

Is God responsible for
what is bad? Does obedience
to him *feel* like a burden?

Learn what the Bible teaches, and the
value of its examples.

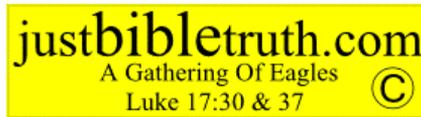
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(2 Peter 1:19-21) ¹⁹ Consequently we have the prophetic word made more sure; and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and a daystar rises, in your hearts. ²⁰ For you know this first, that no prophecy of Scripture springs from any private interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy was at no time brought by man's will, but men spoke from God as they were borne along by holy spirit.

Consider the example of Ruth.



1

¹ Luke 17:26-**30 & 37** Analytical Literal Translation (ALT) "And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of Humanity: (27) they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, *[and]* they were being given in marriage, until which day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed *[them]* all. (28) "Likewise also, as it happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, *[and]* they were building; (29) but *[on the]* day which Lot went out from Sodom, He rained fire and sulfur *[or, brimstone]* from heaven and destroyed *[them]* all. **(30)** "According to these *[things]* *[fig., In the same way]* it will be in *[the]* day which the Son of Humanity is revealed... Luke 17:37 American Standard Version (ASV) And they answering say unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Where the body is, thither will the eagles also be gathered together.

Do you blame God for bad things that happen? Most of us say no, of course, but do we really? Does obedience to God seem like a sacrifice? The pain and suffering we see in this world is terrible beyond human comprehension. So many people without homes, or even food. More of them are being killed or hurt and driven from their homes every day by the political or mostly religious wars raging across the face of the earth. All those religio-political movements, great and small, are driven by men and women who imagine they are on a mission from “their God.” It can seem like terror and suffering is all there is. Many people, however, still hope in a God who is good. They also believe the true God is in the process of doing away with badness. Even for those who have such faith, the problems can seem overwhelming and make it easy to lose faith. If they are not suffering personally, they are broken at heart over so many who are. If we lose faith in a good Creator,² we may start to hope in one of these religious or political solutions; which *are actually the source of the problem*. If we turn away from God, and place our hope in any of these efforts by men, we will be lost. Please think seriously about this: If we join in or approve of any of the activities by religiously or politically motivated individuals, and thereby put other people in danger, we share in responsibility for the harm they cause. We need to rest our hope in God according to his provision of life for us. If we start to blame our Creator for the bad that befalls us, we will likely fail to appreciate and thank God for all the good in our lives. It can make us start to feel like obedience to God is a bad thing; that it is too costly and hard an effort. It can make us feel like we don’t want to spend eternity being obedient to God every single day of our lives. The Bible can help us not to be overreached by such negative and ignorant feelings. It records instances of people who have suffered and felt the same way we do. We can more understand and appreciate our own lives by what God had recorded about theirs. Most importantly, knowledge of Bible teachings can help us understand what God has done for us, and, what He expects *of us*.

The Bible book of Ruth is an example of such help. It is a short volume (less than an hour to read) that provides encouragement because it addresses this very challenge: the danger of losing faith and blaming God for our problems. It was written in 1090 BCE (or about 1100 years before Christ).

² **(Hebrews 11:6)** ⁶ Moreover, without faith it is impossible to please God well, for he that approaches must believe that God exists, and that he becomes the rewarder of everyone who makes a serious search for him.

The book is largely about a Jewish woman named Naomi and a Moabite woman named Ruth. In hard times, Naomi moved with her husband and her two sons from Israel to the land of Moab to live. In time, her husband died and her two sons took Moabite women as their wives. After that, her sons died as well. Naomi decided to return to Israel and her two daughters-in-law wanted to accompany her. Naomi tried, however, to turn them back from following her, because, as she said, she had “nothing left to give them.” While the one returned to her father’s household, Ruth absolutely would not leave Naomi. Ruth had come to love and appreciate Naomi’s God Jehovah,³ and would not abandon her familial responsibility to her mother-in-law.⁴ (It was a failure on Naomi’s part to try and turn her daughters-in-law away from following her. They had the opportunity to know and worship the true God through her. She had much to give them!)

Having suffered a great loss by the death of both her husband and her two sons, Naomi was made bitter. She ranted against Jehovah and blamed him

³ Since we are considering the Bible record of a woman who lived 1000 years before Christ, we use the name God gave himself in the Old Testament (OT) Scriptures that record her story: Jehovah. (Ex 6:3, Ps 83:18, Isa 12:2, 26:4) The divine name was used over 6000 times in the OT. For a consideration of Bibles using the divine name, see: Young’s Literal Translation, American Standard Bible, The Darby Bible, or the Literal Translation by J. P. Green, among others. You might also look up Jehovah (H3068 – the assigned Strong number) in Strong’s Bible Dictionary.~

[Exodus 6:3 American Standard Version \(ASV\) and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; but by my name Jehovah I was not known to them.~](#)

[Psalms 83:18 King James Version \(KJV\) That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.~](#)

[Isaiah 12:2 Darby Behold, *God is my salvation: I will trust, and not be afraid; for Jah, Jehovah, is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.~](#)

[Isaiah 26:4 Young’s Literal Translation \(YLT\) Trust ye in Jehovah for ever, For in Jah Jehovah is a rock of ages,~](#)

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⁴ **(Ruth 1:16, 17)** ¹⁶ And Ruth proceeded to say: “Do not plead with me to abandon you, to turn back from accompanying you; for where you go I shall go, and where you spend the night I shall spend the night. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I shall die, and there is where I shall be buried. May Jehovah do so to me and add to it if anything but death should make a separation between me and you.”

for her loss.⁵ She failed to appreciate the good things in her life. She didn't even acknowledge her faithful daughter-in-law. That she blamed Jehovah also shows she forgot where bad comes from, and who really is responsible. In contrast, Ruth, who had also suffered loss in the death of her own husband, was not made bitter. She continued to look hopefully to Jehovah⁽³⁾ for her future. Ruth soon approached Naomi for permission to go and glean in fields, so as to provide for herself and Naomi. (Gleaning was one of Jehovah's arrangements for Israel [that nation was being used by God to produce the promised Messiah⁶], so as to provide for those who needed help.) She happened on the field of Boaz who was a relative of Naomi.⁷ No doubt this was Jehovah at work in the matter, because Boaz

⁵ **(Ruth 1:19-21)** ¹⁹ And they both continued on their way until they came to Bethlehem. And it came about that as soon as they came to Bethlehem, all the city became stirred up over them, and the women kept saying: "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ And she would say to the women: "Do not call me Naomi. Call me Mara, for the Almighty has made it very bitter for me. ²¹ I was full when I went, and it is empty-handed that Jehovah has made me return. Why should you call me Naomi, when it is Jehovah that has humiliated me and the Almighty that has caused me calamity?"

⁶ **(Galatians 3:26-29)** ²⁶ You are all, in fact, sons of God through your faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one [person] in union with Christ Jesus. ²⁹ Moreover, if you belong to Christ, you are really Abraham's seed, heirs with reference to a promise.

(Matthew 1:1) **1** The book of the history of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

⁷ **(Ruth 2:2-9)** ² In time Ruth the Moabite woman said to Naomi: "Let me go, please, to the field and glean among the ears of grain following after whoever it is in whose eyes I may find favor." So she said to her: "Go, my daughter." ³ At that she went off and entered and began to glean in the field behind the harvesters. Thus by chance she lighted on the tract of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. ⁴ And, look! Boaz came from Bethlehem and proceeded to say to the harvesters: "Jehovah be with you." In turn they would say to him: "Jehovah bless you."

⁵ Subsequently Boaz said to the young man who was set over the harvesters: "To whom does this young woman belong?" ⁶ So the young man set over the harvesters answered and said: "The young woman is a Moabitess, who returned with Naomi from the field of Moab. ⁷ Then she said, 'Let me glean, please, and I shall certainly gather among the cut-off ears of grain behind the harvesters.' So she entered and kept on her feet from that time in the morning until her sitting down just now in the house a little while." ⁸ Later Boaz said to Ruth: "You have heard, have you not, my

was one who had the legal right to repurchase the land which belonged to Naomi. (The repurchase arrangement was a law given by Jehovah to protect those people falling into situations like Naomi's.) With repurchase of her land also came the responsibility to protect and care for Naomi, including her named line. Genealogy was very important to the Jews because they understood Jehovah was using their nation to produce the promised Christ or Messiah (the one who would save all the nations⁸ of the earth). The Jews all hoped their family would be among those in the line of the coming Messiah. Naomi felt she had lost any such hope when her husband and sons died, but Ruth continued in faith and hope. At one point in this drama, Boaz prayed Jehovah would provide Ruth a perfect wage for her faithfulness, even though she was a Moabite⁹ woman. That "perfect wage" is precisely what Ruth received:

As this Bible account plays out, and largely because of Ruth's efforts, Boaz repurchased Naomi's land and married Ruth. Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed. Obed was in some sense considered the son of Naomi, and Naomi would have been looked after in her old age by Boaz and Ruth, and by Obed as he got old enough. Ruth's son was also considered a continuation of Naomi's line. The women who had listened patiently while Naomi disparaged Jehovah upon her return, for the bad that befallen her

daughter? Do not go away to glean in another field, and you must also not cross over from this place, and in that way you should keep close by my young women. ⁹ Let your eyes be on the field that they will harvest, and you must go with them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? When you are thirsty, you must also go to the vessels and drink from what the young men will draw."

⁸ **(Galatians 3:7-9 & 14)** ⁷ Surely you know that those who adhere to faith are the ones who are sons of Abraham. ⁸ Now the Scripture, seeing in advance that God would declare people of the nations righteous due to faith, declared the good news beforehand to Abraham, namely: "By means of you all the nations will be blessed." ⁹ Consequently those who adhere to faith are being blessed together with faithful Abraham. ~ ¹⁴ The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham might come to be by means of Jesus Christ for the nations, that we might receive the promised spirit through our faith.

⁹ **(Ruth 2:12, 13)** ¹² May Jehovah reward the way you act, and may there come to be a perfect wage for you from Jehovah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge." ¹³ To this she said: "Let me find favor in your eyes, my lord, because you have comforted me and because you have spoken reassuringly to your maidservant, although I myself may not happen to be like one of your maidservants."

while she was away, and had noted how she failed to appreciate Ruth tried to help Naomi see better: **(Ruth 4:13-17)** ¹³ Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Jehovah granted her conception and she bore a son. ¹⁴ And the women began to say to Naomi: “Blessed be Jehovah, who has not let a repurchaser fail for you today; that his name may be proclaimed in Israel. ¹⁵ And he has become a restorer of your soul and one to nourish your old age, because your daughter-in-law who does love you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶ And Naomi proceeded to take the child and to put it in her bosom, and she came to be its nurse. ¹⁷ Then the neighbor ladies gave it a name, saying: “A son has been born to Naomi.” And they began to call his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, David’s father.

Thus a Moabite woman, because of her faithfulness and loyalty and love for Jehovah, came to be an ancestress of Jesus Christ. Obed was King David’s grandfather and Jesus was a descendant of David.¹⁰ What an eternal honor and privilege for Ruth, and one extended to Naomi as well!

The blessings Naomi received did not take away her loss. When she is resurrected, those she lost will be too. Then her loss will be completely wiped away.¹¹ That is comforting knowledge she would have had from studying Jehovah’s word. She should not have doubted and blamed Jehovah.

As to feeling like obedience to our Father is a burden or a cost: Jesus provides us the perfect example.¹² Remember always, Jehovah⁽³⁾ is good

¹⁰ **(Matthew 1:1)** **1** The book of the history of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

¹¹ **1 John 3:8b** Darby ... To this end the Son of God has been manifested, that he might undo the works of the devil.

¹² **(Romans 15:5, 6)** ⁵ Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ that with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Philippians 2:5-11) ⁵ Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although he was existing in God’s form, gave no consideration to seizing what did not belong to him, namely, that he should be equal to God. ⁷ No, but he emptied himself and took a slave’s form and came to be in the likeness of men. ⁸ More than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake. ⁹ For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every [other] name, ¹⁰ so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven and those on earth and those under the ground [those

and everything he does is perfect. Any disobedience to God is bad and will cause harm to you or to someone. All the bad that happens to any of us is rooted in the disobedience of Satan and our forefathers, or in our own disobedience. Jehovah is not, nor has he ever been, responsible for any bad.¹³ God doesn't want you to be hurt or suffer. He is in the process of doing away with all that is bad, along with those who refuse to stop causing it.¹⁴ Those who were and are disobedient to God, they are responsible for everything bad. God has tolerated that disobedience, and the resultant badness for all these years, precisely so the issue of who is responsible can be settled for all time. (God's patience also gave each one of us the chance for life, since we were all born to sinful parents. If he had replaced Adam and Eve, other people might be here, but not us. We are son and daughters of Adam. Besides, Jehovah knew his creation was good: He knew if given the chance, some of us, even in an imperfect state, would love him and be obedient.) God wants everyone to live,⁽²⁶⁾ but those who are determined to maintain a course causing harm to others, and who refuse to change, will have to be done away with. Because of that patience by God in temporarily allowing the badness we have witnessed, everyone preserved alive into the coming paradise⁽²⁴⁾ will fully understand why the wicked must be destroyed. We have all been eye witness to the result of their badness. We will note the wicked are gone, and be glad.¹⁵ The bad conditions mankind's disobedience has created for all the earth will stand as an eternal touchstone of the absolute need for everyone to be obedient to our Creator. He designed us,

awaiting the resurrection],¹¹ and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

¹³ **(James 1:13-15)** ¹³ When under trial, let no one say: "I am being tried by God." For with evil things God cannot be tried nor does he himself try anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tried by being drawn out and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then the desire, when it has become fertile, gives birth to sin; in turn, sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death.

¹⁴ **(2 Peter 3:8-10)** ⁸ However, let this one fact not be escaping YOUR notice, beloved ones, that one day is with Jehovah as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ Jehovah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with YOU because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.

¹⁰ Yet Jehovah's day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a hissing noise, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be discovered.~

(Romans 2:4) ⁴ Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, because you do not know that the kindly [quality] of God is trying to lead you to repentance?

¹⁵ **(Psalm 37:10, 11)** ¹⁰ And just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more; And you will certainly give attention to his place, and he will not be. ¹¹ But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, And they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

he knows what is best for us. Every survivor carried into paradise¹⁶ will be glad for the peace that will exist, and that *can exist*, only because the wicked are gone. God is using Christ Jesus to do away with badness.¹⁷ & (19) Just as Naomi provides us an example of the common human weakness of blaming God for what befalls us, Jesus provides the perfect example of obedience. It's not just that Jesus has always been perfectly obedient to Jehovah, Jesus also found great happiness in that obedience. The scriptures teach the spirit son who became Jesus existed before he came to earth.¹⁸ All during the time this pre-human firstborn son of God spent with his heavenly

¹⁶ **(John 11:26)** ²⁶ and everyone that is living [at the time of the restoration] and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this? ~ **(Acts 3:19-21)** ¹⁹ "Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get you sins blotted out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the person of Jehovah ²⁰ and that he may send forth the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven, indeed, must hold within itself until the times of restoration of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old time.

¹⁷ **(Psalms 45:1-7)** GNB (1) Beautiful words fill my mind, as I compose this song for the king. Like the pen of a good writer my tongue is ready with a poem. (2) You are the most handsome of men; you are an eloquent speaker. God has always blessed you. (3) Buckle on your sword, mighty king; you are glorious and majestic. (4) Ride on in majesty to victory for the defense of truth and justice! Your strength will win you great victories! (5) Your arrows are sharp, they pierce the hearts of your enemies; nations fall down at your feet. (6) The kingdom that God has given you will last forever and ever. You rule over your people with justice; (7) you love what is right and hate what is evil. That is why God, your God, has chosen you and has poured out more happiness on you than on any other king.

¹⁸ **(Colossians 1:13-17)** ¹³ He delivered us from the authority of the darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of his love, ¹⁴ by means of whom we have our release by ransom, the forgiveness of our sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

¹⁶ because by means of him all [other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All [other] things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ Also, he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist,~

(John 1:14-17) ¹⁴ So the Word became flesh and resided among us, and we had a view of his glory, a glory such as belongs to an only-begotten son from a father; and he was full of undeserved kindness and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, yes, he actually cried out—this was the one who said [it]—saying: "The one coming behind me has advanced in front of me,

because he existed before me.") ¹⁶ For we all received from out of his fullness, even undeserved kindness upon undeserved kindness. ¹⁷ Because the Law was given through Moses, the undeserved kindness and the truth came to be through Jesus Christ.

Father, he was obedient. God's only begotten son, the one who's life force would be miraculously transferred to the womb of Mary so as to become Jesus,⁽¹²⁾ found happiness in his obedience. (It seems the pre-human Jesus is referred to as God's *only begotten* son because he is the only one personally created by Jehovah. All God's other sons and daughters were created by that only begotten son, at God's direction.) As Solomon was inspired to write, channeling the words of the one who would become Jesus: **(Proverbs 8:22-31)** ²² "Jehovah himself produced me as the beginning of his way, the earliest of his achievements of long ago. ²³ From time indefinite I was installed, from the start, from times earlier than the earth. ²⁴ When there were no watery deeps I was brought forth as with labor pains, when there were no springs heavily charged with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains themselves had been settled down, ahead of the hills, I was brought forth as with labor pains, ²⁶ when as yet he had not made the earth and the open spaces and the first part of the dust masses of the productive land. ²⁷ When he prepared the heavens I was there; when he decreed a circle upon the face of the watery deep, ²⁸ when he made firm the cloud masses above, when he caused the fountains of the watery deep to be strong, ²⁹ when he set for the sea his decree that the waters themselves should not pass beyond his order, when he decreed the foundations of the earth, ³⁰ then I came to be beside him as a master worker, and I came to be the one he was specially fond of day by day, I being glad before him all the time, ³¹ being glad at the productive land of his earth, and the things I was fond of were with the sons of men. John explained it this way: **(John 1:2-18)** ² This one was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence. What has come into existence ⁴ by means of him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light is shining in the darkness, but the darkness has not overpowered it. ⁶ There arose a man that was sent forth as a representative of God: his name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, in order to bear witness about the light, that people of all sorts might believe through him. ⁸ He was not that light, but he was meant to bear witness about that light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to every sort of man was about to come into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into existence through him, but the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own home, but his own people did not take him in. ¹² However, as many as did receive him, to them he gave authority to become God's children, because they were exercising faith in his name; ¹³ and they were born, not from blood or from a fleshly will or from man's will, but from God. ¹⁴ So the Word became flesh and resided among us, and we had a view of his glory, a glory such as belongs to an only-begotten son from a father; and he was full of undeserved kindness and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, yes, he actually cried out—this was the one who said it—saying: "The one coming behind me has advanced in front of me, because he existed before me.") ¹⁶ For we all received from out of his fullness, even undeserved kindness upon undeserved kindness. ¹⁷ Because the Law was given through Moses, the undeserved kindness and the truth came to be through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No man has seen God at any time; the only-begotten god who is in the

bosom [position] with the Father is the one that has explained him. [As John said, Jesus is the one that explained the Father to us. Please note what Jesus himself said about his coming to teach us to know his Father: **(John 6:44)** ⁴⁴ No man can come to me unless the Father, who sent me, draws him; and I will resurrect him in the last day. **(Matthew 11:27)** ²⁷ All things have been delivered to me by my Father, and no one fully knows the Son but the Father, neither does anyone fully know the Father but the Son and anyone to whom the Son is willing to reveal him.]

Jesus Christ said when on earth: “Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need.”^(Mat 5:3) James taught us, as he learned from Jesus: **(James 1:22-25)** ²² However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. ²⁵ But he who peers into the perfect law that belongs to freedom and who persists in it, this man, because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing it. Jesus was happy in his obedience. You will be too! Because of his faithful obedience, Jesus is being used by God to make all things better, forever!¹⁹

If we are not careful, the pain and suffering in the world can seem like that is what is real. It can seem insurmountable and overwhelming. Satan wants us

¹⁹ **(1 Corinthians 15:14-28)** ¹⁴ But if Christ has not been raised up, our preaching is certainly in vain, and our faith is in vain. ¹⁵ Moreover, we are also found false witnesses of God, because we have borne witness against God that he raised up the Christ, but whom he did not raise up if the dead are really not to be raised up. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not to be raised up, neither has Christ been raised up. ¹⁷ Further, if Christ has not been raised up, your faith is useless; you are yet in your sins. ¹⁸ In fact, also, those who fell asleep [in death] in union with Christ perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. ²⁰ However, now Christ has been raised up from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep in death. ²¹ For since death is through a man, resurrection of the dead is also through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own rank: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who belong to the Christ during his presence. ²⁴ Next, the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has brought to nothing all government and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must rule as king until God has put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ As the last enemy, death is to be brought to nothing. ²⁷ For God “subjected all things under his feet.” But when he says that ‘all things have been subjected,’ it is evident that it is with the exception of the one who subjected all things to him. ²⁸ But when all things will have been subjected to him, then the Son himself will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him, that God may be all things to everyone.

to be consumed by worrying about this system and what will happen to us.²⁰ Naomi (temporarily) lost faith and blamed God for the death of her loved ones. Death is a result of sin,²¹ and Satan gave birth to sin. Satan is the root cause of every bad thing that happens, not God. Unlike Naomi, Ruth looked steadfastly to help from Jehovah. We can hope Naomi came to her senses when the neighbor women who were her friends recounted how Jehovah had blessed her: Ruth, they told her, was better to Naomi than seven sons.^(Ruth 4:15 on pg 5) If we view this world through Jehovah's eyes,²² we can know it has been judged and is passing away.²³ The wickedness of this

²⁰ **(Hebrews 2:14-18)** ¹⁴ Therefore, since the “young children” are sharers of blood and flesh, he also similarly partook of the same things, that through his death he might bring to nothing the one having the means to cause death, that is, the Devil; ¹⁵ and [that] he might emancipate all those who for fear of death were subject to slavery all through their lives. ¹⁶ For he is really not assisting angels at all, but he is assisting Abraham's seed.

¹⁷ Consequently he was obliged to become like his “brothers” in all respects, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, in order to offer propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that he himself has suffered when being put to the test, he is able to come to the aid of those who are being put to the test.

²¹ **(Romans 5:12)** ¹² That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned. . .

²² **(2 Kings 6:15-17)** ¹⁵ When the minister of the man of the true God rose early to get up, and went out, why, there a military force was surrounding the city with horses and war chariots. At once his attendant said to him: “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶ But he said: “Do not be afraid, for there are more who are with us than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ And Elisha began to pray and say: “O Jehovah, open his eyes, please, that he may see.” Immediately Jehovah opened the attendant's eyes, so that he saw; and, look! the mountainous region was full of horses and war chariots of fire all around Elisha.

²³ **(1 John 2:15-17)** ¹⁵ Stop loving the world and the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, he cannot be loving the Father; ¹⁶ because everything in the world—the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the showy display of one's means of life—does not originate with the Father, but originates with the world. ¹⁷ Furthermore, the world is disappearing and so is its desire, but he that does the will of God remains forever.

(Luke 17:26-30) ²⁶ Moreover, just as it occurred in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of man: ²⁷ they were eating, they were drinking, men were marrying, women were being given in marriage, until that day when Noah entered into the ark, and the flood arrived and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise, just as it occurred in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they

world having been judged by Jehovah means it is as good as already gone. All those who create and support badness, and who refuse to change and take advantage of the gift of life offered through faith in Christ Jesus, are passing away. It would not require any effort on God's part. They are already dying. What God has done is made a way out. We need always look forward to the paradise being restored by the kingdom of Christ Jesus.²⁴ Recognize and build faith in what is really true. If you blame Jehovah for anything bad, or if you believe there is happiness anywhere besides obedience to him, you have been deceived and are believing a lie. It will undermine your faith. Jesus said those who refuse to put faith in God will die because of their own sins.²⁵ First and foremost, however, Jesus explains God does not want that to happen. God's desire and his effort is life for us all.²⁶ If you make a sincere effort to build faith in the teachings of Christ Jesus, you will be building faith for preserving yourself alive: **(Hebrews 10:38, 39)** "But my righteous one will live by reason of faith," and, "if he

were planting, they were building. ²⁹ But on the day that Lot came out of Sod'om it rained fire and sulphur from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ The same way it will be on that day when the Son of man is to be revealed.

(1 Peter 3:20) ²⁰ ... when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water.

²⁴ Isaiah 11:1-10 CEV (1) Like a branch that sprouts from a stump, someone from David's family will someday be king. (2) The Spirit of Jehovah will be with him to give him understanding, wisdom, and insight. He will be powerful, and he will know and honor Jehovah. (3) His greatest joy will be to obey Jehovah. This king won't judge by appearances or listen to rumors. (4) The poor and the needy will be treated with fairness and with justice. His word will be law everywhere in the land, and criminals will be put to death. (5) Honesty and fairness will be his royal robes. (6) Leopards will lie down with young goats, and wolves will rest with lambs. Calves and lions will eat together and be cared for by little children. (7) Cows and bears will share the same pasture; their young will rest side by side. Lions and oxen will both eat straw. (8) Little children will play near snake holes. They will stick their hands into dens of poisonous snakes and never be hurt. (9) Nothing harmful will take place on Jehovah's holy mountain. Just as water fills the sea, the land will be filled with people who know and honor Jehovah. (10) The time is coming when one of David's descendants will be the signal for the people of all nations to come together. They will follow his advice, and his own nation will become famous.

²⁵ **(John 8:24)** For this reason I told you that you'll die because of your sins. If you don't believe that I am the one [the Christ], you'll die in your sins."

²⁶ **(2 Peter 3:9)** ⁹ God is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.

shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” (39) Now we are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul. It is our faith in the teachings of Christ Jesus, then, that equates to the ark of salvation for our day.²⁷

The difference between the encouragement you receive in this booklet (and from justbibletruth.com), and what you receive from religious groups is this: We encourage personal knowledge of Jesus’s teachings as a basis for your faith. That is very different from trying to build our own sectarian group, and seeking members for it. We are encouraging followers of Christ Jesus. We wish to make that difference between religion and Christianity clear. We want everyone to realize Jesus Christ already started a group, and we simply need to join what Jesus started! The only scripturally inspired name for Jesus’s followers is Christian.²⁸ It seems any group calling themselves by any other name, actually make themselves sectarian and divisive by that action. What they are really claiming (and what most actually believe), is that Jesus is with their group.⁽³⁶⁾ Groups don’t worship God. Individuals worship God!²⁹ As Jehovah’s son and appointed king, Jesus is the one and only leader and source of spiritual food to those who love God.³⁰ Our

²⁷ **(1 Peter 3:20)** ²⁰ ... when the patience of God was waiting in Noah’s days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water.

²⁸ **(Acts 11:26)** . . . It thus came about that for a whole year they gathered together with them in the congregation and taught quite a crowd, and it was first in Antioch that the disciples were by divine providence called Christians.

²⁹ **(John 4:19-26)** ¹⁹ The woman said to him: “Sir, I perceive you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our forefathers worshiped in this mountain; but YOU people say that in Jerusalem is the place where persons ought to worship.” ²¹ Jesus said to her: “Believe me, woman, The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will YOU people worship the Father. ²² YOU worship what YOU do not know; we worship what we know, because salvation originates with the Jews. ²³ Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit, and those worshiping him must worship with spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him: “I know that Mes-si’ah is coming, who is called Christ. Whenever that one arrives, he will declare all things to us openly.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her: “I who am speaking to you am he.”

³⁰ **(Acts 4:8-12)** ⁸ Then Peter, filled with holy spirit, said to them: “Rulers of the people and older men, ⁹ if we are this day being examined, on the basis of a good deed to an ailing man, as to by whom this man has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of YOU and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Naz-a-rene’, whom YOU impaled but whom God raised up from the dead, by this one does this man stand here sound in front of YOU. ¹¹ This is ‘the stone that was treated by YOU builders as of no

encouragement is that you realize how simple to understand the Bible really is. It was written for you! Learn what Jesus taught and become his follower; not ours, and not the sects or modern organized religion. We don't direct you to ourselves and to our teachings, but to the Bible. That is all the help any man or group can ever be. The Bible is easy if you just consider its theme:³¹ The Old Testament promised a coming Messiah, and then gave prophetic details about him. Jesus introduced the New Testament by presenting himself as that promised Messiah (in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).⁽²⁹⁾ The whole of the New Testament following the Gospels is the record of those who tried to put Jesus's teachings into practice. The four small (fifty page) books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, then, contain the teachings of Jesus Christ! The Gospels might be thought of as the purpose of the Bible.³² Read what Jesus said over and over until you really understand, beginning to end. By doing so, you can build faith for the preservation of life – *your life*.³³ The only group you can join is made up of

account that has become the head of the corner.' ¹² Furthermore, there is no salvation in anyone else, for there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved."~

(Matthew 23:1-12) ²³ Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying: ² "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the seat of Moses. ³ Therefore all the things they tell YOU, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds, for they say but do not perform. ⁴ They bind up heavy loads and put them upon the shoulders of men, but they themselves are not willing to budge them with their finger. ⁵ All the works they do they do to be viewed by men; for they broaden the [scripture-containing] cases that they wear as safeguards, and enlarge the fringes [of their garments]. ⁶ They like the most prominent place at evening meals and the front seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and the greetings in the marketplaces and to be called Rabbi by men. ⁸ But YOU, do not YOU be called Rabbi, for one is YOUR teacher, whereas all YOU are brothers. ⁹ Moreover, do not call anyone YOUR father on earth, for one is YOUR Father, the heavenly One. ¹⁰ Neither be called 'leaders,' for YOUR Leader is one, the Christ. ¹¹ But the greatest one among YOU must be YOUR minister. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

³¹ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/DoYouKnowChrist.pdf>

³² **(Galatians 3:24, 25)** ²⁴ Consequently the Law has become our tutor leading to Christ, that we might be declared righteous due to faith. ²⁵ But now that the faith has arrived, we are no longer under a tutor.

³³ **(Hebrews 10:35-39)** ³⁵ Do not, therefore, throw away your freeness of speech, which has a great reward to be paid it. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, in order that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the [fulfillment of the] promise. ³⁷ For yet "a very little while," and "he who is coming will arrive and will not delay." ³⁸ "But my righteous one will live by reason of faith," and, "if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in

all those individuals who are putting their faith in Jesus's teachings in that very same way. That membership roll is kept in heaven.³⁴ No man or group on earth can assert judgment over who is in the group. Do not be deceived, your approval by any religious sect means nothing at best. Knowledge of that fact is a wonderful protection and gift to you.³⁵ What Jesus came and

him.”³⁹ Now we are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul.

(John 11:26)²⁶ and everyone that is living (at the time of Christ's return) and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?”

(Matthew 24:37-39)³⁷ For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be.³⁸ For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark;³⁹ and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

(1 Peter 3:20b) . . . in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water.

³⁴ **(Daniel 12:1)** **12** “And during that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who is standing in behalf of the sons of your people. And there will certainly occur a time of distress such as has not been made to occur since there came to be a nation until that time. And during that time your people will escape, every one who is found written down in the book.

(Revelation 3:5)⁵ He that conquers will thus be arrayed in white outer garments; and I will by no means blot out his name from the book of life, but I will make acknowledgment of his name before my Father and before his angels.

³⁵ **(Matthew 7:21-23)**²¹ “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will.²² Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?’²³ And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness.

(Mark 12:24)²⁴ Jesus said to them: “Is not this why you are mistaken, your not knowing either the Scriptures or the power of God?”

(Mark 7:1-8) **7** Now the Pharisees and some of the scribes that had come from Jerusalem gathered about him.² And when they saw some of his disciples eat their meal with defiled hands, that is, unwashed ones—³ for the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, holding fast the tradition of the men of former times,⁴ and, when back from market, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves by sprinkling; and there are many other traditions that they have received to hold fast, baptisms of cups and pitchers and copper vessels;—⁵ so these Pharisees and scribes asked him: “Why is it your disciples do not conduct themselves according to the tradition of the men of former times, but they take their meal with defiled hands?”⁶ He said to them: “Isaiah aptly

left us (his remains, as it were) exist in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. If any group says to you that Christ is in their midst, and you need to join their sect to gain life, they are lying or deceived.³⁶ May you have peace.

prophesied about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honor me with [their] lips, but their hearts are far removed from me. ⁷ It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men.'

⁸ Letting go the commandment of God, you hold fast the tradition of men."

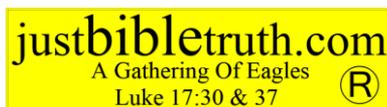
³⁶ Visit: <http://www.justbibletruth.com/WherelsChrist.pdf> ~

(Matthew 24:21-28) ²¹ for then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again. ²² In fact, unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved; but on account of the chosen ones those days will be cut short. ²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look! Here is the Christ,' or, 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will give great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones. ²⁵ Look! I have forewarned you. ²⁶ Therefore, if people say to you, 'Look! He is in the wilderness,' do not go out; 'Look! He is in the inner chambers,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For just as the lightning comes out of eastern parts and shines over to western parts, so the presence of the Son of man will be.

²⁸ Wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

(Psalm 27: superscription & 1-14) Of David. **27** Jehovah is my light and my salvation. Of whom shall I be in fear? Jehovah is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be in dread? ² When the evildoers approached against me to eat up my flesh, They being my adversaries and my enemies personally, They themselves stumbled and fell. ³ Though against me an encampment should pitch tent, My heart will not fear. Though against me war should rise, Even then I shall be trusting. ⁴ One thing I have asked from Jehovah— It is what I shall look for, That I may dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of my life, To behold the pleasantness of Jehovah And to look with appreciation upon his temple. ⁵ For he will hide me in his covert in the day of calamity; He will conceal me in the secret place of his tent; High on a rock he will put me. ⁶ And now my head will be high above my enemies all around me; And I will sacrifice at his tent sacrifices of joyful shouting; I will sing and make melody to Jehovah. ⁷ Hear, O Jehovah, when I call with my voice, And show me favor and answer me. ⁸ Concerning you my heart has said: “Seek to find my face, you people.” Your face, O Jehovah, I shall seek to find. ⁹ Do not conceal your face from me. Do not in anger turn your servant away. My assistance you must become. Do not forsake me and do not leave me, O my God of salvation. ¹⁰ In case my own father and my own mother did leave me, Even Jehovah himself would take me up. ¹¹ Instruct me, O Jehovah, in your way, And lead me in the path of uprightness on account of my foes. ¹² Do not give me over to the soul of my adversaries; For against me false witnesses have risen up, And he who launches forth violence. ¹³ If I had not had faith in seeing the goodness of Jehovah in the land of those alive—! ¹⁴ Hope in Jehovah; be courageous and let your heart be strong. Yes, hope in Jehovah.

A gift for you from:



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*All who come to God must believe that He exists,
and that He is good. Heb 11:6*

³⁷ **Luke 17:30 & 37 BBE** [As in the days of Noah and Lot:] So will it be in the day of the revelation of the Son of man. **37** And they, answering him, said, Where, Lord? And he said to them, Where the body is, there will the eagles come together.
Wise persons gather around the remains of Christ by studying (feeding on) what he taught as recorded in the Gospels.
