



Christian Ambassadors

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

The central idea in Christianity --- and the very goal of the Bible --- is to deliver a gift to all people throughout the ages. So what is this gift? It is the gift of Salvation!

Salvation is one of the hallmark terms of Christianity, yet, so few people understand the fullness of its meaning. In the next several programs we will reveal to you the depth of this fantastic truth by asking and answering the following five questions:

1. What is Salvation?
2. Why do we need it?
3. Who is offering it to us?
4. How can we receive it?
5. Can we lose it?

Let's address the first question. What is Salvation?

Simply put, Salvation Is Moving From Death To Life Through Jesus Christ

A simple example will help you to latch onto this concept.

When you salvage a piece of junk you move it from a state of *uselessness* to a state of *usefulness*. For instance, if you find a broken down chair that someone put out for trash, and you take it to your shop, put some new legs on it, and reupholster it, you've taken that chair from a state of uselessness to a state of usefulness. That's exactly what the process of salvation is like. That's why I said Salvation Is Moving From Death --- a state of uselessness --- To Life --- a state of usefulness --- Through Jesus Christ.

About 3,500 years ago the people of nation of Israel were moved from being Dead at the Red Sea, to having Life, thru Jesus Christ -- the Rock of ages. The history can be found in Exo 14:8-30 "The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and Pharaoh and his horsemen pursued after the children of Israel, and overtook them as they were camping by the sea. As Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel were very afraid. And they said to Moses, Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to **die** in the wilderness? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness. But Moses said to the people, Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD: for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see no more. The LORD shall fight for you, and you shall hold your peace. And the LORD said to Moses, Lift you up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide it: and the children of Israel shall **go on dry ground through the midst of the sea**. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in to the midst of the sea after them. And the LORD said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters return upon the Egyptians. Thus the LORD saved Israel."

Israel's example 3,500 years ago provides a tremendous picture for us today. You see, their episode was a type of baptism. And baptism is another picture worth a thousand words. Listen to what God revealed to the apostle Paul. 1 Cor 10:1-4 "Brethren, I don't you want you to be ignorant; understand that all our fathers passed through the sea; and all were baptized by Moses in the sea; and all drank the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (see also Deut 32).

Rom 6:3-11 "Don't you know that all who were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Likewise, 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 if we are dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. Christ died for the purpose of eradicating sin, but now lives for the purpose of serving God. Likewise reckon yourselves to be **dead to sin**, but **alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord**."

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The simple yet profound lesson of baptism is that it pictures Salvation. And what is Salvation? Salvation is Moving from Death to Life thru Jesus Christ!

My next question to you is: Why do we need Salvation? The answer is because We Are Destined To Die! That's a pretty bleak future ... rather --- there is no future in death.

Notice what the Bible says in Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death." There you have it; we're destined to stay on the junk heap in a state of eternal uselessness! Our only hope is to be rescued, salvaged --- saved from our sins!

And what is sin? Sin is the transgression of God's Law (1 John 3:4). And God tells us plainly what His Law is in Rom 7:7, which says "I had not known sin, except through the Law; for I did not know lust was a sin until I read in the Law that You shall not covet." For a second witness to which Law God speaks of, please turn to James 2:9-11, where it says "If you are a respecter of persons, you commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors. Whosoever claims to keep the whole law, yet offends in one point, he is guilty of all. For He that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if you don't commit adultery, but you do kill, you are a transgressor of the law." Sin is disobedience to God, and disobedience leads to death. So another way of describing WHY we need Salvation is to say that Salvation is 100% safety from the penalty of our sins, or 100% safety from the penalty of disobedience to God's Law. All mankind is enslaved to sin by our very nature. In Eph 2:1-3 it reads, "You were dead in trespasses and sins: in times past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: among whom we all conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the mind; we were by *nature* the children of wrath."

How did we get this sinful nature? "By one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned (Rom 5:12). Let's read the story in detail. Gen 3:1-6 "The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And the serpent said to the woman, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Eve answered, We may eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except the tree which is in the midst of the garden; that one God said we should not eat of, neither should we touch it, lest we die. But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die: For God knows that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, determining for yourself what is good and evil. And when the woman decided that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took and ate of the fruit thereof, then gave some to Adam; and he also ate the fruit."

Did you ever notice that every sin ever committed by humanity had its root in that fruit? That's what God confirmed through the Apostle John in 1 John 2:16: "**ALL** that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Lust of the flesh = TASTE; TOUCH

Eat & Drink whatever you want (gluttony/alcohol & drug abuse); Have sex with whomever you want (rape/adultery).

Lust of the eyes/ears = SIGHT; SOUND

See whatever you want (pornography/violence); Say and Listen to whatever you want (vulgarity; gossip).

Pride of life = MONEY; ME

Greed: Accumulate whatever you want (theft/debt); Vanity: Be whatever you want (arrogance/murder).

"The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be" (Rom 8:7).

"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). **WE ARE DESTINED TO DIE!** That's why we need salvation.

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Now the question is: Who is offering us Salvation? The answer is God, the Father --- through Jesus the Christ.

Think about some children who are abducted, kidnapped, after walking away with a stranger who offers them candy or ice cream. They don't realize the danger their act has put them in. They are too busy enjoying the treat. The parents are the ones who are concerned. The parents know what can happen to their children at the hands of the enemy. Like the child, when we have our minds focused on the ice cream we are not interested in anything else. We are going to satisfy our needs first. That is how the enemy catches us, with our minds full of our own desires.

If you don't know any other scripture in the Bible you probably know this one: "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God ordained that His only Son, who never sinned, would die in our place, so that we don't have to die for our own sins. Without the gift of Salvation, which is moving from death to life thru Jesus Christ, we are destined to die; we are held captive. But thanks be to our Father that He paid the ransom of the life of Jesus to redeem us from captivity to Death.

A type of this redemption can be found in 1 Chron 17:20-21: "LORD, there is none like You, neither is there any God beside You. And what nation on the earth is like Your people Israel, whom You went to redeem out of Egypt?"

Exo 12:1-13 "The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, Speak to the congregation of Israel, saying, take one lamb per house; your lamb shall be without blemish. Kill it in the evening of the 14th, and take the blood and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper doorpost of the houses: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt except those who have the blood on the side posts and doorpost. *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." (vv. 29-31) "And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt. So Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead. And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Get up and get out of Egypt; you and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said."

1 Pet 1:18-19 "You know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, but *you were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*" 1 Cor 5:7 "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us".

To redeem means to exchange something of value for a desired item, just as you would redeem a coupon at the grocery store, or pay money to a mechanic when he fixes your car. You can't get your car out of the shop until you pay for the parts and labor. For us, Redemption means to be bought out of the death penalty brought on by our own sinful actions. Since Christ is God (Jn 1:1-3), and all things were created thru Christ, His life is more valuable than all human life put together. Col 1:12-22 "Give thanks to the Father, Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. By Christ were all things created. He is the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the preeminence. Because of what Jesus did when He died, we have redemption --- even the forgiveness of sins. He made peace through His blood shed on the cross to reconcile all things to Himself; He has reconciled you who were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, in order to present you holy, unblameable and unproveable in His sight".

Whether you think about the kidnapped children, the enslaved Israelites, or yourself, all were destined to die --- until the ransom was paid. The ransom was the handsome price of the life of Jesus Christ, freely given to us by our loving Father.

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Now comes a personal question. How can YOU receive Salvation? The answer is, go to an **AA** meeting; not an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting --- but an **A**sk and **A**cept meeting. And the only ones who need to be there are you, God, and Jesus. So what is this AA / **A**sk and **A**cept meeting all about? It's all about repentance. In that meeting, you'll be asked by God and Jesus to follow 2 steps:

- 1) **A**sk God for forgiveness of sins; and
- 2) **A**cept Jesus as your LORD.

I want you to imagine yourself at this meeting right now. God and Jesus are eagerly awaiting your arrival. You come in right on time, and then have a seat. Let's listen to God for a few moments as He explains what you are doing when you **A**sk for forgiveness of sins and **A**cept Jesus as your LORD.

I'm paraphrasing God now: "My future child, thank you for coming to our **A**sk and **A**cept meeting. Do you understand what sin is?"

You respond by saying, "kind of, but can you explain it clearly; I really want to repent of the right things. Uh, uh, I mean I really want to repent of doing the wrong things, so I want to be correct in my understanding."

Jesus joyously chimes in and says, "good my friend, that's the right attitude." Then God speaks: "By the Law is the knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20). You did not know what sin was until you read in the Law that You shall not covet (Rom 7:7). You discriminate against people, and are convicted by the Law as a sinner. Whoever claims to keep the whole law, yet offends in one point, he is guilty of all. For I also said, Do not commit adultery, and Do not kill. Now if you don't commit adultery, but you do kill, you have sinned (Jms 2:9-11)."

Your eyes loose contact with God's as you drop your head in shame.

Jesus takes this opportunity to ask, "Do you know the penalty for your sins?"

You silently shake your head, signifying yes.

Jesus continues: "The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)." "But you are no different than anyone else, for Death has passed upon all men, for all have sinned (Rom 5:12)."

Now God picks up the conversation in a pleading tone of voice. "If you say you have no sin, you deceive yourself, and the truth is not in you. But if you confess your sins, I am faithful and just to forgive you, and I will cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9). The blood of Christ will purge your conscience from dead works to serve Me, the living God (Heb 9:14). If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes to righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made to salvation (Rom 10:9-10). Therefore, **repent**, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

In response to God's words, with a trembling voice and tears in your eyes, you quote what you remember reading in the book of Job 42:5-6: "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ears: but now my eyes see You. Therefore I abhor myself, and **repent** in dust and ashes".

Your Heavenly Father, God --- and your Elder Brother, Jesus --- arise from their seats and motion you to stand. When you stand they give you the warmest embrace you have ever known. Smiles break out on their faces as they look you right in the eye and say, "welcome into Our Family". What a beautiful scene.

No one likes to admit that he or she is wrong. But we must acknowledge that we have earned death by our actions. We have wounded ourselves with our own sin --- and that wound is a fatal one. Accepting this statement as true for ourselves is probably the most bitter pill we will ever have to swallow. And yet it is the only medicine that will heal us and make our lives whole. True repentance is making a commitment to turn from our old way of death and turn to God's new way of life --- **BY FAITH IN THE POWER OF GOD**. That is what the Ask and Acept (AA) meeting is all about.

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After you have made that commitment in private with God, your Father, and Jesus, your LORD, They will ask you to “Bring forth fruits demonstrating your repentance” (Mat 3:8). In other words, They will ask you for a **public** declaration of your repentance. 2000 years ago, 3000 Israelites made the same commitment that I pray you are about to make. When God spoke to them thru Peter, “they were pricked in their heart, and asked the apostles: what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, **Repent**, and **Be Baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:37-38). Actually, after baptism and before receipt of the Holy Spirit, the second part of the public declaration should be the **Laying On Of Hands**, as it says in Acts 8:14-17. “When the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John. When they reached Samaria Peter and John prayed for the Samaritans, that they might receive the Holy Spirit since they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit”.

Baptism and the Laying On Of Hands are New Covenant rituals that are full of imagery about commitment. Let’s talk a little bit more about the New Covenant rituals of Baptism, and The Laying on of Hands.

Why did God institute these two rituals for believers? The answer is, Baptism, and The Laying on of Hands declare a believers public commitment to love and serve God. It’s very similar to the ritual of a marriage ceremony, which is simply a public declaration of a man and a woman’s commitment to love and serve one another.

The rituals of Baptism, and The Laying on of Hands are two of the first practices a new follower of Jesus the Christ should learn about. Let’s read Heb 6:1-3. “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of ... the doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands ... although we’ll do it if God permits.” And I guess God is permitting because that’s our subject for today.

Let’s explore Baptism first. Baptism comes from the Greek word “baptizo”, meaning, “to be totally immersed”. For example, John the Baptist totally immersed people in the Jordan river. Baptism is a symbolic turning point in a Christian’s life where he or she makes a commitment to be totally immersed in God’s way of life. We walk in Christ’s footsteps forever as the Holy Spirit leads us in prayer, Bible study, meditation, fasting, fellowship and serving. Notice how the symbolism is used by John the Baptist in Mk 1:8. “I have baptized you with water: but Jesus shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit”. Another story of baptism is found in Acts 8:26- 38. “An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go from Jerusalem to Gaza”. As Philip was traveling he met an Ethiopian eunuch of great authority returning from worship at Jerusalem. The Ethiopian was sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet. So Philip struck up a conversation by asking, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The eunuch said, “How can I, unless someone guides me? Please come and sit with me.” The Scripture he was reading was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer *is* silent, So He opened not His mouth. His life is taken from the earth.” Philip, beginning at this Scripture, explained many things concerning Jesus. As they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”

Baptism also represents a watery grave where the old carnal person dies and the new converted person rises with Christ living in them through the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom 6:3-13 illustrates this particularly well. Paul says, “As many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death, so that like Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too should walk in newness of life. Since we have been planted in the likeness of his death, we shall also sprout up in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that from this time forward we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. Christ died to sin once: but now lives to God. Likewise reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, don’t let sin reign in your mortal body by obeying its lusts. Neither yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin and death: but yield yourselves to God, as those that are alive from the dead, and yield your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

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Now let's delve into the Laying on of Hands. The Laying On Of Hands is a ceremony of Anointing. Anoint comes from the Hebrew word "mashach", meaning, "to rub with oil". The ceremony goes back to Aaron, Ancient Israel's first priest. (Exodus 29:4-7) "Bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash [baptize] them with water. Put the mitre and the holy crown upon Aaron's head. Then take the anointing oil, pour it upon his head, and rub it in." In 1 Sam 10:1 we have the example of the coronation of King Saul. "Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on Saul's head, and kissed him, saying, I do this because the LORD has anointed you to be captain over his inheritance." Even Christ was "anointed" by God. Acts 10:38 says of our savior: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and He went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Did you know that the name Messiah and Christ means Anointed?! A prophecy that mentions this is in Dan 9:24-25: "70 weeks are determined upon Israel and upon Jerusalem, to finish the transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem until the Messiah [Anointed] Prince shall be 69 weeks".

Acts 19:4-6 "Then said Paul, John the Baptist preached that people should believe on Christ Jesus. When Paul's audience heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came in them."

From these scriptures we can see that the Laying on of Hands, i.e. the ceremony of Anointing, symbolizes being under God's authority and accepting God's gifts.

Both Baptism and the Laying on of Hands picture the beginning stages in the process of Salvation. They picture our commitment to love and serve God as He moves us from death to life through Jesus Christ.

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Let me ask you a very sobering question: once you have salvation, can you lose it? The answer is a resounding yes! **You lose salvation by committing the unpardonable sin!** So what is the unpardonable sin? It is the sin that God can't pardon. And why can't God pardon a sin? ... because the sinner won't repent. Another way of saying this is that God will choose to refuse those who refuse Him. Therefore, the unpardonable sin is the sin of unrepentance! My original question was, once you have salvation, can you lose it? My original answer was, yes, **You lose salvation by committing the unpardonable sin!** Well, even though I don't like that answer, that's still my answer because it's based squarely on God's word.

Let's read Heb 10:26-31. If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, ...
[there's nothing else God can do for you with an ATTITUDE like that!!!]

... only a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.
[this describes the Lake of Fire].

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment is one worthy who has trodden under foot the Son of God, ...
[the two witnesses that condemn us this time are the Blood of the Covenant and the Spirit of Grace]

... and has counted unholy the *blood of the covenant*, whereby he was sanctified, ...
[Mat 26:28 Jesus said to His disciples, "This is my *blood of the new covenant*, which is shed for the remission of sins"] [Heb 9:15-20 Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant, that by means of His death our sins were paid for, so that they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. In like manner, the first covenant was dedicated with blood. When Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, saying, "This is the *blood of the covenant* with which God has bound Himself to you."]

... and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
[Mat 12:31-32 Jesus said, "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven **except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit** [blasphemy is from Greek word meaning vilify]. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of man shall be forgiven: but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven --- neither in this world nor in the world to come."]

For we know him that said, Vengeance belongs to me, The Lord shall judge his people. [here's the judgment] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. [there's no more mercy]
[Mat 10:28 "Don't fear those that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."]

God will try to save you until the bitter end. That's why we see Him pleading with His people in the next few verses.

Heb 10:32-39 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great fight of afflictions; therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of patience so that, after you have done the will of God, you will receive the promise of eternal life. It is only a little while longer until He that shall come will come. The just live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back into damnation, but of them that believe to the saving [Salvation] of the soul.

Salvation is Moving from Death to Life thru Jesus Christ. Only YOU can stop that process in your life by refusing to repent of your sins. That is the unpardonable sin; that is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. That is the only way you can lose your salvation. But God doesn't want you to fear, for fear has torment. How can you cast out fear? Perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). What is God's definition of love? And this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments (1 John 5:3). The first and greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart and mind; the second is to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mat 22:37-39). The first 4 of the 10 Commandments explains how to love God; the next 6 of the 10 Commandments explains how to love our neighbors as ourselves (Ex 20; Rom 13:8-10; 1 Cor 10:1-22). God is Love. He that does not love does not know God (1 John 4:8). He that says he knows God, yet does not keep His commandments, is a liar. But he who keeps God's word, in him is the love of God perfected (1 John 2:4-5).

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Won't it be wonderful when God has saved everyone who wants to be saved, and everyone will be filled with perfect love?!!
Yes it will be wonderful when God saves everyone who wants to be saved. But when will that time be?

I am going to ask you one of the most important questions you will ever be asked. Is God *at this time* trying to save the world? Let me repeat that question: Is God *at this time* trying to save the world? Think about it for a moment.

If you answer "yes, God is *at this time* trying to save the world", then you have to answer questions like: why are most people in the world not Christians?; what's going to happen to people who die not knowing the gospel because they are mentally challenged or blind and deaf?; are all the people that died before Jesus' birth burning in Hell because they didn't hear the gospel preached?; why did God wait four thousand years from Adam & Eve's time before sending Jesus into the world?; why didn't God send Jesus into the world in Adam & Eve's lifetime?; And what about little children who aren't even old enough to reason before they die at the hands of abusive parents?

If you answer "no" to the question, is God *at this time* trying to save the world?, then you have to answer questions like: when will God try to save the world?; why did God send Jesus into the world in the first place ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world?; why did God send the Holy Spirit into the world ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world?; why did Christ instruct His disciples to go into all the world preaching the gospel ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world?; why did God inspire the Bible to be written ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world?

No matter which answer you choose --- God is or God isn't trying *at this time* to save the world ---, you have some other pretty difficult questions to answer. So which is it? What do you say? Is God trying *at this time* to save the world? Before I tell you from God's own mouth what *His* answer is, let me say that *no one* can get the right answer to this question and correctly answer all of the subsequent questions --- unless they understand God's 7 Annual Feast Days! **God's 7 Annual Feast Days reveal His Plan of Salvation!** But we'll talk more about that later.

Okay, now for the answer: God is NOT trying at this time to save the world! Let's hear the same answer from God's own mouth.

Gen 2:9,16-17 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of **knowledge of good and evil**. {the trees are opposites: one leads to life, the other to death; one leads to reliance on God, the other to reliance on self}. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; of that one you shall not eat: for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die [God gave them everything except one thing; and that one thing is what Satan focused on].

Gen 3:1-6 The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God created. And he said to the woman, has God said, You shall not eat of **EVERY** tree of the garden? {Satan quietly questions and undermines God}. And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden except the one in the midst of the garden, for God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die {Eve added her own thought; we should stick to what the **WORD** says}. And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die {Satan boldly calls God a liar}: For God knows that in the day you eat thereof your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, **knowing good and evil** {determining for themselves --- a God prerogative}. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes [this part is true; but deception has truth AND error; notice the next part] and a tree to be desired **to make one wise** [that's not what God said, this is what Satan introduced --- vanity], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat.

Gen 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, Behold, *the man has become like us, determining for himself* good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and also eat of the **tree of life**, and **live for ever**, we must send him out of the garden of Eden. So the LORD God drove out the man; and He placed Cherubim with flaming swords that turned every way at the east of the garden of Eden, TO PROTECT THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.

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Did you know that after Genesis, the first book of the Bible, that THE Tree of Life is not mentioned again until the last book of the Bible --- the Book of Revelation? That's because God CUT OFF ACCESS to the Tree of Life!!!

And look what's happened as a result. Rom 5:12 By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned. "The Devil has deceived the whole world" (Rev 12:9). Satan is "the god of this world" (2 Cor 4:4). He is "the god of this world" because mankind throughout the ages --- including this present evil age --- has obeyed Satan. In the beginning, the one true God, Elohim, worked to renew the Heaven and the Earth in 6 days and *rested* on the 7th day. That same Elohim has given Satan 6 thousand years to work to destroy the Heaven and the Earth. But during the 7th thousandth year, Satan will *rest*. That's when Elohim will work for the first time to save the world! God will reverse the curse of Death. The world will come full circle. At that time people will make the right choice, i.e. they will obey God and eat from the **Tree of Life**. Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the **Tree of Life**, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Even though God IS NOT *at this time* trying to save the world, God IS at this time laying the foundation for the salvation of the world. So when will God offer salvation to the world? Believe it or not, the Bible does reveal exactly when God will try for the first time to save the world. God has a brilliant 7,000 year plan of Salvation that the vast majority of Christians have overlooked --- let alone the non-Christian world. What is the missing key that will unlock this most comforting and joyful, but overlooked truth?

The missing key is the understanding of God's 7 Annual Feast Days!

Before we talk about God's 7 Annual Feast Days and how they reveal His Plan of Salvation, let's talk about the number 7. 7 is the Biblical number of completion or fulfillment.

In the beginning, God ordained that there would be 7 days in a week. Gen 2:2-3 "On the 7th day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the 7th day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the 7th day, and sanctified it."

Every 7th year the land was to be given complete rest so that it could be completely rejuvenated. Lev 25:2-4 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto the LORD. Six years you shall sow thy field, and six years you shall prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for the LORD: you shall neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard."

This 7-year land Sabbath cycle was to be repeated 7 times so that after 49 years there would be a year of jubilee, which started on the 10th day of the 7th month. Lev 25:8-10 "You shall number seven Sabbaths of years unto you, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto you forty and nine years. Then shall you cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family." All debts were to be completely forgiven.

Jesus used the number 7 to admonish Peter to completely forgive those who sinned against him. Mat 18:21-22 "Peter came to Jesus, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? seven times? Jesus said to Peter, "not just seven times: but, seventy times seven".

The Levitical priests were set apart for holy use during a 7 day period. Exo 29:29-35 "The holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them. And that son that is priest in his stead shall put them on seven days, when he cometh into the tabernacle of the congregation to minister in the holy place. Thus shall you do unto Aaron, and to his sons, according to all things which I have commanded you: seven days shall you consecrate them."

The city of Jericho completely fell into the possession of the Israelites on the 7th day. Josh 6:2-5 The LORD said to Joshua, "I have given into your hand Jericho. All the men of war shall compass the city, and march around it once. Thus shall you do six days. Seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat".

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There are 7 Churches mentioned in the book of Revelation. Rev 1:4 “John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne.” Rev 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches.” These 7 Churches represent the complete spectrum of pluses and problems in God’s people.

Revelation also talks about 7 Angels with 7 Trumpets. Rev 8:2 “I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.” Rev 10:7 “In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God will be finished, as he has declared to his servants the prophets.” Rev 11:15 “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

And then there are the 7 last plagues. Rev 15:1 “I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.”

There are so many 7’s in the Book of Revelation because it is a book of fulfillment. So now let’s talk about the 7’s in God’s 7 Annual Feast Days. You’ll see that **God’s 7 Annual Feast Days fully reveal His Plan of Salvation!**

First, there are 7 Annual Feast Days as described in Lev 23. They are 1) Passover; 2) Unleavened Bread; 3) Pentecost; 4) Trumpets; 5) Atonement; 6) Tabernacles; 7) Last Great Day. The Festival of Unleavened Bread lasts for 7 days, as does the Festival of Tabernacles. There are 49 days = 7 x 7 between the Wave Sheaf offering during the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. On the 50th day is Pentecost. Most of the Festivals fall in the 7th month of God’s calendar because the 7th month is the month of fulfillment when God’s plan will be complete.

Okay, now it’s time to look into God’s 7 Annual Feast Days to show how each one specifically relates to God’s unfolding plan of Salvation. To remind you, God’s 7 Annual Feast Days are: 1) Passover; 2) Unleavened Bread; 3) Pentecost; 4) Trumpets; 5) Atonement; 6) Tabernacles; 7) Last Great Day. You can find them listed in Lev. 23. Before we talk about each one in depth, let me give you an overview.

Passover = Forgiveness of Sins --- the Church United to God thru Christ (Justification)

Unleavened Bread = Righteousness Reigns in the Church (Sanctification)

Firstfruits / Pentecost = Growing to Perfection / Resurrection of the Church to Eternal Life (Glorification)

Trumpets = Christ Returns to Take Over the World (this is the pivotal point)

Atonement = Forgiveness of Sins --- the World United to God thru Christ (Justification)

Tabernacles = Righteousness Reigns in the World (Sanctification)

Last Great Day = Growing to Perfection / Resurrection of the World to Eternal Life (Glorification)

We can learn a lot of lessons by viewing God’s relationship with Israel. Just like Israel was one small nation *chosen* by God for a purpose, the Church is one small “spiritual nation” *chosen* by God for a purpose.

Mat 22:2-3, 14 “The kingdom of heaven is likened to a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call to the wedding those that were invited to come: but they would not come. Many are called, but **few** are *chosen*.”

1 Pet 2:9 “You are a *chosen* generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; *chosen* so that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Why are some chosen and some not? Jesus says it’s because “No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draws him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

But you might say that this isn’t fair. Well, this is God’s response to your statement. Rom 9:14-21 “What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he said to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. That’s the lesson in scripture concerning Pharaoh; remember I said to him: “for this same purpose have I raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he will have mercy, and the others He hardens their hearts.

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You will then say to me, Why does God find fault? For who has resisted his will? But wait a minute, who are you to reply against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why have you made me thus? Doesn't the potter have power over the clay to make of the same lump one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?"

Rom 11:1-2 "Concerning Israel I ask this question: Has God cast away his people? God forbid, for I also am an Israelite. God has not cast away his people which he foreknew." Rom 11:8 "God has given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear unto this day." Rom 11:11 "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come to the Gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy." Rom 11:15 "Now if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" Rom 11:22 "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in his goodness: otherwise you also shall be cut off." Rom 11:25-27 "For I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery brethren, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; the mystery is that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in. And so all Israel **shall be** saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant with them, when I shall take away their sins [and right my laws in their hearts and minds (Heb 10:16)]. Rom 11:32-34 "God has concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! Who has known the mind of the Lord? or who has been his counselor?"

God is NOT at *this time* trying to save the world, but God is laying the foundation of salvation for the world by first preparing His Spiritual Nation, the Church, to rule the world! And **God's 7 Annual Feast Days fully reveal this Plan of Salvation!**

The first step in God's plan of salvation is revealed by the Passover.

Passover = Forgiveness of Sins --- the Church is freed from the World (Justification)

- Old = Death Angel Passed Over the homes of those who covered their doorposts with the blood of the lamb. Their lives were spared from death. Ex 12:3-13

VV. 30-31 Shows that eventually, "Pharaoh called for Moses and said, go, serve the LORD".

- New = Jesus, the Lamb of God, is our Passover. John 1:29 "John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world." 1 Cor 5:7 "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us". Jesus was actually killed on Passover day (Mt 26).

Jesus' death paid the penalty for the wages of our sins; therefore, we don't have to die as long as we cover ourselves with His blood. Rom 5:8-9 "God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from death through him." God said to Satan, "let my people go!" Heb 2:14-15 "Just as the you are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus 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."

But not everyone is chosen / directed at this time to spread the Blood of the Lamb over themselves. In John 12:37-40 it says, "Though Jesus had done so many miracles before them they did not believe him. This was so that the saying of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which says, 'Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom has the arm of the Lord been **revealed**?' **Therefore they could not believe**, because God has blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted'."

But this is only temporary. God promises to give everyone a fair chance. Ezek 11:19-20 "I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take away their stony heart, and will give them an heart of flesh so that they will walk in my statutes: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God."

Heb 8:8-12 "The day is coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they won't have to teach each other to know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. And I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

If God has done this to Israel, whom He did call in one sense of the word, how much more has He done this to others? So only the Church (ekklesia = a calling out) has been called & chosen to receive the Blood of the Lamb in this first

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step of salvation. **God is destroying the power of this present evil world to hold the “called and chosen ones” hostage!**

The second step in God’s plan of salvation is revealed by the Feast of U.B.

Unleavened Bread = Righteousness Reigns in the Church --- we are the Kingdom of God (Sanctification)

- Old = Israelites ate unleavened bread as they hastily fled from sin (Ex 12:15-20).
- New = Christ is the Unleavened Bread of sincerity and truth. He is the Bread of Life. He is our Righteousness. We should hastily flee from sin to our Savior. (1 Cor 5:8; Jn 6:31-58; 2 Tim 2:22).

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Phil 3:8-9). Paul was an Israelite. Let’s see what the scripture says about other Israelites.

Rom 9:31-10:9 “Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whoever believes on him shall not be ashamed. Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. The righteousness which is of faith speaks on this wise: The word is near you, even in your mouth, and in your heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God hath raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.”

If God has done this to Israel, whom He did call in one sense of the word, how much more has He done this to others? So only the Church (ekklesia = a calling out) has been called & chosen to receive the Bread of Life. **We are learning to rule righteously in the Kingdom of God!**

The third step in God’s plan of salvation is revealed by the Feast of Firstfruits.

Firstfruits / Pentecost = Growing to Perfection (Glorification)

- Old = Priest waved a sheaf of the firstfruits of the harvest to see if it was acceptable. If it was, then the rest of the harvest would be acceptable. People had to count 49 days (7x7) before the harvest. On the 50th day they ate of the harvest (Lev 23:10-21).
- New = Christ is our Wave Sheaf (John 20:17). He is the first of the firstfruits (1 Cor 15:20-23 “But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. Because of Adam all die; because of Christ all will live again. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward they that are Christ's at his coming”). He is acceptable to God. Therefore, we, as firstfruits, are acceptable to God (James 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures”).

The Church is the first to receive the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:23); The Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). **The purpose for being called out of the world and called into the Church is to preach the gospel to the world** (Mt 28:19-20; Rom 10:12-17); **and to grow into perfection** (Eph 4:11-16).

In summary, the first 3 Feast days have to do with God preparing the Church to rule with Christ after His second coming.

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The fourth step in God's plan of salvation is revealed by the Feast of Trumpets.

Trumpets = Christ Returns to Take Over the World --- and His Resurrected Saints are with Him (this is the pivotal point)

- Old = Blowing the Trumpet signaled war (Joel 2:1-11). Signaled the coronation of the king (1 Ki 1:32-46).
- New = Christ and the Saints must wage war against those who destroy the earth (Rev 19:8-16). The coming Messiah is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **He is coming to establish the Kingdom of God over all the earth** (Rev 11:15-18). The Saints are resurrected at the last Trumpet blast (1 Thes 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:50-54). The Saints are ready to rule. In Rev 5:9-10 it says, "They sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals: for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And have **made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.**" In Rev 20:6 it says, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." This is the beginning of the 7th thousandth year (millennium) when Satan and the World will be forced to rest from its wicked works. The Saints will rule over all who survived the Day of the Lord.

Now notice how the first 3 Feast Days mirror the last 3 Feast Days in principle.

The fifth step in God's plan of salvation is revealed by the Day of Atonement (similar to Passover).

Atonement = Binding of Satan; World United Under Christ (Justification)

- Old = The High Priest went once per year into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for himself and the nation. Also, lots were cast for two goats: one was *slain*; the other sent alive into the wilderness (Lev 16).
- New = Christ Jesus has entered once into the Holy of Holies, signaling that the world can be *at one* as it is *meant* to be (Heb 9). The world is reminded that Jesus was *slain* for its sins from the beginning of the world and that Satan is doomed to the dungeon of desolation (Rev 20:1-3). **The power of the devil is gone!**

The sixth step in God's plan of salvation is revealed by the Feast of Tabernacles / Ingathering (similar to U.B.).

Tabernacles = Righteousness Reigns in the World (Sanctification)

- Old = People dwelt in temporary dwellings to teach them their need for a permanent home (Lev 23:34-43); also, this was the large harvest when most food was gathered in (Ex 23:16; 34:22).
- New = God will tabernacle with the world as it becomes His permanent dwelling place (Rev 21:3-5). In 2 Cor 5:1-4 Paul says, in speaking of his body: "We know that if our earthly tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, but eternal in the heavens. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not because we want to be unclothed, but because we want mortality to be swallowed up of life." This is what the hope of the world will be.

This Feast also begins the large harvesting of the World. In Isa 11:4-12 it says, "With righteousness shall Messiah judge the poor: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the *Gentiles* seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the *outcasts of Israel*, and gather together the *dispersed of Judah* from the four corners of the earth." **This is when blindness will be removed from Israelites and Gentiles.**

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The seventh step in God's plan of salvation is revealed by the Last Great Day (similar to Pentecost).

Last Great Day = Resurrection of the World to Eternal Life (Glorification)

- Old = Israel celebrated the completion of a fulfilling harvesting season.
- New = Jesus gave His "rivers of living waters" sermon on the Last Great Day. (John 7:37-39) "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come to me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.)"

Also on this day Jesus healed a man blind from birth. In 9:1-6 "As Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." God blinded that man just like He has blinded the World --- but it is for a specific purpose to be fulfilled at a specific time. The LGD, a.k.a. The Great White Throne judgment, is the judgment period when the majority of people will be judged for the first time; most will be saved.

Rev 20:4-5 "I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.**"

Who are the "rest of the dead"? Let's read the scripture from which this question is raised. Rev 20:4-5 "I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."

The "rest of the dead" are obviously not the faithful martyrs who died during the Great Tribulation, for they are resurrected at the beginning of the 7th thousandth year --- which is the first year of Christ's rule over the world as King of Kings.

The "rest of the dead" aren't the faithful followers of God that lived prior to Jesus' first coming, for they are resurrected at Christ's second coming. Heb 11:4-32 lists them in chronological order. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being still dead speaks." Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sara, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab [Joshua and Caleb aren't mentioned but are certainly counted as faithful]. Heb 11:32 "And what more shall I say? for the time would fail me to tell of [the Judges] Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, [etc.]; of [the Kings] also, i.e. David, [Josiah, etc.] and of the prophets: Samuel, [Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, etc.]. That brings us up to the time of Christ. But what does it say about all these people just mentioned? Heb 11:13-16 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly country: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he has prepared for them a city." Heb 11:39-40 "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

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Who is the “us”? Whoever is the author of the book of Hebrews is a part of the “us”. And whoever that is is a part of the Church era. The Church is categorized as those who are called AFTER Christ’s first coming but BEFORE His second coming. So when is the Church resurrected? 1 Th 4:13-17 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep. 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 precede 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: from then on we shall always be with the Lord.” 1 Cor 15:22-23 “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”

So all of the faithful followers of God prior to Christ’s first coming --- which is from Abel to Malachi, and all of the faithful followers of God after Christ’s first coming but prior to His second coming --- which is the Church era, shall be resurrected at Christ’s second coming. So none of them / us can be considered the “rest of the dead”, as mentioned in Rev 20:4-5. Let’s read that passage again. “I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”

Now, if there is a first resurrection, there must be a second resurrection. The second resurrection will occur near the end of the 7th thousandth year of mankind’s history. Prior to the second resurrection, God’s Saints will have been prepared for rulership of the world during the 7th millennium, as pictured by the Passover, the Feast of UB and Pentecost. Prior to the second resurrection, God’s Saints will have been resurrected in the first resurrection and will wage war with Christ against the world at the time of Christ’s second coming, as pictured by the Feast of Trumpets. Prior to the second resurrection, God’s Saints will have ruled the world with Christ for 1,000 years, as pictured by the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. It is at the time of the second resurrection, as pictured by the Last Great Day, that all people who have ever lived but have never been chosen by God to be one of His “firstfruits” --- it is at this time that they will have a chance to be chosen by God to be one of His “secondfruits”. This is not a perjorative term. It is simply a matter of timing. Everyone will have their chance at salvation --- and the Bible reveals that the overwhelming majority will accept salvation! God’s 7 Annual Feast Days show God’s complete and perfect 7-step 7,000 year plan of salvation for all mankind. And it ends with a big bang! The LGD pictures the day when the vast majority of mankind will have their FIRST chance to be healed of their spiritual blindness and really see Christ and know God by the power of the Holy Spirit! Rom 11:32-33 says, God hath concluded EVERYONE in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon ALL. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”

I hope you have learned from this article how God’s 7 Annual Feast Days reveal His unfolding plan of Salvation. Now that you know that God is NOT *at this time* trying to save the world, let’s answer the questions I posed near the beginning of this article.

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

THIS IS SATAN'S TIME

Is the God you serve a weak God? If you believe in the God of the Bible, and if you believe that God is trying at this time to save the world, then you must be serving a weak God! Now that's a pretty bold statement. How can I prove that this statement is true? The proof is that 80% of the people in the world don't even claim to believe in the God of the Bible, so surely they're not saved. So if your God is trying to save the world at this time, and He only has power to save 20% of the world, then you must conclude that you serve a weak God!!

But I have good news for you my friends: God is not at this time trying to save the world! This is not God's time --- this is Satan's time! What do I mean by "this is Satan's time"? What I mean by saying "this is Satan's time", is that Almighty God has *temporarily* given this world to Satan. That's right ... right now Satan is the "god" of this world. God is allowing Satan to rule this world at this time for a very specific reason. We'll talk more about the reason later. For now, let's go back to the beginning to see why this world exists in the first place.

John 1:1-3, 14 "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. 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." There were 2 Beings: God and the Word --- who was also God. Other terminology: Ancient of Days and LORD; The Father and The Son. God is a Creator. Remember, we're unraveling the mystery of why this world was created.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Whatever God creates is good. Job 38:4 "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of God shouted for joy**? Angels rejoiced at original creation because everything was good. But something terrible happened.

Gen 1:2 "And the earth was [became] **without form, and void**; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Tohuw & Bohuw = Tohuw means to lie waste; to be desolate; to be worthless. Bohuw means to be empty; to be in an undistinguishable ruin. Notice the negative connotation contained in other scriptures that have these words.

Jer 4:22-28 "For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was **without form, and void**; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; **yet will I not make a full end**. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it. This is something bad.

Isa 34:1-4, 8-11 "Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever. But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of **confusion**, and the stones of **emptiness**. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and **it shall be an habitation of dragons**, and a court for owls. Tohu & Bohu. Dragons = Satan & demons. This is a big clue in unlocking the mystery of what happened to God's beautiful creation. Join me on the next program.

Isa 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in **vain**, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Tohu

Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Job 38:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Job 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of God shouted for joy?**

Angels rejoiced at original creation because everything was good And God rejoiced at the recreation because everything was good. (Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.)

There is a pattern that's easy to identify. God creates; Satan destroys. God creates; Mankind destroys. In the mouth of 2 or 3 witness we have a pattern identified.

Why does the Devil destroy?

Right now I want to prove from the Bible that this is Satan's time.

Ezek 28:11-16 "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God;** every precious stone was thy covering, diamonds, emeralds, and gold: the workmanship of thy timbrels and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. **Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth;** and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, **and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God:** and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub."

In Eden, the Garden of God: In the presence of God --- sinless, e.g. Adam & Eve in Eden.

Anointed Cherub that Covers: 1 of 3 chief servants covering God's throne; Michael and Gabriel are the other 2.

Perfect Creation: Perfect, but with free moral agency. This cherub chose to sin = rebel against God's laws.

Cast Out: God always casts sin out of His presence, e.g. Adam & Eve cast out of Eden the Garden of God.

Isa 14:12-15 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

Like the Most High: Satan wants to be God Almighty --- not just the temporary "god" of this world.

Rev 12:3-4, 7-9 "There appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And **his tail drew 1/3 of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the earth ... And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceives** the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

1/3 of the angels followed Satan, their God.

Deceives is from the Greek word plan-ah'-o, spelled planao: it means "to cause to wander from, truth, virtue, and safety." The great Adversary causes people to wander from the truth that there is only one true God by tricking them into committing the sin of idolatry, thus causing them to be cast out of God's presence, e.g. Adam & Eve.

2 Cor 4:2-4 "We have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel is hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world** has blinded the minds of them that don't believe, lest the light of the gospel of Christ should shine upon them."

World: From Greek word ahee-ohn'; spelled aion: meaning an age, or time period. This is Satan's time.

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

THIS WORLD IS GOING TO HELL!

Satan is called “the god of this world”. In the last program I proved from the scriptures that God Almighty has temporarily given the Devil rulership over this world. In other words, this is Satan’s time; God Almighty is letting Satan do his thing. But why? Why would Almighty God give His arch-enemy a chance to rule? God is giving his adversary the chance to rule this world to show that Satan is leading the world to Hell! That’s right, this world is going to Hell! And here’s why. It is impossible for people to naturally resist Satan and obey God. In fact, we *naturally* resist God and obey Satan.

Eph 2:1-3 “God has made you alive though you were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, **according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now works in **the children of disobedience**: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were **by nature** the children of wrath, even as others.” Nature: children of Satan, Adam & Eve.

Rom 8:7-9 “**The carnal mind is hostile against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not a Christian.” Carnal: that’s our nature

Rom 3:9-18 “Both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Rom 5:10, 12, “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so **death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.**” Death: This world is going to Hell.

Biblical Examples of wickedness:

(Adam & Eve = covetousness) Gen 3:16-19 “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

(Cain killed Abel = murder) Gen 4:9-14 “And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.”

(All people in Noah’s day = corruption & violence) Gen 6:5-13 “God saw that the wickedness of man was great, and that every imagination of his heart was only evil continually. All flesh had corrupted God’s way upon the earth, and the earth was filled with violence. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.”

(Sodom & Gomorrah = sexual perversion) Jude 1:7 “Because Sodom and Gomorrah gave themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, they are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Gen 19:24 “The LORD rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah fire and brimstone. And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.”

(Israel = idolatry) Ezek 16 “Son of man, cause *Jerusalem* to know her abominations. You trusted in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was. *Samaria* committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, because thy filthiness was poured out with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them.” Israel was likened to Sodom & Gomorrah, and suffered a similar fate ... they were sent into captivity --- destroyed from the Promised Land!

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

THIS WORLD IS WICKED

Modern day examples of wickedness: WAR

Japanese / Chinese War 1931-1945. The Japanese brutally murdered and raped over 30 million Chinese, including women and children. Here's a quote from *"The Atrocities of Japanese Invaders"*, Du ChengXiang, Time Publisher, p55, 1939 edition.

"At the end of February, a refugee family of fourteen people were all murdered by Japanese. The youngest daughter was only fourteen, she died on two square tables, upper body dressed, lower body totally stripped of clothing, blood was all over the tables, her lower body was bayoneted twice. An elder daughter died in the bed, in the same way as the younger one. The mother died at the table, with a one year old baby in her arms. The baby was also cut by knife, intestines flew out of the body, too horrible to look at. Members of the International Committee went to investigate, and took photos, and sent the photos to members of US citizenship and the Jap embassy..."

" Young girls were usually not mature, the Japanese then tear open their lower body and gang rape them."

Joseph Stalin 1929-1953. Quote from the BBC website. "One of the most powerful and murderous dictators in human history, Stalin was the supreme ruler of the Soviet Union for a quarter of a century. His regime of terror caused the death and suffering of tens of millions of his subjects ..." (http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/stalin_joseph.shtml).

Adolf Hitler 1939-1945. The Nazis killed 27 million Russians and 6 million Jews.

Rwanda Civil War 1994. Quote from UNICEF's website. "Ten years after the genocide in Rwanda that took the lives of 800,000 people, the country's children continue to struggle with the lingering impact of the atrocities. By the end of the genocide in 1994, 95,000 children had been orphaned. Thousands were victims of horrific brutality and rape. Many were forced to commit atrocities. The impact of the tragedy simply cannot be overstated. By 2001, an estimated 264,000 children had lost one or both parents to AIDS, representing 43 percent of all orphans. This figure is expected to grow to over 350,000 by 2010." (http://www.unicefusa.org/site/apps/nl/content2.asp?c=duLRI8O0H&b=33260&content_id={D49072C6-A212-41CD-8264-486C0DD999E4})

Saddam Hussein 1979-2004. Quote from the CBC website. "Amnesty International estimates that Saddam's regime killed between 250,000 and 300,000 Iraqis in the last 24 years." (http://www.cbc.ca/stories/2003/04/21/baghdad_prison030421)

These wars are signs of the times, i.e. the end is near.

Mat 24:3-8 "As Jesus sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the **beginning of sorrows.**"

Sorrows is from Greek word o-deen', spelled odin, meaning birth pangs. At the beginning of birth pangs, a woman's contractions occur at lengthy intervals, and usually aren't terribly painful. But as the delivery moment nears, the contractions occur frequently, and the pain is more intense. The lesson we are to learn is that "wars and rumors of wars", and "nations rising against nations", and "kingdoms rising against kingdoms" are signs that the world is entering a period of pain that will culminate in the greatest pain known to mankind as the frequency and intensity of wars bring us to the brink of annihilation! Remember the FIST = Frequency; Intensity; Same Time.

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Mat 24:21-22 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved:

Dan 11:40-44 **At the time of the end** shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown. But *tidings out of the east and out of the north* shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy them."

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Rev 16:12-16 “The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

THIS WORLD IS WICKED

Modern day examples of wickedness: SLAVERY

Slavery in Sudan. Quote from Richard Boucher, Spokesman for the US Dept. of State, in a Press Statement entitled "Sudan Slavery Commission", released on March 25, 2002. "In December 2001, Senator John C. Danforth, the U.S. Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan, secured an agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to address slavery, abductions and forced servitude in Sudan." (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2002/8906pf.htm>)

Slavery in Brazil. Quote from BBC website. "At least 25,000 people are working as slave labourers in Brazil, according to a new report obtained by the BBC. The study, carried out on behalf of the International Labour Organization, says workers are living in conditions unfit for animals. The bulk of them are working in the Amazon region, clearing forest so the land can be used for cattle and crops." (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3908271.stm>)

Slavery in Kosovo. Quote from BBC website. "The presence of peacekeepers in Kosovo is fuelling the sexual exploitation of women and encouraging trafficking, according to Amnesty International. It claims UN and Nato troops in the region are using the trafficked women and girls for sex and some have been involved in trafficking itself. Amnesty says girls as young as 11 from eastern European countries are being sold into the sex slavery. Amnesty's report, entitled "So does that mean I have rights? Protecting the human rights of women and girls trafficked for forced prostitution in Kosovo," is based on interviews with women and girls who have been trafficked from countries such as Moldova, Bulgaria and the Ukraine to service Kosovo's sex industry. They are said to have been moved illegally across borders and sold in "trading houses," where they are sometimes drugged and "broken in" before being sold from one trafficker to another for prices ranging from 50 to 3,500 euros (\$60 - 4,200). The report includes harrowing testimonies of abduction, deprivation of liberty and denial of freedom of movement, torture and ill-treatment, including psychological threats, beatings and rape. Instead of getting a proper job the women and girls find themselves trapped, enslaved, forced into prostitution." (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3686173.stm>)

Slavery in America. Quote from The San Francisco Chronicle. "State Department officials said the Bush administration vowed to combat what it called a fast-growing "modern-day form of slavery." "A lot of the people trafficked in the U.S. are trafficked through Mexico from Central America", said Elizabeth Pryor, the senior State Department official who organized the conference. She said the problem is worse on the West Coast, which is also more accessible to Asian traffickers, than on the East Coast. Enjoying rare funding from Congress, the conference gathered local law enforcement officials, activists and advocacy groups from 113 countries to devise strategies to fight human trafficking, which the United Nations estimates could involve as many as 4 million people worldwide, half of whom may be children. Estimates are that 50,000 to 75,000 of those children are brought into the United States each year. "We are seeing a big influx from China right now, from very, very poor, rural villages where traffickers are buying the young women or kidnapping them or telling them that if they come to the U.S. they're going to work as domestics," said Norma Hotaling, founder and director of Standing Against Global Exploitation, a San Francisco group that helps victims. "We're also seeing Cambodians, Vietnamese, Thais, children from Mexico and some from the former Yugoslavia and former Soviet Union." Hotaling, who was herself lured into prostitution as a child, said once the women are in the hands of the traffickers, "their visas and passports are taken away, they're often raped and abused right then or on their way to the countries (of destination), and told that if they don't work in prostitution they will be killed, their families will be killed, and that they have a huge debt now that they have to pay off." Experts and victims say women and girls are often beaten, starved, isolated and raped into submission; escape is difficult because they often do not know where they are, do not speak the language and have no travel documents. The problem has grown as cheap air travel, the Internet and porous borders have combined with poverty and political upheaval in poor nations to produce a lucrative sex industry, estimated at \$7 billion a year. Experts say it is aided by **attitudes in rich and poor countries alike that see buying and selling women and children as acceptable.**" (<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2003/02/26/MN241773.DTL>)

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Rev 18:1-3, 9 After these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and **slaves**, and souls of men.

(All people in this end time = wickedness) Luke 17:26-30 “As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

How does the Devil deceive us into following him?

Gen 2:9,16-17 “And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. {the trees are opposites: one leads to life, the other to death; one leads to reliance on God, the other to reliance on Satan and self}. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; of that one you shall not eat: for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die” [God gave them everything except one thing; and that one thing is what the Devil focused on]. Devil: from Greek word dee-ab'-ol-os, spelled diabolos; meaning: false accuser; slanderer.

Gen 3:1-6 “The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God created. And he said to the woman, has God said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden? {Satan quietly questions and undermines God}. And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden except the one in the midst of the garden, for God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die {Eve added her own thought; we should stick to what the WORD says}. And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die {Satan boldly calls God a liar}: For God knows that in the day you eat thereof your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil {determining for themselves --- a God prerogative}. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes [this part is true; but deception has truth AND error; notice the next part] and a tree to be desired to make one wise [that's not what God said, this is what Satan introduced --- vanity], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Gen 3:22-24 “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like us, determining for himself good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and also eat of the tree of life, and live for ever, we must send him out of the garden of Eden. So the LORD God drove out the man; and He placed Cherubim with flaming swords that turned every way at the east of the garden of Eden, TO PROTECT THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.” Drove out: this world devoid of life and is going to Hell! (Rev 20:10, 15 The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are ... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.) But there is a way for you to avoid going to Hell.

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

GET OUT OF HELL FREE

Most of you have probably played the Monopoly game before. So you'll be very familiar with the "Get out of jail free" card that you can obtain simply by stopping on "Chance" and being fortunate enough to pick up that card. Well God is offering us a spiritual "Get out of Hell Free" card. And boy do we need it. So let's take a look at how we can obtain our "Get out of Hell Free" card.

The first thing we must realize is that God the Father gave His Son Yeshua to die for us so that we don't have to go to Hell. Rom 5:8-10 "But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, **we shall be saved from wrath through him.** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Rom 5:18-19 "Therefore just as judgment came upon all men to condemnation by the offence of one [Adam]; even so the free gift came upon all men to justification and life by the righteousness of one [Jesus – the 2nd Adam]. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one man shall many be made righteous.

What is the key difference between the 1st & 2nd Adam? The 1st Adam disobeyed God and obeyed Satan; the 2nd Adam disobeyed Satan and obeyed God. The 1st Adam left the Garden of God and went into the wilderness; the 2nd Adam left the wilderness and went into the Garden of God. Mat 4:1, 8-10 "Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And the devil took him to the top of a high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, and said to Jesus, **All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.** Then saith Jesus unto him, Get out of here Satan: for it is written, **Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.** "Worship me: Satan wants to be God Almighty. Worship God Almighty: Only serve the One True God.

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Most people in the world are headed to hell because most people can't do what Christ did ... Serve the Lord God Only!!! It is only when a person has Christ IN them that they can receive a "Get out of Hell Free" card.

SALVATION IS MOVING FROM DEATH TO LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

1. What's going to happen to people who die not knowing the gospel because they are mentally challenged or blind and deaf? Since they never had a chance at Salvation, God will resurrect them at the 2nd resurrection and give them their first chance at Salvation.
2. What about little children who aren't even old enough to reason before they die at the hands of abusive parents? Since they never had a chance at Salvation, God will resurrect them at the 2nd resurrection and give them their first chance at Salvation.
3. Are all the people that died before Jesus' birth burning in Hell because they didn't hear the gospel preached? No. Since they never had a chance at Salvation, God will resurrect them at the 2nd resurrection and give them their first chance at Salvation.
4. Why did God wait four thousand years from Adam & Eve's time before sending Jesus into the world? God sent Jesus into the world right in the middle of God's 7,000 year plan of Salvation for humanity. 3 millennia prior to Jesus' first coming had transpired; Jesus came at the beginning of the 4th millennia; there will be 3 millennia from Jesus' first coming until the end of mankind's human existence. At the end of the 7th millennia all humans will either be eternal spirit-composed Children of God, or will cease to exist.

It's interesting to note that God made the Sun & Moon to appear on the 4th day of Creation Week. We know from 2 Pet 3:8 that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." Jesus, "the light of the world", appeared to mankind during the 4th thousandth year.

5. Why didn't God send Jesus into the world in Adam & Eve's lifetime? Since God is not at this time trying to save the world, it really doesn't matter when Jesus came into the world; at all times Jesus would be rejected --- except during the 7th millennia when He does seek for the first time to save the world.

God has left in the hands of Satan the 6 millennia prior to Christ's second coming in order to let mankind prove that no form of government, religion or human pursuit will bring everlasting peace, joy and life because they are based on the lies and practices of the "god of this world" --- Satan. The One True God, Elohim, will prove during the 7th millennia that only the ways of God will bring utopia!

6. Why did God send Jesus into the world in the first place ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world? Jesus came into the world the first time as a flesh and blood human being to die for all of mankind's sins, and to serve as a witness to the world that, without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are doomed to disobedience because of our carnal nature. Christ Jesus will come a 2nd time, but this time it's to bring Salvation to the world.
7. Why did God send the Holy Spirit into the world ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world? God sent the Holy Spirit into the world to dwell in those whom God chose to be a witness to the world. Our testimony is that we can have Salvation now through the miracle of conversion. God is also preparing a people to rule the world with Christ Jesus when He returns to establish the Kingdom of God on earth.
8. Why did God inspire the Bible to be written ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world? The Bible is the instruction manual for God's "Students", i.e. the Church. It is also the Book by which all mankind will be judged. Right now it serves as a witness against the world, testifying of it's wickedness and hopelessness --- apart from Jehovah.
9. Why did Christ instruct His disciples to go into all the world preaching the gospel ... why not just wait until He *is* trying to save the world? God works through people. God is at this time calling some people out of the world to be prepared for rulership of the world --- and He does the calling primarily through people (Rom 10:13-17). The preaching of the Gospel is also a witness against the world that all its ways are futile.
10. When will God try to save the world? God will begin for the first time to save the world when He sends His Son, Jesus Christ, back to the earth at the end of 6 thousand years (6 "God days") of hard labor (sin) under the harsh hand of Satan -- the "god of this world" (2 Cor 4:4). During the 7th thousand-year period (7th "God day"), God will give us rest (a true Sabbath) through Jesus.