

# *What does the future hold for us?*

Have you ever wondered about the mess the world seems to be in right now?

Things such as climate change, financial crashes, population increases that seem beyond the resources we have to supply their needs, wars and catastrophes everywhere.

You might even be thinking; "Stop the world, I want to get off". Or, where in the world can I be safe?

I heard it said of the world; you can run but you can't hide! How true.

Why is all this so? Is there an end to all the trouble and strife?

If you think there might be a God, you might ask what is He doing about it all!

If you read this Soon! presentation you will begin to find a few answers to these issues.

A group of people know as The Soon! Team have written a very full explanation, so you won't have to wonder any more about what is going to happen in the world.

Many people will not like what they read, but it is necessary for them to see it, so they are informed.

If you read this, you will know what to do about it!

The Soon! Team have written Soon! to explain these issues

For personal benefit and for each family, everyone needs to read Soon!

*Make sure you do!*

*You will find that God has everything in hand and  
promises many amazing things*

# Introducing



*For people who need or want to know the  
truth about life*

*(or those who don't know there is a vital truth)*

*Written by the Soon! Team of Writers*

*As copied from parts of the Soon! Web Site*

*(Whatever details you may read in this presentation, there are only two things  
to remember. They are **TO BE AWARE** of all that is said and **to BE READY** as  
soon as possible)*

*What an amazing and dramatic graphic!!*

*What does it depict?*

*Probably the most exciting event in world history!*

This graphic is a depiction of what the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will look something like this. Look at the words in the graphic

*"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True and the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, followed Him on white horses". Revelation 19:11, 14.*

These words are from the book of Revelation, sometimes known as The Apocalypse, (the story of the end of the world as we know it into something better and different) a period of great destructive violence, followed by peace on earth under the rule of Jesus Christ.

*Sounds Impossible? To man, Yes!*

Impossible Yes, except to those who know God and His word in the Bible.

*A shock? Absolutely!!*

A shock Yes! Especially to those who do not know God and His word. However, you will eventually see it as a kindness that you are reading this to find out truth that has been known for thousands of years.

The person in the graphic is an actual photograph of one of the authors of Soon! He is symbolically acknowledging and welcoming the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; to change the earth (as we know it) forever.

*How long has this event been known about?*

At least since Jesus Christ spoke of His eventual return to the earth when He told the people of His day. This year being 2009, that was 1980 years ago.

*Why is this going to happen?*

*What will happen?*

*When is it going to happen?*

*How will it affect you and your family?*

*How do these events relate to present world turmoil?*

*What do you need to do to prepare for these events?*

All these questions will be answered to help explain these things to you. As you read, you will get to see that God always intended these things to happen, so read in the hope that God will provide for you and your family wherever you are in the world.

*Have you ever wondered where the world seems to be heading?*

*What is really going on in the world?*

*How is it related to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?*

*and*

*How you or your family are ever going to survive in this increasingly troubled world?*

*The issues might be expressed like this*

*What is the answer to life?*

To understand some of the problems and get at least some of the answers keep reading *Soon!* is a presentation to get you thinking about the way to view the problems of life and get moving towards the answers. *Soon!* is going to tell you lots of things about life, some of which you may not know. Whether you know or not, or like it or not, a lot of things are going to happen in this world. Some you might not want to believe, or know about or understand.

However, there are wonderful positive reasons and explanations for everything that is going to happen. These were written in the Bible, many of them up to 3500 years ago. God has never let human beings on earth without knowledge of Himself and His intentions!

However, life in this world, even now, may not make much sense and you may wonder what is really going on. *Soon!* will help you to find out why this is so and what you can do about it.

*Before reading *Soon!* . . . .*

*Please consider the following questions. Just quietly reflect on them.*

You do not have to know the answers, because one way or another they will be answered as you read Soon! In your most thoughtful times, do you ever wonder about any of these issues?

**1 Concerning origins of life.**

*Is there more to life than what seems to be there?  
Could there be something missing?  
Why are we here anyway?  
Where did humans come from? Were we created or did we evolve?  
Is there a greater power than humans and nature?*

**2 Concerning meaning of life.**

*What am I looking for in life?  
Am I getting what I want out of life?  
Can there be real meaning to life? If so, what?  
What should I consider important in life?  
What is the purpose of your life as you see it?*

**3 Concerning values in life.**

*Where does knowledge and truth come from?  
Is there only one truth? How can we know what is true?  
As humans, how can we know what is right and wrong?  
By what standard can justice be assessed?  
Are there a set of right values by which we can live?*

**4 Concerning your future life.**

*Is there another life, after life on earth?  
What form does it take?  
What does the future hold for me and my family?*

Remember, right now, you do not have to know any of the answers. You just have to read, because one way or another they will begin to be answered as you read.

*There are three main propositions in Soon!*

Because these things will begin to happen soon, you need to be aware of just three main propositions in this presentation. Details will come later in the presentation.

*A. Life in this world is going to change dramatically in many ways. (natural, environmental, social, economic & political)*

Historical and recent evidence coupled with the testimony of the Bible, the word of God, indicate such things.

*The increasing evidence of global trends in climate and weather is making and will further make normal living on earth much more difficult.*

*Financial stability has never been easy, but in the future it will be humanly impossible to have a system based on equality and justice for all people countries. Such instability will lead to ultimate failure and the loss of life as we know it.*

*Increasingly, food and natural resources will simply not be available to many, if not most people and nations. Basis necessities of life will be more and more scare.*

*Given these first three major world situations in the physical and financial world, along with the apparent impossibilities of food and the explosion of population, as these occur, the way the world works in most other ways will also begin to falter. However, God has known this all along. His own plan to rescue the world after it falters and fails will bring about a new age altogether.*

*Here is a brief summary of the areas of life in the world that will also falter, some of them as an originating issue in themselves, but others as a consequence of the physical world running down, the financial world faltering and food supplies and its distribution being far less than needed. Points covered will be:*

- *Increased expression of evil in the world*
- *Lack of crude oil resources and competition for them*
- *Increased personal, civil and political violence, threatening personal safety*
- *More authoritarian controls by government and others*
- *Interferences to local and overseas trade*
- *Interferences to agriculture, manufacturing and services, particularly due to financial systems.*
- *Lowering of moral values and search for instant gratification, leading to fragmentation of peoples lives*
- *Life becoming more and more outside of our personal control*

All this will begin to happen Soon!

*B. Life in this world is going to gradually reveal that God, through His Spirit, sovereignly rules over the world and will increasingly show His full intentions for the future.*

*We know these things from the Bible, the Word of God, written between 1500 B.C. and 100 A.D. God, through His Spirit told the prophets what to write. Each one of those will then be addressed in turn.*

*Jesus Christ will again return to this earth.*

*There are signs in this world that indicate the coming of Jesus Christ is not far away.*

*There are huge differences in the reasons for His first and second visitations to earth.*

*When Jesus returns He will return to rule over the whole earth, all nations and all people for a period of 1000 years.*

*When He comes, life on the earth as we know it will be changed forever; Peace and justice will reign.*

*Prior to His coming there will be a period of 1260 days of false peace. (1260 days; 3.5 Jewish years)*

*Following that period of 1260 days of a false peace there will be a period of intense suffering and death like the world has never known before.*

*At the end of the 2520 days, the Battle of Armageddon will take place, with Jesus Christ overpowering all the nations of the world who gathered against Him.*

*All this will begin to happen Soon!*

*C. You need to know more about God, and His relationship with mankind in both life and death.*

*These are the issues to be covered in detail later in Soon!*

*Some pertinent facts about God are vital. Without this knowledge nothing will make any sense.*

*What happens to man after death is a vital piece of knowledge.*

*The spiritual connections between our physical and spiritual lives need to be known.*

*That the exact nature of the relationship of man with God needs to be known, including the connections between God and your spirit, soul and body.*

*That God has a plan to make it possible for all men, women and children to restore their relationship with God.*

*What God requires of you before you die, or before Jesus returns to earth, or when you realize you need God to survive and live.*

*That Jesus Christ, the Son of God will return to earth for a second time, this time to rule the earth*

***Now that you know about these things, the next issue might be, how soon is all this going to happen?***

*Another Why?! Why is God going to be a big part of all that happens Soon?*

*God has always had a plan for this world for every period of time, especially for its future.*

*Most of human-kind has never fully accepted that God is the sovereign owner of the world and has all power over its functioning.*

*The self-centeredness of mankind has led him to believe he knows better than God, whereas the wisdom of God is far above that of man. It's just that many people have not known that.*

*One mention of suffering in the world. Since mankind began to reject God and be disobedient to Him, much suffering has occurred in the world and will continue until Jesus Christ returns to the world for His Second Coming. Whilst the suffering we see everywhere will continue for a time, there is an end in sight as all these events in Soon! unfold and result in the Second Coming of Chris*

*The greed of mankind has led to every form of malfunction in the world and injustice to its peoples and nations.*

*God has allowed man his free will for a time, but will (one day soon) act in quite incredible ways, all set out in scripture.*

*There will be signs before His coming, but ultimately the second coming of Jesus Christ will happen in a second and every eye will see Him.*

*Mankind has not looked after the world environment and perhaps does not realize that His intervention will be necessary to bring order and avoid total devastation. It is easy to see how the earth, if left to man's efforts alone, will increasingly malfunction.*

*The disobedience of mankind to the requirements of God, for man to live peacefully and with true love, do require the intervention of God, so that God can bring the earth back into order again.*

*Mankind has rarely lived as God intended and God always knew that intervention would be needed. Ultimately it will be to man's advantage for God to do what He intends. There will be benefits in the return of Jesus Christ to rule directly over the earth. But there will be considerable suffering during these changes.*

*Why are we, the Soon! Team writing about such alarming events?*

*It is merely to inform you of things you may not know, just as we would warn a person who was walking on a cliff where we knew there was a hidden hole on the pathway and that he might fall into it. Also, you may not know what God is doing about it all.*

*Some of these things have already begun to happen. (e.g. the financial crisis of 2008. Most of this material was either written or in mind late in 2007)*

*You may be asking... How soon is Soon?*

The Bible, the Word of God, provides this information

*The second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth has been foretold. The exact timing of His coming is not known. Jesus said His second coming is near at hand.*

*The purposes of His second coming are many, but two stand out.*

*In personal individual terms it is to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him and to reward each person for what he has done.*

*Current events and recent history in terms of financial systems, global warming, population levels and food supplies are strong indicators that conditions and signs of the second coming are now here.*

*There is evidence also that the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab nations may be closer than we think. Behind the scenes, meetings between those parties are always being discussed. Such a peace treaty will herald the beginning of the tribulation period and other events predicted in the Bible. One day these things will happen.*

*Current events and recent history provide indications. Also, out of the 737 major biblical prophecies only 16 remain to occur. All others have happened.*

*The Soon! Team believe that all these events will be coordinated by God to coincide with His will about the coming of Christ.*

*Jesus warned everyone to be ready at any time and He spoke of these indications. He said that He is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.*

*Eternal life is available to those who have been born again and received salvation before He comes.*

*Once Jesus comes, it will be too late to receive salvation and go to heaven. Everyone must be ready prior to His coming.*

*The judgements of Jesus Christ and His 1000 year reign in the millennial Kingdom on earth, begin soon after His coming to earth.*

*However, do not despair at all this, as there is hope in Jesus Christ!  
We need to get to know of this hope.*

*O.K! So you do not believe the Bible and what it says!*

*Or*

*You do not know what it says and want to find out.*

*Or*

*You do not see how the Bible, written mostly between 1500 B.C. and 100 A.D. could be relevant today.*

*Here a few things to consider*

*What is the Bible?*

*A collection of 66 books, formed into one book, that has always been recognized as the inspired record of the revelation of God and His will for mankind. Technologically speaking, the Bible is really an integrated message system where all parts of the word of God relate to all other parts.*

*The Bible is His actual story about Himself and His dealings with mankind from about 4000 years prior to the birth of Jesus Christ and almost 100 years after His birth.*

*The message of the Bible is the entire answer to every need that mankind could ever have. In periods of history where men have followed its writing, relative peace and prosperity has been present. Despite what many may say, it is the lack of use of the Bible to guide man as to how to live that has left the world floundering in its misery.*

*Although men actually penned the words of all books in the Bible, God told them what to write through the presence of His Holy Spirit in their lives.*

*So the Bible writings are totally inspired by God Himself.*

## *Is the Bible authentic?*

*This is important as if the Bible is able to be verified as the Word of God, then it can be said to have the authority of God. His authority is the ultimate authority over all things at all times.*

### **There are various forms of evidence.**

*There is written evidence, prophetic evidence, archaeological evidence, historical evidence, the views of famous people and the personal experience of millions of believers over the last 2000 years.*

#### **The Written Evidence** (in brief) ensures authenticity

*The written evidence for the New Testament is huge, there being 4500 Greek manuscripts dating back to 125 A.D.*

*The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947 contained copies of all Old Testament books except Esther.*

*There have been strict rules for copying of the Bible down through centuries. Clean parchment and black ink, made from a special recipe had to be used. No word or letter could be written from memory ♦ an authentic copy had to be visible from which to copy. One mistake on a sheet condemned the sheet. Every letter and word was counted on completion and if there was one error the whole manuscript was destroyed.*

*Such was the care in copying until the printing press was invented in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

#### **Archaeological evidence of Bible truth.**

*There are hundreds of places in scripture that can be identified today. Here are a few examples.*

*A tunnel below Jerusalem (which still exists) was recorded in scripture as being built in 879 B.C.*

*The garden tomb here the body of Jesus lay for three days can still be seen today, from 1980 years ago.*

*The base of the Tower of Babel built in 2218 B.C. can still be seen.*

*The ruins of the town and walls of Jericho were destroyed by God in 1422 B.C. with the help of the army of Joshua.*

#### **Scientifically the Bible is sound. The Bible is actually ahead of scientists**

*The Bible says that God told Isaiah in 712 B.C. that the earth was a circle. Mankind did not know that until the journey of Columbus and Magellan in the 15<sup>th</sup> century A.D.*

*The Bible says that in 1967 B.C. God told Job that the earth was suspended in*

space.

*The Bible says that God told Moses in 1461 B.C. that the life of our flesh is in the blood. That fact was not scientifically known until the 19<sup>th</sup> century A.D.*

***The Bible is prophetically accurate.*** i.e. its writings have been shown to predict the future.

*The birth of Jesus Christ was predicted by Isaiah in 732 B.C. 728 years prior to the birth of Jesus Christ.*

*The betrayal of Christ was written about by Zechariah in 494 B.C.*

*Jesus predicted that Jerusalem would be destroyed and the Temple of God wrecked. This happened 40 years later in A.D 70 when the armies of Roman Emperor Titus, did just that.*

*In all, these are just a few of 737 significant prophecies in the Bible. But note the most important fact; that there are only 18 events to actually happen in this world as we know it. All the others are now in the past.*

*Given that 719 of these prophecies have actually happened over world history, the remaining 18 look quite certain.*

*The mathematical chances of all these predictions coming true by chance have been calculated to be billions to one to have happened by chance.*

*There is no chance in any of these things. God has ruled over all of history.*

*Jesus Christ came to earth the first time*

*He has promised to come a second time.*

*All the events the Bible says will happen, will actually happen, but not by chance.*

#### ***What the Great Personalities of history have said about the Bible.***

*George Washington - It is impossible to rightly govern the world without the Bible.*

*Abraham Lincoln - But for this book I would not know right from wrong.*

*Dwight D. Eisenhower - The Bible to us is the unique repository of eternal spiritual truths.*

*Winston Churchill - We rest with assurance on the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture.*

*Sir Isaac Newton - I find more marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history.*

*H.G. Wells - The Bible has been the book that has held together the fabric of Western civilization.*

*Charles Dickens - It is the best Book that ever was or ever will be in the world.*

*Count Leo Tolstoy - Without the Bible, the education of a child in present state of society is impossible.*

*Billy Graham, world famous evangelist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century said, the Bible is old, yet ever new. Our lives need not be dependent on human knowledge and scientific wisdom but on the unmistakable word of God. The Bible is the greatest document available for the human race.*

#### ***Other indications of the authenticity of the Bible***

*The Bible has produced the law of the western world. The English Magna Carta and the American constitution are both rooted in the Law given to Moses in 1462 B.C. If it had been seen to be faulty it would not have been used as a basis for those documents.*

*The Bible has greatly influenced the fine arts. The writings of Milton and Shakespeare, along with many others are rooted in the Bible. World famous painters Leonardo De Vince, Rembrandt and Michelangelo drew their inspiration from the Bible for many of their works.*

*The Bible has produced more music than any other book. The music of Bach,*

*Mendelssohn and Handel are examples.*

*If you believe that Jesus Christ did exist then note this. His sayings are evidence that He believed the whole history of the Old Testament and He quoted from both Old and New Testaments frequently.*

***The Bible has proved to be indestructible  
A few examples***

*Roman Emperor Diocletian in A.D 303 tried to destroy it.  
Various Roman Catholic Popes have tried to destroy it, e.g Pope Innocent the third in 1199 A.D.  
In more recent times, Joseph Stalin attempted to purge the Bible from the then U.S.S.R. Many others have also tried.*

***Above all, the Bible has life transforming power***

*Undoubtedly, the greatest proof of all that the Bible is indeed the word of God, is its amazing ability to change corrupt humanity, when they are prepared to follow it.*

*It will change you too, if you let it.*

*Believe what the Bible says and do what it says and it will change you too.*

*You have read just a few things about the importance and power of the Bible.  
Making it your book of reference is one of the first steps  
in overcoming all the issues and problems of your life.*

*Now, a short diversion before we get into the detail of Soon!  
There are some critical issues in life. To check yourself out on  
some critical issues of life, go through this list below.*

*Now that you know something of the timing of these events and if you think you know all the answers to the questions of spiritual life, or are just curious as to what is important in life, then check yourselves out on these questions.*

*Soon, you will need to know the answer to all these questions. Now is the time to start! The answers are at the end*

***Here are the 50 questions. Answer Yes or No to each***

Is there life after death?	Yes	No
Will you die?	Yes	No
Will you live forever? (soul and spirit)	Yes	No
Will your physical body die?	Yes	No
Is there a God in heaven?	Yes	No
Does God have a record of my whole life?	Yes	No
Do other factors control your life right now?	Yes	No
Do all children go to heaven when they die?	Yes	No
Does Satan exist?	Yes	No
Is heaven a literal place?	Yes	No
Was Jesus dead three days before His resurrection?	Yes	No
Did Jesus rise from the dead?	Yes	No
Is there a judgement day?	Yes	No

Does God love me?	Yes	No
Is the Bible true?	Yes	No
Are angels real?	Yes	No
Can I speak to God?	Yes	No
Does God know my wrongdoings?	Yes	No
Does Jesus forgive sin?	Yes	No
Did Christ give His life for me?	Yes	No
Is the worst sin unbelief in God?	Yes	No
Should I confess any sin to God?	Yes	No
Will Jesus accept me just as I am?	Yes	No
Is my soul and spirit immortal?	Yes	No
Is Jesus waiting for me to come to Him?	Yes	No
Will the world go on forever?	Yes	No
Are all religions the same?	Yes	No
Is it true that there is more than one God?	Yes	No
Does God cause evil in the world?	Yes	No
Is evolution a fact?	Yes	No
Does re-incarnation exist?	Yes	No
Is death and the grave the end?	Yes	No
Can I blame God for anything?	Yes	No
Is God unkind or cruel?	Yes	No
Is there a second chance to go to heaven after I die?	Yes	No
Does everyone go to heaven?	Yes	No
Can the dead be contacted?	Yes	No
Will God reject me if I come to Him?	Yes	No
Am I saved if I just attend church, or been confirmed?	Yes	No
Do all church members go to heaven?	Yes	No
Can Satan stop me from coming to God?	Yes	No
Have I a valid excuse for rejecting Christ?	Yes	No
Is there any error in the Bible?	Yes	No
Does man control the climate?	Yes	No
Do politicians really control the economy?	Yes	No
Do you have full control over your life?	Yes	No
Can you make it in life doing it your way?	Yes	No
Is your life going exactly as you planned it?	Yes	No
Does man have ultimate control over his eternal destiny?	Yes	No
Am I too late or too bad to be saved?	Yes	No

*The answer to all the 25 questions in the first group is YES!*

*The answer to all the 25 questions in the second group is NO!*

**So perhaps you got a few wrong and some right! That's OK!**

*Those questions were to just enlighten you further as to what is important in this life. Reflect on these things.*

*You may be beginning to see what is really important in life, even though to some people this will be quite a surprise.*

*It is not so much the actual life we have here on earth, but what life decisions we make that are of vital importance.*

*In one sense, life here on earth is a very short preparation for what is to follow, which for you will hopefully be an eternity in heaven with Jesus Christ.*

*Moreover, you may have already suspected that a life lived with Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master on this earth is of incredible benefit to you and your family whilst here on earth.*

*A place in heaven is not assured for every person. That may surprise you. What God has provided is conditional upon what decisions you have made here on earth about God and Jesus Christ.*

*You may be now asking what do you do about all this, firstly how to know the conditions for a well lived godly life on earth and also for being a child of God and going to heaven when you die.*

*In the light of all that has been said about what is going to happen in the world....*

*Later in Soon, some helpful hints and ideas will be provided.*

*Here is what will come near the end of Soon!*

- *How you can have hope, despite all these things being Soon*
- *Your frequently asked question are answered. (F.A.Q.)*
- *Can God actually change a person?*
- *What each person can consider to do about all of this presented*

*All this will come later. However, in all of thisss, remember that the God who makes the sun rise each day is the same God about whom the Bible is written and Who is waiting to hear from you.*

*Another question might be.....Why did we write Soon!*

The members of the Soon! Team who wrote this, all see that many, if not most people do not know this basic message about life, but we realize that God wants everyone to know it. Some have some members of their families that do not know these things. The Team is comprised of several likeminded Christian men and women from around the world.

We love them all and want them to know what we know and accept that Jesus Christ is the God of the Universe holds the key to their life on earth, but He is also the key to their eternal life. We don't know, but some of them may not even know there is an eternal life and that our eternal life depends on what decisions they make here on earth.

Even though all such people are all good and wonderful people, unless they know these things and act on them, a life in heaven will not be their eternity. Neither will a life on earth, being guided by the Spirit of God Himself.

Not only that, but we who wrote these things know that God also has the answer to every issue of life on earth, no matter whether it is to do with money, sex, health, longevity, or the negatives of loneliness, fear and death.

Everything!

So that is why we wrote Soon!

The problem has been that many people have never had the chance to know about God and the Bible. So don't be embarrassed about that! Writing Soon! is to give everyone a chance, at whatever stage of life they are at, to know God as He always intended, because at some point it will be too late.

What we hope for our friends and families we also hope for you.

This message is for every person on the earth right now.

We don't know exactly when Jesus Christ is returning but we do know it is Soon!  
Jesus said: **Be Ready!**

*Before we go on here are a few preparatory thoughts.*

Some readers could may well wonder what sort of a God we are talking about here?

After all, we have written that not only is the world likely to be falling apart further and further, but God Himself is going to intervene and contribute to that mayhem. You might that if God is a God of love why is He actually going to allow some people on earth to suffer more than any others have done throughout all of human history.

You may not think it makes sense! Well, you are right, it does not make sense to the human mind.

*So let us tell you how God sees it. (Important to know)*

Firstly, in writing Soon! we are not writing about the end of the world, but the end of the age. However, it is not a simple change, for it will usher in a complete change to every facet of life, with Jesus Christ in total command of everything. The transition from the present age to the new age on earth needs to be understood. Within that change are incredible consequences for those who take no notice, or do not know what to do about it. That is why Soon! has been written by the Soon! Team.

Recorded human history is just 6000 years old. Any other history scientific or otherwise can finally be seen as speculation, supposition and even guesswork. As a test, try and find some recordings of actual history that go back any further. The writings of Moses, of the first five books of the Bible, are one of the oldest known recordings of actual history. But you may well say that Moses was not there for those 2500 years of that history. That is true, but the oral history tradition of the Jewish people was then so strong that every word written by Moses either came to him by that oral tradition, or by his studies when an Egyptian Prince, or, (and most importantly) by the words of the Spirit of God telling him or confirming the oral history that he knew so well. So we can rely on the earlier parts of the Bible for these reasons.

God in the eternal councils of time between Father, the pre-eminent Son Jesus and the Spirit of God, knew all these things would take place before they ever actually happened. So right at that time, there was a plan which encompassed 6000+ years which brings us to the present time.

As is told in some detail in Soon! part two, the perfect creation was marred by man and there were punishments handed out by God which would limit how man could live on

earth. God then taught us through His relationship with the Jewish people, which He called His own. Then after 4000 years Jesus was born, lived, taught, died, resurrected and ascended to again be with His Father, His mission having been completed just prior to A.D. 30.

God's next steps were already planned, namely that after allowing man to try and manage his own world (and fail) God would send Jesus again, this time to personally manage the earth, after eliminating the evil forces that had gathered strength during the last 2000+ years. These plans were known about at the beginning of human history. So in that sense it should be no surprise. So you should try to learn why Jesus came and His offer of a redeemed life, for those who choose to believe will then enter heaven.

But it is still a surprise isn't it? And a shock! Mankind has become used to living on the earth provided by God and does not want and cannot imagine any change to what has been going on for 6000 years. The last 100 years or so, have seen considerable changes which are apparently to the benefit of mankind. We are thinking there of medical, social, scientific changes and the like, which have been truly amazing.

However, mankind has forgotten whose planet it is and who created it. Man has been so centred around himself and what he wants to do, he has become blinded by his own rhetoric and achievement. Despite God's way and means of teaching man through His creation and His written word, the Bible, mankind has not taken sufficient notice of the plan God had for our future. This future was not going to be according to the will of man, but the will of God.

So, if you as a reader continue to take no notice of the will of God and the plans of God, then you could be in for a rude shock. You must never allow that to be, for the consequences are rather horrific. Soon! Part Two explains this in some detail, so you will not mistake what we are writing. It is very clear.

The Apostle Peter around A.D. 60 before he was crucified upside down (tradition has it) foresaw the darkness in man and described how modern man would mock those who believed in what God has taught throughout all human history. Here is what he wrote about the coming day of the Lord, these last days of the age.

*2 Peter 3, verses 3-9 ".....knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ...Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.... For this they wilfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men..... The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance...."*

Also consider this. Jesus Christ has not arrived on earth for the last 2000 years, when He had said He was coming soon. So, some say that since in all that time He has not come, His Second Coming cannot be considered to be close. If you will just read Soon! you will know that taking no notice is quite foolish and not caring about your wonderful self as a human being.

Also, there are those that say that the Second Coming is so close, that we have to stop life and work, as it were and make all sorts of special arrangements for ourselves, our children (and out

pets?). Whilst some of that is true, we should live our lives as normal, but either begin to, or continue to acknowledge Jesus Christ in a way like never before. Ultimately He is all we have! Finally, here is the end of all things of this age as the prophet Daniel (of lions den fame) summed it up in his writings in 537 B.C.

*Daniel 12: 1-2*

*"...At that time Michael (the archangel) shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt..."*

**We hope you will awake to everlasting life and not to shame and contempt. We hope you will now realize why your knowledge of these things is important, not only for your life on earth during these troubled times, but for your eternal life, forever with the God of Heaven.**

*Remember, all that is now being presented are these are things you need to know Now!*

*Remember the three main propositions in Soon!*

- A. Life in this world is going to change dramatically in many ways. (natural, environmental, social, economic & political) It is vital to be aware of this.
- B. Life in this world is going to gradually reveal that God, through His Spirit, sovereignly rules over the whole world and that He will increasingly show His full intentions for the future.
- C. You need to know more about God, and His relationship with man in both life and death.

Because these things are going to happen Soon!  
You need to know Now!

*A. Life in this world is going to change dramatically in many ways. (natural, environmental, social, economic & political)*

Historical and recent evidence from around the world, coupled with the testimony of the Bible, the Word of God, indicate such things.

There are several points under each heading A. Here is the first one

*1. The increasing evidence of global trend in climate and weather is making and will further make normal living on earth much more difficult.*

*Is climate change likely to bring about such change as to make living on this earth impossible?*

*The answer is that in terms of our human ability to control climate change, climate change (as it is represented) could seriously affect our ability to survive. However, there are other opinions on the subject and other factors involved that most people do not realize. Let us explain.*

## **Summary**

There is some very good evidence based on measured trends in rainfall, global warming, weather and ocean current changes that if these changes continued, the earth is and would be in serious trouble. However, there are other opinions that seem equally credible. We will also explain the control of God over all things on the earth and how nothing happens on earth without His knowledge or His permission, or activated by Him. That idea might be new to you, but when you see the explanation you will understand.

### **1 Introduction. Climate change - menace or myth?**

Climate change has it all. It has a reality that seems undeniable. We can see it! The Kyoto protocol relating to climate change came into effect in February of 2005. Although many scientists agree on climate change, there are many who disagree. Moreover, some write that it is a conspiracy and others that it is a bigger threat than terrorism. However, there are some observable realities that we cannot ignore. So let's briefly examine the issue.

### **2 The evidence for climate change**

Most of us don't need to look very far to see that something very different is happening right before our eyes. We here in Australia notice that it rains less often and the rainfall amounts are far less. Also we are experiencing temperatures that seem to be just a little hotter than we used to get. Temperature rises have been observed at almost 1 degree C, with associated extremes of weather, such as drought and flood. Even season seems just a little bit warmer. Last summer in the south east corner of Australia we experienced record high temperatures and the worst bush fires ever with 173 people dying in one horrendous day we now call black Saturday. We aren't going to bother with endless statistics as you have all seen them in the media, even around the world, and we know it is hotter and dryer without seeing the figures.

Apart from temperature and rainfall, there are other evidences quoted. For example, rising sea levels in southern Bangladesh are reported to be swallowing villages virtually every day according to Matt Wade in the Age Newspaper of October 11th 2009. Those who can leave the area are doing so but most have to adapt to this life in some way. Melting polar ice is said to be the cause, arising, it is said out of global warming. There are also reports from many parts of the world, of other oceanic islands beginning to disappear, the Maldives being one example. However, these are just the basics as there is more to the story.

### **3 Climate predictions**

There are many prediction. Remember they are all based on estimates of the future based on present facts. They do not necessarily take into account what really underpins all these changes we are observing. Just a few example.

- An article in the Australian Financial Review Newspaper on 11th October 2008 says the following sea levels are expected to rise by between 18 and 59 centimetres by the end of this century. (*that is in the time frame of the lives of our present grandchildren's grandchildren*)
- The same article says that within 60 years Australia ( to cite an example) are likely to lose 710 000 homes due to rising sea level and storm surges.
- The NEW GEN COAL website indicated that temperatures will rise by between 0.6 and 1.5 degrees C by 2040
- The Australian Bureau of Metrology website indicates that temperatures will increase in proportion to the lack of our dealings with greenhouse gases. (*in other words they agree with climate theory*)
- The same website also provides information as to the effect of climate change on people. One of these aspects is the health of people. They indicate that the direct effects of health on people will be ultraviolet radiation, thermal stress, extreme weather, respiratory illnesses, infectious diseases and bacterial infections. Indirect effects will be impacts of ecosystem and food supply.

Even these few predictions are enough to raise our awareness and concern over the issue. However, there are many other ways to look at this issue of climate change. Here are some of them.

#### **4 Climate change critics and alternative views.**

##### **An alternative view**

A leading climate change critic, S. Fred Singer, is now president of the Science & Environmental Policy Project, a non-profit policy research group he founded in 1990, is also distinguished research professor at George Mason University and professor Emeritus of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia. In March 2007 he said that, "*Global warming is a natural phenomenon, has little to do with human activity, and there is little we can do to stop it.*"

To be clear, Singer does believe the world is warming. However, he doesn't believe human-created CO<sub>2</sub> is the leading cause of the warming (or has had a measurable effect at all on global temperatures), or that climate change is a bad thing. Most importantly, says Singer, climate change is part of a natural cycle and there is nothing we can do to stop it. So, why try when some measures could reduce energy production and put entire economies in jeopardy. More details on this aspect are obtainable at the link below.

##### **A critical view.**

Andrew Bolt, a feature writer for the Herald-Sun in Melbourne Australia wrote an article on July 18 of 2008 called "Cold Facts too hard to bear". He was inferring in the title that the real facts (as he presented them) was information that climatologists who believed in global warming, would not like what he was presenting. His general argument is based on comparing elements of climate change over hundreds of years rather than just the last few years which have indicated significant changes.

For example, he says the world is not warming, it's still raining at similar rates, sea ice is not melting but is spreading - also that there are fewer cyclones. The graphs he presented support his claims.

So he is arguing that looking in the short term at statistics will produce a climate change argument, but taking a longer view of history will indicate otherwise. His argument is entirely plausible. However, that leaves us in the dilemma of answering the question about what is going on in the world in recent years.

### **A very critical view**

Lord Christopher Monckton, during October 2009, has just spoke out strongly against the science presented on climate change, saying it is a myth and scientifically unsound. His conclusions about climate change and what is going to happen at Copenhagen fit with what the Bible says about a coming world a government.

For another short version of his position Australian Journalist, Alan Jones interviewed Lord Christopher Monckton on the upcoming Copenhagen Summit. It is a very important warning about climate scares, and the anti-democratic push coming from the Copenhagen Treaty.

It may well be that even if the Copenhagen Treaty of December 2009, does not finalize things at this stage, or even threaten the sovereignty of countries, that the considered intent to use the climate change issue to promote overall control of world governments, will bring about some sort of world control as it predictions in the Bible about a world ruler....sooner or later. **Editorial note added just after the Copenhagen Conference.** A main outcome of the agreement was that countries would limit temperature increases to 2 degree. Since it is God who controls world weather (see below) this is the height of the absurdity of the mind of man, who does not yet realize the power of God and the weakness of mankind.

### **5 How the God of the universe will figure in this aspect of life.**

The writers of this Soon! study have a firm belief that the reasons for and the answers to climate change, in all its aspects, rest with God, the God who created the universe. *(you will have already read or will read the material on the correctness of creation and how the evolution view simply cannot be correct, from both Biblical and scientific viewpoints)*

The Bible everywhere explains the work of God, what He does and how He does it. There are many references to the fact that ultimately God controls all weather and climate. Many parts of the Bible attest to this. Here is one set of verses in one of the oldest books of the Bible that explains what God does about weather.

*"By the breath of God ice is given, And the broad waters are frozen. Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds. And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, That they may do whatever He commands them On the face of the whole earth.*

**He causes it to come, Whether for correction, Or for His land, Or for mercy.** *(from the Biblical book of Job Chapter 37, verses 10-13)*

In these verses, notice a number of things.

Firstly that God Himself actually sets the weather patterns and the changes in them. Notice that God guides the clouds into the position he wants them - and that HE CAUSES THEM TO COME. And then three reasons are given - **whether for correction - or for His land - or for mercy.** For correction because God uses His power over the weather to influence mankind when they do not do His will - for His land, because it is His land, as Creator of it, so He cares for it - and for mercy, when He wants in His mercy to assist mankind in his lost-ness and separation from Himself.

We believe that this verse is relevant for today because of two things. Firstly, the time is fast approaching when Jesus Christ will return to earth, and God is wanting to attract peoples attention to their plight and look to Him for the answer to life. Secondly, and

related to the first, mankind has had about 6000 years to recognize God for who He is and yet continues to do evil. Consequently God's timetable for the chances for man to wake up is running out - and the Second Coming of Christ will end the chance for fallen man to seek His creator and find eternal life.

So this climate change we are considering is just a blip on God's calendar of time and can be seen as a warning to man to mend His ways and seek His God. In effect, God is giving man notice. He could have just come without the warning, but in His love for us all, He has provided these warning. We all need to take notice.

## 5 Other considerations

We will just deal with one other issue, that of earthquakes. Were you aware that earthquakes have increased dramatically both in number and intensity over a period of 55 years. (from 1940 to 1995)

Here are some figures from an article by Ray Comfort, "Earthquakes...a sign of hope for the future."

Years	Number of killer earthquakes (of 6 or more on Richter scale)
1940-1950	4
1950-1960	9
1960-1970	13
1970-1980	56
1980-1990	74
1990-1995 (only 5 years)	100

First, notice the incredible increase in earthquake over the 20 years leading up to 1995. The rate has increased fourfold since then and is 50 times the rate it was since world war 2.

What is Ray Comfort saying here? - that earthquake are a sign of hope for the second coming of Christ. Jesus Christ, when he was answering the questions of the disciples about His second coming, spoke about increases in earthquakes. This is what He said.

Luke 21:11 "And **there will be great earthquakes** in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven."

Recent earthquakes on tsunamis affirm the increases in geological effects on life. So Jesus, speaking almost 2000 years ago, told of one of the things that would happen prior to His Second Coming.

## Concluding remarks

Some say climate change is real and is caused by the world activities that spew out more carbon dioxide than the atmosphere can absorb. Others argue that the climate changes are just a part of the normal long term cycle of climate on the earth. However, we can say with certainty there are changes in temperature and rainfall in particular that seem to be threatening our existence. But what we know for sure is that God is the controller of all weather and that He is either changing it or allowing it to change for His purposes - which are to bring man's attention to Him, through these changes. Politicians, scientists, astrologists and card readers can all state their views, but they are not on a firm foundation. Ultimately we can only rely on God.

Are you going to be one of those who see all this the right way?  
And gain eternal life through an acceptance of Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

*Here is the another aspect of this*

*2. Financial stability has never been easy, but in the future it will be humanly impossible to have a system based on equity and justice for all people countries. Instability will lead to ultimate failure and the loss of normal life as we have known it.*

*Is financial instability of the the world finance system likely to bring about such changes do our personal monies that will make it impossible eventually to rely on it for our lives?*

*The answer is that just as preventing climate change was beyond our human abilities, controlling the world's finance system to bring permanent stability is equally impossible. The reasons of course are quite different.*

*However, the timing of any future chaos on world markets will be very much related to world events as orchestrated by God Himself, although He alone knows the timing.*

## **1 Background to instability**

World markets and thus world finances have only begun to be strongly interconnected over the last 50 years, since the advent of computer systems and the floating of most currencies in accord with the U.S. dollar, couple with vast inter-country borrowing and lending of monies needed for development in commerce and industry. Consequently, changes in one place or one currency began to have an effect in other places and other currencies. And because of the relative power and strength of U.S.A. and the American dollar, it is often said that when America sneezed the rest of the world got a cold. (prior to World War 2 most countries traded with each other and paid each other in an agreed manner - however for all sorts of reasons that began to change)

The interconnectedness of finances, mostly in relation to the U.S. dollar, coupled with the development of computer system payments, whilst convenient, made it possible for difficulties in one place to more easily spread to another. For example in the crash of 1987 which was caused by overvaluation, illiquidity, high budget deficit, automatic computer trading and the interplay between stock and index and futures markets in U.S.A. also caused the rest of the world to follow. Although the underlying causes of the 2008 crash were different, the same principle followed when other countries followed the U.S.A. lead.

Other crises have been resolved more easily, such as the Asian crisis of 1997, but when the biggest of the dominos toppled then the others inevitably fell. That is what will make world financial stability always uncertain.

## **2 Causes of the 2008 world economic crisis**

The main underlying cause of the 2008 crash was corporate corruption which led to lending without security, leading to the mortgage crisis, overvaluing stocks and unregulated speculation in financial institutions. Underpinning all of this was unmitigated greed in some parts of the corporate sector. Greed is one of the sins that God warns against and it is inevitable that it will lead to corruption and the bringing down of people and financial systems. It is as simple as that.

Again, as in the 1987 crash, the role of computer integration of world financial systems, overvaluation of stock and unregulated lending in institutions run by greedy people had the financial dominos toppling all around the world. Another factor is the derivatives that were issued over the last few years, many of which will end up as worthless pieces of paper.

### **3 Was the 2008 crisis foreseen by any authority?**

Yes there were some watchers who could see what was going to happen. Two examples will suffice.

**Peter Schiff is President of Euro-Pacific Capital.** In 2006, he forecast the 2008 collapse when the economic skies looked good. He indicated then that USA finances were like a house of cards and was a disaster waiting to happen. He foresaw the debt in the housing market would inevitably lead to a burst bubble that would stop credit flowing and would bring the high confidence crashing down and resulting in record losses, all of which happened. Major debt, but many other factors caused him to know of that coming crash.

Dr Steven Keen is an Associate Professor in Economics and Finance at the University of Western Sydney in Australia. According to Steven Keen there were at least 14 learned people who saw the crash coming. His analysis indicated the presence of what he called generational debt. Although they are somewhat complicated his views can be found in the links provided - but it is not really necessary to read them.

### **4 Predictions of future world finances**

Peter Schiff, when interviewed early in 2009, said the following. He said that if there were gains in the stock market in 2009, they would not be sustainable in 2010 - 2011 because they would be based on a level of printed money and debt that would eventually have to be paid for. He said that stimulus actions by the USA and other governments around the world, would ultimately only make the whole problem worse - borrowing and spending had to stop and be substituted with saving and producing. He said that the current methods are sowing the seeds of another far worse crisis. A recession in effect is what is needed and that we will not get out of this financial trouble without pain.

Another prediction by Meredith White in August 2009. She predicted that Citigroup Inc. would cut its dividend last year, and also said the number of U.S. bank failures will quadruple as lenders struggle with bad loans. "...here will be over 300 bank closures,... Whitney said in an interview with Bloomberg Television from Jackson Hole, Wyoming...The small business owner on Main Street continues to see liquidity come away".

The previously wealthy country of Iceland is another example of what is happening around the world. Their recent crash of their money system is and will have profound effects on their lives as monies lost cannot be regained and some are having to pay far larger mortgages in an economy that has far less employment.

Today as this is written the G20 countries who believe they control world finances are meeting in Pittsburgh, U.S.A. on climate control and world finances. We may all hope that they will be able to contribute to the health, wealth of the world economies and its climate, but most facets of these issues suggest that it is outside the full control of mankind.

### **5 The inevitability of future crises**

There are two major reasons why future crises are inevitable. The first relates to the prediction mentioned above. If Peter Schiff is correct, then the present spending by

governments will only cause a bigger fall sometime soon, probably in 2010-2011, he says.

The second reason is just as real, although perhaps might be seen as a little sinister to those who do not know the Bible and how God works. It is simply this. That God is ultimately in control and underpins all world events and things that might seem a surprise to us are not to Him. God has an agenda to bring the end of this age to a conclusion, (and begin a new age) in His own way and in His own time. The Soon! Team writers do not know when these things will be. However, at some time we believe that God will orchestrate the timing of events on earth to integrate with His own agenda, all in accordance with His Second Coming and related events. You will have read or will read in Soon! all about God's plans and ways and means of making the changes He intends to make. This is not a prediction by the writers, just a statement of what some have said. Only God knows what is going to happen and when!

## **6 The future value of money and assets.**

At the moment, money still has value and it will have for the next few years until, under God's timing, the world's money systems will no longer fully dictate what is going to happen in the world. Even now, God has been overseeing and allowing what is happening, hoping that mankind will look beyond money and to Him - and that's a tough change to call - but is nevertheless true. According to the Bible, things will seem to wobble long enough in similar ways as they have over the most recent period of financial history, with its disasters and crashes until the time of the coming Tribulation period that we know from scripture, will come upon the whole earth.

## **7 Money in the tribulation period**

At the half way point in the tribulation period, money will no longer have any value and goods and service will not be able to be purchased at all. A cashless society will be ushered in at a particular point in history.

***Why is this you say?*** Here is the reason in a short explanation taken from the Book of Revelation of the Bible, sometimes called The Apocalypse. The Apostle John who penned the words given to him by an angel of Jesus Christ is here talking about a person known as the Antichrist, who we know will be given rule (by God) over the earth for a short time. The is what the Antichrist (He) will do.

*" He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666. " Revelation 13:16-18.*

You may well say, "well what's wrong with that - just have a handy computer chit implanted to wave at the supermarket to pay for everything"? Well, here's the rub. Anyone doing so will be being subservient to the Antichrist and not to the true God who is the only one who can save you. Furthermore, deciding not to receive this mark in the form of a computer chip, not only means you will not be able to buy goods and services (and therefore starve) but there is a further consequence - which is announced in the following verse.

*"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He*

*shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:9-12)*

In other words, if you decide to go with the Antichrist and receive his mark in the form of a chip, then God will reject you forever - you don't get to heaven at any stage. However, by deciding not to receive this mark in the form of a chip, ensures that even though you have a physical death on earth, you are guaranteed a place in heaven to live with God forever.

## **8 Shock!**

If all that sounds horrendous and unthinkable, we can only agree with you. It shows the extent of evil in the world, which God will ultimately crush. The **Soon!** Team writers have known these things for many years and even the writing of this to you, still has us shaking at the prospect that many people will face at that time. However, as far as we are aware. Christians will be taken from the earth at some point about which the exact timing is unknown. (*this is called the rapture and is discussed in other places in this presentation. Christians vary in their beliefs as to when the rapture is going to occur and how much difficulty they will have to face on earth prior to the rapture. Some believe before the 7 year tribulation, others believe it will be during*). So the only way through this is to make sure you know Christ as soon as possible. We don't know how much time is left, but use it wisely is our advice.

## **9 What should we all do in respect of these things?**

Only one thing really matters! Get to know Jesus Christ! He only, is your salvation for all eternity and your only solace and comfort whilst on earth.

The Soon! Team writers can visualize the known periods until Jesus calls a halt to the end of this present age on earth, in three different periods.

- The present time - i.e. 2009 up until the beginning of the tribulation period.
- The first half of the tribulation period, when there will be a false peace on the earth.
- The last half of the tribulation period when the Antichrist will reign over the earth until dealt with by Jesus Christ at the Battle of Armageddon.

**What should we do?** In the early stages not much of this will be visible, so we suggest just to work as usual, get out of debt where possible and place any savings into as safe a place as the world allows. Second, give priority to learning of God through churches, internet or other believers who know about these things. Teach your children, grandchildren and neighbours. In every way possible help other people to know these things.

*Does all this seem just too much to bear? We agree - it is - that is why we need God. Here is the another aspect of this.*

*3 Increasingly, food and natural resources will simply not be available to many if not most peoples and nations. Basic necessities of life will be more and more scarce.*

*For many reasons there are increasing food shortages around the world. Consequently the price of food is also increasing. With less resources because of climate change, particularly where droughts are more severe, and also financial and political instability, food will become even more scarce and prices will increasingly be out of reach of many.*

*We are going to present some facets of this world wide dilemma.*

## **1 Recent food availability and prices.**

Food shortages around the world are not new. They have always been there. However, these shortages are taking on a new and drastic form where high prices make it almost impossible for some to survive - and not just in poorer countries. The United Nations recently said it expects to register a 'dangerous and unprecedented' shortfall in budgetary allocations for its World Food Programme and as a result of which food aid to millions of hungry poor in many countries may be affected.

Note this! Nearly 60% of humans in the world are currently malnourished, so the need for grains and other basic foods is critical. Growing crops for fuel squanders land, water and energy resources vital for the production of food for human consumption. Using corn for ethanol increases the price of U.S. beef, chicken, pork, eggs, breads, cereals, and milk between 10% and 30%.

Look ahead from these current reports to times when climate may deteriorate further and if it does, the effect on food supplies, not to just those in extreme need, as in many African countries, but the many more that will be caught out by drought and lack of water, even in countries like Australia. More below.

## **2 Availability world food supply**

### **• Case study of India**

India is a country where, despite its increasing wealth, is facing a food crisis. An inflation rate of 7% is one of the issues, which has resulted in riots over food prices. Milk has risen in price by 11% in a year, edible oil 40% and staples like rice by 20% and lentils by 18%.

Economists are seeing the inflation as a tax on the poor, who have no availability in their already low incomes. Seventy five percent of the people earn less than \$2 a day. One report we viewed said that approximately one out of four Indians live on less than \$1 a day, a rate which is also spoken of in many African countries, particularly those who suffer continual bouts of drought. The Indian Government blames the rise in food prices on international influences, a point which we believe has some substance from our online research.

### **• Case study of Egypt**

In 2008, Egypt too, plunged into a food crisis due to rising food prices. For Egyptians, each day has become a daily struggle for food. Although we do not have 2009 reports, those of 2008 indicated the desperate struggle many of the e 80 million Egyptians had to feed their families and took to the streets in violent unrest. How else could they be in their desperation to provide food for family members? Those reports said that

people were eating only half the meat from normal times. Generally, meat has become too expensive even at wholesale prices. Business is slow for butchers. Supplies are low and prices are high. Even staples like corn and maize have become scarce and prices are high. Forty percent of Egyptians have to live on \$1 a day, which isn't even enough to purchase their bread of life, Eesch.

- Other places. Some examples only. Rising food prices have also hit Zimbabwe and Argentina, among many other countries. Australia too has production and supply problems with rice. Australia is an exporter of rice but has not produced a crop for the last two years and probably will not in 2009 due to the unavailability of irrigation water and of course, rain. Even in Australia, there are an increasing number of people who simply cannot afford to buy good food

These case studies given here are just examples of what is going on around the world with food availability and food prices. Furthermore, world instability or deterioration of climate resources for cropping in any area of the world, increases the strain on others, and right now the numbers of countries with a lesser production is increasing. To complicate things further population in many countries is skyrocketing.

### **3 Food and population increase**

MDPI.com is a platform for open access journals published by [Molecular Diversity Preservation International \(MDPI\)](#). On this subject they write the following. The rapidly growing world population and rising consumption of biofuels are increasing demand for both food and bio-fuels. This exaggerates both food and fuel shortages. Using food crops such as corn grain to produce ethanol raises major nutritional and ethical concerns. Nearly 60% of humans in the world are currently malnourished, so the need for grains and other basic foods is critical. Growing crops for fuel squanders land, water and energy resources vital for the production of food for human consumption. Using corn for ethanol increases the price of U.S. beef, chicken, pork, eggs, breads, cereals, and milk more between 10% to 30%.

With regard to population growth, world population is 6.7 billion and counting. **World population has doubled (100% increase) in 40 years from 1959 (3 billion) to 1999 (6 billion)**. The annual growth rate is currently declining, but from a far greater base number than before. It is now estimated that it will take a further 42 years to increase by another 50%, to become 9 billion by 2042.

Given the dramatic population increase in our day, and the lack of sufficient food to be available in the right places, this will increasingly put great pressure on populations to avoid malnutrition, these factors blending with all other factors in this presentation to a state of relative hopelessness without the intervention of God. Furthermore, speculation is going to cause still higher prices. Consider this.

Global food markets must be regulated to avoid speculators creating panic with artificial price rises, says the head of the International Food Policy Research Institute. China, Japan, South Korea and several Middle Eastern nations have begun buying up farmland in Africa and South America as a hedge against food shortage risks.

### **4 Hidden Agendas????**

This where it can get murky! People have hidden agendas to suit their own purposes, that they do not announce openly. Some of these agendas affect the masses without their knowledge.

Amy Goodman writes in Democracy Now! in April 19, 2008 that "food riots are breaking out across the planet and that we must re-examine corporate control of the food supply".

The rise in global food prices has sparked a number of protests in recent weeks, highlighting the worsening epidemic of global hunger. The World Bank estimates world food prices have risen 80 percent over the last three years and that at least thirty-three countries face social unrest as a result. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has warned the growing global food crisis has reached emergency proportions.

In recent weeks, food riots have also erupted in Haiti, Niger, Senegal, Cameroon and Burkina Faso. Protests have also flared in Morocco, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Mexico and Yemen. In most of West Africa, the price of food has risen by 50 percent -- in Sierra Leone, 300 percent. The World Food Programme has issued a rare \$500 million emergency appeal to deal with the growing crisis.

Several causes factor into the global food price hike, many linked to human activity. These include human-driven climate change, the soaring cost of oil and a Western-led focus on bio-fuels that critics say turns food into fuel.

Al Krebe and Karen Lehman in their article Control of the world's food supplies say that the global economy threatens food security. Moreover, the global economy is causing the death of the family farm which for example, has decreased the number of USA farms by two thirds over the last 50 years.

We know from the experience of Australia that this is so. Citrus growers for many years have been uprooting their groves because they cannot compete with cheap imports and dumping. These cause incredible personal, family and country town disruptions. Our question is, "what do we do for citrus and many other foods when for some reason they cannot be imported"?

## 5 Summary remarks

Consider this! Population has doubled in the 40 years up to 1999. Many poor nations, or those with geographic disadvantage, are not now able to supply sufficient food and water to their peoples. Prices have escalated, limiting availability and distribution. There are powerful forces, through their hidden agendas, that operate to bring about personal or corporate benefit to the detriment of most people. The United Nations is unable to supply food according to need, only according to availability and financing.

All these factors working together, particularly in the light of further economic disaster, will mean death to many of the world's peoples. It does so right now.

*Perhaps this is why, God, who is so rich in mercy, is going to again establish His rule over the earth through the coming again of Jesus Christ*

Here are some further aspects

*4. Given these first three major world situations in the physical and financial worlds, along with the apparent impossibility of food for the exploding population. As these occur, the way the world works in most other ways will also begin to falter. However, God has known that all along. His own plans to rescue the world after it falters and fails, will bring about a new age altogether.*

***Here is a brief summary of the areas of life in the world that will also falter, some of them as originating issues in themselves, but most others as a consequence of the physical world running down, financial world faltering and food supplies and its distribution being far less than needed.***

But first, remember that the **Soon!** Team writers can visualize the known periods until Jesus calls a halt to the end of this present age on earth, in three different periods.

- The present time - i.e. 2009 up until the beginning of the tribulation period, whether that be three, thirteen or 30 years. As in the present time, this period will see first gradual and then dramatic worsening of most aspects of life on earth.
- The first half of the tribulation period, when there will be a false peace on the earth. The period is known to be 1260 days, or 3.5 Jewish years of 360 days. This will be a period on earth of a false peace because the world will be deceived by the Antichrist, who will represent himself as Christ. We know these things from scripture. Details are given elsewhere in this presentation.
- The last half of the tribulation period when the Antichrist will reign over the earth until dealt with by Jesus Christ at the Battle of Armageddon. This period is also known to be 1260 days. This period will be like hell on earth, where not only will the Antichrist bring terror to the earth, but God's judgements will come upon the earth. Again, details are given elsewhere.

*So then, with that in mind, here are some more earth events that will begin to come or continue at some point in these three periods.*

### **1 Increasing expression of evil in the world**

Apart from some Biblical predictions about which some people may not be aware, we need to present you, the reader, with the evidence of increasing evil in this world. Our daily media services are full of news of evil acts locally and around the world. Since the first murder on earth, that of Cain killing Abel, evil has never ceased. Many remember the 20th century large scale examples of Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot and Edi Amin, Saddam Hussein, all of whom murdered millions. Movements such as racism around the world and the Klu Klux Klan in USA have each demonstrated their particular forms of evil. Events such as the Bali bombing, Lockerbie Air Crash, Terrorism and 911 over the last years demonstrate absolute inhumanity to man and typifies the exact nature of modern evil, which is instantaneously embracing more people in one single act. It is an increasingly frightening world we live in.

In his book "What in the world is going on" Dr David Jeremiah reminds us of the profound statement by President Bush in January 2002, when his considered opinion of evil in the world was represented by An Axis of Evil, identifying Iran, Iraq and North Korea as most likely to upset the peace of the world. Later, John Bolton US Ambassador added three other rogue states to this list, those of Libya, Syria and Cuba.

But the evil to come is far greater. It's underpinning is in preparation right now for the evil that will come upon the world in the tribulation period told of in scripture. This will be when one man rules the world. This man, known as the Antichrist will aggressively live up to his terrible name. He will be Satan's superman, who persecutes, tortures and kills people of God and leads armies into the world's climactic battle of Armageddon. (where Jesus Christ defeats him). The evil of the world will not cease until Christ returns.

Fortunately God has control over the progression of this evil even though that may be hard to believe. As God brings the age to a close for a new beginning, He has provided

a way of escape for any who believe. Thank God! Details of these things are found elsewhere in the study. We don't suggest you read more of the evil but focus on what Jesus Christ says and prepare for His coming, which will be at a secret time only known by God.

## **2 Lack of crude oil resources and competition for them**

Dr David Jeremiah in his book *What in the world is going on?* makes these points in Chapter 2 about oil production, usage and supply.

- The world is using 86 million barrels per day, which will rise to 98 million by 2015.
- *Oil is the new gold to the world economy and future Middle East events will centre around oil.*
- *U.S.A., the world's biggest consumer of oil, its demand outstripping its ability to produce.*
- *America needs to import oil, as its demand has outstripped its production. It is only number 11 producer.*
- *But most of the big producers of oil are not best friends with America, particularly Arab states and Venezuela.*
- *They also compete with Russia, Japan and China the next biggest consumers.*
- *The price of oil varies according to current conflicts, embargos and wars such as the Gulf wars.*
- *President Carter once said that they would use military means against any who interrupted their oil supplies.*
- *America has to compete with Russia, Japan and China for oil supplies and associated tensions.*
- *The world in 2005 used more oil than was eventually produced the following year of 2006.*
- *Energy use cannot exceed production forever.*
- *As if oil supplies are not enough to cause tensions and price hikes, then wars will.*
- *We know from Bible prophecy that Russia will at some point in time attack Israel with armed forces.*
- *Just as wars and terrorism affect both price and supply of oil, so will this war when it occurs.*

Are we running out of oil? An oil based economy such as ours doesn't need to deplete its entire reserve of oil before it begins to collapse. So oil may well contribute, along with the remainder of these factors, to a deepening world crisis.

## **3 Increasing personal, civil and political violence, threatening personal safety**

Again, we do not need to produce masses of statistics to make this point. Increasing evil in just so many forms confronts us more and more on a daily basis. As we reach these later times in the three stage sequence we mention above, the expression of evil will be even more commonplace. Let's take Australia as a good example of the changes and increases in the expression of evil. Australia is considered a safe country to live and that is certainly so. We have stable government, sound systems of law and order and an economy, whilst far from perfect, provides work and the staples of life to most. However, despite the police doing an excellent job, we find increasing lawlessness in the forms of drugs being available on many street corners, muggings of people in shopping areas in daylight. Only a few years ago, Melbourne was (and still mostly is) one of the world's most liveable cities, but in the last couple of years, there have been murders outside of nightclubs and other city streets. Even travelling on suburban trains one now has to be careful. Even car-jacking at traffic light stops are occurring more often, as is what is called road rage. Personal safety is indeed threatened more now than ever. Australia, despite its relative stability, has also been subject to political violence, where leaders have been attacked. So these are just some examples. But consider what we see on the nightly news about what occurs in other countries around

the world. As the other relative stabilities of life, like climate, financial systems and food availability and prices make life more difficult, violence will increase as it has done in other countries.

#### **4 More authoritarian controls**

It is a natural tendency in society that when things get out of control, or seem to be, relevant authorities inevitably bring in more and more controls to stabilize whatever is getting out of control. As people break laws, as swindlers take advantage of the gullible, as organizations step out of line, as retail monopolies force others out of business, those who have the responsibility for the society, bring in more and more rules to control those wrongdoers. As we get short of water, as we use too much electricity on high use days, as we get more congested transport networks, and as food shortages around the world require rationing, we get more rules and control over our lives. All these we see as inevitable and we have already seen many of these operate in stressful times.

At the big end of Government in world affairs, Governments will impose more and more power over the people, and even over other governments. Just to quote one example out of the many available, the EU is increasing controls over one of their own related committees (ICANN). The answer that committee has given is that extra controls are not the answer. It never is. Another example in a different arena. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) condemns the government's move to use state power to prosecute and punish certain kind of messaging through cellular phone networks and content on the websites and calls upon the government to withdraw such measures and desist from introducing any law to this effect

Controls and more controls. More power to authorities and less to common people. That has been the formulae for many a bloody revolution. The 2008 World Financial Crisis brought more control to the American Government. As bank after bank failed, the USA government used the public purse to take over their debts and in so doing, in at least some cases, became shareholder in many of those banks. Not only that, but they imposed more controls over the operations of that bank.

However, there is and will be more pervasive control of the institutions in society as the State assumes more and more responsibility for our lives. Institutions that were once considered to be under God's control are becoming more and more under the control of the State. The State in many countries (eg Australia) now takes responsibility and has significant control over the family, the community, the way in which labour is organized and the welfare of its citizens. The more responsibility they have in these normal areas of life, the more influence and control they have. This is very largely why the influence of the Creator God is being removed from society and as it is removed (or God is considered dead or not relevant) society fails more and more.

Looking at this issue in simple terms, consider this. As the world finds its resources diminishing and if climate change continues as it is going, as food resources and effective distribution decreases and as the world's financial systems falter or fail, more and more controls will be introduced in many sectors of society. Ordinary people will lose more and more options in life.

#### **• Interferences to overseas and local trade**

Remember here that we are not talking about difficulties in normal overseas trade, which in normal times works remarkably well. Businessmen and governments get around innumerable problems to make it all work. What we are talking about here is the interferences to overseas and local trade that will come about in these three time periods. In the time we are now in, which is the period up to the beginning of the tribulation period, or Jesus Christ returning to this earth, whichever comes first (probably the former) things will go on much as usual, despite the world financial crisis and all of its effects. Currency levels will fluctuate, even wildly, new markets will appear, some markets will slow down and there will be the usual scuffles on prices

between competing countries. But we will not notice much difference from what we see now, if we were interested to notice.

Once the second stage begins, when the Antichrist will appear like Jesus Christ to the world, we cannot tell how the world will be affected. It will of course be a time of false peace, because the real intentions of the Antichrist will not be yet known by the masses of the world. So it could be that because of this peace that world trade and perhaps local trade might be quite stable, even boom. But it will all be the quiet before the storm. When the second half of the tribulation begins, another period of three and a half years, from this point in time, the world will never be the same again. Overseas and local trade will eventually cease to be, because the world will be running on a completely different system. For the first time in world history there will be a world dictator. Suffering will be hard to avoid, as will death. Those peoples of the world still remaining will welcome the coming of Jesus Christ and His defeating of the Antichrist at the Battle of Armageddon.

What do you do in the meantime? Work as you usually do, but give priority to one thing only. That is of course to realize what the plans of God are for this incredible time in history and get to know Jesus Christ that He might be merciful to you and help you escape the worst of the coming night.

### ***5 Interferences to agriculture, manufacturing, services and personal finances, particularly due to unstable financial systems***

As a consequence of climate change and of instability in financial markets, particularly as we move nearer, or into the tribulation period on earth, normal trade in agriculture, manufacturing and personal services will show signs of not being able to perform as before. Everything will be affected and affect what goes on in the world. Business needs a strong secure banking system and that is simply not now present in the world since the 2008 crash. Small business will find it increasingly difficult to operate without an efficient world wide banking system. Even slight wobbles will affect the ability of the world to trade as normal, let alone trying to expand, especially in the continued threat of another crash. Furthermore, if businesses and trade cannot operate normally, individual households will be undersupplied in their needs, food and fuel being two main requirements to sustain life and business. In the worst scenario, banks may not have money to provide. Local bartering will flourish. As the world enters the time of tribulation when one man will control the world, systems will come into place that will cause normal business to run right down to nothing. Can you imagine life without what we normally take for granted?

God is fully aware of all this. Of that we can be certain. His plan for the second coming of Jesus Christ into the world, will be to save those peoples who put their trust in Him, deal with the forces of evil and usher in a new age after the Battle of Armageddon.

### ***6 Lowering of moral values and search for instant gratification leading to fragmentation and social unrest in life***

The rapid lowering of moral values, particularly since the 1960's has been particularly evident to some, but to others has barely been noticed, sometimes because they view life as it presents itself as quite normal. They don't see that they are looking through glasses darkened by their own lack of knowledge, even disillusionment of how life could and should be. The church in the world has not been very adept at "selling" the wonderful legacy of the gospel of Jesus Christ, particularly in western countries, where health, happiness and a good time, has clouded the minds of many. America for example, which was founded on Godly principles, is now as a whole country so far away from God, many do not know what true life should be. God's ten commandments, given to Moses in 1462 B.C. are now banned from public places and especially courthouses where they used to have pride of place.

What do people do now that they did not do in the 1960's? Probably nothing. However, the degree and intensity of these immoral and evil acts have increased dramatically. Illicit sex, promiscuity, pornography, drug use, lying, cheating, robbery, bashings, murders and all the other forms of immoral and evil behaviour have been a part of all time eras of life in this world. We can remember the temptations and observances of our youth. However, all of those and more are now dramatically imprinted on the psyche of our society. Instant gratification reigns and is killing society as we know it. Rapes, molestation, murder, and a whole range of similar immoral behaviours are now so commonplace in our society that many of us have become desensitized to such a degree that some find it hard to distinguish good from evil. Think about that....

All of these immoral behaviours fragment the main building block of our society, the family. Divorce, separation and custody battles leave our children in single parent families, and those in turn tend to perpetuate the fragmentation and leave in their wake every form of social unrest.

## ***7 Conspiracy or care?***

The world, and USA in particular is full of conspiracy theories, with many way out ideas that seems to be performed behind hidden motives. Some of these turn out to be wild stories, or fakes. However, there is one issue, particularly in USA, as we write in October of 2009 that has caused great concern amongst many Americans. It is the issue of attempts by government and other authorities to perform mass vaccination for H1N1 swine flu. Many people have already been vaccinated and some have died, not from the flue but from the vaccine. At this time, there is the beginning of great social unrest in USA particularly in States such as Massachusetts, who are considering a law to force citizens to have the shot.

So is this a conspiracy against the people or is it care of the populace being overdone?

We cannot decide this for you, but notice that there is considerable suggestion on many overseas links; of harmful intent against the people. Some of these are saying that all this that is going on are attempts by The New World Order, as it is called to control and even to reduce the level of population. There are also doctors who, knowing the medical position with swine flu, (which they say is mild with there is little cause for concern from the flu itself) believe there is great concern from the vaccine itself. Such suggestions have left people gasping, particularly at the suggestions that governments are forcing this vaccination on the people, especially when compared with previous outbreaks of this flu. We do not know what is true and what isn't.

This issue is dominating U Tube and other internet links. We have provided some of these for you, for you to look at for yourselves.

If you happen to think there is evil intent behind all this, you may well be correct. This is why we have included this segment as a possible conspiracy that could in fact be true. If this does have evil intent, then it is easy to connect it with other forms of evil that is fast overtaking the planet. It is of great comfort that Jesus Christ is to return Soon! So we can wait in hope.

## ***8 Life becomes more and more outside of personal control***

Can you imagine life in the world having all these characteristics? For us, it is too much of a shock to process, even in the imagination. Probably for you too. Just consider the main characteristics again. On top of the possibility of continuing climate change, instability of the world's financial system, low and further threatened resources such as oil and food, increasing visible evil in the world, along with instability in world trade, accelerating degradation of morals and even some apparent conspiracies that could turn out to be real.

The world could not function like this could it? It is because of these emerging dark characteristics in this world, that we see the very likely link with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this world. As we have shown you in this presentation, Jesus himself linked such events to the time of His coming. So do we. We hope you will also, as it leads to the only possible answer - Jesus Christ, the Creator and coming ruler of this world.

*Next, read what God is doing and is going to do about all this. In other words, get God's take on what plans He has in mind and what you need to know. Here is the overall proposition with all its components listed below*

*B. Life in this world is going to gradually reveal that God, through His Spirit, sovereignly rules over the world and will increasingly show His full intentions for the future.*

*We know these things from the Bible, the Word of God, written between 1500 B.C. and 100 A.D. God, through His Spirit told the prophets what to write. Each one of those will then be addressed in turn.*

*Jesus Christ will again return to this earth.*

*There are signs in this world that indicate the coming of Jesus Christ is not far away.*

*There are huge differences in the reasons for His first and second visitations to earth.*

*When Jesus returns He will return to rule over the whole earth, all nations and all people for a period of 1000 years.*

*When He comes, life on the earth as we know it will be changed forever; Peace and justice will reign.*

*Prior to His coming there will be a period of 1260 days of false peace. (1260 days; 3.5 Jewish years)*

*Following that period of 1260 days of a false peace there will be a period of intense suffering and death like the world has never known before.*

*At the end of the 2520 days, the Battle of Armageddon will take place, with Jesus Christ overpowering all the nations of the world who gathered against Him.*

*All this will begin to happen Soon!*

*Here is the first aspect of this*

*1. Jesus Christ will again return to this earth*

*How can we know that?*

## A. From predictions in the Bible, God's Word.

Prior to the Second Coming of Christ, it was predicted that the Jewish people will be in the land of Israel and Jerusalem will be in Jewish hands.

They are. In 1948, when Israel took its place among the nations of the world again for the first time in nearly 2000 years, students of prophecy recognized the fulfilment of the primary sign that the end of the age was coming soon. Here are two extracts from God's word to that effect:

*...I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, **never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them**, says the LORD your God.... (Amos 9:14-15)*

*...After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. **They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety....**(Ezekiel 38:8)*

## B. From what Jesus Christ said about His Second Coming when He was on earth the first time.

An angel who was present when Jesus went back to heaven, told of His second coming to the disciples who were present.

*...who also said, ...Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven..** Acts 1:11 (NKJV)*

## C. From the many writings about His Second Coming in many of the books of the Bible.

Just a few examples. First, we can also read of the promise of His second coming from the book of Hebrews, a letter written to Jews around 65 A.D., and being one of the books in the New Testament of the Bible.

*...so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him **He will appear a second time**, apart from sin, for salvation.... (Hebrews 9:28 NKJV)*

Also, we know how we will know of His actual coming.

*...Then they will **see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory....** Luke 21:27 (NKJV)*

*So there you can see in this very short summary, that the return of to earth has been known about for a long time.*

Here is the second aspect of this

*2. There are signs in this world that indicate His coming is not too far away.*

*What are the signs of His coming?*

**Jesus told his disciples of the future, also advising us at the same time.**

"And you will hear of **wars and rumours of wars**. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places**. All these are the beginning of sorrows." This is in the book of Matthew Chapter 24, verses 6-8. (New King James Bible)

**Current signs in the world.**

**Notice the mention of wars and rumours of wars.** Depending upon whose intelligence reports you read somewhere between 30 and 50 wars are currently being fought around the world, with a substantial number of additional disputes threatening to erupt into war at any time.

This will result in the destabilization the very foundations of social life. Bloody wars and various disasters will reach catastrophic proportions. People will become weary from the burden of suffering from disasters.

**Notice the mention of increase in natural disasters.** We have all seen them on TV over the last several years. (More frequent and more severe hurricanes, more frequent and more intense earthquakes) Killer storms and quakes continue to dot the news. You have already been provided with figures on earthquakes.

**Speaking on these things St. Paul wrote:**

*"In latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**" (1 Tim. 4:1).*

He means that the minds of most people will be poisoned by all sorts of ungodly lies. This is actually happening. You will see this by noticing all the extreme behaviour around the world, from both individuals and splinter groups who are demanding their rights, often with violent intent.

**Summary.** So, there you can see in this very short summary, that these signs mean that Jesus is coming to earth for a second (and last) time.

If you want to read more, some of the references below might help, although they do, in some part, rely on some prior knowledge. However, this is only the second point about the second coming, so perhaps read on first.

Here is another aspect of this

*3. There are huge differences in the reasons for His first and second comings to earth*

**What are those differences between the two comings of Jesus Christ to earth?**

In His first coming, Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem,

just as predicted 600 years before. Jesus fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Messiah during His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. In His first coming, Jesus was the suffering Servant. In His first coming, Jesus arrived in the most humble of circumstances.

In His Second Coming, Jesus will be the conquering King. In His Second Coming, Jesus will arrive with the armies of Heaven at His side. Here are some more points of difference.

### **The First Coming of Christ:**

- Is a matter of historical fact.
- Was when He came to earth as a newborn baby.
- Was when He came to die to pay the penalty for the sins of the world.
- When He came to be the Saviour of sinners.
- Was when He came to be man's Saviour.
- Was when He came with meekness riding on a donkey.
- Was when Christ came to bring peace to the human heart and when He came the first time the government remained in the hands of men.
- Was when Christ came the first time and was rejected by the Jewish people and they, and the Romans crucified Him.

### **The Second Coming of Christ:**

- Is a matter of prophecy (i.e.) is predicted in the Bible, God's Word).
- Means Christ will come to rule and reign.
- Is when He will come to be the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Is when Christ will come to be man's judge. (Jude 14-15).
- Means Christ will come to earth as a conquering Warrior.
- Means Christ will come with power riding on a white horse.
- Means Christ will come to bring peace to the entire world.
- Then He will be received by the Jewish people.

So, whilst the first coming of Jesus was as a servant to serve and teach, His second arrival will be to rule over the whole earth. We all need to be ready for that time.

*So there you can see in this very short summary, that every person on earth right now is required to make a decision on their future. If you do not receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then someday you must face Him as your Judge.*

Here is another aspect of this

*4. When Jesus returns He will return as Lord over the whole earth, all nations and all people, for a period of 1000 years.*

### **The Millennium Period**

The Millennium is a period of 1000 years which begins shortly after the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. This period is spoken about (*in Chapter 20 of the book The Revelation*) of Jesus Christ, the revelation being given to the Apostle John about 95 A.D.

This 1000 year period has been planned by God since the beginning of time. As well as the mention of it in Revelation, nine chapters of explanation are given in the book of Ezekiel in chapters 40-48. There is no doubt that it will happen. The main thing we do not know about the Millennium is exactly when it will be, and there are different opinions on that, but it will happen!

***There are a number of unusual things that will occur during this time. Here are just a few of them.***

- The authority of God will now be recognized ♦ Jesus Christ will rule over the whole earth.
- The curse that was placed on mankind when Adam and Eve sinned, will be broken by Jesus Christ. There will be a restoration of the corruption of the creation. Rain, and harvests shall be plentiful, as it was in the beginning.
- The creation will now be able to produce as originally intended by God.
- The wilderness, wastelands and desert will blossom in a way not seen over the last few thousand years.
- There will be no environmental problems at all because of the rule of Christ, who has all power to achieve perfection.
- The continued existence of all animals will be assured and animal ferocity will cease ♦ the lion will lay down with the lamb.
- Jesus Christ will reign from a new Millennial Temple, the temple being proof of God's presence in this new kingdom. The new temple will be relocated to a different site from the temple that existed at the time of Christ, which was destroyed in A.D. 70.

***However, also please note that:***

- Only the saved will enter the millennium. This means those who are regenerate, saved and changed by the power of the Spirit of God.
- Although there will be peace during this thousand years, there will be some dissenters who will rebel near the end of the period, who along with Satan will be dealt with by Jesus Christ at the end of that period.

*So there you can see in this very short summary, that God has planned and prepared this time period of human history.*

Here is another aspect of this

*5. When He comes, the earth as we know it will be changed forever as He will reign with faith and justice.*

## Changes that will come at that time

- Healing and longevity will again return to mankind. Mankind will again live for extended years.
- There will be no poverty or inequality among the peoples of the world.
- One language will again be restored to the peoples of the earth. (after the confusion God brought to man at the Tower of Babel, which resulted in the existence of many languages)
- Peace will reign upon the earth. There will be no wars as there is now. Fear will be a thing of the past.
- Living in the Millennium period will be a delight. We are told that sorrow and sighing will flee away and that God will wipe away tears from off our faces.
- The resurrected saints, from all prior historical periods of earth time, will be asked by Jesus Christ to share in the rule of the land.
- The Millennium period will provide the perfect moral, spiritual and physical environment to live.
- Water will flow out of the new Temple and will flow west to the Mediterranean Sea and East to the Jordan Valley.

### **However we should also note:**

- Please note that will require that representatives of all nations will be required to go to Jerusalem each year to worship - as the Bible says in Zechariah Chapter 14, verse 16 - to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (an old Jewish custom) If they do not come up to worship each year, those who do not come will receive no rain.
- At the end of the millennium period, the unsaved from all periods of world history, will be resurrected to be judged by Jesus Christ, an event which spells doom for those that participate.

### **What happens after the Millennium period of 1000 years?**

- A new Jerusalem will come down from heaven ♦ its size and nature are described in various parts of scripture.
- We are also told that the old earth, even in its restored state of the Millennium will be renovated by fire. The Bible does not give the detail of how God will achieve that, but He will do so in such a way as to bring no harm to the saints on earth.
- Apparently, any distance between the earth and the New Jerusalem ( if there is any ♦ scripture is not clear) will be no problem, because travel in the spiritual realm by perfected saint will almost certainly be possible. (just as angels presently travel in time and space)

*It is not amazing that all these things have been known and recorded in biblical writings from up to 2600 years ago!*

*So there you can see in this very short summary, that God has planned for us to live in perfect conditions during this time.*

Here is another aspect of this

*6. Prior to His coming there will be a period of false peace. (1260 days i. e. 3.5 Jewish years)*

## **The False Peace**

Near the end of His time on earth, before He returned to His Father in heaven, Jesus Christ told His disciples that there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world, until now, nor ever shall.

He was referring to a period of time which will occur before His second coming to earth. The Bible clearly tells that this period of time is divided into two periods of time, and even how long they will be - 1260 days each - which is 3.5 years (of 360 days) on the Jewish calendar. (followed by a second period of 3.5 years) Much is known about this time of 2520 days or 7 years on the Jewish calendar. The only thing not known is exactly is when it will begin.

The first period of 1260 days will be a time of apparent, but false peace. The world will be deceived. The second period of 1260 days will be a tribulation period of much suffering and death. (the details of that are in the next file)

We who are alive today have been born into the most significant time in all history, because these things may well happen Soon! Why is it likely to be this generation that has to experience this false peace and then grief and suffering?

The answer is that in God's timing of His eternal plans for the earth and mankind, these things need to happen before He comes. It is bad news and good news all at once. Ultimately the good news is better. He will show that He in fact rules over everything. He always did of course, but now He will show the world.

### ***Here are some aspects of that period of time.***

- *There will be a peace treaty drawn up by a person called the Antichrist, this treaty being between the nation of Israel and all its surrounding Arab neighbours, who have contested the right of Israel to exist.*
- *At this time, this Antichrist will be recognized as a world leader.*
- *This world leader will organize for the Jewish temple to be built in Jerusalem. Israel, although having its temple worship and sacrifices restored will be unknowingly living in false assurance.*
- *Either just before or during this time, there will be several major wars against Israel from unexpected enemies.*
- *The false religion aspect of the world church will dominate the times and be controlled by the forces of evil.*
- *Peoples of the world will believe that at last the world has that long sought after peace. But it will prove to be a deception. But that false peace is about to be shattered and Israel and the world will now see how this deception has worked against them.*
- *The main participants in this time period are the Antichrist, a person known as the False Prophet supported by Satan. Israel who are deceived, and God, who is working in the background of all these things.*

Again, all these things have been known and recorded in biblical writings from 2500 years ago, in part from the Prophet Daniel! The events listed above are just a few of the main ones. The list is restricted to those events that describe these times in simple terms. The Bible, the Word of God will provide much more detail on His rationale for all this to happen.

*So, there you can see in this very short summary, that despite its scary-ness, God has planned and prepared this time period of human history. At least we can know what to expect if we are here at that time. Hopefully, we will not be.*

Here is another aspect of this

*7. Following that period of false peace there will be a period of intense suffering and death like the world has never known before. (Also 1260 days)*

### **The Tribulation Period**

During that period of 1260 days, living in what amounts to have been a false peace, the world and its peoples are in for the shock of all the centuries put together. These next events will change their lives forever.

- At the end of that first 1260 days, a world dictator will reveal his intentions for ruthless domination over all nations and peoples, especially Israel.
- This dictator will demand of the Jewish nation that they stop their worship of the true God and begin to worship him. Moreover, he will take over as ruler of the whole world.
- The Jewish people will once again be scattered.
- He will demand of all people that they receive a mark on their forehead or right hand in order to buy goods or services. If people do this, there are devastating consequences.
- The main participants acting during these times will be the Antichrist, governments of the world working in concert with him and of course The True and Living God, who begins to bring His judgement down upon the earth.
- God's judgements upon the earth are catastrophic, bringing death to millions of people on earth.
- Famine and death will be commonplace.
- There will be earthquakes like never seen before and signs from the heavens heralding the soon arrival of Jesus Christ, but the wait will be for 1260 days from the beginning of this period of suffering and tribulation.
- The armies of the world will begin gathering during this time for the Battle of Armageddon.

### **We should also note that:**

*To be without the protection of God at this time will be foolhardy. The time to get to know Jesus Christ is NOW! The only time is Now!, as we do not know how soon these things will happen.*

*Again, the events listed above are just a few of the main ones. The list is restricted to those events that describe these times in simple terms. The Bible, the Word of God, will provide much more detail on God's rationale for all this to happen.*

*So there you can see in this very short summary, that despite its scary-ness, God has planned and prepared this time period of human history. At least we can know what to expect if we are here at that time.*

Here is the last aspect of this

*8. At the end of the false peace and tribulation period, the Battle of Armageddon will take place, with Jesus Christ overpowering all the nations of the world who gathered against Him.*

### **The Battle of Armageddon**

This is what will happen at that time.

- God Himself will gather the nations together in Jerusalem. In Zechariah 14:1, God said: "For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem: Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,..." (near Jerusalem).
- The Lord Jesus Christ will fight the battle, except that it will be a no contest at all, as the God who created the earth will destroy all those gathered against Him. What happens is told in graphic detail in a novel entitled Escape from Armageddon.

*"The Lord stood, His head finely crowned, the brilliance of His whole Being blinding horses and people alike. Behind Him rested His heavenly army clothed in the finest white linen. As far as the eye could see there were people and armaments. Not a piece of unoccupied land was visible. The land was now an undulating sea of faces. Every eye was transfixed on the majestic figure of Christ, clothed magnificently in His blood red robe. The eyes of Christ were as a flame of fire, gazing intently on those who were foolish enough to stand against Him. The power of His presence was frightening to those before Him and one of awe and wonder to those behind Him. The armed horsemen prepared for war, shrank at the sight. All the armies of the earth waited to fight against Him ..... but there would be no war! The voice that at the beginning of the world brought about creation was also a voice with mighty destructive power. With a slow, deliberate movement, Christ raised both arms above His head. With the justice the world had waited thousands of years for, He shouted just one statement of great victory, "All who have allowed evil to dominate your heart and lives....." He paused before delivering a sword like thrust with His mouth..... "Receive your punishment - **NOW!**" Four hundred million men reeled back as the words of Jesus struck them. Their flesh, eyes and tongues dissolved faster than any cancer. Confusion and terror seized everyone. The effect of His words spread over the entire length of Israel, as did the blood of slain men and animals. The next minutes brought every weather pattern known over this vast army. Pitch darkness, lightning forks with thunderclaps, and hail from heaven, followed by flashes of daylight between black clouds flying across the sky at breakneck speed. Even His own people behind Him crouched and covered their eyes, as God showed the peoples of the world Who was in charge of this universe."*

- So you can see from this graphic description, that all the armies of the world will not be able to stand against the power of God, invested in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Bible says that the Lord will stand on the Mount of Olives to win that battle. This is just a 15 minute walk East from Jerusalem itself. Then look at what happens. Zechariah again in Chapter 14: 4.  
*"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."*
- There is a known fault line on the Mount of Olives, running east to west. So after the battle is over this fault line will be the beginning of a huge earthquake, moving the mountain in two directions, north and south. Then see what happens in

verse 5 *"Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal."*

- So the surviving people of Israel will escape through this valley that has been formed by the earthquake. This is described in verses 6 and 7.

*"It shall come to pass in that day That there will be no light; The lights will diminish. It shall be one day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night. But at the evening time it shall happen that it will be light."*

- And then, in verses 8 and 9, a most amazing geological change. Water will flow from Jerusalem eastward to the Jordan Valley and west to the Mediterranean Sea. The two will be linked.

*"And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them towards the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea. In both summer and winter it shall occur."*

- And then, what the world has been waiting for over many centuries. From verse 9 in chapter 14 of Zechariah.

*"And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be - The Lord is one - His name is one."*

- Many other things then take place. The topography (shape of the land) is changed. Satan is bound for the 1000 years. Then because Jesus Christ will be reigning over all the earth, all the nations of the earth will go to worship Him, their visit ensuring rainfall on their land. See verses 16 and 17.

*"And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts.....And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain."*

- These events will also signal the beginning of the Millennial Period on earth where the Lord Jesus Christ reigns for the next 1000 years.

*Amazing events are they not? But this is what is going to happen. God has had these events planned for thousands of years and it just happens that the timing of them is likely to be soon.*

*What follows are things you need to know*

*Now!*

*C. You need to know more about God, and His relationship with mankind in both life and death.*

*These are the issues to be covered*

*Each of these issues will be covered separately, one at a time and in detail*

*Some pertinent facts about God are vital. Without this knowledge nothing will make any sense.*

*What happens to man after death is a vital piece of knowledge.*

*The spiritual connections between our physical and spiritual lives need to be known.*

*That the exact nature of the relationship of man with God needs to be known, including the connections between God and your spirit, soul and body.*

*That God has a plan to make it possible for all men, women and children to restore their relationship with God.*

*What God requires of you before you die, or before Jesus returns to earth, or when you realize you need God to survive and live.*

*That Jesus Christ, the Son of God will return to earth for a second time, this time to rule the earth.*

**Please Note!**

You will begin to notice some repetition of things already discussed. This is quite intentional. The repetition is NOT in the form of exact repeats, but in the form that gives more detail on each matter, or sets it out in different ways, to help the reader understand. You need to know

*Now!*

*1. Some pertinent facts about God are vital. Without this knowledge nothing will make any sense.*

*Here is the list of points to be covered, one by one.*

*God does exist and is totally involved in the history and future of this earth and the peoples of the earth.*

*God was the Creator of the world and everything in it.*

*God has a very special nature. You need to know about it!*

*If you do not know much about what the Bible says then read this.*

*The Holy Bible, fully explains all about God, His ways and means with all men.*

*The Old Testament is the history of the Jewish people, much of secular history and shows how God taught them, through His guidance and corrections.*

*The biggest turning point in all of human history was when God arranged the birth of Jesus Christ in the process of bringing salvation to the world.*

### **For the first of these points**

*God does exist and is totally involved in the history and future  
for all people of the earth*

### **Here is a short description about God and Human History - from beginning to end**

#### **God and Creation**

In writing about the beginning of the world, creation is totally accepted as being the way the world began. You will need to have accepted that the Bible is totally authentic and true. (you have already read about the authenticity of the Bible) , When we see the first words in the Bible saying " In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." we need to believe and accept this as truth. Although the argument still rages about evolution, there is now much scientific proof available that shows the theory of evolution just cannot stand up. So, belief in Scripture is still the major basis of all belief expressed in this book and also of creation itself. (By the way, the Bible dates creation at around 4000 B.C., not the billions of years talked about by science)

#### **In the Beginning**

When God created the earth and placed man on it, man was the beneficiary of the greatest gift ever given by God to man. Man had been created in God's image and had been given a domain to live in, where he might be in harmony with God, others and with nature itself. God's divine intentions for man were quite incredible. God gave the earth to man to have dominion over it, in accordance with his directions to man to replenish, cultivate and keep the earth.

Although God was in charge, as long as man was prepared to do things God's way, then man could live forever on earth. That's right - he would never die, because the fullness of the Spirit of God shared with man would give him eternal life. Perhaps hard to believe, but true. At that time of world history there was no sin and all things were perfect. This perfection depended on man's continued obedience to God. God had given specific instructions that man was not permitted to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for if he did, that would bring about his eventual physical death.

Both the woman and the man ate from that tree, and at that time the fullness of God's Spirit left them, and their previous spiritual fellowship with God was marred. Because God was not pleased, additional punishments were given to both, for their actions had brought sin and death into the world. They have been a part of life ever since. The crux of the matter for us is that every human spirit born on earth since that time has been born without the Spirit of God within them. ( except Jesus who was perfect )

So, after God created the earth and placed man on it, man disobeyed God and suffered his displeasure by having the fullness of the Spirit of God removed from him. The significance of this explanation will become clearer as we go. you will also read that man can again have the Spirit of God present in him, providing he fulfils certain conditions.

## **Noah and Abraham**

Some hundreds of years later, man again displeased God by living in extremely sinful ways, so much so that God sent a flood to destroy all men except Noah, a righteous man who had been told by God to build an ark. This was a world wide flood. Seven other people and many animals were also saved. A number of publications have verified the flood as an historic event.

Much later again, God selected a man called Abram ( later called Abraham) to be the founding father of a new nation where the people would be called Hebrews. God promised him that he would make his descendants a great nation and they would be greatly blessed. This was the beginning of the Jewish nation, later to be called Israel. They were a predominant nation in the Middle East for nearly 1500 years. During this time God loved them, called them his people and guided them into what was called the promised land of Canaan, including the well known crossing of the Red Sea by Moses. *(Other events and peoples of this time were - bow and arrow used in warfare, the Egyptian calendar regulated by sun and moon, Isis and Osiris cult in Egypt, 18th dynasty in Egypt)*

## **Moses and the Prophets**

During the 1000 or so years from the time of Moses the Hebrew people had a chequered history. At times they were obedient to God, with resultant blessings, and at other times disobedient, with tragic results. During this time, names like King David, King Solomon, Samson and the many prophets of Israel were key figures.

The final results of the disobedience of Israel was that Babylon, through King Nebuchadnezzar, destroyed Jerusalem and took the majority of the Jews to Babylon as captives in 586 B.C. Later, King Cyrus decreed that the Hebrew people should begin to return to their homeland. Some restoration took place, including the rebuilding of their main worship place, the temple.

An observer of world history might say that one of the positives in the whole disaster of the Hebrew people was that they, with God's guidance, had laid down the traditions that were to be the partial basis of the soon to be formed religion of Christianity. *(Other people and events during this time were -Destruction of Troy, 21st dynasty of Egypt, beginning of iron age in Syria and Palestine)*

## **Roman and Greek influence**

During this time, the Roman Empire was becoming a force in all areas of the Mediterranean world. The Bible is silent on any historical events in the 400 years prior to the birth of Christ, but we do know from other sources that Alexander the Great and the Maccabees were making their place in history. At this time in world history, the Greek language was the main one in use. Rome had then transformed the then known world with their roads and culture, Hebrew traditions were established, and moral deterioration was the order of the day. *(Alexander the Great lived 356 B.C to 323 B.C.) Others who lived at this time were Aristotle, Plato, Epicurus)*

## **Enter Jesus Christ**

God however, had planned the most momentous event in all history to occur at this time. JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN AND LIVED ON EARTH FOR 33 YEARS. To show the importance of this in world history, our calendar was later changed to be set around the birth of Jesus. Jesus was God's own Son, who had been born on earth as the only perfect human who ever lived.

Although God had known all along that this would happen, we might be excused if we called it God's plan B, his first hope seeming to fail, after the Hebrews had not been

able to live in God's way by the ten commandments he had given them. (God of course knew all along what would happen with the Hebrews - and did)

God's plan in sending Jesus was to show man how to live, and to provide the perfect sacrifice for man's sin. It was all a part of God's plan that Jesus die on the cross of Calvary and be resurrected, so that man could once again have the opportunity of being reconciled to God and have the fullness of the Spirit of God restored to him. This was made possible when the sins of all mankind were paid for in full, by Jesus dying on the cross of Calvary, in the place of all men, for all time.

These matters are quite profound and thousands of books have been written to explain them. Suffice to say at this stage, that the biggest events in world history had just taken place, for by belief in the risen Jesus, man could be forgiven for his sin and have eternal life. The only other significant event of this period was that the Jewish people again lost their homeland when Jerusalem was destroyed, this time by the Romans in A.D.70. *(At this time Judea was a Roman province, Tiberius retired to Capri, Romans learn to use soap)*

### **The Christian Church**

Through the effects of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the church was established quickly in Israel, Greece, Turkey, Italy and later Europe. The church and its Apostles were persecuted, but the church flourished for about 300 years when, at the time of Constantine it went into a decline. *(times of Jospheus, Jewish historian, Nero, Titus and Domitian and persecution of Christians)*

Little better could be said of its history over the next 1200 years, than that it just stumbled on until the reformation brought about by Martin Luther. The church, which had been dominated from Rome, suddenly had another viewpoint, which threatened to challenge this domination. This proved to be the case and Protestantism was born. The reformation was a great impetus to the Christian church, which has continued to flourish in varying degrees to this present day, especially in the 20th century. *(this period includes first Shinto shrine in Japan, end of western Roman Empire, birth and death of Mohammed, founder of Islam)*

### **Now and the Future**

This brings us to the present time. But before we proceed, it is necessary to again mention Bible prophecy. It is a Biblical principle that prophecy ( or predicting future events ) is both very common and 100% accurate. Since God knows all, then he has told many writers of both the Old and New Testament about events that would occur in the future. In the Old Testament there were many prophecies that have now been fulfilled. The birth of Christ was prophesied by Isaiah about 700 years before (Isaiah 7:14 ) Prophecy is not to be compared with things like clairvoyance which is demonically inspired. There are hundreds of other examples. Bible prophecy has never failed and it never will, because it is the Word of God.

### **The second coming of Christ**

There are many prophecies that deal with the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. It is these prophecies that are now becoming important in our immediate and future history. There are many interpretations of Bible prophecy about the return of Christ. However, all we have to know is that Christ is going to return and that we have to be ready. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

No one knows the timing of the coming of Christ. If you ever hear anyone say a time, do not believe it. The time will not be announced. There will be no warning. The best advice is to get your life into the right state for his coming, so you will not miss out on

the benefits of his coming and not get caught up in the negative judgements that will occur at the time of his coming.

Jesus Christ is going to come again and remove all his true believers from the trouble that will be occurring around the time of his coming.

### **What you need to know**

What it is important for everyone to know, is that the only way to be saved from all this, is to be a believer in Christ and be serving him here on earth. If you are thinking that you will be dead before that time, then notice this. The Bible tells that Jesus will remove all his saints from the earth. Even the dead will rise to go with him. All people will be raised to be judged, the believers going to heaven to be with Christ forever, with unbelievers being sent to hell. It doesn't pay to be on the wrong side.

### **What you need to do**

The Bible gives some detail about what comes after death and what happens in heaven and hell. The important thing to know, is that a place is being prepared for us who believe and who are actively living in the world according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Various parts of Soon! provide information on all these aspects of life.

*God was the creator of the world and everything in it.*

You have already been introduced to the Bible as the written Word of God. We need to know that every word in the Bible was given to man by God to write down as His record of what He wanted mankind to know about Him and how they can enter into eternal life before Christ returns to earth to take believers to heaven to be with Him forever.

So, even when we do not understand every word of scripture or what God says seems strange to us, we never-the-less must remember that God spoke every word into the minds of the 40 authors who wrote the 66 books which we know as the Bible.

However, this modern world has done all it can to remove simple belief in the word of God. The world's media bombards us with all manner of information which are man's wisdom and ideas rather than God's. Creation is one of those areas of the Bible which can be difficult to accept. It is also one where the world's ideas are seductive and can influence us away from truth. So we not only need to know that God wrote the Bible, but that His record of creation is true.

Before we go into a fuller study of this, here are some seemingly tiny pieces of information that you may not know about. They concern the creation of the earth and the stars.

#### **1. God's knowledge of the stars.**

When God was speaking to Job about His power, He said to Job:

***(Job 38:31) "Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion?"***

What is special about this verse? God named the stars and knows them by name. Notice that He said that Pleiades was bound. This means that the group of stars known as the Pleiades group were bound together in formation and that formation never changes. Scientists call it a bound cluster. Orion however, was formed as a loose

cluster. So God was saying to Job - **"Do you have the power to bind the Pleiades group or to loose the Orion group"?**

Scientists have discovered in the last 40 years that the Pleiades group of stars are held together by an unknown force so that they will never separate. Also that as time passes, the Orion group will gradually separate as they move through space. Eventually they will not be a group at all.

**How did Job know that?** Remember that Job wrote these words because God instructed him to do so. Did he understand what he wrote? Probably not! But God knew it all because He created them. There is no doubt that God wrote the Bible! No one else would have the knowledge to do so!

## **2. God's knowledge of the planet earth.**

### **2.1. The earth is suspended on nothing! Job 26:7**

*(Job 26:7) He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing. How did Job know to write that?*

God told him of course. How did God know? He created the earth and everything that is in it. Other religions have other views on this issue.

- \* The Hindu religion believes that the earth sits on the back of an elephant.
- \* The Shinto religion believes that the earth sits on top of a fish.
- \* The Greek philosophers believed that the mythological figure Atlas held up the world.

God says that He hangs the earth on nothing! Views from space confirm that to be true. So if we cannot trust the books of other religions on these things, we cannot trust them on spiritual things. However, because we can trust God with these things, we can also trust Him with spiritual things. Remember, the Bible is God's word written by His servants.

### **2.2 The earth is a circle (sphere) Isaiah 40:22**

*(Isaiah 40:21-22 NIV) Do you not know? .....Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, ..... He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.*

It now seems strange to us that at one time people thought the earth was flat and that if you kept going to the horizon you would drop over the edge. Copernicus in 1512 informed us that the earth was round, and Columbus in 1492 proved the same point by sailing across the Atlantic ocean. This was only 500 years ago. Isaiah wrote these verses 7 centuries before Christ, nearly 2700 years ago.

**How did Isaiah know what to write?** God told him. How did God know the earth was round before Copernicus told us. He created the earth and everything in it!

So these are just examples of God knowing about these things because He was involved in creation.

Another area that is misunderstood is the theory of evolution. Here is a basic comparison of creation with evolution.

*God was the creator of the world and everything in it.  
More on this issue*

Creation and evolution - Creation and evolution may be compared as in the following chart.

Believing in creation helps you to believe in God and what He is doing in this world.

These things are not general knowledge, so here is a chance to learn about them

Claims of Evolution	Comments about evolutionary beliefs	What God says about this in His Word
<p>1. <b>That the world and everything in it is the product of chance</b> after a big bang that formed the universe. Chemicals just happened to combine in certain ways to make life.</p>	<p>The word evolution simply means CHANGE and therefore presupposes a beginning, which of course is creation brought about by God. Evolution cannot explain origins and meanings. Creation can.</p> <p>Evolution by chance is like expecting that a tornado going through a junk yard would assemble a jumbo jet.</p>	<p><b>God created the world.</b> God spoke and life was created. (Gen 1:31 - 2:1)</p> <p>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.</p>
<p>2. <b>Life came from the development of a single cell</b> into more complex forms - and eventually human beings.</p>	<p>All the evidence of life is against this evolutionary claim. The Bible clearly teaches that <b>life comes from God</b>. He supplies the breath for our bodies and the life for our bodies is continually in our blood. (Gen 2:7 ) the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.</p>	<p>(Lev 17:11 ) For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.</p>
<p>3. <b>That man developed from an animal</b> into one of a higher form. <b>Humans are the result of complex development</b> who happened to evolve somehow from a different kind of animal millions of years ago.</p>	<p>There is no evidence for this evolutionary claim.</p> <p><b>Man was made in the image of God</b>, so is superior to animals. Also, man has a spirit, animals do not.</p> <p><b>God created the first man and woman in his image.</b> Humans are different from the animals and are special to God.</p> <p>Human beings have a body, soul and spirit. <b>Animals do not have a spirit, nor have a soul as complex as that of mankind.</b></p>	<p>(Gen 1:27 ) <i>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.</i></p> <p>(1 Th 5:23 ) <i>May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>(1 Th 5:23 ) <i>.....may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>(Gen 1:27 ) <i>So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.</i></p>

<p>4. <b>Tiny living cells somehow multiplied and changed</b> to make varieties of creatures.</p> <p>Animal and human <b>fossils show how man has developed over time.</b></p>	<p><b>God created the basic kinds of plants and animals</b>, which were able to reproduce from their own kind only.</p> <p><b>The fossil evidence does not strongly support evolution.</b> Although there are fossils there is not strong evidence <b>demonstrating transitional phases of development.</b> Moreover there are great gaps in the fossil record that have never been filled. Charles Darwin acknowledged his fossil evidence was weak.</p>	<p><i>(Gen 1:11 ) Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. (on the day 3)</i></p> <p><i>(Gen 1:24 ) And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. (On day 6)</i></p>
<p>5. Evolution teaches that a simple celled creature will become much more complex over time and that <b>all natural systems of nature are becoming more complex.</b></p> <p>This means that the DNA molecule in the simple creature would have to have information added to it by the addition of new genes.</p>	<p><b>The Second Law of thermodynamics - states that all natural systems of nature become simpler.</b></p> <p>Science believes that the DNA chains do not change, so that <b>all creatures produce after their own kind.</b> Dogs produce dogs and acorns produce oak trees.</p>	<p>There are no known Biblical references.</p>
<p>6. <b>That evolution is a science</b> and can be justified by scientific means - even though no scientist was there to observe what happened at creation. The evidence for evolution is non-existent.</p>	<p><b>Evolution is a belief system</b>, based on assumptions.</p> <p>God was present at creation and has told us all about it in the Bible.</p>	<p><i>(Rom 1:25 ) Men ..... exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator.</i></p> <p><i>(Isa 40:26 ) Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?....</i></p>
<p>7. <b>That the stages of development of the planet and mankind took billions of years</b> and that an earth measured in just thousands of years is simply not possible.</p>	<p>Much of <b>the evidence points to an earth which is numbered in the thousands of years rather than billions</b> - particularly the corrected view on how sediments were laid down - see point 13. Neither can be proven easily.</p>	<p><i>(Luke 3:23-38) Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, (through many generations to) ..... the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.</i> <i>The Bible account goes back to 4004 BC.</i></p>

<p>8. <b>Rock formations are the result of sediments forming over millions of years,</b> layer upon layer over much time. For many years, universities have taught this layering effect of geological time.</p>	<p>Scientists such as Ge Berto have now proven that <b>sediments are laid down in different ways to what was thought - from what evolution proposes.</b> Scientists now know that sediments are laid down in the way shown in the diagram below, and not layer by layer as used to be thought.</p> <p><b>The experience of Mount St. Helens</b> in Canada in 1980 confirmed that sediments can be laid down very quickly by this method. 600 feet of sediment was laid down in just a few hours. Ge Berto has reproduced the same effect in his laboratory.</p> <p><i>(Gen 7:24 ) The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.</i></p>	<p><i>(Gen 8:1) But God remembered Noah ..... in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded. (Gen 8:3,5 ) The water receded steadily from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the water had gone down,..... The waters continued to recede until the tenth month, and on the first day of the tenth month the tops of the mountains became visible.</i></p> <p><i>(Gen 8:13-14 ) By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.</i></p>
<p>9. <b>That new things are being formed from what exists.</b> Evolution teaches that nature is a continual evolving process.</p>	<p><b>Evolution is not consistent with the most basic laws of science.</b> A most basic law of science - <b>The Law of energy conservation</b> - says that nothing is now being created or destroyed.</p>	<p><i>(Gen 1:31 ) God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day.</i></p>
<p>10. Believes that <b>the different races have been developing separately for thousands of years</b> and that some are superior to others.</p>	<p><b>All races came from the one group of 8 people</b> who, in about 100 years ( from the time of the flood to 2218 BC, the time of the tower of Babel, multiplied sufficiently to be sent by God out to other lands, and thus gradually spread over the whole globe.</p> <p>Modern genetics actually shows that all human races are extremely close biologically, consistent with all the racial characteristics having been present in one small ancestral population split into subgroups at Babel. Many are surprised to learn for instance that there is only ONE main colouring pigment in humanity. What shade of black, white of brown you are depends on how much you have of this substance, called <b>melanin</b>.</p>	<p><i>(Gen 11:1 ) Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.</i></p> <p><i>(Gen 11:9 NIV) That is why it was called Babel -- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.</i></p>
<p>11. <b>There is no God.</b> Since there is no God each person can set their own rules about everything. Mankind is in charge of everything and does not have to justify behaviour about anything.</p>	<p><b>All the evidence of this world points towards an intelligence such as a God with great power.</b> Evolution does not have a first cause, except a supposed big bang, Nature needs a designer to have made the world and all that is in it.</p>	<p><i>(Dan 2:28 ) ♦.... but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.</i></p> <p><i>(John 1:1-2 ) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.</i></p>

<p>12. <b>There was death in the world before Adam.</b> This is an assumption unable to be proven, to justify the fossil remains which were said to be present millions of years ago.</p>	<p><b>Death did not come into the world until Adam sinned.</b> If Adam had not sinned he would have lived forever. This also means that the fossil remains have to be explained some other way. In fact, the only way the fossils can be explained is by looking at the results of the change to the landscape after Noah's flood.</p>	<p><i>(Gen 3:19 ) ♦....for dust you are and to dust you will return." The punishment of sin was that man would die. (Rom 5:12 ) Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned</i></p>
<p>13. <b>That there was no world wide flood at the time of Noah.</b> That, if any flood occurred it was local, only affecting the immediate area.</p> <p>That the Noah's ark story is a myth.</p>	<p><b>Because of the sin of mankind, God flooded the whole earth,</b> to destroy all but 8 people and token numbers of each animal - including dinosaurs. Every ancient tribe in every country has a flood story which coincides with that of the Bible account. The Chinese pictogram for "boat" shown below is a combination of the symbols for a vessel and 8 mouths</p> <p>Although absolute proof of Noah's ark on the slopes of Mt Ararat is not yet with us, there have been many reported sightings since an earthquake around 1850 altered the shape of the land.</p>	<p><i>(Gen 6:7 ) So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air." (Gen 6:18 ) "...you will enter the ark--you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. (Gen 7:17 )For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. (Gen 7:19 NIV) They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ( by 7 meters )</i></p>
<p>14. <b>Man has been carnivorous - meat eating - or at least omnivorous - eats anything - from the beginning.</b></p>	<p>Man was originally vegetarian. <b>Meat eating was not sanctioned by God until after the flood</b> - close to 2000 years after creation.</p> <p><i>(Gen 1:29 -30) Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. I give every green plant for food." And it was so.</i></p>	<p><i>(Gen 9:2-3 NIV) The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.</i></p>
<p>15. <b>Matter has always existed</b> in some form</p>	<p><b>Matter did not exist until God created it.</b></p>	<p><i>(Gen 1:1 ) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.</i></p>
<p>16. <b>The age of the earth and any material with carbon 14 in it, can be dated accurately.</b> Therefore the age of the earth is approx 4.5 billion years.</p>	<p><b>Radiometric carbon 14 dating</b> - which is supposed to give the age of all material by the age of the carbon in the material - <b>is not now considered reliable.</b> There are too many untested assumptions and variables in its use for it to be considered reliable. Many errors have been produced by evolutionists themselves.</p>	<p><i>No known Biblical references.</i></p>

<p>17. <b>Seems to ignore the effect of population increase</b> over their proposed billions of years.</p>	<p><b>The study of population statistics indicates that the time line of the Bible is much more feasible than that of evolution.</b> A population increase of 1% since the time of Noah fits O.K. with present population levels. However, if evolution were true, for the many more millions of years it gives to evolutionary time, then there would be not sufficient space on earth for everyone</p>	<p><i>(Gen 9:1 ) Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. (Gen 9:18-19) The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.</i></p>
<p>18. <b>Flowering plants and pollinating insects evolved together</b> through mutual benefit.</p>	<p><b>Plants were created on day 3, insects on day 6.</b> If these "days" were ages long, how did flowering plants survive?</p>	<p><i>Genesis 1:11. Plants on day 3 Genesis 1:24. Insects on day 6.</i></p>
<p>19. <b>Stars existed before the earth.</b></p>	<p><b>Earth existed before the stars.</b></p>	<p><i>(Gen 1:1-2 ) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..... (Gen 1:14 ) And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,</i></p>
<p>20. <b>Birds evolved from reptiles</b></p>	<p><b>Reptiles - creeping things were created after birds.</b></p>	<p><i>Genesis 1:20 Birds. Genesis 1:24 Reptiles</i></p>
<p>21. <b>Fishes came into existence long before first birds.</b></p>	<p><b>Both fish and birds were created the same day.</b></p>	<p><i>(Gen 1:20 ) And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."</i></p>
<p>22. <b>Insects evolved long before the first birds</b></p>	<p><b>Insects were created after birds</b></p>	<p><i>Genesis 1:20 Birds Genesis 1:24 Insects.</i></p>
<p>23. <b>Most of the earth's animals lived and died and became extinct long before man even existed</b></p>	<p><b>Adam was created on the same day as all the animals.</b> Eve also was created that day - the sixth day of creation.</p>	<p><i>(Gen 2:19-20 ) Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air..... So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.</i></p>
<p>24. <b>The first living things were sea organisms</b></p>	<p><b>Full blown land plants were first.</b></p>	<p><i>Genesis 1:12 Plants Genesis 1:21 Sea creatures</i></p>
<p>25. <b>Earth's plant life produced our oxygen rich atmosphere</b></p>	<p><b>Earth's life supporting atmosphere was created before the plants.</b></p>	<p><i>Genesis 1:6 Atmosphere Genesis 1:12 Plants</i></p>

<p>26. <b>That life just goes on and on.</b></p>	<p><b>The Bible says that God has a plan, revealed in the Bible.</b> The Word of God has proved to be true over thousands of years, as have just over 700 major predictions made by various writers under the instruction of God. There are only a handful of these predictions still to come true. The Word of God, the Bible has always been reliable and always will be.</p>	<p><i>(Mat 24:14 ) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.</i></p> <p><i>(Mat 24:35 ) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.</i></p>
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Can you begin to see how creation stands out above any consideration of evolutionary theory?

*God has a very special nature. You need to know about it!*

God has a special nature with many quite incredible characteristics. Here are some of them.

**God is a spirit being.** *John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

**God is invisible** *John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time But Jesus, as God has been visible and will be, the visible person of God.*

**God is inscrutable. (mysterious)** *Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.*

**God is incomparable with any other being.** *2 Samuel 7:22 Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.*

**God is unequalled by any other being.** *Isaiah 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? Or by what likeness will you compare Him?*

**God has foreknowledge of everything.** *Isaiah 48:3 "I have declared the former things from the beginning; They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.*

**God is eternal - He lasts forever.** *Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place,*

**God is omnipotent. ie all powerful.** *Jeremiah 32:17 ♦Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.*

**God is omnipresent - ie He is everywhere by His Spirit.** *Psalm 139:7-9 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*

**God is omniscient. ie all knowing** *1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.*

**God is unsearchable.** *Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

Apart from those mentioned above, God is loving, just, merciful, holy, good and many other attributes are in His nature.

His ways are described as being perfect, righteous, everlasting, knowledgeable, just and true.

His titles are as Creator, Judge, King, Preserver, Defender, Shepherd.

So that is the nature of God. He is worth knowing about - and even more important He is worth knowing personally.

*Now consider the issue of Where God came from? and Who made Him?*

Whilst we are looking at God's nature, have you ever thought about this issue?

Where did God come from? Who made Him?

Questions are often asked about the origin of God - where did He come from and who made Him? Here is something about what the Bible says about those matters.

1. The Bible just assumes the existence of God to be a fact.
  - 1.1. The Bible also tells us that every word in it came from the mouth of God who spoke it to his chosen people to write it down. Given then that the Bible is God's word, is it not reasonable then to accept that He does not need to explain His existence in great detail? Is it self evident by the fact that the book exists?
  - 1.2. The Bible also speaks of God's pre-existence. As it is with many things from scripture we are left to believe by faith what God says in scripture or to disbelieve.
  - 1.3. We are conditioned by time and by our possible lifespan of 70+ years. God however is not limited by time at all. He always existed and always will.
  - 1.4. If someone had made God, then that someone would have had to have been greater than God.

So who made God? No one! He has always been there. He is the source of life and behind all created things. He never changes as we do. He never grows old or weak. He has no beginning and no end. God is the one unchanging factor in an ever changing world. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The Bible refers to Jesus by many names - one of these is The Word. This verse says that God and Jesus were together in the beginning. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** (John 1:1 NIV)

2. It is a sound idea, that if you cannot see back into the mists of time to see where God came from, then **you can look at what God says He has done over time and see if those things seem to be true.**

2.1. God created the universe we can actually observe. **"Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."** (John 1:3 NIV) We can see the universe!

**"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."** (Col 1:16 NIV) We can see all that God has made.

2.2. God controls the universe. **"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."** (Heb 1:3 NIV) We can see that God sustains the earth in its orbit.

2.3. Communing between God and Jesus. ) **Jesus said, ".....you loved me before the creation of the world. (John 17:24 NIV)**

**"And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."** (John 17:5 NIV) This says that Jesus existed before time as we know it and had fellowship with His Father.

2.4. God created the earth itself. **"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?" (Job 38:4 NIV)** We can see the earth God created.

2.5. God has been preparing the Kingdom of God. **".....take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."** (Mat 25:34 NIV) God is preparing heaven for believers. We can believe this by faith because God has promised.

2.6. God cares for our weather and seasons. **"The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths. He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses."** (Psalm 135:6-7 NIV)

**"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."** (Gen 8:22 NIV)

Without Gods control of these things we could not survive or have anything to eat.

3. We can also read in scripture what God has done over time - from creation to 100 A.D. and in the future. We could fill many books with these things - evidence that God does really exist. Here are just a few events provable in **secular history** as well as in the Bible.

3.1. The works of Moses in the Egyptian world - a world which secular history says existed when Moses received the 10 commandments in 1462 B.C.

3.2. The appointment of King David as King of the Hebrew people around 1000 B.C.

3.3. The existence of the tunnel that Hezekiah built still in present day Jerusalem - built in 701 B.C. and described in 2 Chronicles 32:30.

3.4. The removal of the Hebrew people from Jerusalem to live in Babylon for 70 years under King Nebuchadnezzar around 586 B.C.

3.5. The birth of Christ and the death and resurrection of Christ.

3.6. The observable existence of places such as Golgotha and the Garden tomb in Jerusalem where the crucifixion and burial took place.

3.7. The sacking of Jerusalem by Rome in A.D. 70 as forecast by Jesus in Matt 24:2.

With all this tangible historical and scriptural evidence as to what God and Jesus have done, is it not reasonable to consider that what God says about His existence is entirely true ?

We should all take care in what we believe. Note what King David said in Psalm 14. "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." Also the book of Hebrews says: (Heb 11:6 NIV) *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

He existed then and exists now. If you seek Him you will find Him.  
That is the *promise* of God.

*If you do not know much about what the Bible says then read this.*

This is about knowing the importance of what the Bible says and learning to embrace its teachings.

The important thing here is the huge disadvantage of not knowing what exists in the Bible.

If you don't know much about what the Bible says, then you are not on your own. Over the last 50 years in particular, not as many people grew up in families that read the Bible regularly. As children of those families grew up they read the Bible less and less. Perhaps you are one of those who did not have the opportunity, because your parents did not read the Bible in their family - or go to church. However, it is a strange phenomenon that the Bible is still the world's best selling book. Chairman Mao's Little Red Book of 1964 is the nearest to the Bibles sales, but still far behind the Bible.

However, if the Bible is still the world's best selling book then using the evidence of the world's continuing fall from grace and the problems in the world, surely it must sit on bookshelves or be read and not understood, or is considered too hard to follow and live by what God prescribed.

Certainly the Bible is a formidable book to understand. Some parts are even hard to read. However, we wish to recommend it to all readers of Soon! as even just the reading of the Bible, brings hope to the reader. Study of the Bible increases hope about life still further and enables one to see the wisdom and truth in its pages, eventually to have the reader love its words and embrace its teachings. If the reader advances to the stage where he or she sees the great advantage of seeking out someone to teach them, then the learner is assured of coming to know God through Jesus Christ.

What happens if you do not know what is told about in the Bible?

If you have never read the Bible, or taken any instruction in it, then you have separated yourself from God to the extent that you may not ever get to know Him through Jesus Christ. And that dear reader is the greatest disaster of all time because you are in effect ignoring the Creator of the universe and what He says about Himself and life, life for every person, especially those that are alive right now.

The reason why man has not known the Bible or does not think he needs to know, is that mankind supposes that he knows all he needs to know about life and that checking God out for what He knows will not help him much at all. Moreover, it's perhaps hard

work to do so. So he does nothing, unless his life gets into deep trouble for one reason or another - and THEN, he wants to know something about God.

The issue really is a comparison of human wisdom with the wisdom of God. Not only is God creator and Sustainer of the world but He knows everything about everything. By comparison, man's wisdom is pitifully small. Consider these verses that compare God's wisdom with man's.

*"Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world"?*

*"For since, in the wisdom of God, **the world through wisdom did not know God,** it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*

*.....Because **the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.....But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;** and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God....." (1Corinthians 1:20-31)*

So, because the best of man's wisdom is inferior to God's wisdom, men need to know they will become wise if they consult God about how life should be lived. It is from the Bible that these things can be learned.

So, if you want to live life in the best possible way, then the reading and studying the Bible is a good place to start.

*The Holy Bible fully explains all about God. His ways and means with all men.*

### **What is the Bible?**

#### **The Bible Portrays Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World.**

"Behind and beneath the Bible, above and beyond the Bible, is the God of the Bible."

***The Bible is God's written revelation of His will to men.*** Its central theme is salvation through Jesus Christ. The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors, who wrote over a period covering approximately 1600 years. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew (a few short passages in Aramaic). About 100 years before the Christian Era the entire Old Testament was translated into Greek. The New Testament was written in the Greek language. The English Bibles are a translation from these original languages.

Millions of people today are searching for a reliable voice of authority. ***The Word of God is the only real authority we have.*** His Word sheds light on human nature, world problems and human suffering. But beyond that, it clearly reveals the way to God. The message of the Bible is the message of Jesus Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). It is the story of salvation; the story of your redemption and mine through Christ; the story of life, of peace, of eternity. ***Our faith is not dependent upon human knowledge*** and scientific advance, but upon the unmistakable message of the Word of God.

The Bible has a great tradition and a magnificent heritage. It contains 66 books written over a period of several hundred years by many different men. Yet ***the message, divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit***, is clear throughout. The 66 books become one.

Who wrote the Bible - and How?

This is an important issue as you need to know that the Bible is actually God's Word and written by Him, using His prophets to record what He told them to say.

Many people who do not know any better, say that the Bible is not God's Word. Because they do not believe, they miss out on all of God's wonderful promises and mislead others. Make sure you find out the truth for yourself.

There are many scriptures that tell us who wrote God's Word the Bible.

**Here are some examples.** Notice the various ways in which God speaks to people.

*An early example - (Exodus 32:16 NIV) The (Ten commandments ) tablets were the actual work of God; the writing was the writing of God Himself, engraved on the tablets.*

**That means** that by some means God Himself actually wrote on the tablets. (remember Charlton Heston as Moses receiving the commandments on stone in the film)?

*(2 Timothy 3:16 NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness....*

**That means** that God spoke by His Spirit to the spirits of men, who heard this and wrote down what they heard.

*(2 Peter 1:21 NIV) For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

**That means** that all knowledge came from God as the Spirit of God spoke to men, who either wrote it or spoke it.

*(Romans 16:25-26 NIV) Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him....*

**That means** that what was hidden in the past was revealed to Paul the Apostle, so that people of all nations might believe what God had revealed to him.

*(Jeremiah 1:9 NIV) Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth.*

**That means** that the Spirit of God conveyed what Jeremiah was to speak and he spoke it through his mouth.

*(1 Kings 16:1 NIV) Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu son of Hanani against Baasha:*

**That means** that a word of knowledge came from God into Jehu's spirit and he spoke it against Baasha.

So, the Bible is God's word to mankind, to tell of His nature and what God expected of man in this world.

*If you do not want to believe what the Bible says then read this.*

Not wanting to believe what the Bible says is almost as common as not knowing what is in the Bible. In fact the two are related.

We are accepting that when someone knows what is in the Bible, they can still choose not to believe what they read.

There are a lot of reasons why people choose to not believe.

Let's start with one which says that they do not really know what God's Word the Bible does for us.

So, let's try and answer that - what does God's word the Bible do for us?

*When you get to know it God's Word makes us aware (convicts) of our wrongs, corrects our beliefs, provides the basis for cleansing of wrongs, confirms what God is going to do for us, and tells us how we could know God. Why would you not want to examine what it says?*

### ***The Word of God Convicts.***

One of the great proofs that the Bible is really God's inspired Word is its unique ability to convict men and women of their sins. Let us consider but a few Old and New Testament examples which demonstrate the lifesaving power of the Scriptures.

#### ***An Old Testament example:***

*What happened in the time of Josiah ( a young and godly Judean king who ruled the Lord's people more than six centuries before Christ ) when God's Word was found in the temple and had it read to everyone? Josiah was convicted by the truth of the word of God and when he compared it with their evil ways of living, he was so convicted by God, that he humbled himself before God and made sure that his people were taught from the word of God. Their lives changed dramatically. ( 2 Chronicles chapter 34)*

#### ***A New Testament example:***

*There are many instances in the New Testament where we see the Holy Spirit using God's Word to convict people of their sin. This is what happened at Pentecost when Peter used the Scriptures to rebuke Israel for crucifying its Messiah. ( Acts 2:37-41).*

### ***The Word of God Corrects.***

There are many symbols for God's Word that can be found in the Bible itself.

*James 1 :23-25 says that we will be blessed in life if we follow God's word.*

*1 Pet.1:22 says that our souls will be purified and we will be loving to other people*

*Ps. 119:105 says that the word of God is a light and lamp to follow in our lives.*

*Matthew 13:18-23 says that if we listen to the word of God, and retain it, we will bear much fruit in our lives.*

*Jeremiah 23:29 says that God's word is like a hammer (that breaks up evil) and like a fire (that destroys evil)*

But the Bible also serves as a measuring rod or ruler to measure or correct. It should be used as a standard against which to measure our beliefs. Immediately, we can reject worldly claims by using our divine written ruler to discover that such arguments simply do not measure up. Sometimes our heavenly Teacher uses His written ruler to correct us when we are in the wrong.

*In Psalm. 119 : 65 - 67 King David said that God's word taught him to walk on straight and narrow paths in life..*

### **The Word of God cleanses.**

One of the pieces of furniture in the Old Testament tabernacle was called a bronze laver. It consisted of a huge upright bronze bowl filled with water. The priests would often stop at this bowl and wash. The Word of God may be thought of as that laver, for it too has the power to cleanse. The O.T. laver could only remove the physical dirt from human hands, but the scriptures possess the ability to take away our moral filth.

God's word may be used to cleanse our souls.

*See 1 John 1:9 says that if we confess our sins, God will forgive and cleanse us*

*John 15:3 says that God's word cleanses us.*

### **The Word of God Confirms.**

To confirm means to fully establish a truth or fact. The Bible should be used to confirm the truth in our own hearts.

It will confirm our salvation. Often Christians are troubled with doubts about eternal life. Did God really save them when they asked Him to do so? Are they still saved today? A number of verses may be used to confirm our salvation, if indeed we do have it.

God's Word either confirms salvation or talks about it in some way.

*John 5:24 says that if we hear God's word and believe it we will have eternal life.*

*John 3:16 says that God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus, so that if we believe in Him we have eternal life.*

Life's bitter disappointments don't look so bad when we know that all things work together for good - if we love Him. (Romans 8:28)

God's word confirms our forgiveness when we sin. The Bible assures us that all confessed sin is instantly and eternally forgiven.

*Ps.32:5 says we are forgiven our sins when we confess them before God.*

### **We can know God through His Word**

#### **God can be known.**

*Jeremiah 9:24 says that we may know and understand God and know He is loving, merciful, just and righteous.*

What evidence has God given that He exists?

*See Rom. 1:19-20 says that since creation, God's invisible attributes, power and divine nature have been clearly seen.*

*Galatians 4: 4 says that at the right time, God sent Jesus His son, born of a woman to redeem people and make them His sons.*

Knowing that God exists is not the same as knowing God personally, just as knowing about the President of U.S.A. does not mean that you necessarily know him personally. This knowledge of God is crucial however since to know God personally is to be saved and have eternal life.

### **How do we get to know God personally?**

*In Eph.1:13 the word of God says we may be saved by believing in what we have heard from God's word.*

### **Getting to know God through the expressions of His will - just a few examples**

*In John 6:40 its says that God's will is that everyone have eternal life*

*In Romans 12:2 it is God's will that we be transformed from this world into new belief in our mind.*

*In Daniel 4:35 we find that God applies His will to the whole world.*

*In 2 Peter 3:9 we find that God is patient with us.*

*In Psalm 11:14 we find that if we don't know what to do God's will is to supply counsellors.*

*In Philippians 2:13 we find that God is at work in us to help us live as He intends.*

### **What we should do with the Word of God, the Bible?**

#### **Read God's Word.**

The person who can read well has a much better opportunity of knowing and understanding God's Word than the person who has to rely upon what others tell him about the Word of God. Reading the Word of God is a very important part of communicating God's Word to God's people.

*Ps.119:18 says that if we read God's word carefully our eyes will be opened to wonderful things.*

#### **An idea for you to consider!**

One way to get to know God's Word the Bible - there are many ways. Here is a way to start, especially if you have never read the Bible very much.

The Book of Proverbs, which was penned by King Solomon under the instruction of God, is a wonderful book of wisdom and knowledge and one excellent starting point. There are the same amount of chapters in it as there are days in the month. So you can read just one chapter a day. For example you would read chapter 10 on the tenth of a month and chapter 26 on the 26th day of the month. You can never get lost.

If you have read these words about believing what the Bible says, then you are on the way to believing for yourself.

Continue to read and you will get to believe.

*The Old Testament is the history of the Jewish people, much of secular history and shows how God taught them, through His guidance and corrections.*

As most people know there are two parts to the Bible, the Old Testament written between 1500 B.C. and 400 B.C. However, its history extends back to around 4000 B.C.

Then there is the New Testament written from about 40 A.D. to 96 A.D.

So how does the history of the Jewish people and the Old Testament fit with Christianity and the New Testament? How did this all happen?

In the 4000 years of Biblical history before the birth of Jesus Christ, all of Jewish history occurred to set the stage for the arrival of Christ. After creation, Adam and Eve's family grew and extended over 9 generations to the time of Noah, whose time was a watershed in Biblical history. Adam's family before Noah had a great variety of characters, all disposed in God towards teaching us things about God, that even in our day are useful. At that time of human history man commonly lived for several hundred years, Adam himself living 930 years.

Noah of course was another special man chosen by God to build an ark to save the human race. At that time, God was quite disgusted with the human race and their sinful behaviour, so he asked Noah and his three sons (and their wives) to build an ark, supplying to him the exact shape and size that the ark should be built. It took 120 years for the ark to be built. Noah himself lived to be 950 years old.

After the world wide flood which destroyed all men and land animals (2319 B.C.), Noah re-established a new human colony beginning on Mt Ararat where the ark came to earth as the flood subsided. His three sons, Japheth, Shem and Ham went and established themselves in three different directions from Mt Ararat. Shem's offspring was, over many generations to result in the birth of Abraham.

As human beings spread over that region of the earth, man's inherent sin was not far away at any time. Eventually man became so proud that he built a monument reaching to the sky, as though they did not need God at all. It was called the tower of Babel, this occurring in 2144 B.C. Up until this time all men spoke a similar language, but because of their rejection of God, God confused their languages and as they spread they took their own languages with them.

At some point in the mists of eternal time, God had decided to make a Hebrew people that He would call His own chosen people. Abraham, born in 1967 A.D. was to be the father of this new nation of Hebrews. Later, Abraham was called by God to be the father of this new nation. After a false start, conceiving with his maid Hagar instead of his wife Sarah, the union with Hagar resulted in Ishmael being born and his union with his wife resulting in Isaac being born.

One of Isaac's sons Jacob was to be a main player in the development of the Hebrew nation, God cleansing him from his rough and ready ways. One of Jacob's sons Joseph continued the Jewish tradition and in an amazing turn of events, after suffering much at the hand of his brothers and others, he became Prime Minister of Egypt. He attained that position out of his humility, honouring God and his ability to be able to interpret dreams. When 7 years of abundance of grain was followed by 7 years of famine, Joseph's father and family came to Egypt to live, setting the stage for the Egyptian slavery and the part Moses played in delivering the Hebrews from Pharaoh and begin their journey into the promised land via the drama of the crossing of the Red Sea. At this time, God gave Moses the Law on tablets of stone, which are still used by Jews as their guidance for life.

After Joshua completed the entry into Canaan after the death of Moses, this then set the stage for the era of Kings, notably King Saul, King David and King Solomon at around 1000 B.C. After the most prosperous period in the history of the Hebrews, their kingdoms fell into sin and eventually were over-run by King Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. The remaining Hebrews were taken to Babylon, only to return after 70 years and begin to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and then its temple was completed in 515

B.C. However, it was desecrated again but in the time of Herod the Great was restored and in full operation by the time of the birth of Jesus Christ.

God stopped speaking to prophets to write down new things from about 400 A.D. to the coming of Christ and beyond. However, He had already given through the 40 writers of the Old Testament, all that they needed to know what was going to happen.

During all this time there is **an incredible genealogy** that ran right through these 4000 years, all of the people involved in some way bringing about God's will in preparation for the birth of Christ. The **other important thing** over parts of these years was that the Jewish law was used to teach the Hebrews how to live. Sometimes they succeeded and sometimes they did not. God always knew that He would send Jesus and tip the world on its head in terms of a better way to live through the incredible provision of the death of Christ to pay for the sins of all people who believe. Then for us to live in resurrection power by virtue of Christ overcoming death. Jesus had a short few weeks to teach the disciples of a new way that was to come with the Spirit of God, all this before His ascension back to heaven in A.D. 29.

So the history of the Jews in a very real way, was for people's of the earth to learn of God from His dealings with His people over 4000 years and to prepare the way for the coming of Christ to earth for the first time. The second time is still to come, but is as certain as the first.

*The biggest turning point in all of human history was when God arranged the birth of Jesus Christ in the process of bringing salvation to the world.*

**This tells how Father God initiated His plan to save the people of the world from their sin.**

The time had come! Jesus Christ was about to enter the world as a human being - His first coming to the world.

It had been planned from long ago. Isaiah in 732 B.C. foretold the coming of Jesus Christ (*over seven centuries before His birth*). These verses are just some of many scriptures foretelling the birth of Christ.

*Isaiah 9:2 "The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. And Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

**This light was to be the Son of God, the child, Jesus Christ**

*Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

**This child, this Son of God, was Jesus Christ**

*Luke 2:7 "And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."*

### **This first born Son, Mary's son, was Jesus Christ**

Then, in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul explained God's timing of the birth of Christ.

*Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."*

Then the Apostle John explains the nature of Jesus, here referred to as the Word.

*John 1:14 "And the Word became 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."*

Then, in these next two verses, the Apostle Paul told us more of His character and His purposes.

*Philippians 2:5-8 " Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*

*Roman 1:3 "...concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;*

*Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.*

Jesus Christ dwelt on earth from 4 B.C. to 29 A.D. He worked as a carpenter for 30 years before He began His work for His Father in heaven. He then selected His disciples, taught them for 3 years and died on the cross for sins He did not commit. However, all this was predetermined by God. Even Jesus knew what was going to happen. But He did it anyway, for without His death on the cross, our sins could not have been forgiven. Without His resurrection, it would not be possible for us to rise into newness of life by our confession of faith and live our life for God.

The disciples of Jesus continued His work and wrote some of the New Testament ,(although Paul wrote most of it later) Christianity spread like wildfire throughout the then known world.

His birth, death and resurrection altered the course of world history and the years to come will show just how much all of life revolves around Jesus Christ, especially when He comes for a second time to rule over earth.

The **Soon!** Team encourages each reader to look carefully at these things because taken together they are statements of fact concerning the future of every person alive on earth at this time.

That is the end of this section of Soon! The *next section is "What happens to man after death is a vital piece of knowledge."*

## *2. What happens to man after death is a vital piece of knowledge.*

This is what you need to know – summary list first

*At death what happens to your body, soul and spirit?  
Is there a destination for people after their death?*

*Has anyone escaped death, or will anyone escape death?*

*How many lives do we have?*

*Who gives human beings life?*

*Does God like us dying?*

*I have heard of a rapture. What is the rapture?*

*What does the Bible say about the difference between going to heaven or hell?*

*But how could a God of love send people to hell?*

*How can I be sure of going to heaven? What is salvation?*

*At death what happens to your body, soul and spirit?  
Is there a destination for people after their death?*

Human beings are firstly spiritual beings, who have a soul and live in a body. Whilst all parts of a human being are important, the soul is immortal (lives forever). These three parts of human beings are mentioned in the Bible. More explanation on that in other places.

1 Thessalonians 15:22-23. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Here is what happens to all three parts of the human being at the time of death.

1 **The body** goes to the grave (or is cremated).

The Bible says in Gen 3:19,...*In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return...*

2. **The spirit** goes back to God who gave it.

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 12:7,...*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it....*

The Bible says in James 2:26, ...*the body without the spirit is dead...* (meaning that we die when the spirit leaves us)

3. **The soul** goes to heaven or hell, depending on what decision was made about Christ, whilst the person was alive.

(Acts 24:15) *"I have hope in God, ....that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust".*

*So, all souls are resurrected, but only some go to heaven.*

(John 5:29 ) *" ....those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation".*

This means that those people who have known Jesus Christ whilst they were alive, will be resurrected into newness of life - others into condemnation.

(2 Cor 5:10-14 ) *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad".*

All are judged.

(Mat 25:46 ) *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life".*

Those who do not know Christ before death, go to hell and all others will live forever.

So, in summary, believers in Jesus Christ go to heaven to be with Him.  
Others await the Judgement Day.

*How many lives do we have? Has anyone escaped death, or will anyone escape death?*

**Question** How many lives do we have?

**Answer** Man lives once only! All men and women are to die just once.

(Heb 9:27 ) *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment".*  
(Beliefs like reincarnation are false and are meant to mislead people into wrong beliefs so they do not find the truth through Jesus Christ).

However, three people are known to have escaped normal earthly death. The Bible tells us that three people did escape death, because God took them to Himself in heaven. These were all special cases. The three were Enoch in Genesis 5:24, Elijah in 2 Kings 2:11 and Jesus Christ in Acts 1:9-11. The details are given in file now25.html

Somewhere in the not too distant future, life on earth will end another way. All true believers in Jesus Christ will be taken from the earth in an event called the rapture. This event can happen at any time. Believers alive at the time of the rapture will not die a physical death on earth.

*So, believers who are alive at the time of the rapture will be taken to the safety of heaven just as Enoch, Elijah and Jesus were taken.*

*Those believers who are already dead at the time of the rapture will be taken to the safety of heaven.*

*Unbelievers who are alive at the time of the rapture will remain on earth to face the greatest time of tribulation on earth that has ever been experienced.*

*Those unbelievers who are already dead at the time of the rapture will await a time of judgement and punishment at a later time.*

*Who gives human beings life? Where does life come from?*

God alone gives life. He gives us a body in which our soul and spirit dwell.

God is not only the originator of the life of all people, but it is written of the process of forming the human being that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Not only that but because of Him, we are able to live and move - because we are the offspring of God Himself. These three verses indicate those things.

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

*(Psa 139:14 NKJV) "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well".*

*(Acts 17:28 ) "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring".*

So, we owe our life to the creator God who created all things. But human being are the crown of His creation.

*Does God like us dying?*

No God does not! God has no pleasure in seeing people die who do not know Him (through Jesus Christ) God's own words say that.

*(Ezek 33:11) "As I live, says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways".*

*Ezekiel 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live"?*

And the reason is simple. God provided a way by which every person could go to heaven. Here is the most famous verse in all the Bible which says exactly that.

*John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".*

God sent Jesus into the world, not that He might condemn it, but that He might save all those who lived on earth. The next verse says exactly that.

*John 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved".*

God sees the death of believers in Him (through Jesus Christ) as precious. He actually says so.

*Psalms 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints".*

So, God sees as precious those who die and go to heaven but takes no pleasure at all in those who die without knowing Him through Jesus Christ.

*I have heard of a rapture. What is the rapture?*

The rapture is an event sometime in the future (*perhaps near future*), where believers in Jesus Christ, whether they are alive at the time or have died previously will be snatched off the earth to meet Jesus Christ somewhere above the earth. It may sound like something from science fiction and difficult to comprehend, but there is no doubt it is going to happen. One of the reasons for it happening is that God, at a time of His choosing, will take believers off this earth, prior to some or all of the tribulation period that is to come upon the earth.

God has the power to do anything. This is easily possible for Him. Also, this has happened before. The Bible records three instances of this happening. So these people did escape normal death. These were all special and different cases.

### **1 Enoch was raptured**

*(Gen 5:24 ) "And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him".*

### **2 Elijah was taken to heaven by God leaving Elisha behind to do his work.**

*2 Kings 2:11. "Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven".*

### **3 Jesus was taken to heaven by God some 6 weeks after His death and resurrection. Here are the verses that say that.**

*Acts 1:9-11 "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He (Jesus) was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven".*

(The men in white apparel were angels. Notice they say Jesus will return just as He left - from the clouds of heaven).

4 However, at the appropriate time, the Lord Jesus Christ will take believers from the earth. Believers will be taken from the earth in an event called the rapture. This event can happen at any time. Believers alive at the time of the rapture will not die a physical death on earth.

*(1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ) "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed".*

*(1 Thessalonians 4:14-17) "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord".*

*So, believers who are alive at the time of the rapture will be taken to the safety of heaven just as Enoch, Elijah and Jesus were taken.*

*Those believers who are already dead at the time of the rapture will be taken to the safety of heaven.*

*Unbelievers who are alive at the time of the rapture will remain on earth to face the greatest time of tribulation on earth that has ever been experienced.*

*Those unbelievers who are already dead at the time of the rapture will await a time of judgement and punishment at a later time.*

*What does the Bible say about the difference between going to heaven or going to hell?*

The Bible teaches that if we have been granted eternal (or everlasting ) life then we go to heaven to live with God forever.

However, there are conditions. The condition for eternal life is that we believe in Jesus and what He has done. Here are two verses that explain that.

*John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent".*

*John 3:15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life".*

However, notice the alternative - those who do not believe (perish) in the verse above and in the verse below have the wrath of God abiding on them.

*John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him".*

The next two verses describe the speed with which this will all happen, and the nature of the suffering.

*1 Thessalonians 5:3 "For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape".*

*2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 "...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power".*

This last verse summarizes the difference between going to heaven and going to hell.

*Daniel 12:2 "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt".*

Finally, this parable that Jesus told, tells the story of two people, one who went to heaven and one who went to hell - and did not like it.

**A vital parable!** (Luke 16:19-31 NKJV) *"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.*

*And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'*

*"Then he said, "I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the*

*dead, they will repent. "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead'".*

From this we can see that:

- 1 There is a great gulf fixed between heaven and hell and no one can pass from one to the other.
- 2 The rich man who happened to go to hell, was living in torment and wanted to switch to heaven, but found it was impossible. (in themselves, riches do not predestine anyone to hell, any more than being poor means going to heaven).
- 3 Lazarus is in heaven with Abraham.
- 4 Abraham tells the rich man that he received all he was worth during his life on earth. He probably cared little for the poor. Lazarus, on the other hand, who did not receive much during his lifetime, apparently loved God, because he was taken to heaven when he died.
- 5 The choice between loving God and going to heaven compared with not loving God and going to hell must be made whilst we are alive here on earth. No switch is possible after death.

Can it be any clearer?

*But how could a God of love send people to hell?*

God loves what is right and will do everything possible to save us, consistent with justice.

But He will not do anything inconsistent with justice, because there is something more terrible than sinners going to hell, and that is a God who is no longer committed to justice.

To say that God should not punish sin is to ask Him to say that sin does not matter. It is to ask Him to say that holiness does not matter.

It is to ask Him to no longer be committed to justice. It is to ask Him to no longer be committed to right or wrong. It is to ask Him to become an evil God, like Satan, not committed to what is right and just.

So, God has to differentiate between good and evil, right and wrong, heaven and hell.

*How can I be sure of going to heaven? What is salvation?*

### **Follow what the Bible says about salvation**

*(John 3:16 ) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life".*

*(1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 ) "...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

*(John 3:36) "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him".*

Notice that the above verses say. In simple terms, believing in Jesus Christ gets you into heaven. It involves turning away from other things in life, instead of the opposite, of not believing and having God's wrath abide on you, which is another way of saying you are not in heaven but in hell for all eternity.

**Is salvation simple? Yes, although it is also profound**

Notice the important elements of these next verses. A verbal calling out to God to save us.

Repenting, which means turning away from your previous life and following Jesus Christ.

*(Acts 2:21) "...whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved".*

*(Acts 2:38 ) "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".*

Finally, notice the difference between the attitudes of the two thieves who died on a cross beside Jesus. One of them trusted Jesus that He could take him into His kingdom when he died, but the other, just wanted to save his own life from dying on the cross. The first dealt with eternal things, the other, just with the immediate things of life on earth.

*(Luke 23:39-43 ) "Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise".*

In these two criminals we are all represented. Which one will you be?

The next section is:

*3. The spiritual connections between our physical and spiritual lives need to be known.*

This is what you need to know about these spiritual connections.  
The first link is at the bottom of the page.

*You need to know that human beings are spirit beings that have a soul and live in a body.*

*You need to know now that God's Spirit, through our human spirit, is meant to rule over our soul and body, not the other way round.*

*You need to know now the spiritual implications of our physical lives. This depends on whether we die before Jesus Christ returns to earth or if we are alive at His second coming.*

*You need to know now that if your death comes before you come to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, then you remain separated from God forever.*

*You need to know now that if you come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord prior to your physical death, then you will live with God forever, on earth during the Millennial period of 1000 years on earth and then in heaven for eternity.*

*You need to know now that every person has a choice to either accept the call of Jesus Christ, His offer of salvation or to reject Him. God allows your free will choice in this matter.*

The next point is:

*You need to know that human beings are Spirit beings that have a soul and live in a body*

This is about human beings having three parts to their beings. This is an important factor that needs to be understood, because you need to know what God does at the time of death.

Remember that God is a trinity, having three aspects. You should now know that God made man in His own image. This is what God said and did.

*Genesis 1:26 ..Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;*

*Genesis 1:27 ..So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them....*

*Genesis 5:1 ...This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.*

This is how God made man

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

What is man?

So, men and women are spirit beings, who have a soul and live in a body.

Paul explains the three aspects of human beings

1 Thessalonians 5:23 ...Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ....

**These next two scriptures mention just two aspects - the human spirit and body (flesh)**

James 2:26 ...For as the body without the spirit is dead,.. (body and spirit)

2 Corinthians 7:1...Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.... (spirit and flesh - body)

These are all important matters when we start to get to know God and how He is going to treat us at our death. There is more to it than this, but it is based on this understanding of human beings having three aspects. You would have observed that the world, in its medical and psychological professions only treat the body and soul, because they are generally unaware of the spirit aspect and they cannot treat it anyway. That is the domain of God alone, which is why we need to know Him.

*You need to know now that God's Spirit, through our human spirit, is meant to rule over our soul and body, not the other way round.*

We have been telling you that all men and women are spirit beings that have a soul and live in a body. This file is to tell you that there is a particular order in which these three, spirit, soul and body were meant to operate.

Remember mankind was made in the image of God. Right through the Bible, God in three persons appears everywhere.

When Jesus was baptised in water, all three were represented, the Father speaking about His Son Jesus, whilst the Spirit of God was there hovering over Jesus. There are many other examples in scripture where Jesus spoke of all three in the one sentence. Paul also spoke of all three when he said that, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Because we were all made in the image of God, we too are tripartite beings, have three aspects. spirit, soul and body. God meant that these three were to function in a particular way, with our spirit ruling over our soul and soul ruling over our body. God wanted it this way so as we would be able to live as He had planned.

However, somewhere near the beginning of time, the Fall of Man occurred where Adam and Eve disobeyed God and our soul lost the ability to be ruled over by our spirit because we lost our direct connection with God because of Adam's sin. Every man born since then (apart from Jesus) has been born with an innate ability to sin - without being taught how.

One of the reasons Jesus Christ came to earth was to make it possible for the Father to restore the ability of mankind to again relate to the Father through the Spirit, by virtue of the spirit of man being the doorway for the Spirit of God to commune with man.

So people who have been born again, become regenerate by confession of sin and repenting of it, have had their spirit made new, so that they again, can commune with God and learn of Him.

People who have not had this experience do not have the benefit of the Spirit of God leading them and so are confined to use only their natural human assets in the soul to live by and make all decisions about their life. However, because God is not involved in that process with them, the natural nature of man living according to their limited knowledge, makes his decisions based on his own self and what suits him. When all unsaved men do likewise, disagreements come between them and they do not live happily, conflict being ever present.

In summary this means that man cannot live as God intended unless his spirit has become regenerate by the power of God - and even then he has a lot of learning to do about God's ways. But at least he has opened the doorway into life in God.

*You need to know now the spiritual implications of our physical lives, depending on whether we die before Jesus Christ returns to earth or if we are alive at His second coming*

We are born. We live. We die.

But it is our state before God when we die that counts.

The matter is relatively simple.

Some people will die before the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

If we die knowing Jesus Christ as our Saviour before our physical death, our soul will go to heaven to live with God forever - in a new spiritual body.

If we die not knowing Jesus Christ as our Saviour, the penalty is eternal death and separation from God forever.

We pay a high cost when we die not knowing Jesus Christ.

If we are still alive when Jesus Christ returns to earth, then it is unlikely we will get to heaven. There are several reasons for this.

1 Firstly, all believers, at the time of the rapture will have already gone to heaven. ( see details of rapture in other places).

2 Those who are not believers in Jesus Christ at the time of the rapture, of true believers from the earth into heaven, will remain on earth to suffer the tribulation period, probably not surviving.

3 Many people will not survive the tribulation period. However, for those that might, they will have gone through all or much of the tribulation period of 7 years on earth, (that is if they have survived that period) where millions of people will die under the judgements of God. (*This period is described in some detail elsewhere*).

4 There is only one certain way to ensure going to heaven and that is to become a Christian before the rapture (which can be any time). Although we know that many people will become believers during the first part of the tribulation, it will not be a pleasant time, as many will die at the hands of the Antichrist. However, because of

their faith in God, they will go directly to heaven at the time of their death to be with God. Such people are called martyrs, dying because of their belief in God, even under the duress of the Antichrist, during the tribulation period.

*You need to know now that if your death comes before you come to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, then you remain separated from God forever.*

As we said before...

We are born. We live. We die.

But it is our state before God when we die that counts.

Many people go to their physical death without knowing Jesus Christ, who could have been their Saviour, who could have carried their soul to heaven. There is no doubt in our mind that this is the biggest tragedy that can happen to any human being - to be separated from God forever.

It is experienced in two stages; before and after death. The stage before death is called life, whatever number of years we might have lived. What we have missed out on is knowing God and His tender mercies, of God's love and His care in all manner of ways. Whilst all people have the benefit of rain and sunshine, those who know God (not just know ABOUT Him) receive many extra blessings that cannot be experienced by unbelievers. The Bible is full of those benefits. Read Psalm 1 which indicates the broad differences between living with God and living without Him. So, that is the first stage of living without God; the period of time spent on earth. The Bible says this is for 70 years or if we have extra strength then a few more.

The second stage is far worse because it means being separated from God forever. The Bible talks about people who do not get to heaven as gnashing their teeth in disgust and fear at their state of being in torment. Hell is a very real place. (see other places for explanations of those times).

*This question is important. Why doesn't everyone get to know God before their physical death?*

There are many reasons why some people do not get to know God before their death. There are so many reasons that they cannot be listed here. Here are some possibilities, none of which are absolute in all cases.

- 1 They lived in a family that did not know God, nor did their forebears, so God and church was never on the agenda for them. Sad but true for many.
- 2 When they married and made their own family there was no tradition of God so they continued on their way not knowing and not believing.
- 3 The Bible says that if man were to look around him and see the wonders of creation then they would realize there is a God and start to find out about Him. (many do that for the Bible still has the largest sale of any book in the whole world).
- 4 Some people read the Bible but cannot understand it, so give up. What they should do is ask people who know. There are millions of believers around the world who would sit with them and teach them. Nowadays the internet is a prime resource, provided some judgement is used to sort out the nutters from the real.

5 Some people get involved in other religions that ultimately offer nothing at all, although they seem to, and their teachers brainwash them into false belief. Some of those are hard to escape from, so don't get into them in the first place.

6 Perhaps by far the biggest reason why people die before knowing God is that they allow their own self centred heart to have them believe they know everything and that self centeredness or selfishness does not allow any space or time to consider God or what He offers.

7 Pride of life. Some people are so successful in their life by their own efforts that they believe they are invincible. But in all cases they have not given God credit in their lives for what He provides for all people.

8 Some people have had severe or traumatic experiences in their life and consider that had God been real He would have not allowed that to happen to them. This turns them against God. It is a very real issue for them. However, life was never meant by God to be perfect or free from trouble. However, God is sovereign and knows all things and all things are ultimately from Him.

9 Many people simply get caught up in the world, through an over focus on their careers, or get involved and lost in sex, drugs, alcohol and many other so called delights of this evil world. So take care!

10 The last one is the saddest of all. Many people look at the church and its peoples and do not see the love of God, or they see hypocrites, or money seeking pastors or a whole range of other negatives that should not be in any church, but can be. This charge can be laid at many of God's people in churches, who seek benefit for themselves and do not love as God loves.

So, get to know God now!  
You never know when your time will come.

*You need to know now that if you come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord prior to your physical death, then you will live with God forever. This will be on earth during the Millennial period of 1000 years on earth and then in heaven for eternity*

We have just told of the requirements of God to be able to go to heaven and live forever with Him

So what happens then?

At the time of the return of Christ, many things happen ( see all the detail in other places). However, when Christ returns He will be involved in some judgements of certain groups of peoples. He will also despatch the Antichrist and The False Prophet into the Lake of Fire. Scripture tells us of these things in the book of Revelation written by the Apostle John around 90 A.D.

When Jesus establishes His earthly kingdom the land of Israel will be central to all world events. Christ Himself in His physical form, will reside in Israel in a newly formed kingdom, whose form and dimensions are already known and explained in detail in the last 9 chapters of Ezekiel, and referred to in the book of Revelation.

All countries on earth will be under the rule of Christ as God and a hierarchy decided by Him. All countries of the world will be expected to come to Jerusalem once each year (the detail is not explained) otherwise they will not receive rain on their land. If that surprises you, just remember that God is the creator of the original earth and has all the power required to recreate according to His will.

The Bible does not give the details about how we will all live and where, but apparently we will live for considerably longer periods and all speak the same language again. We do know that this period will be for one millennium, which is 1000 years. At the end of that 1000 years, God will finally deal with Satan and he will cause no more trouble or evil influence. Jesus Christ will have complete control over all.

At the end of that 1000 years, the Great White Throne Judgement will occur where all people who died without a knowledge of Jesus Christ will be judged and separated from God forever. At around that time, the New Jerusalem will be formed and is where all believers will live in perfect health forevermore, a period called eternity.

### ***Don't miss out!***

*You need to know now that every person has a choice to either accept or reject the offer of Jesus Christ, the offer of salvation. God allows your free will choice in this matter.*

### **Free will**

Your own free will is something that God will not interfere with. What God hopes is that we will all accept that His will for our lives is far better than our own personal will. They may in fact differ greatly.

So in other words, when you die (or the Lord comes before you die) you will go to heaven to live with Him forever, or you will face His judgement. The primary judgement He makes is whether or not you have accepted Him and His rule over your life or whether you have not.

Elsewhere we have written that God does not want anyone to face judgement. In His great love for your life and afterlife, He sometimes sends great difficulties into lives, in order that we see that we cannot really do without Him. In a sense He bends our arm up our back, so that it hurts a little in order for us to see His love for us.

It's best just to give in, for your own sake and perhaps for your family too.

As you study and read all these things we hope you will be convinced.

The next section is:

*4. That the exact nature of the relationship of man with God needs to be known, including the connections between God and your spirit, soul and body.*

How do we connect with God? Here are the essential ideas

*That a full knowledge of God reveals that He is a trinity. (having three parts, Father, Son and Holy Spirit).*

*That the first man was made in the exact image of God and was spirit, soul and body.*

*The first woman was made by God from the body of the first man.*

*The first man and woman were perfect in spirit, soul and body and were able to commune directly with the Spirit of God.*

*When this first couple were disobedient to God, they lost their oneness with Him and to a degree, their ability to commune directly with Him.*

*Every man and woman born since the first man Adam (except Jesus Christ because of His virgin birth) has been born without the normal ability to commune with God. Consequently they have had to live out of their own soul and body, without the ability to receive guidance from God through the Holy Spirit.*

*That a full knowledge of God reveals that He is a trinity  
(having three parts: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, sometimes  
referred to as the Spirit of God)*

This is about God being in three persons. This fact is fundamental in beginning to know and understand God.

This is one of the mysteries of the Bible. It is a good example of where simple acceptance of what the Bible says is the best way to go. Understanding of God having three aspects (the word trinity is used) gradually comes as we learn of God.

**God in three persons appears right throughout the whole Bible.**

#### **A. In the beginning**

##### **Genesis 1**

Genesis 1:1-2 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters".*

Genesis 1:26 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;"*

**Father God and Spirit of God are mentioned here. Jesus is implied.**

#### **B. When the birth of Jesus was explained**

Galatians 4:4-7 *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God (implying Father) sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of*

*His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ".*

**All three are mentioned here. Father God, the Spirit of God and the Son Jesus Christ (see underlined).**

### **C. When Jesus was baptised**

*Matthew 3:16 "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased".*

**All three are involved here. Father God is speaking, the Spirit of God is there, hovering over Jesus Christ the Son.**

### **D. When Jesus himself explained about Himself**

*John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you".*

*John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me".*

*Matt 28:18-19 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."*

All three are involved here. Jesus is speaking, referring to the Father and Holy Spirit.

### **E. When the Apostle Paul prayed**

*2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen".*

Paul mentions all three of the trinity here in this prayer.

**Christianity is the only religion that is based on a trinity.**

The coming of Jesus Christ to earth and His work through the Holy Spirit in reliance on His Father is the evidence for this relationship of relationships.

Other religions such as Islam and Judaism have a single conception of God - this is called monotheistic. No other religion has what Christianity has. Jesus Christ, was born as the Son of God, crucified, resurrected, ascended back to heaven, and with the promise that He will return to earth to rule over it. That is what **Soon!** is all about - letting you know what is going to happen.

*That the first man was made in the exact image of God and was a three part unity. (spirit, soul and body)*

This is about human beings having three parts to their beings. This is an important factor that needs to be understood, because you need to know what God does at the time of death.

Remember that God is a trinity, having three aspects. You should now know that God made man in His own image. This is what God said and did.

Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."

Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them".

Genesis 5:1 "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God".

### **This is how God made man**

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

### **What is man?**

So, men and women are spirit beings, who have a soul and live in a body.

### **Paul explains the three aspects of human beings**

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ".

### **These next two scriptures mention just two aspects - the human spirit and body (flesh)**

James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead,.. " (body and spirit)

2 Corinthians 7:1 "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God". (spirit and flesh - body)

These are all important matters when we start to get to know God and how He is going to treat us at our death. There is more to it than this, but it is based on this understanding of human beings having three aspects. You would have observed that the world, in its medical and psychological professions only treat the body and soul, because they are generally unaware of the godly aspect of the spirit and they cannot treat it anyway. That is the domain of God alone, which is why we need to know Him.

*The first woman was made by God from the body of the first man*

This is about how the first woman was taken out of the body of the man and formed by God.

**This is how God made woman**

Genesis 2:21-25 *"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed".*

**This is what the Bible says about the relationship of men and women**

1 Corinthian 7:2-3 *"...let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband".....Let the husband render to his wife the affection due to her, and likewise also the wife to her husband".*

1 Cor 11:12 *"For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God"*

*The first man and woman were perfect in spirit, soul and body and were able to commune directly with the Spirit of God: spirit to Spirit*

This is to explain that the first man and woman (created in the image of God) were perfect in every detail and lived in a perfect world controlled by God. They knew no evil at all, only good.

When God finished His work of creation He said this.

Genesis 1:25. *"And God saw that it was good".*

Then God provided for the every need of man and woman. It was their task to look after all they had been given.

Genesis 1:28 *"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth".*

Genesis 1:29-30 *"And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.*

30Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so".

Genesis 2:8-9 "The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil".

There was only one instruction. This was that the fruit from one tree should not be eaten.

Genesis 2:15-17 "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die".

What was it like to live at that time?

Can you imagine what it must have been like to live at that time? They were perfect in body, they thought alike as God thought, their spirit was in perfect communion with God Himself, who used to talk with them all the time and they were provided with all the food they needed to live. Most importantly, they were told to be fruitful and multiply. But we are then told that what happened next, brought evil into the world.

*When this first couple were disobedient to God, they lost their ability to commune directly with Him.*

This is what is known as the Fall of man, where the first man and woman sinned against God by disobeying His command not to eat from the tree of good and evil.

Had they not sinned in this way they would have lived forever. However, God knew what would happen. In essence what happened was that Adam's wife Eve was deceived by Satan and then Adam sinned against God. Then God, because of the disobedience, put a curse on all mankind. There were some different aspects for men and women.

From that time, man lost his immediate and open contact with God. However, Jesus Christ came to earth to pay the debt for all human beings who have suffered this curse and if He is accepted as Lord and Saviour by each person then, the curse is removed and they again have open access to God, as did Adam and Eve in their time.

### **This is what happened**

Genesis 3:6-13 "...when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

*And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

*Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

*And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."*

*And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate".*

This is how God decided to punish both the woman and the man

*To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."*

*Then to Adam He said, ...Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat of it:*

*"Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*

After the punishment came God's love

*Genesis 3:21 "Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them."*

In other words God forgave them. The clothing is indicating the covering of their sin and showing God's forgiveness.

But there were boundaries over which they could not cross

*Genesis 3:22-24 "Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever".. "therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life"..*

God made sure that they could not access the tree of life and eat from it and live forever, so He removed them from the garden and guarded it. To gain eternal life their sin had to be covered (which it was) or in our time, we have to rely on the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ on the cross in order to have eternal life.

Note - Yes, Adam and Eve will be in heaven with others who gain access by knowing God. Every person born since Adam has been born with the sin nature (except Jesus Christ). To go to heaven this nature needs to be changed by a spiritual act performed by God when we confess our sin and make Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

*Every man and woman born since the first man Adam (except Jesus Christ because of His virgin birth) has been born without the normal ability to commune with God. Consequently they have had to live out of their own soul and body, without the ability to receive guidance from God through the Holy Spirit.*

This is about how the fall of man has devastated the life of mankind in all periods of history. Mankind lost the ability to commune with God.

Mankind's inhumanity to man began at the time of Adam and has continued ever since. Mankind has lived in poverty of human spirit, which has caused every other trouble known to man, including wars, disease, relationship breakdown, shortage of food and water and a multitude of lack of other necessities.

This situation has been brought about because, without God's guidance, man has had to live out of his own knowledge and wisdom alone. Without God's wisdom, man has messed up badly -and what is more, can never fix it himself. He needs God.

However, the good news is that God has provided the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to pay for the sins of all people who confess their sins and take Christ to be their Lord and Saviour. More about that in other places.

Except for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, mankind has lived in darkness since that time.

### **The effect of darkness explained**

*Psalm 4:19 "The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble".*

### **So darkness, which is lack of communication with God, causes people to stumble**

*2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them".*

Darkness is continued in those who have their eyes blinded to the truth by Satan, here called the god of this world, because of his conditional control over the world allowed by God. So if they are spiritually blind they cannot see the light of God.

There is the encouragement to awake to the light of God

Firstly in the anticipation of Christ to provide the light of God

*Psalm 112:4 "Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous".*

*Matthew 4:16 "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned".*

*Luke 1:79 "To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace".*

Secondly, since Jesus has come to earth, has died for our sins and risen again.

*Ephesians 5:13-14 :But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light".*

*2 Corinthians 4:6 "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ".*

*Colossians 1:13 " He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,..."*

So, God has done all He has needed to do to provide for man to again have access to God. This happened through the coming of Jesus and what He did whilst He was on earth.

So mankind in this time has no excuse not to know God. God is seeking all men who do not know Him and all anyone has to do is to ask.

**The next section is:**

*5 That God has a plan to make it possible for all men, women and children to restore their relationship with God.*

These are the explanations of God's plans for all men and women

*How did man get out of relationship with God? Did God have a plan to overcome this break?*

*What were the consequences for the world of this break in relationship with God?*

*Throughout the history of man, has man had to live with this break with God, or has there been a remedy available?*

*Is it now possible for man to live in a loving relationship with God?*

*What historical events made this new relationship with God possible?*

*What role has the church played in telling the world of this plan of God?*

*If I want to get my relationship with God right, what do I have to do?*

*How did man get out of relationship with God?*

*Did God have a plan to overcome this break?*

### **The Fall**

This event goes back to the beginning of recorded time in the Bible, calculated from genealogies to be 4004 B.C.

God had created the universe including the sun, moon and stars and on the earth He had created the land, sea, sky, plant, bird, fish and finally man. God also created angels. The man was known as Adam and soon after God created Eve from out of the body of Adam. Everything was perfect.

*(if at this stage you are not believing that God created the universe, then it would be wise to go to the studies which compare the arguments of evolution or other ideas as to how we all got to be here, against God's creation. Then come back and see how and why things went wrong, or seemed to do so. If you continue to believe in any aspect of evolution, you will find it almost impossible to understand these things and know God)*

You need to know that at this stage of human history, man had a perfect relationship with God. Adam and Eve used to talk to God and were in a perfect relationship with Him. You have probably heard the story but here it is in brief.

God had told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden, with the exception of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God knew that once they had that knowledge of good and evil that their relationship with Him would be ruined. They would then know of sin and be able to do wrong in the sight of God. God of course, being all wise, knew what was going to happen. In many ways God is a very unusual character. He even allows His enemies to exist. One of the angels called Satan rebelled against God, wanting to become like God and so Satan set his evil plan into motion.

In essence, he tricked Eve into eating from the Tree of Good and Evil and Adam, in a very weak moment (but according to God's plan and foreknowledge) also ate from this tree when offered the fruit by Eve.

The result was catastrophic to both Adam and Eve and the whole world they lived in. This event is referred to as The Fall. The earth was cursed in many ways and Adam and Eve were punished by God in a number of ways. You could read the details of the curse and the punishments in Chapter 3 of Genesis.

*(by the way, if you are wondering how these things were recorded, we know that the Prophet Moses wrote them around 1500-1600 B.C. How did he know what to write, seeing that 2500 years had passed? I believe he would have written from the oral history of the Hebrew nation where age upon age, every story was passed down from generation to generation. Also, all the writings of the Bible are said to be inspired by the Spirit of God Who would have given his guidance)*

Did God have a plan to overcome these dramatic events?

Yes He did. God was not caught out or by surprise at all that this had happened! Not for a moment. He even included the remedy during the time He was telling Satan, Adam and Eve of the consequences of what had happened. Here is what God said in Genesis chapter 3 verse 15. *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel"*.

Isn't that a strange statement by God? Here is what Bible scholars say that it means. God was saying that there would be a perpetual struggle between Satanic forces and mankind. (Isn't that easy to see in this current world?) It would be between Satan and the offspring or "seed" of the human race". The offspring of the first woman was Cain, then all humanity at large. The offspring of Satan included demons and anyone serving the kingdom of darkness. Satan would cripple mankind (*you will strike his heel*) but the Seed, Jesus Christ, will deliver a fatal blow. (*He will crush your head*). So all this is symbolic language when, after Christ returns to earth, He will rid the earth of all evil forever more. The Second Coming of Christ will precipitate these events.

So these events of around 4000 B.C. will have their culmination somewhere in the future, probably our fairly near future. So this is a story around 6000 years long and all of the Bible contains the related parts leading up to the return of Jesus Christ and what He then does on earth.

**You had better believe it!!!!**

*What were the consequences for the world of this break in relationship with God?*

The consequences have been huge! Most people do not know this. In all the history of the earth, there has never been any evil acts which have had greater consequences.

Books have been written on the consequences of The Fall. The consequences are endless. But here are a few main points.

- Man lost his perfect fellowship with God. (*Prior to the fall, Adam and Eve had perfect fellowship with God in a physically perfect world*).
- Because of Adam's sin, every child born has been born with a sinful nature (*except Jesus Christ, whose virgin birth protected Him from that*). We all know that we don't have to teach children to do wrong. They know automatically by virtue of the nature with which they were born. This inherent sin nature is a main reason why men in the world do wrong and evil things. (*however, a remedy supplied by God makes it possible for many people to do good - more details later*)
- There have been many other natural consequences of The Fall. Women have pain in childbirth that God implied would not have been there prior to The Fall. The ground was cursed so that thorns and thistles invade our crops. Adam and men to follow would have to work hard to produce their crops. Prior to that God made them grow with minimal effort. God also said that relationships between men and women would be strained.
- Man would eventually die and return to the ground as dust. You may not realize but if Adam had not sinned, then Adam and Eve would have lived forever. However, God as conductor of all world affairs knew exactly what would happen, that the fall would take place as it did.

- God is the author of all human history. He not only oversees all that happens but also initiates people and events to bring about His will all over the earth. The establishment of the Jewish race with the establishment of Abraham as its patriarch, led to a history now over 4000 years old. Judaism is the basis from which Christianity was formed in the first century A.D. All of the former years were in preparation for that time. And all of history since then is leading to the second coming of Jesus Christ to this earth.
- However, God knowing all this, had many plans to gradually put into place what would make it possible for each individual man and woman to be able to return into God's fellowship, eventually in full fellowship, but whilst on earth in a fellowship still fraught with some problems.

Please read and take note of all these things. It is vital for everyone in preparing for the future.

*Throughout the history of man, has man had to live with this break with God, or was there an alternative?*

*Mankind has had to live with the awful results of The Fall, mostly with disastrous consequences.*

*However, God did provide a remedy in the form of His Son Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection made it possible for man's sins to be forgiven and have man's nature changed so that once again he could approach God and be sufficiently holy to be allowed into His presence.*

*Some more consequences of The Fall are:*

- Selfishness has been in the heart of men and women and children have grown up to be that way, particularly if their parents were not predisposed towards godly influence in their lives.
- Personal selfishness grew into national pride and not caring for people of other nations, which eventually led to war. There have been very few years of world history where there has not been wars and conflict of some sort.
- Satan has inspired evil people to perform incredible forms of torture and affliction on grand scales. Think of the world wars and the dictators that have afflicted people of their own nations, all for purpose of selfish aggrandisement. The Pharaoh of biblical times, Stalin and Hitler to name just a few.
- The physical world has suffered many forms of disease, plagues and disasters of great proportion. *(these will not be present in the new millennium to come)*
- However, during this time, the Word of God has spread through the efforts of people committed to Christianity, even though their efforts often resulted in their physical death. *(however, they would now be saints of God in heaven)*

***What was the remedy that God made available?***

- The remedy was that God offered His Son to die for the sins of the world. Because God is a God of justice and there was a penalty for the sin of man, and justice had to be served, then someone had to die for the sins of all mankind. *(prior to the advent of Jesus Christ in 4 B.C. and His death and resurrection in A.D. 29, people could still be saved and be able to fellowship with God. This was possible because if anyone knew of*

*the true God of heaven and by faith in that knowledge, believed in Him and worshipped Him they could consider themselves to have salvation and have their relationship to God restored. The Jewish race had the added advantage of the ritual of sacrifice according to the Mosaic Law)*

- God provided the perfect sacrifice. That someone could not just be an ordinary person but had to be someone special who was not themselves a sinner. The only perfect human being that every lived was Jesus Christ. He was perfect because He had been born of a virgin who was not impregnated by a sinful man but by the Holy Spirit.
- So the Father and Jesus knew that He was born for a specific purpose; to be offered as a sacrificial lamb to die for all mankind to make it possible for them to benefit from His death and resurrection, so that if they confessed their sins to God, The Holy Spirit would regenerate them into newness of life, so that they could once again approach God for fellowship with Him.

So, whilst living in this world has been very difficult for thinking men and women, there has always existed a remedy for them to return to fellowship with God and have a considerable degree of His protection and help. Much has been written on how to be in this state of salvation by confession of sin and by turning away from it.

*Is it now possible for man to live in a loving relationship with  
God?*

*Yes it is possible for anyone to now live in a loving relationship with God  
Here are some reasons*

- Because of His crucifixion, Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of all people. He substituted His life for ours when we were the guilty ones. That is and was the extent of His love for us. It should have resulted in our death, but He died instead of us, paying the penalty for us.
- However, there is something that we must do. That something is to realize this truth, that He died for us and then in order for God to accept us into fellowship, we need to confess the sin of not previously knowing Jesus Christ and order our life so that we do not continue to sin. The new life that we have in Jesus Christ is empowered by the Spirit of God to help us to live that way. However, much remains to be learned about living the Christian life.

*This new life is possible for anyone.*

*There is no sin too big or ghastly that God cannot forgive.*

*John Newton was one such case. Remember the song Amazing Grace and the line in it that he wrote.... "to save a wretch like me". (Newton was involved in slave trade) In God's sight we were all wretches but on coming to God in belief and repentance, we are cleansed by the blood of Christ.*

***This is for you too!***

*What historical events made this new relationship with God  
possible?*

This event was the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- All of world history is hinged around this one event. The calendar we now use is set around the birth of Christ.
- The 4000 years before Christ enabled God to teach us through His teaching of the Jewish people, particularly from the time of Moses around 1560 B.C. during which time the Old Testament of the Bible was written, 39 books in all. Other parts of this program have given details of the Old Testament, which in essence told of world history from creation and of the Jewish race until the writing of the Old Testament ceased about 400 years before Christ. In the Old Testament many parts of secular history may be recognized and in many cases linked to Biblical history.
- Future world history is also set around Jesus Christ. We know exactly what is going to happen in the future and where many of the events will happen. All we don't know is the time...but we believe it is Soon!

***What every human being on earth needs to do right now is to understand these things (if you don't understand then ask someone who knows) and be ready for the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.***

*What role has the church and missionaries played in telling the world of this plan of God?*

*This is not a very important thing to know in terms of your own development, but is included here briefly out of any interest you might have.*

*Both the organized church and missionary organizations have played a considerable role over the centuries in telling the world of God's history and His plan for everyone in the future.*

*However, both some churches and missionaries have been far from perfect in their spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*However, despite many setbacks the Gospel has still been preached around the world. Here are some very brief details.*

- Jesus Christ gave the disciples what is called The Great Commission to make Christian disciples over the whole world. From that time, Christian believers have carried out that task with varying success. However, the church continues to march on, against increasing opposition which Christ warned about in His time.
- Until 1517, The Catholic church dominated Christianity, until The Reformation instigated by Martin Luther who rebelled against his own Catholic Church by suggesting 95 differences to Catholic belief. This was the change of all changes in religion and brought about the beginnings of the Protestant Church, which has prospered in its many denominations since that time. The Catholic and Protestant churches are still divided over doctrine and belief and this is unlikely to change without compromising Biblical truth.
- The Christian church has been in varying states of power and domination during the last few centuries until the 20th and present century when in some parts of the world, particularly the western world, there has been a decline. There are many reasons why this is so. However, God's work goes on in the church, in missionary organizations and by individuals and groups particularly since the advent of the internet.

- Fortunately, due to the prophecy (predictions) in the Bible we know how it all ends, with Christ triumphant and we know how to be included among the saints. That is why this study program is being made available; to let as many people as possible know these truths.

*May every reader be among the saints of heaven.*

*If I want to get my relationship with God right, what do I have to do?*

*You may remember seeing advice on this issue in Stage One of Soon! The question of "What do I have to do"? In the light of what has been said it is always there until you are able to respond to it with some knowledge. However, there is still more for you to know before we consider that question again.*

*All you are being told will eventually provide all you need to know what your options are. But first, just keep reading all the points you need to know.*

**The next group of files are:**

*6. What God requires of you before you die, or before Jesus returns to earth, or when you realize you need God to survive and live.*

*To understand the plan of God and His timeline from the past to the future, then you will begin to understand the requirements of God for every man and woman.*

*What is the benefit of restoring relationship with God now, instead of waiting till I am nearer the end of my days?*

*What will happen if Jesus Christ returns to earth before I die?*

*To understand the plan of God and His timeline from the past to the future. Then you will begin to understand the requirements of God for every man and woman.*

### **The Plan of God**

The initial part of the plan of God was to create a perfect world in which man could live, even whilst knowing they would sin against Him. Given that sin, which disrupted both the earth and everyone on it, He then had a plan for redeeming the world and its peoples. This plan was to include the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of His one and only Son in order that the death of Jesus would be appropriate penalty for the sins of all the people in the world. This was so that they would know this plan and participate in it, by confession of sin and turning away from sin and becoming a son of God.

This plan then extended to another place where mankind could live and where God would fellowship with them. This is what the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth will initiate.

That was and is the plan of God.

### ***Biblical history***

Biblical history is extensive, extending over 4000 years and when added to church and secular history extends now over 6000 years. Consider the following main elements of Biblical history.

*(Biblical dates are provided from The Reese Chronological Bible printed in 1977)*

Looking back we can see:

- **4004 b. C. The time of creation. Biblical genealogy suggests 4004 B.C.** *(don't be put off by the claims of media and many books that suggest millions, even billions of years. If you have studied creation in this study, or when you do, you will see that it stands up to testing, whereas evolution does not really have any scientific base. In fact creation has far more scientific base.*
- **2144 B.C. The building of the tower of Babel** occurred at this time. Because of this God scattered the nations all over the earth.
- **1967 B.C. The establishment of the nation of Israel through Abraham.** God laid the foundations for the Jewish race and eventually formed it with Abraham as its patriarch.
- **1462 B.C. Moses leads the children of Israel out of Egypt** after 400 years of slavery.
- **1422 B.C. Joshua leads the children of Israel into Canaan.** This was the land promised by God to Abraham 500 years before.
- **1025 B.C. David began the true rule of Kings over Israel.** His son King Solomon followed him. Solomon is said by God to be the wisest man who ever lived. After those Kings, Israel and Judah had many other kings, some good, some bad. Eventually, both Judah and Israel fell to foreign invaders. God permitted this because they had not been faithful to Him.
- **586 B.C.** After the temple of God in Jerusalem had been burnt down, many Jews went into captivity in Babylon where they stayed for 70 years.
- **516 B.C.** Gradually the people returned and rebuilt the Temple of God and reestablished Jerusalem.
- **400 B.C. Old Testament history stopped at the time** with the writing of the last book of the Old Testament (Malachi). Secular history records many activities of Jews fighting to try to reestablish Israel as the major force it once was at the time of David. But God had laid the foundations for the birth of Jesus in 4 B.C. *(the date seems strange but is the result of the correction of a calendar error found years later).*
- **4 B.C. Jesus Christ was born** to Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem, which is quite close to Jerusalem. The childhood of Jesus was spent in Nazareth in northern Israel. His father taught him the skills of carpentry. However, the Spirit of God was teaching Him far more. He began to know who He was; the Son of God born by a special birth. At age 14 he spent much time in the temple talking with Jewish teachers, but by the time he was baptised by John the Baptist in A.D. 26 when He was 30 years of age, He knew His mission in life. This was to be the one who was to die for the sins of the world and make it possible for all men to again have fellowship with God, as it was in the beginning.
- **A.D. 26. Jesus began His ministry**, which continued for about 3 years. During this time He taught the disciples many things, some of which they did not realize until later.

- **A.D. 29. Jesus Christ was crucified.** (*perhaps Friday April 15 of A.D. 29*).
- **A.D. 29 The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead.** (*perhaps Sunday April 17 of A.D. 29*). Jesus appeared to His disciples and others many times over the next weeks.
- **A.D. 29. Jesus Christ, in the sight of several disciples and two angels, ascended back to heaven** to be with His Father. Prior to His ascent, He promised to come again to this very same location, which was on top of the Mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem. (*perhaps Thursday May 26th of A.D. 29*).
- **A.D. 29. The church was formed on the day of Pentecost.** (*perhaps Sunday June 5th of 20 A.D.*). 3000 people were added to the church that day.
- **A.D. 29 to A.D. 67. The church went through its formative years.** During this time, the activities of the disciples are recorded in the Book of The Acts of the Apostles. Peter, John and Paul were the dominant people during this time. The Apostle Paul wrote about half of the New Testament books. Peter wrote 2 books and John wrote 5 including the last book of the Bible, the book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ where an angel told John of all that was going to happen in the future.

**Secular history** (*just two main elements provided here*).

- **A.D. 70 The Jewish temple is again destroyed.** Titus, the Roman leader again burnt the temple to the ground. Not a stone remains except the foundations and the western wall where Jews still pray and wait for their Messiah. Jewish people dispersed all over the world and have suffered much over 2000 years.
- **A.D. 1948. Israel was granted nationhood** and many more began to return to their land. Israel has been attacked many times and the nation lives in a constant state of tension with its enemies.

So, you can see the plan of God, and the events that have been a part of His plan for over 6000 years.

Of the 737 main prophecies in the Bible, there are now only 18 more in order to complete all elements of the plan for the earth and its peoples. Fairly obviously, these events still to come are to do with, or result from, the second coming of Christ.

*What is the benefit of restoring relationship with God now, instead of waiting till I am nearer the end of my days?*

*What is this question actually asking?*

**A great benefit is knowing Christ** over as many years as possible.

Some people find Jesus Christ early in their life and others not long before they die.

Both of these go to heaven when they die, but the one who did not know Christ until near death did not have the wonderful benefit of living life with Christ as Saviour, Lord and friend. There are enormous life time benefits in that.

**A great benefit of knowing Christ** as early as possible in life, is that if you leave the knowing of Christ until it happens to suit you, then you may not get the chance, particularly if an accident or sudden illness overtakes you.

That is a risk that is not worth taking, as it has eternal consequences.

**A further benefit of knowing Christ** early is that you get the chance to tell others about Him and give them the chance to know His also.

**Please consider these things for yourself.**

*What will happen if Jesus Christ returns to earth before I die?*

*As Jesus Christ is going to return Soon! then this question has real relevance.*

*Here are some answers.*

- **First, the good news. If you are a believer** in Jesus Christ, which means you are born again because you have confessed your sins turned away from them by repentance, then Jesus Christ will snatch you away from the earth and take you to heaven. This is what is called the rapture when all believers will be taken from the earth, at a particular point in time, the time as yet unknown.
- **Second, the bad news. If you are not a believer** in Jesus Christ, then you will remain on earth and have to endure the horrors of what the Bible calls The Great Tribulation. This is a period on earth, when God allows evil forces to hold sway for a short period of 7 years. The details of this have been described elsewhere.

It is a stark choice. Hopefully all readers will get the chance.

However, God has not kept this a secret as it has been known for at least 2000 years.

But in God there is always hope.

**The next section follows.**

*7 That Jesus Christ, the Son of God will return to earth for a second time, this time to rule the earth.*

*Whilst on earth for his 33 years, Jesus often spoke about His Second Coming to earth and what it would mean for the world.*

*You may or may not know that the actual living person of Jesus Christ returned to His Father in heaven in 29 A.D.*

*What will be the signs of His coming back to earth as He promised He would do?*

*What did Jesus Christ (and other Biblical writers) say we should all do before He comes back to earth for the second time?*

*What actual events occur, just before and during His Second Coming to earth?*

*What happens in the years following the return of Jesus Christ to earth?*

*Whilst on earth for his 33 years, Jesus spoke about His Second Coming to earth and what it would mean for the world*

Jesus Christ is going to return to earth soon.  
There is no doubt about that at all.  
Jesus promised!

Here is some of what has been said.

- **The disciples of Jesus asked Jesus about His coming again to the earth. Here is their question.**

*Matthew 24:3 ...Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ..Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*

Here is the response of Jesus, telling of the things that will take place before His coming.

*Matthew 24:4-8 ...And Jesus answered and said to them: ...Take heed that no one deceives you. **For many will come in My name, saying, ..I am the Christ,... and will deceive many...***

Jesus also said two more definite things about His return.

*...For **the Son of Man** (Jesus) **will come** in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works... Matthew 16:27*

*...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**; that where I am, there you may be also.... John 14:2-3*

- Caiaphas, the High Priest of Israel at that time, at the trial of Jesus asked Jesus who He was. Jesus answered:  
*...Jesus said to him, ...It is as you said. (that He was the Son of God) Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and **coming on the clouds of heaven**.... Matt 26:64*

Notice that Jesus told of His future coming, ...the coming on the clouds of heaven... Indicating that the way He left the earth is the same as His second coming.

- **Luke reported Jesus talking about His second coming**

*Luke 21:27-28 **...Then they will see the Son of Man (Jesus) coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.*

- **The writer of the letter to the Hebrews also indicated that Jesus would come a second time.**

*Hebrews 9:28 ...so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him **He will appear a second time**, apart from sin, for salvation.*

**Note this - Jesus said through an angel who spoke to the Apostle John**

*Rev 22:20 ...He who testifies to these things says, ...**Surely I am coming quickly**... Amen.  
Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

Finally, it needs to be said that the whole of the Bible is written around several themes, all of which culminate in the Second Coming so that He resumes His rightful position as King over all.

*You may or may not know that the actual living person of Jesus Christ returned to His Father in heaven in 29 A.D.*

*Jesus was born in 4 B.C.  
Jesus was crucified in 29 A.D.  
Jesus rose from the dead three days later  
About forty days later Jesus ascended to heaven to be with His Father*

This event is recorded in the Bible and witnessed by several disciples and recorded by Luke.

...Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, **He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ...Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner** as you saw Him go into heaven. (The Book of Acts 1:9-11)

So there it is - in so many words.

Jesus lived, died, rose again and ascended to Heaven.

And is coming again.

What could be clearer?

*What will be the signs of His coming back to earth as He promised He would do?*

There are many signs that Jesus will return soon.  
Some of these He spoke about in one of His last long chats with His disciples.

**Here is some of what He said to them.**

*...For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows... Matt 24:7-8*

Wars, famines, pestilence and earthquakes Jesus said would be just the beginnings of the signs of His coming. These are now present in the world in increasing abundance.

**Also, Jesus said:**

*...Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of*

*the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come... Matthew 24:11-14*

So false prophets will come and say they are Jesus. History is full of them, so do not be deceived by them. Notice that Jesus said that love will grow cold. Lawlessness will abound. Some people will not be loving anymore. Notice He says too that the Gospel must be preached around the world. It has been for many years. Then, after saying those two negatives, Jesus then says that if we endure (in Him of course as it is impossible otherwise) we shall be saved.

**Jesus also said:**

*...Then if anyone says to you, Look, here is the Christ! or there! Do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect....*

*...See, I have told you beforehand...Matthew 24:23*

So we have been told ahead of time about the people who will try to deceive us by saying they are Christ.

**About the timing of His coming Jesus said:**

*Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man (Jesus) is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matthew 24:44*

So we must be ready!

**There are other signs of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth.**

- The most important one of these is that before Christ can return the State of Israel needed to be established. (this happened in 1948) This has been so now since 1948.

*What did Jesus Christ (and other Biblical writers) say we should all do before He comes back to earth for the second time?*

*The instructions of Jesus and others are simple.*

*Watch, be ready, eagerly await, live soberly, keep busy, and have hope.*

*Here are the verses that say these things.*

**Jesus said in**

*Matthew 24:42-44 ....Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.*

Therefore **you also be ready**, for **the Son of Man (Jesus) is coming at an hour you do not expect...**

and in

Luke 19:13 ...Do business till I come...

**Paul the Apostle gave this advice to us in his writings to the Corinthians, Titus and Timothy**

...so that you come short in no gift, **eagerly waiting** for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in **the day of our Lord Jesus Christ...** 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

...we should **live soberly**, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gives Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good work.... Titus 2:13-14

...Finally, there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me **on that Day**, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.... 2 Timothy 4:8

So there we have it

We eagerly wait in hope, being ready and keeping busy as we live soberly.

*What actual events occur, just before and during His Second Coming to earth?*

There are so many events that happen just prior and during the second coming of Jesus Christ.

*Here is a brief summary of the main ones.*

*(much of this is covered in more detail in other places in this study)*

**Events just before Jesus finally comes to earth for Armageddon.** *(The rapture will have occurred at some time earlier. WE do not know exactly when for Jesus said He will come at a time we do not expect)*

- *The earth will have experienced 7 years of tribulation far greater than any other we have experienced.*
- *For three and a half years the Antichrist will have ruled the earth.*
- *There will have been major wars between the various factions, all vying for supremacy, with the Antichrist initiating many things.*
- *The false apostate church will have been established.*
- *The earth and people left on it will have suffered many judgements of God.*

**Events encased in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**

- *Every eye will see Jesus come when He descends down through the clouds on His white horse (see the opening graphic of Soon!).*
- *When He stands on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the mountain will split in two.*
- *All the armies of the earth will have gathered at Megiddo (and down towards Jerusalem) to fight against Christ.*
- *Jesus Christ will fight the Battle of Armageddon and will defeat these millions by using a few words out of His mouth to bring death to them all.*
- *Jesus then sends the Antichrist and the False Prophet into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

### **The question might be asked, ...Why would God do such things?**

It must be understood that these events are the judgements on the earth and the people who have demonstrated they do not want to know God but rebel against Him.

All these things were known about at the beginning of time.

All people on the earth either have been or are being given the opportunity, even through Soon! to seek God in order that He can redeem them.

### **The .."HOW TO".. of that is in other parts of this presentation.**

*What happens in the years following the return of Jesus Christ to earth?*

Many things happen after the Battle of Armageddon.

Here are some of the main ones.

- **The Millennium begins. The Apostle John wrote about this in his book of Revelation.**

Revelation 20:4 ...And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years....**

This means that Christ will reign on the earth for a period of 1000 literal years.

- **The Millennium Period has a number of purposes and new characteristics.**
  - To reward the saints of God, who will live directly under the control and in the love of Jesus Christ.
  - To redeem the earth created by God but spoilt by man.

- The Kingdom will have come. It is in part an answer to that line in the Lord's prayer where we pray, ..Thy Kingdom Come ...

- To prove prophecy true. The coming of the kingdom of God in the form of the Millennial period is to prove Biblical Prophecy, such as when Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:11, that .....the prophets predicted the suffering of Christ and the glory to follow.

- Jerusalem will become the worship centre of the whole world. The new city will be on a newly elevated site and be 50% larger than in the time of Christ. It will also be called by a new name Jehovah-Shammah, meaning ...The Lord is there...

- Jesus Christ will be the King of the Millennial period over the whole earth. King David, who died in 1000 B.C. will assist Christ in the administration of the period, being in effect the consort to Jesus Christ. Zadok, who lived in the time of David, will have priestly duties.

- Israel will now possess all the land that God promised to Abraham 4000 years ago. The whole of Palestine will be distributed among the 12 tribes of Israel.

- A new river will join up the Dead Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

*(All of these details are in the Bible and are referred to in detail in Willmington's Guide to the Bible).*

- **The Millennium has some very special characteristics**

Firstly, no unsaved person will enter into the Millennium, which is why the salvation of everyone **NOW** is vital.

There will be great peace like never before, along with great joy and comfort. Because the period will be lived in holiness and the glory of God, great justice and freedom will be present for all inhabitants. The curse on the earth will be removed. Moreover sickness will be removed because of the ministry of Jesus Christ. These are just some of the more than 20 aspects of the new nature of the millennial period.

- **After the Millennium**

The Apostle John told us here that there will be one last revolt on earth permitted by God. Satan who has been locked up for the 1000 years is let loose and here is what transpires.

**The Last revolt on earth**

*Revelation 20:7-10 ...Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.*

*And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever....*

### **The White Throne Judgement takes place**

*Revelation 20:11-15 ...Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire....*

### **The New Heavens and New Earth**

*Revelation 21:1-2 ...Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband....*

So, after the Millennium, a short war and the demise of Satan, followed by the last judgement before God ushers in the New Heavens and the New Earth where all believers will live forever in perfect peace.

If you want to be among them then you need to believe in Jesus Christ and repent of your sin of not knowing Him previously.

That completes the major writing of Soon!

Congratulations on having read it all - but there is more to do.

There is some more information that is vital in order for you to more completely understand and know what to do.

*You will have not completed Soon! until you have read the information listed here*

*1. Frequently asked questions*

These are some of the questions that are asked when such astounding information is read for the first time.

The answers are brief and are mostly found somewhere in Soon!

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<p><b>Q1 How come I don't know all these things?! Why hasn't someone told me?</b></p>	<p><i>Don't berate yourself for not knowing. Many if not most do not know, mostly because their forebears either did not know either or did not pass the teaching on to you. Moreover, the media tends to hide or misrepresent information which upholds the role of Jesus Christ in this world. Just thank God that you now know what you know!</i></p>
<p><b>Q2 Do you expect me to believe that the world is going to suddenly stop? It has been going on for thousands of years. What is going on here?</b></p>	<p><i>Don't believe us, but you need to take notice of what God says in the Bible. Even at the beginning of time, God knew these things would begin to happen at the time of His appointment. God has intervened in history many times - Noah's flood over the whole earth, dispersion of all races at the Tower of Babel, the birth of Jesus. And now, this is perhaps His greatest intervention - the ending of the age and a new beginning.</i></p>
<p><b>Q3 I only believe in what I can see. Why should I believe in such speculation.</b></p>	<p><i>Despite what you think you see, the world is based on spiritual things. God achieves everything through His Spirit - creation is one prime example. So if you are to understand what is going on in the world, you need the Spirit of God in order to do so. Seeing through the eyes of the Spirit of God is far more important than natural sight.</i></p>
<p><b>Q4 All these things you say God is going to do!! I do not believe God would hurt human beings so much - He is supposed to be a God of love.</b></p>	<p><i>God has given mankind thousands of years to learn about Him and His ways. The Bible says that His creation is evidence of His presence and interest in the earth and its peoples. However, He is a just God and will reward righteous behaviour and will punish wrong behaviour. We need to know Him, otherwise we cannot have future participation in His Kingdom, which will be holy in every respect.</i></p>
<p><b>Q5 How would governments of the world ever run out of money? That's ridiculous!</b></p>	<p><i>Basically because mankind is greedy, leading to corruption. The 2008 money crisis demonstrated that. When men run their lives and world on godly principle, things work. Obviously the bulk of mankind has not done that. God tells of a economic crash in the book of Revelation.</i></p>
<p><b>Q6. The way our climate is going, we won't be able to survive. It will be so hot, hell will be on earth.</b></p>	<p><i>Yes, things may get difficult, but remember it is God who is at the back of everything, working out His agenda for the world. And because mankind has abused the resources of the world, (which God knew before time) God is bringing His plans into being for a new age beyond what we know.</i></p>

<p><b>Q7. What right has God (even if He exists) to dictate to us as to what we should be doing?</b></p>	<p><i>Of course, God does exist. He even came to earth as Jesus Christ a well known historical fact. We need to remember that it is God's world. He created it and sustains it by His power. So as He is in charge of all things, He has every right to do anything He wants. It should be a comfort to us.</i></p>
<p><b>Q8. When I die I die - and get buried. That's what really happens. Talking about afterlife is a fairytale.</b></p>	<p><i>Yes, when you die you get buried or cremated. However, that only deals with the body and not spirit or soul. Our soul is eternal and at death, either goes to be with God, or to the judgement of God.</i></p>
<p><b>Q9. One World Government?? That's crazy talk. Every country is sovereign over there own land and people</b></p>	<p><i>As has been taught in <b>Soon!</b> (because it is taught in the Bible) One World Government is going to occur and be controlled by a ruthless dictator known as the Antichrist. If you know where to look, signs of this are everywhere, some of which has been written about in <b>Soon!</b></i></p>
<p><b>Q10. If God is really God and so powerful, why would He let this world get so out of control?</b></p>	<p><i>God gave us a perfect world. Man ruined it because we did not follow God and His ways. It is not God's fault, but ours. Man sinned so badly by 2319 B.C. that God sent a flood over the whole of the earth which destroyed all people except Noah's family. All men have come from that one family. In recent centuries man has again sinned so badly that the earth is shaking from it all and God is now bringing on His agenda to fix it all.</i></p>
<p><b>Q11. I am a good person and have only done good all my life. Why would God want to leave me out of heaven and punish me?</b></p>	<p><i>There is only one requirement to get to heaven. It is to seek Him and His wisdom to the point where we can see our sinful ways and our unbelief in God and confess our sin and undertake not to continue in wrong ways. In one sense, unbelief is the only sin. Only one is good Jesus said and that is God the Father. Good people do not go to heaven unless they have received the salvation of God by the Spirit of God.</i></p>
<p><b>Q12. Why are you so sure that Christianity has all the answers?</b></p>	<p><i>First, we are not comparing Christianity with any religion. Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to earth, taught and died for the sins of the world. Not only that, but Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven to build an eternal home for His people. The Christian faith has a Bible written by men, under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. It tells us what Jesus Christ has done and what He is going to do in the future.</i></p>

**Q13 But I have my career to think of and what about my families ambitions in life. My daughter has a great professional life ahead of her. And what about the safety of my family?**

*It is personally upsetting to almost everyone, but at the same time, knowledge of His coming provides an opportunity for everyone to believe in His truth and get themselves right with God....forevermore. In the fullness of time, God sent His Son Jesus Christ, that He might redeem those who were under the law (everyone) that we might receive the adoption as sons (become believers and go to heaven). Nothing else is as important as this. God has chosen a time soon, to intervene again in world affairs.*

In the light of all that has been said about what is going to happen in the world

*2. What does one actually do about all this?*

*Is there anything one can do?*

*The only answer there can be is trust in Jesus Christ and do what He says in the Bible.*

Just before we get on to the...what do do... aspect, let us pause for a brief look at what this is really all about. It is about obtaining eternal life in heaven to live in peace with God forever, starting now on earth. Read what Jesus said about eternal life in John 11:25-26

*Jesus said, ...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.. (John 11:25-26)*

Jesus is speaking of the life of the soul beyond physical death. The human soul lives on forever, either in heaven or in hell. Notice the simple condition, that of belief in Jesus Christ. And in this statement Jesus says how eternal life may be obtained.

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you,...You must be born again...(John 3:3)*

He is comparing natural birth with being born again of the Spirit of God. God has fixed a great gulf between Heaven and Hell, through which no man can pass. Jesus warned of Hell more than once.

*...And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul... But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell... (Matthew 10:28)*

That gulf between Heaven and Hell is necessary in order that those that go to heaven, may be perfect as God is perfect, because the perfection that Christ gave them cannot be gained or earned any other way.

Jesus also said this, in this most well known of Bible verses.

*...For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life... (John 3:16)*

This is all based on another verse which says this.

*...And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment... (Hebrews 9:27)*

Jesus provided this warning about what will happen sometime soon.

*...there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be... (Matthew 24:21)*

*..Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory... (Matthew 24:29-30)*

He then gave this encouragement, meant for every person on this earth.

*..Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.. (Matthew 24:42)*

*..But he who endures to the end shall be saved... (Matthew 24:13)*

Everyone needs to understand and finally accept these things. The reason will become more and more obvious. And know this! Man cannot save himself. Only God can. It is the ultimate sign of God's love for mankind, that He provided in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Finally, we need to recognize that God is Holy and that it is impossible for Him to associate with us until we are also holy. The miracle is, that because we can never achieve that ourselves, God provides this holiness through our reconciliation with Him.

Take a pause and think about that. So, on the basis of all this, please read on to see what you can do about it.

**But first, this is what they did in Biblical times. ( 3 examples as a guide)**

**Acts 2:37-39**...Now when they heard this (about Jesus Christ), they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, **Repent, and let every one of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and **you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.....

**Acts 16:30-33**.....And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household. Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.... And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

**Acts 2:21**...And it shall come to pass, That **whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.**

Now consider the following

*Accept that no one knows everything! Only God knows all there is to know.  
The best of the wisdom of man is far inferior to the least of the wisdom of God.*

*Realize that your eternal life and even perhaps some of your earthly life  
depends on what you do now.*

*(Yes, life after death does exist; the Bible says so)*

*Temporarily at least, suspend any beliefs that you have that are against God  
and what the Bible says about life. Suspend your unbelief about spiritual things  
that might not be biblical and go into neutral and listen and read the truth.*

*Begin and continue to read good material that explains what God is on about.*

*Get to know and accept that God does communicate with mankind  
through His Spirit, the Holy Spirit.*

*As you pursue God and a knowledge of Him, He will  
at the time of His choosing, reveal Himself to you, through the witness of His Spirit.*

*This will be experienced more as a gentle whisper rather than an audible voice,  
an awareness more than a clear thought, something you know,  
without really knowing why you know it. Eventually you will know it is the Spirit of  
God.*

*Know that getting to know God is really His work in drawing you to Him.  
He finds you rather than the other way around. However, your focus on Him is vital.  
Reading and prayer is how you learn about Him and what He has done and will do for  
you and for the rest of mankind. (remember, prayer is just talking to God)*

*Talk to or email people who really know God, especially people who conduct  
good Christian web sites. Most believers will be only too willing to help.  
(However, take care with those who want to rush you into a faith conversion quickly  
by asking you to agree to simple basic spiritual laws. It is essential to wait for the  
Spirit of God  
to convict you of your ungodly state, rather than rushing in to simple agreement with  
God in mind only).*

*To explain what is meant here, do a Google search online by placing the words  
(four spiritual laws) in the search box. Choose one of the options that will appear  
and take a close look at what is said. You will find that they do an excellent job  
of explaining how to become a Christian. The theology is pretty right.  
However, to ask for a quick decision by clicking on the site or reciting a confession  
before really studying more and really being aware of what you are doing  
is not very wise.*

*Everyone really needs to understand fully and wait for the Spirit of God  
to help understand what you are doing. The main problem that can occur  
is that the aspect of true repentance is overlooked.*

*If you have not been convicted of your sin, then it is impossible to repent.  
(Repent means to decide to turn away from your old life, a very big step)*

*One can only be convinced to turn from the old life by seeing their sin, but perhaps  
even more importantly by  
seeing the true poverty of our own spirit. The emptiness and helplessness of our life  
without God needs  
to be noticed and experientially felt, to the extent that we mourn over it, so we see  
that we need God and  
there is nothing else that will satisfy. People living in the normal pride of life and  
independence are*

*never ready to repent because they cannot see they have a problem, until they see how deficient they are in their own strength. This leads to a meekness which means they are more willing to bend to do things God's way. Finding God is like finding a pearl of great price).*

*True salvation cannot be achieved without true repentance taking place. In other words you can think you have become a believer in Jesus Christ but only the head has been involved and not the heart. It is better to go slow and make sure.*

*However, if you have the internet, you can learn from good sites that explain the theology better. An excellent site is Step up to Life at <http://www.stepuptolife.com/Pages/main.htm>*

*If you want some encouragement or more explanation, listen to the following What Hollywood believes at <http://whathollywoodbelieves.com/listen.shtml>*

*Hell's Best Kept Secret  
<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=4605115842>*

*List to Kirk's testimony as to how he found real life.  
<http://www.wayofthemaster.com/audiolessons.shtml>*

*(Note - When you get to this link, go to the bottom of the page and click on "Listen" to Kirk's testimony. It is just 7 minutes)*

*All these suggestions are being made to help you step out of your normal life and be converted into the spiritual life of God. This is the step and the status that puts you in a position of getting the help of God in the everyday things of life then when you die you go to heaven to be with Him. Finally, be aware that to consider these godly things, in order to save and ensure your eternal destiny, is a personal responsibility. No one else can do it for you.*

*Jesus made it easy when He said:*

*"....Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls....."*

*Above all, never give up your search. God is waiting to meet you.*

*Remember that the God who makes the sun rise each day is the same God about whom the Bible is written and Who is waiting to hear from you.*

### *3. Special messages for certain groups of people*

*Whilst all that has been written in Soon! is true for every person here on earth at this time, there are some groups of people who have special interests and needs.*

*After all, this is the most profound change to life on earth since the world wide flood where Noah and his family were the only survivors. It is an affront to the sensibilities of every thinking person, even for those writing Soon! But it must be told, because it is true. We all must do our best to be ready, because as Jesus said....*you do not know the time when I will come....I will come at an hour you do not expect.**

So the Soon! Team wanted to express particular concerns for certain groups of people with words designed just for them.

- **Primary aged school children.**

Perhaps you are the most fortunate as, when He was on earth, Jesus said to let the little children come unto Me. It is no different at these times we mention here in this very troubled world. You will go to be with Jesus Christ, no matter what happens. However, you should try to learn of Jesus too. Try to get your parents to help you learn about Jesus.

- **Teenagers**

You teenagers are beyond being children and on the verge of becoming adults. You do need to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour at whatever age you are right now. We know that you will think that God is a bit of a bummer, because He might interrupt your earthly life at any time; even **Soon!** Why it might be soon and interrupt your future life, we cannot fully explain, except that God is God and is in charge of everything. So get ready as we have written here. There are some real positives. Life on earth is already difficult, as you well know; and it is getting worse. It is not anyone's fault. When God does interrupt world affairs and, if you believe in Him, heaven is a far better place, with total peace and love from everyone everyday.

- **Parents**

If you grew up with loving godly parents, you will know all that has been said here and know what to do and what to teach your own children and grandchildren. If you were not that fortunate, then, by reading Soon! you now know more about God, how to honour God and achieve eternal life. Ultimately (although we acknowledge it is hard to do) the best of careers or lifestyles on earth, the best of physical pleasures, wealth and watching your children enjoy life, cannot be compared with the life that God has planned for the future. (we are all parents too and have the same emotional adjustments to make as anyone). Reading more direct from the Bible and telling God about your concerns, or talking with other believers, are the best ways to overcome fears and doubts.

- **People who know almost nothing about God and Christianity**

Yes, at the start of reading Soon! you may have known little about God through the Bible. But now, you have been told the full story of God's plan for the whole world.. We understand something of the emotional impact of all this, as we all remember when we first heard about these things. It is as though it were only a few years ago. What we suggest now is that you take what you have learned from Soon!, thank God for it and go on learning and make that decision to entreat God to come and regenerate your life as He has done for us.

- **People who go to church but are not sure of their salvation.**

Jesus said that not everyone who calls Him Lord will be saved. We believe there could be many church attendees who are not really saved. The best advice we can offer is in what Paul said to the Corinthians in chapter 13:5-6.

***Examine yourselves** as to whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves.** Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? "...unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.*

- **Bible believing Christians**

On you is the most responsibility, for Jesus gave you the task of making disciples. Christians know the living God by virtue of the Spirit and life of Jesus that lives in them. We would hope that every Christian would be telling this same message to all their family, friends and neighbours that do not yet know God. We would ask you to give the link to Soon! to as many people that you know; even other believers who can pass it around to their acquaintances. If you want to extend your faith with online study could we suggest sites such as Christ as us, The Norman Grubb Web Site, Christ in you, The Grace Project and Fullness of Life in Christ. Google searches will find those links for you.

- **People who think they are not good enough for God to accept them.**

Whosoever will may come is the call of God to everybody, no matter what their station in life. In the Bible, God in fact always sought those who were sick, ill, lame or lacking in the essentials of life. The thing about knowing God is that you don't have to measure up to any standard, as God does the adapting for us. We may come in any condition. The writer of these words did just that and was accepted by God, saved and regenerated into newness of life. If you are rich, but poor in spirit, you may come. If you are out of work or homeless, you may come. If you are nearly dead, you may come. If you are a child, you may come. If you are a desperate parent you may come. If you are in jail, you may come, whatever your offence. Jesus Christ, the God of this world, the one Who died for the sins of all people, accepts anyone who repents of their sin of not knowing Christ. There is no set of sins that are not easily forgiven and forgotten by Jesus Christ.

## *So Come!*

You have now almost finished this presentation called  
Soon!

*After you have considered all that has been written in Soon! some will feel like they have done a university degree course in the theology of life. Well that is true. In a very sense you have. Even if you had some Sunday school background in your childhood days, this reality must come as quite a shock. Some readers may have some level of despair, particularly if you realize just how important this is.*

*So, we have again returned to where we can all stand, even the writers who wrote  
Soon!*

### *4. There is always hope... as a basis for all else*

Whether you know or not, or like it or not, some of these things are going to begin to happen in the world. This is because God rules the world, even when it does not seem like it. That might initially cause you to feel despair. However, there is a Hope you may know little about.  
Here is the hope!

*There is hope! Hope in Jesus Christ and what  
He has promised to do for us.  
Because of what Jesus has promised  
there is an everlasting hope.*

Here are some of the exciting parts of that hope

*Hope is the greatest gift of all*

*Hope, properly based, leads to faith, which is being sure of what you hope for.*

*Hope and optimism are often found to be the greatest when we face the greatest of difficulties. (Strange as it may seem, many African countries, living in extreme adversity, have more hope than the West, because their hope is based on God)*

*Christianity has always been a faith of optimism, never of pessimism.  
All things are possible through God.*

Typical of the great promises of God are these

*It is possible to be resurrected into eternal life and live in heaven with God. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, He will also raise us (at the last day), if we belong to Him.*

**Acts 24:15 (NKJV)** *I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.*

**2 Corinthians 4:14 (NKJV)** *knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.*

**John 5:25 (NKJV)** *Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.*

**John 6:40 (NKJV)** *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

**John 11:25 (NKJV)** *Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*

***We can have hope in that fact, through the mercy of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ***

**1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*

***That is a promised laid up for each person in heaven. It is the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ***

**Colossians 1:5 (NKJV)** *because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*

***This is a fact whether or not you die before Christ returns or you are alive on earth at His Second Coming.***

**Titus 2:13 (NKJV)** *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,*

***It is impossible for God to lie about these things. We can lay hold of that hope in absolute certainty. It can be an anchor for our soul.***

**Hebrews 6:18 (NKJV)** that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

**Hebrews 6:19 (NKJV)** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

**The writers of the Bible have said we can trust and have hope in God and are blessed if we do so.**

**Jeremiah 17:7 (NKJV)**

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.*

*We can wait in hope. We need not be cast down. We can learn from the scriptures how to have hope. They were written for our learning.*

**Psalm 39:7 (NKJV)** And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.

**Psalm 42:11 (NKJV)** Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

**Romans 15:4 (NKJV)** For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

*Finally, one of the biggest hopes we have for the future, is the end of suffering caused by the disobedience of man towards God. That suffering will end as soon as Jesus Christ returns to earth. Whilst we do not know when this is, we believe we all need to consider it soon, so we can be prepared and ready. We don't need to know dates, but to be ready, in case the return of Christ is sooner rather than later.*

So, perhaps you can now see that because of what Jesus Christ has promised there is an everlasting hope, both for your life on earth and for an eternal life in heaven.

What God has planned is going to happen on earth and affect all of us. God knows about it

and has provided a remedy for all of us. He will help you find it too!

*You have now seen what is going to happen in the world and realized how hopeless the world and its systems and leaders, despite their good intentions. Only in Jesus Christ are all the answers!*

*We suggest you get yourself a Bible and read over these verses until you have hope. If you do not have a Bible there are plenty of online Bibles available.*

May the Lord Jesus Christ reveal Himself to you

***5. Can God tame or change mankind? Can God actually change a person?***

The answer is Yes, but it is also No!

It depends on the man's attitude

However, even if a man is not willing, God can still find a way to change him

Here is an actual story of one man; a King in the 7th century before Christ

Before we get onto a particular example, let us explain how God changes people all the time by His normal means of making them anew. Until man meets the living God and is born again, the spirit of the man is not enlivened by the Spirit of God. When a man does repent his spirit is regenerated and this spirit then reverberates throughout his whole being, spirit, soul and body. That has been explained earlier in Soon!

But what if a man continually resists God's entreaties to submit his life to God? It is probably true that some men will go to their graves without God, but many others allow God into their lives. In effect He really finds them. What a wonder that is.

Here is a case from history, documented in the book of Daniel in the Bible, where the King of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, refused the directions of God over a time. Nebuchadnezzar was the great King of his time. God eventually won out over Nebuchadnezzar, He became convinced of the power and wonder of God and said some amazing things. Here is the story. This occurred in 569 B.C.

God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar through the Prophet Daniel who received a dream as to what was going to happen to Nebuchadnezzar if he failed to honour God. This is what Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, starting at Daniel Chapter 4, verse 24.

*This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.*

So, in other words, the King was to lose his stately position as King for 7 years during which time he would have lived as an animal for 7 years, eating grass - until he realized that God was over all men.

*And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.*

Daniel was here telling King Nebuchadnezzar that he still had time to change his mind and submit to God, just as all men and women in our time also have time to seek God. But look at what happened next. The King was still a proud man and would not give in.

*All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"*

And then God acted, as He had told Daniel.

*While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: ..King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.*

And so Nebuchadnezzar spent his 7 years as God had said.

*That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagle's feathers and his nails like bird's claws.*

But at the end of that time Nebuchadnezzar had learned his lesson, albeit the hard way, as most of us do. Look at the amazing things he said about God. (Notice the **highlighted words** for emphasis).

*And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and **I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:***

*For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And **His kingdom is from generation to generation.***

*All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; **He does according to His will** in the army of heaven*

*And among the inhabitants of the earth. **No one can restrain His hand***

*Or say to Him, ...What have You done?*

*At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.***

**And so, Nebuchadnezzar was born again, his spirit being made anew and he was given life to do according to the will of God. This new life is available to all. You as well as us. You will see King Nebuchadnezzar in heaven when you get there.**

Is that not an amazing story? Nebuchadnezzar finally submitted to God by God taking quite drastic action in order to restore him to sanity, to his Kingship and above all, to have his relationship with God restored.

Because God is over all; we call it His sovereignty, God can claim any person He wishes. Even the hardest of heads and those strongly against Jesus Christ, like St.

Paul, was overcome by the love and power of God. Perhaps even you. But it need not be that hard. Ultimately, it is up to you.

## *6. The Last word on Soon!*

We wish to remind you of just a few things

- **You do not understand everything?**

If there are things here you don't understand fully (as we do) then read again, read the Bible or pray. (prayer is just talking to God). Just believe He hears your every word and knows your every thought. Ask God to give you understanding. However, understanding is never as important as believing.

- **We have not suggested any dates for coming events.**

At no stage have we said when all these things will actually occur. Many people still give estimated dates and mislead and upset. It is a secret of God when He begins to do or allow these things to happen. And after all, Jesus said that no one will know the time or the hour when He will come. The message of Jesus Christ is that TODAY is the time to seek Him and find Him.

- **We suggest you do not angry with God**

We too, the writer's of Soon! know the emotions related to what we are telling you. But it is of little use being angry with God, for all this, even though hard to take in, is for the benefit of the people of the world. Shaking your fist at God only keeps you away from a right attitude towards Him that leads you away from His salvation.

- **Don't miss the rapture**

in other words be ready yourself and help your family and friends to do likewise, as we have explained in Soon!

- **If you do miss the rapture...**

If you find out eventually that God has taken all believers off the earth then you will know you have been left behind. If that happens, the one thing not to do is to take the mark of the beast to be able to get goods and services for you and your family. (you live in order to die eternally). Once you do this God will not accept you into heaven. However, if you die, which many will, during the time of the tribulation, and you have committed your life to God by repentance, then you will find yourself in heaven, even during the tribulation period. (You die in order to live eternally) However, your eternal future is assured if you find God Soon!

- **Finally**

God has had written in scripture that He does not want anyone to perish (eternally). So God is on your side, so will be waiting to hear your desire to know Him, even if you have never gone to church or read the Bible, or you have done many bad things in your life. If that is you, then God is seeking you in order to save you.

The only time to do something about ensuring your salvation and that of your family is NOW. We do not know when Jesus Christ is returning for the second time, so the best thing to assume is that it is Soon!

*Be Aware and Be Ready is His message. It is ours also. So  
over to you.*

**In short, that is the essential message of Soon!**

If you find some of the things we have said here to be strange and hard to believe, we assure that we understand. It is so for us too!

But we believe that it is better to make this information available so people can consider and decide for themselves.

Ultimately, if they are really honest with themselves most people will want to do something to ensure that their lives finish up in the right way and place.

Don't feel bad if you don't understand all this first time through. Re-reading will be necessary for some people.

*Be Aware and Be Ready is His message. It is ours also. So  
over to you.*