# Vn

# forgivable?

"Every problem in this world is a relationship problem."

#### How Does God Forgive Us?

 Have you ever felt unforgiveable, unacceptable, or unloved?

Are some offenses unforgivable?

How do you define forgiveness?



#### Forgiveness:

to suffer all the consequences of a person's action,



and release the person from punishment,



without retaliation, bitterness, or anger.

How does God forgive us when we sin against Him? Let's start from the beginning.

# "In the beginning there was God." Genesis 1:1

- God is life. He is the creator and sustainer of all life. Apart from God there is no life.
- > God is all-powerful. He can do all things.
- God is holy. He is separate from all things that are not pure, good, and just.
- > God is righteous. He only does what is right.

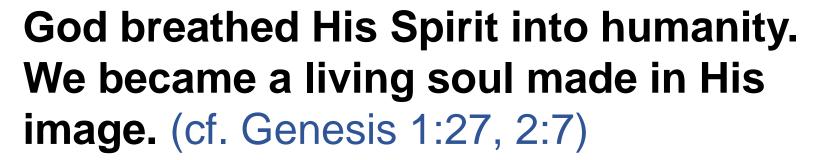
(Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7; Nehemiah 9:6; Isaiah 59:2; Colossians 1:17; John 1:3-4, 4:24)

GOD

is life.

He is all-powerful, holy,

and righteous.



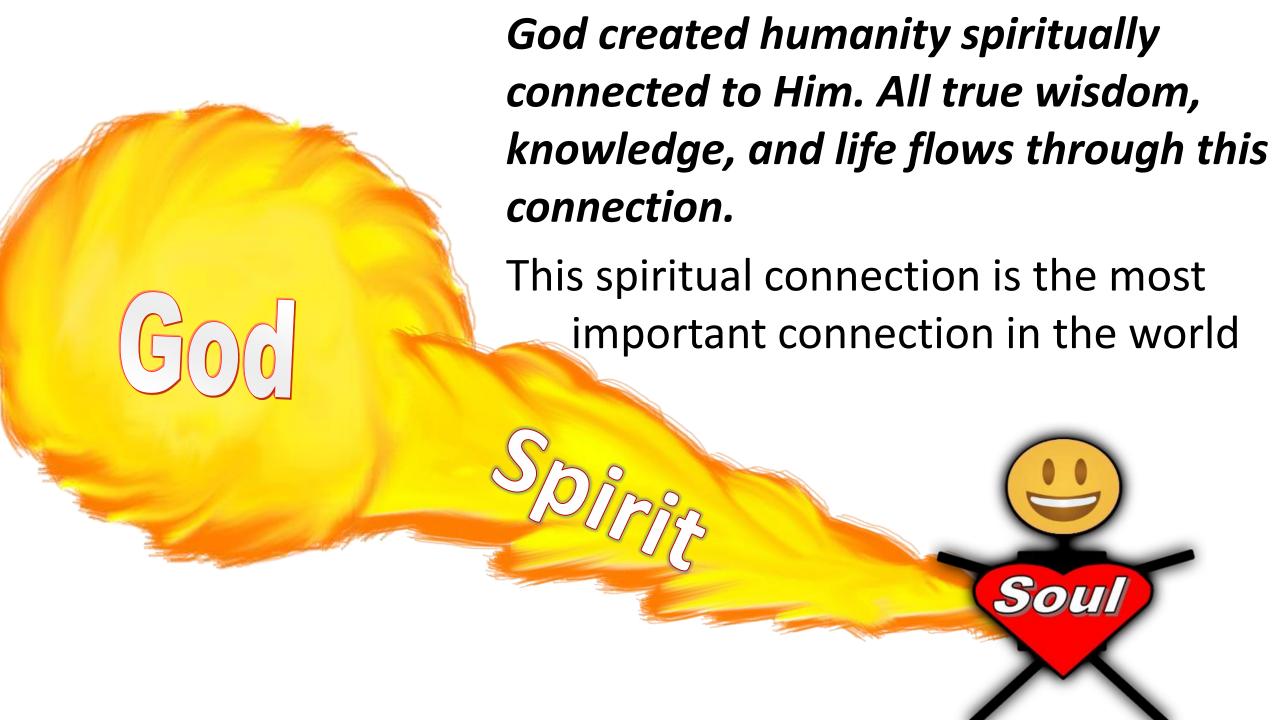
The soul is our life force in us. It includes the mind, will, and emotions.

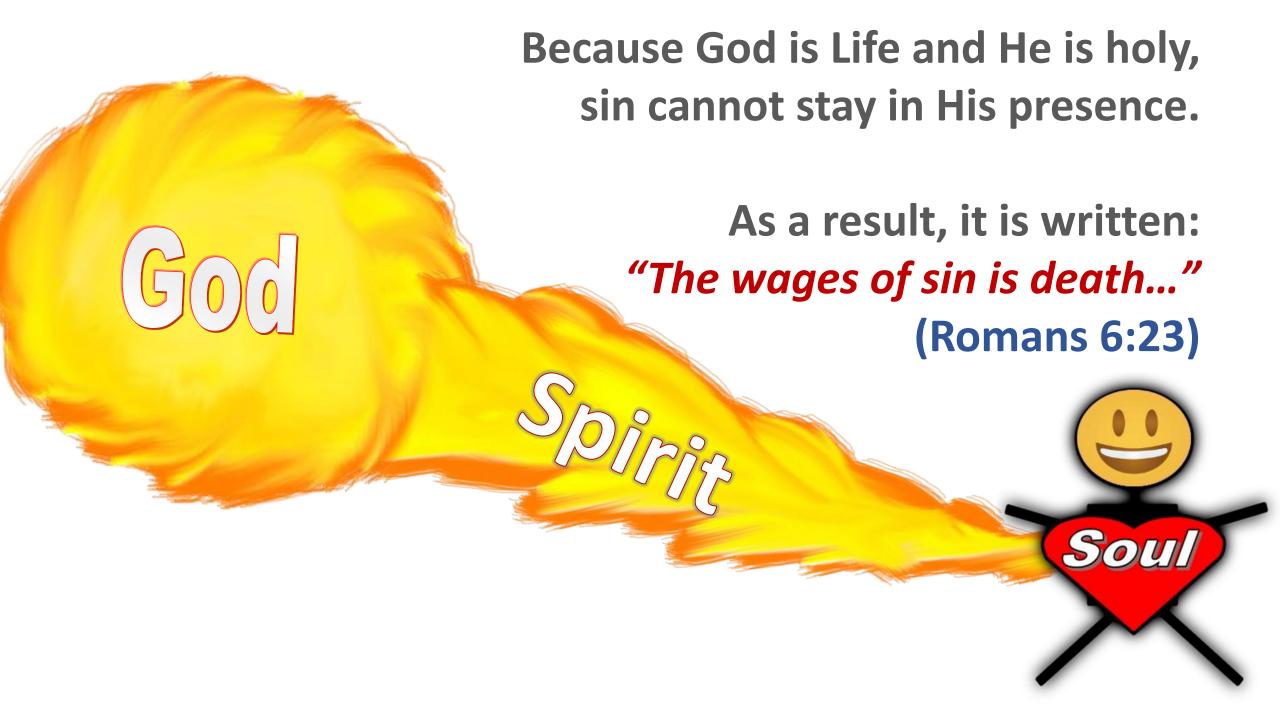
Every soul is created in the image of God. And every soul is created to live in relationship with God and one another.

Soul

God is Life!

(Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 9:6; Hebrews 4:12-13)





#### "The wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)



Let's define "wages,"
"sin," and "death" in
relation to
God's forgiveness.

What is a wage?

A wage is a consequence. It is something you earn after you do something.



#### What is sin?

(See Exodus 20; Matthew 5:21-22, 28, Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:29, 5:3-7; Hebrews 10:24-25)

- 1. Not putting God 1st;
- 2. Misusing the name of God;
- 3. Worshiping idols;
- 4. Not taking a time of rest in God;
- 5. Dishonoring parents;
- 6. Murder, hatred, uncontrolled anger, and unwholesome talk;
- 7. Adultery, all sexual immorality, lust, course joking;
- 8. Stealing and cheating;
- 9. Testifying falsely and lying;
- 10. Coveting

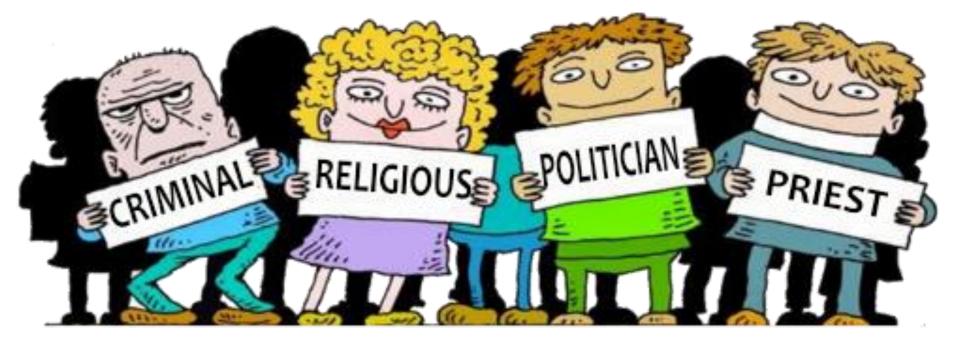
"The wages of sin is death..."

(Romans 6:23)



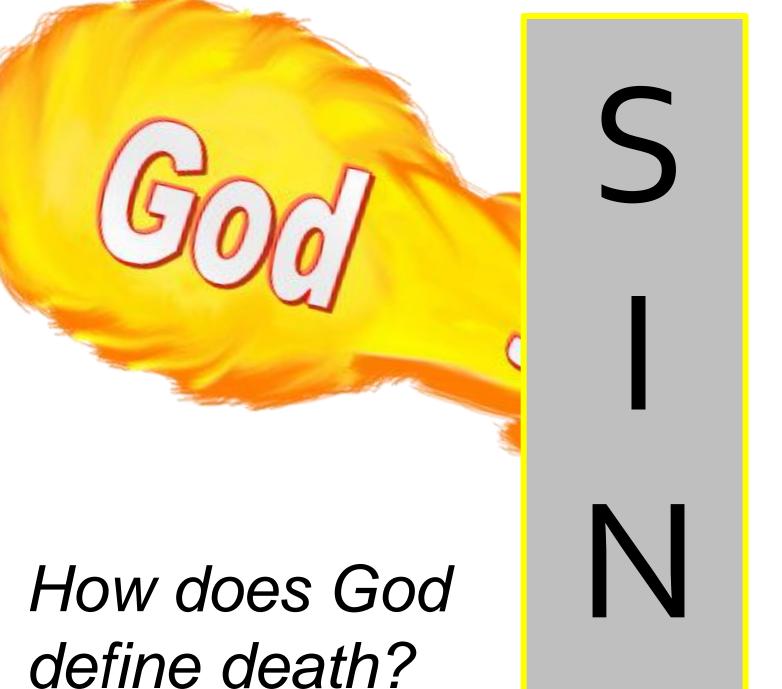
#### "The wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)



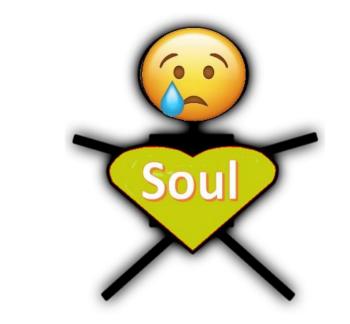
"As it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10)

I have sinned, have you sinned?\_\_\_\_\_



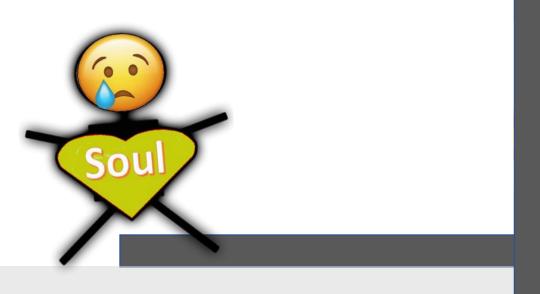
"The wages of sin is death..."

(Romans 6:23)



DEATH IS SEPARATION FROM OUR SOURCE OF LIFE-GOD.

- ❖ Death is spiritual separation: "But your iniquities [sins] have made a separation [death] between you and your God." (Isaiah 59:2a)
- ❖ Death is physical separation: "And Jesus said to him, 'Leave the [spiritually] dead to bury their own [physically] dead." (Luke 9:60a)
- ❖ Death is eternal separation: "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)



**S** 



"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23a)

N

**BUT,** there is Good News!

"The soul who sins shall die." (Ezekiel 18:20)

God loves us and does not want us to live separated from Him!

# "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23)

# God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies to prove His free gift of forgiveness in Jesus.

\*Prophesies are God's revelations to humanity concerning future events.

"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

God said, "...from now on, you [Satan] and the woman [Eve] will be enemies, and your [Satan's] offspring and her [Eve's] offspring will be enemies.

He [the Christ] will crush your [Satan's] head, and you [Satan] will strike His [the Christ's] heel." (Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 25:8 written in 1,500 and 700 B.C. respectively)



- -The Christ would come through Eve's offspring.
- -Satan struck Christ's heel on the cross, but Jesus Christ crushed Satan and the death he represents by raising from the dead! (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 15:55-56)

The Christ would be the Ruler —He would come through the seed of Adam and Eve, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, King David and be born of a virgin, named Mary, in the town of Bethlehem. (Genesis; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2, written in 1,500, 700, & 600 B.C. respectively)



God gave us the exact people through whom Christ would come – 1,500 years in writing before it happened! "All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: 'Look! The virgin will conceive a child!'" (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-18)

- The Essenes lived by Dead Sea and copied the Old Testament books with all the prophecies. The scrolls were written in 200 B.C. and discovered in 1946.

The Christ would be the Priest –He would speak for God like Moses and pray for His people.

(Exodus 19; Deuteronomy 18:15-18 written in 1,500 B.C.)

Jesus is our high priest. He made the ultimate sacrifice for all sin. He is the one mediator between God and men. He communicates the will of God through His teachings and through the Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:5–7).



#### "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23)

#### God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies

The Christ would be the great, merciful, gracious Teacher and have a miraculous ministry of healing with all who come to Him. (Isaiah 30:18-21, 42:2-5; 52:13-53:1-12, written in 700 B.C.)

#### Jesus taught:

- "He is the way the truth and the life." (John 14:6)
- "He and the father are one [oneness; same essence; one in purpose]." (John 10:30)



#### He healed every sickness and every disease. (Matthew 9:35)

- Jesus healed a paralyzed may by proclaiming: "Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 5:20, 7:48)
- Notably, "Only God can forgive sins." (Luke 5:21, NLT; cf. Isaiah 43:25)

The Christ would be the Prince –He would remove sin about 483 years after King Artaxerxes' put forth a directive for the Jewish people to rebuild Jerusalem's walls. (See Daniel 9:24-26, written in 650 B.C.)

God, through the prophet Daniel, told us the time that Jesus Christ would come and die for the sins of whosoever would believe in Him. (John 3:16; Romans 6:10)



Jesus would be the suffering servant proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah.

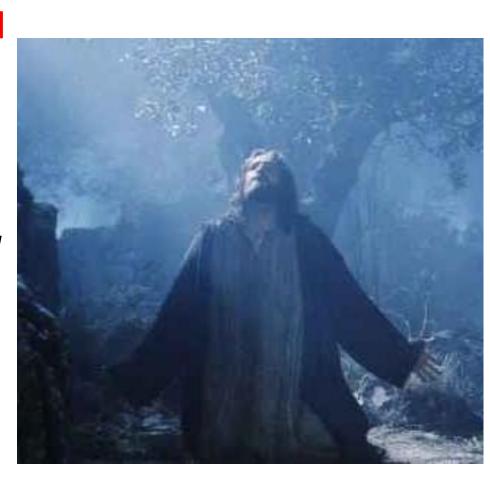
(Isaiah 52:13-53:1-12; Zechariah 6:13 written in 700 B.C., and 520 B.C. respectively)

Jesus came as the suffering servant. "Everything that is written about the Son of Man [Jesus] by the prophets will be accomplished.

He will be delivered over to the Gentiles.

They will mock Him, insult Him and spit on Him; they will flog Him and kill Him.

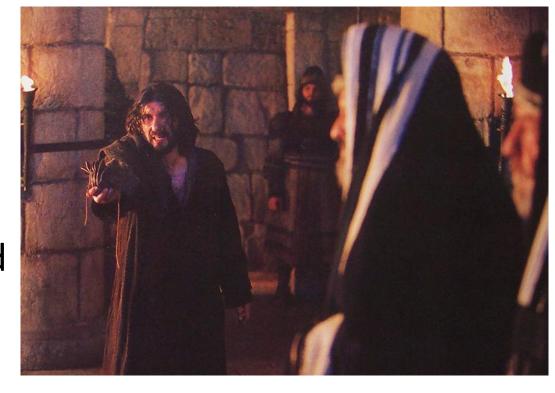
On the third day He will rise again." (Luke 18:31-33, cf. Matthew 9:35)



The Christ would not have worldly beauty. One of the Christ's close followers, for 30 pieces of silver, would betray Him.

(Isaiah 53:2; Zechariah. 11:12, written in 700 & 520 B.C. respectively)

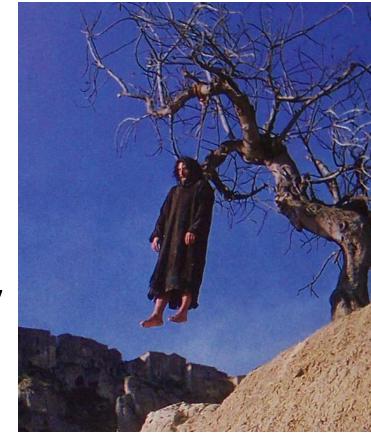
Jesus was not noticeably handsome and was not easily found in a crowd. (John 5:13; Luke 4:30; John 7:11)



The Chief Priest hired Judas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, to betray Jesus by pointing Him out. The Wednesday before Jesus was crucified, Judas pointed Him out with a kiss. (Matthew 26:14-16; 26:47-56)

The 30 pieces of silver would be used to pay for a potter's field. (Zechariah 11:13, written in 520 B.C.)

After Jesus was arrested and condemned, Judas felt regret and returned the money to the chief priests. The priests refused the money, so Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Lawfully, the chief priests couldn't keep the blood money in the treasury so they purchased the potter's field. Judas rejected Jesus and never returned to seek forgiveness and healing. Guilt filled his soul and he committed suicide.



(Matthew 26:45-49; Mark 14:41-45; Luke 22:47-48; John 18:1-8).

Christ's disciples would forsake Him before the rooster crowed. (Zechariah 13:7, written in 520 B.C.)

Jesus' disciples were looking for a Christ who would overthrow the Roman government. They were not expecting the Christ who would suffer and die for their sins. In their confusion, they ran away when Jesus was arrested. (Mark 14:16-50;

Matthew 26:26-75; John 16:32)



The Christ would live a sin-free—perfect—life, and He would be hated without cause. (Isaiah 49:7; Psalm 69:4, written in 700 & 1,000 B.C. respectively)

- Jesus lived a sin-free life. When Jesus appeared before Governor Pilate, he could not find wrongdoing in Him (John 19:4)
- "God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

#### "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23)

#### God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies

The Christ would be spit upon and mocked.

(Isaiah 50:6 & Psalm 22:7-8, written in 700 & 1,000 B.C. respectively)

- -During Jesus' trail, "they spit in his face and struck him, and some slapped him."
- Jesus love for us caused Him to suffer the full humiliation of our sin. (Matthew 26:67; Philippians 2:6-10)

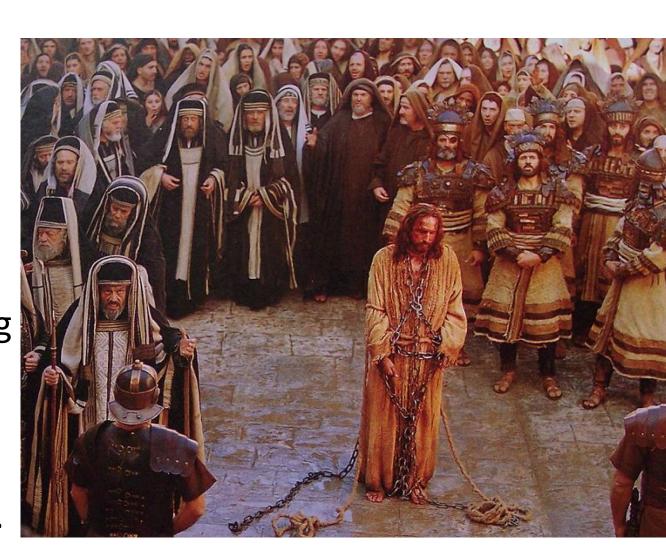


The Christ would be the Suffering Servant –He would be falsely accused but would remain silent among the accusers.

(Isaiah 53:7-8, written in 700 B.C.)

No sane, rational servant could remain silent when accused of being a liar! Everyone would have wanted to yell, "I did not do it." Yet, during the trial, Jesus remained silent. And His silence led to His foretold death.

(Matthew 26:63-68; John 19:9-16)



When the time came for the Christ to die, His garments would be drenched in His own blood, and He would be rejected like a stranger by His own people.

(Psalm 63:3; 69:8, written in 1,000 B.C.)

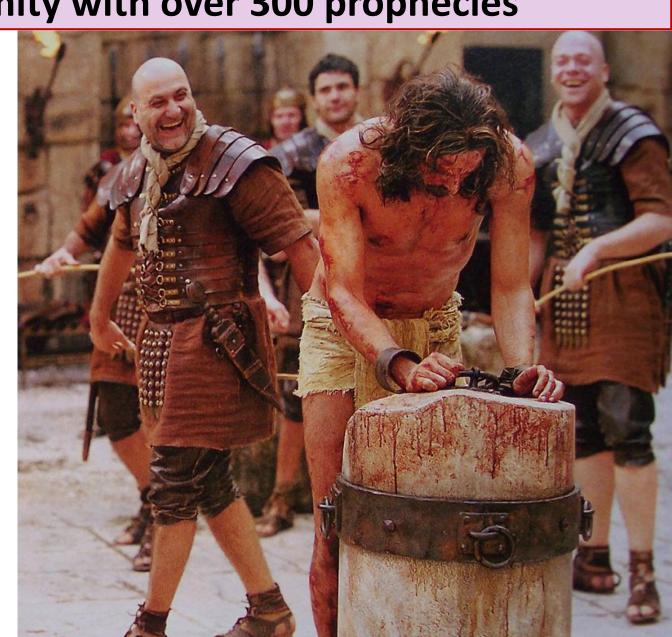
- When given a choice, the nation from which Jesus came chose to release a harden criminal. The Governor then had Jesus disgracefully flogged before His crucifixion.

(Matthew 27:24-26; John 19:1, 5:24)



The Christ would be scorned, despised, mocked, beaten, and men would wag their heads. He would have His back beaten, as well as His whole body. (Psalm 22:7-8 & Isaiah 50:6, written in 1,000 & 700 B.C. respectively)

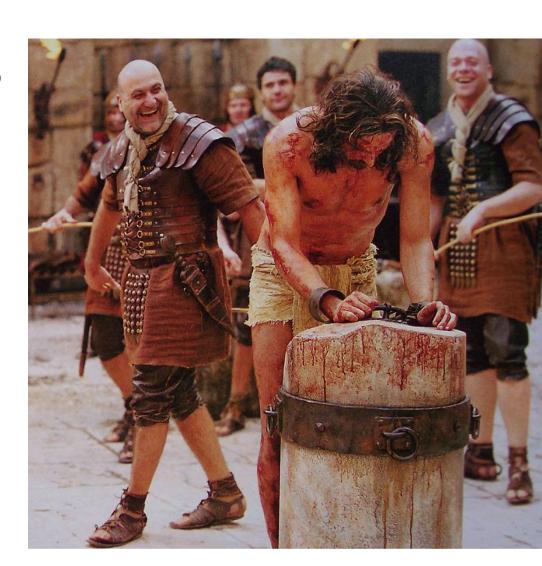
Jesus was beaten thirty-nine times with a whip of leather cord. The cords had sheep bones and iron balls tied in them to cut deep within the muscles.



#### "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23)

#### God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies

- "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)
- "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." (Hebrews 9:22)
- Why? "For the life of the flesh is in the blood." (Leviticus 17:11)
- God is life. The wages of sin is death. God the Son shed His blood to prove His life was taken for our sins. (Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15)
- "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)



"He has bore our griefs and carried our sorrows...afflicted...He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities...and with His [the Christ] wounds we are healed."

(Isaiah 53:4-5, written in 700 B.C.)

- Forgiveness means to suffer the consequences of a person's action.



- "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus, our Lord." (Romans 6:23) Jesus is our free gift of forgiveness! Jesus was crushed for our iniquities. That is love!

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son on Mt. Mariah. Abraham's son carried the wood on which he was to be sacrificed. Years later, Solomon built the Temple with a place to sacrifice animals on this location. (Genesis 22, written in 1,500 B.C.)

After the flogging on Mt. Mariah, Jesus willingly carried the horizonal beam of the cross to the place of sacrifice to lay down His life at His Father's request just like Abraham and his son. (Genesis 22:6-

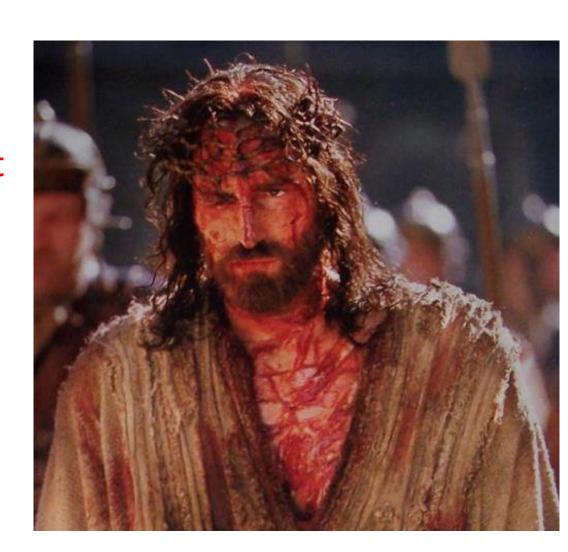


9 / John 19:16-17; Luke 23:33-34; Matthew 26:39)

God saw that Abraham was about to sacrifice his son. Immediately, the angel of the Lord stopped Abraham and provided a mature male lamb, whose head was caught in a thorn bush, to sacrifice. Abraham named the place, "The Lord Will Provide." (Genesis 22:13 written in 1,500 B.C.)

The soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. Jesus is the Lamb of God! (Matthew 27:29; John 1:29)

- Through Christ, the Lord provided a single sacrifice for all sin. (Hebrews 10:11-14)



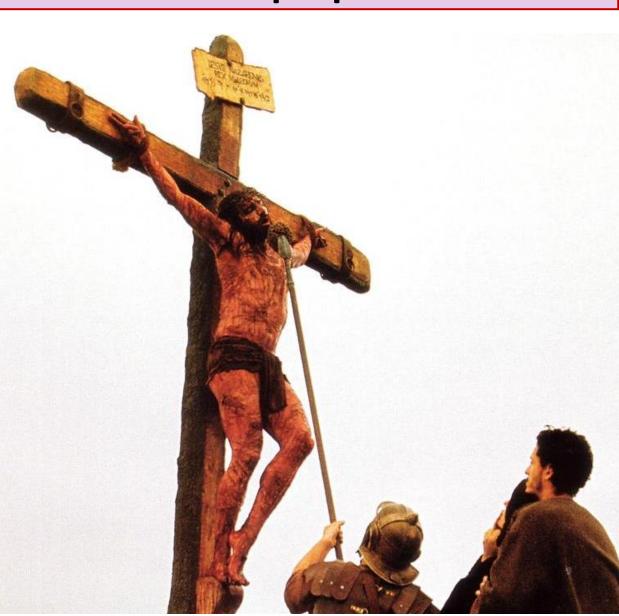
The Christ's hands and feet would be pierced. (Psalm 22:16, written in 1,000 B.C.)

- The Persians had not invented crucifixion until 500 years after King David had written this prophesy!
- On a ridge called Golgotha, just outside Jerusalem's walls on Mount Moriah, the Roman soldiers laid Jesus on the cross and drove elongated nails into His hands and feet as prophesied. (Mark 15:22-32; John 19:17-23; Matthew 27:33-51)
- Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed." (1Peter 2:24)

The Christ would be thirsty during His execution and be given vinegar to quench that thirst. (Psalm 22:15; 69:21, written in 1,000 B.C.)

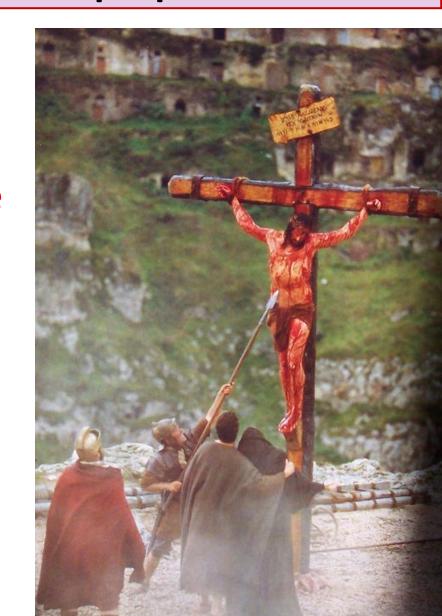
- -The Roman soldiers attempted to give Jesus a drink to sedate Him.

  After Jesus had a small taste, He refused it. Jesus chose to suffer the full consequence of the pain of death for all sins. (Matthew 27:34)
- The crucifixion started at 9:00am.

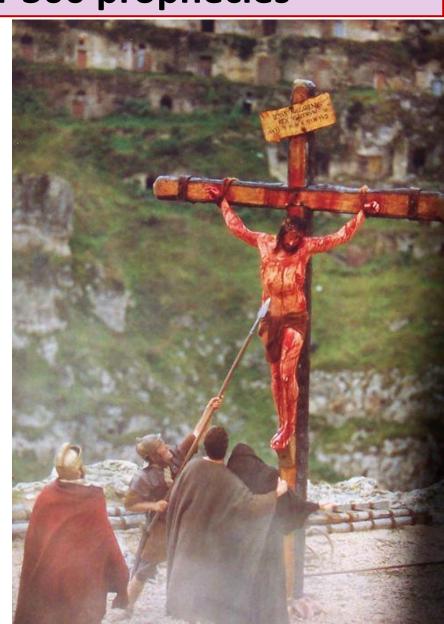


The Jews celebrate a yearly feast called the Passover. During the Passover, each family sacrificed a perfect male lamb at twilight (between 2:30-3:30 pm) without breaking one bone to remember God's saving acts. (Exodus 12:1-14, 46; Psalm 22:14-18; 34:20; 64:7-10; Isaiah 53:1-12, written 1500 - 1,000 B.C. )

On Friday, during Passover week, Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, was sacrificed on the cross to suffer the consequences of sin. (John 19:33-37; Mark 15:25)



- At noon, a darkness fell over the whole area.
   Jesus, "our Passover Lamb," died at about 3:00pm.
- When the Roman soldiers went to break the legs of the people who were on the cross, they came to Jesus, and He was already dead. They stuck a spear in His side and out came water and blood.
- Not one of His bones was broken.
- This is the written testimony that you may believe! (John 19:31-35; 1 Corinthians 5:7)



# "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23)

#### God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies

It was prophesied that the Christ would be put to death as a criminal with criminals, yet He would be given a rich man's tomb. (Isaiah 53:3-4, 9, written in 700 B.C.)

They crucified Jesus between two robbers. "The death he died he died to sin, once for all." (Mark 15:27; Romans 6:10a)

After Jesus had died, a rich man belonging to an elite Jewish group, named Joseph of Arimathea, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

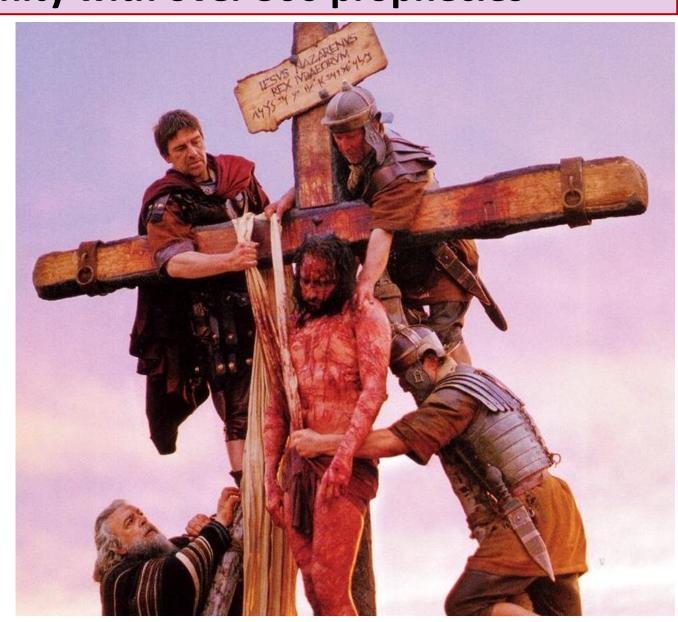


### "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23)

#### God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies

When Pilate learned that Jesus was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

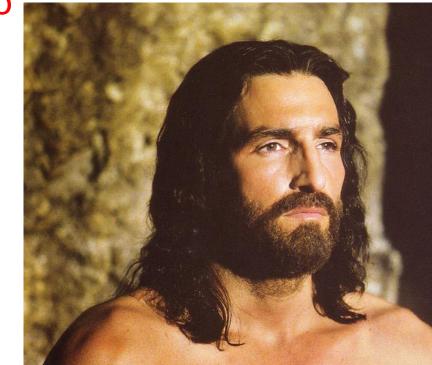
Joseph took Jesus down, wrapped him in linen, and laid him in an expensive tomb that he had been cut out of the rock for himself. Then, Joseph rolled the stone against the entrance of the tomb. (Mark 15:43-45; Matthew 27:57-60



# "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23) God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies

The Christ's body would not decay, and, on the third day, He would rise from the grave, putting an end to death. (Psalm 16:10; 110:1, written in 1,000 B.C.)

-Jesus conquered death! On the third day, there was a severe earthquake because an angel of the Lord came from heaven and rolled back the boulder that sealed the tomb so that everyone could see it was empty. (Matthew 28:2; Luke 24:2-8)



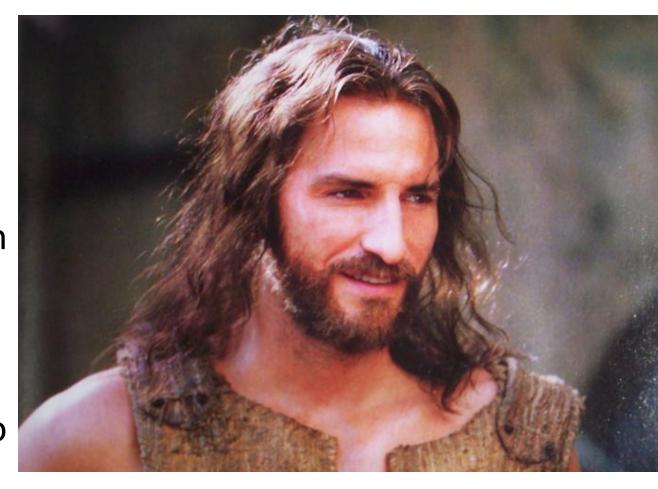
- Jesus had risen
- Jesus made several appearances over 40 days, and then He appeared to 500 people at one time. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

# "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT..." (Romans 6:23) God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies

The Christ is the "Son of Man", who would come to rule the world.

(Daniel 7:13-14, written in 650 B.C.)

Jesus referred to Himself as the "Son of Man" many times and talked much about trials, tribulations, and a great tribulation period. These things will separate the believers from the non-believers when He returns to earth to fully establish His Kingdom.



(Acts 1:6-11; Revelation 1:7-8, 16:15; Matthew 24:3-28, 36-44; John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)

# TEST: "Jesus asked, 'Who do you say I am?'"

"Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

#### What does it mean to be the Son of God?

Jesus is God's Son because of the Spirit's activity in causing the virgin birth. This means that Jesus, the Son of God, is the essence of His all-powerful Father. (Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35)

#### What does it mean to be the Christ?

- The all-powerful Servant who fulfilled all three hundred prophecies
- The all-knowing Prophet who speaks for God
- The all-loving King of kings who rules the world
- The all-powerful Priest through whom we pray and receive healing
- -The Son of Man who will return to rule the world

#### FORGIVENESS...

Forgiveness: to suffer all the consequences of a person's action...

Forgiveness is a "free gift" of mercy, love, and grace.

#### **REASONING...**

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life..."
(Romans 6:23)

Our wage is death. God paid the price (suffered the consequences) to release believers from punishment.

#### FORGIVENESS...

2) and release the person from punishment...

Only the person against whom we have sinned can forgive us. We sinned against God and His law. Jesus is one with God the Father. Forgiveness is found "in Him" alone.

#### **REASONING...**

God said, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life

in Christ Jesus..."

(Romans 6:23)

Forgiveness in Christ Jesus is God's grace to us!

#### FORGIVENESS...

3) without anger, bitterness, or retaliation

Jesus rose from the grave conquering the consequence of sin. He forgives us as far as the east is from the west. We want Him to be "our Lord."

#### **REASONING...**

God said, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Lord means Master and King of our life.

#### "WHAT SHALL WE DO?"

When people first heard the Good News, they believed, and "they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we

"And Peter said to them, Repent (see your sin the way God sees it, hate your sin for the death it brings, and forsake it)

and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37-38, emphasis add)

# Baptism is our public initiation, identification, incorporation into Christ Jesus

"Ananias said, 'The God of our ancestors chose you long ago to know his plan, to see the Righteous One, and to hear words from Him. Now, why wait any longer? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, trusting in him to save you." (Acts 22:14 &16, NCV)



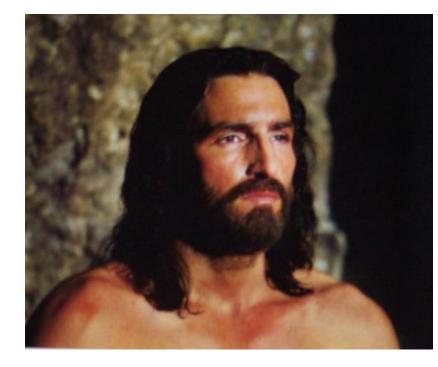
## BELIEVERS ARE TO LIVE FOR JESUS AND HIS RETURN.

# The free gift of God is coming in fullness!

"So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him." (Hebrews 9:28)

There are approximately 1,845 different biblical references to Christ's return!

Will you be living by faith?



"I am coming soon, bringing My recompense with Me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:12–13)

# BELIEVERS ARE TO LIVE FOR JESUS AND HIS RETURN.

"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not...

(1 Thessalonians 5:1–11)

# BELIEVERS ARE TO LIVE FOR JESUS AND HIS RETURN.

sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

(1 Thessalonians 5:7–11)

## PATH TO FORGIVENESS

- Admit your sins to God. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 3:23, 5:8)
- Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. (Romans 10:9)
- Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. (Romans 10:9-10)
- Decide to be baptized into Christ. (Romans 6:1-4) Contact your local church.

#### **KNOW**

- Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13)
- For, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1, 6:10, 6:23)
- God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

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