

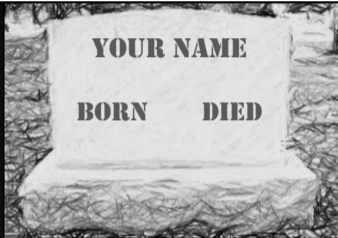
A black and white photograph of a tombstone. The tombstone is rectangular and has a slightly arched top. It is set in a cemetery with other tombstones visible in the background. The text on the tombstone is in a bold, sans-serif font.

**WHAT
HAPPENS
AFTER I
DIE?**

***THE MOST
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE YOU WILL
EVER READ***

FACT: Very soon you will die.

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Every city on earth has a cemetery that bears witness to the fact that ***your life will soon come to an end.*** Are you ready? What will happen after you die?



If there is no God (as some claim)...

Then you are merely the product of a random explosion 13.8 billion years ago:



1. You have no hope beyond the grave.
2. You will go to school, fall in love, raise a family, and achieve your dreams, only to get old, get sick, **and die** – leaving everything you love behind.
3. You will receive neither reward nor punishment for what you did: you had no *purpose*; there is no *God*.

BUT CAN THIS BE TRUE? IS THERE NO GOD?➔

Suppose a man finds scratches on his car...

Where did the scratches come from?



How did the scratches get on his car?

Take a look at the scratches on the next page.
Can you tell how the scratches got on the car?



How did the scratches get on the car?

What happened to the car?

Look closely...



Did a tree fall on the car?

Are the scratches there by accident?

NO! When you saw the scratches, you immediately recognized them as a deliberate act. Why? Because *order and design reveal intelligence and purpose.*

Compare the scratches to our wonderful design!

An honest comparison will lead you to only one conclusion: You are no accident friend - **Somebody made you on purpose!**



The Bible says: ***“I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well.”*** Psalm 139:14(HCSB)

God, therefore, is undeniably seen in creation's order and design



From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities...have been clearly observed in what he made. As a result, people have no excuse. Romans 1:20 (GNB)

Since there IS a God (as we can clearly see)...

Then you are not the debris of a “Big Bang”, but the special creation of a loving and all-powerful GOD:

1. There is hope for you beyond the grave!
2. You do have eternal meaning and purpose!
3. You will be held accountable by your Creator!

And now, I would like to share with you the **truth about God**, so you can have that *hope*, fulfill your *purpose*, and be *accepted* by God when you die. Will you please continue reading? Your eternal welfare is at stake, and **eternity is a long time to be wrong!**

God has spoken to man

This world is full of man-made religions that do not agree, and which are all based on the ideas of **men**. Let's face it, the only way we can know the truth about God, is if we hear it from **God Himself**. This is why we must never trust the ideas of men, but have a divinely inspired (God given) record for us to rely on.

A vertical scroll with a light gray background and dark gray text. The text is in a blackletter or gothic font. The scroll is slightly unrolled at the top and bottom.

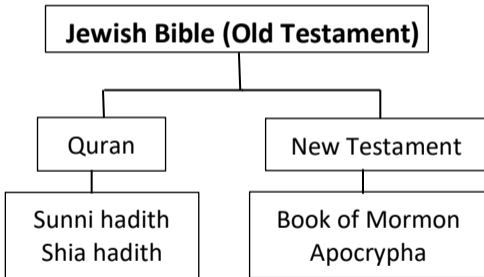
All
scripture is
inspired by
God.

II Timothy 3:16

God has spoken to man

The Jewish **Bible**, (also known as the Torah, Tawrat, Old Testament, etc.) is the original book that claims **God** to be its author (to be divine).

Every other “sacred” writing is based on the Jewish Bible.*



*Hinduism is a combination of all religions - thus not included

One *book* – Many *religions*

This means every major “God”-centered religion in this world comes from one book: the Jewish Bible (the Old Testament).



- ✓ Christianity
- ✓ Judaism
- ✓ Catholicism
- ✓ Muslim (Islam)
- ✓ Mormonism
- ✓ Jehovah's Witness

The problem is, though all these religions claim to originate from the same *book* they do not all teach the same *thing*. So, how do we know what religion is *TRUE*? We know the truth by knowing God's original message to us in the Old Testament!

The Key is to understand the Old Testament

Understanding the Old Testament is the key to knowing the truth about God, life, and death.



Let's look at 6 essential things it teaches:

FIRST: In the beginning, God created everything good. God made one man (Adam), from whom all people would descend. God loved man very much.

And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Understanding the Old Testament...

SECOND: Adam foolishly rejected the authority of his loving Creator, choosing to do his *own* will instead of *God's*. In response to Adam's rebellion (sin), God cursed the ground from which Adam was made, which brought death to Adam. ***The ground is cursed for your sake...dust you are, and to dust you shall return.*** Genesis 3:17-19 (MKVJ)

And, now, we ALL die, because we all (like Adam) sin as well.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: Rom 5:12

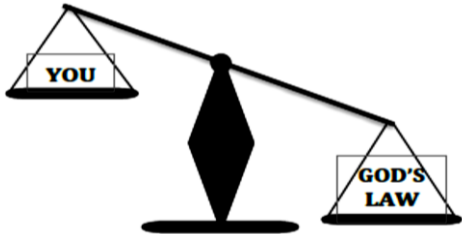
Understanding the Old Testament...

THIRD: God is perfectly good (holy), so He rejects all who come short of His good and perfect standard. God gave a law so we could know what was good and right. Among many things, the law taught us the need to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Never put anything before God.2. Worship God and God alone.3. Love and serve God, and never dishonor His name.4. Honor God as the Creator of all things and the giver of life.5. Obey and honor the parents God gave us. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Never harm anyone in any way.7. Be sexually pure and faithful to our spouse.8. Never steal anything.9. Always tell the truth.10. Be thankful for what we have, and do not envy. |
|---|--|

Understanding the Old Testament...

FOURTH: When God weighs us in the balance of His perfect law, our *conduct* fails to equal His *commands*.

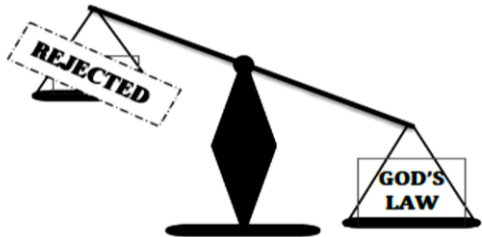


...You are weighed in the balances and found lacking.

Daniel 5:27 (LITV)

Understanding the Old Testament...

FIFTH: ALL who sin (fail to perfectly obey God's law and balance the scale) are rejected and condemned by God.



Behold, all souls are mine...the soul that sins, it shall die.

Ezekiel 18:4 (MKJV)

Understanding the Old Testament...

SIXTH: In spite of our sin, God still loved us, so He promised to do something wonderful: He promised He would one day send a “Savior”, who would take away our sin, overcome our death, and make us acceptable to God!

Speaking of this Savior, the Old Testament prophesied...

You will again have compassion on us. You will overcome our wrongdoing. You will throw all our sins into the deep sea.

Micah 7:19



Understanding the Old Testament...

In 712 BC, the Old Testament said this loving Savior would take away our sins, by taking our sins upon **Himself** and bearing the penalty of our sin in our place.

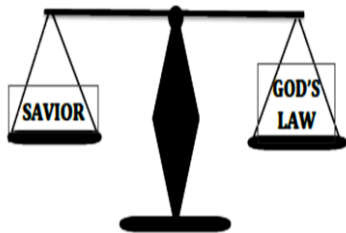
...the LORD has laid all our sins on him. Isaiah 53:6



*...the soul that
sins, it shall die.*
Ezekiel 18:4 (MKJV)

Understanding the Old Testament...

Although this wonderful Savior would die for our sins, He Himself would be **innocent**. God said the Savior would fully **obey** God's law, yet fully **endure** its **penalty** on our behalf.



Although he is innocent, he will take the punishment for the sins of others, so that many of them will no longer be guilty. Isaiah 53:11 CEV

Understanding the Old Testament...

Until that special day came, when the people's sins would be laid on the promised Savior, God instructed His people to lay their sins on innocent **animals** instead.



He shall put both of his hands on the goat's head and confess over it all the evils, sins...of the people of Israel, and so transfer them to the goat's head. Leviticus 16:21 GNB

Understanding the Old Testament...

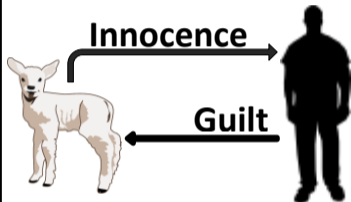
Having their sins symbolically placed on the innocent animals, those **animals** (e.g. sheep, goats) were condemned to death (sacrificed), and **they** bled and died in the **sinner's** place.



...the life of the flesh is in its blood; and I have given it to you on the altar to take away your sin... Leviticus 17:11 BBE

Understanding the Old Testament...

In return, God accepted the “innocence” of these animals as a **covering** (atonement) for the guilty people. Because of this atonement (covering) God could look at these *guilty* people and see innocence.



...it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. Leviticus 1:4

Understanding the Old Testament...

These **animals** would be like credit cards.

ANIMAL =

CREDIT
(Symbol)

God would temporarily accept **their** death and innocence until the **Savior's** death and innocence provided the **true** payment and atonement for our sins.

SAVIOR =

PAYMENT
(Substance)

The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. Hebrews 10:4

But who could this Savior be?

What man could fully obey
God's law?

And who could love us
enough to bear our sin and
die in our place?

GOD could! Yes, the eternal
God would be born as a man,
so He could live a sinless life
on our behalf, and then **die**
as a sinner in our place!

***For unto us a child is**
born, unto us a son is
given: and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder: and
his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God, The
everlasting Father, The
Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Understanding the Old Testament...

At the close of the Old Testament (430 BC), God told His people that, before the promised Savior came, He would first send a special messenger to prepare the people and get them ready for His coming to earth.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: Malachi 3:1

And then...the people waited for the Savior (and His special messenger) to come.



AND THE SAVIOR CAME!

400 years later, the Savior was miraculously conceived in a virgin named Mary. His birth was announced to the world and documented for us in the New Testament.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

(Matthew 1:21)

And the angel said unto them...I bring you good tidings of great joy...For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

The Special Messenger – John the Baptist

John the Baptist (the special messenger) came immediately before Jesus to warn of God's future judgment on sin, and to tell all who wanted God's forgiveness that the Savior was coming soon.

John explained that the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament were only a **picture** of the Savior, who, like a *sacrificed lamb*, would be the true atonement for sin.

The next day John sees Jesus... and says, "Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

Why Old & New Testaments?

A "Testament" gives something away when someone dies. That's why, when we make out a will, we say:

"This is my last will and ***testament***."

OLD TESTAMENT: Forgiveness *charged* by the animals' death. ***...for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul.*** Leviticus 17:11

NEW TESTAMENT: Forgiveness *paid in full* by Jesus' death. Jesus described this as, ***"...the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."*** Luke 22:20

JESUS – OUR GREAT SUBSTITUTE

Jesus was born as our substitute. The lives of *animals* could not substitute for *men*, but JESUS, **as a man**, lived to fully obey God's commands on our behalf.

The Bible says Jesus “...**was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15**

JESUS DID THIS...

So **you** could get credit for **HIS** *life!*

JESUS – OUR GREAT SUBSTITUTE

Then Jesus died as our substitute. The death of those *animals* could not pay the penalty for *men*, but JESUS, **as a man**, died to pay the penalty of sin on our behalf.

The Bible says God loved us so much that “...***while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***” Romans 5:8

JESUS DID THIS...

So **you** could get credit for **HIS death!**

JESUS – REJECTED AND CONDEMNED

Though many believed and accepted Jesus, the majority of people rejected Him and condemned Him to death by Roman crucifixion.

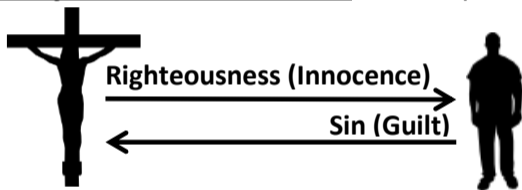
And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him. John 19:17-18

This rejection of Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament:

He is despised and rejected of men... Isaiah 53:3

JESUS – CRUCIFIED ON THE CROSS

But, God would use Jesus' death on the Cross to provide the great atonement for sin He had promised!



For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

JESUS – CRUCIFIED ON THE CROSS

The **Cross** is the focal point of our salvation, because Jesus' death on the Cross fully balanced the scale.

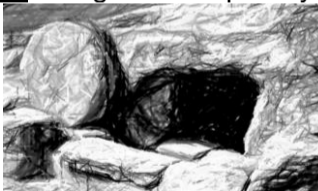


By dying for us on the Cross, Jesus fulfilled every demand of the law: He paid the law's penalty – ***death***, and He obeyed the law's greatest commands – “***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...and your neighbor as yourself.***” Luke 10:27

JESUS – BURIED AND RAISED AGAIN

After Jesus died, He too was buried (like one of us). But, on the third day, **Jesus rose from the dead** to conquer death on our behalf and give us hope beyond the grave!

“He is not here,



but is risen...”

(Luke 24:6)

...the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:52

JESUS – COMING AGAIN

Jesus will one day come again to judge the world, and God now calls for all people to prepare for that judgment, by turning their hearts toward God and receiving Jesus.

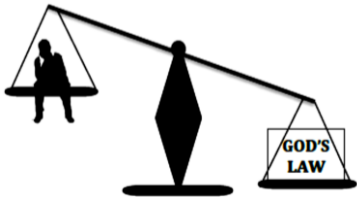
The Bible says God

***...now commands all men everywhere to repent:
Because he has appointed a day, in the which he will
judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he
has ordained; whereof he has given assurance unto all
men, in that he has raised him from the dead.***

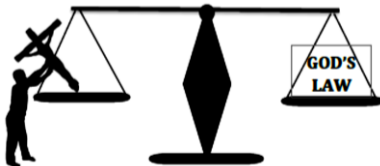
Acts 17:30-31

WORLD RELIGIONS

All world religions have one thing in common:
In one form or another, they all put **YOU** on the scale:

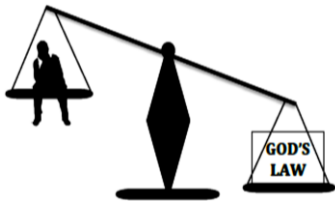


But the **Gospel** (Good News) is: the Cross has **made a way** for us to be accepted by God on the merit of His Son – JESUS!



HOW WILL YOU BE JUDGED?

In your
SIN?



OR

In Jesus'
RIGHTEOUSNESS?



THE DECISION IS YOURS

JESUS' SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT

The Salvation Jesus accomplished for you is a free gift.

...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

You cannot *work* to obtain God's gift; and you cannot *work* to keep it. The Cross was **Jesus'** work, not yours.

For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

WILL YOU RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT?

God has given JESUS so your sins can be **forgiven**, and your relationship with Him can be **restored**.

Will you believe this good news and accept JESUS as your Lord and Savior today? Will you acknowledge your sin, and believe (trust) in JESUS' work for you on the Cross, so you may be judged on the merit of Jesus (God's Son)? The Bible says...

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

WHAT IF I REJECT JESUS?

Very simple, if you reject **Jesus**, God will reject **you**. You will die in your sin and spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

On the Day of Judgment, the Bible says Jesus

...shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and those who do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:41-42

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

All who rely upon JESUS will be saved from God's eternal judgment of sin, but those who do not trust Him as their Savior will be damned.

He who believes on Him is not condemned, but he who believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God... John 3:18

WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?

Your sins now separate you from God, but God loves you my friend. Jesus gave His life for you. And, even if your sins be so big they reach as high as Heaven itself, God now stands with His arms outstretched toward you, ready to *forgive* you...ready to *receive* you, if you are ready to receive His Son.

Will you receive Him now?

How shall we escape, if we neglect such a great salvation? Hebrews 2:3

WE WANT TO HELP YOU!

Have you received God's wonderful gift? If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, or if you have questions, we want to hear from you! We love answering questions, and we have resources that can help you grow in your new faith in Jesus Christ.

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Struggling with assurance? www.knowimsaved.com
For more copies contact: richardfulton@knowimsaved.com

Reading this will take you 30 minutes;
eternity will take forever.

Will you spend 30 minutes to know how you
will spend eternity?

*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain
the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

Mark 8:36