

My concern is *truth*. I never opened a Bible until I was approaching 40 years of age. It is my hope that people will consider the next life, or death (permanent separation from God),...and seek the *truth*.

One question I often hear is, “How come there are so many different churches / faiths? Aren’t we supposed to be worshipping one God in one way?” Is there really only one path to salvation? What is the *truth*? (request “**TRUTH MATRIX**” – other faiths teachings @ Target Truth Ministries.com)

There are several ways of answering this question. It is true that there is only one God, and one truth...God’s truth—the Bible, and one church—established by Jesus (**Eph. 4:4-6; Acts 2:38-42**). However, Jesus (fully God), delivers His truth (the Bible), through people. And, we all know people are different. Even the original apostles were different, and each wrote and spoke different, and each taught about God in different ways. So, from the very beginning, every church which was established, was an individual church. Jesus is to be the central authority of His churches—one God and one truth. There was no one bishop, or pastor, who had authority over any other bishop or pastor for hundreds of years. Every church was separate, and each worshiped Christ (the truth—**John 14:6**), in their own cultural way. This was true for hundreds of years. **Revelation 2 & 3** describe seven of these various types of churches. While churches have been different in their approach to ministry from the very beginning, they all had Jesus at the head, and His word, the Bible, as the source of truth (**1 Corin. 12:12-12**).

At the time right after Jesus’s church was established, all Greek, Roman, and Arab nations were either Christian, Jewish (Jesus was Jewish by birth), or pagan. Those who were pagans worshiped various tribal gods of seasons, or fertility, etc.

In the Arab Christian Church, the Arabic peoples ate Arabic food, wore Arab dress, spoke Arabic in church, and sang Arabic songs. This made their worship different from the Greeks, but Jesus was the head of both Arabic and Greek worship, and the Bible was the source of truth for both Arab and Greek peoples who were Christian. It wasn’t until about 700 years *after* Christ, that Mohammad began Islam, and the worship of the moon god, Al-ilah (Allah), as the highest of gods, which was one of the main gods of the old Babylonian Empire over 1,300 years *before* Jesus. Arabs used the Bible, but 700 years after Christ, Mohammad regarded Jesus as only a great teacher, and regarded the Bible as having been corrupted by the Jewish peoples.

In the Greek Christian Church they practiced the things of their culture (many of which were adopted from the Babylonian temples and priests as well). When Alexander the Great conquered the world for the Greek peoples, 300 years before Christ, he declared Babylon the capital of this new world empire. The capital of the Greek empire was Babylon, and the ancient Babylonian practices of pagan worship were adopted into the Greek culture, and these practices were eventually passed on to the next Empire - Rome.

In the Roman Christian Church, Rome continued various traditional practices in their worship in churches, as the Romans combined the traditions from the Greeks (again, from the Babylonians), into their culture. Many Roman Catholic practices are traced in history back to these Babylonian practices, and this is recorded in the Catholic Encyclopedia. Jesus is the head of the church, and the Bible is the truth, and Rome adopted practices and traditions from their cultural heritage.

In the Eastern Christian Church (in Syria and Turkey etc.), they adopted specific practices from their culture into their worship (The Eastern Catholic Church, to this day, will not recognize the Roman Catholic Church). Jesus is the head of the church, and the Bible is the truth, but the Eastern Christian Church disagrees on traditions of worship compared to the west (**Ephesians 5:23**).

In the Egyptian Christian Church, the Coptic Church (which is still in existence today), adopted specific practices from their culture into their worship, even using some of the ancient Egyptian symbols. Jesus is the head of the church, and the Bible is the truth, but the Egyptians adopted their own cultural traditions (**Ephesians 5:23**).

The one thing which bound all these different churches and pastors together was Jesus as fully God and Savior, and God's Word (the books that make up the Bible), as the source of *truth* (1 Corin. 12:12-13). In all these geographic areas, there were traveling ministers, who, by visiting among several churches, managed to maintain the true Gospel, the doctrines of Christ, and Jesus as the way and the *truth* (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

In 325 A.D., at what is known as the **Nicaea Council**, over 800 of these church leaders got together, from about 300 various churches, to come to an agreement on God's Word and the "Trinity" (Jesus as God in the flesh). The Bible we have today was officially recognized by all these church leaders in order to protect the truth. As history tells us, there were some people who wanted to write their own "Bible." In other words, there were some people who wanted people to follow them, and the books written by them, and not follow Jesus. So, these 800 plus church leaders got together and agreed that only books which had some kind of a tie to the eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ would be legitimate for the official Bible. The Old Testament (the Jewish books), were accepted because Jesus used them, and gave them authority. Other writings, which had no connection to the eyewitnesses of Christ, would not be allowed in the Bible, thus, protecting God's truth from man's philosophy. History tells us that even at this date, almost 300 years after Christ, there was still no one church authority, other than Jesus. All these 800 plus church leaders from various localities were all equals. All had an equal vote. Rome had one bishop, and one vote, and no authority over any other church at this time. Hundreds of different churches with hundreds of ways to worship, and yet, they all agreed that Jesus Christ is the one and only way to be saved, and the Bible is the one true Word of God, given by the actual eyewitnesses of Jesus. Out of the 300 churches at the Nicaea Council, only 2 voted to not recognize Jesus as God in the flesh, the begotten from God. These 2 viewed Jesus as a creation of God, and therefore not God (leading to Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses, and 7-day Adventist movements of today).

The Bible is the most scrutinized and authenticated historical document in all of human history. Per Norman Geisler, 5,366 manuscripts have been analyzed and compared, from a variety of languages and countries, which provide the basis for our being able to accept the authority of the Bible. Further, Jesus quoted from the Old Testament, which provides us with direct evidence from God Himself of its truth. Additionally, despite the fact that we have very little first century New Testament documents, about 97% of the New Testament can be reconstructed from the writings of the early church fathers, as they quoted the Bible in their writings.

The archeological evidence (especially the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered in 1948, and have been shown scientifically to pre-date the birth of Jesus by hundreds of years), is overwhelmingly in support of the Bible's accuracy.

In fact, to this day, the three large factions of the Catholic Church (the Eastern Catholic Church, the Coptic Church, and the Roman Catholic Church), still remain separated, not recognizing each other's authority, even though they all worship Jesus as Lord and Savior, and the Bible as God's Word. Even though the Roman Catholic Church tries to portray itself as the one true church, it turns out that the Catholic Church is split into many various factions. Within in the Catholic churches there are Liberation Theologians, Charismatic Churches, Theological Liberals (this is the majority of United States bishops today), Pre-Vatican II Traditionalists, Mary-Centered worship, Byzantine Rite Churches, Eastern Rite Churches, Armenians, Chaldeans, Copts, Ethiopian Rite Churches, Marianites, Syrian, and Syrian Jacobites, Malebars, and others, all calling themselves the Catholic Church (the word "Catholic" actually means "universal"). This "Catholic" title is used by many churches, not just the Roman Church. Universal, or Catholic means universal belief in Jesus as fully God—the Trinity.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Roman Catholic Church split, yet again, when Bishop Martin Luther called for reform. The Protestant churches are the result of Catholic Rome not reforming (many reforms did take place in the centuries which followed, but some have not). **In America**, we are a country based upon freedom and individuality. Therefore, we, more than anywhere else in the world, have developed many, many forms of worship, and many denominations around these forms of worship. However, **all true Christian churches, regardless of practices and traditions, will always worship Jesus as fully God, the uncreated, eternal, sinless,**

Lord and Savior, and use the Bible as the Word of God to test all practices. This is true of all of the various Catholic churches, as well as Protestant churches.

There are some churches which call themselves “Christian,” but they do not recognize Jesus as fully God, which is a requirement to be among the true Christian churches. We, as humans (created beings), can only be saved by one greater than us—greater than a created being. Our sin is against a sinless, eternal, uncreated God (see the book [Eden to Evil](#) @ Target Truth Ministries.com). To pay for that sin, we need a Savior who is equal to God—sinless, eternal, and uncreated. Our works are as filthy rags (**Isa. 64:6**). No angel can save me—No created being can save me—only the Creator Himself—Jesus (**Col. 1:16-17, 19**). God tells us that He alone is our Savior, and there is none other than Himself, which means that if Jesus is Savior, He must be the one and only true God—uncreated (**Isa. 43:3, 11, 45:15, 21; Luke 1:47; John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:3, 4:10; Titus 1:3**).

Just as the early churches had to guard against false churches (those who do not worship Jesus as fully God, uncreated and eternal, and the Bible as the word of authority), so also today, we have many “so-called” Christian churches who do not worship Jesus Christ as being fully God (the uncreated, eternal God—the Trinity). These include the Mormon Church, Jehovah’s Witness, Seven Day Adventists, and Islam, etc. We, today, have the Bible to guide our understanding, but some of these churches have changed the wording in the historic Bible, and created their own version of the “Bible,” and even use a different book. Unfortunately, these faiths have set much of the Bible aside because it does not support their traditions. They all claim to revere the Bible, but because of their belief in traditions, they now regard some of the Bible as having been mistranslated. **Mormons** prefer the “*Book of Mormon*,” and **Jehovah’s Witness** have changed the wording of the Bible and use what is called “*The New World Translation*,” and **Islam** uses the “*Koran*,” and **Seven Day Adventists** use the prophetess Ellen White’s book “*The Great Controversy*.” All say they revere the Bible, but augment it. Other than Islam (which is not Christian...formed around the year 700), these so called “Christian” churches are nice people, doing nice things, but they have no evidence for their beliefs in the next life...they are unbiblical. They are **unbiblical** and have **no evidence** for their beliefs concerning the next life.

Therefore, if a person joins a false church, and continues to ignore the historic Bible, Christ Himself said *they condemn themselves* (**Matt. 7:21-23**). Peoples and churches who deny Christ as being fully God (the uncreated, eternal, sinless God), and change His Word, are what John, in the Bible, called antichrist (**1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3; 2 John 7**). Jesus Himself tells us in which church one should worship (**John 4:20-26**). In **Ephesians 2:8-9**, we read that any church which requires certain things to be performed or done, in order to be saved, is not in agreement with God. No works, sacraments, or special ceremonies, can save anyone--only the sacrifice of Jesus, and His gift of grace saves anyone (**John 14:6; Ephesians 2:4-9**).

All authority, both on earth, and in heaven belong to Jesus (**Matt. 28:18; John 5:25-27**). Any church, regardless of its name or size, that worships Jesus as fully God (the eternal, uncreated God), and uses the Bible (God’s Word), as its authority, is a legitimate Christian church, called throughout history the universal church of Christ. This is what “Catholic” means – “universal.” The universal church (“catholic”), is any church which worships Jesus Christ as fully God, and uses the Holy Bible (the eyewitness accounts), as its source of authority. Nothing has changed since the first 700 bishops (all from different churches), met 300 years after Christ had risen from the dead, except that some men have tried to set themselves up as the central authority. In the Bible, in the book of Revelation written by John, there are the references to the seven churches in Turkey. These represent seven various types of churches. None of them are Roman Catholic, or Methodist, or Baptist, etc. They all claim Jesus as fully God, and His Word as the authority. But... Christ only holds up two of the seven as being a path to heaven (**Rev. 1-3**). The other five fall short...leading to hell. The reason these five fall short, is due to them adding man’s ways (additional works), into God’s Word, the Bible.

Let’s discuss a parable Jesus gave concerning the mustard seed which grows into a giant tree (**Matt. 13:31-32**). Many commentators say that this is a picture of the church that Jesus established becoming a great church and bringing the world into a personal relationship with Jesus. However, Jesus is telling us yet another parable following the same theme, that the world, toward the end-times, will keep going farther and farther away from Christ, not closer (the falling away is known as the apostasy—**2 Thess. 2:1-3**). **Matthew 13:31-32**, in the King James reads “*least*,” while most other translations read “*smallest*.” The Greek here is best translated as “least,”

meaning “low in status.” The mustard plant is a very common, ordinary plant, having no status like the rose or tulip. The disciples of Jesus were very low in status, when compared to the priests of Israel. “Smallest” is a definition of size. While small can be used, other places where this Greek word is used usually are translated as “least,” which correctly defines the status of the disciples compared to the religious leaders of that day. Both the priests of Israel, as well as priests of other religions, maintained a very high social status.

God is telling us that the least of these (the disciples who convey the true Word of God from Jesus), will grow into a mighty plant (the church Jesus established). Further...Jesus tells us this church will continue to grow into a tree—a huge religious tree (the perverted religion -- the apostasy – the end of time), where God’s Word will be corrupted, modified, changed, and compromised. This religious teaching will become a mutant tree out of control in the end times (**2 Tim. 3:1-5, 4:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:3; Rev. 3:15-17**). This mutant tree (the religion of the end-times), no longer represents God’s true Word (see book **Revelation, Apostasy, End-Times, & This Generation** @ Target Truth Ministries.com). In fact, the people in some “Christian” churches will rebel against God’s Word, and replace it (the Bible), with their own beliefs (other books). Instead of the seed developing into the great plant it was intended to be, a mutation (or terrible change) has occurred, and it becomes so large that even the birds nest in it. This tree (the perverted church), becomes the home for the birds. Who are these birds? The birds in God’s Word represent evil, and this mutant tree now invites evil to nest in it (**Matt. 13:31-32; Gen. 15:11; Rev. 18:1-2**). In other words, God’s Word will be replaced by newer religions which have become a “religious” monster (Mormons, Jehovah’s Witness, Seven Day Adventists, Islam...etc.).

Even churches which have kept the Bible as the authority are now falling away...such as the **Catholic Church**. The Pope of the Catholic Church, “called Christian,” in an effort to bring Islam and the Catholic Church together, has declared that Islam and Christianity now share the “God of Abraham.” The Pope also declared that same sex unions are now sin free (Lev. 18 – love the person...not the sin). It’s the politically correct position--trying to be relevant to the modern age. In **Genesis 12**, of course, Abraham was called out of his father’s religion in Ur, which was the worship of the moon god, Allah, as the main god of the tribes in Abraham’s day (Abraham left to follow the God of the Bible). You can’t have it both ways. Many Catholics will be in heaven, but this is because they put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, and not because they put their faith in the leaders, and rituals, and the new direction of the church leadership. Request **“TRUTH MATRIX”** @ TargetTruthMinistries.com.

The **Mormon Church** (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), think of themselves as Christians, but augment the Bible... using what is called “The Book of Mormon” – a sacred text translated by Joseph Smith, and this translation has been lost. Their leaders proclaim that Jesus is not fully God...that He is the first creation of God, and the brother of Satan. They say Jesus is not fully God, but only just “a” god, one of many, and furthermore, we can each be a god also. Mormons proclaim “*As God was once a man, so man can become God.*” Where is their evidence ? Just as with Islam, both Mohammed and Joseph Smith received their vision from an angel (**Gal. 1:8-9**). However, **John 10:30** says that God the Father, and Jesus, are one and the same. For those who put their faith and trust in Jesus, they will be in heaven with Christ (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**). God’s Word tells us there is only one God and Savior (**Isa. 43:3, 11; 45:5-7, 15, 21-22**), meaning we are created beings--not gods, and God is uncreated...not a man.

**Jehovah’s Witnesses**, believe themselves to be Christian, but augment the Bible...using what is called “A New World Translation,” and their leaders proclaim that Jesus was not fully God Almighty, but a creation of God, perhaps Michael the Archangel, and that Jesus and Satan are both created beings, similar to the Mormon religion. Supposedly Jesus indwells the Watchtower Societies leaders today. Following are Jehovah’s Witness rules about holidays, other religions, and traditions...Jehovah’s Witnesses are not allowed to:

- Celebrate or take part in any so-called “false religious holidays”, such as Christmas and Easter.
- Participate in any interfaith activities, such as social events or fundraisers sponsored by another church.

- Share any teaching or belief that is contrary to what Jehovah’s Witnesses are taught.
- Be in any employment that “makes one an accomplice, or a promoter” of any other church or religion.
- Attend other church services or worship, or sing any other religious songs.
- Wear or own a cross.
- Take part in communion unless you have been confirmed as one of the elite 144,000.

Where is their evidence ? **John 10:30** says different. For those who put their faith and trust in Jesus, they will be in heaven with Christ (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**). There is only one God and one Savior (**Isa. 43:3, 11; 45:5-7, 15, 21-22**). See chapter on “**Trinity**” in book “**God’s Plan / Satan’s Plan**” @ Target Truth Ministries.com.

The **7-Day Adventist church** (as a result of the Millerite movement 1843-1844), state Jesus returned around 1843-44 (see 2068 Study @ TargetTruthMinistries.com). They state, like Jehovah’s Witnesses, that Jesus is Michael the Archangel, and that their beliefs are not based totally upon the Bible, but instead rely some upon their leader Ellen White’s teachings such as “*The Great Controversy*” which teaches that Jesus is able to fulfill only one of the two sacrifices of the old Jewish Temple where two goats are needed to cover, and also take away our sins. Jesus fulfilled the blood sacrifice (one goat is killed and blood placed upon the alter), but the other goat (which is sent into the wilderness to take away our sins), they say is accomplished by our own works in this wilderness of life...so that we must each earn our own salvation – evidence ? But...**John 14:6**.

The **Unification church** is perceived by some to be Christian, but Reverend Moon claims that he is actually Jesus who has returned, and that we are all gods already, and that we just need to discover ourselves. Any evidence ? We read in **Acts 1:1-11** and **Revelation 1:7** however, that Jesus will come back in a certain way, and Reverend Moon didn’t... and isn’t.

The **Christian Science** religion believes that they are Christian, but their leaders claim that Jesus is only a divine idea, not real – evidence ?. The Bible, however, records the eyewitness testimonies of Jesus life and death, and His power over life and death (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**). History and science (archeology), prove Jesus is real.

**New Age believers**, some of which claim to be “Christian,” believe there are many paths to heaven, and Jesus is only one way, and that we are all divine by nature, eternally part of god, never to be separated. What is their evidence ? However, Jesus said He is the only way (**John 14:6; Acts 4:12**), and He will judge many to eternal separation—which is hell (**Matt. 7:21-23**).

I am going to use the **three crosses** (which Jesus and these two criminals were executed on), to describe what “faith” is. Three crosses, representing three “T’s.” **The first “T” is “Truth.”** What is truth? Why Jesus? Why not Buddha, or Vishnu, or Muhammad? What did Jesus do that proves that He alone has power over death? Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus raised others from death, and then raised Himself from death (He lives today in His supernatural body, as well as all those resurrected at the time of His death - **Matt. 27:50-53**). No one else has ever shown power over death like Jesus. Jesus didn’t just appear to His disciples and then go into His kingdom. No. Jesus spent weeks here on Earth, visiting with hundreds of people on many different occasions, (over 500 on one occasion), to prove to doubting people that He truly is God, and that He has the power over death. Get a clue—this is for real! **1 Corinthians 15:1-8** and **Acts 1:1-8**, give an overview (a summary), of how Jesus stuck around and visited people. The New Testament are the books written by the eyewitnesses of Jesus’ resurrection.

**Truth** can be determined in a court of law in three ways. Any one of these ways is enough to convict someone. The three ways to convict a person with truth are *circumstantial evidence*, *physical evidence*, or *eyewitness evidence*. For examples...for circumstantial evidence...the disciples of Jesus were afraid of dying and hiding out when Jesus was arrested. But, after Jesus rose from death and appeared to them, then they were **all** willing to die (**Luke 24**). An example of physical evidence is the empty tomb (by the way...it is still empty, and the Roman army spent months trying to find a body). Then there is the eyewitness evidence mentioned already

where over 500 witnessed Jesus alive over several weeks. This is the first “T” (Truth), Jesus alone has the power over death. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, that He is the ONLY way to God’s kingdom.

The second “T” is “Trust.” Imagine, if you will, that Christ is like a chair—a perfect, everlasting chair. As you stand on your own (as many of us try to do), sooner or later, you will weaken and collapse to the floor (**1Corin 10:12**). This chair (Christ), allows you to rest. But, in order to use the chair, you have to **believe** that it will hold you up from falling. You must **trust** the chair will keep you from hitting the floor. Then, you must sit in it, rest in it, **trust** in it. Many people know *about* the chair. Even Satan knows *about* the chair. But Satan, and many others, will not trust in the chair. They want to stand on their own. They don’t want Christ. They think they don’t need Christ. There is peace of mind and rest in Jesus, but one must trust in Jesus, accept the gift of rest, and quit standing alone. Some see the chair as weakness, and they continue to stand for a long time. Some collapse, and die trying to avoid the chair. Some, early in life, recognize how great the chair is, and don’t hesitate to sit down and relax, and **Trust**.

Have you ever sat in a chair that breaks, or collapses, or folds up all of the sudden, or causes you to flip backwards as you lean back? There are many imitation chairs (false religions).

So, now we know the *Truth*, that Jesus is truly God, and has the power over death and life. And now we also know that God desires a relationship—for us to *Trust*, and rest, in Him. Now we can tell whether we are truly saved, because the third “T” in our description of “faith,” will give us a hint as to whether we *really* desire to be with God or not.

The third “T” is “Time.” As I’ve shared with many of you, I’m sure there is someone you would like to be with right now, or at the very least, be able to talk to on the phone right now—spend **TIME** with. And, it is the same with our relationship with God. If you truly love someone, you’ll want to spend time with them. If you truly have a relationship with God, you’ll want to spend time with God, read His letters (the Bible), talk with God (prayer), and look forward to being with God one day (in His kingdom). Doing these things doesn’t save anyone. Reading the Bible, praying, and going to church are ways of spending **Time** with God *after* a person has been saved, *after* a person discovers they desire to be with God.

In **Ephesians 1:4-5, 11**, God tells us that He knew each of us *before* this world came into existence! The book “Eden to Evil” (Target Truth Ministries.com), describes in detail the two creation accounts, and points out how Adam and Eve are the examples of how each of us has fallen—disobeyed God in **Eden**. We enter this life (the **7 day** creation), in order to reconcile with God...or not. Jesus tells us in **John 5:28-29** that everyone will be resurrected to an eternal life. The question is, where will I end up in the next life? And, what must I do, if anything, to get to Paradise...and not Hell?

Many people struggle with the concept of Jesus, a flesh human being, also being fully God. The Trinity (God the Father, God the Son - Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit), is revealed in Scripture, and is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Unless one accepts the triune nature of God, one cannot be truly called a Christian. This is because the Bible states the triune nature of God, and true Christians accept the truth of the Bible. If you don’t accept the triune nature of God, then you are not a Christian, but something else. There is no such thing as a semi-Christian. Many people believe in God, but do not believe in the Bible, God’s Word. All Catholic (and most Protestant churches), believe in the triune nature of God, as presented in the Bible. Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Islam, Christian Science, Seven Day Adventists, and others (who supposedly base their faith upon the Bible), do not accept Jesus as the fully uncreated, eternal God, or the Trinity – the only source of salvation - as described in the Bible. They use other books (or change the Bible) instead of using the original Bible.

I believe this confusion can be cleared up, and that Islam, and Mormons, Seven Day Adventists, and Jehovah’s Witnesses will be able to agree with Christians when they consider the misunderstanding of the statement that *“Jesus is God.”* The Christian position is that Jesus *is* “fully” God (Col. 1:19), as well as a flesh human being (specially created for this age), and yet, because of the limitations of this flesh body, Jesus is *not God “fully”* (**Matt. 24:34-36**—Jesus is limited). In other words, the body of Jesus is indwelt “fully” by God, but being in a body, that Spirit of God is limited, and not able to be God (fully). Let’s look at Scripture to further understand.

God does describe Himself as One, and only One, true God (Isa. 45:5, 12, 18-21, 46:9-10; 1 Corin. 8:4). Also, God describes Himself as the One and only Savior (Isa. 43:3,11, 45:15,21, 49:26, 60:16; Hos. 13:4). But, in the Old Testament (Gen. 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; Deut. 4:35, 6:4; Isa. 6:8), and in the New Testament (Matt. 3:16-17; John 1:1, 14; 2 Corin. 13:14; Rev. 1:8, 21:3-7), God's Word points out the plural nature of God. "Lord" in the Greek is "*Kurios*," which is the word for "Jehovah" (God). In the New Testament, Jesus is said to be the Savior, or God Himself (Luke 1:47, 2:11; John 4:42; 1 Tim. 4:10, 2 Tim. 1:10; Titus 1:4, 2:10, 13, 3:6; 2 Pet. 1:1, 11, 3:18; 1 John 4:14). We read in Hebrews 1:1-13, that this world, and this age, were created by Jesus (Col. 1:16-17), and that even the angels worship Jesus. In Psalm 45:7; Hebrews 1:9; and John 10:30, we read that God the Father, and God the Son, are the same. The same Hebrew (*Eloheim* – Deity - plural) and Greek (*Theos* - Deity), words are used in both the Old and New Testaments to define the totality of God. However, the statement that "*Jesus is God*," is not complete, and is an oversimplification.

The statement for Christians is that Jesus is God *in the flesh*. This statement makes it clear that Jesus "is fully God," but is limited in a body, and therefore "not God fully." **Fully God, but not God Fully.**

God's Word tells us that God came from His kingdom to earth (Philip. 2:5-8; John 1:1-18, 6:33, 38; Heb. 2:9; Col. 2:8-10; Matt. 1:23).

Jesus is said by the Bible to be the Creator (John 1:3, 17:5-9; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2, 10).

There are numerous testimonies in the Bible where others saw that Jesus was fully God (Psalm 45:7; Isa. 44:6; Matt. 1:23, 11:27, 22:41-46; Luke 4:12; John 5:17-24, 12:44-45, 14:6-11, 20:28; Heb. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:13-17).

In God's Word, we find out who raised Jesus from the grave. In Galatians 1:1, we read that God, the Father, raised Jesus from the dead. In Romans 8:11, we read that God, the Holy Spirit, raised Jesus from the dead. In John 2:19, 10:17-18, we read that Jesus raised Himself from the dead. Why this seeming contradiction? Because God did it, and God is One, in three persons (the triune nature of the one true God).

How can God be present everywhere (omnipresent), and be confined in a body at the same time? Let's try an example we can all relate to. Let's think of God the Father as the vast ocean. The ocean is present all over--*God fully*. In fact, in Noah's time, the ocean was literally present all over. Now grab a Coke bottle. When you fill a bottle with ocean water, the bottle contains 100 % ocean water (the body of Jesus--specially formed in Mary's womb-- contains 100 % of God's Spirit--*fully God*). Yet, the ocean of Spirit is still all over the world--all over the universe-- just as the ocean of water is still all over the world. God is one vast Spirit (the Spirit of God, indwelling a body, and, *at the same time* -- all over the world--*God fully*). One God -- one Spirit. The mind (brain) of Jesus, being physically human, could not know everything, and be everywhere (Matt. 24:34-36). However, the Spirit of God within Jesus does know everything, but deliberately withheld certain information from the physical mind of Jesus. God limited Himself in glory, but this does not limit His Godly attributes. Jesus sacrifice (as a flesh being on the cross), was because He loves us. God requires a blood (life), sacrifice to pay for our sins (Lev. 17:11). In order to receive the inheritance of God's Kingdom, we must be part of the family...be "**born again**"- John 3:1-7. So, God indwelt a flesh body to save us. The Son of God is both a "title" of God, as well as a reference to Jesus' "position" (bodily--not spiritually--*limited* in function, when compared to God as pure Spirit (Father)).

When we become "born again" John 3:1-7, God's Holy Spirit enters our life, and in this example of the vast ocean representing God...we receive **one drop** of ocean when we are "born again." We receive our eternal spirit--our own personal eternal quality, with that one drop of God's Holy Spirit.

- God is Spirit (John 4:24; Luke 24:39)--everywhere all the time.
- God, the Holy Spirit, is Spirit--indwelling us as believers...if we trust in Jesus (John 3:1-7).
- God, the Son, is also this same Spirit--and, 2000 years ago God voluntarily took on a body which was uniquely created (for God the Spirit to dwell in -- John 3:16-18, Luke 1:35), in order to provide for our inheritance, our salvation (for those who love and trust in Him). The price to pay for our sin against a perfect, sinless, eternal, uncreated God, requires a sinless, perfect, eternal uncreated being to die in our

place. God, the Spirit, is uncreated, eternal, sinless, and perfect—and being eternal, cannot die. Jesus is that Spirit of God indwelling a uniquely created body for the purpose of dying for us to provide our inheritance of God's Kingdom.

- God is one. God claims that He alone is God, and there is *none* before Him, and *none* after Him (**Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6-8, 45:21-22, 47:9-10; Mark 12:28-30; 1 Corin. 8:4**). God is one being (uncreated, eternal, perfect, and sinless), who reveals Himself to us in three roles, or persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). One God -- *none* before -- *none* after. The Hebrew word “one” is “*echad*” and it actually means one “united”, or one “alike” or one “together” or one “altogether.” This word “*echad*” for “one God” is also used in **Ex. 24:3** when the people all answered in “one voice,” and also in **Numb. 12:23**, when they cut down a branch with “one *cluster*” of grapes.

As the Nicene Creed basically states (the agreed upon understanding of the Christian churches): there is one God, revealed to us in three roles, or persons – *fully God*, and fully human. Three hundred and three bishops voted on this understanding, and only three disagreed – believing that Jesus is a different person -- a created god (a different god from God the Father—the view shared by Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, Seven Day Adventists, etc.). Christians understand that Jesus is *fully God* (**Col. 1:19**), eternal, uncreated, sinless, and perfect. Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, Islam, Seven Day Adventists, and a few others, believe that Jesus is not the uncreated eternal God -- rather, that Jesus was “born,” or created as a being with God-like divine abilities (a super angel – a created being – a super man).

The problem for people understanding just who Jesus is, is that if Jesus is not the fully eternal *uncreated* God, but only a created divine being (a super angel, or super man), then Jesus cannot fulfill the requirement to pay for our sins by His death. The *only* acceptable payment to cover our sins against our eternal *uncreated* perfect sinless God, must come from a perfect, sinless, eternal, fully *uncreated* God. We cannot inherit the Kingdom of God until God (Jesus – God in the flesh), dies. Other faiths require our personal payments of some kind. Christians recognize Jesus as fully God, the fully perfect, sinless, uncreated, eternal God--not just a created super person, or angel. Jesus is the Spirit of God dwelling in a specially created body, for the purpose of providing a path to salvation. Jesus, therefore, is fully God (Spirit), uncreated (Spirit), eternal (Spirit), sinless and perfect...therefore the only source of true salvation...no works by us will accomplish this.

Why Jesus? Why not Buddha, or Vishnu, or Muhammad, or the Mormon belief in becoming a god like Jesus ourselves...or, the myriad of others? What did Jesus do that proves that He alone has power over life and death? Jesus rose from the dead! Jesus raised others from death, and then raised Himself from death. He rose in His supernatural body, and raised others also at the time of His resurrection - **Matt. 27:50-53**. No one else has ever shown power over death like Jesus. Jesus didn't just appear to His disciples and then go into His kingdom. No. Jesus spent weeks here on Earth, visiting with hundreds of people (over 500 people on one occasion), to prove to doubting people that He truly is God, and that He has the power over death. Get a clue—this is for real! (**1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Acts 1:1-8**).

Being in the jail all the time, I know what is needed to convict someone. Evidence! Truth can be determined in a court of law in any one of three ways. **Any one of these** ways is enough to convict someone in a court of law. The three ways to convict a person with truth are circumstantial evidence, physical evidence, or eyewitness evidence. For example, as **circumstantial evidence**...the twelve disciples of Jesus were afraid of dying and they were hiding out when Jesus was arrested. But, after Jesus rose from death and appeared to them, then they were willing to die (**Luke 24**)...and they all did die—willingly for Jesus. They knew the truth. An example of **physical evidence** is the empty tomb (by the way...it is still empty, and the Roman army spent months trying to find a body). Then there is the **eyewitness evidence** (**1 Corinthians 15:1-8**), where hundreds witnessed Jesus alive over several weeks after His death on the cross. When Paul wrote these Corinthian letters, most of these hundreds of witnesses were still alive to vouch for the truth of these events. Jesus gave us all three forms of evidence to convict! This is the Truth...Jesus alone has the power over life and death. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, that He is the **ONLY** way to God's kingdom.

If a person is rational and thoughtful and searches for truth, they will ultimately find evidence for God's existence. Real evidence...not just traditions of society, or teachings from some government school, or theories

or speculations. Now, even if someone knows the truth, that person still must submit and obey God—love the Creator, worship Him, or...remain separated from God forever. Many people never even explore or search for God. Most people blindly accept popular notions of evolution, or life coming from aliens from another planet, and reject the thought that there may actually be a God that created all things (**Prov. 15:14**). Truth is, all of us did exactly as Adam and Eve...we all chose another way in **Eden** (**Gen. 3**). Adam and Eve are the two God chose to begin the reconciliation in the 7 day creation we are now in. God created us, and knew us all already at the time the creation of this earth was finished - Eden (**Gen. 2:1; Eph. 1:4-5, 11**). We are all sinners - “because all sinned” – past tense (**Rom. 5:12**). We are all part of the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> who listened to Satan and have fallen (**John 8:31-47; Rev. 12:1-4** see the book **Eden to Evil** @ Target Truth Ministries.com). We are now born into this world to have the chance at reconciliation back to God.

Many people when asked the question—*Do you think there is a God?*—respond...I don’t know. Of course we don’t know. We have fallen from God and Eden--paradise. We are sinners. This is only a problem when we don’t make an effort to find the truth! We, just like the Egyptians, the Romans, and many others throughout history, have accepted the power in charge, or the government’s education “theory” of life - evolution (see the book **Science, Origins, & Ancient Civilizations** @ Target Truth Ministries.com). Shame on us!

How about you? Do you think there is a God? What evidence do you have for your conclusions? Even the Buddhist and Hindu, and Mormon faiths, which do not believe in any supreme God, should rely upon some evidence. But, they provide none. They rely upon philosophies and traditions--we’ve always done it this way. The irony is that many, many people do, in fact, deny evidence. Many people follow societies’ traditions, follow government’s education systems, or follow the latest trendy path or philosophy. Many people willingly ignore historical evidence. The only real true evidence we have tells us that there actually is a God--the God of the Bible. Furthermore, the **evidence** is not just circumstantial, physical, and eyewitness. It also **includes prophecies**--very detailed prophecies--being fulfilled (see book **God’s Plan / Satan’s Plan** at *Target Truth Ministries.com*).

**Daniel 9:25** - For us a Decade means 10 years. For the Jewish people a Week in prophecy means 7 years. A year for each day in prophecy (7 days = 7 years). Daniel gives a prophecy of the restoral of Jerusalem (which had been destroyed), and the eventual arrival of the Messiah--the Savior. **Daniel 9:25** gives this prophecy of the 62 weeks and the 7 weeks that will have to pass before these things happen. **Neh. 2:1-8** records of the decree of Artaxerxes, which occurred on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 445 B.C. for Israel to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. From that decree we must go forward 69 weeks of years, or 483 years (69x7=483). Remember what Jesus said in **Luke 16:31**--“*Listen to Moses and the prophets.*”

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 32 A.D., Jesus was recognized as the Messiah by the people on Passover as He rode into Jerusalem on a Donkey **exactly** 69 weeks of years later, after the decree to rebuild the city! 173,880 days later, **exactly**! And, as Jesus rode in on the donkey (another prophecy fulfilled – **Zech. 9:9; 2 Sam. 16:2**), He remarked as recorded in **Luke 19:28**...“*You did not recognize the time of your visitation*” -- meaning that most of the nation of Israel and its leaders did not recognize the fulfillment of this prophecy.

**Ezekiel 4:1-8** - Because of Israel’s sin, this was the prophecy of Israel’s fall...its siege, but also of its’ eventual restoral as a nation again. The prophecy calls for 390 days (years), and 40 days (years) of suffering for the Jewish people. Suffering without a homeland, without having a nation to call their own. 430 years total. Beginning in 605 B.C., Israel was conquered by Babylon and was under Babylon’s control for 70 years until the Romans conquered Babylon. Israel during this time failed to submit to God. Moses wrote in the Torah in **Lev. 26:16-18**, (the first 5 books of the Bible), that if Israel failed to submit to God, that their punishment would now be 7 times as much. Israel failed to submit to God while under Babylon’s control. Now, under Roman control, there still remained 360 years of punishment, and this period was now multiplied times 7. This means that Israel now faced 2,520 more years of being in exile and without a country of their own. 907,200 days of suffering under another power. Remember what Jesus said in **Luke 16:31**--“*Listen to Moses and the prophets.*”

The Persian Cylinder of Cyrus, which is held in the London Museum, records the sieges of Israel and Jerusalem. From the 1<sup>st</sup> siege of Israel (**2 Kings 24:1ff**), to the establishment of Israel as a nation again on May 14, 1948, this **exactly** fulfilled the 70 years, plus the 907,200 days--**exactly** to the very day! This prophecy was

**exactly** fulfilled to the very day! Fulfilled during my lifetime! I was born in 1946, and Israel became a country again in 1948—after over 2,500 years! There are many more prophecies made in the Bible which have come true...and perhaps some for our future too! (perhaps **2068 – The End**...see Study “**Mystery Babylon America the 7<sup>th</sup>**”, and book **God’s Plan / Satan’s Plan** @ Target Truth Ministries.com).

If people don’t know the truth, they will accept whatever tradition they are taught. Evolution, aliens from space, abortion, designer babies, gay marriage, time portals to another dimension—whatever is popular at the time.

However, God’s Word--the Bible itself states, people are “*willingly ignorant*” (**2 Pet. 3:5 KJV**). The evidence is overwhelming. Are we relying upon evidence, or are we willingly ignorant...following the philosophies and traditions of mankind? Do you believe there is a God? Are you “born again” as Jesus requires (**John 3:1-7**), or are you destined for death and separation forever from God? We must share actual evidence with our families...our friends...our neighbors...anyone who will listen. Truth is...there is only one way (**John 14:6**). We all start learning at an early age. Babies and little children put all kinds of stuff in their mouths. Children can’t reach the sink when they are little, and every young child I know tries to put their hand in the toilet. And, unless an adult says NO...It’s dirty...children won’t know. We need to be taught. This would seem a no brainer. But, are we teaching the truth today? **Prov. 15:14**—the fool drinks in folly. **Of the first 108 Universities in America, 106 were Christian. Where are we today?** Only a few claim Jesus.

**In 1956**, I was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. No TV for my family then. The family talked around the dinner table. Children learned from parents, and the school system allowed the Bible, some schools even had a class on the Bible, while other schools kept the Bible out.. And, we pledged allegiance to the flag with the words “One nation under **God**.” Now...my family never opened a Bible. But, the Christian influence was everywhere. Our nation after WWII claimed to be 80% Christian.

**In 1957**, I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We got TV. Back then it was 2 channels that were on 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. This brought more information into the discussions, but we were still “One nation under **God**” even for families like mine who never opened a Bible.

**In 1962**, I was a junior in high school. The Bible was nowhere to be found in the public school anymore, and prayer was banned in public education by the Supreme Court. It didn’t affect me because I was a student of science and math. Plus, my family never opened a Bible anyway.

**In 1969**, I was 23 years old, came back from Vietnam, and got a job with AT&T. I worked my first 2 years on the Telegraph board in San Francisco—yes, the financial district and stock exchange all used the Telegraph then. We had 12 channels on TV, a couple were even 18 hours a day. Family discussions and teachings were shrinking—more time with the TV now. The Bible had been long removed from schools, and eventually God was stricken from the pledge “**One nation...indivisible**..” I never opened a Bible - even after Vietnam. I was now educated in microwave electronics – science and math dominated my learning. In 1969, Christianity was shrinking – about 60% of Americans then, as science and technology began to dominate education and society.

**Fast forward 50 plus years to today**. Saturation TV 24/7. Internet to anything and everything. Many today even have their face in a phone while driving their car. A technology overload...and families today separate more than ever. Those who claim to be Christian are only 18% in California as of 2020. In fact, **63% of people in America today claim no religion whatsoever**. Today there are so many rules and laws and codes to follow, that people have disconnected. Moses brought down the 613 laws from God which included the 10 commandments, the Temple practices, and the 7 Feast of Israel. Today, if you’re a contractor, there are 613 government laws on just how to install a toilet! And, people without guidance will indeed begin drinking out of the toilet...it’s real easy to reach when your uninformed.

We have come a long way in just my short lifetime from when America claimed to be 80% Christian. We have today become what Peter described as being “*willingly ignorant*” of God (**2 Peter 3:5 KJV**), and America has led the way—replacing the truth of the Bible with the easy to reach toilet. Who will say NO?! Who will point to the truth? Hopefully, the few Christians who are left today will stand up and say “*No*” to those who are drinking from the toilet. If we love our neighbor, we must point them to the truth (**John 14:6**), and the need to

develop a personal relationship with our Savior Jesus (**John 3:1-7**)...or they will perish. Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18-20**, “Go into all the world...” This won’t be easy. The disciples of Jesus all died doing so. But, if we love our neighbor, we must say “No” to the **toilet**, and point them to the **Truth!** And, the Bible is the cornerstone of that **Truth**...not “other ways.”

**One last thought.** All nations throughout **all** time from the very beginning of world history have used the week – the 7 day week. Where did this “**WEEK**” come from?

One could argue that humans figured out **how to define a year** – the period of time it takes for the 12 constellations to arrive at the same point above us again...which takes a full year. However, historians, like Josephus, state that the common source for the Zodiac is God’s word given to Adam and Eve and passed down through the generations of Noah to the 70 nations. In the Arabic tradition, these signs in the heavens are said to have come from Seth and Enoch, again going back to the very beginning of creation. Genesis 1:14-18 says God gave us the stars for signs, as well as for seasons.

As to the Zodiac and the number **12**, in all the ancient nations, the *same* twelve constellations, in the *same* order, with the *same* pictures, are referenced as far back in antiquity as we can go. In **Revelation 12:1-4**, the 12 stars are pictured at the very beginning of time by God on the "woman." Revelation chapter 12 is not a continuation of chapter 11. Revelation chapter 12 is a new subject. Here in Revelation 12:1-4, this chapter begins with the creation of the host of heaven...and **the fall of the 1/3rd of the host (see Zodiac Study @ Target Truth Ministries.com)**. Many traditions today see the "woman" as Israel, and the 12 stars representing the 12 tribes. *However*, because the context is the creation, the "woman" actually represents the Bride of Christ - representing the complete number (12) of the host of heaven, *of which 1/3rd fell* (see book **Eden to Evil** at Target Truth Ministries.com). The great empires had 12 gods. Greece, and then Rome, celebrated 12 main gods, in addition to Israel having 12 tribes - and of course 12 divisions of the year relating to the Zodiac. God is the common source of all these numbers.

When one looks at the Zodiac, one may question where to start this story in the heavens, because all the constellations are in a circle. By going to the oldest Zodiacs, one of which is found in the Egyptian Temple of Esneh (4,000 or more years old), the Sphinx pictured there points out where to start. The Sphinx *head* is toward *Virgo*, the virgin, and the *tail* toward *Leo*, the lion – again pointing to Jesus the Lion born of a virgin (**Rev. 5:5**).

The **period of a day** is of course the period of time it takes for the sun to appear at the same place again...a day, about 24 hours. God gave this in Gen. 1:5, but one could argue that humans could have figured this out without God.

The **period of a month** is the period of time it takes for the moon to circle the earth, which is a month...about 30 days. God gave this in Gen. 1:14-18, but one could argue that humans could have figured this out without God.

But, where did a “**WEEK**” come from? All nations throughout **all** time from the very beginning of world history have used the week – the 7 day week. The **ONLY** source is the Bible...God’s word (Gen. 1:1-2:3) - there is no other reason for all the world to have adopted the 7 day week other than God’s word given to Adam and Eve, and passed on to all the nations through Noah. And, yet, today, many ignore the Bible, ignore the creation, and ignore God – ignore the source of life and time. **The end of time is coming**, and I believe this too is related to the Zodiac and God’s laws given to Moses concerning the 7 feasts of Israel, which they celebrate every year (see **2068** study, and **Feasts of Israel study**, and **Mystery Babylon America the 7<sup>th</sup>** study @ Target Truth Ministries.com). A **new day** is about to dawn. The inheritance of the Kingdom of God (Paradise / Eden), awaits all those “born again” (**John 3:1-7**), because Jesus, God the Son, died to provide that inheritance to His family...**wake up !!!**

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