

Spiritual Blessings

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Nov.-Dec. 2001

What can we know about God?

We can know little about God unless He chooses to reveal Himself. Thankfully He has so chosen.

A search of the Scriptures will reveal many things about Him and we can piece together a very detailed description of those aspects which He has chosen to reveal. While some of these aspects are scattered here and there throughout the Bible and demand much searching to find them, there are some passages which pulsate with wonderful revelations one after another and give broad views of the wonder and power of God.

One such passage runs from Isaiah 44 to 48.

In these chapters we are told that Jehovah (Yahweh, YHWH) is exclusively God.

I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. Is. 45:5 - 6.

For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another. Is. 48:11.

In the New Testament we find that Christ is God.

I and my Father are one. John 10:30
For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Col. 2:9.

In Isaiah we are told that Jehovah (Yahweh, YHWH) is the creator of light, the creator of earth and heaven and the creator of people.

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. Is. 45:7.

I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. Is. 45:12.

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God (Elohim) himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. Is. 45:18.

Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the



Great fellowship at Bethshan.

2002 dates are 27-29 Sept.

heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; Is.44:24.

In the New Testament we find that Christ is the creator.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. John 1:10.

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: Eph. 3:9

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and

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The Berean
Bible Fellowship of
AUSTRALIA Incorporated

The President's Word



The recent annual conference of the Berean Bible Fellowship of Australia (BBFA) was a rich and

stimulating time. It was great to have three families down from Queensland, and also a number of day visitors. These folk added much more to the fellowship than just their presence.

We have booked the weekend of 27 - 29 September for next year's conference. Please put these dates in your diary now, and don't let anything short of the Out-resurrection prevent you from attending.

The triennial election of committee office-bearers and members was held during the conference. Several members of the previous committee did not seek re-election, so there have been some changes of personnel. You will find a report of this elsewhere in this issue.

As the new President, I want to take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of all in our Fellowship for the time and effort given so unstintingly by the outgoing committee. Much has been done in these past years. Perhaps the two outstanding recent achievements have been the visit of Santiago Chua, who was accompanied by his wife Luz, as our conference speaker last year. And then there is the supplying of over \$1200 worth of Bibles to Christians in Malawi, Africa. These Bibles are in the language of the people concerned.

I speak for all the committee when I say that we will continue with the initiatives developed by the outgoing

group, and assure you that we will continue to promote the aims of the BBFA in every way we can. If you have comments, criticisms or suggestions for our work get in touch with myself or any committee member. But most importantly, please pray for us.

Athol Walter.

Previous Committee

President: Anne Ward.
Vice President: John Hutton.
Treasurer: Eveline Walter.
Secretary: Janelle Tavender.
Committee Members: Peter Ward, David Tavender.

New Committee

President: Athol Walter.
Vice President: Anne Ward.
Treasurer: Sue Hall.
Secretary: Margaret Abbott.
Committee Members: Bob Davidson, David Tavender, Brian Kelson.

Spiritual Blessings

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Articles which honour The Lord Christ Jesus, and acknowledge the principle of right division will be considered for publication. All articles are accepted on the basis that they may be used as the BBFA sees fit unless otherwise requested by the author.

The interpretation of Scripture by various authors is not necessarily the one held by the majority of the Fellowship.

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The BBFA Tenets.

1. Full Inspiration of the Scriptures.
2. The Deity of Christ.
3. All sufficiency of Christ's One Sacrifice.
4. The Bible study principle of right division.

The BBFA Committee.

President: Athol Walter.
V-President: Anne Ward.
Treasurer: Sue Hall.
Secretary: Margaret Abbott.
Committee members:
Bob Davidson, David Tavender, Brian Kelson.



Meetings

**2002
Conference
27-29 Sept.
BETHSHAN
Wye**

Brisbane

Alternate
Sundays
10:00AM

March Weekend
2002. TBA

Long Weekend
June 2002
(07) 3297 1981

Sydney

3rd Sunday.
From 12:15.
Community Hall
104 Galston Rd
Hornsby Hts.
(02) 4996 4455

Newcastle

Every Monday.
7:00PM
34 Aroona St
Edgeworth.
(02) 4950 6708

What can we know about God?

From Page 1.

invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: Col. 1:16.

In Isaiah we are told that Jehovah (Yahweh, YHWH) is the redeemer.

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. Is. 44:6.

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. Is. 48:17.

In the New Testament we find that Christ is the redeemer.

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; Rev. 5:9.

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Eph.1:6 - 7.

In Isaiah we are told that Jehovah (Yahweh, YHWH) is the first and the last.

Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. Is.48:12.

In the New Testament we find that Christ is the first and last.

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; Rev. 2:8. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Rev. 22:13.

In Isaiah we are told that Jehovah (Yahweh, YHWH) said every knee shall bow to Him.

I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Is.45:23.

In the New Testament we find that every knee shall bow to Christ.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth,

and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil. 2:10 - 11.

So much of what has been said of Jehovah in the Old Testament is also said of the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament. They appear to be the same person. If this is true then they should share a name.

In the Old Testament we find that God's name is Jehovah.;

I am the LORD (Jehovah): that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Is.42:8.

And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD (Jehovah):

And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty (El Shaddai), but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them. Ex. 6:2 - 3.

But what of the name Jesus? It is in fact an Anglicised version of Joshua. But what does the name Joshua mean?

Its origin is in the book of Numbers. When Moses was sending the men to spy out the land he asked for a man from each of the tribes of Israel. From one tribe we read in Num.13:8 "Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun". The name Oshea means saviour. Moses changed his name by adding Ya, an abbreviated form of Jehovah, Num.13:16 "And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua", or Joshua, which means Jehovah Saviour.

Jesus means Jehovah Saviour.

The God of the Old Testament, Jehovah, has the same name as the God of the New Testament, Jehovah Saviour.

The hymn writer had it right when he said:

The great Creator became my Saviour
And all God's fulness dwelleth in Him.



Bob Davidson

Report

Standing under the meal siren at Bethshan was a wake-up call. Those who joined in the activities of Bethshan 2001 will understand my meaning. For the uninitiated, imagine standing under an industrial siren when it goes off. That signalled lunch once your heart was out of your mouth and back in your chest cavity. So how was the Berean Bible Fellowship of Australia's weekend conference like a siren wake-up call?

Let me explain this to you. Just prior to the weekend the awful events in America had taken place. Remember, for days upon days we heard of nothing but the disaster, the human tragedy, the revenge, the hunting for perpetrators: a very unsettling time for everyone. At Bethshan, we came together as a group of like-minded believers with a loving and gentle spirit accepting the example of Christ our Head, having humility and understanding of other people. For me, this was a profound moment when I realised what was happening outside in the world but here I was with the people I dearly love. My wish at that time was that others may know this rightly divided truth and have the comfort that the Word brings.

The fellowship with our Queensland friends the Haeglers, Harpers, and Marshalls was a real blessing and gift from God. The enthusiasm of the children was wonderful as they listened to the studies presented. Their arrival bolstered our numbers this year and gave them opportunities to meet new people and develop new friendships. We, on the southern side of the border appreciated the opportunity to meet the Queensland group and fellowship with them, making new friends and catching up with old friends.

The studies reinforced the wake-up call for me. It is always evident at each Bethshan conference that the talks complement each other. This is not planned by any speakers, it



just happens and we are grateful to the Lord for that. This year was no exception.

The studies covered the following areas. The Man of God, Walk Worthily, Messianic Miracles and The Image of God, enhancing, encouraging and edified our group by revealing the truth in scripture. Perilous Times, Violence to the Truth and Spiritual Warfare were moving and intense



BETHSHAN



presentations of current world events and their implications for us. Evidence of Creation, Israel's Place in the Bible and the Saturday afternoon group discussion provided reinforcement and good sound ways to present the truth to others by understanding what we know to be true.

We also had our AGM and Election of Officers at Bethshan. This provided an opportunity for a new Committee to be elected and provided for new directions and further challenges for the next three years. Our time of worship and praise was great on Saturday night with items from the "Queensland Girls Choir" (sounds very posh doesn't it), a talk on our Malawi friends and a Testimony from Merrilee Haegler.

All of these areas combined to produce a weekend of good study, great conversation,



2001



Page four, from the top.
After a study, Meal time, Mary and baby Emma Harper, Merilee Haegler, John Craig and Graham Marshall. Bill, Nakkita, Lee, Emily & Walter.

Thank you Neville Ward for the Photos.



Page five, from the top.
Rom Harper, a study in progress, meals again, Frank Haegler, afternoon tea, Ron Boaden, Kath Plumbe, Greg Hall, Ilma Bishop, Robyn Ward, Janelle Tavender, a popular youth meeting place.



enhancement of friendship and personal growth in the Word.

If you missed Bethshan this year - don't make the same mistake next year. Come and bask in the atmosphere, the fellowship and the study around the Word. You will not regret it.

Janelle Tavender.



BETHSHAN 2002.
September 27,28 and 29.

Something
to think
about

GOD became a servant

The Bible tells us that when Jesus came and lived on the earth, He was God and man at the same time. He shows us what God is like. Jesus Christ is everything that God is, as well as being a man.



Philippians 2:5-8 says this about our Saviour

Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God.....
made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

God became a man, and became a servant

And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself and became obedient to
death.....on a cross!

God became a man and died for you and me



THINK!

If you could do everything that God can do, and everything that God is, would YOU give most of it away and become a human? Jesus did—and He did because He loves us.

JESUS CHRIST IS GOD

Follow the letters around the grid into the centre to find out two things Jesus said about Himself being God. Write your answer in the spaces provided.

1

D	→	T	H	E	→	F
↑						↓
N	E	→	O	N	A	
↑	↑		↓	↓		
A	R	*	E	T		
↑	↑			↓		
I	A	R	E	←	H	

Start

John 10:30 says



2

h	→	a	→	s	s	e	e	n
↑								↓
o	e	→	n	t	h	e	m	
↑	↑							
h	e	s	s	a	h	←	e	
↑								
w	←	e	←	n	o	y	n	a

Start

John 14:9 says

Look up this verse in your Bible to find the missing word!

One and The Same.

Did you know that the "God" of the Old Testament is "Christ" of the New Testament? they are the same, because Jesus Christ is God.

Names are very important in the Bible and this section is all about how the names for God in the Old Testament are the same names for Jesus in the New Testament. UNSCRAMBLE THESE NAMES OF THE LORD.

DEPHERSH _____ THIGL _____ RASIVOU _____
 JEGUD _____ GINK FO RASEIL _____ TREACOR _____

Read these verses to help solve the scrambles.

Psalm 75:7 & John 5:22. Isaiah 43:11 & Titus 2:13. Psalm 27:1 & John 8:12.

Ps. 23:1 & John 10:10. Gen. 1:1 & Col. 1:16 Living Bible. Isaiah 44:6 & John 1:49

Three Unities.

Spirit, Faith & Body.

In the first two verses of ch. 4 Paul stresses the necessity of a worthy walk in lowliness, meekness, long-suffering and love that forbears. We considered the implications of those words in our last study, and it seems that these qualities of character are pre-requisites to such things as keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

Before we tackle the items listed under the heading of the unity of the spirit, I want to present the major points of the outline of the whole section that lies before us, viz. Eph. 4:1-17. See below. I have omitted some of the details, but I urge you to take the time to comprehend and appreciate the main points of this passage. It seems to me that it will be time and effort well spent.

This outline is taken from the structure done by Charles Welch of this passage, and is found on p.335 of his book *In Heavenly Places*. He has more detail than I think necessary for us, but I am sure that readers who go through the outline point by point and make it their own, will have arrived at a comprehensive understanding of the passage. The word structure is used, by the way, because the Scriptures are

constructed in such a way as to make it possible for a section or passage, in some cases even a verse, to be set out in a form that shows how one point parallels or contrasts another, the whole thing exhibiting a wonderful balance. To the best of my knowledge, the Bible is the only book with which this is possible.

The use of the letters A & B is quite arbitrary and a

matter of convenience. They could just have easily been X & Y or any other pair.

Consider the outline.

I draw your attention to the fact that both before and after the central points called B1 to B3, we have two references to Paul's ministry and our walk. The first is a positive point, and the second a negative. In other words, we are told in v. 1 to walk like this, and in v. 17 not to walk like that. Just in case anyone is in doubt, the walk refers to our whole manner of living as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice also the two references in vv. 2 & 17 to the mind. I hope you remember from our last study that the word lowliness in v. 2 is better translated humility of mind. So at the beginning of the section we have a statement about humility of mind being part of a positive walk for the Lord, and at the end of the section we have a warning not to walk like the Gentiles do - in the vanity of their minds.

Then we have the three central points revolving around the thought of unity; the Spirit with its bond of peace, the Faith and finally the One Body.

I know the word unity does not occur in v. 16, but I think it is surely implied, and the use of it helps the memory with the points nominated B1 to B3.

Then we are told to KEEP the unity of the spirit; the unity of the faith is a goal to be ARRIVED AT; and the unity of the Body

Ephesians

Nº 33



**Athol
Walter**

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Eph. 4:8-14

Eph. 4:1-17.

Outline

- A1. vv. 1, 2. The prisoner of the Lord beseeches
Walk worthy, humility of mind. (Positive)
- B1. vv. 3-12. Unity of **Spirit**. Keep. Sevenfold.
Measure, gift of Christ
Gifts of ministry for perfecting
- B2. vv. 13-15. Unity of **Faith**. Arrive. Sevenfold.
Measure, fulness of Christ
Speak truth in love for growth.
- B3. v. 16. Unity of **Body**. Fitly joined. Sevenfold.
Measure, every part
Edify self in love.
- A2. v. 17. I testify in the Lord
Walk not in vanity of mind. (Negative)

comes about by being FITLY JOINED. This phrase will be examined later.

Next, each of the unities mentioned has a sevenfold description (I struggle for a word here). For the moment, I will say no more about this, but leave you to try and find what they are for yourself.

Then the word MEASURE occurs three times in connection with the three unities. Again I will not stop at this point to explain, except to say that the word measure is the Greek word METRON (compare English meter, metric etc.). In v. 7 it is the measure of the gift of Christ. V. 13 gives us the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, and in v. 16, we have the measure of every part.

But there is more. In vv. 8-12 the gifts of ministry are for the perfecting of the Body. Perfecting is another word that will need some consideration.

Then v. 15 tells us that the truth is to be spoken in love so that the believer may grow up into Christ. And v. 16 says that every part of the Body works to edify itself (i.e. the Body) in love.

I hope you find that even such a bare look at the outline of these 17 verses is not only stimulating but as stirring as I do. Remember they are the words which the Holy Spirit uses to teach us.

Endeavour To Keep.

Now let us go back to v. 3 and start to look at some of the details.

In the A.V. v. 3 starts with the word endeavour. This is a stronger word than may first appear.

In Gal. 2:10 the leaders of the assembly in Jerusalem asked Paul to remember the poor, which Paul said he was forward to do. Forward translates the same word as endeavour. 2 Tim. 2:15 says, "study to show thyself approved unto God ...". Study is our word endeavour. In the same epistle Paul urges Timothy to come to him as soon as he can: "Do thy diligence to come to me shortly ...". Do thy diligence is our word endeavour, and, in fact, the word diligent is a very good translation in all the occurrences mentioned above. In Heb. 4:11 we have the same word but again translated differently: "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest". Labour is the word endeavour, and again "Be diligent" would express Paul's

meaning very well. So we could correctly translate the beginning of v. 3 as "Be diligent to keep ...".

There are five different words all meaning to keep in particular ways that Paul could have used. The four he didn't use mean:

1. to keep as a shepherd keeps his flock
2. to keep, or guard, as a soldier
3. to hold as the servant did the pound entrusted to him
4. to keep, to observe, as the Passover for example.

Paul by-passes those four, however, and uses the word that means to keep safe as a treasure. This word in a slightly different form is used of Mary in Luke 2:19, who treasured in her heart things concerning her firstborn Son. Paul also used the word of himself, when in 2 Tim. 4:7, he said, "I have kept the faith."

We could go as far as to say that this word means to keep as a sacred trust, and it requires our diligence.

What is it we are to keep? If we answer "The unity of the Spirit", we have only given half the answer. We are to guard like we would a treasure, the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. I'm sure I don't have to work hard to convince you that keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace is not easy!

Where two or three (or however many) are gathered together, there will be differences of opinion, different ideas, different goals etc, and if we are not on our guard, these things can soon lead to striving and friction. But 2 Tim. 2:24 tells us clearly that the servant of the Lord must not strive or fight, so it is an on-going struggle for us each to keep the unity of the peace

It is often said, and rightly so, that we are called upon to keep the unity of the Spirit not to make it. The implication is that this unity has already been made. It is not only that we don't have to make it, it is something that we could not make. That was the work of the Lord Jesus.

Will you join with me in a commitment that we will put off to the best of our ability the old nature within and allow the new nature to grow and flourish, and in this way we will make some progress in our goal of keeping the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. We will continue an examination of these Words of God in our next study, as He wills. **S**

"This worthy walk is exhibited by four Christian graces, humility, meekness, patience and forbearance. We do well to remember that we walk with our minds....At the very outset of a worthy walk we are brought face to face with the necessary mental attitude which will make such a walk possible. Whatever directions we are given in chapters 4-6, none will deviate from this great characteristic, true and genuine humbleness of mind and outlook."

Stuart Allen.
"Letters from Prison"

The Canon of Scripture— Inspired?

The question we are considering in this edition is:

"Are all books of the Bible inspired?"

PLEASE EXPLAIN



**David
Tavender**

Without hesitation, we answer "Yes" to this question, and I hope you will excuse me addressing such a fundamental issue in what is, after all, a Bible study magazine! A substantial percentage of Christians are not convinced that the Bible is inspired. It never ceases to amaze me just how many people are avid students of the Bible, willing to carefully analyse its contents, yet denying that it all came from God when questioned about this.

If we cannot have confidence in the Scriptures, we begin to place the words of men above the words of God. Needless to say, that is not a very safe practice.

Firstly, we should consider how the Scriptures came down to us. The Bible is comprised of many different books written at different times. At some stage someone had to make a decision about which writings could be called God's inspired Word, and which could not.

On what grounds did they make decisions about each book? Was the book written by a man of God? Does it claim to have the authority of God? Is it accurate (i.e. geographically, chronologically, etc) ? Is it in accordance with other Scripture? Is it generally accepted? ... and so on. So, do we have the "right" books?

Old Testament.

The Old Testament books should be considered canonical (i.e. "the right ones") chiefly because, during His earthly ministry, The Lord said nothing about any of the Old Testament books being spurious, and neither did any of the apostles.

A favourite target of the critics is the Song of Solomon, sometimes known as Canticles. It was certainly part of what those in New Testament times called the "Scriptures". We read in 2 Timothy 3:16,17 that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God", but the Lord also referred to what we call the Old Testament

when He spoke about the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms (Luke 24:44) - these being the three major divisions. Again, nothing about any doubt of the Song of Solomon, nor about any other "lost writings" which should have been included. Beyond any doubt, Christ had a definite view on what constituted "the Scriptures".

New Testament.

The historical books of the New Testament should be also considered canonical because they were written by eyewitnesses or people who recorded first hand testimony. For instance, the Lord's disciple, Peter, wrote that he and his co-workers were "eyewitnesses of his majesty." Peter was with Christ for a long time, and was well qualified to testify of the words and deeds recorded for us in the gospel accounts. For example, in one of his letters, he specifically refers to the mount of transfiguration - "For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount. (2 Peter 1:16-18, see also Matthew 17:1-13)

Another New Testament writer, Paul, was able to confirm the events of the gospels: "...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas [Peter], then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). (See also 1 John 1:1-3; Luke 1:1-3; Acts 1:1-3,9; John 19:35; 20:30,31)

The writers of the New Testament appealed to the firsthand knowledge of their readers or listeners concerning the facts and the evidence about the person of Jesus Christ, saying not only, "Look, we saw this or we heard that...", but, perhaps even more convincingly, "You too know about these things...you saw them, you yourselves know about it", just as in Peter's speech on the day of Pentecost - "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves

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PLEASE EXPLAIN Continued

also know" (Acts 2:22. See also Acts 26:24-28.). This was not just one man telling stories about something only he had seen, and we should remember that plenty of others witnessed the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

The rest of the New Testament was also written by eyewitnesses. In the same way that the miracles were the credentials of Christ and the apostles to their listeners, so it was with their writings. i.e.: there was plenty of reason to believe that what they were saying was stamped with the authority of God.

Keeping this in mind, we should note that the entire NT canon has been discussed and reaffirmed many times since the 4th Century A.D. and has remained the same ever since for largely the same reasons stated here.

There is more that could be said, but perhaps I can conclude with this thought. Trying to understand (or convince others of) the validity of the dispensational approach will fail every time, if one does not consider all of the Bible to be God-inspired.

Any Questions for David?

You can write direct using the address on the back page or email him:
tavender@ozemail.com.au

As a literary composition, the Bible is the most remarkable book ever made. It is a divine library of 66 books, some of considerable size, and others no larger than a tract. These books include various forms of literature -history, biography, poetry, proverbial sayings, hymns, letters, directions for elaborate ritualistic worship, laws, parables, riddles, allegories, prophecy, drama, and others. They embrace all manner of literary styles in human expression.

It is the book that reveals the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding, its histories true, and its decisions immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practise it to be holy. The Bible contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveller's

map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good is its design, and the Glory of God its end. It should fill your memory, rule your heart, and guide your feet in true righteousness and true holiness.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully, meditatively, searchingly, devotionally, and study it constantly, perseveringly, and industriously. Read it through and through until it becomes a part of your being and generates faith that will move mountains.

The Bible is a mine of wealth, the source of health, and a world of pleasure. It is given to you in this life, will be opened at the judgment(??) and will stand forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the least to the greatest of labour, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Author Unknown.

The Holy Bible

There is no doubt whatsoever that the Bible is the great text book of the Christian profession which no one who names the name of Christ can neglect if he wishes to be a Christian worthy of the name. .. It makes claims no other book does and these are so challenging that we cannot ignore them if we are honestly seeking the truth. Stuart Allen. "On Reading the Bible"

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Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 2Tim. 1:9

Christ will reign on the earth.

When Joseph was given the news about Mary's child the angel said this:
Fear not....she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matt.1:20-21.

When Mary was given the news about her pregnancy she was told this:
Fear not.....thou shalt..bring forth a son and shalt call his name Jesus.He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and The Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David. Lk.1:30-32.

This reign of Christ is seen in many circles as a rule in the hearts of men, a spiritual kingdom, but a careful examination of Luke 17 where the Lord is addressing his enemies weakens this interpretation.

We are confident that, as promised, Christ will reign in Jerusalem and only then will the world know peace and Israel will be saved.

Peter, in Acts 2, said this:
Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. Acts 2:29-31.

Pentecost then, must have something to do with Christ's reign on earth, please read Joel. So how can it be the birthday of a heavenly calling?

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2 Timothy 2:15 2 Timothy 3:16