#### God Loves us – Wants us to be Saved

- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <u>In 3:16</u>
- God loved us so much He wanted to help us.
- God knows the terrible damage sin can do and He doesn't want us to pay for them ourselves (perish)

# The Terrible penalty for Sin

- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 6:23
- Righteousness = the punishment must fit the crime.
- Sin is so terrible a crime that it must be paid for with our death (not just the one that ends life here.)
- There is a second death.
- But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Rev 21:8

### Jesus Expects us to Believe

- And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jn. 8:23-24
- God has placed all salvation in Jesus.
- If we believe we will not perish
- If we believe we won't die and suffer the 2<sup>nd</sup> death
- If we do not believe we will die in our sins.
- Faith is the key to our salvation from sin and death.

#### What is Faith?

- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. <u>Heb. 11:1</u>
- Everything God has revealed to us is unseen.
- It requires careful thought and consideration.
- A weighing of the evidence.
- A careful consideration of the alternatives.
- There is a God or There is no God
- Jesus is the Son of God or Jesus is an imposter
- The Bible is God's word or Bible is a forgery
- God wants us to weight these alternatives.
- He knows the evidence will lead to the truth.

## These are the Three Biggest Hurdles

- There is a God who created the heavens and earth.
- Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God
- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God
- Just as Abraham was saved by faith so are we.
- Unbroken confidence in all three brings salvation!
- For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe 1Th. 2:13

#### They Stand and Fall Together

- Any of these three becomes the weakest link ...
- If there is no God There is no Bible No Savior
- If there is no Savior No Scripture No God
- If There is no Scripture − No God − No Savior
- No matter where you start destination is the same.
- Depends on which weak link is chosen
- Some assault and seek to disprove there is a God.
- Others seek to prove Jesus is an imposter
- Some assault the Bible to prove it is a work of men

## World is Too Complex – God Created

- The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. Ps 19:1-4
- For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, Rom 1:18-21

#### The Author of the Bible

- Knows everything (omniscient). Heb 4:13
- Everywhere always (omnipresent) Ps 139:7-10
- Possesses omnipotent power Eph 3:20
- Was, is and always will be. Ex 3:14; Pet 3:8
- Creator of heaven and earth Ex 20:11
- The Bible must be perfect.
- After 50 years of study I have found no flaws or mistakes.

### The Origin of the Bible

- Bible written over a 1500 year period
- Many different human authors with different educational social and intellectual background.
- Shepherds, fishermen, farmers, etc.
- No way for them to work together as time and death separated Moses from Jesus!
- God confidently affirms they are all inspired, it is all Scripture, it is flawless and perfect!
- If man can find one mistake, he is encouraged to reject that author and **all** his writings.

## Perfection of the Message

- How could Moses begin a theme:
- Carried by David; Isaiah; Jeremiah
- Furthered by John & Jesus
- Completed by the unlearned fishermen who became his apostles
- Paul an enemy of the church
- From Genesis through to Revelation, the theme is redemption.
- No contradictions,
- Fits like a hand into a glove.

### What About the NT Scriptures?

- Jesus promised that His apostles would be guided into all truth. Jn. 14:26, 16:13
- The books they wrote would allow Him to be with us until the end of the world. Mt. 28:18-20
- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness 2Tim. 3:16
- Speaking of the entire Bible (OT and NT)
- Peter also affirmed: "prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet. 1:21

#### Who is Jesus?

A Fictional Character created by others.

A real man who was deceived.

A real man who was deceiver.

A good man who was made greater thru time/myths.

A Philosopher who greatly helped mankind. One common theme: NO Authority!

#### If we receive the witness of men....

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. 1 *Jn.* 5:9-11

## The Witness of God

- 1. Testimony before the fact Prophecy
- 2. Hundreds of Facts revealed to be used as a template to prove the truth.

when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. <u>Deut 18:22</u>

- Tribe of Abraham Gen 12:1-3 Acts 3:25
- Tribe of Judah Gen 49:10 Lk. 3:33
- of David
  Ps 132:11 Mt 1:1
- of a Virgin Isa 7:14; Mt 1:22
- in Bethlehem Mic. 5:2 Mt 2:1, 22
- Rome Dan 2:31ff Mt. 1:17
- Heal sick, blind, Isa 55:12 Mt 12:22
- despise & reject Isa 49:7 In 20:35
- Sinless
  Isa 53:9
  Jn 8:46

- Friend betrayed Ps 41:9 Mk. 14:10
- 30 Pieces Silver Zech 11:12 Mt 26:15
- Money returned
- Potters Field Zech 11:12-13 Mt 26:59
- False Witnesses Ps 27:12 Mt 26:59
- Silent /accused Ps 53:7 Mt 26:62
- Sentenced to die. Isa 53:9
  Lk 23:46
- Stripes Given. Isa 53:4-5 Mk 15:15
- Struck Spat upon Is 50:6
  Mt 27:30

- Mocked/Insulted Ps 22:6-8 Mt 27:29
- Die with Sinners Isa 53:9 Mt 19:18
- Hands/Feet Pierced Ps 22:16 Jn 20:27
- No Bones Broken Ps 34:20 Jn 19:33
- Lots cast
  Ps 22:18
  Mt 27:35
- Buried with rich lsa 53:9 Mt 27:61
- Resurrected.
  Ps 16:10
  Mt 28:9

#### If Jesus is not God's Son then how...

- Did he time it so perfectly?
- Prophesied he would be crucified.
- Rome did not practice crucifixion until about 40 years before Christ's birth.
- Rome destroyed the temple in 70ad.
- Only 110 window in history of world Jesus had to be born to fulfill these two prophecies.
- No way to fulfill them after AD 70

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