

Gods Love for You and Me

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural passages are
from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

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How can anyone adequately thank God for inspiring all that is in this booklet? After all, God is perfect in every way, with all knowledge, all understanding, perfect wisdom, and perfect love. The Father and Son are totally faithful and in perfect harmony and perfect love.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23, KJV)

The fact is God has everything anyone could desire. God created us so He could love us, and we love Him for all eternity in perfect peace. But the sad fact is, we have all separated ourselves from God. As Judah was collapsing, approximately 600bc, God used a gentle man, Jeremiah the weeping prophet, to convey His deep feelings toward Judah, asking them to return to Him. Today, as the world approaches catastrophe, God is again expressing His deepest feelings, desiring that mankind will return to Him.

God has a plan for redemption. He loves us so much that He gave His son on the Cross as a substitute, to pay for our sins. And God continues to show His love for us in the various personal, intimate passages and examples He includes in the Bible. There is no perfect way to thank God except to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, and as we shall see, continually thank God for showing us His heart, soul, and mind.

Note: As we read those passages and examples, please take whatever notes God's Spirit may inspire you to jot down.

INTRODUCTION

One morning I was contemplating God's great commandment.

Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind". (Matthew 22:37)

I have often prayed for God's help to love Him and over time God has lovingly helped me to grow. One day, while contemplating my own love for Him, I thought it might also help if I asked God to show His love for me. (I am sure God is the one who put that question in my mind.) After all, God is always willing to help us understand and become closer to Him.

I think most of us have "mind" knowledge about God, but loving Him with our heart and soul is another matter. In any case, I think we can all agree that we could improve our understanding of God's love for us. And what about those who do not have any relationship with God? Does God care? We shall see.

But when and how would God respond to me? Would He respond quickly with scriptures or with a process requiring a bit of time by using life's circumstances? The correct answer is God's wisdom for our individual benefit.

For me, it was amazing how soon God acted and I soon realized just how lacking in depth I was in understanding God's deep love for me. It was embarrassing, but I realized that God is not interested in embarrassing me, but in developing a closer relationship with me. And it is the same for you. How do I know? We shall see from God's own words.

At times, such as under pressure situations, we can all begin to question God's love for us even more. For example when one becomes desperately ill, one loses a loved one, one comes from the "lowest segment of society" and feels totally worthless. Maybe another knows nothing about God, or just the opposite, feels he or she has sinned too deeply for too long. In such dire situations, Jesus Christ has very loving news for each of us.

“For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost”. (Matthew 18:11)

Jesus Christ also shows us His same deep love in His first sermon that is mentioned in the Bible.

And there was delivered unto him (Jesus Christ) the book of the prophet Esaias (Isaiah). And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,”

And he began to say unto them, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears”. (Luke 4:17-18, 21)

Unfortunately, when Greek is translated into English, the full, deep meaning God intended is not expressed. From Strong's concordance:

"Poor": in the original Greek meant pauper, a beggar, someone cringing.

"Brokenhearted": from two Greek words meaning to completely crush one's heart, to shatter one's heart, break one's heart into shivers.

“Captives”: a prisoner from war, physically or spiritually.

"Bruise": to crush, to dismember in pieces.

Jesus Christ deliberately spoke to them, and to us who are broken physically, emotionally, and spiritually. God's unfathomable love and saving grace is not only for those who are doing well, but for we who are down and out; who feel like we have had all three strikes against us; we who have had the deepest disappointments in life. God has a deep love for every single individual and God wishes no one to be left out of His Kingdom.

In the days after my request for God to show His love for me, three areas were brought to my attention. These areas apply for all of us, not just me.

1) What was my perception of God, and His love?

- 2) Father's love for the Word, Jesus Christ, past, present, and future.
- 3) God's relationship with me for all eternity.

Within the Third area, God inspired numerous passages and examples. Three major examples stand out.

- 1) The Father-Son Relationship
- 2) The Shepherd-Sheep Relationship
- 3) The Husband-Wife Relationship

I hope that each and every one who reads this booklet is blessed beyond measure, and is supremely inspired by God's incredible depth of love.

With such a broad topic of God's supreme love, one could easily veer off on personal tangents, subheadings, and discussions that could approach infinity. As such, I will endeavor to keep the subject to within what God has inspired that day, and the days that followed.

Next, this booklet is not exhaustive, so space is left for your own personal notes, scriptures, and examples that God may personally inspire to you.

Lastly, I have commented only when necessary for definitions, subject preparation, or to emphasize important points. It is my wish that the Holy Spirit will guide each of us, as God sees fit.

CHAPTER 1

What is Our Perception of God?

The answers are as varied as there are individuals. Life's experiences such as parental love, general day-to-day contacts, events in the world, religion: all these, and more influence our perception of God. However, I think that we can all agree that we all could learn more about God's deep love for us.

For those just starting to think about God, or those hurting, let us start by peeking at what God's ultimate, loving goal is for each of us.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)

Just think, no more pain, nor crying, nor sorrow, nor death. Our future is God's love, joy, harmony for all eternity in His Kingdom. What a wonderful future life God has planned for each of us if we will just believe and accept it.

At this moment, one point that should be emphasized is that God cannot allow any sin to exist in His eternal Kingdom; otherwise we would all experience pain, suffering, and sorrow for all eternity. Fortunately, God is by definition love and wishes us nothing but the best forever.

God knows the way to perfect love, peace, and harmony. It is called the “narrow way” in scripture.

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.
(Matthew 7:14)

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* (Galatians 5:22-23)

Any other way, called the “broad way”, leads to perfect love ceasing, thus peace, harmony, and the other good fruits diminishing. The broad way is the destructive way, called sin.

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad I the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (Matthew 7:13)

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such the like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also
told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* (Galatians 5:19-21)

If perfect love, peace, and harmony is to exist for all eternity, we have to follow God, and understand His perfect love not only in mind, but heart and soul.

Next, we shall see the Father’s love for the Word, before His birth as Jesus Christ, while Jesus Christ was on earth, and finally the Father’s love for Jesus Christ in the future, for eternity. We shall see that the Father and Son do not change; that we can rely on both Father and Son to keep their word for eternity.

CHAPTER 2

Father's Love for the Word, Jesus Christ, Past, Present, and Future.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (1John 4:8,16)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

The Father, Word are each defined as love. So how could there have been any sin committed between them in the past, since the perpetrator could not be defined as love. As such, there is a consistency of love throughout all eternity between them.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

“I and my Father are one”. (John 10:30)

“The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand”. (John 3:35)

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

“But now I go my way to Him that sent me; and none of you asketh Me, Whither goest thou”? (John 16:5)

Yes, the Word was with God, was God, and was sent by the Father to this earth as Jesus Christ. Yes, Jesus Christ is one with the Father, with no sin, but perfect love. Jesus Christ gave His life on the cross, paying for our sins, and was resurrected. We are reconciled by His death, and saved by His life. And yes, Jesus Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. (Colossians 3:1)

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, (Acts 7:55)

As we read Revelation 21:1-4 again, it is apparent that the perfect love, peace, harmony, and oneness between the Father and Son is for eternity.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away". (Revelation 21:1-4)

As one can see, the Father and Son will never change and sin. They will always be in total and deep love with each other, for all eternity.

So how does God view Christians, Christ followers, and those who need His help the most?

CHAPTER 3

God's Love for Us at the Highest Level.

So far, we have asked ourselves what our personal perceptions of God are. That will depend upon the individual's influences, but I think we can agree that we could learn more about God's deep love for us.

In the second chapter, we have learned the love of the Father for the Word in the past, the Father's love for the Word as Jesus Christ, and the perfect love between them in the kingdom forever. We also learned that they will never change, so they can be relied upon.

The next question has to be, what is the relationship between God and you and I? God knew we all would have different experiences, and so gave us many personal, intimate passages and examples. So let us examine some inspired passages and examples.

First though, remember Jesus Christ's first sermon recorded in the Bible. Let's read it again, as it demonstrates God's wish to save all of us, if we will accept it, repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit.

And there was delivered unto him (Jesus Christ) the book of the prophet Esaias (Isaiah). And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

And he began to say unto them, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears". (Luke 4:17-18, 21)

Notice again that Jesus reached out to those in the deepest need, who are in total despair, who are at a loss, who are broken in spirit, regardless of income, status, or position.

1. Father and Son Relationship

God has a plan to save us. Let us examine how He uses the Father-Son relationship to show us His deep love.

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

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

We love him, because He first loved us. (1John 4:19)

Notice that God does not say he hates us. Yes, God hates sin because it causes pain, suffering, and sorrow, and separates us from Him. But God has always wished each and every one of us to be loved and saved.

This next example is so very special. God gives us one of the most famous and in the end loving stories in all the Bible. God reveals to us just how much compassion, pity, and love He has for each of us.

The story involves just one young son (or could be a daughter) and his father; so the story is very personal and intimate, just as God is to each of us. We will see just how quick God forgives us when we repent, no matter what our back ground and sin is.

And he said, "A certain man had two sons":

*And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me".
And he divided unto them his living.*

*And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country,
and there wasted his substance with riotous living. (Luke 15:11-13)*

Notice the son separated from his father, just as we have at one time or another, from God. It appears the son departs, to never return, as he takes what many consider his inheritance.

And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

(Luke 15:14-16)

Life got extremely difficult for the son. The citizen evidently tricked him, for notice the son ends up feeding the pigs but has no money to feed himself. He wished he could have eaten the husks, but none would even give him that. The fact is, satan would love to have each of us in this predicament.

And when he came to himself, he said, "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!"

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants". (Luke 15:17-19)

Let us summarize the condition of this young son.

- 1) The young son had separated himself from his father under less than ideal conditions
- 2) He "wasted his substance".
- 3) He joined with a citizen who took advantage of him.
- 4) He fed the pigs but could not afford to feed himself.
- 5) He wished he could eat the husks that the pigs were eating but no one would even allow that.
- 6) He came to himself and said he had sinned against his father and that he was not worthy to be his son.

Notice, he felt unworthy to be forgiven, to be his father's son, or even worse, his father would never forgive him. What a misunderstanding of God.

How often have we felt unworthy to be forgiven, to become God's son; that we have sinned too often, too deeply, that God is unwilling to forgive us. Let us continue.

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the son said unto him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

But the father said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found". And they began to be merry.
(Luke 15:20-24)

What had the father been feeling all the time his son was gone? What can we say about the father's loving response to the homecoming of his lost, dead son? God greatly wishes us to come "home", to love us and to forgive us of our past, and to be His son? This parable, along with the first recorded sermon Jesus gave is for those who feel totally unworthy, who feel they have had all three strikes against them.

If we contemplate how Jesus Christ states the son's response, it appears God sees us making the very same mistake; that we feel He will not forgive and love us. As we shall continue to see, that is a very wrong assumption. (However, satan would love us to believe God will not forgive and love us.) But wait, there is still much more.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Romans 8:14-16).

Not only can we become His son, but the Father wishes us to call Him Abba, loving Father.

No wonder God created the family which includes the Father-son relationship as this relationship allows us

to “taste” the depths of love God feels for us. (It is not surprising that satan wishes to destroy the traditional family structure.)

In our second major area, God will again show us His incredible love.

2. Shepherd and Sheep

In this section, God uses a rural approach to help us glean His deep love for us. Sheep are extremely dependent upon the shepherd for their well being and survival. Upon this understanding, let us form a foundation from the following passages. Jesus says:

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. (John 10:3-4,14)

As we can see, the sheep know the shepherd, Jesus Christ, and He loves us so much that He “givest His life for His sheep”. It is never too late to repent, be baptized, and receive God’s Holy Spirit.

Let us now investigate the parable of the lost sheep, which Jesus used to correct the self righteous Pharisees and scribes, while giving hope to the publicans and sinners.

And He spake this parable unto them, saying,

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them,

rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance". (Luke 15:3-7)

As we read earlier, God loves to save those who feel they are lost, downcast, or feel unworthy. And if the just persons (self-righteous) will repent and be baptized, they too will be in the kingdom. God is not a respecter of persons.

Another wonderful example with a personal message:

And David said unto Saul, "Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him". (1Samuel 17:34-35)

David's experience represents a beautiful example of God's love for us. In this example, David's father represents God the Father, while David represents Jesus Christ tending the sheep, His children. The lion represents satan, the devil.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

David saved one of the sheep belonging to his father, saving the sheep from a lion. Christ, likewise, loves to save the sheep His Father calls, saving the sheep from satan, the devil. Jesus says:

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day". (John 6:39)

This next example is so special and deep in its meaning. It was the first example God inspired when I asked Him to show His love for me. Before we read this passage, however, we again need to understand who the characters represent. As we already know, Jesus Christ is the good Shepherd and we are the sheep.

However, we also need to understand that Jesus Christ is the most humble, lowly, and meek individual who has ever walked the earth, or ever will. Jesus says:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls”. (Matthew 11:28-29)

“And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”. (Matthew 20:27-28)

Notice Jesus did not state whoever is greatest is to demonstrate his lordship over others. The Word, who knows all, who coexisted with the Father for all eternity, loved us so much that He humbled Himself and became flesh in the form of a little helpless baby, born in a manger, and in a barn with the animals. The humblest of beginnings. God, Jesus Christ, is love by definition. Here is further insight into the Father and Jesus Christ’s character.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)

Jesus Christ set us the ultimate example, the definition of what love, humility, lowliness, selflessness means. Everything God says and does is for our ultimate benefit.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (See Romans 8:28)

Now let us see the very intimate and special example with its multiple rich and deep meanings.

And the Lord sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, "There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him". (2 Samuel 12:1-4)

In this example, God used Nathan the prophet to reach David after his sins of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah. David had despised the commandment of the Lord. (See verse nine.) But our Lord God has much more to say to us if we delve deeply into His word.

The rich man represents satan, while the poor, humble man represents Jesus Christ. The sheep represents God's children. Notice first what Jesus says about the rich man, satan, the one who stole and killed the lamb.

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it". (John 8:44)

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

In Nathan's talk to David, God uses contrast to emphasize His love for us verses satan's wish to destroy us. We see that the rich man (satan) stole and destroyed the ewe lamb. In contrast, the poor, lowly man (Jesus Christ) gave the ewe lamb life with deep love, giving of His own food and water as if it were his daughter.

And Jesus said unto them, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst". (John 6:35)

Now let us meditate and let verse three sink in. You and I are the ewe. The poor man (represents Jesus Christ) states "He had brought and nourished up", we "did eat of His own meat", we "drank of His own cup", "lay in His bosom, and was unto Him as a daughter", not a son, but a precious daughter.

Do we now really understand how much God loves? What can we say? God opens and shares His heart to insignificant us on this tiny planet. God rears His children as His own daughter. The fact is, God feels for each of us so much, just as a father feels for his own daughter; a special love and compassion. For those who are down and out, repenting and coming to the Father is so special.

Now we see a very important reason why God created the traditional family structure; so we could feel what God feels for each of us. We also know why satan wants to destroy the family.

Let us take a look at another part of the traditional family: the husband and wife relationship and its deep meaning.

3. Husband and Wife. Christ and the Church

How does the relationship between husband and wife relate to God's love for us?

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:25, 31-32)

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

And he saith unto me, "Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb". And he saith unto me, "These are the true sayings of God". (Revelation 19:7-9)

So that precious daughter is the church, and we will become Christ's wife. So how much does Jesus Christ love His bride?

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

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (1 John 3:16)

Here are two other special examples, showing how Jesus Christ feels about His daughter, His future bride.

"Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck.

How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices! (Song of Solomon 4:9-10)

And in Proverbs:

be thou ravished always with her love. (Proverbs 5:19, being discrete)

Some translate ravished as intoxicated, or to be lost in her love forever. The passages reflect the deepest love affair one could ever imagine, and more.

Over and over God reveals His incredible love for mankind, and wish to save us, to be Christ's bride.

CHAPTER 4

Summation

Let us summarize what God has shown us in His word.

God by definition is love. We know that the Word and Father lived in perfect love, peace, and harmony in the eternal past. We also know that the Word, Jesus Christ, and the Father will continue to live in perfect love, peace, and harmony for all eternity. Finally, the Father and Jesus Christ wish not only to save each of us, but to have a deep love affair with each of us forever in Their kingdom. We can completely trust what They say. What an extraordinary future if we can just grasp and act on what God has shown us.

In light of the previous passages and examples, let us take a look at Revelation 21:1-4 one more time with hopeful heart and eyes. What a glorious, deep and personal meaning these verses hold for each of us who are Christ disciples.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, "behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away". (Revelation 21:1-4)

God gives us hope: a glimpse of our fantastic future forever with Him in perfect love, harmony, peace and oneness. How could each of us have a better future than with God, if we will seek Him with our whole heart. May you develop and/or nurture an eternal relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 5

How to Become a Christ Disciple

How does one become Christ's disciple, be begotten, and receive the Holy Spirit? If we understand, and accept these passages on a personal level, and contact a true minister, then we are on the right track toward a future beyond comprehension. What is presented below is just the beginning.

Here are just a few scriptures and prophecies from the old testament as well as the new testament pertaining to Jesus Christ's birth, purpose, death, resurrection, and our salvation. These scriptures will help until you can contact a qualified minister of God for further help.

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Immanuel in English means God with us. Here is an old testament prophecy of what would transpire when the Messiah came.

Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God,

and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53: 1-6)

Jesus Christ never lied. He was never wrong. If He had, He could not have been the propitiation for all the worlds sins, our sins. All our sins, our iniquities, our transgressions, everything that leads us away from God are laid on Jesus Christ. He became our sin offering once and for all, and did so willingly because He loves us so much.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

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

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:14-17)

Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was". (John 17:1-5)

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. (John 19:16-17, 23, 31-37)

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved". (Acts 4:11-12)

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ".

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do"?"

Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:32, 36-38, 41)

If God did not really care about you and me, would He be sacrificing His own Son so that we may live eternally with Him? Who would want to experience such torment?

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same has not the Father: (1 John 2:22-23)

Over and over again, from the Old Testament and New Testament, we see that without Jesus Christ's love, sacrifice, crucifixion, resurrection, and leadership, we cannot be reconciled and saved. Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, if only we would believe, accept, and follow Him, keeping the commandments of God.

Ok, you have been given the basics to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. Continue to pray, grow, and study, and use the word of God as your standard.

If you truly wish to understand God's word, may I recommend The United Church of God. They are so helpful, with tons of scriptural references, and can answer just about any question(s) you might have.

In conclusion, may you develop an eternal relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

<http://www.Godsloveforyouandme.com>