electricity create self-awareness either. The only rational explanation is that my soul is something non-physical, and yet it occupies a particular place in space. It can't be 'touched', but it's confined inside of space.) Still, if my body goes to sleep, my soul changes states also. If my

body goes unconscious, my soul goes with it. Shoot me up with drugs, and my soul rides that train along with my body. My body isn't ME, but it's certainly tightly connected to me, and I to it. This leads me to believe there is a deep connection between the spirit and the physical realms, but I don't have a firm grasp on what that is.

I have recently come to imagine the spirit realm as a different state of the physical realm, but I don't know exactly how that works. But it explains things like UFO sightings, which, if you really look into it, are a real thing. And every ancient religion spoke of beings of light that came from the heavens that brought knowledge and technology of some sort or another to mankind. The Bhagavad Gita not only describes wars between creatures that fought in craft over their cities (we call them dog fights), but there is an actual ship design in the ancient book. Entire mountains in South America were sheered level by the ancients, temples were built with stones so large we couldn't move them with our most advanced technology yet still this very day. The Book of Enoch's 'The Watchers', which was found at Qumran along with the rest of the Dead Sea scrolls, expands on the events of [Genesis 6](#), and is quoted word-for-word by Jude, and it speaks of the angels leaving their heavenly abode to mix with human women. Peter appears to mention those same events when he tells us where Jesus went during the 3 days he was dead, and what He was doing. He refers to it again, when he warns us about how God punished the angels. There's a TON of data to support this idea that spiritual beings are able to manifest physically - and yet more still, that they also used advanced technology.

I hate how...remarkably dinked in the head that all sounds, but it's just what's true. The reason I'm so open to listening to you, and so ready to be wrong, and to be shown the error of my ways, is because I used to be closed-minded, and I sought out whatever supported what I already believed; and then, when I threw it all away, I fell into a dark world of hedonism that utterly devoured me and all but killed my spirit. It is only thanks to God that I even still have a spirit. There is no earthly reason why He would bother keeping someone as repulsive and demented as me around. If He wanted to prove that He can reach into the darkest holes and pull someone out, I am a fantastic example. During that time, I became willing to listen to anything, because I still wanted truth. I was seriously considering Islam when God sent someone to save me. That story defies belief, but I lived it, so I know it's true. The end result is that I know for a certain the God of the Old Testament is the One True God, and that Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life, and nobody gets' to God the Father except through Him.

It was listening to a Catholic that convinced me hell is not eternal.

It was listening to a Mormon that convinced me that we will one day be Gods, same as God.

It was listening to a Pentecostal that imparted to me the gift of speaking in tongues.

It was listening to an atheist that convinced me that extraterrestrials are real. (And I saw a UFO once from a great distance, so...that didn't hurt that particular belief one bit.)

The point is, I have found that there are those rare people out that have found something true, beautiful and profound, and you just have to keep looking for them to find the next piece of gold.

And here you come in.

Now, I cannot help but believe God has given someone out there His Holy Spirit. Like, truly given someone His Holy Spirit - someone who genuinely knows God; not like me, a stumbling blind man in the dark, calling out and just hearing echoes. And I keep hoping God will cross my paths with this person, and that this person will have an understanding that surpasses that of men, and that helps make SENSE of all the big questions out there. Rational, cognitive, mathematical sense. Not someone trying to convince me that 1+1 is 3, like those who call God love and then preach a God of hatred, but someone who says, "Let me introduce you to the God that created the Mandelbrot set."

So I'm listening to you, closely. I'm not afraid to be wrong. I make a habit of it. It's still hard to let go sometimes, but I'm well practiced at it now. However, I'm looking for sense, logic, wisdom, and understanding that exceeds my own, not that has profound in-built contradictions. I'm horrified that, in all of my seeking, I haven't met anyone that makes more sense of things than what I've found just reading and studying on my own; and if I'm the most knowledgeable guy out there, and the best man out there, then God has all but left us to our demise, and salvation is a dwindling fire that will soon be extinguished.

Maybe you're that guy, Joe. Maybe you have the knowledge that cracks the code and opens the mysteries. I'm listening, but if I'm going to choose to believe that the visions aren't actual events, that the ship Ezekiel describes in detail that matches the behaviors of gyros and turbo engines isn't actually a ship, I'm going to need some pretty good logic to explain it - something more profound than what I've put together on my own. Which is admittedly sort of pathetic, but it's the best I've got.

If Exodus describes God descending in fire on Mt. Sinai, and the mountain is still charred black, if the Israelites were following an actual pillar of cloud during the day and an actual pillar of fire at night, and if God (Jesus) stood on a crystal clear platform of some sort while the 70 elders of Israel ate in His presence, then why, when I see similar descriptions elsewhere in the Bible, should I not believe those are real things too?

E\_\_\_\_\_

Dear E\_\_\_\_\_,

You said:

Jesus says after death we will be like the angels, and John says we will be like Jesus, and Jesus was either physical, or able to physically manifest Himself.

Yes, that is true. But I suspect Christ only made Himself physical so that He could interact with the physical world. Once the physical world is gone, it won't be necessary. But as I have been saying, scripture is silent about what life will be like after the times of the ages are complete so I really don't know.

You said:

I have a soul. It is not a part of my body, but it is confined to my body, and plugged into my body. I know it is not OF my body, because there's no way to logic that out.



We don't have souls. We are souls. The word soul is the name for our individual personality. It is who we are separate from all others.

This is how I understand it: **BODY + SPIRIT = A LIVING SOUL**

When our body dies, our spirit returns to God. Our soul is dead. Upon our resurrection, God places our spirit in a new body and we are a living soul again.

You said:

I have recently come to imagine the spirit realm as a different state of the physical realm, but I don't know exactly how that works. But it explains things like UFO sightings, which, if you really look into it, are a real thing.

I agree that spiritual beings (angels or demons) can manifest themselves in this world and they may account for some of the more difficult to understand UFO sightings. I certainly don't believe UFO's are aliens from another planet.

I have also read the book of Enoch not too long ago. After reading it, I didn't come to any conclusions about whether it is scripture or not. It comes across as scripture and I don't remember reading anything that I immediately thought discredited the book. I do remember there being some conflict with Goliath's height but there could be reasons for that difference. With that said, I don't base my faith on it and won't teach out of it because I don't have certainty that it is God's Word. Christ also never mentioned it. But it is interesting to read about the "watchers". It does make one wonder that they may be responsible for some of the UFO sightings.

You said:

The point is, I have found that there are those rare people out that have found something true, beautiful and profound, and you just have to keep looking for them to find the next piece of gold.

I was very much like you in my twenties. I'm 60 now and I don't know that person I used to be anymore. But God blessed me beyond measure and by the time I was 30, I was on the right path. At age 28, I met my wife to be, Julie, at church. She was literally an answer to my prayers. We married when I was 30, and we continued in that church for a while. But after a couple of years, we eventually left that church and started going to another church that seemed better. Like you, we were searching for the truth (a rare gift from God) and for a place that had a true love for Christ. On the surface, some of the churches we attended seemed to have that love, but after a while, we could tell it wasn't a very deep love. And none of them could rightly answer questions about scripture that we had. We knew our understanding was lacking, but we couldn't find the truth anywhere. I can look back now and know that Christ had given us both a love for the truth, but we were just too spiritually blind to find it. That is until Oct. 8, 2005. That is the day that our world turned upside down and we very quickly stopped going to any church. We have never gone back because the wolves Paul mentioned in **Acts 20:29** have never left and are still in control. The churches in the world are places where the blind lead the blind (**Mat 15:14**) and as Christ said in that verse, "let them alone". And so we have.

Over the years since our conversion, the Lord has blessed us beyond anything we could have imagined. And as we were freely given, we now freely give to those who truly seek to know the Lord.

You said:

Now, I cannot help but believe God has given someone out there His Holy Spirit. Like, truly given someone His Holy Spirit - someone who genuinely knows God; not like me, a stumbling blind man in the dark, calling out and just hearing echoes.

For you to be able to say that you are a "stumbling blind man" is a remarkable thing! I truly believe that Christ is working in your life.

You said:

If Exodus describes God descending in fire on Mt. Sinai, and the mountain is still charred black, if the Israelites were following an actual pillar of cloud during the day and an actual pillar of fire at night, and if God (Jesus) stood on a crystal clear platform of some sort while the 70 elders of Israel ate in His presence, then why, when I see similar descriptions elsewhere in the Bible, should I not believe those are real things too?

As I have said, the Old Covenant (the Old Testament) is physical and outward. All the history in the Old Testament is real and happened just as scripture says. There are some dreams and visions but all the events are real. God even created everything in just 6 literal days and science is just now starting to find evidence for that truth. It is quite amazing.

But the New Covenant is spiritual and the works of Christ are also spiritual, meaning they happen within us. That is where the truth of scripture lies and where salvation lies. It is not out in world - that is where God worked under the Old Covenant. Remember, the Kingdom of Heaven comes without observation and it comes inside you. Apply the teachings of the New Testament that way and it will make much more sense. The contradictions will disappear.

One final thing, Christ said that people don't get what they pray for because they pray for the wrong things. Pray for spiritual things (mercy, understanding, truth and wisdom). God loves to answer those prayers. And as you pray, understand that God is the one who is causing you to pray for them. It has been my experience that when God is ready to bless you, He will first cause you to pray for that blessing.

**Luke 11:9-13 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

It is my prayer that the Latter Rain will start falling on you, if it hasn't already started.

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

I'm sorry to hear about your trouble with the forum. I've had trouble before, too. I'm not a computer wiz but my wife is very knowledgeable with them. She usually can fix what I mess up.

Now to your questions...

You said:

**What about when the medium called up Samuel at Endor for Saul just before his death?**

I will try to answer the Samuel question first. I read through the chapter (I have not studied it before) and came to some conclusions. First of all, Samuel is dead, the chapter says so in verse 3. So what the woman saw was not Samuel. Evidently, she had an evil spirit and it presented an image of Samuel to her. Saul could not see him.

**1Sam 28:14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.**

Because Saul could not see the vision the woman saw, Saul asked her what he looked like (what form?). Then from her description, Saul "perceived" that it was Samuel. But I'm sure it was not. The familiar spirit the woman processed was deceiving her and Saul both because that is what evil spirits do:

**Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

But of course, these events were caused by God. It wasn't even the first time God used an evil spirit with Saul:

**1 Sam 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.**

In my answer to the second question, I'll explain more about the state of death. That answer should be applied to Samuel's state of death.

You said:

**What of the thousands of people that have had out-of-body experiences?**

Out of body experiences can only be one of two things. Either the person who claims to have had an experience is a fraudster or their unconscious mind is playing tricks on them from what they already believe about heaven or hell. Since the person recovered from their NEAR death experience, they were only unconscious and were not really dead.

**John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.**

No man has ascended up to heaven (with Paul possibly being the exception) and that includes Samuel and anyone else who says they visited heaven. But heaven is not a place as described in

Revelation. It is a spiritual realm where God exists. Paul must have some idea of what it is like but he said it was not lawful reveal it.

**2Cor 12:2-4 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**

Since it is not lawful for man to utter the words heard in heaven, then those who say they visited heaven and talked to Christ are either lying or they are deceived.

Here is what scripture says about the state of death:

**Psa 13:3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.**

**Ecc 3:18-21 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts: even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?**

Upon death, the body returns to dust and the spirit of man returns to God. This is when the soul (our consciousness) dies.

**Ecc 9:5-6 For the living know that they shall die: BUT THE DEAD KNOW NOT ANYTHING, neither, have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred any thing, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in that is done under the sun.**

**Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

**Eze 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.**

Since we will all physically die someday (most likely), in order to have life again, Christ must resurrect us from the grave and give us a new body. Paul details the resurrection in 1Cor chapter 15. In that chapter, Paul equates the physical death of the Elect as "sleep". The Elect are spiritually alive (saved) but are still in fact dead upon their physical death. They need a new body, which Christ will supply when He resurrects them from the grave.

The word Sleep is a spiritual term. For the lost, they are said to be asleep when they are physically alive (they are spiritually dead). For those who are saved, they are said to be asleep when they are physically dead (they are spiritually alive).

Christ said this:

**John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**

So what is Christ saying here? Remember, His words are "spirit" and those words need to be applied spiritually to understand them. There are TWO types of life and death. One is physical and one is spiritual. One can be spiritually dead (no relationship with the Father) and yet be physically alive. On the other hand, one can be spiritually alive and physically dead. In the verses, Christ is teaching on spiritual life and death. Once we are saved (Latter Rain), we will never die again even though we will physically die someday. This is His promise and why once we receive the Latter Rain, our salvation is eternal. We will never "fall away" again.

As for those who claim to have visited hell, and since hell (as taught by this world) does not exist, their claims cannot be true.

You said:

What exactly was the 'eye opening' experience? What happened with the little boy? How did God give you peace for the 12 year Muslim?

My eye opening experience was when I received the Latter Rain and when Christ healed my spiritual blindness. That is when I finally understood that Hell is a lie from Satan and that Christ is truly the Savior of the world. I understood that our salvation is 100% the work of Christ and He has a plan to save each and every one of us. The Muslim boy is no exception and he will be saved someday. I no longer had to grieve for him because I thought he was going to hell. The Muslim boy, like all mankind, is the work of the Potter (Christ), who will make us into a new vessel (a child of God).

**Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**

**Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.**

You said:

You said that God said, "Man cannot receive more because he cannot understand." Not to question God, and not to doubt you or your wife, but I don't believe that part.

I didn't understand it at first but it is absolutely true and is supported by scripture. Mankind CANNOT understand the things of God:

**Rom 3:10-11 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.**

**Ecc 3:11 He has made everything fitting in its season; However, He has put eternal obscurity in their heart so that the man may NOT find out His work, that which God does, that which God does from the beginning to the end.**

Only a child of God (the new creation) can understand the things of God. Mankind cannot and will never understand them.

For that reason, Christ MUST come to us without our invitation or permission. In our created state, we will not seek out Christ nor can we understand Him. It is only AFTER Christ comes to us (Latter Rain) and gives us His gifts of Faith and the Holy Spirit, and heals our spiritual blindness, that we can understand and accept Him as Lord.

The Doctrine of Free Will says that we must choose Christ first and accept Him as Lord and only then will Christ give us His gifts. I heard that Billy Graham gave a sermon once and when He made the altar call, he said not to pray for those who are deciding as to whether or not to accept Christ. He said they must make that decision on their own (from their supposed Free Will ability) without any outside interference. Billy Graham was spiritually blind and remained so until his death. He never received the Latter Rain from Christ and will be resurrected with the lost. In fact, I know of no public church figures (outside of scripture) who have been saved. If they were saved and knew the truth, they would be rejected by their church and would not be allowed to "buy or sell" any longer:

**Rev 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

"Buying and selling" spiritually represents the exchange of truth within the church. The truth that the Elect teach is not accepted by those who have the "mark of the beast" (mankind). The Elect's truth is not pleasing to mankind's carnal nature and is always rejected. Only those within the church, who have the mark of the beast, can buy and sell.

You said:

I had asked the question, "Why, when I see similar descriptions elsewhere in the Bible, should I not believe those are real things too?" You didn't really answer the question, except to say that if we're told it's a vision, then it's not physical, and if it's in the New Testament, it's all spiritual. And I appreciate the idea that it's symbolic, but I have some issues with a number of the 'read between the lines' aspects of much of the 'spiritual interpretation' side of things. Let me ask the question in a slightly different way. If I see this very physical object landing on Mt. Sinai, and God standing on a very physical object, and then I see other places where visions are taking place, or spiritual events are taking place, and this same object is described, why can't it be both a 'vision' with symbolic application, and be a real world, tangible event? For example, in your understanding of the woman caught mid-adultery, Jesus really actually bent down and wrote in the dirt twice. It had meaning, but it was also a thing that really happened. Why can't the same be true for the thing God flies around in?

God is spirit and does not need anything to fly around in because He is everywhere (Omnipresent). Remember what I said about the Old Testament. The events are real because the Old Covenant is outward and literal. The burning bush was a literal burning bush that did not consume the bush. It was not a vision. Moses really saw it. The FIRE represented Christ because all judgment has been given to Him by the Father.

The New Testament is spiritual and inward. The Book of Revelation is a book of physical symbols which teach a spiritual truth. God uses the physical to explain the spiritual because that is all we can relate to. The physical symbols are not literally real, they represent spiritual truths so that we can have some level of understanding.

In the example you mentioned earlier, Christ came to Moses and stood on a paved sapphire stone:

**Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.**

Christ stood on a real sapphire stone to show who He was to Moses. The stone represented the divinity of the person standing on it and because sapphire is also a "stone of fire", it represents that the person is also the judge of mankind. But when Christ appears to us after He heals our spiritual blindness, He does not need a literal sapphire stone to stand on because we now know who He is. The sapphire stone was used to teach a spiritual truth. In the future, Christ will no longer need the physical symbols to show us the things of God.

**1Cor 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.**

Though the verse is speaking about physical and spiritual bodies, the concept applies to other things in scripture. The Law is first given on tablets of stone (the physical), then it is written in our hearts (the spiritual). We experience the physical law first, then the spiritual law. The world we live in is physical, but in the future, our world will be spiritual. The physical things will someday be gone and only the spiritual will last. What that spiritual world will look like, scripture does not say.

That is probably the best I can do as to answering your question.

You said:

Two things to comment on here. I get what I pray for sometimes, and other times I don't. Mostly I don't. And I don't pray for things for myself, except lessons, for the most part. I don't care about money (never have - this is not a bragging point, I was just born caring less, and I still couldn't care less). I don't really care about things. I pray mostly that God will be sure to let all of my suffering take place in this life, so I don't have to pay for it for ages of ages in the next life. I pray that God will keep it focused on me and protect my loved ones from it. I am pleased to say that He has honored my request. Sometimes, when I realize that I'm burning off the dross (I recently quit swearing, using the abusive work environment I'm in as the inspiration to keep me focused), I ask God to turn up the fire. Thankfully, He hasn't done that yet, but I mean it. If He can use this lousy life to fix me, then may the fire come down.

If a believer is one of Christ's Elect, they will be judged before they die and they will pay the last penny (Old Man completely destroyed).

I pray for judgment, as you do, because I see the value of it. I have a great passion to be like Christ and I hate it when He shows me that I still need work. But looking back, I can see the

work that He has already completed in me and I am so thankful. But I am impatient at times, wishing Christ would work faster in me. When I feel that way, I am reminded of this verse:

**Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

Our salvation, along with everyone else's, takes time to complete. We must wait on the Lord to do His work within us. There is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven (Ecc 3:1).

Concerning prayers, I am always given what I ask for in my prayers because when I pray, I pray to the Father as Christ prayed:

**Mat 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.**

Did Christ get what He prayed for in this verse? He did. Christ trusts His Father to know what is best. And because Christ trusts His Father, He ultimately only wants the "will" of the Father to be done. When we pray in this same manner, we will always get what we ask of the Father, too. We, like Christ, know that the "will" of the Father is what is best. This takes faith and trust, knowing that God always gives us what we need at the time. From this perspective, I always get what I pray for because I always pray for God's "will" to be done in the matter and not my "will". This is what is meant when we are told to walk by Faith.

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

I wanted to expand on my reply to this statement of yours:

**You said that God said, "Man cannot receive more because he cannot understand." Not to question God, and not to doubt you or your wife, but I don't believe that part.**

Every person in the world is a part of mankind and is therefore a part of the Seven Headed Beast. Upon a person's conversion, they are spiritually destroyed and given a new spiritual birth as a child of God. That happens when they receive the Latter Rain. The new child of God is the one who can understand Christ and accept Jesus as Lord. The person who is a part of mankind cannot understand Christ because they are carnally minded. And since they have sinned, they will receive the penalty of sin which is death. Christ didn't die on the cross to pay our penalty of sin, He died on the cross so that we can all live again after we pay the penalty.

**John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

This one verse above is the best single verse description of the Gospel. Christ accomplished giving us life by His work on the cross. He now has the legal authority to resurrect us all from the grave. But that new life in our present sinful condition will not restore our relationship with the Father. He must give us a more abundant life, too. More work must be done and that is the work that Christ is doing now. He must come to each of us and change us from within. In this



age, Christ is performing this change within only those who have been chosen to be His Elect, the First-Fruits of His harvest of mankind. In the final age, He will perform this change within everyone else.

Below is a teaching on a portion of the Pathway Christ uses to change His Elect:

In Matthew 24, Christ teaches us the pathway to salvation the Elect will travel. These verses quoted below apply to the time when an Elect person receives the Latter Rain of the Spirit and when a new child of God is born.

**Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

The concept of there being just "one Elect person" in the story of Noah and the story of "two in the field" is a little difficult to understand. But understanding it is necessary, otherwise the spiritual message will remain hidden. I'll explain it the best I can.

The story of Noah is a "type" for the Latter Rain. Noah, his wife and his 3 sons/3 wives, represent HALF of an Elect person. That half is a child of God who is waiting to be born. We know the family represents the child of God because the total number of the family is "eight". As I explained before in **Mat 12:43-45**, the number "eight" is a spiritual term that represents a new spiritual state. In **Mat 12:43-45**, that change for the Elect person was for the worse. But in the story of Noah, that change for the Elect person is for the better.

The people remaining in the world outside the Ark represent the other HALF of an Elect person. That half is the Man of Sin who has "eight" unclean spirits within them (**Mat 12:43-45**).

To sum up, Noah and his family (child of God) and those in the world (Man of Sin) represent one Elect person. Both come to be within an Elect person after the Early Rain (we serve two masters). This is the same concept taught later in the verses above about there being "two in the field". It is also the same concept used in the parable of the Wheat and the Tares.

When the Latter Rain falls on an Elect believer, Christ will come to them suddenly. Immediately after the Latter Rain, judgment will come (Day of the Lord).

Once the flood (judgment) comes, the Man of Sin (the world) is drowned but the child of God is safely sealed in the ark. This is conversion.

Peter and Paul both referred to the Day of the Lord when Christ comes as a thief in the night. However, for the Elect (since they are already saved), Christ does not come to them as a thief in the night since the Elect are living in the light and are watching for Him. Christ only comes as a thief in the night to the lost in the final age. In that age, the Day of the Lord comes prior to salvation.

In verse **Mat 24:40**, another similar example is given which shows TWO people who are working in the field. The same concept of there just being ONE Elect person applies here as well.

The number "two" spiritually represents a "witness of Christ", it does not mean a numeral two. A "witness of Christ" is one of Christ's Elect.

When Christ appears to the Elect person in the field, "one is taken" (Man of Sin, Tares) and "one is left" (child of God, Wheat). The "one left" is NOT represented on the Seven Headed Beast. The "one taken" is represented by the Beast. The "one taken" is destroyed and will never exist again. The father of the "one taken" (Satan) has lost one of his children.

When Julie's "word" said that "Man cannot receive more because he cannot understand", what I stated above applies to that statement. Mankind (Man of Sin) cannot ever know God or understand him because they are carnally minded and have sinned. Since they have sinned, they must die. In the end, mankind will no longer exist because the old vessel will be destroyed - but the Kingdom of Heaven will be that much fuller because of it.

I know what I presented above is a little difficult to understand so if you have questions, I will try to answer them.

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

The God of the Old Testament is Christ. God the Father is spirit and He does His work through Christ. Christ was the one who gave Moses the Law and He is the one who appeared in the burning bush. He is the one who wrestled with Jacob. Christ is mankind's God. He created us and will save us. But Christ has a God, too. He is God the Father. Christ came to show us God the Father and to restore us to Him.

Do you still believe in the Trinity Doctrine?

You said:

That's not quite what I mean. That's cheating. If we quit praying for anything except, "Your will be done, Lord," that's not any different than saying, "Dear Lord, please make everything exactly as it is this second, and next second, make everything be exactly like it's going to be next second." You can't turn to the guy next to you and say, "See? God always listens to me."

That is the example Christ gave us. We are to make our requests known to God but because of faith and trust, we should ONLY want God's "will" to be done in the matter. When a person's faith is that strong, God answers all our prayers. All I ever want is for God's "will" to be done in my life. If I want anything, I will make my request known to Him but since I trust Him completely, I will accept His "will" in the matter and be content with it. Sometimes God will cause us to pray for something because He is ready to bless us. In those instances, He gives us what we ask for. But in no case, can our "will" ever operate outside of God's "will". He is fully in control of His creation and He does as He pleases. We have no right to ask "Why does thou?"

**Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**

You said:

Here's the thing, and I feel I must say this, though I also feel like I'm about to lose a friend in saying it. As you begin...IF you begin translating the Bible, and getting deep into the actual meaning of the words, a time is going to come where it disagrees with what you've heard from your wonderful wife when she believed (and you believe) that she was speaking prophetic utterances - the words of God coming through her. The tower of belief you've built appears to be constructed on or backed by English translations, and all those translations had/have a doctrinal agenda. They didn't do a bad job of it, they did the best they could, but they got it very, very wrong. Especially the Hebrew. Boy howdy! I know it's been 30 years for you, and so this paragraph is probably just another disappointment to you in a long line of disappointments, where people you thought were listening turned out not to be. I am listening, but I am convinced of things about what you're teaching that stand diametrically opposed to it all.

To understand what my wife was given, you would need to witness it. At the time she was given the first prophecy quoted in my testimony, we were spiritually blind and we thought we had a good understanding of the truth. When I originally read that prophecy, I could not understand why Christ was say such a thing because I didn't think there was anything new to learn. I thought I already had that treasure which He spoke of in the prophecy. The problem with being deceived, is while the deception is happening, you aren't aware of it. That is the nature of being deceived. Only after I came out from that deception could I see the truth of her prophecy.

As for the second prophecy which confirms that Christ gave us His treasure, I don't see anything in it that isn't supported by scripture. The point you made about not agreeing that with her statement that mankind cannot understand God's Word was not valid. Mankind cannot understand God's Word, only a child of God who can "see" spiritually can understand. Haven't you ever wondered why there are approximately 2000 different Christian denominations/sects (I have been told) in the world, all with their own version of the truth. But I can assuredly tell you, none of them know the truth. They are places where the blind lead the blind.

My last point is from what you said here:

I know you are convinced (correct me if I'm misunderstanding) that works lead to damnation, because... I'm not sure why you believe that, only that you do believe it. And that you believe that only by faith can we be saved, works aside. I know that you teach that a man cannot come to Christ - He must come to the man without His permission or request.

I assume by you making this statement, that you do not agree with my understanding. The Word of God from start to finish is teaching us about faith vs. works. Man's work, even just taking credit for our confession of faith, is rejected by God and is the sin that leads to death. Christ does all the work and His work is spiritual. Because man is spiritually blind, we are not aware of when Christ does His work within us.

**Ecc 3:11 He has made everything fitting in its season; However, He has put eternal obscurity in their heart so that the man may NOT find out His work, that which God does, that which God does from the beginning to the end.**

This is my translation. Most versions just say "He has put eternity in their heart" but that is only half of what should be translated here. My translation is "eternal obscurity". Translating it just as "eternity" does not make any sense. Some translations say "world in their hearts" which is closer if one understands that the world is carnal and because of such, man cannot find out the work of God. Do you have an opinion?

Since mankind is not aware when Christ does His spiritual work in our hearts, we believe that our choices and decisions are our own, that they come from our supposed "free will". The problem with that tradition of man is that it is contradicted by many scriptures.

I noticed that you posted another reply. I'll take a look at it. If I have time, I respond to it shortly. If not, it will be tomorrow.

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

You said:

The point I'm making is that we were built to understand. We were created to understand. The human mind was built to truly 'get' God.

**Rom 3:10-11 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.**

Mankind was created to NOT understand. We are carnal and the carnal mind cannot understand the truth of God. It is just a tradition of man that we can know Him in our created state. Scripture says we cannot. In fact, scripture even says we cannot even understand our own way:

**Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?**

If we can't understand our own way, how can we understand God who is vastly different from us?

Did you not read **Mark 8:21-25** where Christ teaches about when He gives us spiritual understanding so that we can know Him? Until Christ comes to us with the Latter Rain, we are spiritually blind. Until we are given "eyes that can see", the truth of scripture will remain veiled. Mankind cannot understand and never will. Only the child of God who is born at the time of the Latter Rain can understand. He is led by the Holy Spirit and the Spirit leads us into all understanding. But mankind was created spiritually marred and because of such, we quickly become carnally minded. Adam and Even were carnally minded before they sinned. Their carnal minds were not a result of their sin, their carnal minds were the cause of their sin:

**Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make one wise**

**(pride of life), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.**

The only solution for our salvation is to give us a new birth. That birth is spiritual. Our marred spiritual condition must be replaced with a perfect spiritual condition. This is conversion and without it, we will not be saved.

You said:

Here's my logical understanding. I know you don't believe it, but at least I'll be able to tell God I shared it with you. God did not create evil. He created us, and we became evil. He knew that would happen, but created us anyway. He also created a plan to get us all out of it. He fills up darkness with light. He fills up evil with peace. We most certainly do have to work to get His attention. Faith is a gift, yes, but we do things to obtain His attention; the kind of attention that generates faith. Faith = trust. Who we are, what we do, matters. Huge. He picks kids He likes, based on whether they are good and kind or not. He doesn't care much about knowledge. He doesn't care much about belief systems. We've all gotten it wrong. We all misunderstand something important, and sin in ignorance. He's unconcerned with those sins, He'll correct them in due time; it's the sins we do that we know are sin, and do anyway - those are the ones that lead us into death. But our path out is in forgiveness of others. In forgiving others, we keep the forgiveness He offered us. In feeding others, He promises to feed us. In clothing others, He promises to clothe us. Except, when the judgment comes, the feeding and clothing we gave to others will be dwarfed by the feeding and clothing He gives us.

So if God knew we would become evil because of the way (with a Free Will) He created us, why do you not believe God created evil? Was it His hope that we would not turn evil? Correct me if I am wrong but your answer will probably be that God is taking a chance with mankind by giving us a Free Will because He only wants children who willingly decide to be His children. He won't force anyone to do something that violates their free will choice. That is the traditional answer that comes from the teachings of the church. But with that belief, not all mankind is created equal and God really is a respecter of persons. Evidently, God created some people smarter, or wiser, or just not as evil as some. The lucky ones will make the right choice to accept Christ. Never mind all the ones who have never heard of Christ, or were born before Christ or died at an early age before they could even decide one way or another about Christ. And don't tell me God will give them another chance after they are resurrected. There is no scripture that supports that understanding. So what do you do with people like that? Do they go to hell just because they didn't have a fair chance to make a decision for Christ?

Your belief in works is what the carnal mind of man prefers and is what Satan tempts us to believe. That works based belief system is why a person commits the sin that leads to death. Until we are GIVEN the mind of Christ upon our conversion, our carnal mind will rule over us and cause us to believe that we can somehow earn God's favor by our own decisions or works. This works based belief system is what causes a Christian to devolve into a Man of Sin. Of course, this all happens because it is part of the pathway that leads to salvation. Mankind has no power to deviate from that path since God is the one who laid that path down. No matter how powerful a person's supposed free will is, they cannot overcome the "will" of God. But when the

time is right, Christ will come to all men (every eye will see Him) and destroy who they are and give them a new birth. After we come out from our carnal way of thinking and from Satan's deceptions, we will be humbled and will better understand the nature and power of God. We will then be well on our way to becoming mature sons of God.

I recommend that you go to bible-truths.com and read Ray Smith's Lake of Fire series and possibly read his open letter to Pastor John Hagee. Ray is very good at explaining that Christ is the Savior of the world and why the Doctrine of Free Will is false. Ray doesn't have a good understanding of the deeper things of God which I have been presenting but he is excellent on the milk of the Word. Ray is who Christ used to teach me the milk of the Word so I feel safe in recommending him to you.

Finally, don't worry about offending me with anything you might say. My understanding is such that I can't be offended. I understand why you believe as you do. It is still my hope that Christ is preparing your heart to receive the Latter Rain. I did pray for you, but of course, I also prayed for God's "will" to be done, and not my "will".

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_\_,

You said:

One - you are literally the only other person I know out there that isn't into pure madness who also believes that Christ has a God. I see that plainly. He is the firstborn of creation. He is created, though, that's a little funny to say, because He's just what happens when God creates Himself - writes Himself into the story.

As to the trinity...you ask an interesting question there. I don't really know for sure one way or the other.

I read your post about your dream and your related comments but I know of nothing in scripture that supports your understanding of the dream. Maybe you know of some verses??? Paul frequently says "what sayeth the scripture" because scripture is the complete revelation of God which will make us "perfect" (2Tim 3:16-17).

I do believe in dreams and prophecies but they need to be supported by the existing truth of scripture.

My understanding of God is that there is only ONE God and He is the Father of everything, meaning that everything that exists came from Him.

**1Cor 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.**

**Eph 4:4-6 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

Jesus is the Son of God and God the Father is His God:

**Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:**

**2Cor 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.**

God the Father created Jesus in times before this creation began. Since Jesus is the Son of God, He probably had a beginning probably much like we will have. Someday, when Christ's work is finished, God the Father will have many more sons and we will be a part of God's Family, too.

**Mar 3:35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.**

This creation is how God produces His offspring. I suspect this is not the first time that God has made a "creation" through one of His Sons. But of course, scripture is silent on things outside of the ages and it is only speculation on my part.

But for now, God the Father commissioned Christ as the Word of God to create this world and produce new Sons for Him. All of mankind's interaction with the Father goes through Jesus. Jesus is the one who interacted with the Nation of Israel in the Old Testament. He is even the one who walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden. Since Jesus is our creator, it is completely appropriate to say Jesus is our God.

**John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.**

So how does the Holy Spirit fit into God's family?

The Holy Spirit is God the Father's Spirit. God the Father gave Christ the full measure of His Spirit and because of this, God the Father and Jesus are said to be "one" – but that does NOT mean that they are "one God" with two personalities as the Trinity Doctrine claims. That is completely unsupported by scripture and doesn't even make sense.

In the future, all mankind will also be "one" with Christ and the Father. It will be accomplished because the full measure of God the Father's Spirit will also indwell us:

**John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.**

**John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**

The common thread that makes Christ & His Elect and the Father "one", is God the Father's Spirit. The Spirit binds us together. There is no "trinity" here, just one big family of God the Father who has many children.

I said:

But in no case, can our "will" ever operate outside of God's "will". He is fully in control of His creation and He does as He pleases. We have no right to ask "Why does thou?" (**Dan 4:35**).

You responded:

Yes, we have a right. I have to disagree. I'm constantly having to defend myself on this one, but - yes. We have a right to question. And that right is imparted by Jesus the Christ, King of creation and the first born of the same. He's higher up the food chain than Job. And, I get that the whole end of the book of Job is God explaining to Job why he didn't have a right to doubt God, but I'm missing something when I read that whole story. Something is askew. But my king is Jesus, and He says, "Ask, and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock, and the door will be opened unto you, BECAUSE (γὰρ) ALL that ask receive, and he that seeks finds, and to him that knocks, the door will be opened."

God didn't smack me (though He had a right to). I asked, and He answered. Which was very, very nice of Him. Every time I think of that dream, I'm humbled, and feel stupid. He met me in another dream, and explained to me a great sin in my life, plainly exasperated, but not angry with me - just... "What are you thinking? You should know this! Why do I have to tell you?" But He did have to tell me, and He knew it, and He was nice enough to come tell me. And I was (and still am) ashamed of myself, and chagrined.

Yes, man does question the ways of God because we are currently in a state of rebellion, but scripture clearly says we do not have that right to question God. Paul said this:

**Rom 9:19-20 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?**

As verse 19 says, God's "will" rules supreme in the hearts of man and God does as He pleases. Then Paul continues in verse 20 by saying that man has no right to complain about the ways of God because we are His creation. In other words, God made us so He owns us and He will do with us as He pleases. Fortunately for us, God is a very loving and gentle Father and will only do what is best for us. "In due time" (1Tim 2:3-6), we will all learn to trust Him for our every need. We will all walk by faith in Him.

Daniel confirms this teaching here:

**Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**

God rules supreme in His creation, whether we agree with Him or not. We have no power to stop Him.

Here is how God operates:

**Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desireth, that will he do.**

**Isa 46:10-11 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a**



**ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.**

**Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

God worketh all things to be in accordance with His “will”. He leaves nothing up to chance and He never “allows” anything to just happen. He is the cause of all things happening and always accomplishes what He desires. Mankind’s “will” is subservient to God’s “will”. So yes, mankind has a “will”, but it is not “free”. God’s “will” rules in the hearts of man.

You said:

I don't know. Maybe we're arguing semantics here, because I agree with you that evil only exists as a product of God's creation, that is - He's responsible for it - but I don't agree that He created it. I do believe, as a responsible God, He took the penalty for it; He died like we die, and thus we have no right to tell Him he has no right to judge us, especially since He never sinned in the first place. What I don't believe is that He created sin or evil. Again, if you ever care for my view I'll expound, but since you seem pretty comfortable in your knowledge and belief set, and I'm the Truth Seeker, I'll keep it to myself until you care to hear it.

If God didn't create evil, where did it come from? Scripture clearly teaches that all things come from God. He is the creator of everything in this creation.

**1Cor 8:6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.**

God intentionally created evil so that He could produce children who have a knowledge of evil. He created mankind to be carnally minded so that we would sin and bring evil into the world. He also created Satan to be our tempter, deceiver and destroyer so that evil would flourish all the more. In my understanding, God is responsible for all the evil in the world and He purposefully created it to accomplish His desire to produce new children who have a knowledge of good and evil. As I said, nothing happens in this creation without God causing it to happen. To believe otherwise, God's creation would be out of His control. Of course, that cannot be true. God's “will” will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

You said:

RIGHT?! 2000 brothel corporations where those who lust for the hurchie drug can buy it from the local Bible pimp. “I'll tell you about the love of Jesus, you give me 10% of your income. And we'll all pretend that's what tithe was for in the first place.” Makes me want to throw up. While they're up their preaching and singing, the poor widow just gave them her last mite! Seriously – I'll have nothing to do with them.

But do you understand why the churches (100% of them) have turned harlot?

I have explained it before but I don't think you believed my explanation. I'll try to explain it again in a different way.

The churches are not the way they are because they have a “free will” to be that way. They are harlot because it is God’s “will” for them to experience the Day of Evil. The Day of Evil is when an Early Rain believer comes under Satan’s influence and “falls away”. They fall away from Faith and approach Christ by their own “works”. This causes the “abomination of desolation” in God’s temple (themselves). With God, this is a very serious sin because we elevate ourselves to be as powerful as God.

**2Thes 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

The spirit of anti-Christ came upon the church near the end of the Apostles ministries. Wolves soon entered the churches and those churches quickly become harlot under Satan’s influence. Satan masquerades as an angel of light (Christ) and he taught the churches his ways and not the ways of God. The believers in those churches unknowingly accepted his teachings as truth (the leaven is hidden in the bread, **Mat 13:33**) because they remained spiritually blind after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit. Since they also remain carnally minded, they readily accepted the carnal teachings of Satan. This is why the churches have all turned harlot, all 2000 denominations and sects. NONE of them know the truth.

The time a believer spends in the harlot church (between the Early and Latter Rains) is the Day of Evil. It is also the time mentioned in Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy as “times, time and half a time”. It is also presented as 1260 days, 42 months, and 3 ½ years elsewhere in scripture. This time period also matches up to the time when Elijah did not allow it to rain for 3 ½ years. These are all types for the time period a believer comes under Satan’s influence and control. Even the Elect must experience this evil. God is not a respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34**) so we all live by every word that comes from the mouth of God (**Mat 4:4**).

But for the Elect's sake, Christ will come to them a second time with the Latter Rain and they will hear His call to “come out of her my people” so that they won’t receive of her plagues any longer. The Elect’s “days are shortened” and they will not die in the wilderness like the Nation of Israel.

The Israelites who died in the wilderness are “types” of Early Rain believers. The nation fell away from faith (unlike Joshua and Caleb, types of the Elect) when they heard the report of there being “giants” in the Promised Land. Those “giants” represent the strongholds of our carnal minds which Christ will defeat for us. If they would have believed the report of Joshua and Caleb, the nation would have had entered the Promised Land by faith, knowing that God would defeat the giants. But they were afraid because they only trusted in their own abilities (works) to defeat the giants. And just like the Early Rain believers in the church, who also only trust in their own “works”, they die in the wilderness (church) when it will not rain (typed by 3 1/2 years).

Only Joshua and Caleb (the Elect whose days are shortened), live through their time in the wilderness and cross the Jordan River (type of the Latter Rain) and enter the Promised Land. Once in the Promised Land, Christ’s judgment begins on their Old Man (giants) until he is destroyed. Then all that remains is a new child of God, fully matured and producing the spiritual fruit that God requires of His children.

You said:

Here's what I'm taking from the verse (**Ecc 3:11**). God has made the whole of everything beautiful in its time, or in His time. Part of this was to put vast time in the heart of mankind, and if we didn't have that, none of us would be able to search-and-discover The Work which God, the 'Strong-Leaders' made, from top to bottom.

But...we do have that. God put it there.

Your translation seems to be forced to match your paradigm of God. Most translators do that, too and that is one of the reasons why there are some many translation errors in the bible.

I tend to like Darby's translation the best:

**Ecc 3:11 He hath made everything beautiful in its time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that man findeth not out from the beginning to the end the work that God doeth.**

Since the world is carnal and spiritually blind, they cannot understand what God is doing from the beginning to the end.

This fits in well with the context of the chapter. I am going to paraphrase the first half of the chapter and try to make it flow better (I hope!):

The chapter starts by saying that there is a time and purpose for everything that God does (verses 1-8). And because this is true, verse 9 then asks what does it profit a person to "labor" in light of all this? Verse 10 adds that the writer has seen all the travail that God has given man to go through. 11 God has made everything beautiful in its time (a time to work, a time to reap, etc.) but God has put obscurity in man's heart so that they cannot know when those times will come upon them, that which He does from beginning to end. 12 & 13 All they have is to look for the joy in the present, eating and drinking, and the fruits of their labors, they are the gifts of God. 14 I know that whatever happens, it is final and nothing can be added to it and nothing taken away. God does it this way so that man will learn to trust Him. 15 That which God did in the past, He will bring back again in the future.

Anyway, that's my take on it. I wish the Hebrew was easier to understand. It seems most of the translators of the different versions had a lot of trouble with a few of the verses.

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

You said:

So here's the thing. I worship king Jesus as my master, not Paul. King Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given you, because he who asks receives." Paul can tell me not to question all day long, but Jesus said otherwise. Paul also called himself 'father' and Jesus said to call no man father. The best of us - the very best of us - make mistakes. I get that everyone else seems to worship the Bible, but I've done far too much studying to fall into that category. I worship God, and the Bible tells of Him. God tells us in Isaiah chapter 1 to come reason with Him in order for our sins to

become white as snow. Paul can tell me to shut up and sit down, but I'm going to stand up and ask God anyway, because both NT and OT tell me that's the way it's done.

The words of scripture are the words of Christ. Christ is the Word. By saying that the words of Paul are not the words of Christ, you are saying what Paul wrote is not scripture. If it is not scripture, then it should not be followed. Surely you don't really believe that Paul's letters are not scripture. You don't need to reply to that statement because I don't really think you believe that to be true. But you should think about what you said above about the words of Paul and the words of Christ. All scripture is God inspired and can be trusted.

You said:

IF we were clay, then there would be no problem with God doing whatever He wants with us.

We are like clay and God does whatever He wants with us because He is our God and creator. You sound very rebellious to this idea that God won't let mankind make decisions/choices that differ from His "will". That belief is a "giant" of mankind's carnal nature. It must be slain, just as David slew Goliath. David took 5 stones with him to slay the giant. As I pointed out before, the number 5 represents how we approach God. There are only two ways: either by "works" or by "faith". David was a man of faith and that is why he was able to slay Goliath. If David would have tried by His own abilities, he would have failed.

**1Sam 17:37 And David said, Jehovah who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and Jehovah be with thee.**

Jacob and Caleb also displayed this same faith when they gave their report about the Promised Land. FAITH is the only way we can slay the giants we come up against. Our own "works" will fail.

God controls EVERYTHING about us and we cannot act outside of His "will". We do not have a Free Will as the apostate churches & you believe. I can't stress this enough. The belief in Free Will cripples a believer from walking by faith. And if a believer does not walk by faith, they are following the ways of Satan. A return to "works" is how Satan kills the saints.

Look at the verses below. After reading them, does your reason and logic still tell you that you have a Free Will?

**Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**

**Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

**Rom 8:20-22 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope...**

**Rom 9:11** (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth

**Rom 9:21** Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

**Eph 1:11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

**Deut 29:4** Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.

**Prov 21:1** The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

**Isa 44:18** They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

**Isa 64:8** But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

**Jer 10:23** I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.

**Ecc 3:1** To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

In light of all these verses, what does it profit you to continue in your labors when God is in control of everything? (**Ecc 3:9**). We must enter into the "rest" of Christ, who does all the work. Have faith and trust in Him. He will slay the "giants".

You said:

Why is it that nobody seems to get this idea of a compassionate God? It's so wildly weird to me that everyone wants to apply the title of 'love' to God, and then support Him in some bizarre, power-crazed, reckless hater; as if God is Satan, just way more powerful, and He can be horrifically Satanic, but since He's God we're supposed to shut up and sit down, and nod to one another and say, "Oh yes, He's love. I love Him! He's good and kind," while all the while He's doing monstrous things. That, my friend, is the insanity. That is madness.

God is very compassionate. But that does not mean He gives us Free Will to operate our lives outside of His control. Do you feel like He is controlling you? I'm pretty sure you don't because God has put obscurity (the world) in your heart so that you cannot find out His work. His work is spiritual and we are blind to it. Knowing this is how God works, does that make you love Him less? It causes me to love Him more because I trust Him and ONLY want His "will" to be done in my life. He takes care of me far better than I can care of myself. He is truly loving, gracious and kind (all the fruits of the Spirit). I wouldn't want it any other way. This is what it means to walk by faith and it is the only way we will be saved.

In due time, Christ will come to each person at a time (**Ecc 3:1**) of God's choosing and give them the faith they lack. This gift will restore their relationship with the Father. This is the same relationship that Adam lost because he approached God with his own works (apron of figs leaves). Man's works can only give us the appearance of righteousness. In God's eyes, Adam's apron of fig leaves was "filthy rags" (works). But when Christ comes to us with the Latter Rain, He will cloth us in white raiment (faith).

You said:

Don't you know that the way we prove something is false is by finding irreconcilable contradictions?

Yes, so why can't you see the contradictions of your belief in free will with the verses I posted?

You said:

I cannot tell you how many times I have found where I was wrong, changed the thing I found to be wrong, and then moved in a different path. A hundred times? A thousand? My core belief is, "I exist," and my second belief is, "I'm wrong." Even today I posted where someone showed me plainly the error of my ways! And, to my chagrin, it was Clare57, nonetheless. Talk about eating crow!

I strive very hard to be honest with myself. I want to only believe whatever is true - but I do absolutely insist that it survive being tested. I am willing and able to change my mind, and to believe something different. Ask Clare. I'm sure he'll be happy to sing about it all the day long.

With what you said above, you display that you have a real love for the truth. That is a gift of God and is not something that you were born with. I can also see that you have a zealotry for God. And like I said a few days ago, I also have a zealotry for God and a love for His truth. But before my conversion, that "love for the truth" and my zealotry for God did not empower me with the ability to find God's truth. My blindness kept me from finding it. I only was able to find it later after Christ healed my spiritual blindness when I received the Latter Rain of the Spirit. After my blindness was healed, I could finally "see" Christ (Word of God). The brightness of His appearing to me revealed and then destroyed the Man of Sin whom I had become. He approached Christ by "works". I am so thankful that He's long gone.

Only after the healing of my blindness could I finally start receiving the words of Christ. Then after much searching, I found the hidden treasure of God. And even to this day, I still find the occasional "pearl". And when I do, it brings me great joy.

**Prov 2:1-5 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.**

I encourage you to keep your zealotry toward God and when the appointed time comes, you will find the treasure of God, too and be filled with joy like you have never felt before. It is still my belief that Christ is preparing your heart to receive Him when He comes with the Latter Rain.

Until that day comes, I learned a long time ago that no matter how much light I shine on a blind person, they will still not be able to see. Christ is the only one who can heal the blind and we all must wait on Him to do His work within us.

At this point, I think we know where we each stand on scripture. With that said, I don't believe any future discussions are going to be beneficial to either of us. But if there ever comes a day that you want my opinion on a matter of scripture, I will be happy to give it.

Thanks for bearing with me for so long. I only wish I could have helped you more, especially on the importance of Faith vs. works. But God's "will" be done in this matter and not my "will".

One last thing, if there is anything in this post that you want to respond to, I will certainly read and consider it.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said: ↑

As I pointed out before, the number 5 represents how we approach God.

I've done some limited research into Jewish mysticism, and the meaning of numbers, but I'm interested - where do you get the meanings you apply to numbers? And, may I have a list of the numbers with meanings, and what those meanings are, please?

FaithWillDo said: ↑

There are only two ways: either by "works" or by "faith". David was a man of faith and that is why he was able to slay Goliath.

FaithWillDo said: ↑

We must enter into the "rest" of Christ, who does all the work. Have faith and trust in Him. He will slay the "giants".

David had faith, but he was out there on a battle field with a sling and a stone. He didn't lie down and say, "Alright, Master - do it," and suddenly God animated him, and put him on his feet, and God started swinging the sling. David knew God would make it so that what David did would save the day. A work to go with his faith. Faith without works (David lies down in the grass and trusts God will save the Israelites) is dead (Goliath steps on David's head).

[James 2:14](#) KJV - 14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (The answer here is NO.)

It would sure be easier if we could be saved without works, wouldn't it? If God did everything and we did nothing. I could have my cake and eat it too; get rich, live a life of luxury and leave Lazarus sick at my gate, neglect the hungry, pass the guy lying near dead on the side of the road saying, "I don't have time." That would be easier. That is what the 'fathers' are preaching. Danger! Danger!

FaithWillDo said: ↑

In light of all these verses, what does it profit you to continue in your labors when God is in control of everything? (Ecc 3:9). We must enter into the "rest" of Christ, who does all the work. Have faith and trust in Him. He will slay the "giants".

You know what? I've changed my mind. Let's do it! What do you say? You and I, we're going to have faith and abandon works entirely. Works has nothing to do with it! Feeding the hungry? Ha! Leave that to Satan. That's what he does, right? Lazarus can lay sick at my gate, because if I go take care of him...that's what Satan would have me do, right? Sure, that poor fella was jumped by bandits, but I'd better not get involved. If I do that, I'm listening to Satan. To heck with works - faith only, baby! BOOYAH! JESUS, HERE I COME! Paaaaartyyy!

Joe.

No, dude. Bad.

So - here's the thing - it looks like you've got hung up on the apparent contradiction of freewill vs. predestination. And frankly, the verse list you've provided is nothing in comparison to what the Calvinists put together. If you're looking for an onslaught of data that shows that we do nothing and God does everything, go do some research there. You'll love what you find.

But there is no contradiction between freewill and predestination, and the solution is not bound up in an insane God. (As Joshua said, "This day I put before you life and death. Choose life, that you may live.") They are simply two different sides of the same coin. Freewill is what things look like when you're on this side of time, looking into the future; where the future is not yet decided, and where the way things go will be (future tense) dictated by what we choose. Predestination is what things look like when you're on the other side of time, looking into the past; where choices have been (past tense) determined, and nothing will unmake them. And this law is built into physics. It is called entropy. It's why time travel is possible - right now we're able to time travel - but only into the future. Never into the past.

Today I will choose whether or not I brush my teeth. Yesterday I either did or didn't. Today I will choose, but nothing will unchoose yesterday. One is not yet written, the other is carved in stone. This is thermodynamics 101.

From there, we can dig down into the meat of it some - see the finger of God. The above paragraph is what the atheist might believe, but you and I know that God is the creator, the root cause of all things. There would have been no law to break if He hadn't instructed Adam not to eat of the tree; He had to dictate the law to Adam in order for it to be broken. Adam could not have been in rebellion if God hadn't provided him something to rebel against.

More than that, Adam's spirit and body were both God's creation. God could have put a different spirit in that body, and then it wouldn't have been the same guy. God could have chosen to put the spirit he put in my body in someone born in the 13th century in Maui, and my self-awareness would have existed hundreds of years ago halfway to China, but He didn't. He put me here, you



there, Hitler there, Adam there, Abraham there, Nero there, etc. He knew what choices WE would make when He put us where He put us, because He constructed our spirits and our bodies, and knew the path every cell, atom, quark and sub-atomic particle would take that would get us to where we are, and where we are going - and so He is the cause behind it all...BUT. But but but. He didn't make me choose to drink coffee this morning. I did. He just knew I would choose that. He didn't make Hitler kill 6,000,000 Jews. Hitler did. But God knew he would do that when He constructed every aspect of Hitler's spirit.

God made a plan to fix it all. He hated the idea of sin, but He built it all anyway, because it was the only way to get to the perfect state He was looking for on the other side. And He said this when, on the Mt. of Olives, Jesus prayed the prayer you now pray. "Not my will, but thine." Here's the thing - Jesus is God. God is Jesus. He is the Father, but He's what the Father looks like when He creates Himself inside of His creation. (I know you don't put it quite that way, but I think we agree on this point?) He is the First Creation (the firstborn of creation) and then He created everything from there. That's what I get from it all, anyway. God made Jesus, who is God inside of time, and then Jesus made everything else, which is to say, God made everything, He just did it through Jesus, and so, Jesus created everything. Thus, Jesus and God the Father are literally one and the same, and yet, they are totally separate - two different wills. SO - Jesus (God the Father inside of time) is in the garden of Gethsemane, and has no interest in getting beaten to a pulp, tortured, mocked, and forced to wear a crown of thorns, and then crucified. He knows this is what's about to happen to Him, because He guided it all to line up just this way, but now that the time has come, He's hoping for a way out. And He prays..."If it is possible." That's what He says. In the Greek, that's what He says. "If it is possible, let this cup pass from me." God just said, "If it's possible." Well, here's the thing - if it were possible, if it had been possible, it wouldn't have gone that way. God gets what God wants. His will is never denied...accept, when we say that, what we really mean is His long-term will. Because there's all sorts of things going on in the short-term that are contrary to God's will. Including being beaten, tortured, and crucified.

But sir - it wasn't possible. There wasn't any other way. If God (long-term) was going to get what God wants (long-term), then God had to suffer (short-term) against His will through torture. There are at least two things not possible for God. He can't lie, and He couldn't dodge the crucifixion. To get what He wanted, He had to go through the fire He'd caused when He created a bunch of humans with freewill, because what will come of it is beyond our current imagination in its scale of beauty and profound joy. It's worth it.

It is true He doesn't need anyone's advice (who works all things after the counsel of His own will), because He's got it all perfectly solved already - had it solved before He pushed the 'Go' button - that doesn't mean we don't have a right to ask Him why He's doing what He's doing. We are, after all, made in His image, and we are built to grow up to become as He is, yes? As Jesus said, "You are gods (He's quoting Psalms - we are Elohim), and the scripture cannot be broken." We're supposed to ask, sir. How in the world are we going go from gods (little 'g') to Gods (capital 'G') if we don't get into it all? How can we grow up if we don't search out understanding?

We decide what's going to happen next. We choose what we're going to do. God just knew what that was before He created us, and created us and placed us where we would specifically make these choices. If He'd stuck Hitler in deepest darkest Africa in the body of a disabled girl, then things wouldn't have gone just the way they did - so He stuck Him in Hitler instead, NOT because Hitler would then kill 6,000,000 Jews, but because there are a billion little things working together that come into a single, perfect, cohesive thing at the end of it all - and, there are a huge number of beautiful stories of courage and strength out there (Anne Frank, Schindler, etc.) that were born from that horrific time. AND, God is going to fix it all. He comforts Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that there are 6,000,000 others being comforted down there now.

I still intend on translating the verses you gave me that all say God created evil, but my guess is that they've all been mangled. I'll share the list with you, but it looks like you've lost all trust in my translations, so that may be a waste of time. Would you like me to share them? I like to think you went and looked at my word-by-word translation of Ecc 3:11, saw that I didn't doctor it in the slightest, and then perhaps you and I can find the actual truth lying beneath the scummy surface of what we've been provided from the beginning. IF you have a mind that is open to new data. IF you're able to recognize that you don't see any better than the blind man next to you.

I can always hope...

FaithWillDo said: ↑

This is the same relationship that Adam lost because he approached God with his own works (apron of figs leaves).

You put that Adam lost the relationship, when what you've been saying this whole time is that God lost Adam's relationship with God. And, God will restore Adam's relationship with Adam. And Adam is self-aware, and experiences the horrors of God's fury - but in the long run, Adam didn't choose to eat the apple, God made him pluck it, God made him eat it, Adam did nothing, he's a computer program running without choice, and his poor self-awareness is stuck in the machine, deceived by God into thinking he had any part of it... This is nonsense.

FaithWillDo said: ↑

Until that day comes, I learned a long time ago that no matter how much light I shine on a blind person, they will still not be able to see. Christ is the only one who can heal the blind and we all must wait on Him to do His work within us.

Another question for you. If the light you shine cannot be seen by a blind man, then why bother in the first place? That's not to discourage you, but to show you how silly it is for Christ to tell us to take His message to the world when the world can't see it. "Here - do me a favor, and read this out loud to all the deaf people, would you?" That's ridiculous. For all the people that believe we have no freewill, what do you do with that?

Why bother sharing the truth if everyone's programmed in the first place? Why not just go eat some yummy ice cream, and for better or for worse, leave the world to its programming?

FaithWillDo said: ↑

At this point, I think we know where we each stand on scripture. With that said, I don't believe any future discussions are going to be beneficial to either of us.

This always happens to me when I challenge someone's beliefs. I can't ever seem to find anyone who wants to keep digging, and searching. Always, if someone tries to convince me of a thing, and I am able to show holes in what they're saying, rather than hashing it out until solid ground is found on one side or the other, they always comfort themselves with saying, "The poor blind man won't follow me. Alas! The poor blind man!" They call over to me, "Poor blind man, I'm sorry you're still blind. God bless, little one, and go your way. Perhaps someday God will have mercy on you, and you'll see I'm right." Back of the hand rises to the forehead, head tossed tragically to the side, a tear on their cheek. "God bless, poor blind man, God bless."

Frame it another way, would you? You at least seem to have more kindness in you than most of the others. Just say, "Well - I'm tired of this conversation. I was hoping you'd see I'm right, but I don't have the energy it takes to put much more into this. I don't dislike you, but me and my truth are going to go see if we can convert someone else to my way of thinking. I'm outta here." It would be more honest of you.

I'm a seeker. I'm looking for other seekers. What I'm not looking for is a pastor, or an apostle, or a prophet. I have 2 other people in my life that share studies with me, and I with them, and we have points we disagree on, and yet we still seek together; because that's what a community does. We work together even when we can't agree.

We're all finite, subjective creations, dude. You can still challenge one another. Or, go away if you care to, but be honest with me about it (and yourself). What I won't do, is leave you with the same prideful comment. I don't know for sure I'm right. I know with a certainty that something I believe is wrong. I am blind. Don't you know that's the safe place to be? If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. That's a dangerous place to live, my friend.

You're not leaving a better taste behind with the, "Poor blind man" sigh on your lips. It's icky, and it speaks poorly of you. I have come to expect better of you than that.

E\_\_\_\_\_

Dear E\_\_\_\_\_,

There is really no reason to reply to your questions/comments above. I have already answered/explained everything several times in several ways and you haven't been able to receive their truth. Only Christ can help you understand. Mankind cannot and will not ever understand:

**Rom 3:10-11 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.**

This is mankind's created condition. We are totally at the mercy of Christ to come to us and save us. There is nothing inside of you or any man that can earn salvation or favor with God. We must die and be born again.

The Latter Rain of the Spirit will come to you someday, and then you will understand.

I'm sorry you have a bad taste in your mouth. But the truth of God always leaves a bad taste in mankind's mouth because it tastes sour to mankind (**Rev 10:10**). Someday the New Wine will taste better than the Old Wine and when it does, your "works" based belief system will die.

Joe

Dear E\_\_\_\_,

After I posted my reply earlier this morning, I went for a walk and the Lord put it in my heart to make a few more comments.

I want you to know that I genuinely tried to help you. That was my only motive for posting with you for so long. My calling in life is to help other believers who have or are in the process of receiving the Latter Rain. Early in our conversation, I thought that perhaps the Lord was working in your life and was about to open your eyes. As I said in the posts, very few people have been given a "love for the truth" and it is a sign that the Lord may be coming a second time to them. And even though He has not come to you yet, it still may happen. When it happens, He will come "suddenly" to His temple (you), without your invitation.

With that said, the Lord wanted me to present a few verses to you.

As for being blind, all mankind is born spiritually blind and they remain so even AFTER receiving the EARLY Rain of the Spirit. As I previously said, that blindness is why there are nearly 2000 denominations of Christian churches/sects, all with their own version of the truth. Those churches/sects are made up of Early Rain believers who are spiritually blind. Their number is "many". Even the Elect sit in those pews before they receive the Latter Rain. God is not a respecter of persons and everyone must travel the same path.

I sat in those pews until I was 44 years old and I too, received many of the "plagues" of Mystery Babylon. I was without a doubt, spiritually blind at that time. But upon receiving the Latter Rain, my blindness was healed and the Word of God opened up for me. That is NOT bragging, that is just how God operates within those He is saving in this age. It is all part of the pathway we must travel to be saved.

Your current blindness fits into that same pathway that God causes us all to travel. When I pointed out your blindness, you should not take my comment as an insult because it is not. Your blindness is nothing special and we ALL have to experience it. When your time comes, Christ will take away your blindness, too and then you will see "everyman clearly" as I do.

It is not wrong for me to say that I can "see" because I, like Peter, have received the Latter Rain and have had my blindness healed.

**2Pet 4:19 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

Peter, like the other Apostles, knew that Christ had healed their own blindness and that He had given them “eyes that can see”. But we are still limited by what Christ reveals in scripture. Paul said that even with “eyes that can see”, we still see through a “glass darkly”. There is still much that we are not ready to receive. You asked about some of those “things” in your posts to me.

As for you following a “works” based belief system, I am certain that you do. All Early Rain believers do. I did while I was in the church before my conversion. When I said that about you, it is not saying anything negative to you personally, it is just the path that we must follow. After receiving the EARLY Rain, we all eat from the leavened loaf AND we all eat the “little scroll (book):

**Matt 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.**

The leavened loaf is what a spiritually blind believer accepts as truth. This loaf is full of Satan’s lies and deceptions and they are mixed into God’s truth until the whole is leavened. There are no doctrines of the church that are completely true. In fact, most are completely false.

The last comment I want to make comes from this verse:

**Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

I have a deep desire and love for you (like I do for all mankind) to be make righteous. Christ longs for that day, too:

**Luke 12:49 “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!**

But we all must experience our “Day of Evil” (Elijah’s 3 ½ years) between the Early and Latter Rain before we are ready (made into a Man of Sin) to be killed by the sword of Christ. This speaks of conversion and salvation. We must die in order to be “born again”.

Until that day arrives for all mankind, all of Christ’s Elect must have patience and wait on the Lord to do His work within them. No man has the “free will” ability to deviate from the path that God has laid down.

Until next time,

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I wish you well in your travels. May the Truth seek us all out. Amen.

E\_\_\_\_\_