

Introduction

Sit back and listen closely as you read this eBook. I am going to share with you the greatest story ever told. It's about love and passion and pain and suffering, and triumph, and victory for millions who meet the man behind the story.

We will learn a few things about God's matchless love, His longsuffering, His sovereignty and ultimate destiny for mankind. We will look into the Holy Scriptures, using the King James Version, to validate truth and identify some modern day heresy. We will discover the Grace of Almighty God towards the human race.

This story is more than just a story. It is the Gospel record of Jesus, the Christ of Calvary who was crucified by Rome in the 1st century. This man claimed to be the Messiah or the "Anointed One," who had been prophesied for thousands of years before He arrived on the scene. The word, "Messiah" is Hebrew for Anointed. The word, "Christ" is Greek for Anointed. They both are the identifying factor of the God-Man that was to come.

The prophecy said that this anointed one would save the world from its own sin...and deliver Israel, restoring it to its former glory. The Israelites waited for hundreds of years, from the 1st mention of a "Coming One" foretold by God Himself in the Garden of Eden to John, the Baptist that would go before Jesus proclaiming His arrival.

They waited through the Egyptian captivity, the Babylonian captivity, the glory days of King David and all the other events that shaped their history only to reject Him when He came.

Yet He came anyway and fulfilled every prophecy foretold over the past centuries. He performed miracles and even raised the dead and still His own rejected Him.

The Beginning of The Story

John, the apostle, wrote the book of Saint John, the 4th book of the New Testament. Here's what he says about the beginning of the story.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 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.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, this was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, who art thou? and he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, what then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. And they, which were sent, were of the Pharisees. John 1:1-24

So, Jesus, the long awaited, "Anointed One" arrives on the scene, gets rejected by His own but nevertheless proceeds with His mission.

The Mission

We celebrate the birth of Jesus every year and rehearse the event in pageants all around the globe but because He is the God-Man, the devil has taken Him out of Christmas replacing Him with Santa Clause. His mission has been changed from salvation of the souls of men to presents under a tree and good will to all.

The "Good Will" Jesus has no redemptive power. Nor does it have the ability to set captives free from heavy burdens, evil spirits and sinful condemnation yet the world chases after this, "Good Will," Jesus so it doesn't have to deal with its own sin.

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:5

Though the world lay in sin and degradation not comprehend who Jesus really is, He presses on to accomplish all that He was sent to do.

The God-Man Revealed

Who was Jesus, really? Let's look again at John chapter one.

"In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:1-3

He was the preexistent Divine Word that was with God and was God in all respects. All that was made, the heaven, the earth and every living creature...all was made by Him.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14

The Divine was made flesh...in other words; He took on himself the form of humanity. The apostle Paul tells the Philippian church that Jesus was indeed

God and Man. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:8

Jesus emptied Himself of His rightful Divinity to become a mortal man. God became Man that man could become "Born Again" by God's Holy Spirit. What was lost in Adam was restored in Jesus.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

I Corinthians 5:22

He's Not An Ordinary Man And He's Not A Superman

So here comes Jesus into a world of corruption, war, adultery and a host of other maladies...all caused by a fallen nature that passed upon all mankind when Adam rebelled against God. Listen to what the Bible says about Sin entering into the world and death by sin.

"Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12.)

Our "In The Image of God" nature was replaced with the very nature of Satan. Instead of love, peace, joy, kindness, long suffering and all the other attributes of God that were placed into man at his creation, he received Lust, pride, selfishness, adultery and all the other deeds of the flesh spoken of in Galatians chapter five. As Lucifer lost his 1st estate and fell from heaven into darkness so did Adam lose his 1st estate and that "Breath of Life" that was breathed into man at his creation. God's Holy Spirit was taken from him. He died spiritually. Adam became a walking dead man and we followed in his footsteps.

The DNA Swap

The Passing on of Death and a "Fallen Nature" were real occurrences. All this happened to Adam long before we came on the scene...so how does what happened to him affect us? Here's what the Bible says about that. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23

This is why there is a need to be saved...because, Adam's descendants, that's you and me, also possessed the same fallen nature. It passed on to all of mankind through their DNA. They could not help but sin. Therefore,

everyone dies because of sin. And so it was and so it is and so it will be. Mankind dies because of personal sins against a Holy & Righteous God.

So what makes Jesus, the man, any different than us? He was also born of a woman. However, the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. She did not participate in the conception, only the housing of the baby so He could grow to full term. It was a virgin birth.

If Jesus had been a product of Joseph and Mary at conception, He would have had a fallen nature like us and could not have saved anyone. But because He was pure in character, He had a fighting chance to overcome Satan's attacks, win the battle and bring us into a righteous relationship with God, the Father. He did all that Adam and everyone that came after him could not do.

Thus the DNA of God comes back into mankind as a result of Jesus' obedience to God and His death on the cross. Jesus, knowing He would save all that came to Him, made this statement.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.: John 3:16

Jesus started a, "Whosoever" generation that would thrive and grow throughout all centuries. The term, "Whosoever" is all-inclusive. It leaves no one out but excludes everyone that will not believe. (Check out my other eBooks on "Whosever" and "The Fall of Man" at www.christianliferesourcecenter.org.)

The Story Doesn't End With The Redemption of Man

Up to this point in our story, which by the way, is the greatest story ever told; the initiative has been with God reaching down to man, calling him to salvation. The only thing for man to do at this point is to respond by repenting and believing.

We know that the wicked will be cast into hell and death and hell into the lake of fire, but that comes later. If this was an article in the newspaper, the headline might read something like this, "Persecution of Christians around the world is on the rise" "Satan Targets Christians With Fiery Darts, Theft's and Total Destruction."

The "Battle of The Ages" rages out of control as believers face off with spiritual wickedness in high places. Here's where the story gets dicey. Little did the average Christian know that they were targeted for a demonic slaughter.

Paul, the apostle tells the church to put on the whole armor of God.

"Put on the **whole armor of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

Just so you know, here is a list of armor that every Christian is supposed to ware:

- The Belt of Truth.
- A Breastplate of Righteousness.
- The Gospel of peace.
- The Shield of Faith.
- The Helmet of salvation.
- The Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Peter, another apostle, tells the church to resist the devil and he will flee away in utter fear.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." I Peter 5:8

So, the plot thickens as true believers do battle with daemons. They fight for their freedom, their families, their finances, their health and every other thing that Satan tries to steal from them. They worship Jesus and enter into His presence with singing. They do not fight under their own efforts but in the Spirit of The Lord. Their weapons are not carnal but mighty to the pulling down of strongholds.

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" II Corinthians 10:4-5 So the battle rages in our minds as we repel accusations, lies, fake news and gossip from evil doers and/or well meaning but not so smart Christian folk.

Did I tell you that these true believers are fighting a defeated foe? That's right, Jesus defeated Satan, the Devil, Lucifer and all the other anti-God demons. He faced them on the battlefield of His mind and won every time He was tempted. He was indeed without sin. There was no darkness in Him at all.

Then He willingly allowed Himself to be led to the slaughter, like an innocent lamb. He became the "Spotless Lamb" which was the sacrifice required for the remission of sin on the Day of Atonement.

God let it be know, through His prophet, Ezekiel that the soul that commits sin would die. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:20 Jesus did not commit sin yet He was put to death for the sins of the entire world. He became the Divine Sacrifice for our transgressions. Isaiah makes this clear in his writings. He said, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.: Isaiah 53:5

The Resurrection Proof That All This Is Real

Without the resurrection, this would be just a nice story. However, with the resurrection, it becomes the greatest story ever told. Here's why?

Death was the punishment for sin but Jesus never sinned. Yes He was the "Scapegoat" that was portrayed in Old Testament imagery but that was a Divine act to reunite God and man. It was not the personal sin of the man called Jesus. Death could not hold Him. When He died on the cross, He entered the place of the dead but not as a sinner. He entered as a conqueror to overcome its influence. His body could not be corrupted because it had no evidence of Sin in or on it.

So God raised Jesus from the dead, as the scriptures recorded. There were over 500 witnesses that saw Jesus ascend into the heavens after He was raised from the dead. This was the proof that Jesus was who He claimed to be and that all the scriptures that spoke of Him were true. He was and still is God's Messiah or Christ. This being raised from the dead thing stands today

as proof-positive hook that we hang our faith on. It is the foundation of the Christian Life.

Ascension And Intercession

So Jesus ascends into the heavens to be seated at the right hand of God. There He makes Intercession for the saints. He is back where He came from. Remember, it all started with Jesus, then called the "Word" being with God and actually being God. The pre-existent immortal became mortal and took on the form of flesh. Now He returns, in the flesh to be seated at the place of all power and authority, the right hand of God. This completes the title of my eBook and why I called it such. "From Heaven To Hell And Back" is a true story about Jesus, God's Anointed One, the Christ that became our savor and Lord.

The Final Chapter

There is a final chapter that has yet to play out in this Divine Drama. It is the future in the timetable of God. Here are a few events that must still happen:

- On The Earth...there will be a great falling away from the faith. Wars and rumors of wars will increase. Men's hearts will fail them because of fear. Natural affection will give way to distorted lust. God's people will suffer persecution. Good will be called evil and evil good. Earthquakes and natural disasters will happen more frequently in various places. Love and decency will wax old and almost disappear.
- In The Heavens...Jesus will come in the clouds of heaven to collect all true believers in a glorious rapture of His church. This event will be a grave opener for all who died in faith before His return. The dead in Christ will be raised from the dead. Then we, all who stand in faith, will be caught up together with them in the air to be with Jesus.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we, which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thessalonians 4:13-17

Things Yet To Come

The Judgment Seat of Christ...Romans 14:10–12 says, "For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. . . . So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God" (ESV). Second Corinthians 5:10 tells us, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." In context, it is clear that both passages refer to Christians, not unbelievers. The judgment seat of Christ, therefore, involves believers giving an account of their lives to Christ.

The judgment seat of Christ does not determine salvation; that was determined by Christ's sacrifice on our behalf (1 John 2:2) and our faith in Him (John 3:16). All of our sins are forgiven, and we will never be condemned for them (Romans 8:1). We should not look at the judgment seat of Christ as God judging our sins, but rather as God rewarding us for our lives.

At the judgment seat of Christ, believers are rewarded based on how faithfully they served Christ (1 Corinthians 9:4-27; 2 Timothy 2:5). Some of the things we might be judged on are how well we obeyed the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), how victorious we were over sin (Romans 6:1-4), and how well we controlled our tongues (James 3:1-9). The Bible speaks of believers receiving crowns for different things based on how faithfully they served Christ (1 Corinthians 9:4-27; 2 Timothy 2:5). The various crowns are described in 2 Timothy 2:5, 2 Timothy 4:8, James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:4, and Revelation 2:10. James 1:12 is a good summary of how we should think about the judgment seat of Christ:

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." (Got Questions.com)

The Man of Sin Comes Forth...The Ant-Christ..."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; 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." II Thessalonians 2:3-4

First John 2:18 speaks of the Antichrist: "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour."

The specific term *antichrist* is used seven times in Scripture, twice here in 1 John 2:18 and also in 1 John 2:22; 4:3; and twice 2 John 7.

The meaning of the term *antichrist* is simply "against Christ." As the apostle John records in First and Second John, an antichrist denies the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22), does not acknowledge Jesus (1 John 4:3), and denies that Jesus came in the flesh (2 John 1:7). There have been many "antichrists," as 1 John 2:18 states. But there is also coming "*The Antichrist*."

Most Bible prophecy/eschatology experts believe the Antichrist will be the ultimate embodiment of what it means to be against Christ. In the end times/last hour, a man will arise to oppose Christ and His followers more than anyone else in history. Likely claiming to be the true Messiah, the Antichrist will seek world domination and will attempt to destroy all followers of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel.

The Mark of the Beast.... "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." Revelation 13:16-18

Revelation 16:2 and 19:20 cite the "mark of the beast" as a sign that identifies those who worship the beast out of the sea ($\underbrace{\text{Rev } 13:1}$). This beast is usually identified as the antichrist. This mark is first mentioned in 13:16-17, where it is imposed on humanity by the beast out of the earth ($\underbrace{13:11}$). This second beast is the false prophet ($\underbrace{19:20}$), who forces the worship of the antichrist and brands those who do so with the mark. This mark is equivalent to the beast's name or number ($\underbrace{13:17}$; cf. $\underbrace{14:11}$). This enigmatic number is announced in 13:18 as **666.**

The term "mark" has no special biblical usage apart from its association with the beast. The Greek term charagma [cavragma] was most commonly used for imprints on documents or coins. Charagma [cavragma] is well attested to have been an imperial seal of the Roman Empire used on official documents during the first and second centuries.

The history of interpretation concerning the correlation of a person with the number 666 has only resulted in endless speculations. One of the most prominent candidates has been the first-century Roman emperor Nero.

A few modern scholars have noted that the numbers can also argue for a connection with Babylon and Nimrod. The list is expanded with the creative use of numbers during times of modern crises (e.g., Hitler was a major candidate during World War II).

It is possible that John merely intended the number to be symbolic of what the beast and his followers represent: humankind in their ultimate rebellion against God, his Lamb, and the followers of the Lamb.

John explains in 13:18 that the number 666 is the number of man. The number 7 is well established as a number of completeness or perfection. The number 6, being one less than 7, may symbolize humankind, which falls short of perfection.

The number 666 could well personify the imperfection of man, even implying in the triple number the unholy trinity of the dragon, antichrist, and the false prophet. The identity of those who follow the Lamb or the beast is self-evident to the observer, whether it is the first century or the eschatological future. The vision calls John and his audience to discern the spirit of sinful humanity that accompanies the antichrist rather than to decode his identity.

The Battle of Armageddon... The Battle of Armageddon will take place in Israel, in the prophesied Valley of Megiddo. It will occur after the Great Tribulation Period, at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, when He returns to set up His Kingdom on earth.

There are several Bible passages which refer to the same event, but which do not use the term "Armageddon," including the Supper of the Great God (Revelation 19:17), the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2), the Valley of Decision (Joel 3: 13-14), and the Battle of that Great Day of God Almighty (Revelation 16:14).

Revelation chapters 14, 16, 17 and 19 describe Armageddon as a place of great slaughter where troops will be gathered, assembled and pressed together. At Armageddon Christ will come in all of His wrath and glory with His army following Him on white horses. Jesus is pictured here as a man of

war, judging in righteousness with the sword of His mouth. Jesus will deliver Israel from destruction by the Antichrist. Nations will be punished for their sins. Those who have received the Mark of the Beast will be judged. And Jesus will take authority over the earth and remove the kingdom and reign of the Antichrist.

The Final Solution

My story began with the "Word" coming down from heaven and taking the form of man. He was fully God and fully man in one place and one time. He was as Adam was before his fall, innocent.

His name was and still is Jesus and He is the "Anointed One", the Christ. He came to save mankind and defeat the devil. He came that we might have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

He came from heaven, went to hell and returned to heaven as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He accomplished everything God, the Father, sent Him to do and is currently seated at the right hand of God.

Now He is waiting for the time when He will return for His church and later judge the world in righteousness. We, as Christians, will see Him in action as He plants His feet on the Mount of Olives and enters Jerusalem.

He will end all wars as He sends His angels to gather all who remain alive. Then He will separate the Sheep from the Goats (Bad folks from Good folks). The Goats, workers of iniquity, He will banish into darkness to await final judgment. The sheep will enter into His kingdom that was prepared for them before the world began.

The Great White Throne Judgment.... "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead, which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-15

The Great White Throne Judgment, according to the book of Revelation, will take place at the end of the Millennium, prior to the time when God will "make all things new" (*Revelation 21:5*). This will be the final and irreversible judgment of Satan and his. According to the Bible, the great books recording the deeds of all mankind will be opened. Those people whose names were not recorded in the "book of life" will be cast into the lake of fire reserved for the devil and his angels. This experience is called "the second death" to distinguish it from mere physical death.

Christ's 1000 Year Reign

When Jesus comes back, He comes back to rule and reign over the inhabitants of planet earth. The devil is cast into a bottomless pit for 1,000 years and life goes on with no evil, no temptation or hassles. It's a good time of long life, prosperity and peace. We live with Christ in the New Jerusalem and minister to those who lived through the great tribulation and were received by Jesus at His coming. New births will happen and the population of earth will flourish.

One More Go Around

At the end of Christ's 1000-year reign, the devil will be loosed to tempt those who dwell on earth. These folks have never been given a choice to rebel. Free will means choices. They will have to decide if they want evil or good. This will go on, as the Bible says, for a season. I had a hard time with this trying to understand why. Then I heard the Spirit of God tell me, "God takes no prisoners." Everyone must choose the road in life they want to walk on and the destiny that comes with it.

The End Is Only The Beginning For Us

Here's how the story ends, according to the Apostle John, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more". Revelation 21:1

"And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

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. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake, which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Rev. 21:2-8

Conclusion

My story is just a summary of all that the Bible says has and will happen. It does not cover every detail. For full explanations read Daniel, Revelations and all other references to Jesus' return. My story is a collection of highlights and may not be in exact chronological order.

The story is a record of documented past events and prophetic statements of future events. However, we are in the present, living life day by day. We are rushing into the future to meet our destiny, whether good or bad.

It is my hope that you will have discovered the truth of God's Word; seen Jesus as a suffering servant to redeem mankind and King of Kings to rule with love and grace. Are you now ready to be saved and join Jesus in the battle for holiness and life eternal? If so, read my eBook, "How To Be Born Again" It's also a free download at www.christianiferesourcecenter.org

A Greater Story

A greater story was never told
Than this one told to me
A story of love, once spoken bold
Through the cross of Calvary

He can by water and by blood To bestow God's grace on me. He came as a penalty for sin



God gave His Son, a ransomed soul
As a gift to set men free.
No greater story was ever told
Than this one told to me.

Written By Rev.

John Marinelli

Meet The Man Behind The Story

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

Questions or Comments:

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God bless you as you consider where you will spend eternity. Let me know your decision. I can pray for you and answer any other questions you may have.