## Herald



# Times

Biblical events, as the news of the day "might" have reported them.

#### War is Declared

Garden News 1850 BCE Gen 3:15

God has declared war on Satan for his role in the deception of Adam and Eve. He says, "From now on, you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel." Pundits are saying that it appears that at some future time, Satan's power will be completely destroyed by a male offspring of Eve.

## Rule Breaking Results in First Blood Spilled in the Garden

Garden News 1850 BCE Gen 3:21

It is reported that God found His special creations, Adam and Eve "hiding" in the bushes, wearing clothing made of all things, "fig leaves." Since the fig leaves were not a suitable covering, or a fashion statement, God shed some innocent animal blood, and then demonstrated His tailoring talent by making them clothing of animal skins. As the story unfolds, the cause of the feeling of nakedness before the Holy God was due to their breaking the only rule that the Creator had established. After admiring their new leather outfits, they were promptly escorted off the premises. Note: Adam and Eve in attempting to fix the separation between them and God that their sin had caused themselves, was the world's first manmade religion. Sadly, many more false manmade religions would follow.

#### **Wrong Sacrifice Leads to Murder**

Garden News 1850 BCE Gen 4:8

Sources say, what appears to be a case of intentional disrespect in a sacrificial offering, has resulted in murder. Cain offered vegetables for his offering instead of the sacrifice prescribed by God, where an innocent animal's blood was shed. After the murder, Cain stated that the fact that Abel's offering was accepted and his was not, drove him to commit the crime. Cain's sentence was that he was finished as a gardener and would live out his life as a despised, wandering vagabond.

#### Barren Woman Gives Birth Genesis News 1630 BCE Gen 21:5

Sarah, who would not reveal her age, but obviously was in her nineties, said that "God" had, years before, promised that she and her husband Abraham, would have a son. Sarah related, "a lot of time, years in fact, went by and I thought we had somehow misunderstood what God had said." She beamed while holding her newborn son, "The whole idea made me laugh," which is why she named her son Isaac, which means "laughter."

Angel Saves the Life of Local Boy Genesis News 1247 BCE Gen 22:3-14 As God commanded, obedient Abraham took his son Isaac up on a mountain. God said to Abraham, "Offer Isaac there as a burnt offering." Recounting later, Abraham said that the whole idea didn't make a lot of sense to him because Isaac was a miracle child, born by his wife Sarah just as God had said. This child was born to Sarah when they were both well beyond child bearing years as reported here earlier. Continuing, Abraham said, "Now, God basically wanted me to kill Isaac. But I knew that this created a problem for God as well. He had made me a promise that I wrote down in Genesis 15:5; 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to me, 'So shall your descendants be.' So how was God going to work this out? I decided I would just follow along and trust Him for the outcome, since, so far, He seemed to be a God of His Word. So there we were up on Mt. Moriah, my poor son Isaac carrying the wood for the fire on his own back. I can't describe the anguish I experienced as I grabbed the knife to kill my son while looking into his trusting eyes.

Then I heard my name being called from heaven 'Abraham, Abraham!' I said, 'Here I am.' Then He said, 'Do For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me.'

Oh, then I understood, it was a test of my trust, because it is one thing to believe God, it's another thing to fully trust and obey Him. I could also see that this was a rehearsal of a future event where another Father, God Himself, would offer His Son, His only Son, Jesus. That is why I named the place where this happened, The Lord Will Provide, as it is said to this day, 'in the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'" Note: Jesus, like Isaac, would also carry the wood for the sacrifice on His back up the hill.

Job, Up to His Neck with Troubles, Says We "Need a Mediator." AP 700 BCE Book of Job Job certainly seemed like a man with everything, a big family and an even bigger ranch with thousands of livestock. But success can be fickle these days. Within a very short time he lost it all. Children killed, and livestock gone in a series of unfortunate disasters, and now, serious health problems; boils. I sought Job out to see if there was a story, and I found him seated on the ground under a vine, his body completely covered with boils. But instead of a man seething with anger for his predicament, I found a man that, while feeble in body, was strong in his trust of God. Job did express a certain frustration of not being able to communicate directly with God.

"If only there was a mediator who could bring us together, then I could speak to him without fear, but I cannot do that in my own strength," said Job. To underscore Job's resolve in this matter, he said "Though He (God) slay me, yet will I trust Him." 1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

## Chaos in Egypt Exodus 12

Egypt News 1250 BCE After returning from a self imposed exile to Midian, the Pharaoh's adopted son, Moses, returned to the Nile area with a demand to "let my people go." Pharaoh's initial response was a firm "no," but his resolve slowly withered after an onslaught of escalating plagues cumulating with the death of first born males. Religious ministers to the throne say what is unusual is that the first born Hebrew males were not affected by what is commonly known as the "death angel plague." An un-named Hebrew source said that Moses had instructed them to kill **an innocent lamb**, and afterward, **paint the blood on the doorposts** of each family's house. While some of the families had a difficult time trying to understand the necessity, nevertheless, they obeyed Moses' instructions. "The blood did the trick", said Eli, one of the locals. "We all saw the supernatural plagues that came against the Pharaoh; who is going to argue against that?" Although the Hebrews left in mass, Pharaoh, and his mighty army, is in "hot pursuit." Pharaoh's spokesman said "Soon Pharaoh will teach those Hebrew malcontents a lesson."

#### Rumors of a Tragic Accident at the Red Sea

Egypt News 1250 BCE Exodus 14:21-31

Rumors in Egypt are flying as weeks turn into months and the Pharaoh and his army, have still not returned from their pursuit of the Hebrew slaves. One rumor that is getting some traction, is that the Pharaoh and his entire army has been drowned in the Red Sea as the result of some sort of bizarre accident. Of course as rumors go, the details are missing. Spokes-minister to the throne, Isaya Hedrown, said, "No reason for panic, the campaign to bring back the slaves is just taking a bit longer than anticipated. I won't dignify the rampant rumors, other than saying that people should not rely on rumors, or pay them much attention." When asked when we might expect some solid information on the whereabouts of the army, Hedrown replied, "Soon."



Party Time! All Children of Israel, are invited to a party on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, to celebrate our Egyptian Heritage. Lots of fun anticipated, but attendees are advised to leave the children at home.

#### **Only 10 Commandants?**

Wilderness 1250 BCE Exodus 20:2-17

Moses has returned from the mountain with replacement tablets of stone after breaking the original in a fit of anger over what is called the "golden calf incident." In a recent press release Moses said, "There are only ten things we need to do to be pleasing to God, only ten!" Moses optimism is not shared by some unidentified Levites who commented that, "It just can't be that simple, there must be more to it." He indicated that his small band of like-minded Levites would look over the commandants and see if they could make "some improvements."

Behind the Tabernacle Walls, the Bizarre World of the Sacrifices Wilderness News 1250 BCE Exodus 25

For the first time ever, Moses has agreed to a news conference to discuss what the Tabernacle is all about. After greeting the press, Moses started explaining the function and layout of the Tabernacle. "As you all know, tabernacle means 'dwelling place', so, this is the dwelling place of God, where we visit Him. It is a delicate and exact process; God was very specific on His instructions. Sacrifices and offerings must be done according to free will, not coerced. The sacrificial animals must be perfect, without spot or blemish.

Before the innocent animal is killed, the owner's hands are placed on the head of the animal signifying that the animal offered on his behalf will cover (atone for) his sin, making it right between God and him. There is only *one way* into the Tabernacle, where the Spirit of the Living God dwells, through the gate. Inside, is a bronze alter stoked with a wood fire where pieces of the animals are burned, as an offering to the Lord. The blood is drained and sprinkled around the alter. Because there are so many people presenting sacrifices, the work of the priests goes on day and night. Yes, it is bloody and a lot of work, but, this is what we need to obediently observe *until God provides us another way*."

A knowledgeable un-identified priest commented, "Even though a lot of what God has prescribed here makes no sense to us, by doing it we show we acknowledge and revere Him, and we are obedient to His directions, instead of trusting in idols like our heathen neighbors. Of course, the physical, visible, presence of God in the form of a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night, helps us to take this all seriously." Moses explained that the sacrifice of the perfect animals provides a temporary covering for sin, "Sort of like when God provided the appropriate coverings for Adam and Eve in the garden."

Moses further said that it would be nice if everyone could keep the 10 Commandments perfectly, but the reality is, "Mankind is sinful by nature, and that sin separates us from God." He added, "God is perfectly just and sin cannot be in His presence, therefore, He cannot ignore or take a pass on mankind's sin; it has to be pardoned. The price of rebellion (sin) must be paid, in this case, by an innocent animal. With all of this bloody killing it is easy to see that sin comes at a great cost, and God alone, specifies the terms for our salvation. Behind the alter of incense, is a heavy curtain which is the entrance to the Most Holy Place. The only item inside (other than God's presence) is the Ark of the Covenant which contains the Ten Commandments. On top of the Ark is a golden lid called the Mercy Seat. Only after a lot of preparation and only once a year does the High Priest go inside to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat, to atone for all the people. Moses wrapped up his verbal tour by saying, "God is teaching us that He is perfectly Holy, and we are not, but for now, this is the only way we can have fellowship with Him."

**Perspective:** The tabernacle is an object lesson on the exactness of God; particularly when the subject is sin. If we are to have a relationship with our Holy God, we must trust his provision and His precise instructions must be followed.

With our advantage of history, we can see that this Tabernacle worship system and later the Temple, looked forward to the coming of Jesus. Jesus, the perfect sacrifice whom John the Baptist would declare as he presented Jesus as: "the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world."

Poisonous Snakes Kill Hundreds, but a Bronze Snake Heals Thousands wilderness Press 1252 BC

Numbers 21:5-9 This unpleasant circumstance seems to have started after the Children of Israel began to murmur against God and Moses. Some typical sentiments were, "Why (God), have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?" And, "There is nothing here to eat or drink, and we hate this wretched manna." Soon though, they had something new to complain about, a horde of poisonous snakes afflicting many in the camp with many being bitten and several dying. After some corporate soul searching, it was suggested by Aaron that the problem might be related to the epidemic of ungrateful attitudes that preceded the slithering plague. Many agreed with Aaron's assessment, so a representative contingent went to Moses and confessed their sin of murmur, and asked Moses to go and "pray that God would take away the snakes."

Soon Moses returned and said that what was needed to be done, was to make a bronze replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to the top of a pole. Those who have been bitten will live, if they simply look at it! So the bronze snake was made and who ever looked at it recovered. But those whose stubbornness kept them from looking, died.

**Perspective:** Jesus connected Himself to this incident. **John 3:14-15** "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." As simple as looking to Jesus, the only Savior God provided for salvation.

The Prophet Micah Names the Messiah's Birthplace, and More Moresheth Gath 715 BC In Micah's latest writing, a startling statement was made regarding the future birth town of the Messiah. Micah 5:2: "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the one to be the ruler in Israel whose origin is from ancient times, from eternity." He also said that the "Judge of Israel" will be stricken on the cheek. While many consider Micah to be a reliable prophet, others say these pronouncements have gone too far.

Perspective: Jesus was indeed born in Bethlehem, and was struck. Mark 15:19; Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped, mocking Him.

The Prophet Isaiah says a lot about the Messiah, that He will Suffer Dateline 700 BC Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 In what is being viewed with a lot of skepticism, Isaiah, who many see as a true prophet of God, says a lot of things that are not seemingly consistent with the conventional Messianic ideas. In the writings listed above, are several bullet points about his prophesies concerning the Messiah.

	He will be raised and lifted up.
	His appearance will be so disfigured; beyond that of any man, and His form and human likeness will be totally marred.
	His blood will sprinkle many nations and kings will shut their mouths because of him.
	He will be despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering and grief.
	He will take up our infirmities and carry our sorrows.
	He will be considered stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.
П	He will be pierced for our transgressions: He will be crushed for our iniquities

	desire Him.
	The punishment that brings us peace, will be upon Him.
	By His wounds we are healed.
	The Lord will lay on Him the iniquity of us all
	He will be oppressed, and afflicted, yet He will not open His mouth in defense.
	He will be killed and for the people's transgression, stricken.
	He will make His grave with the wicked and the rich in His death.
	Neither violence, nor any deceit will be in his mouth.
	God will make His soul, an offering for sin and be pleased with Him.
	God's righteous Servant will justify many, for He will bear their iniquities.
King con on gef	ows that the Messiah is going to be Israel's great and powerful king, like King Solomon or his father, g David. This poor person to whom Isaiah is referring to, sounds like someone who is completely equered and killed. This flies in the face of what our scholarly religious leaders say." Stonehim went to say: "I think the authorities should keep an eye on Isaiah, I think he has perhaps eaten some bad little fish."  **rspective:* Anyone familiar with the story of the crucifixion story of Jesus, will see that the details of the crucifixion were listed hundreds of years before his birth, even before death by crucifixion was
inv	vented. Most of these things listed, were not under Jesus' personal control. Read them for yourself.
Date suf Dav fell	ribe says that the Psalms Prophesy, Agrees with Isaiah  Peline 600 BC An unidentified scribe has suggested that a number of the Psalms appear to predict the referings of the Messiah, like the Prophet Isaiah. "Take a look at Psalms 34:19-20", he says. "King wid, must have been led in these passages by God's Holy Spirit. Here, I will list the startling points. My low scribes, who wrote these things, can't be responsible for the content. We are just faithfully bying the scriptures as they were written.
	Not one of Messiah's bones will be broken.  He will be a humble person, stared at and rebuked by men, and despised by the people.  They will ridicule and mock Him saying, "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"
	His blood will be poured out like water and His joints dislocated. His heart will be like wax; it will melt within Him.
	His strength will be dried up like a potsherd, and will suffer great thirst.
	A crowd of wicked Gentiles will surround Him.  His hands and feet will be pierced.
	They will divide His garments among them, and for His clothing they cast lots.

The Prophet Daniel Goes out on a Limb Concerning the Coming Messiah Dateline 600 BC Daniel 9:25 Daniel, whom many consider a true prophet of God, had made a prediction about the specific day in which the Messiah will be hailed as King.

Specifically, Daniel has written, "Know and understand, that from the command to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah, the Prince, shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks." Daniel 9:25-26

**Perspective and fulfillment:** Sir Robert Anderson used lunar data to fix the date of the first day of the first month of the twentieth year of Artaxerxes (the day implied in Nehemiah) to March 14, 445 BC. He showed that, based on various apparent references to the Great Tribulation, both as three and a half years, and also, as 1260 days, 360 days could be fixed as the length of what he called a "prophetic year". He fixed the end date to April 6, 32 A.D., which he offered as the date of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus on what is known as Palm Sunday ( John 12:12). Interestingly, this event was also predicted by the Prophet Zechariah more than 500 years before the event. "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." Zechariah 9:9 (Why on a donkey? He was the King coming in peace).

## Is King Herod to be Replaced?

Dateline 2 CE Matthew 2 Sources close to the Herod administration, say that there seems to be a persistent rumor that Herod's Kingship is being challenged. An un-named religious minister to the King said that they have been looking carefully at certain prophetic scriptures, which seem to indicate a King is to be born in Israel.

This whole intrigue started out when a trio of "wise men" arrived after many days of travel. The wise men said that they were looking for the King that was to be born. They stopped by to inquire of our great and benevolent King, where "He" might be born. Despite having the most learned and professional religious ministers anywhere, they were unable to come up with a specific place. Our wise King's solution to the problem was that once these wise men found the new King, Herod was to be informed so he could go and worship also. How wonderful, fair and open-minded our King is.

## King Herod Takes Radical Action to Protect our Kingdom

2 CE Matthew 2 In an official press release, spokesman for King Herod said that effective immediately, it will be necessary to kill any male infants under the age of 2. This action is necessary because the King that was to be born according to the scriptures would be an awful, evil king. Herod's former plan to find the child failed when the "wise men ", referred to in a previous article, left town without informing King Herod where the upstart was.

"Once again, our wonderful, wise King has had to make a difficult decision to protect us from the ravages of an evil king," said Mordicai Onthelegberg, King Herod's new press secretary. "We are asking everyone for their cooperation when the special "cleansing squads" visit, he added. Question: Just how could it be that the "wise men" from the east and this heathen King, King Herod, knew that this was the time of the Messiah's arrival and the religious leadership didn't know? In my opinion, the Sadducees and the Pharisees knew but they had no desire to relegate their positions of prestige and power to this humble man from Nazareth even though they understood from scripture the things the Messiah would accomplish to verify His identity.

## A Voice from Heaven "They" Say Jordan Valley 30 CE Matthew 17:5

Word was received that during the baptism of a certain Jesus of Nazareth, an audible voice coming from the sky was heard. Bystanders differed somewhat on what the heavenly statement said, but, the consensus seems to be that the voice said: "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased."

A witness, John, said, "The voice really scared us; we knew that Jesus was special, after all, many of us left all behind to follow Him. But a voice from Heaven, we certainly did not expect that". Others though in the area said that what they heard was thunder, which seems to leave this incident as a matter of faith.

## Something About the Water Dateline 30 CE Cana John 2:1-11

Reports out of Cana are that a miracle has taken place at a wedding. Slomo, a local vintner said, "It was just a normal wedding in every sense of the word. I happened to be in the kitchen looking for some more finger foods and saw the whole thing. The hosts were about to run out of wine for the celebration, and there was no more at hand. I figured they would try to select me to get some more, but, while I was thinking that, a young man, whose name was Jesus, instructed those nearby to bring 12 large jars of water into the kitchen. I could not see what that would accomplish, but after this, the man said a brief prayer then He asked me to sample the liquid, well, ordered me really. I was expecting to be drinking water, but when I tasted the liquid, it was wine! And I am not talking about watered down wine, it was the finest I had ever had, including my own. Furthermore, it was found to be the same in the other 11 vessels. The others said that it was a miracle from God, and were praising Him. I don't know about that but I wish I could just have another taste of that wine." Our staff religious expert, Rabbi Stonehimm said, "A miracle? That is just ridiculous! From time to time, we get these kinds of reports and occasionally, we send someone to investigate. The facts of this case just didn't warrant the time and effort to validate. I can unequivocally say that this was simply a case of too much wine, case closed."

Mass Hysteria About Miracles? 30 CE Cana Matthew 8 There are persistent reports from many sources centered in the Galilee region of many miracles being performed by Jesus of Nazareth. The reported miracles include many healings like, the blind seeing, the lame walking, and lepers being "cured." On two occasions, witnesses say that this Jesus fed crowds of more than three thousand with a simple child's lunch. Apparently, these vast crowds had assembled to hear the miracle worker turned preacher speak. Even the normally level-headed fishermen are adding to the clamor by saying that they saw Jesus, still the wind and waves and even walk on water. We ask the religious authorities in Jerusalem if this could be the person told about by the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah presented 6 signs which the Messiah would show as proof of His identity. The signs Isaiah listed were that the Messiah would make the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the lepers cleansed, the dead raised, and He would preach hope to the poor and downtrodden. Rabbi Slayhimm said: "I have also heard of the rumors from Galilee, and think that they are nothing more than "Messianic hysteria." To even imagine that the Messiah would present Himself first to these class-less, malcontented people, is simply ridiculous."

**Prominent Rabbi Steamed about Supposed Messiah's Claim** 31 CE Jerusalem John 14:6

Jesus, who some consider the Messiah, reportedly said to His inner circle: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Prominent Jerusalem Rabbi, Isaya Stonehim said, "Now he has gone too far, just who does he think he is? God?"

#### Miracle Worker Jesus, too Perfect Jerusalem News 31 CE

John 8:46-59 A recent meeting of the most religious leaders was held to discuss what to do about Jesus of Nazareth. It seems in the eyes of the leaders; Jesus, is just too perfect. Some of the Sanhedrin leaders are saying that something needs to be done. One leader who agreed to speak anonymously said, "Jesus' teaching threatens our whole system of religion. He (Jesus) says that people can pray directly to God, in His name, without us. He also claims the authority to forgive sins. That alone is serious blasphemy." When asked how it is that Jesus does all those miracles, the spokesman said: "He does indeed do miracles, but, He does it through the power of the devil."

**So-called "Miracle Worker" Jesus, Arrested in Garden** Jerusalem News 31 CE John 18 Jesus of Nazareth, whom many felt was the Messiah, was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane east of the Temple of God. He was identified by a former cohort turned informant, Judas Iscariot.

One of Jesus' followers, who asked not to be identified, said that Jesus could have resisted the arrest if He wanted to. According to witnesses at the scene, Jesus physically knocked down the advancing soldiers powerfully, by simply saying "I AM," in response to their question of whether he was Jesus. This display of potential power left those assembled to arrest Him shaken. Others though said that the demonstration of power was just a rumor that started after several of the solders stumbled and fell, domino fashion, on the uneven ground. Whichever, Jesus was taken into custody with no further incident.

### Jesus, and Two Thieves Crucified Jerusalem News 32 CE John 19

The man that many thought was the Messiah, succumbed to death via crucifixion this afternoon ending all Messianic speculation. Sanhedrin spokesman Rabbi Slayhimm said, "Well, that is the end of that. It is so sad because many of the unlearned, sadly, thought that He was the Messiah. I as much as anyone hates to take away the thing that filled them with so much joy and hope; but we have to protect our simple children from fables."

### Jesus Disciples on the Run - Jerusalem News 32 CE Mark 14:50

Now that their leader is dead, where are his disciples? We tried to find them for an interview but nobody seems to know where they went. Well, it looks like this whole "Christian" movement is kind of like their leader, dead.

## BREAKING NEWS - The Body of Jesus is Missing - Jerusalem News 32 CE

John 20 This just in. It is reported that the body of Jesus is missing despite the tomb being sealed and under heavy centurion guard. Authorities seem to be scrambling to provide a unified story. More to follow....

## The Disciples are Found Jerusalem News 32 CE Acts 2:1-17 Joel 2:28 & 29

The disciples of Jesus were found but instead of being fearful and hiding, they were full of more love and passion for their beloved leader than ever because they claim they had seen Jesus alive again. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples that had recently betrayed Jesus, preached a stirring sermon were many were convinced and then believed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. A reporter at the scene said "something is definitely going on, I heard with my own ears the Galilaeans, speaking in many different tongues, unknown to them, praising the wonderful works of God." Peter said it was an outpouring of God's Holy Spirit as prophesied by the Prophet Joel. So, it looks like this strange new cult is still going stronger than ever.

#### Counsel Confusion - Jerusalem News 32 CE Acts: 5:14-42

The "trouble making" disciples of Jesus were rounded up and thrown in into prison but somehow, unbeknown to the guards, they broke out and then they were then found at the Temple teaching. Once again they were rounded up and appeared before the Counsel who wanted them put to death. Cooler heads prevailed though, when a noted Pharisee and teacher of the Law, Gamaliel, said to "let them go." His rationale was that there had been "movements" before and they had all died out and he figured the same thing would happen with this "Christian" movement. He specifically said: "And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but, if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it, lest you even be found to fight against God."

So, now it is nearly 2,000 years later and the Christian movement despite widespread persecution, is still with us. So, is it a work of man, or, a work of God? This is a question that is certainly one to consider.

## So, what is the point of this Publication?

I am presenting the Gospel of Christ message in a different way with just a little added humor. The Bible is truly not like any other book. Sixty six books, written by forty authors of diverse backgrounds over thousands of years. Yet, there is one unified message; God's redemption of mankind. You can see the object lesson of the substitutionary sacrifice being demonstrated time after time. How about the details about the Messiah's crucifixion, written hundreds of years before crucifixion was invented by the Romans? God has used His Word (the Bible) and history to demonstrate that according to God's scale of Justice, we are all sinners. The Ten Commandants shows us that. So, with the Ten Commandants as the standard, how do you stack up? Are you perfect enough to get to Heaven? Have you ever stolen anything? A pencil or pen, anything? If you have, guess what? You are a thief. Ever told a lie? Even a little one? If you have, you are a liar. Jesus said if you look at another person in a lustful way, you are an adulterer at heart. So let's fast forward. The Bible says all that don't trust in God's Son will be judged in what is called the White Throne Judgment, where each individual will be judged by their Creator. So you are standing there, a lying thief and adulterer at heart. How do you think God your Judge will rule? Consider this, Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before he was crucified. In His prayer, three times he prayed, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

If there was any other way for a person to be saved, Jesus' prayer was unanswered. If God in His righteous justice required His own Son to become a bloody sacrificial lamb for our sins, is it likely that God would invalidate His perfect justice for us? Not a chance. God's only provision for our salvation is for us to trust Him and believe in His Son Jesus. Jesus Christ, born specifically to die as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. It is as simple as this, if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Rom 10:9). I encourage you to read the Gospel of John and determine for yourself just who Jesus was and see if it speaks to your heart.

When it comes to Jesus, there are only really three choices, either: 1. He was a liar. 2. A lunatic. 3. Or He is the Lord. Some say He was a "good teacher," but, He claimed to be the Son of God, or more exactly, God in the flesh, in fact, the voice of the burning bush. This is something a good teacher could not say unless it was, and is true. God loves all His creation, and especially people who are created in His image. The Bible explains that for those people that choose to love God back and trust in the salvation He has provided. Those people will live forever with Him in a place where there is no more sickness, sadness, fears or tears. Hell, created for the Devil and his angels, is a place completely devoid of anything good; it is distilled evil in all its forms, in one place. God lovingly places Jesus on the cross in front of Hell, blocking the entrance. You have to go around Jesus, to get to Hell. I encourage you to trust God and believe in His Son Jesus, as I have. Eternity is forever and God's judgment is certain. Choose wisely. May God bless and keep you, and reveal Himself to you. Keith

More info. at: SemperKeith.com