

JESUS IS ALL I NEED SERIES

JESUS: I AM THE WAY

MORMONISM IS THE WRONG WAY TO GOD

JOHN 14:6

Our real enemy this morning is not Osama Bin-Laden who fills our newspapers, television, and radio, no the real enemy is old-Devil bin-Lucifer. He was the 1st terrorist when long ago in Heaven he threatened to hijack God's place. Old Devil Bin-Lucifer proceeded to hijack planet Earth, and slipping into the cockpit controls he is proceeding to slam the planet into a downward crash spiral.

But before the Earth crashes and burns the Builder and Designer of this hijacked planet Jesus Christ has Himself gotten onboard, overpowered and defeated the hijacker (Old-Devil Bin-Lucifer) and all his cohorts (the demon fallen angels) and now stands at a special escape doorway. Calling out to everyone onboard Jesus Christ offers endless safety, complete freedom, and total deliverance to any who will come through His door.

Please stand with me as I read our text in John 14:1-6.

Jesus Christ: The Only WAY

And that is where we turn this morning in John 14, as we come to perhaps the most crucial of all Christ's declarations. Jesus is absolutely affirming the exclusiveness of salvation. Jesus says He ALONE is the Way, the Truth, and the LIFE! When Jesus said I AM THE WAY, TRUTH & LIFE (14:6) - Jesus told us He is all I need to ENTER god's way OF SALVATION, but apart from Him is only endless lost ness.

- Jesus said I am the way, I have settled the issue of your eternal home.
- I am making it, your very own room, and the minute that it is ready I am coming to get you!
- *Believers are* TRUSTING THE WAY OF JESUS, BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF JESUS, AND LIVING THE LIFE OF JESUS.

This is the sixth "I AM" statement of Jesus in John (see 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9; 10:11, 14; 11:25). In response to Thomas' query (v. 4), Jesus declared that He is the way to God because He is the truth of God (1:14) and the life of God (1:4; 3:15; 11:25). In this verse, the exclusiveness of Jesus as the only approach to the Father is emphatic. Only one way, not many ways, exist to God, i.e., Jesus Christ (10:7-9; cf. Matt. 7:13, 14; Luke 13:24; Acts 4:12).¹

¹John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

To do that, John said to test for two things: confession of the divine Lord (1 John 4:2–3) and commitment to the divine Word (vv. 4–6). If you study the cults, you'll detect a pattern. Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, and the like attack the person of Christ and then postulate a substitute or addition to the Bible, such as *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, *The Book of Mormon*, or *The Pearl of Great Price*. True believers won't believe such lies. They have a resident truth teacher in the person of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:27). 2

This morning we are going to examine these precious words following the three-part outline that Jesus gave.

1. TRUSTING THE WAY OF JESUS, that means the RIGHT WAY OF SALVATION.
2. BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF JESUS, that means the PRESENT ETERNAL SECURITY OF SALVATION.
3. LIVING THE LIFE OF JESUS, that means the GLORIOUS POSSESSION OF ETERNAL LIFE.

So we begin this morning with the first of these truths TRUSTING THE WAY OF JESUS, which means THE RIGHT WAY OF SALVATION.

Well, not much has changed. In Jesus day there were false teachers, false gospels, and right and wrong ways. The contrast of truth and error remains, so the confusion over who Jesus Christ truly was and is remains:

- to some He was a great teacher (Eastern religions)
- to some He was one of the prophets (Islam)
- to some He was an angel brother of Satan (Mormonism)
- to some He was a lesser created God (Russellism of Jehovah's Witnesses)
- to some He was a misguided man (liberalism)
- to some He didn't finish our atonement; we have to offer Him over and over (Romanism)

The reason the major cults are cults is because they have defective doctrines of Christ. The Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, etc., say, like the Gnostics, that they believe in Christ—but *what kind of Christ?* Certainly not the Christ of the Scriptures. This is also true of virulent forms of legalism and some of the extreme forms of the "prosperity gospel" which eat away at the fringes of evangelicalism. The safeguard against this is a perpetual bowing before Christ Jesus, the *Lord*, in line with our initial awareness that we are Christ's and our sins are forgiven.³

Mormonism: Wrong Way Number One

Never mind that Mormonism⁴ has an ascending hierarchy of numerous gods who are physical men, each a former sinner, each redeemed by one of many Jesuses on different earths, and that "salvation" involves secret rituals which exalt Mormons to become gods ruling over their own earths, each with another Adam and Eve, another Satan and fall, another Jesus to die, etc. Mormons seem to be good family people with conservative values. And they talk about God, Christ, salvation, resurrection, eternal life but why pretend they mean what Christians mean?

²John MacArthur, *Saved Without A Doubt*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books) 1992.

³Hughes, R. Kent, *Preaching the Word: Colossians and Philemon—The Supremacy of Christ*, (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books) 1997.

⁴Dave Hunt, Berean Call, May 2000.

There are increasing movements in general Christianity to embrace the Mormons as fellow Christians. In fact the leaders of BYU recently spent entire day discussing theology with John MacArthur. They sat in a room and told Dr. MacArthur⁵ they believe in salvation by grace and salvation through faith and salvation in Christ. Here was his reply at the end of the day and in a gracious way.

Are Mormons Christians? NO

“I spent, recently, a full day with the two leaders of the Mormon theology, The Chairman of the Theology Department of BYU and the Associate Chairman. The two Mormon gatekeepers of theology. The Mormon Church has seven presidents that are actually like seven apostles. They make all the doctrinal decisions if it's not in the Doctrine of Covenants, the Book of Mormon. And they came to spend a day with me under the authority and commission of the seven presidents of the Mormon Church to talk theology. We sat in the room and they told me they believe in salvation by grace and salvation through faith and salvation in Christ. And they wanted to affirm the things we have in common. Now there are some people who would say, “Wow! It must a revival in the Mormon Church.” But when we got done with hours and hours of discussion, very gracious men. And very compelled, in fact, they'd been reading through, they'd read through all four volumes of my commentary on Matthew and they were going through both volumes on Romans and they'd read the Gospel According to Jesus' Faithworks, the Sufficiency of Christ. All these books I've written and they were drawn to me because they never really understood the Bible like that. And they came because they wanted to know me personally and ask questions. And they said, “We want to affirm salvation by grace alone. We want to affirm salvation by faith. We want to affirm salvation is in Christ.”

So after six hours of discussion with these men I said, “I want to ask you three questions,” at the end of the day and in a gracious way.

1. I said, “Tell me about your God.” And they gave me a God who didn't have three persons. They're Unitarian, so I said, “Well, whatever it is we want to talk about regarding grace, faith and Christ, let's just get it straight, we have a different God.”
2. And I said, “Tell me your Christology.” And they said, “Jesus is created by God. He's a high order of created beings.” I said, “Now let's make this clear, we have a different Christ. And if anybody comes and preaches a different Christ he's cursed.”
3. Then I said, “If I wanted to get to the highest heaven, what would I need to do?” They said you would need to join the Mormon Church, you would need to evidence certain obediences, and you would need to be baptized with a certain kind of spirit-endowed baptism in the system.

I said, “Then let me get this clear, we have a different God, a different Christ, and a different Gospel. Apart from those, we agree.”⁶

Winsome TV ads invite people to *learn the teachings of Christ from the Mormons*, who call themselves the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. *But is Mormonism really Christian?* Examine with me the following ways Mormonism has perverted true Christian teaching, and see for yourself if Mormonism is really Christian.

⁵ Transcribed from a sermon preached at Tulsa Bible Church in March, 2000.

⁶ Transcript of a message preached at Tulsa Bible Church Wednesday.

The Grave Errors of Mormon Doctrines

UNBIBLICAL MORMON ERROR NUMBER 1:

Mormonism teaches the pre-existence of human spirits. This is a key doctrine of Mormonism, but it is nowhere taught in Scripture. All people as spirits in the pre-mortal world took part in the creation of the earth. What does Scripture say of this? First of all, the biblical account of creation very clearly has the first human soul being created after the rest of creation was complete. The Bible says, “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7). Not until God was finished with creation did Adam become a living soul. There is no room for any sort of preexistence in the biblical account.

UNBIBLICAL MORMON ERROR NUMBER 2:

Mormonism teaches multiple gods. This is perfectly in accord with Mormon doctrine but plainly at odds with Scripture, which from cover to cover teaches the unity of the divine Godhead (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Jas. 2:19). Jesus Himself said, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). Granted, the Trinity is a difficult concept to explain or understand, but Scripture clearly affirms, and every major branch of Christianity has agreed for nearly two thousand years, that while God the Father and Jesus Christ are distinct Persons, they are *not* separate beings, or separate gods. This is the clear teaching of Scripture: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord” (Deut. 6:4).

UNBIBLICAL MORMON ERROR NUMBER 3:

Mormonism teaches the deification of the human soul. This is in harmony with the Mormon notion that all believers are progressing toward godhood. Scripture does teach that in heaven we will be like Christ in holiness, but not that we will share the incommunicable attributes of God, such as His omnipotence and omniscience. Even in the glory of heaven, we will remain God’s creatures. We will not attain a divinity of our own, or even share His deity. “I am the Lord,” He says. “That is my name: and my glory will I not give to another” (Isa. 42:8).

UNBIBLICAL MORMON ERROR NUMBER 4:

Mormonism teaches Eve’s act was noble. Mormons are taught that Eve’s eating of the forbidden fruit was a noble act. A common Mormon view is that Eve willfully partook of the fruit as a sort of selfless sacrifice, so that she would be able to bear children and thus progress toward the state of divinity. Thus her disobedience becomes a positive act. *The Book of Mormon* says, “Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.” Scripture, however, teaches plainly that Satan deceived Eve and that the Fall was wholly an act of sin (1 Tim. 2:14; 2 Cor. 11:3).

UNBIBLICAL MORMON ERROR NUMBER 5:

Mormonism teaches the possibility of salvation after death. Mormonism is well known for the practice of baptizing people for the dead. Mormons believe that people who die without having heard the Mormon gospel will have an opportunity to hear and believe even after they die. Since baptism is viewed as essential to their salvation, the dead are baptized “by proxy”—that is, living Mormons stand in for the souls of people whom they know have died without being baptized in the Mormon church. But Scripture says, “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). Scripture repeatedly teaches that the judgment of the wicked is based on works they do while on earth (Rom. 2:5–6; 2 Cor. 11:15).⁷

⁷ Adapted from John F. MacArthur, *The Glory of Heaven: The Truth About Heaven, Angels and Eternal Life*, (Wheaton, IL: Goodnews/Crossway Books) 1997.

A Summary of the Mormon Errors

Winsome⁸ TV ads invite people to *learn the teachings of Christ from the Mormons*, who call themselves the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. *But is Mormonism really Christian?* Examine with me the following six ways Mormonism has perverted true Christian teaching, and see for yourself if Mormonism is really Christian.⁹ You'll observe that I have quoted original Mormon sources--the early authoritative prophets of the church--so you can understand the foundational principles of Mormonism as stated by Mormons. Consider the following six beliefs, which are directly contrary to what the Bible teaches: **God has a physical body**. While the Bible indicates that God is Spirit¹⁰ and is invisible,¹¹ Mormons contend, "The Father has a body of flesh and bone as tangible as man's."¹² Early Mormon James Talmage states, "To deny the materiality of God's person is to deny God."¹³ In fact, Mormon prophet Brigham Young said that *Adam is our God*.¹⁴ To make God a physical human complicates the concept of Deity with sex.

1. **God in his physical body had sex with the Virgin Mary to beget Jesus**. Brigham Young declared, "He [Christ] was not begotten by the Holy Ghost ... Jesus our elder brother was begotten in the flesh by the same character who was in the Garden of Eden, who is our father in heaven."¹⁵ The Bible clearly states that Mary was a virgin, and that Jesus was conceived supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, not through sexual intercourse.¹⁶ Even the Book of Mormon affirms this.¹⁷
2. **God the Father was once just a man himself who evolved and progressed into a God**. Lorenzo Snow, former President of the Mormon Church, stated this flagrant heresy in memorable form, still quoted by Mormons: "*As man is, God once was, as God is, man may become*."¹⁸ Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, in a sermon given two months before his death, said, "...He was once a man like us, yea, that God Himself, the Father of us all, dwelt on an earth the same as Jesus Christ did."¹⁹ Now consider the implications of this: God Himself must have had a father. Smith asked provocatively: "If Jesus had a Father, can we not believe

⁸ Drawn from © 1995, Ralph F. Wilson, P.O. Box 308, Rocklin, CA 95677. Used by permission. Available on the internet at <http://www.garlic.com/rfwilson/archives.htm>

⁹ There are other Mormon distortions of Christianity, including baptism by proxy, "deacons" who are children, "elders" who are teenagers, a denial of the Trinity, a teaching that Satan was the physical brother of Jesus, salvation by works, other distortions of Jesus and His work, and the fiction that Jesus physically appeared to a group of Indians on the North American continent. We have chosen not to deal with them here.

You may be surprised that I quote the Book of Mormon against Mormon doctrine. In fact, the Book of Mormon does not support *any* of the distinctive Mormon doctrines about God. Mormonism changed dramatically from 1830 when the Book of Mormon was published to 1844 when Joseph Smith died.

¹⁰ "God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

¹¹ "No one has ever seen God, but the only begotten Son who is at the Father's side, has made him known" (John 1:18; see also John 6:46; 1 John 4:12) "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (Romans 1:20) "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Timothy 1:17). See also 1 Timothy 6:16; Hebrews 11:27.

¹² The quotation continues, "... the Son also, but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones but is a personage of spirit ..." (*Doctrine and Covenants*, Sec. 130:22).

¹³ James E. Talmage in *The Articles of Faith*, p. 48.

¹⁴ He said, "When our father Adam came into the garden of Eden, he came into it with a celestial body, and brought Eve, one of his wives, with him. He helped to make and organize the world... He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do" (Brigham Young in *The Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 1, p. 50, April 9, 1852). This doctrine is also found in a sermon by Brigham Young, delivered June 8, 1873, and recorded in the *Deseret News*, June 18, 1873, p. 308.

¹⁵ *Journal of Discourses* 1:51, April 9, 1852 and 4:218. Here is this Adam-God teaching again.

¹⁶ Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18-20.

¹⁷ Alma 7:10.

¹⁸ *Millennial Star*, vol. 54. Mormon writer Milton R. Hunter summarizes this: "Mormon prophets have continuously taught the sublime truth that God the eternal father was once a mortal man who passed through the school of earth-life similar to that through which we are now passing. He became God--an exalted being, through obedience to the same eternal gospel truth that we are given opportunity today to obey." (In *The Gospel Through the Ages*, chapter 16, pp. 104f)

¹⁹ Joseph Smith, *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (second edition; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1959) 6:305, April 7, 1844.

that He had a father also?"²⁰ This meant that God must have changed and evolved. Orson Hyde, early Mormon leader, wrote, "Remember that God our Heavenly Father was perhaps once a child and mortal like we are, and rose step by step in the scale of progress, in the school of advancement: has moved forward and overcome until He has arrived at the point where He now is."²¹ The Bible²² and, interestingly enough, even the Book of Mormon,²³ strongly deny this. By no stretch of the imagination is this what true Christianity teaches.

3. **There are many different Gods.** Does this sound like Christianity? It is basic to Mormonism. Joseph Smith taught, "In the beginning the head of the Gods called a council of the Gods and they came together and concocted a plan to create the world and people it."²⁴ Apostle Orson Pratt wrote, "In heaven where our spirits were born, there are many gods, each of whom has his own wife or wives which were given to him previous to his redemption while yet in his mortal state."²⁵ The Bible consistently teaches only one unique God.²⁶ So does the Book of Mormon.²⁷
4. **If Mormon males are good enough in this life they can become Gods themselves, and populate new worlds with their own offspring.** Mormons believe, as part of their core teaching, that, just as God the Father and Jesus are to this world, they can become like God and Jesus to the worlds *they* create. Brigham Young taught, "In the resurrection, men who have been faithful and diligent in all things in the flesh ... and [are] worthy to be crowned Gods, even the sons of God, will be ordained to organize matter,"²⁸ that is, to be creators in their own right. Rather than just being able to produce physical children, now they can produce spirit-children. Orson Pratt wrote, "Who will be the subjects in the kingdom which they will rule...? Their own children, their own posterity will be the citizens of their kingdoms; in other words, the patriarchal order will prevail there to the endless ages of eternity, and the children of each patriarch will be his while eternal ages roll on."²⁹ Mormons ignore Jesus' teaching concerning marriage in heaven: "At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven."³⁰
5. **In spite of the Book of Mormon's prohibition, Joseph Smith declared plural wives to be God's plan.** Strangely, the Book of Mormon condemns polygamy: "This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing

²⁰ Smith continues, "I despise the idea of being cared to death at such a doctrine, for the Bible is full of it." (Joseph Smith, *History*, 6:473-476, June 16, 1844). Mormon author Duane Crowther explains it so we make no mistake. "Joseph Smith explained that the Eternal Father of this earth passed through a mortal probation on another earth just as Jesus Christ did here" (Duane S. Crowther, *Life Everlasting* [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1967], p. 365).

²¹ Orson Hyde, *Journal of Discourses*, 1:123. According to modern teaching, even God the Father's godhood depends upon its recognition by others. Witness the writing of Brigham Young University Professor W. Cleon Skousen: "...The universe is filled with vast numbers of intelligences.... Elohim is God simply because all of these intelligences honor and sustain Him as such.... The Father is actually dependent upon their sustaining influence or honor to accomplish His purposes. God's 'power' is derived from the honor and support of the intelligences over whom He rules.... The present exalted position of our Heavenly Father was gradually built up. His glory and power is something which He slowly acquired." (W. Cleon Skousen, *The First 2,000 Years* [Bookcraft Publishers, 1976, p. 335]).

²² "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) "I the Lord do not change ..." (Malachi 3:6) "... From everlasting to everlasting you are God" (Psalm 90:2).

²³ The Book of Mormon teaches: "For do we not read that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing? And now if ye have imagined up unto yourselves a god who doth vary, and in whom there is shadow of changing, then have ye imagined up unto yourselves a god who is not a God of miracles" (Mormon 9:9-10) "For I know that God is not a partial God, neither a changeable being; but he is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity" (Moroni 8:18).

²⁴ Joseph Smith, *The Journal of Discourses*, Vol. 6.

²⁵ Orson Pratt in *The Seer*, Vol. 1, p. 37.

²⁶ See, for example: Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Kings 8:60; John 17:3; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19.

²⁷ 2 Nephi 31:21b; 26:12; 11:7; Mosiah 15:2-5; 16:15; Alma 11: 26-29; 38-39; 3 Nephi 11:27b, 36. As you can see, the Book of Mormon also teaches the doctrine of the Trinity (2 Nephi 31:21b; 3 Nephi 11:27b).

²⁸ Brigham Young, *Journal of Discourses*, 15:137, August 24, 1872.

²⁹ Orson Pratt, *Journal of Discourses*, 15:319, January 19, 1873. Modern Mormon theologian Duane Crowther explains, "Gods rule over their own progeny, and there is no exaltation without the ability to bring forth spirit children.... Those who gain the celestial kingdom but do not fulfill these obligations are limited to the role of servants, ministering to their exalted brethren." (in *Life Everlasting*, p. 341)

³⁰ Matthew 22:30.

was abominable before me, saith the Lord.”³¹The New Testament forbade multiple wives, too.³² But on July 12, 1843, Joseph Smith claimed to receive a new revelation that men were to have many wives and concubines, and declared it “a new and everlasting covenant.”³³ Those who rejected it were to be damned. It appears that his first wife opposed the new wives her husband was bringing into his home. So he received a revelation specifically for her: “And let mine handmaid, Emma Smith, receive all those that have been given to my servant Joseph ... But if she will not abide this commandment she shall be destroyed, saith the Lord.”³⁴ It must have been hard to have a husband who lusted after other women, and claimed to be God’s spokesman. Mormon leaders developed large families: Brigham Young had 17 wives and 56 children,³⁵ and Young’s adopted son, John D. Lee, had 19 wives and 64 children.³⁶ Mormons also claim Jesus had two wives, Mary and Martha, and had children by them. Of course the Bible says no such thing. The Mormons traveled to Utah to avoid U.S. law which forbade polygamy, but gradually, enforced by the presence of federal troops, a federal governor was appointed and polygamy was declared to be a criminal offense in 1871.³⁷ In 1890, Mormon President Wilfrid Woodruff officially abolished polygamy as the practice of the Mormon Church, no matter what Joseph Smith had said about this being an “eternal covenant.” As late as 1906 his successor, President James Fielding Smith, was convicted of practicing polygamy.³⁸ These are the founders. These are the prophets of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Now you tell me. Is Mormonism true Christianity?

Jesus is the One and ONLY WAY to GOD!

The Ark³⁹ was a place of security because the designer and architect Himself was present in the Ark with its occupants. The record speaks volumes as we read in Genesis 7:1 that God was inside when He invited them into the Ark. Notice further the security of the occupants of the Ark. Evidently the Ark had no sails, no oars, no motor or engine, no rudder, and no pilot house. God Himself directed the course of the great ship.

While the door was open, anyone and all who believed God's word could come in. but once the door was shut, no one else could come in. However, there is one little phrase in the account, which is often overlooked. It is the record that when the door was shut, no one could get out again.

In conclusion, there was only one Ark. God did not provide a fleet of ships and say, "You may have your choice, but it was the only ship available. There are religions without number, but here is only one way of salvation. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...(John 10:9)...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6)."

God had vivid lessons for us in the ARK. The richness of the imagery and typology of the Ark⁴⁰ show that like Jesus, the Ark was a place of Divine:

³¹ Jacob 2:22-23. This was directly contradicted by Joseph Smith in *Doctrine and Covenants*, 132:38. See also Jacob 3:5.

³² 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6.

³³ *Doctrine and Covenants* 132:1, 4, recorded July 12, 1843.

³⁴ *Doctrine and Covenants* 132:51-56.

³⁵ *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1893 edition), article on "Mormons," p. 827.

³⁶ "Who Is This Man ...?" by Thelma Geer, privately published pamphlet.

³⁷ *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1893), p. 827.

³⁸ Reported in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, November 24, 1906, p. 1.

³⁹ M.R. DeHaan M.D., *Portraits of Christ in Genesis*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1966, p. 92-95.

⁴⁰ Pink, *Gleanings in Genesis*, pp. 103-109.

1. **TRUE SALVATION IS DIVINE and the ark pictures the Provision of salvation in Jesus**

Genesis 6:13-14a: The Ark like Salvation, was planned by God, not invented by man.

- ✓ John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (KJV);
- ✓ Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (NKJV);

The ark not only saved mankind, but also the creatures within it; just as Christ's death will one day deliver creation from the bondage of sin. Notice further the faith of the occupants of the Ark. Evidently the Ark had no sails, no oars, no motor or engine, no rudder, and no pilothouse. God Himself directed the course of the great ship;

2. **The ark pictures the Provision of a perfect Rest in Jesus** Genesis 6:14b "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

- ✓ God's plan said to construct many resting places in the ark, so Jesus calls all who come to Him in their weariness to find rest for their souls. Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
- ✓ Also in His Father's House are many resting places! John 14:1-2 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3. **The ark pictures the Provision of Refuge with Jesus because TRUE SALVATION DEALS WITH SIN** Genesis 6:14c The word for "pitch" is the same as the word "atonement" used later in the Old Testament. That word pitch was kaphar this is the 1st of 70 times this word is in the Old Testament and each time it is translated atonement. So there is no other place in the entire Universe to hide from the penetrating wrath of God than under the covering of Christ's blood.

- ✓ Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (NKJV);
- ✓ John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (NKJV);

The pitch was to cover and protect the ark, as bulrushes sheltered Moses and the ark of the tab the stone tablets; put together Jesus Christ is the ark that shelters us from

- ✓ God's Wrath (like Noah),
- ✓ Satan' attack (like Moses), and the
- ✓ Law's Condemnation (like the tab).

The ark saved them from judgment; Christ saves us from the wrath to come.

- ✓ First Peter 3:18-22 connects the ark with the resurrection of Christ; the waters buried the old world but raised Noah to a new life.
- ✓ 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [even] Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come;
- ✓ I Thess. 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (NKJV)

So Jesus Christ is our only place of safety, as death threatened all in Noah's day, so we are all guilty. The Ark was the only place of safety from the coming wrath, so Jesus is the only Savior.

4. ***The ark pictures the Provision of a new perspective of life through Jesus.*** Genesis 6:16 "You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.
 - ✓ A window above! They were to look toward their deliverer and not at the wrath and judgment! As the pillar and cloud in the Wilderness drew their gaze above so we are to Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
5. ***The ark pictures the Invitation of Jesus, because GOD SAVES BY INVITATION: God invited Noah and his family into the ark*** (Genesis 7:1). 1st time "come" is in God's Word and it appears over 500x rest of Word. It was come and invitation, not go a command. Also it implies coming to be where the Lord was! The Ark⁴¹ was a place of security because the designer and architect Himself was present in the Ark with its occupants.
 - ✓ John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.
 - ✓ John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. (NKJV).

Remember the pitiful words of the disciples? "Lord, save us: we perish" (Matthew 8:25). They had not yet learned the lesson that when Jesus is in the ship, it cannot sink. When God invited Noah and his family into the ark they were safe; and once they were in, God shut them in so that they were secure, as we will see soon in v.16.

6. ***TRUE SALVATION IS EXCLUSIVE*** [7:13-15] the ark pictures the Provision salvation only through Jesus. There was one door not many. The animals and Noah's family did not have multiple entry points. There was only one pathway to safety. As the Old Testament Tabernacle in Exodus would later be constructed at God's direction with only one door, so the Ark shows there is but one way to God. So, there was only one way of salvation; there was only one ark and only one door in the ark.
 - ✓ John 10:9 Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..."
 - ✓ John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (NKJV);
 - ✓ Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (NKJV).

Could it even be that the door in the side of the ark points to the pierced side of Jesus by which we boldly come to the very heart of God no matter how guilty and ruined we are by sin. There was only one Ark. God did not provide a fleet of ships and say, "You may have your choice, but it was the only ship available. There are religions without number, but here is only one way of salvation. There was only one way of salvation; there was only one door in the ark.

7. ***GOD SAVES ETERNALLY [7:16] because the Lord shut them in. the ark pictures the Provision of Security in Jesus.*** Remember the inner and outer covering Genesis 6.14b?

⁴¹ M.R. DeHaan M.D., Portraits of Christ in Genesis, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1966, pp. 92 - 95.

- ✓ As they were hidden in the watertight walls of the ark so are we in Christ. Colossians 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- ✓ Noah didn't have to protect himself; he rested in the Protector as 1 Peter 1:5 says, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
- ✓ Finally all who went in came out safely. G 8.18-19 none were lost!

So all who entered survived; none were lost, none perished. God preserved them all and perfectly portrays our Lord Jesus. While the door was open, anyone and all who believed God's word could come in. but once the door was shut, no one else could come in. However, there is one little phrase in the account, which is often overlooked. It is the record that when the door was shut, no one could get out again; and once they were in, God shut them in so that they were secure

- ✓ Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present [you] faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, [Be] glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen. (NKJV);
- ✓ Hebrews 7:24-25 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (NKJV)

Heaven: Better by Far

In the middle of this century, Dr. Harry Rimmer was known throughout the Christian world for his books on the Bible and science. A week or two before Dr. Rimmer died in 1953, Dr. Charles Fuller, sponsor of the Old Fashioned Revival Hour, was scheduled to speak about heaven on the next Sunday. During the week he received a letter from Dr. Rimmer, of which this is part:

Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for more than fifty-five years. I did not buy it. It was given to me "without money and without price." But the donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation, since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot.

For more than half a century I have been sending materials, out of which the Great Architect and Builder of the Universe has been building a home for me, a home which will never be remodeled nor repaired, because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations, for they rest upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks nor bolts will ever be placed on its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that Land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter in and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected.

There is a valley of deep shadows between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a very short time. I cannot reach my home in that city of gold without passing through this dark valley of shadows; but I am not afraid, because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long, long ago and drove away all its gloom. He has

stuck by me through thick and thin since we first became acquainted fifty-five years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form that He will never forsake me nor leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me.

I hope to hear your sermon on Heaven next Sunday from my home in Los Angeles, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to Heaven has no date marked for the journey, no return coupon, and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am all ready to go, and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday-but I shall meet you Over There some day

Jesus Christ said: "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.... I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

MAKING SURE

Here is a prayer you can pray, a prayer that expresses your desire to transfer your trust to Christ alone for your eternal salvation. This prayer can be the link that will connect you to God. And if you pray it in faith, God will receive you.

Dear God,

I know that I am a sinner and there is nothing that I can do to save myself. I confess my complete helplessness to forgive my own sin or to work my way to heaven. At this moment I trust Christ alone as the One who bore my sin when He died on the cross. I believe that He did all that ever will be necessary for me to stand in your holy presence. I thank you that Christ was raised from the dead as a guarantee of my own resurrection. As best as I can, I now transfer my trust to Him. I am grateful that He has promised to receive me despite my many sins and failures. Father, I take you at your word. I thank you that I can face death now that you are my Savior. Thank you for the assurance that you will walk with me though the deep valley.

Thank You for hearing this prayer.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

The Seven-Fold Great I AM

Remember we are looking at John's noted names on Christ's 7 part calling card.

I AM ALL YOU NEED is how He introduced Himself seven times.

We are looking at His Seven I AM statements this morning.

Each one is a way that He says to us, I AM all you need.

Trace them with me again

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (6:35, 41, 48, 51) – Jesus is all I need to feed my STARVING SOUL; apart from Him is only unsatisfied hunger.

- Jesus alone feeds our soul and satisfies our hungers, all else is emptiness, hopelessness and empty mirages.
- *Jesus said I am your food that satisfies; I am the Bread you need. I have settled the longings of your soul, I can satisfy all the hungers of your life. What do you really hunger for?*
- **Believers are HUNGERING FOR JESUS AS MY BREAD OF LIFE.**

I AM THE LIGHT OF WORLD (8:12) - Jesus is all I need to LIGHT my DARKENED SOUL; apart from Him is only impenetrable darkness.

- Jesus said I am the Light, I have settled the darkness of fear, the darkness of death, the darkness of dying, it is all settled by Me!
- **Believers are WALKING WITH JESUS WHO LIGHTS MY PATH OF LIFE.**

I AM THE DOOR OF life to my SHEEP (10:7,9) - Jesus is all I need to enter into God's Family, apart from Him is only hopeless exclusion.

- Jesus said I am the Door of Life, all your security and access needs are settled, by Me! We can't wander out without stumbling over Him and no predator could slip in without stirring Him. So Jesus says I keep you safe from harm and secure from wandering away from my salvation!
- **Believers are ENTERING THROUGH JESUS WHO IS MY DOOR TO LIFE.**

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD (10:11, 14) - Jesus is all I need to make it through life and get to my heavenly HOME, apart from Him is only aimless wandering.

- Jesus said I am the Good Shepherd who died; I have settled the issue of the unknown.
- I am your companion through life and death.
- Jesus gives us the perfect example of how to live and how to die!
- **Believers are FOLLOWING THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO IS THE SAVIOR OF MY LIFE.**

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND LIFE (11:25) - Jesus is all I need to live the endless LIFE, but apart from Him is only endless dying.

- Jesus says I am the Resurrection; I am the Life so I have settled the issue of Hope.
- You can count on me, hope in me all through life and into death!
- **Believers are RESTING IN JESUS WHOSE RESURRECTION ASSURES ME ENDLESS LIFE.**

I AM THE WAY, TRUTH & LIFE (14:6) - Jesus is all I need to find god's way through life, but apart from Him is only endless lost ness.

- Jesus said I am the way, I have settled the issue of your home.
- I am making it, your very own room, and the minute that it is ready I am coming to get you!
- **Believers are TRUSTING THE WAY OF JESUS, BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF JESUS, AND LIVING THE LIFE OF JESUS.**

I AM THE TRUE VINE (15:1) - Jesus is all I need to be fruitful to the last day of my life, apart from Him is only continual withering.

- Jesus says I am the Vine, your source of life and health. The state of your health is all in my hands.
- I will provide for you living grace, enduring declining life grace, and dying grace. Each just when you need them!
- If the vine speaks of all of life as one growing season, then we should get more fruit filled the older we get (ala Psalm 92), if it is many seasons then life is a succession of growing /pruning /bearing /resting and then growing/pruning...

- *Believers are* ABIDING IN JESUS WHO IS MY SUPPLY OF ALL I EVER NEED.