

WE HAVE MOVED BEYOND THIS GOD (HAVENT WE?): JESUS AS THE FULFILLER OF THE OLD TESTAMENT pdf

1: How to Find God? - Here's How to Personally Know God - Start Now

The New Atheists have attacked the morality of the Old Testament with a vengeance. In honesty, many Christians will confess that they struggle with what looks like a primitive and barbaric ethic. Paul Copan helps us truly understand the world of the Old Testament and how it relates to us today.

He was a somewhat common man from the Midwest who unexpectedly became a U. Then, also unexpectedly, for his fourth term in office President Franklin Roosevelt chose Truman to be his running mate. Then, less than three months after Truman became Vice President, Roosevelt died. Truman took office with no briefings from the President, whom Truman hardly knew. The Japanese had not yet surrendered and Truman faced the history-changing decision of dropping the atomic bomb to end the war. Then he faced the Korean Conflict, which required many agonizing decisions. But his first attempt assume to leadership and rescue them from oppression had been a miserable failure. He had to flee for his life to the remote desert of Midian, where he settled down for forty years tending sheep, getting married, and fathering two sons. It was an overwhelming task for this eighty-year-old shepherd, who had lived in obscurity for the past forty years. He would have to confront the most powerful monarch in the world and demand that he release about two million slaves, whose cheap labor was essential to the Egyptian economy. Although the Pharaoh and his men who had sought to kill Moses were now dead Exod. Even if he eventually succeeded in freeing Israel from slavery, he still had to lead this enormous group of men, women, children, and animals across a barren desert with no food or water, where they would face hostile enemies. But He does call all of us who know Him to serve Him in some way. And usually He calls you to serve in a situation that is beyond your natural abilities so that you are forced to depend on His strength. To serve God effectively, depend on His presence and strength, be ready for difficulty, be obedient to His commands, and work with willing people. To serve God effectively, depend on His presence and strength, not on your abilities Exod. God often calls you to do that which is beyond your abilities and resources. The apostle Paul wrote 2 Cor. Either He calls us to do something that is far beyond our natural abilities or, like Paul and Moses, He shows us our inadequacy so that we must rely on His presence and strength. The only foundation for serving God is His abundant grace. But the Lord graciously answers them all. In his defense, it had been about years since any Israelite had heard a word from God. Perhaps because of that God graciously gave Moses three signs to bolster his weak faith. First, the Lord asked Exod. Then the Lord told Moses to grab it by the tail. But Moses obeyed and the snake became a staff in his hand again. What did this sign mean? The cobra was a symbol of Egyptian power that was on the headdress of their kings. And, of course, the serpent goes back to the garden as the enemy of God and those made in His image. Ultimately, the seed of the woman Christ would crush the head of the serpent, who would bruise Him on the heel Gen. This is a foundational lesson for all who serve the Lord. He taught it to the disciples in the miracle of the feeding of the 5, the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. The truth of that message has sustained me in four decades of ministry as I have often felt inadequate and overwhelmed as I try to serve the Lord. The second sign consisted of the Lord telling Moses to put his hand into his bosom. When he took it out it was leprous. Then the Lord told him to put it back in his bosom, and it came out restored. But it was a dreaded condition with no known cure that required the sufferer to be quarantined Lev. Just as His people Israel had been in bondage in Egypt for hundreds of years, so now through Moses God would relieve their suffering. If the elders were still unwilling to believe Moses, God graciously gave him a third sign. He was to take water from the Nile and pour it out on dry ground where it would turn to blood Exod. The Nile was the life blood of Egypt, the main source of water for their crops in that barren desert. Performing this miracle in front of the Israelite elders showed them that the mighty power of Egypt was no match for their God. And, secondly, He has given us reliable testimony of the most powerful miracle in history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. That testimony is so certain that Paul was willing to rest the entire Christian faith on the truth that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead 1 Cor. When people in bondage to sin and Satan believe that Jesus is the

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Lord who died for their sins and is risen from the grave, they will be saved Rom. The only reason that any of us can serve the Lord and proclaim the gospel is His abundant grace to us in Jesus Christ. At this point, Moses moves from humility to unbelief. But Moses raises a further objection Exod. Perhaps forty years of tending sheep had impaired his speaking ability or dimmed his confidence. Then the Lord promised Exod. The messages would come from God to Moses to Aaron to the people Exod. Then the Lord reminded Moses Exod. To serve God effectively, be ready for the difficulties of the mission Exod. There are three difficulties here: Serving God often means cutting family ties and moving to a new location Exod. Moses went back from the burning bush and asked permission from his father-in-law to return to his brethren in Egypt to see if they were still alive. Maybe he sensed that Jethro either would not believe him or would think that he was having delusions of grandeur. But Jethro kindly granted him permission, although it meant saying goodbye to his daughter and grandsons. While Jesus calls us to love Him even more than our families Luke God then informed Moses that those who were seeking his life were dead. So Moses put his wife and his sons on a donkey and returned to Egypt. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe Rom. Serving God usually means encountering difficulties and resistance to what you are called to do Exod. God sovereignly decreed that Pharaoh would harden his heart and that Judas Iscariot would betray Jesus, but those evil men, not God, were responsible for their sin. But my point here is that serving the Lord puts you into battle with the enemy and battles are difficult and often result in casualties. As Moses will discover after Israel leaves Egypt, the difficulties come from within the camp, too. God tells Moses to tell Pharaoh Exod. But we have to tell them the difficult message: You can be saved only by abandoning your good works and trusting in Jesus crucified for your sins. To serve God effectively, be obedient to His commandments Exod. Here we encounter a strange incident. As Moses headed back to Egypt, the Lord met him on the way and sought to put him to death! We have to read some things between the lines here. Now, whether it was the angel of the Lord with His sword drawn, or through a sudden illness, God threatened to kill Moses. Through this incident, God was teaching Moses that if he was going to serve the Lord, he had to obey His commandments, even over the objections of those closest to him. Some think that at this time Moses may have sent his wife and sons back to Midian Exod. Moses went on to meet Aaron near Mount Sinai and the two brothers caught up on the past forty years, but especially on what the Lord had said to Moses about delivering Israel from Egypt. They went together back to Egypt and Aaron spoke the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses, who then performed the signs. Then we read Exod. Nothing had changed yet for Israel. They were still slaves in Egypt and there would be a difficult road ahead of them. The Lord wants to build His church, which means working with others. As Moses will soon learn Exod. Sometimes, as Jeremiah experienced, you labor for decades but meet resistance and hardness of heart. But more often, God graciously gives you some faithful people to work with. Conclusion In The Tapestry [Word], pp. As a new Christian, he had stated to his unbelieving father his intention of becoming a pastor, but now he was leaving. So through his tears, he flipped a coin! Have you made that commitment to trust in Christ as Savior and serve Him however He may lead? Do ministries of service require as much reliance on God as ministries of speaking 1 Pet. How can you know whether God is calling you to a particular ministry or not? Are there any areas of disobedience that you need to deal with before you serve God? Cole, , All Rights Reserved.

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2: Is Yahweh a Moral Monster? - Printed from the www.enganchecubano.com web site.

The belief that Jesus fulfilled prophecy has been a cornerstone of the notion that Christianity supersedes Judaism. From the first century until now, Christians have correlated statements about Jesus with carefully chosen Old Testament prophecies to document their belief that God's plan for human salvation reached its fulfillment in Jesus.

Related Media 1 Now faith is being sure 2 of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see. And through his faith he still speaks, though he is dead. For before his removal he had been commended as having pleased God. As best as I can recall, that chapter began something like this: May I be so bold as to say to you that Hebrews chapter 11 is probably the first place to turn for those who are fearful and apprehensive about their future? Here we are reminded of faithful men and women whose trust in God prompted them to walk by faith, rather than to collapse under the external pressures of their day. So, I urge you to bear with me and to judge for yourself whether or not Hebrews chapter 11 is for you. Why is Hebrews Chapter 11 Important? Hebrews chapter 11 had some great lessons for the original recipients of this epistle. These saints had a great love and respect for the Old Testament and for the Old Testament saints. What they would discover in chapter 11 is that the great heroes of the faith were saved and lived by faith, and not by the law or by the Old Testament sacrificial system. That is why you will find no reference to either in this chapter. Hebrews 11 has much to say to us today as well. This chapter plays a very important role in the developing argument of the entire epistle. To speak in the simplest terms, chapters portray the deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus, and the supremacy and sufficiency of our Lord as the Great High Priest. The truths set forth in chapters are the foundation for our faith. With a Savior like this, we can place our entire trust in Him, not only for this life, but also for all eternity. Before the author concludes this epistle with specific exhortations for the reader in chapters , he pauses in chapter 11 to give numerous examples of living by faith from the Old Testament. The Old Testament heroes of the faith were saved by faith, and so they lived by faith. As our author states in this chapter, these great men and women of faith continue to speak to us today, long after their death. Observations Regarding Chapter 11 Observation 1: The theme of this chapter is faith. It occurs 36 times in both epistles, more than in any other Old or New Testament book. Faith is defined in chapter 11 as the author more and more precisely defines it, punctuated by numerous examples from the Old Testament. The emphasis here is not on the source of faith, but rather on its practice in real life. Faith here is not just a matter of belief, but a matter of behavior based upon belief. The author is not urging his readers to conjure up faith somehow, but rather to live by the faith God has given. The examples of living by faith are presented in chronological order. We may miss this at first glance, but it eventually becomes glaringly clear. The first example of faith pertains to the creation of the universe. In other words, the author starts at Genesis 1: Moses and Rahab are the last to be referred to in any detail. It is as though the author makes his way from Genesis to the end of the Old Testament period, citing examples of faith. We know that Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham lived before the law was given to Israel at Mount Sinai, so it is obvious that their righteousness is apart from law-keeping. But even when we get to Moses who, after Abraham, is the most prominent example in chapter 11 , nothing is said of him regarding the law. One has to read carefully to see this, but then it becomes apparent. So what is the point of all this? It is that in the Old Testament, as in the New, righteousness is by faith, not by works. Remember that some of the Hebrews to whom this epistle is written are considering turning back to Judaism, to the Old Covenant, and to the Old Testament priesthood and sacrificial system, as though they were superior to the priesthood of Christ and to the New Covenant, which He inaugurated by the shedding of His precious blood. Hebrews chapter 11 strikes a powerful blow to the attraction of Old Testament Judaism. How could law-keeping under the Old Covenant be superior to faith in Christ through the New Covenant if no Old Testament saint was ever declared righteous because of law keeping? These Old Testament heroes " every single one of them " were declared righteous because of their faith, not because of law-keeping. The Old Testament heroes are heroes not only of the faith, but they are heroes of faith. I am reminded of Romans 4

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where in the previous chapters Paul shows that all men are lost sinners, destined for eternal judgment, and incapable of attaining righteousness by their own efforts. He then sets forth the gospel, declaring that what men could not do by law keeping, Christ has accomplished by His atoning death, so that men can be saved by faith in Jesus Christ, apart from works. Paul is saying that it is impossible for men to be saved by law keeping and that salvation comes only by faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. How, then, were the Old Testament saints saved? The writer to the Hebrews is doing precisely the same thing. While he makes much of Abraham, he broadens his argument to include all the Old Testament saints. Death is a very prominent theme in Hebrews chapter 11. A reference to death occurs more than 20 times in Hebrews 11, and this accounts for the use of terms which plainly speak of death die, died, death, dead. There are other instances where death is also in view. In our text for this lesson, we are told that Abel died for his faith while Enoch was spared from death because of his faith. Later on in the chapter, we will read of those who were delivered on account of their faith.

A Progressive Definition and Description of Faith in Verses 1-4 of chapter 11 sets out a rather general, preliminary, definition of faith: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see Hebrews 11:1

Here the author begins by giving us a two-fold description of what faith is certain about. These two aspects of faith are very much inter-related. Faith pertains to things that we hope for, and things which we cannot see. An unsaved co-worker might have faith in his training or work skills, confident that his or her hope of a promotion will be realized. Christian faith is convinced about the things for which we hope, things which God has promised that we will obtain in the future. These are things for which the Christian eagerly awaits. There is the hope of the resurrection of the dead. Now hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 that is, into an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. You do not see him now but you believe in him, and so you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 because you are attaining the goal of your faith – the salvation of your souls 1 Peter 1: Faith is our confidence regarding those things which God has promised, for which we hope, but since these things are future and are spiritual, they are things we cannot see with the human eye. Faith is confident in unseen things, assured that they are, or will become, a reality. One might even say that the unseen things of which we are assured in Scripture are the ultimate reality: For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal 2 Corinthians 4: Verse 6 follows up with this bold statement: Now without faith it is impossible to please him, for the one who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him Hebrews 11:6 There is no other way to approach or to please God than to come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death in our place. This faith by which we are saved is faith alone, not faith mixed with our works see Titus 3: The next major expansion will come in verses 7-10

Examples of Faith Creation Faith Hebrews 11:3

This first example of faith at work comes as a surprise to me. But every single Christian is called upon to exercise their faith by being firmly convinced that all creation is the handiwork of God. We really have no other choice from Scripture: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth Genesis 1:1 Namely, creation is the work of our unseen God. Furthermore, if our world was created out of nothing, then the things that are now seen originated from what was not seen. Why is the creation of our universe so important? Let me suggest at least two reasons. First, the first thing we are told in the Bible is that God created this world Genesis 1:1 Faith believes God by believing His Word. So believing faith begins at Genesis 1:1 Second, the good news of the gospel begins at creation. It was not necessary for the apostles to emphasize the fact that God created the heavens and the earth because Jews believed that God created the world. But when the gospel was preached to Gentiles, it became necessary to begin with creation, for that is where it begins in the Bible. And so we read, 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives life and breath and everything to everyone. While we do not have time to explore the implications of creation being a matter of faith in this lesson, I would recommend that the reader give this matter some thought. Surely this truth has implications for apologetics, as well as for evangelism. If

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creationism is a matter of faith, then we must recognize that we can pile up fact after fact, and without faith, it will not convince the lost. Since faith is a gift from God, we must look to Him to give men the faith to believe that creation is His work. We will no more argue someone into belief in creationism than we will argue them into the kingdom of God. And through his faith he still speaks, though he is dead Hebrews Abel took care of the flocks, while Cain cultivated the ground. And the Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering, 5 but with Cain and his offering he was not pleased.

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3: 'Confident that God Keeps His Promises' Childrens Lesson on Exodus – MinistryArk

The book is divided into chapters, each dealing with one of the major attacks atheists and others bring against the God of the Old Testament and the ethics of the Bible. In the first two chapters he surveys the current status of the debate, identifying the New Atheists and their major arguments.

March-April This article is adapted from chapter 8 of Robert J. The belief that Jesus fulfilled prophecy has been a cornerstone of the notion that Christianity supersedes Judaism. The way Matthew matches prophecies to the story of Jesus creates the strong impression that anyone who believes in the scriptures of Israel must see that Jesus is the promised Messiah. This essay is offered as a step in that direction. First, we will examine how Matthew handled prophecy—or, more precisely, how he manipulated it—as he integrated the words of the prophets into his narrative. Third, we will assess whether the belief that Jesus fulfilled prophecy is helpful or harmful to contemporary Christian faith. How Matthew Uses Prophecy Twelve times in his gospel, Matthew interrupts the story to tell us that the event he is narrating fulfilled a specific prophecy, which he then quotes. For our present purpose it will suffice to undertake a brief analysis of three such cases in which it is relatively simple to track the particular ways Matthew uses prophecy to help tell the story of Jesus. The prophet cited, Isaiah, mentions Galilee along with the old Israelite tribal names Zebulun and Naphtali and locates them on the way to the sea and across the Jordan River Isa 9: Knowing from Mark 2: He also describes Capernaum somewhat inexactly as "in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali," whereas in fact Nazareth is in Zebulun and Capernaum is in Naphtali. Strictly speaking, then, Matthew describes Jesus leaving Zebulun to move to Naphtali. But this is to pick nits: Matthew is focused on the phrase "pagan Galilee. Once again Matthew interrupts the narrative to announce the fulfillment of a prophecy But in the Septuagint version of Zechariah, the Greek word for "and" appears: Matthew takes the Septuagint wording of this prophecy quite literally, as if it describes a king riding two animals. For consistency, Matthew also goes back earlier in the scene and adds a second animal to the report of the finding the donkey by the disciples Mark By way of comparison, note that the Gospel of John also quotes Zech 9: When Matthew rewrites this brief scene, he has Judas demand the money up front and specifies the amount of money agreed on by Judas and the priests: Mark never mentioned the amount, nor do Luke or John. From what source has Matthew obtained this inside information? Later in the story Judas, overwhelmed by guilt, flings the money back at the priests and then commits suicide Matt When the priests use the money to buy some land, Matthew informs us that this fulfills a prophecy of Jeremiah about thirty pieces of silver Matt The prophecy in question is actually from Zechariah, not Jeremiah. A close comparison of Zech Jesus stunt-rides two animals into Jerusalem. This bizarre scene shows us to what extremes Matthew was prepared to go to portray Jesus as the fulfiller of prophecy. It is not the case that Matthew knew a factually accurate account of the life of Jesus and then realized, from his knowledge of scripture, that the life of Jesus fulfilled prophecy. Rather, the process worked in the opposite direction. That is how he, alone out of the four evangelists, "knows," for example, that Jesus rode two animals into Jerusalem and that Judas was paid thirty silver pieces. Did the prophets know what they were talking about? From our perspective it is obvious that Matthew was reading Jesus into the prophecies he quoted. When we examine those prophecies in their own contexts, it is clear, for example, that Zechariah had no foreknowledge of Judas when he spoke about the thirty silver coins, and that Isaiah was not thinking about the birth of Jesus when he challenged King Ahaz with the news that "the young woman is pregnant and will have a son and will name him Immanuel" Isa 7: Respect for the Bible requires us to understand the prophets as speaking to their own times, with messages that they and their audiences understood in relation to their situations centuries before the time of Jesus. Respect for the Bible also requires us to understand Matthew on his own terms. As a result, sometimes neither the prophets nor their audiences could understand the true significance of their words, and thus the real meaning of some of those pagan prophecies could be discerned only after the predicted events had already occurred. First-century Jews applied these Greek beliefs about prophecy to the biblical prophets,

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and so came to believe that God had planted throughout their writings cryptic clues about his plans for the future. Many Christians hold this same belief today. They think that prophets such as Isaiah and Ezekiel, as well as New Testament authors such as Paul, Peter, and John, unwittingly wrote about events happening in our own time or about to happen in the near future. Today you can find books in the "End Times Prophecy" sections of Christian bookstores that claim to understand the prophets better than the prophets understood themselves. Inevitably, these books explain that we are living in the last generation, a time of unparalleled evil from which only a few will be saved. Rather than pursue this issue further, I will ask only that you to pause for a moment to consider three interrelated premises of that view of prophecy: What kind of God is worshiped by a religion that caters to these needs? In its most common version, this belief entails that: Matthew gives the impression that the Jewish leaders knew or at least should have known that Jesus was the messiah but opposed him because of their hypocrisy and hard-heartedness. At the very end of the gospel, Matthew makes his accusation explicit: Greek beliefs about prophecy to the biblical prophets, and so came to believe that God had planted throughout their writings cryptic clues about his plans for the future. The first thing to be said about Matt Besides, if it had happened the way Matthew says it did, he could not have known about it: Now the gospels contain many fictions that express truthâ€”stories that while not historically true communicate truths that are more important than historical facts. It is a malicious lie. He asserts not only that his people are right to follow Jesus as the Jewish messiah, but also that Jews who do not follow Jesus are unfaithful to Judaism. Scholars generally agree on what those circumstances were. We have to try to see things the way Matthew and his people did, regardless of whether we see things that way today. Matthew and his audience already believe that Jesus is the messiah. They also believe that God must have been dropping hints about the long-awaited messiah in the scriptures, especially in the books of the prophets. So Matthew goes back to the scriptures and studies them carefully, looking for clues about Jesus the messiah. For Matthew, the recognition of Jesus as the messiah is the newly revealed key that will unlock the hidden meaning of prophecy. The net result of all this is obvious: The early Christian belief that Jesus fulfilled prophecy arose after and because of the belief that he was the promised messiah. This very important finding needs to be emphasized. The belief that Jesus was the messiah was the basis for the belief that he was the fulfillment of prophecy. It was not that people noticed that Jesus had fulfilled a series of prophecies and so concluded that he must be the messiah. The process worked the other way around. It was because Christians were convinced that Jesus was the messiah that they went searching through the scriptures to discover which prophecies he had fulfilled. The proclamation that Jesus fulfilled prophecy is a testimony to Christian faith, not a description of its origin. All of that is Matthean caricature. Matthew must have known that he was not going to change minds with his fulfillment of prophecy theme. He designed it to support the faith of his own Christian-Jewish community, not to convert outsiders. Believing that Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecy helped to reassure his Jewish followers of the rightness of their cause, at a time when the prestige of Jewish authority made this cause seem religiously illegitimate. But that time no longer exists. It has not existed for nineteen centuries. The viability of Christian belief is not even remotely threatened by Judaism. Today there is not the slightest possibility that Christians will stop following Jesus because Jews do not regard him as the messiah. In the first century perhaps it was necessary for followers of Jesus to believe that the scriptures pointed to Christ, that Jews did not understand their true meaning, and that therefore the Hebrew Bible properly belonged only to Christians who eventually made it into their own "Old Testament". Christian history is marred with the ugly consequences of the anti-Judaism fostered by those beliefs. Do not Christians now have the moral obligation to let go of the notion that if Jews truly understood the scriptures they would become Christians? The belief that the prophets were pointing to Jesus, though perhaps helpful at the time Matthew wrote his gospel, has long since outlived its usefulness. It is a belief that distorts the scriptures and has had ugly consequences in history. Out of respect for Judaism and for the Bible, therefore, I propose that Christians have an intellectual and moral duty to abandon this obsolete, self-serving, and dangerous belief. What do you think? May not be reproduced or reprinted without permission in writing from the copyright holder.

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note, all Manifestations have repeated the message that there is but one God but Muhammad emphasized this message, some say to pull humanities Christian branch back from the dogma that Jesus Christ is God and to remind us that while Jesus is as close to God as man can know, as are the other Manifestations, God has additional qualities that.

The end of a Cycle, cleansing, and rebirth. Just as Nature has its familiar cycles of autumn, winter and spring, dying down, repose and rebirth, so too do planets, planetary systems, and with them, the civilizations which inhabit them. Here too the same cycle prevails, but on a much longer time-scale of some twenty-five thousand years. Our planet Earth is now reaching the end of its cycle and must undergo some major changes involving a complete and thorough cleansing of land, sea, and atmosphere. Plans have long been in place, to ensure that this major operation can be carried out smoothly and safely. Those who might fear the prospect, and most of us instinctively fear any kind of change, should be assured that they will at once be encompassed by an all-pervading feeling of peace and tranquility, while at the same time discarding the fear and uncertainty which is our constant earthly companion, together with our environment of poverty, uncertainty and fear. In addition, we have polluted our Planet, its surface and especially its oceans, to immeasurable and unsustainable levels of pollution and degradation which cannot long continue. It is thus timely and appropriate that we take a wider view of forthcoming events in order to be informed and prepared, as indeed we are warned and advised to do by many higher sources communicating through earth-based intermediaries, mediums and visionaries. A large group of these worlds have been closely watching over us since WWII with millions of their Motherships invisibly surrounding us, ready to assist us at any moment to fulfill our Ascension up to the Fifth Dimension on a newly cleansed New Earth. They have also fulfilled an important function in shielding us from any unwarranted intrusions or attacks by those Forces of Darkness that unfortunately still exist within our Galaxy, as well as our own irresponsible use of atomic weapons, though it must be stressed that they have never wished, nor indeed would they be karmaically permitted, to interpose themselves directly on our World. Those who have volunteered to come to Planet Earth have expressly chosen to partake in a planetary experiment in overcoming and resolving the Duality inherent in our Universe of Good and Evil - the eternal fight between the Forces of Light and Darkness - the Positive versus the Negative. This difficult process has actually been assisted by our being shrouded from contact with all the other Worlds under an externally imposed "Veil" of isolation. Over two-hundred thousand years ago our Planet was placed under "Quarantine", along with 37 other Planets in our Local System of Satania within the Local Universe of Nabadon which were involved in the "Lucifer Rebellion" against the ruling Grand Universe Hierarchy. This has had the effect of cutting us off from direct contact with all the other surrounding Worlds and of any knowledge of their inhabitants. On the other hand this "Veil" has given us a unique opportunity to concentrate, un-influenced by outsiders, on our special Planetary experiment in exploring the ultimate extremes of Duality - the constant struggle between the Forces of Good and Evil. We have undertaken this difficult task in order to develop new answers, not only for our own World, but also for the benefit of many other Worlds at the time of the upcoming new Universal Age in which everyone in our Galaxy is to step up to a higher Plane or Dimension. As a side effect, this "Veil" has at the same time prevented us at any time from opting-out of our self-imposed task and escaping to the peace of the Higher Worlds of Light. Our Space Brothers from other more advanced worlds have thus been forced to limit our knowledge of their presence, and then only to those Earth Humans who either had a direct connection with them in a previous life or who had over many lives developed an extra-sensory psychic ability to "see" higher Dimensions and to communicate through channeling. Nonetheless, our extraterrestrial visitors have at times tried to communicate directly with either our governments or our media, especially with a wish to warn them of the extreme dangers of our development and use of atomic weapons, particularly the Hydrogen bomb. There have also been many thousands of unofficial reported "flying-saucer" or UFO sightings as well as quite a few direct contacts made to individuals.

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One of the first major "Contactees" was George Adamski, who wrote several books in the mid s detailing his physical contacts with Venusian, Saturnian and Martian Space visitors and of his journeys up in their Scout-ships to their large Motherships overhead. In his second book "Inside the Space Ships", he describes in fascinating detail the interiors of these Motherships and his many conversations with their Commanders and other onboard Spiritual Leaders. A few years later, Dino Kraspedon, a Brazilian, also published a book describing his meeting with the Captain of a foot Flying Saucer Scout, who gave him much useful scientific information about space travel and their methods of propulsion. Among other things, the Captain explained how they can move at enormous speeds through our atmosphere by creating a vacuum around the Scouts by ionizing the air surrounding the craft to prevent atmospheric friction. He was also one of the first to give us information on the approaching "Earth Changes". For an extended excerpt from the book, see the link in our Bibliography, or click here on: Another extraterrestrial phenomenon that has become well-known during the last twenty years has been the thousands of perfectly formed "Crop Circles" which mysteriously appear overnight in fields of cereal crops, especially so in Britain, giving us many beautiful and highly complex patterns which could never have been fashioned by human hand or agency. Photographs of them have been well documented in various books and on the Internet. Likewise, there are also the many photographs on the Internet and books of "flying saucers" or Scoutships. These the Space Visitors have permitted us to see through a lowering of their higher vibration rates down to our 3D level. There are also thousands of huge Motherships stationed invisibly overhead, many of them over hundreds of miles in diameter, and as they mostly operate on the 5th Dimension vibrational level they are masked from our lower 3D physical sight. Although our Space Visitors have up to now been limited to a few Earth contacts, they are promising that they will very soon be making their first major appearance as part of a "First Contact" Mission. They would later follow this with a series of Earth landings in order to provide us with detailed information about themselves and also to provide some useful technology, such as the development of "free energy". One of the greatest concerns of the Galactic Federation of Light since World War II has been to communicate a warning to our Scientific Community, and also to the major Governments, of the extreme danger of developing nuclear weapons. They were particularly concerned about our developing the Hydrogen Bomb. Hydrogen, they informed us, is a basic "living" element permeating all of our surrounding ethers, and a large scale use of Hydrogen bombs could set off a massive chain-reaction conflagration throughout the Ethers of Space as well as destroying our own Planet. In fact the Galactic Federation has since then been forced to intervene a number of times to stop our setting off various nuclear devices within dangerous situations. They can do this by simply neutralizing them at their point of use. Another major part of their mission has been to alert us of the impending "End Times" as being part of the end of a Major Universal Age. This they warned is going to result in some major "Earth Changes" on our planetary surface. In fact the ending of this two-hundred million year-long Grand Universal Age, is a time when all our Universes, Galaxies and Solar Systems are collectively destined to move up a step to a higher dimensional plane. The Piscean Age commenced at the Birth of Christ, and ended on the 21st of December as in the ancient Mayan Calendar , from which time will commence a new "Aquarian Age". A similar message has also been given in recent times by the growing number of Esoteric Schools of Higher Spiritual Knowledge, all of which confirm the coming of a "New Age". Planet Earth, along with the other inhabited worlds of our Solar System, is thus about to make an "Ascension" up to a higher "Dimension" or vibrational plane. We on Earth will be moving up from our present dense physical "Third Dimension" vibrational level to the 5th Dimension, briefly via the Fourth Dimension, whose borders many of us have already reached. The 4th Dimension was also up to recently the vibrational level upon which most of the inhabitants of our neighboring Planets lived. They themselves will also be moving up to the Fifth Dimension alongside us. Most of the advanced "Lightworkers" now working and teaching down on Earth have themselves come down here as "Starseeds" from other Planets and Star Systems. Having already experienced living on higher Dimensions and more advanced worlds, an Ascension up to a higher plane will not be such a big jump for them. On the other hand, many of the younger Souls starting out on their long evolutionary

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Ascension on this "Seed Planet" may not yet be ready to make such a major evolutionary jump, and will thus be relocated by the Galactic Federation to some of the other Solar Systems still capable of supporting a Third Dimension vibrational level. Those able to make an Ascension up to the Fifth Dimension will either be returning to Earth following the complete cleansing having been guests on the Galactic Federation Motherships or else have remained on Earth in a deep "sleep mode" induced by the Galactic Federation in a two to four year period of "Stasis" suspended animation during the more extreme Earth Changes. There will also be over a , Lightworkers taken up to the Motherships before the major Earth Changes commence for a planning and training period. They will then be returning to a rejuvenated and cleansed New Earth. However, before our Planet can fully move up to the 5th Dimensional Plane, it badly needs to undergo a surface cleansing of the worst of the environmental detritus and destructive effects caused by its inhabitants in the past. During this much needed major Planetary cleansing period, certain surface areas may need to go through some fairly major upheavals. Some will be taken up to the overhead Motherships and there will be others who through their own choice, will instead be taken down into the interior hollow "Inner Earth", the home of an existing Fifth-dimensional civilization named "Aghartha". Here there is a pristine environment of verdant landscapes, rivers, lakes, crystal cities, all of which are illuminated by its own interior Sun which shines as the high-density crystalline core at the very center of Planet Earth. Those not at this time ready to make their Ascension up to the Fifth Dimension, will have to be relocated to another Third-dimensional World within another Solar System. There they will have to start on a new round of Third-dimensional physical evolution lasting at least 26, years until the new Major Galactic Age commences. Otherwise, those still firmly rooted in the lower Third Dimension vibration whose emotions and focus on their own self-interest at the expense of others, would find themselves unable to tolerate the higher vibrations of the Fifth Dimension. They would experience intolerable discomfort and also not have a proper chance to express their many lower level desires and work out their strong emotions. Those of us wishing to move up to the Fifth Dimension therefore need to concentrate on changing any fundamental motivations of pure self-interest, especially when undertaken at the expense of others. We need to learn to move away from our physical "survival-mode" of subjective concentration on our own self-interest with its natural tendency towards competitive individualism and the domination of others. We have to embrace a new attitude of unselfish service to others without subjective thoughts of personal gain, moving towards one of giving Unconditional Love to others, along with cooperation, mutual tolerance and the forgiveness of the faults of others. We will soon be acquiring a "Second Sun" within our Solar System. This will be through the ignition of the Planet Jupiter into a brighter "Nova" of Light. When this new energetic source of Light-energy is allowed to shine forth, it will cause a magnetic Pole Reversal on Earth, during which time Earth will come to a brief stop and reverse its direction of rotation. The Sun will then be rising in the West! This will set in motion some major earthquakes, extremely heavy winds, tidal waves, and floods. Seashells and skeletons of fish have been found high up in the Himalayas and the Andes. The North and South Poles have also been shown to have moved rapidly to new positions with evidence of dramatic surface and climatic changes. This aspect was first discovered in , when frozen bodies of mammoths were unearthed in the tundra of Siberia, their stomachs containing freshly eaten grasses and leaves normally belonging to tropical regions thousands of miles to the South. Former tropical coral reefs have also been discovered as far north as Spitzbergen, within what is now the Polar Circle. Coal deposits found in Antarctica indicate that the area was once covered by equatorial forests. She now awaits impatiently for a total cleansing and her long-desired Ascension up to the Fifth Dimension. She has up to now had to maintain a long and painful duty of supporting a lowly evolved combative and turbulent Humanity as part of her Celestial service "Contract". However, before she can Ascend, she needs to cleanse her Planetary Body of all the past pollution, damage and detritus that Humanity has accumulated on her surface. Her Planetary Body has reached such a complete ecological breakdown and disorder that she simply could not, or would not want to, move up to a more Ethereal density until it is thoroughly cleansed. Oil is in fact the very "life-blood" of her Planetary Body, part of the system that helps to lubricate the tectonic plates and thus help keep them properly locked

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together. An insufficient quantity of this substance at the intersection of two major continental plates resulted in the massive underwater Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami of December. The Galactic Federation with their advanced technology will be helping Humanity undertake more of this restoration work on our return or awakening from Stasis. Humanity at this time must now undertake a process of erasing all past negative "Karma" before we can Ascend to the Fifth Dimension. We need to balance out all our past Karmaic debts with those that we have previously harmed and at the same time give to forgiveness to those that we consider may have wronged us in the past. Many of those long repressed emotional hurts and historical grievances which have accumulated over thousands of incarnations, held as deep scars within our structure and our Soul, now need to be brought to the surface, resolved and finally transmuted. At this time we can indeed see much of this resolving of past Karma going on as a world-wide activity within the many settlements of past historical grievances. This is particularly visible in the present day conflicts within the Middle East, where we see the re-surfacing of the old Christian-Muslim conflict which was first generated, and never properly resolved, during the time of the Crusades. In conjunction with the ending of the present major Universal Age, there is at this time being enacted by the Celestial Hierarchy a major removal within our Local Universe and Galaxy of all the Forces of Darkness. Most of this darkness came in from a particularly evil outside infestation of darkness originating in a totally corrupted Grand Universe Creation out in the Great Void. It infected the outer regions of our surrounding Seventh SuperUniverse of Orvonton millions of years ago and spread to our own Local Universe of Nebadon. Now, at last we are coming to an end of over million years of this pervasive darkness which had so subtly infiltrated the outer areas of the Realms of Light. It has left behind a scene of much destruction and damage, which is only now being thoroughly cleansed within our Galaxy by the Galactic Forces of Light. Also, it had to fulfill its original role as a "Seed Planet" for young Souls starting out on their long Ascension and evolutionary path up from the animal level. They have had learn how to control their as yet undeveloped animalistic emotional responses, which have a tendency to descend into violent conflict when conditions get difficult. By going through many conflicts with each other they are eventually forced to evolve a deeper respect for the "sanctity of life". Planet Earth was at its creation within our Local Universe of Nebadon, was also given the role of a "Experimental Ecology Planet" in which new life forms and plant life were to be developed. All the diversity of biological life found throughout the Universe has been brought here by the "Life Carriers" who have the job of physically creating new and improved life forms on such a newly birthed experimental Ecology Planet. Also there were many of the original extraterrestrial Human settlers of Planet Earth who were brought here millions of year ago in the Motherships of the Galactic Federation as a specially selected team of volunteer "Celestial Gardeners". They came having made a solemn pledge to help in the development of new and better varieties of plant and animal life for this new Galactic Museum under a long-term "contract" to remain here as Stewards of Earth until a virtual "Garden of Eden" was finally established. Although they were eventually dragged down into lower and lower levels of dense 3rd Dimension physicality mainly caused by the various invasions by the Dark Forces within our Galaxy, they nevertheless maintained a Sacred Pledge to return here repeatedly until their job was finally done.

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5: Is Chapter 11 Right For You? (Hebrews) | www.enganchecubano.com

Yes, the pre-mortal Jesus Christ was Jehovah, the Lord God of the Old Testament. Isaiah I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour. He was the giver of the Law of Moses and all of the other commandments and revelations in the Old Testament.

Do I have to make restitution or correct the wrong I did to be forgiven? Do I have to forgive someone who does not repent and ask for forgiveness? How many times must I forgive someone? Will I go to hell if I committed the unpardonable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit in a moment of weakness? Why do I still feel guilty after asking for forgiveness? Is it apostasy if I stopped believing in God and Christ at one time, and will God forgive me? Will God forgive me for backsliding, or is that apostasy? What is the unpardonable or unforgivable sin? Do we have to confess our sins to other people? In the Bible, sin is a serious evil that disrupts our relationship with God Matthew 5: Availability of Forgiveness The good news is that, no matter how serious the sin, God is always seeking us out and is willing to forgive and forget our sins and give us a fresh start. As long as we live, it is never too late to ask for forgiveness and make a new start! So Jesus used this illustration: And then you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. When you arrived, you would call together your friends and neighbors to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found. Conditions of Forgiveness Although God is always ready and willing to forgive us, He requires two things of us as conditions of forgiveness: Depending on the circumstances, confession and restitution may also be needed. Repentance Repentance means a sincere resolve to turn away from sin and toward God. From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. We are all sinners in our own ways Romans 3: God is always willing for us to start over and make another attempt. However, if we ask for forgiveness with the intention of sinning again, we have not really repented. Forgiveness of Others Jesus said we must be willing to forgive people who sin against us: If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. We are not able to completely forget what happened, but we must let go of the anger and resentment and seek reconciliation with the other person. There should be no limit to our willingness to forgive others Matthew We should have a forgiving spirit whenever someone has committed an offense against us Mark Some people believe there is no obligation to forgive unless the offender repents, but that condition is mentioned in only one of the many passages on this topic Luke Continued anger and holding a grudge are always wrong Matthew 5: Holding a grudge turns a person bitter and blocks the love of God. Forgiving others does not mean we are required to remain in an abusive or exploitive situation. Neither does it deny the right of governments to punish offenders. Jesus and other New Testament leaders supported the authority of civil governments Matthew There is an old saying that "confession is good for the soul," and humbling oneself with a public confession or confession to another person can be an important step toward true repentance and healing a relationship. However, some Christian counselors warn that we must use wisdom in deciding when and how to confess secret sins. We must consider how the other person will react and whether good or evil will result. For example, confessing a romantic infatuation to a jealous spouse could lead to the greater evils of divorce and emotional damage to the children. Restitution The Old Testament had specific rules about restitution when one person sinned against another Exodus The New Testament does not specifically state that making restitution, making amends or otherwise correcting the wrong done are requirements for forgiveness. However, doing what is possible to correct the wrong done could be an important part of sincere repentance Luke Excuses and Rationalization It is tempting to try to explain away our sins or blame others or blame the devil. We may rationalize that committing a sin is okay because some greater good or lesser evil will result. We may rationalize our greed and lack of compassion for others. We may use our own weaknesses as an excuse for not trying harder. We may convince ourselves that a sin does not matter as long as no one knows about it. We may argue that revenge is justified to punish an offender. We may rationalize our sinful actions by inventing false

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motives to justify them. We may rationalize that a half truth is not an actual lie. However, all excuses and rationalizations are nothing more than self-deception. God knows our actions and our true motives, and He will not be fooled. Even other people will usually see through our attempts at deception and perceive our true motives. We must take full responsibility for our motives and actions. True repentance is not possible when we try to rationalize our sins or make excuses

Genesis 3: The Unpardonable Sin Jesus said blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an unpardonable or unforgivable sin: I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin. In context, Jesus was referring specifically to the sin of the scribes teachers of the law

Mark 3: The total spiritual blindness of those who mistook the work of Jesus for the work of Satan put them beyond hope of repentance, faith and forgiveness. Some people worry about committing the unpardonable sin accidentally or in a moment of weakness, but most Bible experts say there is no need for such worry. The sin of the scribes was not forgiven because their own stubborn perversion of the truth and hardness of heart prevented them from repenting. Those people who are concerned enough to worry about their sins are not in danger of committing an unpardonable sin.

Apostasy Apostasy is a deliberate abandonment of faith. Several New Testament passages

Hebrews 6: These passages have been interpreted many different ways, and it is fair to say that no one is really sure of their original intent. In their original context, these were warnings, in the strongest possible terms, to the first century Christians not to abandon their new faith because of persecution or false teachings. Thus, the authors may have used some hyperbole exaggeration to emphasize the point. These verses are probably not directed at people who have doubts or who lose their faith and come back later. It is the person who deliberately, permanently and hard-heartedly rejects faith who will never repent, and thus can never be forgiven.

Process of Forgiveness Nearly all Christians agree that repentance and forgiveness of others are key elements of forgiveness, and that forgiveness comes from God. However, there are some doctrinal differences about the process of forgiveness.

Catholic Doctrine Jesus had the power to forgive sins

Matthew 9: Jesus granted that authority also to His apostles

In Catholic doctrine, that authority is now vested in the Church through the bishops as successors of the apostles. The Church exercises that authority to forgive sins, through its bishops and priests, in the sacrament of Reconciliation also known as confession or the sacrament of Penance. A sinner confesses his or her sins to the priest who assigns a penance often some prayers to recite and grants forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Protestant Doctrine Severe penances, such as fasts, pilgrimages and floggings, were often imposed in early Church history. In the Middle Ages, the Roman Church fell into the corrupt practice of selling "indulgences" to reduce the severity of such penances in exchange for monetary contributions to the Church. This was a major factor leading to the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. Authority on doctrine was placed in "Scripture alone" rather than in the Church. For most Protestants, the Church is instrumental in bringing people to repentance, but forgiveness of sins comes directly from God. However, there is no need to feel that way; the Bible assures us that God does not hold our forgiven sins against us

Luke Of course, some sins against other people cannot be undone, and that is reason enough for extra resolve not to repeat the sin. However, there is no need to keep hating oneself. Instead, we can view it as a learning experience and an incentive to do good in the future instead of evil.

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6: Did Jesus Fulfill Prophecy? - Westar Institute

Confident that Jesus is the Promise Fulfiler Use this talk to speak about how Jesus fulfilled the promise of God - only refer to the Moses story and how God spoke his promise to Moses but Jesus was the one who would free everyone that turned to him.

Runs on Windows , Mac and mobile. How are Christians to respond to such accusations? And how are we to reconcile the seemingly disconnected natures of God portrayed in the two testaments? In this timely and readable book, apologist Paul Copan takes on some of the most vexing accusations of our time, including: God is arrogant and jealous God punishes people too harshly God is guilty of ethnic cleansing God oppresses women God endorses slavery Christianity causes violence Copan not only answers the critics, he also shows how to read both the Old and New Testaments faithfully, seeing an unchanging, righteous, and loving God in both. In the Logos edition, this volume is enhanced by amazing functionality. Scripture citations link directly to English translations, and important terms link to dictionaries, encyclopedias, and a wealth of other resources in your digital library. Take the discussion with you using tablet and mobile apps. With Logos Bible Software, the most efficient and comprehensive research tools are in one place, so you get the most out of your study.

Key Features Addresses comprehensively and with biblical detail the difficulties that the Old Testament presents Discusses the morality of the Old Testament and its ethics Reexamines incorrect paradigms of thinking about the Bible Contents Who Are the New Atheists? Gracious Master or Moral Monster? Great Appetite for Praise and Sacrifices? Divine Arrogance or Humility? Monumental Rage and Kinglike Jealousy? Kosher Foods, Kooky Laws? Women in Israel Bride-Price? Does Religion Cause Violence? It is simply the best book I have read that tackles the many difficulties that the Old Testament presents to thinking and sensitive Christians. Paul Copan writes in such a simple, straightforward way, yet covers enormous issues comprehensively and with reassuring biblical detail and scholarly research. In honesty, many Christians will confess that they struggle with what looks like a primitive and barbaric ethic. Paul Copan helps us truly understand the world of the Old Testament and how it relates to us today. I recommend this book for all who want to make sense of the Old Testament. A must-read for all preachers and Bible study leaders. He takes on current New Atheist biblical critics and powerfully addresses virtually every criticism they have raised. I know of no other book like this one, and it should be required reading in college and seminary courses on biblical introduction. Moreland , distinguished professor of philosophy, Talbot School of Theology Most Christians today, myself included, are in dialogue with people we love who have been heavily swayed by the criticisms of Richard Dawkins, et al. What struck me in reading *Is God a Moral Monster?* It will awaken your vision of God in wonderful ways!

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7: Is God a Moral Monster?: Making Sense of the Old Testament God - Logos Bible Software

Jesus didn't mean that we should ignore money because it's insignificant. at the very end of the Old Testament, God speaks about the tithe through his last.

Have you ever kept a promise? Was it difficult to do? Do you like keeping promises? Have you ever broken a promise? How did you feel? How did the other person feel? Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How did that make you feel? Is God a good promise keeper? If you wanted someone to keep your promise, who would you ask? God gave Moses a great promise. Sometimes it takes time for His promises to come through. Moses was given an incredible promise! Imagine, the people were all living in slavery, yet God promised that one day they would be living in plenty! Kirsten, your dad loves you. Then why did he say he would never leave. He said he would never go. Yeah, until you disappear too! You know what, I think I will. I meanâ€¦ what harm could it do? Everybody from time to time makes mistakes and lets us down. Yet Jesus will always do what he has promised. He is always true to his word. Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? What He says, He will do. We can trust him percent because He is completely true to His word. Moses had to have a massive amount of faith to believe that a bunch of slaves â€” thousands and thousands of them â€” would one day be in a land flowing with milk and honey. Moses had to trust that God would do as He had promised. The friend; Joanna, fulfills that promise when she turns up for lunch! Jesus fulfills all the promises that were talked about in the Old Testament. Does God keep His promises? How do you know? How can you be a person that keeps their promises? Imagine that you were Moses and you saw a bush on fire that was not burning up. Re-enact the scene in a skit. Ask your kids to re-enact the skit by taking turns at being Moses and acting the scene out. Create a burning bush sun catcher. Simply print the template from Crafting the Word of God and follow their instructions.

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8: The Abbreviated Jesus | Solus Christus (Christ Alone)

I get the feeling that if you move beyond the standard biographical paragraph, you're going to discover that the Jesus you are hearing about has considerably less to say than Jesus as we meet him in the Gospels.

April 20, by Eric DeMar The other day a strange feeling came over me. A shortened version of a real word. We all know what the shorthanded version stands for. He seems considerably more flexible on sexual matters that one would believe reading the Bible. Living together before marriage? The abbreviated Jesus seems to have not issued a statement on that one. But they still have a surprisingly strong opinion about the meaning of all kinds of things Jesus said and did in the Bible. The abbreviated Jesus can convincingly seem like the real Jesus, until you look and listen closely. In fact “and this is what really got my attention” the abbreviated Jesus would only get crucified if there were some terrible mix-up. The abbreviated Jesus is Jesus without the Biblical context, Jesus without church history, Jesus without Jesus theology, Jesus without costly discipleship, Jesus without offensive teaching or mysterious parables. The abbreviated Jesus is so easily explained, so comprehensible and user-friendly that anyone can follow him, even without instructions. In millions of cases, the abbreviated Jesus is Jesus without the church. He wants you to feel personally fulfilled about whatever you choose to support. The abbreviated Jesus seems to always need one more book to really get down to what he actually means. He has a lot of preachers who understand him, and a lot of churches where his way of doing things has become very popular. Aside from abortion and gay marriage, the abbreviated Jesus is pretty happy in America. I want to know Jesus. The untamed, old school, offensive, mysterious, demanding, awe-inspiring, transformational, life-altering, crucified, risen, ascended, revolutionary Jesus. The Fulfiller and Establisher of the Law. He pours out the Holy Spirit. He is the Eternal God. You fall at his feet and worship. You get up and follow. You die and he raises you on the last day.

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9: Book II: The EARTH RE-BORN

In this instance, as in the others we have considered, God will have mercy "on whom He wants to have mercy" (Romans). A Second Chance? So far, we have examined only those who die without professing faith, and who move straight from death to final judgement, as Hebrews seems to suggest they will.

This will explain how you can personally begin a relationship with God, right now. PDF What does it take to begin a relationship with God? Wait for lightning to strike? Devote yourself to unselfish religious deeds? Become a better person so that God will accept you? God has made it very clear in the Bible how we can know Him. This will explain how you can personally begin a relationship with God, right now! Principle One: God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life. Not only that, he loves you so much that he wants you to know him now and spend eternity with him. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Jesus alone can bring meaning and purpose to life. What keeps us from knowing God? All of us sin and our sin has separated us from God. We sense that separation, that distance from God because of our sin. The Bible tells us that "All of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way. The result of sin in our lives is death -- spiritual separation from God. There is a distance, a gap between us and God. The arrows show our efforts to reach God But the problem is that none of these good efforts actually cover up our sin or remove it. Our sin is known by God and stands as a barrier between us and God. Further, the Bible says that the penalty for sin is death. We would be eternally separated from God. Except! for what God did for us. So, how can we have a relationship with God? Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sin for us. He now offers us complete forgiveness and a close relationship with him. Jesus Christ took all of our sins--knowing everything we have ever done or will do--suffered and paid for them with his life on the cross. Jesus died for us, in our place. He did this out of his tremendous love for us. That is why Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one can come to the Father except through me. Jesus says, "Come to me. Whoever believes in me! out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. And he now invites us to come to him, that we might begin a personal relationship with God. Just knowing what Jesus has done for us and what he is offering us is not enough. To have a relationship with God, we need to welcome him into our life! Principle Four: We must individually accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. The Bible says, "God saved you by his special favour when you believed. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in. Consider these two circles: Which circle would you like to have represent your life? Begin a relationship with Jesus! You can receive Christ right now. The precise words you use to commit yourself to God are not important. He knows the intentions of your heart. If you are unsure of what to pray, this might help you put it into words: I want you to come into my life. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin so that I could be fully accepted by you. Only you can give me the power to change and become the person you created me to be. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life with God. I give my life to you. Please do with it as you wish. You have begun a personal relationship with God.

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