

Open Air *Back Pocket Helper*

OA

Back Pocket Helper

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DRAWING A CROWD

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drawing a crowd

Trivia

What is the tallest mountain in the world?

- Everest

Where is Mt. Everest?

- Nepal and/or Tibet; on the border

What is the last book in the Bible?

- Revelation

What is the biggest bird in the world?

- Ostrich

What fruit has its seeds on the outside?

- Strawberry

In which hand is the Statue of Liberty's torch?

- Right

On the U.S. flag, what color is the top stripe?

- Red

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?

- SpongeBob

Define nocturnal

- Active/occurring at night

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The largest planet in our solar system?

- Jupiter

What color is the sky?

- Clear

America's most popular cookie?

- Oreo

What sport uses shoes made of metal?

- Horse racing

What's the best selling car of all time?

- Beetle

Whose face is on the \$10 bill?

- Hamilton

Whose face is on the \$50 bill?

- Grant

Who had the most US top-10 singles ever?

- Elvis

What is the only food that doesn't spoil?

- Honey

Sleepy, Happy, Sneezzy, Grumpy, Dopey, Doc.

Who's missing?

- Bashful

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According to the Bible, how many people walked on water?

- two (Jesus and Peter)

Next to water, what is the world's most popular drink?

- coffee or tea (*take either answer, sources conflict*)

Which state is bordered by more states than any other?

- Tennessee (8 - KY, MO, AK, MS, AL, GA, NC, VA)

Greatest number of yolks in one chicken egg?

- 9

Some species of earthworms in Australia can measure how long?

- 10 feet or more

Squirrels can jump up to how many feet?

- 20

Who was the first US post master?

- Ben Franklin

What month & year was the attack made on Pearl Harbor?

- December of 1941

What is the shortest complete sentence in the

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English language?

- I am.

What is the lowest number on the FM dial?

- 88

Who was the first basketball player to appear on the Wheaties box?

- Michael Jordan

What vegetable is a member of the Lily family?

- Asparagus

What English word has the most definitions?

- "set" has 464 (Oxford English Dictionary) followed by "run" 396, and "go" 368

How many definitions does the word "good" have?

- 58 definitions (Dictionary.com)

What did Moses break when he came down from Mt. Sinai?

- the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments

What is the only fish that can blink with both eyes?

- A shark

Who was John Lennon's first girlfriend?

- Thelma Pickles

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How long does it take the average person to fall asleep?

- 7 minutes

How long is a goldfish's memory span?

- 3 seconds

How many muscles does a cat have in each ear?

- 32

Which is the tallest building on earth?

- The CN Tower

Which battle was Napoleons final defeat?

- Waterloo

What instrument measures atmospheric pressure?

- barometer

Which state became the 49th in 1959?

- Alaska

What area records the most frequent lightning strikes on the planet?

- Tampa, FL

what will

Kill You.?

Which are you more likely to die of...

This is especially good to use for drawing a crowd, because it makes the transition to talking about life after death very natural.

NOTE: The number in parenthesis is how many people in the US died this way in 2003. And the underlined answer is the correct one.

Suffocating in bed (497) or drowning in the bathtub (332)?

Choking to death (3,879) or accidental poisoning (19,457)?

Falling down the stairs (1,588) or being accidentally shot (730)?

Being intentionally stabbed (2,049) or in a building fire (2,761)?

Struck by lightning (47) or killed by a dog attack (32)?

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Riding in a pickup truck or van (4,163) or on a motorcycle (3,676)?

Venomous spiders (8), snakes (2), or hornets, wasps & bees (66)?

Freezing to death (620) or falling over a piece of furniture (838)?

Falling out of a building (600) or falling from a ladder (417)?

Overexertion (48) or struck by or against another person (39)?

Being killed by a vehicle as a pedestrian (5,991) or in train, bus, airplane, and motorcycle accidents combined (4,480)?

Contact with hot tap-water (26) or train accident (24)?

Lightning (47) or legal execution (60)?

<http://www.nsc.org/lrs/statinfo/odds.htm>

odds of *Dying*

- Total odds of dying, any cause: 1 in 1
- Heart disease: 1 in 5
- Cancer: 1 in 7
- Stroke: 1 in 24
- Motor vehicle accident: 1 in 84
- Suicide: 1 in 119
- Falling: 1 in 218
- Firearm assault: 1 in 314
- Pedestrian accident: 1 in 626
- Drowning: 1 in 1,008
- Motorcycle accident: 1 in 1,020
- Fire or smoke: 1 in 1,113
- Bicycling accident: 1 in 4,919
- Air/space accident: 1 in 5,051
- Firearm accident: 1 in 5,134
- Alcohol poisoning: 1 in 10,048
- Hot weather: 1 in 13,729
- Hornet, wasp, or bee sting: 1 in 56,789
- Legal execution: 1 in 62,468
- Lighting: 1 in 79,746
- Earthquake: 1 in 117,127
- Flood: 1 in 144,156
- Fireworks discharge: 1 in 340,733

<http://www.nsc.org/lrs/statinfo/odds.htm>

drawing a crowd

Phobias

“arach - no - phobia” - fear of spiders

“claus - tro - phobia” - fear of confined spaces

“angro - phobia” - fear of anger or of becoming angry

“cyclo - phobia” - fear of bicycles

“franco - phobia” - fear of France or French culture

“metro - phobia” - fear or hatred of poetry

“alek - toro - phobia” - fear of chickens

“a - bluto - phobia” - fear of bathing

“leuko - phobia” - fear of the color white

“baro - phobia” - fear of gravity

“coul - ro - phobia” - fear of clowns

“dend - ro - phobia” - fear of trees

“neph - o - phobia” - fear of clouds

“clint - o - phobia” - fear of beds

“ara - chibu - tyro - phobia” - fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth

<http://www.phobialist.com/>

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use these pages for your
favorite open air questions
Trivia

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Trivia

scripture quick

Reference

BELIEF

none? no salvation-

John 3:16; 18

but alone, not enough... even

demons believe - James 2:19

HATE

God hates...

all who do wrong - Ps. 5:5

false teachers - Rev. 2:6; 2:15

idols - Deut. 16:22

divorce, violent men- Mal. 2:16

arrogance - Prov. 8:13

pride - Amos 6:8

We are commanded to hate...

evil - Ps. 97:10; Prov. 8:13; Amos

5:15

HOLINESS

without it /not see the Lord -

Heb. 12:14

required - 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thes. 4:7

JUDGMENT

Will be by God's Law - Rom. 2:12

Jesus coming to - 2 Thes. 1:7-9

God has appointed a day - Acts

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17:31

when judging, do so righteously

- John 7:24

not hypocritically - Rom. 2:1-3

Christians shall judge the world

- 1 Cor 6:2-3

die once, then face - Heb. 9:27

LAW, THE (Ten Commandments)

Jesus used when talking to the

ungodly - Luke 18:18-25

cannot justify anyone - Gal. 3:11

perfect converting the soul - Ps.

19:7

stumble at one point, you're guilty

of breaking all - Jam. 2:10

stops the mouth - Rom. 3:19

brings knowledge of sin - Rom 3:20

had not know sin, but by the Law -

Rom. 7:7

sin is transgression of Law - 1 John

3:4

schoolmaster, leads us to Christ -

Gal. 3:24

good if used lawfully - 1 Tim. 1:8-9

written on our hearts / conscience

- Rom. 2:15

made for sinners - 1 Tim. 1:9

LOVE

God loves...

the world through the cross - John

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3:16

while yet sinners, Christ died -

Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5

greater love has no man - John

15:3

those who keep his commandments

- Deut. 7:9; Neh. 1:5; Dan 9:4

We are commanded to love...

the Lord - Mark 12:30; John 16:27

our neighbors - Luke 10:27

our enemies - Matt. 5:44

righteousness, mercy - Ps. 45:7;

Mic. 6:8

REPENTANCE

none? you will perish - Luke 13:3, 5

works to salvation - 2 Cor. 7:10

for remission of sin - Acts 3:19

God commands - Acts 17:30

combines with faith - Acts 20:21

God's goodness leads us to - Rom.

2:4

God's will for all - 2 Pet. 3:9

RIGHTEOUSNESS

required - Rom. 10:10

comes through faith in Christ -

Rom. 3:22; Gal. 5:5; Phil. 3:9

ours like filthy rags - Isa. 64:6

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SALVATION

by grace, through faith in Jesus
ONLY - John 14:6; Acts 4:12;
Rom. 5:2 ;Eph. 2:8
now is the day of - 2 Cor. 6:2

WRATH

sinners storing up - Rom. 2:5
awaiting sinners - Rom 2:8-9
God expresses - Ps. 7:11-13
Jesus expresses - Ps. 2:12
of the Lamb - Rev. 6:14-17
reject Jesus/wrath remains -
John 3:36
on disobediant - Eph. 5:6
terrible - Ps. 21:9; 50:22
through Christ we can be
rescued from - 1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9

additional *scriptures*

9. Ever told a lie?

God says "...all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire..." Revelation 21:8

7. Ever looked with lust?

Jesus said that lust is "adultery of the heart" (Matthew 5:28) - God says that no adulterers "...shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

8. Ever stolen something?

God says, "No thieves... ..shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:10

3. Used God's name as a cuss word?

(Example " Oh my G-d!")

God says, "he that blasphemes the name of the LORD, shall surely be put to death..." Leviticus 24:16 and "every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment." Matt. 12:36

6. Ever hated anyone?

Hatred is the same as murder in God's eyes (1 John 3:15) - God says, "...murderers...shall

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have their part in the lake of fire...” Revelation 21:8

2. Have your own views on God?

Idoltry of the imagination is the oldest sin in the Book, “these men have set up their idols in their heart...” Ezek. 14:3. God says that no idoliters “...shall inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

10. Ever been greedy?

God says that he actually hates (abhors) “the covetous,” Psalm 10:3, and of those who are covetous (greedy) he says, “they which commit such things are worthy of death,” Rom 1:29-32. Also see 1 Tim. 6:10.

5. Ever dishonored your parents?

God says, “he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death...” Ex. 21:17 and “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft” - 1 Samuel 15:23

1. Ever broken the first commandment?

“You shall have no other gods before me.” That means that we should love God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. The Bible tells us that no one has kept this commandment (Psalm 14:2-3).

4. Ever done work on the Sabbath?

God said that anyone who did work on the Sabbath, “shall be put to death” - Ex. 35:2 Num. 15:32-36 tells of a man who merely picked up some sticks on the Sabbath, God said that he must be stoned to death.

Hell is a REAL *place*

What Jesus tells us...

Many go there - Matt. 7:13

A place of torment - Luke 16:19-31

Everlasting punishment - Matt. 25:46

Everlasting fire - Matt. 25:41

Furnace of fire - Matt. 13:41, 50

Unquenchable fire - Matt. 3:12;

Luke 3:17

Suffering - Matt. 5:29, 10:28

Weeping - Matt. 24:51

What the NT tells us...

Anguish - Rom. 2:8-9

Everlasting - 2 Thes. 1:19

Eternal fire, blackness - Jude 7, 13

Lake of fire - Rev. 14:10; 20:15

What the OT tells us...

Devouring fire - Isa. 33:14

Eternal - Isa. 33:14

Everlasting - Dan. 12:2

Wise avoid it - Prov. 15:24

Keep others from it - Prov. 23:14

Evil leads to it - Prov. 5:5, 9:18

scriptures

helpful with:

FALSE CONVERTS

- did you know the Lord? - John 17:3
- fornicators, adulterers, and homosexuals will not enter Kingdom - 1 Cor. 6:9-10
- some claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him - Titus 1:16
- without holiness, no one will see the Lord - Heb. 12:14
- examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith - 2 Cor. 13:5
- children of God vs. children of the devil - 1 John 3:10

SELF-RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE

- there is no one who is good - Psalm 14:3, 53:3; Matt. 19:17; Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19; Romans 3:12
- everyone who is proud (arrogant) is an abomination to the Lord - Proverbs 16:5

ATHEISM

- only a fool doesn't believe in God - Ps. 14:1

MORMONS

- Satan often masquerades as an “angel of light” - 2 Cor. 11:14
- there is only one God, not many - Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6; 45:5-6, 21b-22
- all other “gods” the Bible talks about are idols - 1 Chron. 16:26, Exodus 20:3, 23
- the God of the Bible created the entire universe - Gen. 1:16; Ps. 8:3; Jer. 31:35
- Jehovah (translated as “LORD” in all caps) and Elohim (translated as “God”) are the same being - Deut. 4:35; 1 Kings 8:60; Psalm 100:2.

JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES

- the Jesus of the Bible cannot be another “god” because God says there is only ONE - Isa. 43:10-11
- the Jesus of the Bible cannot be an angel, he is contrasted against the angels - Heb. 1:3-8
- Jesus is not a creation, but the Creator... the word “other” has been inserted four times in this passage of the JW “bible” - Col. 1:16-17
- unless a man is “born again” he cannot enter the Kingdom of God, there are no exceptions - John 3:3

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

- Jesus is THE Christ, not “a christ” - Matt. 16:16; Acts 5:42, 17:3; 1 John 2:22
- Helpful scriptures when going through the

Law...

BAPTISMAL REGENERATION

- salvation by faith - Rom. 3:22, 28-30; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 1:13
- salvation is a free gift (Rom. 6:23) received by faith (Eph. 2:8)
- faith is proven to be alive when followed by good works - James 2:24
- Abraham believed and it was credited as righteousness - James 2:23 & Rom. 4:3
- God gave the Holy Spirit without baptism - Acts 10:44-48
- Paul was sent by God to proclaim the gospel (Rom. 1:1, Gal. 1:1) but *not* to baptize (1 Cor. 1:14-17). Baptism cannot be essential for salvation, or he would have been sent to do both.

BUDDHIST

(& see reincarnation, atheism)

- purification from sins comes from the cross, not Karma - Heb. 1:3

HINDU

(& see reincarnation, polytheistic)

- sin is not ignorance, but the breaking of God's Law - 1 Jn. 3:4

MOSLEM

- impossible to earn salvation through good works - Titus 3:1-7
- forgiveness is available in Jesus Christ - 1 Jn. 1:9
- Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life - Jn. 14:6
- salvation is in no one but Jesus Christ - Acts 4:12

SABBATARIANS

- we are not to let others judge us regarding Sabbaths - Col. 2:16
- we are not to judge others regarding days of worship - Rom. 14:5-10

UNIVERSALISTS

- only a few will be saved, not all - Matt. 7:13-14, 22:14; Luke 13:22-27; Rom. 9:27
- Hell is eternal - 2 Thess. 1:9, Jude 7, 12-13, Rev. 19:3, 20:10
- Hell is unquenchable fire that never ends - Matt. 3:12, 8:18; Luke 3:17; Mark 9:43

REINCARNATION

- people resurrected, NOT reincarnated - Jn. 5:28-29, 1 Cor. 15:5
- man dies ONCE, and then comes judgment - Heb. 9:27

POLYTHEISTIC

- there is only one God, not many - Isa. 43:10-11; 44:6; 45:5-6, 21b-22
- all other “gods” the Bible talks about are idols - 1 Chron. 16:26, Exodus 20:3, 23

four proofs for the *Bible*

What makes the Bible different from all other religious books? How do we know it's supernatural in origin? How do we know it's reliable?

Four "Proofs"

Science

Historians and Archeology

Textual Evidence

Prophecy

Christianity is not a blind faith. It is the only religion that can prove itself, and a main source of that proof is the Bible. No other religion's book(s) can make the following claims... If you don't believe it, then check the footnotes for yourself. (None of the footnotes are from "Christian" sources.) Keep in mind that we only have space to give a couple of examples in each area... there are many more.

The Proof of Science

Science confirms the Bible... in other words science is often just “catching up” with what the Bible said thousands of years before. Here are just a few fairly modern examples of science catching up to what the Bible said already...

Consider the bottom of the ocean. For thousands of years no human being could know for sure what was down there... remember, there were no submarines or sonar. However, God inspired the Bible, and God knew what was on the bottom of the ocean floor even when it was technologically impossible for man to know. So while the science of the day taught that the ocean floor was flat, the Bible said that there were “mountains” (Jonah 2:6) and “valleys” (2 Samuel 22:16) on the bottom of the ocean. The ocean floor wasn’t even mapped till the 1960’s,¹ so it’s only been in very recent years that scientists could discover with their own eyes that what the Bible said was true all along... that the floor of the ocean does indeed contain high mountains and deep valleys.

“Phlebotomy,” or bloodletting, is the longest-running tradition in medicine. It originated in the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Greece, persisted through the Medieval, Renaissance, and Enlightenment periods, flourished in Ara-
1 <http://www.unlv.edu/faculty2/dattilo/geo101/notes/Lecture21.rtf>

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bic and Indian medicine, and lasted through the second Industrial Revolution.² However, the Bible states what we know to be a fact today, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood.” (Leviticus 17:11) God, as the creator of the human body, knew that draining the blood out of your body would not heal you—even if science said it would for thousands of years. God’s inspired book, the Bible, tell us that the life of the flesh is in the blood -- therefore draining your blood out it is the equivalent of draining the life out of your body.

Just 30 years ago if you had mold in your basement no one cared... the idea of tearing a house down because of mold would have seemed completely idiotic. However, today the news is full of stories of families that have suffered sickness, brain damage, and even the death of infants because of “toxic mold.”³ And in many of those situations the only solution is to completely demolish the house.⁴ This is something the Bible stated thousands of years ago, “If the mold has spread in the house... ...it must be torn down—it’s stones, timbers and all the plaster—and taken out of the town to an unclean place.” (Leviticus 14:44,45)

2 <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/redgold/basics/bloodletting.html>

3 <http://gcrc.meds.cwru.edu/stachy/default.htm>

4 <http://www.bsu.edu/web/LEN/archives/2000/033000.htm>

The Proof of Historians and Archeology

Secular history supports the Bible. For example, in *The Antiquities of the Jews*, book 18, chapter 3, paragraph 3 the famous historian Flavius Josephus writes:

“Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works—a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”

In 115 AD, P. Cornelius Tacitus wrote the following passage that refers to Jesus (called “Christus,” which means “The Messiah”) in book 15,

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chapter 44 of The Annals:

“Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.”

Special proof exists for the New Testament,

since Christians were strongly persecuted by both the Jews and the Roman government. If the New Testament writings were false, these two groups would have produced a great deal of evidence to stop the growth of this “sect.” None exists. Further, the New Testament writings (before they were assembled into the “book” we call the New Testament) circulated during the lifetimes of thousands of people who had actually seen Jesus’ miracles and other historic events. No one ever refuted the New Testament writings as “fairy tales.”

The Proof of Textual Evidence

Both the Old and New Testaments are strongly supported by manuscript evidence (the evidence of early hand written copies). The famous Dead Sea Scrolls are one example of the Old Testament evidence. These documents came from the “library” of a settlement founded at Qumran before 150 B.C. and abandoned about 68 A.D. Some of the manuscript copies were made during that period, and some were written earlier (third century BC) and brought to the settlement. Ignoring spelling-oriented (orthographic) changes and similar small differences, the Dead Sea Scrolls match the Hebrew text behind today’s Old Testament, in spite of the passage of over 2,000 years (where one would expect errors to creep in). Over 20,000

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known manuscripts document the New Testament text. This makes the New Testament the most reliable document of antiquity (a document written before the printing press). These manuscripts vary in size from a part of a page to an entire Bible (Old and New Testaments). The earliest New Testament manuscripts date from the second century (100-199) AD. These manuscript copies were written in different languages by people of different nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds. In spite of all those differences between them, the New Testament texts all agree.

The Proof of Prophecy

One of the strongest arguments for the accuracy of the Bible is its 100% accuracy in predicting the future. These future predictions are called “prophecies.” No other religion’s book(s) can claim perfectly accurate predictions of the future. Next you will see predictions the Bible made... then after that, see some of the failed predictions of humans and false religions. The Bible is supernatural in origin... that is proof that it comes from the one and only creator God.

Prophecy From God's Word

Predicted	Fulfilled	Reference	Prediction	Outcome
626 BC	609 BC	Jer. 25:11-12	Babylon would rule Judah for 70 years	FULFILLED
701 BC	539 BC	Isaiah 13:19	Babylon's kingdom would be overthrown, permanently	FULFILLED
614 BC	612 BC	Nahum 3:19	Nineveh, the capital Assyria, would be destroyed permanently	FULFILLED
8 th c. BC	1 st c. AD	Mic. 5:2	The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem	FULFILLED
8 th c. BC	1 st c. AD	Ps. 22:16, Zech. 12:10	The Messiah's hands and feet would be nailed	FULFILLED
11 th c. BC	1 st c. AD	Ps. 22:17	The Messiah's bones would not be broken	FULFILLED
750 BC	1948	Amos 9:14-15, Isa. 66:7- 8, Ezek. 34:13	The Jews would come together as a nation again and return to their homeland	FULFILLED

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30 AD	Now	Luke 21:33	Jesus the Messiah prophesies that His words will never be lost	FULFILLED
67 AD	?	Heb. 9:27	God says that you will die once and then face His judgment	YOUR FUTURE

A Sampling of “Prophecy” that originated with humans and false religions...

Predicted	Failed	Predictor	Prediction	Outcome
1835	1891	Joseph Smith, Founder of Mormonism	Jesus would come back within 56 years of the prediction ¹	FAILED
1889	1951	Charles Russell, Founder of Jehovah’s Witnesses	Peace on earth ²	FAILED

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622	1453	Mohammed, Founder of Islam	The Dajjal (Antichrist) would appear within 7 months after the Muslims took over Constantinople. ³	FAILED
1955	1956	Jean Dixon, Famous "Psychic"	World War III would begin ⁴	FAILED
1958	1998	Edgar Cayce, Famous "Psychic"	The western part of the US would break off, and Japan would go into the sea ⁵	FAILED

(Footnotes from the prophecy charts)

1 The Mormon publication *History of the Church*, Vol. 2, page 182

2 The Jehovah's Witness publication *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 2, page 101

3 Sunan Abu Dawud, Book 37, Number 4281-4283

4 *The Gift of Prophecy - The Phenomenal Jeane Dixon*, by Ruth Montgomery (Bantam Books 1965)

5 Jess Stern, 1967, p. 37

prophetic signs of the *Times*

From Matt. 24; Lk. 21; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 3

- Wars & rumors of wars (Mt. 24:6)
- Nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (Mt. 24:7; Lk. 21:10)
- Famines (Mt. 24:7; Lk. 21:11)
- Diseases (Mt. 24:7; Lk. 21:11)
- False prophets (Mt. 24:11; 24:24)
- False Christs (Mt. 24:24; 2 Tim. 3:5)
- Deception (1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:13)
- Lawlessness (forsaking the 10 Commandments) (Mt. 24:12)
- The preaching of the Gospel (Mt. 24:14)
- Earthquakes in various places (Mt. 24:7; Lk. 21:11)
- Persecution against Christians (23 million martyred in the 20th century alone) (2 Tim. 3:11; Lk. 21:12)
- Stressful living (2 Tim. 3:1)
- Selfishness (2 Tim. 3:2)
- Materialism (2 Tim. 3:2)
- Arrogance (2 Tim. 3:2)
- Pride (2 Tim. 3:2)
- Homosexual increase (Lk. 17:28-30)
- People will be cold-hearted. (2 Tim. 3:3)
- They will be intemperate. (2 Tim. 3:4)
- They will be brutal. (2 Tim. 3:2)

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Youth will be rebellious. (2 Tim. 3:2)

They will hate those who stand up for righteousness. (Mt. 24:9)

They will be ungodly. (2 Tim. 3:2)

Pleasure-seekers. (2 Tim. 3:4)

There will be a call for “peace.” (Dan. 9:25-27; 1 Thess. 5:1-3)

People will be blasphemous. (2 Tim. 3:5)

There will be much hypocrisy. (Lk. 21:1; 1 Tim. 4:1)

False Bible teachers will have many followers, be money-hungry, and slur the Christian faith (2 Pet. 2:1-3).

An increase of travel and knowledge (Dan. 12:4)

Denial of the flood (2 Pet. 3:3-6)

was Jesus the Jewish *Messiah?*

The Hebrew word “Mashiyach”(STRONGS OT 4899) means “Anointed.” It appears 39 times in the Bible... but only in one section of the Bible is it actually translated “Messiah.” So let’s look at Daniel 9:25-26:

[v.25] Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to (1.) restore and to build Jerusalem unto the **Messiah** the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street (2.) shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

[v.26] And after threescore and two weeks (3.) shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall (4.) destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. (KJV)

Let’s just look at this prophecy from a simple point of view. The prophet Daniel was a Jew who lived during the time of the Babylonian

Captivity, about 500 years before the birth of Jesus. During Daniel's lifetime, the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and had taken many Jews as captives to Babylon. Daniel, while in Babylon, delivered a prophecy of what would happen during the centuries that followed. Here is a summary of the four events prophesied in Daniel 9:25-26:

1. There would be a decree to rebuild Jerusalem.
2. Jerusalem and the Temple would be rebuilt.
3. Then an anointed one (Messiah) would be "cut off" (an idiom for "rejected" or "killed").
4. Then Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed again.

All of these events later happened, in the same order in which they are described in Daniel 9:24-26:

1. After the Medo-Persians had conquered the neo-Babylonian empire about 2500 years ago, they ruled a vast empire that included the land of Israel. About 2400 years ago (about 445 BC), Persian king Artaxerxes gave permission to the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem, which was still in ruins after having been destroyed earlier by the Babylo-

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nians.

2. The Jews rebuilt the Temple and the city of Jerusalem.

3. Then, about 2000 years ago, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Messiah who had been promised by Old Testament prophets. But, many people rejected Jesus as the Messiah and He was crucified by the Romans.

4. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. (The Temple has not been rebuilt since then).

Other Messianic prophecies say the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) to a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). That he would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12,13). That he would die by being “peirced” (Psalm 22), and then be buried in a rich man’s tomb (Isaiah 53:9). The Old Testament also tells us he would be “wounded” and “bruised” for “our iniquities.” And that the Lord would “make his soul and offering for sin.” (Isaiah 52:13-53:12).

But one of the most important things we learn from Daniel’s prophecy is that there is a specific time window in which the Messiah would

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appear: between the time the Temple was rebuilt (445 BC), and when it was destroyed (70 AD). There is only one person who lived in the prophetic time window and who fits all of the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament: Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Mary.

Yes, Jesus is the Jewish Messiah.

the REAL *Jesus*

There is “another Jesus” that is not the REAL Jesus of the Bible (2 Cor. 11:4). Salvation can only take place only through faith in the REAL Jesus. Faith in “another Jesus” cannot save anyone. So how can you tell if you have the REAL Jesus?

The Jesus of the Bible...

- is prayed to - Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 116:4 and Zech. 13:9 with 1 Cor. 1:1-2
- is worshiped - Matt. 2:2,11; 14:33; 28:9; John 9:35-38; Heb. 1:6
- is called God - John 20:28; Heb. 1:8; Isa. 9:6
- is the ONLY way to God - John 14:6; Acts 4:12
- did not come to bring peace, but a sword - Matt. 10:34
- tells us to fear God - Matt. 10:28
- tells us that the world will hate us - John 15:18-19, 17:14

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- tells us Christians can expect to suffer
 - Matt. 5:45; John 16:33; Heb. 11:35-38;
1 Pet. 4:12; 1 John 3:13
- commands us share the gospel - Matt.
28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8

questions for *Evolutionists*

1. How could chance, random processes have produced sexual reproduction?

The amazingly complex, radically different, yet complementary reproductive systems of the male and female must have completely and independently evolved at each stage at about the same time and place. Just a slight incompleteness in only one of the two would make both reproductive systems useless, and the organism would become extinct. The millions of complex products of a male reproductive system (pollen or sperm) must have an affinity for and a mechanical, chemical, and electrical compatibility with the eggs of the female reproductive system. The many intricate processes occurring at the molecular level inside the fertilized egg would have to work with fantastic precision—processes scientists can describe only in a general sense. This remarkable string of “accidents” must have been repeated for millions of species. It doesn’t make sense that it could have happened by random, evolutionary processes. Sexual reproduction was designed

by intelligence.

2. How could chance, random processes have produced an immune system?

How could immune systems of animals and plants have evolved? Each immune system can recognize invading bacteria, viruses, and toxins. Each system can quickly mobilize the best defenders to search out and destroy these invaders. Each system has a memory and learns from every attack. If the many instructions that direct an animal's or plant's immune system had not been preprogrammed in the organism's genetic system when it first appeared on earth, the first of thousands of potential infections would have killed the organism. This would have nullified any rare genetic improvements that might have accumulated. In other words, the large amount of genetic information governing the immune system could not have accumulated in a slow, evolutionary sense. Obviously, for each organism to have survived, all this information must have all been there from the beginning. Again, creation.

3. Just before life appeared, did the atmosphere have oxygen or did it not

have oxygen?

Whichever choice you make creates a terrible problem for evolution. Both must come into existence at about the same time. No theory has been able to explain why earth's atmosphere has so much oxygen. Too many chemical processes should have absorbed oxygen on an evolving earth. Besides, if the early earth had oxygen in its atmosphere, compounds (called amino acids) needed for life to evolve would have been destroyed by oxidation. But if there had been no oxygen, there would have been no ozone (a form of oxygen) in the upper atmosphere. Without ozone to shield the earth, the sun's ultraviolet radiation would quickly destroy life. The only known way for both ozone and life to be here is for both to come into existence simultaneously—in other words, by creation.

4. Which came first, DNA or the proteins needed by DNA (which can only be produced by DNA)?

An irreducibly complex system is one composed of multiple parts, all of which are necessary for the system to function. If even one part is missing, the entire system will fail to function. Every individual part is integral. Thus, such a system could not have evolved slowly, piece by piece. The

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common mousetrap is an everyday non-biological example of irreducible complexity. It is composed of five basic parts: a catch (to hold the bait), a powerful spring, a thin rod called “the hammer,” a holding bar to secure the hammer in place, and a platform to mount the trap. If any one of these parts is missing, the mechanism will not work. Each individual part is integral. The mousetrap is irreducibly complex. We now know that there are in fact tens of thousands of irreducibly complex systems on the cellular level, such as the incredible DNA molecule. But we don’t have to have a microscope to observe irreducible complexity. The eye, the ear and the heart are all other examples of irreducible complexity, though they were not recognized as such in Darwin’s day.

5. Where are the billions of transitional fossils that should be there if your theory is right? Billions! Not a handful of questionable transitions. Why don’t we see a reasonably smooth continuum among all living creatures, or in the fossil record, or both?

Since Darwin put forth his original theory, scientists have sought fossil evidence indicating past organic transitions. Nearly 150

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years later, there has been no evidence of evolutionary transition found thus far in the fossil record. In Darwin's own words, if his theory of "macro-evolution" were true, we would see a vast number of fossils at intermediate stages of biological development. In fact, based on standard mathematical models, we would see far more transitional forms in the fossil record than complete specimens. However, we see none -- not one true transitional specimen has ever been found. Now, after over 120 years of the most extensive and painstaking geological exploration of every continent and ocean bottom, the picture is infinitely more vivid and complete than it was in 1859. Formations have been discovered containing hundreds of billions of fossils and our museums are filled with over 100 million fossils of 250,000 different species. The availability of this profusion of hard scientific data should permit objective investigators to determine if Darwin was on the right track. What is the picture which the fossils have given us?... The gaps between major groups of organisms have been growing even wider and more undeniable. They can no longer be ignored or rationalized away with appeals to imperfection of the fossil record.

6. How can a chance, random, strictly *natural* process create coded information?

Codes are produced only by intelligence, not by natural processes or chance. A code, like that used by DNA, is a set of rules for converting information from one useful form to another. Code makers must simultaneously understand at least two ways of representing information and then establish the rules for converting from one to the other and back again. The genetic material that controls the physical processes of life is coded information. Also coded are complex and completely different functions: the transmission, translation, correction, and duplication systems, without which the genetic material would be useless, and life would cease. It seems most reasonable that the genetic code, the accompanying transmission, translation, correction, and duplication systems were produced simultaneously in each living organism by an extremely high intelligence.

7. What evidence is there that information, such as that in DNA, could ever assemble itself?

What about the 4000 books of coded information that are in a tiny part of each

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of your 100 trillion cells? If astronomers received an intelligent radio signal from some distant galaxy, most people would conclude that it came from an intelligent source. Why then doesn't the vast information sequence in the DNA molecule of just a bacteria also imply an intelligent source? If it takes intelligence to make an arrowhead, why doesn't it take vastly more intelligence to create a human?

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frequent comments & *Responses*

“If God is good, why does he allow bad things to happen?”

Why do hurricanes, floods, tornados and earthquakes ravage the earth? Why are there diseases that take the lives of the elderly, innocent children, and everyone else in between? Why does God allow bad things to happen?

God hasn't left us in the dark, but has given us a very clear answer in the Bible:

The earth is defiled by its people
they have **disobeyed the laws**,
violated the statutes
and broken the everlasting covenant.
Therefore a curse consumes the earth;
its people must bear their guilt.

Isaiah 24:5-6a

We human beings are busily breaking God's Laws every day. God says in His Word that breaking His Holy Laws has caused the entire earth to be consumed with a curse. Even innocent children, who aren't yet old enough to have broken

any of God's Laws, suffer under this curse of diseases and creation gone wild.

“I don't have to worry about Hell ... God forgives.”

This is the number one response people give when confronted with their guilt before God. They say, “God is good, so he'll forgive me if I just ask.” The people who say this are right in saying that God is good... but they are missing two pieces of information that are SO VITAL -- it will cost them their soul. This is what Jesus said:

“Unless you repent *you will perish.*”
Luke 13:5

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. *No one* comes to the Father *except through me.*”

John 14:6

Here are the two pieces of information: (1.) You must repent, and (2.) You must place your faith in Jesus Christ. Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ suffered God's wrath on the cross. If you repent and place your faith in Him, God will forgive your every sin and give you the undeserved gift of everlasting life. But without

these two actions, you cannot be saved from God's wrath. It doesn't matter how sincerely you ask for forgiveness... if you have not repented, and if you do not have the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins... you will perish forever in Hell.

“The Bible says, ‘Judge not lest you be judged.’ You’re wrong for judging me.”

The world often takes this verse (Luke 6:37) out of context and uses it to accuse Christians of being “judgmental” when they speak of sin.

Please understand we are not judging you—only God has a right to do that. What we are doing is urging you to *judge yourself* by God's Laws before you stand before him on Judgment day. The Bible says:

But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

1 Corinthians 11:31

If you tell us you've broken God's Holy Laws, it is our duty to plainly tell you that God calls those actions “sin,” and there are eternal consequences.

encouraging verses for *Evangelism*

We go because we belong to Christ:

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” - John 12:26

“A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.” - Matthew 10:24-25a

“Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.” - John 15:19-20

We go because saving the lost was Jesus’ purpose:

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save

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what was lost.” - Luke 19:10

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” - John 6:29

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” - Matthew 4:19

“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” - John 6:39-40

[God] wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. - 1 Timothy 2:4

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. - 2 Peter 3:9

For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! - Ezekiel 18:32

**We go because we are
commanded to:**

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“If you love me, you will obey what I command.” - John 14:15

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” - John 6:29

“For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”
Matthew 12:50

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”
- Mark 16:15-16

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” - John 20:21

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” - Matthew 9:36-38

As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. - John 9:4

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

I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:15-16

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. - 1 Corinthians 1:17

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! - 1 Corinthians 9:16

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. - 1 Peter 3:15

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds

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on things above, not on earthly things. - Colossians 3:1-2

We go because we are called to deny ourselves, and even to suffer:

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.” - Mark 8:34-35

But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. - 2 Timothy 1:8b-9

Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. - Luke 6:22-23

We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of

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our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. - 1 Thessalonians 2:2

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. - 2 Timothy 3:12

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace. - Acts 20:24

We go because we are not be ashamed of the gospel:

“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” - Mark 8:38

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. - Romans 1:16

We go because we fear God

more than man:

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe. - Proverbs 29:25

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. - 2 Corinthians 5:11a

But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. - Luke 12:5

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. - Luke 1:50

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God. - John 12:42-43

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? - Psalms 27:1

We go because we have

compassion for the fate of the lost:

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. - Hebrews 10:31

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” - Mark 8:37-38

God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day. - Psalm 7:11

“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” - Matthew 7:22-23

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. - Psalm 2:12

“Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” - John 3:36b

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath,

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when his righteous judgment will be revealed.
- Romans 2:5

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. - 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into

the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. - Revelation 20:11-15

God promises to be with us and the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. - Isaiah 41:10

“Do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.” - Mark 13:11b

“Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” - Luke 12:11b-12

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” - John 14:16-17

recommended *Memory* verses

In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” - John 3:3

In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. - Titus 1:15b-16a

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. - 1 John 2:3-6

Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” - 2 Timothy 2:19

Without holiness no one will see the Lord. - Hebrews 12:14ba

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? - 2 Corinthians 13:5

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” - Matthew 7:13-14

“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” - Matthew 7:22-23

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” - Matthew 5:27-28

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. - 1 John 3:15

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. - Matthew 12:36

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Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. - 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. - Romans 2:5

"Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." - John 3:36b

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. - Acts 4:12

God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses

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his wrath every day. - Psalm 7:11

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. - Psalm 2:12

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introduction to

Open Air

If you've never been to an "open air" session, the things you're going to see could shock you. Between foul-mouthed hecklers, angry shouting unbelievers, "intellectual" skeptics, and demon-possessed individuals... suffice it to say that it's much different than a Sunday morning at church. But when we speak to crowds in the "open air," we follow directly in the footsteps of The Master -- Jesus. We also follow John the Baptist, Paul, Peter, the disciples, John Wesley, Whitefield, Spurgeon, and others.

A good "open air" session can reach more unsaved people with the Gospel than the average church does in a year. It can touch and plant seeds in the hearts of people who would never darken the door of a church. If you want to be a fisher of men, you have to go where the fish are. They don't come to you -- you have to go to them. That's why Jesus said, "Go..." (Mark 15:16). Thank God the disciples didn't stay in the Upper Room and pray that sinners come to them -- instead they went "open air."

Our Goal

“Open air” is different than the way we interact with unbelievers on a one-to-one basis. When we interact one-on-one, we want to be winsome and friendly. But “open air” is not “friendship evangelism” -- in “open air” it is not our goal to get the unbelievers to like us and become our friends. Our goal is to help as many people as possible (in the short time we have) to see their true state before a Holy God and their need of Jesus Christ.

The First Part

To accomplish the “as many people as possible” part it’s important that we draw a large crowd so as many people as possible will hear the Gospel. One of the ways we draw a crowd is by asking trivia questions and giving away our own money. If we can get people to stop and listen to the everlasting Gospel just by giving some of our money away, then let’s do it! How much money is the soul of one person worth? It’s worth all we have, and more.

Another way we draw a crowd is by being a little controversial and “edgy.” We pray for hecklers with loud voices, and we encourage them to raise their voices. The raised voice

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of one heckler may draw 30 or 40 people who wouldn't otherwise stop to listen... and those people will all hear the Gospel.

The Second Part

To accomplish the “see their true state before a Holy God and their need of Jesus Christ” part it's vital that we present the uncompromising Biblical Gospel. We do not tell unrepentant sinners that God “loves them and has a wonderful plan for their lives”... instead we speak directly and forcefully about subjects such sin, righteousness, judgment, and eternal Hell.

We use the Ten Commandments as a mirror to help the unbeliever see their true state before God -- God is not their “big buddy in the sky” as they believe, they are actually under His wrath because they have sinned (broken His Holy Law -- the Ten Commandments-1 John 3:4).

We want them to understand, “he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18). We want to alarm them about the state of their soul, and help them develop a fear of the Lord that will be the beginning of wisdom.

And after we've done that... then we tell them

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about the incredible sacrifice of Jesus Christ on their behalf. Once they understand their need for a Savior... then we explain that if they will repent and place their faith in Jesus, that God will wipe away every sin they've ever committed and grant them the gift of everlasting life.

do & don't *A Guide*

DOs and **DON'Ts** for those coming out to support open air preaching

DOs:

Form yourself into part of the audience and look as though you are listening to the speaker. We call this “rent-a-crowd.” This will encourage others to stop and listen.

There is plenty of opportunity for personal witnessing... and it's easy, because the subject of Christ has already been “brought up.” When you go to witness to someone one-on-one, move out to the edges of the crowd and try to talk to people just as they are turning to leave. In other words, let them listen to the speaker until they've decided they aren't going to listen any more... then catch them as they are leaving by saying something like, “Hey, before you leave... what do you think about what that guy was just saying?”

There is also a great opportunity to give away Gospel tracts. Just as in personal witnessing... move out to the edges of the crowd and give

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away the tracts to people who are turning to leave. Just as they are leaving say, “Hey, did you get one of these?” and hand them a Gospel tract.

DON'Ts:

Never stand with your back to the speaker. Don't talk amongst yourselves, concentrate on being attentive to what's being said... why should anyone else stop and listen if you aren't even attentive?

Do not argue with hecklers - that will ruin an open-air meeting... leave the heckler to the speaker (we pray for hecklers).

Do not hand out Gospel tracts to people who are listening to the speaker... then all the listeners turn into readers and the speaker is standing up there talking to no one.

what about *Follow-up?*

The answer is that God does the “follow-up.” The exciting thing about true conversion is that there will be little need for what is commonly called “follow-up.” A true convert will not need to be followed around. He will put his hand to the plow and will not look back (Luke 9:62).

Of course, he will have to be fed, disciplined, and nurtured. These things are biblical and most necessary. This can be done simply by encouraging him to read the Bible daily, answering questions he may have, and teaching him the principles of fellowship, prayer, evangelism, etc.

Sometimes there is confusion between “follow-up” (meaning “we need to follow the new convert around because he will ‘fall away’ if we don’t”) and discipleship (meaning “instructing him to continue in the word of Christ” - John 8:31). Look what happened after the Ethiopian eunuch was saved -- he was left without follow-up. The Spirit of God transported Philip away and left the new convert in the wilderness. Not only that, but he was returning to an entirely un-Christian nation. This is because his sal-

vation wasn't dependant on Philip, but on his relationship with the indwelling Lord. Those whom God saves, He keeps (Hebrews 7:25). If He is the author of their faith, He will be the finisher (Hebrews 12:2). If He has begun a good work in them, He will complete it (Philippians 1:6). He is able to keep them from falling and present them faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy (Jude 1:24).

The Crux: True and False

The point upon which all this pivots is the subject of true and false conversion. True conversion is when a person sees their true state before a Holy God, they repent and put their trust in Jesus Christ -- they are born again. A false conversion often happens when a person has been told to come to Jesus because He will give them a happier life, there is a lack of understanding as to what sin even is, there is no repentance, and the person is often told to repeat a prayer -- but they have not been born again.

In the case of a false convert there is usually an initial burst of enthusiasm and excitement, but time begins to reveal that there is something wrong. Over time the false convert seems to have no internal motivation to keep him pursuing godly things -- this is because he's not been

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born again. The false convert has no zeal for the lost, he is a stranger to holiness, he has no hunger for the Word, and no depth of prayer life.

The true convert, on the other hand, has a strong, almost insatiable desire to pursue godly things -- this is because the Holy Spirit resides in his heart, and he is a new creature in Christ. A true convert does not need to be “followed-up” because he has an internal motivation to seek after the things of God. For example, a true convert will not have to be chased down and dragged to church... he will desire to be in fellowship with God’s people. The Bible says, “newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word,”(1 Peter 2:2). A healthy lamb will have a healthy appetite. You don’t have to force-feed a healthy lamb. Someone who’s soundly saved will desire the sincere milk of the Word. They’ll discipline themselves. If you don’t see any internal motivation in a person, you need to allow for the possibility that this person has not been saved at all.

Aspirin and False Assurance

“Following-up” a false convert is the equivalent of giving an aspirin to someone with a brain tumor. You may be able to somewhat improve

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the symptoms -- for a time... but if that person wants to have any hope of living... the tumor has to be dealt with.

The danger in following-up a false convert is that the “aspirin” of outwardly imposed behavioral changes and/or church activities, may give him a false assurance that the “brain tumor” of his eternal salvation has been taken care of.

In other words a false convert who is followed-up often ends up building some friendships in the church, learning to talk the “church-talk” enough to get by, finding social activities he enjoys, and eventually even getting baptized and “joining” the church -- and like a deadly opiate this “aspirin” dulls his senses with a false assurance of salvation. In Matthew 7:21-23 the Lord Jesus gives a terrifying look at what it will be like for that person on the Day of Judgment. None of us would ever want to have a part in walking someone down that road! So rather than “following-up” a false convert, we must urge him to heed the warning of 2 Cor. 13:5, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves...”

women and

Open Air

The first question we must ask is whether or not a woman should witness. Should a female Christian share with unbelievers what she knows about sin, righteousness and judgment... and how to be saved through faith in Christ? The obvious answer is yes. All Christians, whether male or female, are responsible to share their faith with others. The “Great Commission” (Matt. 28:19-20, Mark 16:15 and Acts 1:8), although spoken directly to the eleven Apostles, is obviously intended to apply to all Christians - male and female (Gal. 3:28).

So, if one-on-one evangelism is not merely optional for the female Christian, but actually commanded... then would it be acceptable for a woman to share the gospel with two unbelievers at a time? What about four unbelievers? How about six? Ten? Twenty? Those who find themselves initially opposed to a woman sharing the gospel with a large group of unbelievers may like to ask themselves what the cut off number would be... and why. (Remember, we’re not discussing a woman’s role in marriage, or the issue of women teaching or holding authority over male believers within the

church. This is specifically about evangelizing unbelievers outside the church.)

It is a great blessing from God that we have a Biblical record that keeps us from having to guess on this issue. We know that it's permissible for a woman to share with a large group of unbelievers because after Jesus had spoken to the Samaritan woman at the well, she ran back and shared with her whole village. We are told that "many" believed because of this woman's testimony (John 4:39).

So even though women (as well as men) have specific and unique God-given roles and responsibilities, one of the responsibilities that both men and women share is that of taking the good news of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

Submit to Authority

Although we have this responsibility (to share the good news), it obviously must be carried out under authority -- not in rebellion to it. Christians recognize that God has set up an organizational authority structure for his people. If you are still a child living at home, then you need to be obedient to your parents (Luke 2:51, Eph. 6:1). If you are a married woman, then you need to come under the headship of your husband (Eph. 5:22, 24). And as long as

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you are fellowshipping in a church, you need to fall under that church's authority.

If the authority God has placed over you is opposed to women participating in open-air evangelism, then you need to submit to that authority. If this describes your situation remember that as the Lord's servant you must not quarrel... and you must not be resentful (2 Tim. 2:24). You can still fulfill your obligation to share the gospel by evangelizing one-on-one.

Consider the Culture

Another consideration is the local culture. We never want our freedom in Christ (Gal. 5:1) to cause offense to others. In 1 Cor. 8, Paul set an important precedent in this area. He said that if the exercise of his personal freedoms would cause an offence, he would voluntarily choose to stop exercising those freedoms. As women of God, under submission to Christ, we should take the same attitude.

In other words, even though we are "free" in Christ to open-air evangelize... there are undoubtedly times in which we should choose not to exercise that freedom. For example, in some heavily Muslim areas, a woman speaking in public would be so blatantly offensive to their culture that it would actually impede the

gospel. It is vital that wherever you are, you thoughtfully and carefully consider the culture around you so that you can decide when it is appropriate for you to take the same attitude as Paul in 1 Cor. 8:9.

Examine Your Appearance

For Christian woman dressing modestly is critical (1 Tim. 2:9-10) -- especially in an open-air setting. It sounds strange to say, but being naturally beautiful may actually hinder your ability to present the gospel. If you neglect your duty to dress modestly, you will not be a “true and faithful witness”... but a stumbling block. You will, in essence, be encouraging the men listening to you to commit “adultery” of the heart.

Pick loose/natural fitting clothing -- nothing tight or even “snug.” Choose shirts that completely cover your waist, and ones that have high and modestly cut necklines. Beware of designs, slogans, holes, patches, or even stains on your clothing that may draw the eyes to particular areas of your body.

Just remember that as an ambassador of Christ you never want your appearance to be a distraction to the ones you’re trying to evangelize.

examine

Yourself

Jesus said, “**Many** will say to Me on Judgment day, ‘Lord, Lord...’” “...And then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

~(Matthew 7:22-23)

Did you know that something like 62% of Americans claim to have a “relationship with Jesus Christ.” These people go peacefully into death, believing they are safely on their way to Heaven; but Jesus says “many” of them will be shocked and horrified on Judgment Day. How can you be sure you’re not one of them?

Jesus told a story about two men who prayed; one was a religious man and the other wasn’t. The religious man saw himself as a good person. He stood up and prayed out loud about himself, “God, I thank you that I’m not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers...” But the other man knew he wasn’t a good person at all. He was humbled in his heart before God. He stood at a distance, without even the courage to look up. He beat on his chest in extreme remorse

for his sin, saying, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Jesus said, “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted,” (Luke 18:10-14).

Which are you like? Do you see yourself as a good person, or are you humble of heart? No one else can do this for you, but the Bible urges you to “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves,” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Do that now: Have you ever lied (even once) or stolen (regardless of value)? If you said yes, you’ve admitted that you’re a lying thief. If you hate someone, the Bible says you are a murderer (1 John 3:15). Jesus said, “Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart,” (Matthew 5:28). But even if the only wrong thing you’d ever done was tell lies, God’s justice demands that, “all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire,” (Revelation 21:8b).

So if God gives you justice on Judgment Day, you will be guilty, and end up in Hell. However, even though God is filled with wrath against you for your sin, He is also merciful, and made a way for you to be forgiven. God sent His sinless Son Jesus to willingly suffer and die on the cross, then He rose from the dead and de-

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feated death. But it may surprise you to learn that just believing these facts won't get you to Heaven. In fact, the Bible tells us that even the demons "believe," (James 2:19). So what do you need to do?

Luke 13:5 - Jesus said, "...unless you repent, you will perish..."

Have you repented? Before you say "yes" too quickly... many people think that "repent" means to feel sorry for doing bad things and ask God to forgive them. But that's not true. Of course you should feel sorry—cut to the heart with guilt for your sins—but there's a difference between feeling sorry, and repenting. The Bible tells us, "your sorrow led you to repentance," (2 Corinthians 7:9a). Sorrow is a feeling, but repentance is an action, "repentance from acts," (Hebrews 6:1). The Bible tells us that you "should repent and turn to God, and prove [your] repentance by [your] deeds," (Acts 26:20b). How can you tell when someone has really repented? The Bible tells us the person will, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance," (Matthew 3:8). So examine yourself critically. What actions have you repented of? What "fruit" of repentance have you produced? According to the Bible's definition, have you really repented? The bottom

line is that Jesus says unless you repent you will perish.¹

John 3:3 - Jesus said, “...no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again...”

What does it mean to be “born again?” All of us share this in common: we were all born physically—an event we celebrate every year on our birthday. But being born physically doesn’t make us God’s children. No, for that we must be born again; and that doesn’t happen until we place our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,” (Galatians 3:26). This kind of “faith” goes beyond mere mental acknowledgement of facts. Placing your faith in Jesus to save you from Hell must be done as fervently as you would grasp onto a rope thrown to you as you were falling off a cliff. When you place your faith like this in Jesus, you are re-born, spiritually speaking, as a child of God (John 1:12-13).

How can you tell when someone has really been born again? The Bible tells us the person will urgently desire to get rid of anything in their life that’s sinful or displeasing to God (1 Thessalonians 4:7, 1 John 3:9), they will obey Christ’s commands (John 14:15, 1 John 2:3), and they

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will pray to God for the boldness to speak to others about Christ (Acts 4:29). The Bible says, "...if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment," (1 Corinthians 11:31). So judge yourself now, before you have to face God on Judgment Day. Have you genuinely been born again? The bottom line is that Jesus says you won't be able to see the kingdom of God unless you've been born again.

Don't be like the religious man in Jesus' story. Humble yourself before God today. Truly repent. Place your faith in Jesus Christ, and be born again. Take time now to "...make your calling and election sure..." (2 Peter 1:10). Don't wait another minute... this breath may be the last one God grants you.

For more information, please listen to a free message online called "True and False Conversion" www.livingwaters.com/learn

1. Does this mean that real Christians never sin? Of course not. "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us," (1 John 1:8). But there is a clear distinction between living in sin and stumbling into sin. For clarity on this, read Romans 7:7-8:9.

