



The History of the Blood Sacrifice

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Psalm 27:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.

Chapter 1: Differences in Culture

As you travel over the world you notice that there are many differences among the people. There are people with different skin colour, different cultures and different languages. The places in which they live also differ from each other; one in the desert, another in the forest and still another in a big city. People live everywhere. And each time you see a different behaviour and a different attitude.

Still, there are a few things that you see with all people. You could call them the basic principles, as every person needs to eat and to sleep, or don't they? Everybody eats and sleeps. Some eat with sticks and some sleep on hard ground but it doesn't matter how you look at it, everybody eats and sleeps.

It is the same with religion. You find religion over the whole world. Everybody is looking into religion in some way. People indeed go about it in different ways, but everybody is searching for God.

Even communism is a religion. The communist sees himself as superior, as a god. His 'red book' contains the rules for his life. It is a type of 'holy book'. We see religion spread over the whole earth, for example, Islam, Hindu and Christianity. In their deepest being, everybody is searching for God. For the true God who can help them, who is stronger and worthy to be worshipped.

Is there but one true religion?

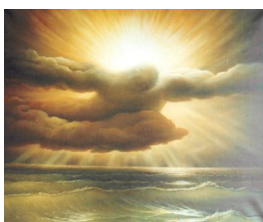
We think that the traditions of a country can never change, especially if we are thinking in terms of religion. But just in this area, we are seeing great changes taking place.

For example, look at South Korea. This was a Buddhist country and we see that twenty-five per cent of the people has turned to Christianity. Indonesia was the largest Islamic country in the world. Now, suddenly, millions of people are turning to Christianity. In Africa, every day, thousands of people are making the choice to leave their idols and believe in Jesus Christ. China is the biggest example. A country mostly made up of Buddhists and people who still follow Mao, it is communist and is closed for religions from other countries. Now there are already some seventy million people who have chosen to believe in Jesus Christ. This has led to many prison sentences and other punishments for these people because communists are not allowed to be Christians.

People in these countries, who face difficulties every day, know that they need a Saviour. A Saviour who can rescue them and reconcile them to God. The God who can make them happy in difficult circumstances and situations.

When you read further, you will see that there is a Saviour who has made a way back to God. You shall begin to understand why so many people over the whole world have chosen and are choosing this way. What they are finding now: a reason to live, peace with God and a personal relationship with God their Creator.

The Beginning.



God is the Creator of heaven and earth and man. In the beginning, when God had created everything, it was good on earth. God said, "It is good". The man, Adam, was in a perfect state. He was happy, had peace with God, with Eve his wife and with himself.

Genesis 3:8 ‘Then the man and his wife heard the sound of God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day,’

Every day, in the coolness of the day, God came to visit them. He had a relationship with mankind. This is also the reason that God created mankind; so that mankind could be a friend of God. That mankind could learn to know Him better and experience His love. Still, God gave mankind a free will so that he could choose for himself. Should he go with God or should he choose his own way? In the garden where the man lived was a tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had said that if the man should eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil he shall surely die.

Genesis 2:17 ‘ But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.’

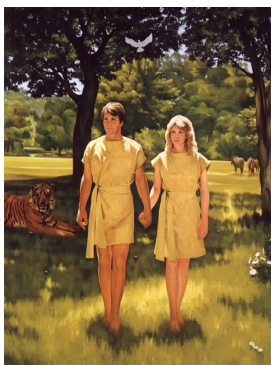
Firstly, this meant that the relationship with God would die, i.e. that it would be broken. For God is a Holy God and a sinner cannot stand in His Presence. Later, man would also die physically.

The first man, Adam, used his own will and chose his own way. He and his wife ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As soon as he had eaten from the fruit he knew something had changed.

Genesis 3:6-8 ‘When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.’

His relationship with God was broken. Surely God called man because He loved him. But because God is a holy and righteous God, He had to set the man and his wife out of the paradise because they had sinned. The Lord gave them a promise as they left. This was the promise:

Genesis 3:15 ‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and hers, he will crush your head and you will strike his heel.’



This promise meant that in the future, through the seed of the woman, the Saviour would be born. The Saviour who would triumph over Satan, evil and death. And that is what happened. The Saviour, who is called the Messiah, has restored the way back to God.

God killed a few animals, made clothes from the skins to cover the nakedness and shame of Adam and Eve. In this way, He showed us that to take the sin away, a sacrifice must be made. God let us see that there was a way back to Him by sacrificing.

God sent Adam and Eve out of paradise after this had happened. The man was alone, and the hard reality of life began.....

What happened later.

From that time forth till now, man has been searching for God. Many religions have been started through this search. Though many ways to practice religion have been developed, God has shown us how we must reach Him. How to pray to Him, how to sacrifice to Him and thus how to live.

We read in the Old Testament of the Bible that God made covenants with the people. He did this by promising His blessing for a particular situation. In this way, God had a type of relationship with the people.

Reconciliation with God occurred when people sacrificed animals. God had shown them and had taught them to cover their shame and nakedness in this way. But an ordinary sacrifice of an animal was not enough to receive forgiveness forever and ever. No, for that, much more was needed. The sacrifice of the Messiah was needed. All the sacrifices that had been made until now were only imitations. The real sacrifice would be the Messiah. He would be led as a lamb to the slaughter for the sin of the world.



Chapter 2: Sacrifices

Cain and Abel were two sons of Adam and Eve and they brought sacrifices. God had taught Adam and Eve to bring sacrifices and they had taught this to their children.

Genesis 4:3 – 5 ‘In the course of time Cain brought some of the first fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, But on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.’

Over time both brothers brought their offerings to God. The offering that Abel brought pleased God but the offering that Cain brought did not please God. Cain knew that God was not pleased, but he did not listen to Him and he became angry. He became so angry that he killed his brother, Abel.

You see in this situation that following God is a choice of your free will. Abel had chosen for God, he wanted to please God so that he could be God’s friend. On the other hand, Cain chose to be disobedient; by acting religiously but bringing offerings with a wrong attitude, he wanted to buy himself free from guilt.

Many religions have developed based on religious sacrifices. These religions have given a very confused and wrong picture of God. Performing religious deeds like Cain: To be wrong and to consciously do wrong things but still to look as if you are good by making sacrifices. People can make up all types of religions with all types of sacrificing, but God shall never change. There is only one Messiah who has become the true Sacrifice, by which man can come back to God.

How do we reach God?

Through the centuries people have made sacrifices to reach God. Even now, when you look at tribes in the jungles you will see that they are still sacrificing in the same way as Cain and Abel did. For example, the Dayaks, a tribe in Indonesia, sacrifice chickens every year. They use the blood as an offering to buy themselves free from sin. The blood is put in a little boat and sent up the river.



People have always been and still are making sacrifices, acting religious to get rid of their guilt or to find their way to God. Or people try to live a good life to get rid of their sin. They weigh the good against the bad. “If I have done wrong so many times then I have to be good so many times to get rid of my guilt.” You can find this thought in many people. In our culture, for example, people try to get rid of their guilt by giving a gift of money to a charity fund.

The Bible even tells us that the people wanted to build a tower, The Tower of Babel. They wanted to climb up to God and in this way to become Holy. But God came to them and brought confusion in their language so that they could not understand each other and never do anything like that again. This is written in Genesis 11: 4 & 8

Genesis 11: 4,8 And the said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime they for mortar. (8) so the Lord

scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

We cannot purify ourselves from sin. How would we do that? Fortunately, God has found a way for us because He loves people. He knew how He could make reconciliation between the people and Himself.

Hebrews 9: 11 – 12 ‘When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not manmade, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by the means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.’

God had set up a heavenly tabernacle. In this tabernacle, Jesus would serve as high priest. He took the sins of the world upon Himself by sacrificing Himself on the cross. His blood which was poured out here on earth went into the Holy of Holies (the tabernacle) to obtain eternal redemption. God saw the blood and said, “this is enough to pay for the sin. Everyone who wants to can come to Me through the sacrifice that I have appointed.”

Sacrificing in earlier times

Let us go back to earlier times. How people made sacrificial offerings before the Saviour came. 2000 years before Jesus Christ, lived a man named Noah. He and his family had to live a long time in the Ark because the whole earth was covered with water. God had told him beforehand that this would happen and that he had to build an Ark. So the Ark saved their life and they were the only people left alive on earth.

Genesis 8:20 ‘Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.’

Here we read the Noah built an altar and made sacrifices on it. God was very pleased with this. So, through the sacrifices, there was communication between God and Noah. Then God promised that He would never again send a flood to destroy the earth. The sacrifice had taken away God’s wrath.

Job was also a man who made many sacrifices. He lived around 1900 years before Christ. Job even made many sacrifices to God on behalf of his children.

Job 1: 4,5 ‘His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, ‘Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed god in their hearts.’ This was Job’s regular custom.’

He knew that by making sacrifices a person could be made holy. So he did it for his children. These people, like Noah and Job, knew that they had to do their best to live their life as God wanted. If they did their best with a good attitude God would accept their sacrifice as true. In the times of the Bible God tried to have a relationship with the people. He wanted to teach them about Himself.

A good example of this is Abraham. Later, God even calls Abraham His friend. This is a great challenge, even for us in these times.

On a certain day, God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son! Abraham had to wait many years for the birth of this son. God had promised him a son. In many ways, God had let Abraham see that his wife, Sarah, would bear him his one son. He had had a dream about this and had heard God speaking in an audible voice to him. God even came in the likeness of a man to announce the year of the birth of his son. The son was still so young, must he sacrifice him now.....

In the time that Abraham lived, people were sacrificed to the different gods, so it was not a strange command. But God had said to Noah a long time before Abraham that no person must kill another person. (This is written in Genesis 9: 6)

Genesis 9: 6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Had Abraham understood the command clearly? What should he do about all the promises about his offspring? His offspring were going to be as numerous as the stars in the heavens and the sand on the seashore. So many!! Is it God's will that Abraham should sacrifice his son, a person, to God?

Genesis 15: 5,6 'He took him outside and said "Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the Lord and he credited it to him as righteousness.'

On their way to make a sacrifice, his son asked Abraham if they should not have taken an animal with them to present as a sacrifice. Abraham said in reply, "God will provide." Abraham trusted that God would bring a solution.

His trust was not put to shame. When he had fastened his son on the altar and he was about to kill him the voice of God called out that he should stop. God said that He had tested Abraham and He was very pleased that Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his most treasured possession. Then God said he had to stop because God's word does not change. What was true for Noah was also true for Abraham. Suddenly, they saw a ram with his horns caught in a bush. This was the solution, Abraham took the ram and sacrificed it.

Abraham was not allowed to sacrifice his son, but God WOULD do that. He would, one time, sacrifice His Only Begotten Son for the sin of the world. This has happened but God's Son has risen from the dead. He has given His spirit of life to all people who believe in the Messiah. All these believers have become the people of God.

God spoke to Abraham again after he had sacrificed the ram. He said that from Abraham's offspring a great nation would be formed. This has happened. The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham. The people that are left today are the Jews who live in Israel.

God also promised that the Messiah would come from Abraham's offspring. Also through Abraham's offspring, all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Whoever blessed Abraham's offspring shall be blessed and whoever cursed Abraham's offspring shall be cursed. God showed Abraham the land where his offspring would live. That has become their homeland. What a friendship, what a wonderful covenant God had with Abraham! We are still being blessed now through the covenant God made with Abraham then. The Saviour has been born from Abraham's offspring.

The Israelites

Abraham's son, Isaac, had two sons – Esau and Jacob. The blessing of God went to Jacob and then to his son Judah. Judah was one of the twelve sons of Jacob. The offspring of these twelve sons became the Israelites.

The Israelites came to live in Egypt because there were drought and starvation in their land. Here, they came under the rule of the Pharaohs' of the time and they were not allowed back to their land. They had to wait four hundred years. Then God began to help them and many mighty signs occurred. Eventually, the people were allowed to go back to Israel. This all happened under the leadership of Moses, a man appointed by God.

In this time, there were also many sacrifices made to God. On the day that God brought them out of Egypt, every family had to slaughter a lamb. They had to smear the blood of this lamb on their doorposts. This was a sign for the Angel of Death that he was not allowed to kill anybody in that house. The Angel of Death was to go to every house of the Egyptians and kill the firstborn male in every household. So, again, an animal had to be killed to save the people.

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

When the people had left Egypt, God taught them how to sacrifice as a nation. God showed Moses how to build a tabernacle (a transportable temple) when he was on Mt. Sinai. The Lord said they must also appoint priests who would bring sacrifices for the people. They had to serve the people in this way. These sacrifices and the office of priesthood pleased God and He lived among the people. If the people obeyed Him, He would help them in everything.

The right way

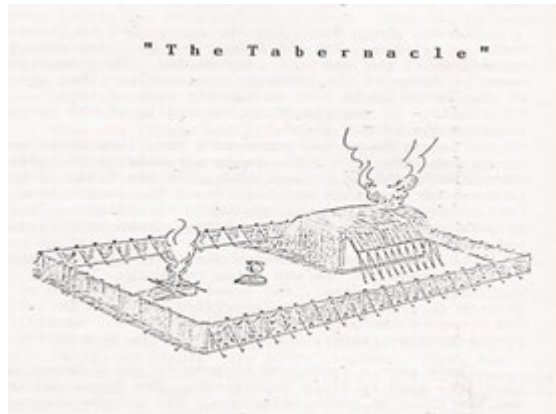
Through all the centuries, all over the world, in many religions, people have built temples. There has always been religion because there is a God-consciousness in everybody. Usually, the practice of these religions is an imitation of the true service of God.

There are also religions where priests play a role. They bring offers of purification and such. Just as God did not accept Cain's sacrifice, He does not accept these religions. Why not? Cain offered the way he wanted. Not the way God wanted. When the sacrifice does not point to the work of the Messiah, then there is no saving power.

God has made a way back to Himself. So we must take this way if we want to come back. When a religion decides to set up its own system, it brings nothing forth. There are not many ways that lead to the Creator, the Maker of everything. Anybody who is searching for the right way will find the ONLY way.



Chapter 3: The Tabernacle



God has shown Moses how the people had to bring their sacrifices. For the people had to bring the sacrifices in the way that pleased God. He also showed Moses an image of the heavenly tabernacle. This was so that Moses could make an earthly copy of this tabernacle. It was placed in the middle of the tents in which the people lived.

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

A square fence was put around the place where sacrifices were made. The fence was made up of poles with linen strained between them. In the Bible, linen is a symbol of purity and holiness. The people came into contact with God through their sacrifices. For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. To be pure before God they had to make these sacrifices because God is a pure and holy God. God planned to use symbols to speak about the sacrifice that His Son was going to bring. Every sacrifice of an animal, the bread of His Presence and the burning of incense pointed to the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ. God accepted the sacrifice of the people who had sacrificed with a good attitude and a desire to know God better.

Leviticus 17:11 for the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

There were several objects in the tabernacle that were used to bring sacrifices. The first object was the altar of burnt offerings. The people who had sinned could bring their sacrifices here. They took a steer, lamb or dove, depending on their income, and laid their hand on the head of the animal when they stood next to the altar of burnt offering. This symbolised that their sin came upon the animal. Then they slaughtered the animal and gave it to the priest on duty, who then burnt it as an offering to God. The person then became free of all guilt.

Holy of Holies

There were pillars of pure gold in the heart of the tabernacle. Three different sheets of cloth were draped over these pillars to separate this area from the rest. This was the holy place where only the priests were allowed to come. This holy place was divided into two areas by a curtain. The one area, called the holy of holies, was an area where only the high priest was allowed to enter once a year. God's presence was there in a very special way. When the people acted according to God's plan, He blessed them with a special blessing.

The Ark stood in the holy of holies. God had attached Himself to this Ark. On top of the Ark were the two big cherubim made out of pure gold. These cherubim were looking downwards at the atonement cover.



Exodus 25:21,22 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

The Ark was a chest with the atonement cover on top. The chest contained the Testimony. The Testimony was made up of ten rules, commands which the people had to obey.

(This can be found in Exodus 20) Man is weak and falls often. That is why there was an atonement cover above the Testimony. Once a year, the high priest brought the blood from an animal to make atonement for all the people.

Moses, the leader of the people, had another set of rules. Moses was allowed into the holy of holies much more often. In these times God spoke to Moses from the atonement cover.

Moses heard God speaking as if two people were speaking to each other.

When the whole tabernacle was finished they dedicated (gave) it to God. As they did this, they saw the glory of God fill and cover the holy of holies as a cloud.

Exodus 40: 34,35 'Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.'

Again, God saw the blood of the animal that was sacrificed. He saw it as the blood of His son, who would later die for all people. That is why God became so close to the people.

Psalms 40: 6,7 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, "Here I am, I have come – it is written about me in the scroll."'

God was already looking to the one who would come, about whom was written in the scroll. Wasn't it wonderful for those people to be God's people and to have God so near to them? It must also have been very nice to know what had to be done, as God spoke so freely to Moses their leader. God helped them with everything. Whenever they were attacked by other nations He would help them and He even gave them bread (manna) to eat from heaven.

A house for God

King David lived about 600 years after Moses. He wanted to build a house (temple) for God. The prophet said (and these were words that God had given him) that a house could not contain God because God lives in heaven and earth is His footstool. The prophet also said that David's son would build the temple. It would become a place of pilgrimage, a place where sacrifices would be made and God's Presence would be found.

Sacrifices would be made in the same way as in the tabernacle. The difference would be that in the temple there would be a lot of singing and music to the honour of the Lord God. King David often came under the inspiration of God's Spirit and received many prophetic insights. 'Prophetic' means that God shows the prophet what is going to happen in the future. You, naturally, have to make sure that it is God's Holy Spirit who has inspired you and not Satan's demons. David did a lot in his lifetime which pleased the Lord.

David's son, Solomon, built the temple in his lifetime. It was a big task. Thousands of people were kept busy with the task. Nowadays the temple would have cost millions of dollars.

Thousands of priests performed their duties and a few thousand people made music for God night and day with their musical instruments. This was the richest time that Israel had ever seen.

1 Kings 8:5 'King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the Ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.'

Then God's Spirit came so powerfully that nobody could stay standing. They had a wonderful meeting with God. He had accepted the sacrifice and was satisfied with the people. God was not always present with His people. If the people did terrible things and worshipped other gods then God left the temple for a time. That is when the people came into terrible times. So, sacrificing alone was not enough. The peoples' heart had to be committed to God. The temple was destroyed and rebuilt twice. It was never again as beautiful as when King Solomon built it. All the people were also taken into captivity in Babylon (now Iraq). After seventy years the people were allowed back to their homeland.

God's plan keeps going

God was going to carry out His plan, because out of the seed of the woman the Messiah would be born. This is the promise that God had given to the first two people, Adam and Eve. This promise was passed down from generation to generation, from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham. God has promised Abraham that his offspring would become as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.

The Saviour would be born from this line. The people of Israel would become more and more numerous. From Abraham the promise went to Isaac, then to Jacob, then Judah. Then still further to King David. This is the lineage of the woman who bore the Messiah.

People who sought God and spent a lot of time doing this, sometimes received dreams about the Messiah or they saw visions or heard God speak to them.

Chapter 4: The New Covenant

One day Mary was home alone. An angel came to her to give her a message from God. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would come and the power of the Almighty would overshadow her. By this, she would bear a son. God would be the Father and she would be the natural mother. This son would be the Saviour that had been promised to the people of Israel. It had been told from generation to generation that He was coming. He was the One who would make possible reconciliation with God. In the Old Testament of the Bible it is written:

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

This was all going to happen through Mary. The time had finally come.....! The child was born in a manger in Bethlehem. God set a star in the heavens that had never shone before. By this star, wise men were led to Bethlehem, where the child was born. They came to the child and knelt to worship Him. Also, there were shepherds in a field. An angel came to them and told them that the Messiah was born. They also went to the child Jesus and worshipped Him. King Herod also heard that the child had been born. He heard that a child had been born in Bethlehem and that He would become a great king. King Herod did not like that as he thought that then his son could not receive the throne. He did not know which child it was, so he sent soldiers to Bethlehem who killed every boy less than two years of age.

In the meantime, Mary had married a man, Joseph. Joseph had a dream from God. God said that he, Mary and the child Jesus had to flee to Egypt. They did this, and so Jesus' life was spared. Many mothers were grief-stricken during that time because they lost their sons to the soldiers.

The devil had tried his best. He used King Herod to try and kill our Saviour and Redeemer. The devil knew that God had said to Adam and Eve that the Seed (Saviour) would crush the head of the snake (the devil).

That is why the devil tried to get rid of the Seed. He had tried it before. Earlier, he had tried to destroy all the people of Israel out of which the Saviour would be born. For example, long before Mary gave birth to Jesus, there was a plan to kill all the Israelites. A certain woman, Esther, at the risk of her own life, stood up for the Israelites and they were spared.

Also, they were treated very harshly by the Pharaoh in the time they lived in Egypt. The people increased greatly in number. That did not please the Egyptians and so they killed all the newborn baby boys. This persecution stopped when God led them out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses. This occurred through the working of many signs and miracles. In this way, they reached the Promised Land.

Then, finally, the Redeemer was born. He was going to free us from the debt of sin and to bring us back to a relationship with God the Father. Jesus grew up in a carpenter's family. He carried Joseph's name and the people in Bethlehem knew him as the carpenter's son.

The promise that the Messiah would be born of the line of David was passed from generation to generation. Therefore the Jews knew that the Messiah would come from the house of David. Joseph, Mary's husband, came from the house of David. All the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled. Jesus had received the promise to be the Messiah from his natural father. Only His real Father was God.

Isaiah 9:7 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with

justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.'

Jesus grew up just like all the other children of that time. There was only one difference: He never sinned.

When He was twelve years old He was allowed to go to the temple in Jerusalem with His parents. This was a few days walk away. It was the same place where King Solomon had once built a temple. This temple had been rebuilt three times since King Solomon. The priest brought sacrifices into this temple to purify the people for God. The holy of holies, where only the high priest was allowed to come, was also there. God was present there in a special way.

Jesus must have enjoyed going to the temple as a twelve-year-old boy. Immediately, He searched for the old scrolls. He was very wise and discussed the scrolls with the scribes. He was so busy with them that He forgot everything else. His parents had already travelled one day when they realised that Jesus was not with them. What a shock! They turned back and after a three-day search, they found Him in the temple amid the scribes. When His mother asked Him why He had done this to them He replied:

Luke 2:49 "Why were you searching for me?" He asked, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

They didn't understand that He meant God, His Father. He grew up, increasing in wisdom and knowledge. Jesus knew in His heart that He had to understand the old scrolls to find out what His task was on earth. He had to understand everything so that He could teach His followers later. He had to teach them about God's plan about everything. Who the Messiah was and what that meant for mankind.

In the time that Jesus lived on earth, the Israelites were under the rule of the Romans. The Israelites expected the Messiah to be a strong hero and king. A hero just like King David, who defeated all their natural enemies. They did not understand what the scrolls said and what God's plan was. The Messiah was coming to conquer sin, spiritual enemies and death. He would begin to bring God's kingdom on earth.

Jesus was thirty years old when He was baptised by John the Baptist. John was a man called by God to prepare the way for the Saviour (Isaiah 40: 1-5). His task was to tell the people that the Messiah was coming and to tell them about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus was baptised by full immersion in water and when He stood up there was a voice from heaven which said:

Luke 3:22 'And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."'

In this way, God confirmed Jesus as His son to the people. From this day forth Jesus would be totally led by God's Spirit to please God. Jesus could not do anything else than please God as that was His nature. He is godly and is God in the most inner being.

John 1:1 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'

But, to save us He had to become a man and not let sin into His life.

The first man, Adam was perfect but he fell in sin and this led to his death. Jesus had to live a perfect life without sin so that He could die for the sins of all the people. In this way, He took away all our sin. God raised him from the dead and said: “Now the price for the sin has been paid. Everybody that desires can come to live with Me and have a relationship with me through My Son.”

Jesus is God, but He had to come to earth as a man. That is why He laid aside all His godly gifts, power and glory. He triumphed over evil as a man.

The snake, Satan, lost his dominion and rule which he had stolen from Adam in the paradise. Jesus Himself says:

John 14:10 ‘Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.’

John 14:6 ‘Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life, No-one comes to the Father except through me.”’

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert after He was baptised and confirmed by God. He fasted for forty days in the desert. At this time He was tempted by the devil to commit sin. In other words, Jesus had a difficult time. Just think about what the world thought of Jesus. According to them, Jesus was illegitimate. In those days, the unmarried parents were usually stoned to death. This left a blemish on Jesus’ life.

The people did not believe Jesus when He told them who He was. They did not want to listen and they tried to kill Him. Many times they wanted to stone Him or throw Him off a high place. They mocked Him and laughed at Him. Then, during His most difficult moment, even His friends left Him to His fate. One of His best friends denied knowing Him and another gave Him over to His enemies. They took Him prisoner. They mocked, slandered and beat Him. They dreadfully mistreated Him. In the end, they hung Him on a cross with nails through His hands and feet.

John 19:16,18 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. (18) where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

This is when Jesus died. This all happened to Him. He had done absolutely nothing wrong. Jesus helped people. He made sick people better, gave food to the hungry. He was there for the people in need.

He went through the suffering so that in everything He would understand our sorrow. With all the things that we go through in our lives. No person has suffered so much in so many ways as the Lord Jesus Christ.

He did not use His godliness to gain control. He came as a man full of love to save us from sin and death. Whatever happens in a person’s life: Jesus is moved to compassion for you. He feels with you because He has gone through the same. It is hard to believe that God is so full of love that He came to us in His Son. Jesus Christ came as a man and was just as weak as we are. He had to eat and sleep.

Angels



An angel could never have saved us. Most of the angels themselves would have sinned if they had been tested as much as Jesus was tested. Also, an angel does not have eternal life in him so neither could he give it out. An angel is a ministering spirit created by God. Many angels rebelled against God and left Him. One day these angels shall be judged by God. They shall be punished for the terrible things they have done.

Satan is one of the fallen angels and has a long list of evil against him. He thought of the false religions. The Bible warns us that we must never follow the faith or religion of an angel. The angel must always worship Jesus and be in His service.

Galatians 1: 7,8 ‘.....which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!’

So there are angels who have brought in other religions. For example, the Islamic faith began when an angel appeared to Mohammed with a book of rules. A lot of this book comes from the Old Testament. The devil uses half-truths because the truth is so powerful. So, if you read this you will understand that the Islamic faith was started by a cursed angel. The same happened with the faith of the Mormons (It is now called: The Church of the Latter Day Saints). A false angel brought this faith to Josef Smith in the U.S.A. Jehovah’s Witness have also turned God’s word and created false teachings from it. These religions have many millions of people in their grip. Only the faith in Jesus Christ can make anybody happy.

John 8:32 ‘Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’

The Lord Jesus Christ calls Himself the Truth. He is the only one who can lead us back to the Father because He is the only one with eternal life in Him. This is the truth. Jesus is also called the Alpha and the Omega; this means ‘the beginning and the end’.

Genesis 1:1 ‘In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.’

1 John 1: 2(NLT) This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us.

So the Creator of all has come to bring us back to God. How can Jesus Christ bring us back to God? How does this work? What do you have to do? We know from this study, that there has to be a sacrifice for reconciliation with God.

On a certain day, Jesus was with many of His disciples. Many people had begun to follow Him. Everywhere that Jesus went streams of people came. They took the sick, crippled and possessed people with them. Jesus healed and freed the people. He even raised them from the dead. On this particular day, He was teaching the people.....

John 6:53 'Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you can eat the flesh of the son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.'

His disciples could not accept this when they heard it; they felt that this was going too far. They began to complain. These were words they could not understand, they were too difficult. On that day many of the disciples left Jesus. The Jews knew from God that they were not allowed to be cannibals but Jesus said that they had to eat His flesh and drink His blood. So, what did Jesus mean by these words?

Chapter 5: The Teachings of Jesus

Jesus knew what was written in the Old Testament about the Messiah. Who He was and what He had to do to bring man back to God. Jesus knew that He had to die soon. He spoke about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. This was meant symbolically. We will talk about that in a little while.

Jesus also called Himself the Living Bread and Living Water. He meant that He would become the sacrifice that would bring us back to God the Father. Jesus knew when this would happen by the Spirit of God.

He chose twelve disciples with whom He shared His last meal. Later, these twelve disciples were called the apostles. Jesus said that He had eagerly longed for this meal. When they were about to begin He did something He had never done before and He deeply impressed this upon His disciples:

He took a piece of bread and said:

‘This is My body, take and eat’,

And He gave them all a piece.

After that, He took the cup with wine and said:

‘This is My blood that is shed for you’

And then He added something really special:

‘This is the New Covenant’.

This is what the prophets had spoken about!

God himself had promised this from the beginning.



ALL THE LAMBS, STEERS AND OTHER SACRIFICES THAT HAD EVER BEEN SACRIFICED WERE A SYMBOL OF THIS SACRIFICE.

Jesus said to His disciples, that as many times as they came together they had to remember this. And later, this Holy Communion was celebrated in the whole world. What Jesus has done for us is commemorated in all continents, nations and people groups.

Taking part in Communion means partaking of the flesh and the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus died for everybody who accepts His sacrifice. It means that you want to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus and to live with God through His Body (the Living Bread).

Matthew 26:28 for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Jesus was taken prisoner that same evening (Matthew 26: 47-56). One of His followers stood up against the people who wanted to imprison Jesus. He took a sword and cut off the ear of one of the men. He wanted to triumph through fighting but Jesus rebuked him. Jesus said that if He wanted to He could call up thousands of angels to fight for Him. But He said it had to happen as it was written in the scriptures. The Christ (the Messiah, the Saviour) had to die.

Isaiah 53:7 ‘He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before the shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.’

So they took Him prisoner, beat and mocked Him and humiliated Him in many ways. He was whipped with a cat-o-nine tails (a whip of belts fitted with sharp pieces of lead). This ripped open His body and poisoned Him. Then He was brought to the court and put in front of an unrighteous king. This all happened because He said that He was the Son of God.

The religious teachers of the law stirred up the crowd. They would rather tread the people into the ground than administer the love of God. They all shouted: “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!” And this is what happened. Jesus was nailed to a wooden cross. They hammered large nails through His hands and feet. They set the cross upright and there He hung.....

There, on the cross, Jesus Christ died. There He took our sins and curses upon Himself. Because it is written:

Galatians 3:13 ‘Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”’

The blood of Christ became the sacrifice that reconciled man to God. His blood has entered the holy of holies. There where God the Father is. This became an everlasting reconciliation.

Hebrews 9: 11-15 ‘When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not manmade, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but He entered the Most Holy place once and for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctified them so they are outwardly clean. How much more then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.’

When Christ gave Himself to God as the perfect sacrifice by the Everlasting spirit; the Father said: “This is enough”.

The entrance is free

At this point, the New Covenant began. At the same time as Jesus died the curtain in the holy of holies in the Jewish temple tore in two. This curtain was there because the people could not enter freely into God’s Presence. This was a commandment from the time that Moses had received the plans and instructions to build the tabernacle.

Once a year the high priest was allowed to enter through the curtain into the holy of holies. Now the curtain was torn in two. God wanted to say, “By the removal of this curtain the way to Me has been made free, come inside.”

Hebrews 10: 19,20 ‘Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.’

God meant, “Come to Me through the sacrifice of My Son Jesus Christ.”

Try to place yourself in the position of the high priest and the teachers of the law who had caused Jesus to be nailed on the cross. It says that they did not feel comfortable with what they had done. Many of them turned to and followed Jesus after His death and resurrection. Jesus had trusted the Father that He would raise Him from the dead. This is what happened! Three days later Jesus rose from the dead. He went to visit the disciples and they saw Him, He also spoke to them. Death had not been able to hold Him. God resurrected Jesus and death was conquered. By this act, the authority of the devil has been destroyed.

Colossians 2:15 ‘And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.’

1 John 3:8 ‘The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devils works.’

Here it says that Jesus triumphed over the devil and made a public spectacle of him. Satan had lost the authority to keep the love of God away from the people. The way to God is now open, free. To experience His love and to be able to go to His heavenly paradise is now free. On the same day that the Lord Jesus rose from the grave, many saints also rose from the grave and entered the city of Jerusalem.

Matthew 27:53 ‘They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus’ resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.’

This was a sign that Satan’s authority over death was broken. So the way to a relationship with God has now truly been made free through His Son Jesus Christ. If we accept the sacrifice that Jesus made we don’t have to be afraid of death anymore. When we die we will be going to our loving Father. Death cannot separate us from God anymore. When Jesus comes into our lives, into our hearts, He shall protect us from the evil devil and his demons. They bring sickness, addiction and all other sorts of problems to the earth. Was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ not a wonderful gift for the future of mankind? Now everybody who wants to can receive new life, that is, life with God. This life shall never end. And that means that it never stops. This new life shall be full of presents from God such as peace and happiness in your heart. These promises are there to help you in your new life. There are so many promises such as protection by God’s angels, full life and much more. There is no other religion or belief that can give you all these things because God has given Himself in His Son as the sacrificial lamb.

After the resurrection, the Lord Jesus appeared to about five hundred people. If there had been a court case into the authenticity of His resurrection then it would have proved true. There were five hundred witnesses and you cannot say that all five hundred had the same dream. No, Jesus Christ is alive! He lives for eternity and He wants to give us a new life with God today. Jesus said that He was going to Heaven, to God’s throne and that He would sit on God’s right hand side. There He shall intercede for us and He shall rule over us.

Mark 16:19 ‘After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.’

Hebrews 1:3 ‘The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven.’

Jesus also said to His followers that His Holy Spirit would come upon them. He would lead them in all truth and through the Spirit, they would know what they had to do. Eventually, forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. This happened at the Mount of Olives where Jesus was talking to His disciples. Slowly His feet left the ground and He went higher and higher until He could not be seen anymore. Immediately an angel appeared to them and said, “Why do you stand there looking like that, Jesus shall come back the same way He left”.

Acts 1:11 “Men of Galilee,” They said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and waited there till God’s Holy Spirit would come. They received Him and then they went out. They told the people about Jesus, that He rose from the dead and that He still wants to help them now. That this Jesus still wants to forgive their sins and bring them back into a relationship with God. While the disciples testified, the Holy Spirit performed miracles. The people saw this and believed what the disciples were saying. Today, we can also see and experience that Jesus lives and forgives sin. In the Bible, it says that Jesus and the Father will live in believers through the Holy Spirit until the end of time. At the end of time Jesus, Himself will come back. He will come and pick up the people who have followed Him and spread His love to others. He shall also come to judge those who have an evil heart and who have hated others.

Matthew 25:46 ‘they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’

There is still time to live this new life. To live from God’s love and to give this life to the people around us. Many people have not studied the word of God themselves. They have always submitted their thinking pattern to that of the minister or pastor. In this way, they have ended up in the tradition of churches.

Some people have much grief and heaviness in their life and they do not know how they can keep going. With others, their situation is good. They dabble in religion, lead a reasonable life, but still realise there has got to be more to life than this. Some people do not have a peaceful faith. Some people are afraid of spirits, and this is so real. Spirits that will kill them if they do not submit to them. This happens in animism and the worshipping of forefathers. The Bible says:

Hebrews 9:15 ‘for this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.’

1 Timothy 2:5 ‘For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.’

Hebrew 8:13 ‘By calling this covenant “new”, he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and ageing will soon disappear.’

So, now that His sacrifice has been offered, the sacrifice of animals is also finished. We cannot save ourselves by sacrificing animals, or by doing good deeds. No Mohammed or Buddha can cleanse or save you. Only the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ can cleanse us

from our sin and give us a fabulous new life. Only He, because He is the Life. He also breathed the breath of life into the first man, Adam. He shall give you happiness and you shall be a child of God.

John 1:12 'Yet to all who received him to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.'

God's love is a gift, a present for everybody but you have to be ready to take it. There are consequences attached. You have to choose; you live as you have been living or you say that you want to follow Jesus Christ and cast off your sin. When you have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus, God wants you to try to live a clean and pure life. God will help you with this and give you the power to do this. You will fall many times but God helps you when you cannot go any further by yourself.

In Russia, if you want to be a real communist, you chose to be radical and do everything to spread the communism. You live for it and if needs be, die for it. Can you imagine that, for something that is so empty and does not give any peace?

Do you want to accept the offer of the sacrifice of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you want to accept Him in your heart? Then He has to be number one in your life. He wants to fill you with joy, cleanse you from sin and guilt and give you a relationship with God through His New Covenant. Do you want to give yourself completely to Him?

Chapter 6: Forgiveness Through the Blood Sacrifice

Our Lord Jesus knew that He was going to be the blood sacrifice for the sin of the whole earth.

Therefore, He said that anyone who would believe on Him would have eternal life.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Christ Jesus said that He was the living bread sent from heaven and that He would give us eternal life.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eats of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Christ Jesus said that He was one with God the Father and was the one sent by God as the saviour of the world.

If you don't believe in the Son, then you don't believe in God who sent Him.

If you believe in the Son of God who was sent by God and that He died for your sin, you will receive everlasting life.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

The difference between the teachings of Jesus Christ and the other religious leaders was very large.

Jesus said that He is God, who came as a God-man to earth. Other religions have teachers or prophets who spoke about God but were not one with God.

Christ says that He can give life and as you believe in Him and become a believer, you will have eternal life.

He also said that if you don't receive Him, you stay in your sin and God's judgment will then send you to hell.

John 3:18 he that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Matthew 10:28 and fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Other religions say you have to do good to earn your way into heaven, yet they don't know how much good you have to do.

The good news of the gospel of the kingdom of God that Jesus preached is that you can receive a loving relationship with God today as you repent of your sin, believe and receive His saving sacrifice.

When you do this, then you become a child of God, your relationship with God is restored and the way to heaven is open to you.

John 1:12 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.

You see, God the Father and God the Son are one and are in the Godhead.

Colossians 2:9 for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Through believing and receiving the blood sacrifice of Christ, your sin is forgiven and your relationship with God is restored.

You will then experience God's closeness.

We call this redemption and reconciliation.

It is God the Father, of the Godhead, who sent the Son of God to earth to redeem us back to Himself.

Redemption means buying back. Christ, by sacrificing His body and blood for us, bought us back from sin, darkness, the Devil and death.

Hebrews 2:13-15 and again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

The other difference with Jesus Christ and His mission was that He said that He was going to give His life and body, as the Son of God, as the sacrifice of sin for the whole world.

No other prophet or religious leader has ever done this.

As Jesus is God and thereby is His blood God's blood, the way to heaven is open for us as we believe in Jesus Christ.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger: and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Forgiveness in God's Heavenly Courtroom

Before mankind was created, Satan, who was then called Lucifer, rebelled against God and took one-third of the angels with him.

He was expelled out of God's heaven by God's command.

The first two humans, Adam and Eve, fell by sinning against God under Satan's influence.

Then there was no more direct relationship possible between God and man. This happened because God is holy which means sacred and morally pure and completed.

As human beings, in the courts of heaven, we are all standing guilty as sinners because God is holy.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

When Christ died on the cross for our sin, some of His blood that was shed was taken to heaven to cleanse heaven itself because of Satan's rebellion and man's sin.

Hebrews 9:22-24 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things

themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

Man's sin on earth was forgiven and we can receive this forgiveness as the blood, water and the spirit are testifying about this on earth.

1 John 5:8 and there are three that bear witness in the earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

If a court in a country has sent a warrant for your arrest because of a crime you committed, then the police are sent after you.

Then the police will arrest you and bring you to the court to be prosecuted.

If we would stand before the court of heaven, we would be found guilty for we have all sinned and therefore are all unrighteous.

The One who judges in the court of heaven is holy and therefore He is righteous.

The good news of the gospel of the kingdom of God, which Jesus Christ preached and fulfilled, can set us free from all of this.

When we believe in Jesus Christ and His blood sacrifice and receive it, then we can be forgiven and justified. This means that we are made clean, pure and righteous.

His blood sacrifices took the penalty or judgment of sin away for us in the court of heaven and therefore we can be forgiven, made righteous, enter in and stand pure before God in heaven.

Romans 3:24 (AMP) and are being justified (declared free of the guilt of sin, made acceptable to God, and granted eternal life) as a gift by His (precious, undeserved) grace, through the redemption (the payment of our sin) which is (provided) in Christ Jesus.

By the redemption (means bought back) or redeeming sacrifice of Christ bought with a price (the price of the blood of Jesus Christ), we are, therefore, made righteous or pure which we call justification.

Earlier on we read that Moses made an Ark with a mercy seat on it.

This Ark on earth also represents the throne of God in heaven.

Jesus Christ's blood was poured on this mercy seat of the throne of grace in heaven so we could be forgiven and didn't need to receive God's eternal punishment of hell, but received eternal life.

Roman 3:25(NLT) For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past.

God is the one who justifies and accepts us as righteous as we believe in Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice.

He accepts and welcomes us into His family as we receive a new heart, new spirit and are made righteous.

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.

Through faith in Christ Jesus, we are now made righteous or justified by God, we have peace with God and are in a born-again relationship.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

God loves us and wants a loving relationship with us and through faith, we have a relationship with Him.

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Chapter 7: How to Receive the Blood Sacrifice

In this chapter, we are going to ask you the big questions.

Before we do that, we look at Christ preaching the mission statement and baptism.

Jesus Christ preached that the people were to stop sinning, which we call repentance, and to turn back to God.

He preached the kingdom of God whereby we can be forgiven of our sin and receive spiritual insight into the kingdom of God when we believe in Him and receive Him.

If we want to be a part of the kingdom and be one with God who created heaven and earth, we have to let go of all other, so-called, gods.

The Lord Jesus Christ gave a mission statement to His followers.

He said that we were to go and preach this gospel of the kingdom to all nations so people will hear the message.

Mark 16:15 and he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He also said that believing, or having faith, in Him would save them.

He then added that those who believe need to be baptised.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Baptism is part of our salvation. Baptism is a sign of our faith that we let go of all our sins, gods and idols. Then we put our faith in one God.

Romans 6:4 therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Now, the BIG QUESTION!!!

Do you, that is you personally, want to accept the sacrifice of the promised Messiah?

If you want this, let us pray together to God.

Speak the following prayer out loud, with an honest heart and He will come into your heart. Speak it out to God in faith and receive it:

Sinners prayer for redemption!

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,
I know that I have sinned and I come to you.
I acknowledge that you are sent by God to save me.
I now turn away from my sin.
You died for my sin and I thank you for that. Will you take away my sin and wash me clean with your blood which was shed by you? Will you come to live in my heart and become Lord of my life? I give myself totally to you. Amen.

Be open now for the power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. For you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes over you.

Acts 1:8 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

You need this to be a Christian full of fire. With this power, you will be able to withstand the temptations of this world. You do have to have a desire to receive this power. The disciples waited for the Holy Spirit which Jesus had spoken about. They had a desire to receive him and they did. Do you?

Then pray this prayer:

Prayer for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and power

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,

Will you fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit so that I shall be a strong and courageous Christian? Oh Holy Spirit, come now and fill me with Your power. Come now, come now.

Thank You.

When all this has happened, then you have become a child of God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If you do not already have a Bible then buy one and read in it every day.

Also, pray every day. Really take the time for this. An hour every day is not too long. In this way, you will experience more and more of God's love.

Also, seek contact with true Christians. Go with them to the weekly services. There you will be further taught and built up.

Then God will show you more and more of His plan for your life.

A Good Church

Now look for a good Christian church which you should go to where you learn more about the Bible.

Ask them if they can baptise you in water.

Acts 2:38,41 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Chapter 8: Baptism

Salvation and Fellowship

Our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ taught us how to be saved. When we repent, believe and surrender our life to God, we are born again. We go from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

When we have faith and come to God through Christ, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. We then have fellowship with God because our relationship with God is restored.

The Next Step: Baptism

Part of becoming a true believer in Christ is being baptised in water. Our Lord taught this to His disciples and it also became part of the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Everywhere the disciples (who became the apostles) went, they baptized the people that repented and believed.

On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit's power fell, 3000 were saved. They asked what they should do to be saved. Apostle Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised for the forgiveness of your sin".

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

So, on that day, 3000 new believers were baptised in water.

Baptism in Water

Jesus Christ told them to baptize them in water. Water is the symbol of being washed and cleansed.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Messiah's (Christ) ministry. In Israel, he had to prepare the way to take the people from a natural life and an earthly religion into faith, to enter a spiritual rebirth. Christ's ministry is to let believers be born into the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist made Israel ready for this transition.

Mathew 3: 1,2,5,6 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Then went out

to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

He baptized them in water.

Christ as an Example

Jesus Christ was born in the days when the Jews were under the Law. John the Baptist was the son of the High Priest Zachariah and was next in line to be the High Priest.

Now the transition was coming from living under the Mosaic Law to being saved by grace. God told John the Baptist not to become a high priest in the old order but to prepare the nation for the Messiah to come.

Then Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptised so that the new way would be confirmed.

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Jesus Christ was baptised by going totally down under the water as John the Baptist baptised Him. Then, as Christ came out of the water, the Spirit of God came upon Him like a dove. To show Israel that this was the new right way, a voice came from heaven. All people heard what God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Jesus Christ showed us the way here.

Born of the Kingdom Above

When we believe, we are born again of the kingdom of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

We were born here on the earth as a baby, maybe into a Christian, Hindu or Muslim family. Jesus says that we are lost and disconnected from God and need to be born of the kingdom of God. He says we are called to be born again of water and the spirit into the kingdom of God.

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

This means a total transition.

Being born in a Christian home and being christened or sprinkled with water is not the biblical way of faith and baptism.

Jesus Christ showed us the way by total immersion of water.

Baptism means to be totally immersed or underwater.

John 3:5 says “born of water”, what does that mean?

It means repentance and baptism.

Why? Because when Jesus Christ died, water came out of His side.

Baptism is a sign of transition, of being washed in the waters of baptism, having faith and being born into the kingdom of God.

Kingdom of Life

Our Lord Jesus taught a lot about the kingdom of God and heaven. Once, He said that the kingdom of God is like leaven, which a woman puts into her bread until it had totally risen.

Matthew 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.

What does this have to do with??? It is not tied in anywhere why bring it up?

Our Lord wants us to be water baptised so that we are totally washed, our body, soul and spirit. That they totally become alive in the kingdom of God.

In Hinduism, all people are giving money, in different dedications to the different gods. In other religions, this also happens, even through Yoga and other Eastern influences, you are cleansed by powers from the kingdom of darkness.

With water baptism, these holds are starting to break for you are taken from the kingdom of darkness and its death, into the kingdom of light and life.

1Peter 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Sign of Being Crucified

It is a sign of us being crucified with him so that our body of sin might be destroyed.

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Sign of Dying With Christ

Water baptism is a sign of us dying with Christ.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Sign of Being Buried

It is also a sign that we are buried (body, soul and spirit) with Christ into His grave.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Newness of Life

When we are born of water, which is repentance and dying to self and being baptised in water, we will also be born of the Spirit.

This being born of the Spirit is spirit life of the kingdom of God.

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Now we have become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

Then all that God has in heaven, His life, His Holy Spirit, power and glory, He pours out in us.

Now we walk in the newness of life.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Through grace, faith and water baptism into this newness of life, we receive righteousness, peace and joy. This is the start of living life more abundantly. Now you really will feel you are alive. Everything will look more beautiful. The sky and ocean will look bluer and the grass greener. The flowers are more colourful.

Yes, now your life will have more purpose. You can also start to be a witness to others so that they can hear and experience what happened in your life. God can do miracles through you.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Now Act

Now go to your pastor or the evangelist and ask if they can water baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.