

House to House



Heart to Heart

A publication of the... churches of CHRIST

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18

Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5

Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2

Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23

Elders oversee local church –

Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5

Deacons as servants –

Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13

Members compose body –

Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God – Gal. 4:26

Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19

Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach – Acts 5:42

Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26

Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9



If you have questions or comments please contact us via email at: info@housetohouse.com

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Refuge

Allen Webster

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.”

In the Hawaiian Islands, on the Kona coast of the Big Island, there is a tourist attraction known as the City of Refuge. In the old days when tribes constantly fought each other and even offered human sacrifices, it was the one place a person could flee and avoid molestation. The idea did not originate with the Hawaiians, though, but in the mind of God. He had six cities of refuge in the Old Testament for His people. In the New Testament, He has a world-wide city of refuge He calls the “church.”

In the Old Testament, each family had an “avenger¹ of blood.” It could be any blood relative—a brother, uncle, cousin (Lev. 25:48-49). His job was to take the life of one who killed a family member (Num. 35:12), to receive restitution for crimes against a deceased relative (Num. 5:7-8), buy back property lost to the family (Lev. 25:25), redeem a relative who sold himself into slavery (Lev. 25:48-49), or marry the widow of a relative without sons and perpetuate the family (Deut. 25:5-10).

In Old Testament times, if you killed someone, then that family’s avenger could hunt you down and kill you. (This sounds like the “wild west days” of our country.) The avenger did not take into consideration the motive for the killing. Suppose, for instance, you were cutting wood with a fellow Israelite and the axe head slipped from the handle and fatally wounded him (cf. Deut. 19:5). What could you do? The avenger of blood *would* come looking for you. For such events, God instructed Moses to set up six refuge cities to which a manslayer might flee and be protected. These cities were strategically located so a person might reach one from any part of Canaan in less than a day’s travel.

The New Testament uses this as a figure of a sinner fleeing from the avenger of death (Satan) to Christ. We “...have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us” (Heb. 6:18). Refuge cities provided sanctuary for those in danger of losing physical life; the church of Christ offers salvation to those in danger of eternal hell fire (Mk. 9:43; Rev. 14:11; 20:10). There are many parallels between the cities of refuge and the body of Christ. In fact, each city seems to have a characteristic of the church.

IN NORTHWEST CANAAN, A MANSLAYER COULD FLEE TO KADESH. *Kedesh* means “holy,” and *holy* suggests something “set apart.” This city was set apart twice—once by being selected to be one of forty-eight Levitical cities and again when chosen to be one of six refuge cities. The church is a holy institution (1 Pet. 2:9). *Church (ekklesia)* literally means “the called out” (Col. 1:13,14). Those who are members of it have been called out of the world and into Christ by the Gospel. The church is the one place where sinners may come and be made spotless (Zec. 13:1; 1 Jn. 1:7). We are washed in the Lamb’s blood (Rev. 1:5) when we are baptized (Acts 22:16). The lesson Kadesh teaches us is that those who flee for refuge must keep themselves holy. “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (1 Jn. 3:3). The church is *in* the world but is not *of* the world (Jn. 15:18,19; 17:14-16; Rm. 12:2). The highway to heaven is such that the “...unclean shall not pass over it” (Isa. 35:8). Why be called out of the world if we are not going to stay out (2 Cor. 6:17; 2 Pet. 2:20-22)? Only those who are “without blemish” will be presented unto Christ when He comes again (Eph. 5:27).

MANSLAYER COULD FLEE TO SHECHEM. *Shechem* means “shoulder.” This city in the hill country of Ephraim was the first capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. It was built on the slope, or shoulder, of Mount Ebal. Joshua built an altar on Mount Ebal and there led the people to renew their commitment to Moses’ law (Jos. 8:30-35; cf. Deut. 27:12-13). “Shoulder” may bring to mind “rest” (as a wife rests her head on her husband’s shoulder). The church is a place of rest for the weary. Jesus offered, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Mt. 11:28,29). *Rest*² here means “to permit one to cease from labor in order to recover and collect his strength; to keep quiet, calm....” The Lord promised those in His refuge temporary rest now and eternal rest later (2 Thes. 1:7; Heb. 4:1). “Shoulder” may also bring to mind “support” (as in, “Put your shoulder to the wheel,” or “shoulder this responsibility”). The government is upon Christ’s shoulder (Isa. 9:6). The church is the “support” of the truth. Paul called it the “pillar and ground of the truth”³ (1 Tim. 3:15). “The seven candlesticks... are the seven churches” (Rev. 1:20) expresses the thought (a candlestick supports a candle). The church is where the truth is supported and where men find support to “prop up” weak faith.

IN SOUTHWEST CANAAN, A MANSLAYER COULD FLEE TO HEBRON. *Hebron*⁴ means, “alliance” and conveys the idea of fellowship or partnership. The church is a place of fellowship for the homeless (1 Jn. 1:7) and partnership for brothers. “Fellowship”⁵ in the Old Testament was used to express ideas such as a shared house (Prov. 21:9), “binding” or “joining” (Ex. 26:6; Ecc. 9:4), a companion (Ecc. 4:10), and even a wife (Mal. 2:14). It was used in a technical sense for a member of a Pharisaic society. Pharisees tended to form close associations with one another in social, religious, and even business affairs. A most important dimension in the life of these *heberim* (Pharisees) was sharing in the study of Scripture and law. In the New Testament, the word *fellowship (koinonia)* is used in three senses: (1) Joint-participation (Phil. 1:3-5; 4:15,16; cf. Ex. 17, Moses, Aaron, and Hur). It was Paul’s favorite word to describe a believer’s relationship with the Lord and the benefits of salvation which come through Him. On the basis of obedient faith believers have fellowship with the Son (1 Cor. 1:9) and with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14). (2) Association (Acts 2:42, 46). We share fellowship in the Gospel (1 Cor. 9:23; Phil. 1:5) and in Christ’s sufferings (Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:24). (3) Contribution (2 Cor. 8:1-4). Paul believed that Christians were to share with one another what they had (Gal. 6:6).

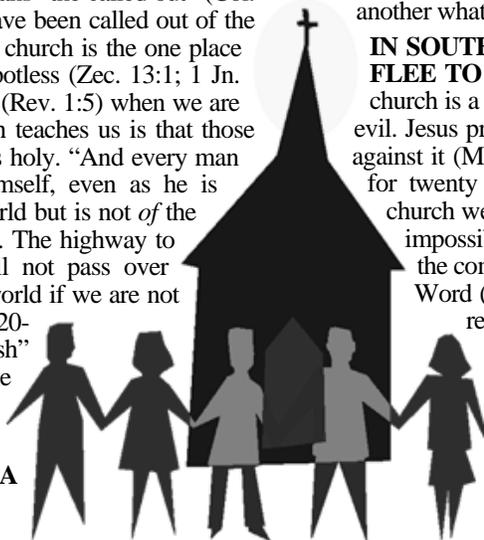
IN SOUTHEAST CANAAN, A MANSLAYER COULD FLEE TO BEZER. *Bezer* means “strong” or “fortress.” The church is a strong fortress, a fortification against the power of evil. Jesus promised that all the gates of hell could not prevail against it (Mt. 16:18). Satan has been trying to destroy it now for twenty centuries, but still it stands! In Christ and His church we have refuge from the ravages of the tempter. It is impossible for the fiery darts of the devil to penetrate us or the combined forces of evil to injure us if we abide in His Word (Eph. 6:13-17). In Christ and His church, we have refuge even from the sting of death (1 Cor. 15:57; cf. Rev. 14:13).

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IN WEST CENTRAL CANAAN, A

Bezer reminds us of our responsibility to “...be



THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Eph. 6:10).

IN EAST CENTRAL CANAAN, A MANSLAYER COULD FLEE TO RAMOTH. *Ramoth* means "height" or "elevation." The church of Jesus Christ occupies a high and exalted position ("heavenly places," Eph. 1:3; cf. Mt. 5:14). Isaiah saw it as being established in the "...top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it" (2:2). When people entered it, they had to go "up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob..." (2:3). The church is a refuge for the downtrodden (Tit. 1:2; Rm. 8:28). In the words of an old song, "I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, but love *lifted* me." No institution on earth is so elevated in God's estimation as the church. There are many organizations—commercial, political, social, and religious—of international prestige, but the church has the exalted favor and affection of Almighty God Himself! There is no honor as great as being a humble citizen in the kingdom of God (Mt. 11:11). Yet all can attain to, and maintain, this position (Mt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17). Many have gone to the top of Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. As one ascends to its top he can look down on the beautiful capital city and the magnificent scenery along that stretch of the Potomac. The church affords a view of life like that. It lifts us up from the low, hopeless, and degraded world's view. It is our "Ramoth" or "elevation."

IN NORTHEAST CANAAN, A MANSLAYER COULD FLEE TO GOLAN. *Golan* means "circle." A circle expresses completion, and in Christ we are complete. "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Col. 2:10). *Complete*⁷ here literally means "to fill to the brim." The church is the fullness of Christ (Eph. 1:22,23), and in Christ is the fullness of God (Col. 2:9). Hence in Christ's church we have the fullness of God and of Christ. "If we abide in the doctrine of Christ, we have both the Father and the Son" (2 Jn. 9b). In Christ we have every virtue, principle, and truth to be found in any other organization. We don't have to belong to this or that fraternity to have every principle of good, for we are complete in Christ. We have everything in Christ to equip us as Christians (Eph. 1:3). We can be made "perfect" or complete. Paul wrote: "...that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:28; cf. Eph. 4:13; Phil. 3:15).

Have you fled for refuge in Christ? To be in Christ is to be in His church, and we get into it by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism (Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18). The door stands open...

Endnotes: ¹*Avenger* comes from *go'el*, which means "to redeem," and is sometimes translated "kinsman redeemer."² *anapauo*; KJV—rest 4, refresh 4, take rest 2, give rest 1, take ease 1; 12 ³This phrase is translated in different ways: the KJV margin has "pillar and stay;" Goodspeed has "pillar and foundation;" and Moffatt uses "pillar and bulwark." *Pillar* (*stulos*, from *stuo*, to stiffen; KJV—pillar, 4) refers to a "column." The word translated *ground* (*hedraion*) is found only here in the New Testament and means "a stay, prop, or support."⁴ *Smith's Bible Dictionary* has "league or confederacy" and the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* uses "company."⁵ This is from the Hebrew stem *hbr*. Interestingly, we find no place in the Old Testament where the Hebrew root *hbr* is used to describe one's relationship with God.⁷ *pleroo*, KJV—fulfil 51, fill 19, be full 7, complete 2, end 2, misc. 9; 90

"I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust...In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge"

—Psalm 91:2; Proverbs 14:26

Random Kindness



According to the Associated Press, Chuck Wall, a human relations instructor at Bakersfield College in California, was watching the news one day when a cliché was from a broadcaster stuck in his mind: "Another random act of senseless violence." Wall got an idea. He gave an unusual assignment to his students. They were to do something out of the ordinary to help someone and then write an essay about it. Then Wall dreamed up a bumper sticker that said, "Today, I will commit one random act of senseless KINDNESS...Will You?" The students sold the bumper stickers, which a bank and union paid to have printed, for one dollar each, and the profits went to a county Braille center.

-] For his random act of kindness one student paid his mother's utility bills.
-] Another student bought thirty blankets and took them to homeless people gathered under a bridge.

The idea took hold. The bumper sticker was slapped on all 113 county patrol cars. It was trumpeted from pulpits, in schools, and in professional associations. After seeing the success of the idea, Chuck Wall commented, "I had no idea it would erupt like it has. I had no idea our community was in such need of something positive." In this negative and dark world, we each can do acts of kindness to bring some light.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted..." —Eph. 4:32

If Today's Media Had Written the Bible...

-] On Red Sea crossing:
WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOR STRIKE
Pursuing Environmentalists Killed
-] On David vs. Goliath:
HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION
Psychologist Questions Influence of Rock
-] On Elijah on Mt. Carmel:
FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY
400 Killed
-] On the birth of Christ:
HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS
Animal Rights Activists Enraged by Insensitive Couple
-] On feeding the 5,000:
PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH
Disciples Mystified Over Behavior
-] On healing the 10 lepers:
LOCAL DOCTOR'S PRACTICE RUINED
"Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy
-] On healing of the Gadarene demoniac:
MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES STAMPEDE
Local Farmer's Investment Lost



"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..." —Prov. 17:22



The
HOMIE
PAGE
by Chuck Webster

Teenagers

Mark Twain said, "Things run along pretty smoothly until your kid reaches thirteen. That's the time you need to stick 'em in a barrel, hammer the lid down nice and snug, and feed 'em through the knot-hole. And then, about the time he turns sixteen, plug up the knot-hole." One father commented on this: "As much as I admire the writings of the man, it doesn't sound to me like he knew very much about raising kids. Having reared four active children through their teenage years, I would take issue with anyone who thinks they could even get a thirteen-year-old boy into a barrel... to say nothing of ever being able to feed him through a single knot-hole!"

"...add to your faith...patience" —2 Pet 1:5,6

More I Learned From My Child

-] Garbage bags don't make good parachutes.
-] Marbles in gas tanks make lots of noise when driving.
-] The fire department in San Diego has at least a 5 minute response time.
-] The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earth worms dizzy.
-] It will however make cats dizzy.
-] Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.
-] Quiet doesn't necessarily mean don't worry.
-] A 4 year-old's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
-] McGyver can teach us many things we don't want to know. Ditto Tarzan.
-] Legos will pass through the digestive tract of a four year old. Duplos will not.
-] No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool you can't walk on water.
-] Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
-] If you spray hair spray on dust bunnies and run over them with roller blades, they can ignite.
-] A good sense of humor will get you through most problems in life (unfortunately, mostly in retrospect).

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..."
—Prov. 17:22

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN YOUR MARRIAGE: Howard Hendricks has a

Children's Rights

Someone has said: "Pray for the children who must live in the world which their parents have made for them." Parenthood involves a duty, a responsibility, and a privilege. What do children have a right to expect of their parents?

EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO BE LOVED. Do you know the number one killer of children under five? Not accidents. Not crib death. Not leukemia. Child abuse! Two-thirds of abuse occurs with children under four; and one-third, six months or less. Every child (and stepchild) deserves to be loved (Tit. 2:4-5; 2 Tim. 3:3). Parents must realize they owe a child love before he even gets here. Isaac was wanted by Abraham and Sara long before his conception (Rm. 4:18-21; Gen. 21:1-3). Hannah desperately wanted a son (1 Sam 1:11,20) as did John's parents (Lk. 1:13,14,25). Children are a blessing, not a burden (Psa. 127:3-5). From an evolutionary viewpoint a child is merely a biological product of the physical union of two reproductively mature adults. It is a little package of flesh and nothing more. But the Bible teaches that every child is the offspring of God (Acts 17:28-29; Prov. 17:6). For them to develop the capacity to love, they must first be loved (1 Jn. 4:19). A loving family provides a child with a sense of being wanted, while discord, quarrellings, and broken homes make a child feel insecure and unwanted.

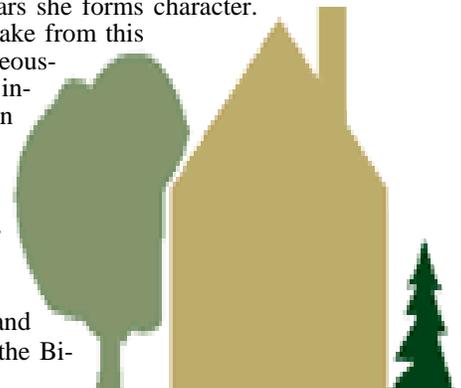
EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO HAVE HIS/HER NEEDS MET (1 Tim. 5:8). No child should have to worry about food, clothes, shelter, or any other material need. Certainly these will vary according to the family income, but we have a responsibility to support those we bring into the world. Let us also give them the education we can afford that will fit them for today's complex world.

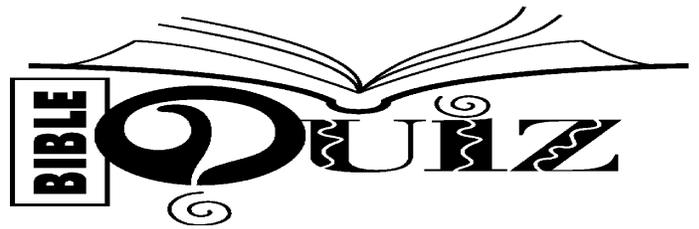
EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO A UNIFIED HOME. The first recorded command in the Bible has reference to children (Gen. 1:28). The primary purpose for the foundation of marriage was the procreation (the conception, birth, and rearing of children) of the human race (cf. 1 Tim. 5:14). Under normal circumstances, God intended for children to be in homes with both mother and father—as was the case with Adam and Eve and the other famous homes of Scripture (Gen. 2; cf. Tit. 2:3,4; 1 Tim. 3:2-4,13). Children deserve parents who take time for them. They are children for only a short time, and these years speed by so quickly. Parents and children should work together...worship together...play together...picnic together...take vacations together. In our culture, divorce robs many children of unified homes. God does give the innocent partner of an adulterer the right to break up the home and marry another (Mt. 19:9), but homes often split for far more trivial matters. It is too often just the selfishness of parents who say they do not want to live together any longer that makes casualties of children. Several studies suggest that children from broken homes have more difficulty progressing in school. The FBI reports that a child from a broken home is six times more apt to get in trouble with the law. As parents, let us work toward happy homes for the sake of our children. Let us make home a place where they feel secure and where they can bring friends without embarrassment.

EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO BE TAUGHT GOD'S TRUTH. It is not enough just to bear children; we must train them (Deut. 6:6,7; Eph. 6:4). It is not enough to feed their bodies; we must nourish their souls. Children are spiritually undernourished if they lack regular instruction in God's Word (1 Pet. 2:2). Some people wait too long to start training a child. They wait to put them into Bible classes, for instance, because they think they are too young to know what it is all about and to behave themselves. A mother asked a prominent educator: "I have a son at home, sir. When would be the best time to start training him." The educator asked, "How old is he?" She said, "Five." He replied, "Hurry home, lady, you've wasted the best years of his life already." Research shows that from years 1-6 a child forms attitudes; from 6-12 years he forms habits; and from 12-18 years she forms character. Character is the only thing our children will take from this world that they did not bring into it. The righteousness of the next generation depends upon the instruction of this one. The poet was right when he arranged these words:

*I saw tomorrow look at me from little children's eyes,
And thought how carefully we would teach if we were really wise. ☺*

Parents have the first duty and responsibility; and this cannot be shifted to the school, daycare, the Bi-





The Origin, Destiny, and Defeat of Satan

Editor's Note: Last issue's article on "A Decent Devil" was well received and sparked further interest on this topic. Some have wondered...

What is the origin of the devil? Satan was on the scene as early as the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1). But since he is not introduced and no account of his birth or creation is given, can we know his origin? Consider that there are only three kinds of beings: Deity, angels, and human. Satan is not divine since he is obviously subject to God (cf. Job 1). He is not human because he possesses powers superior to humans (cf. Mt. 4). Therefore, he must belong to the class of angels. God does not create evil (Jas. 1:17),¹ so he must have been created good and became evil (like man). It follows then that Satan is a rebellious angel who was judged by God and fell from holiness to wickedness. Jesus indicated this when He said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Lk. 10:18). Peter adds this information: "...God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (2 Pet. 2:4). Pride seems to have been the cause of his fall (1 Tim. 3:6). The angels who fell with him are thought to make up his army of spirits opposed to God and God's people (Eph. 6:10-13; Lk. 11:18; Jude 6).

What is going to happen to the devil? Evidently, Satan still has access to heaven (Job 1-2; Zec. 3) but one day will be thrown out (Rev. 12:7-12). He works feverishly since he knows his time is short (12:12). When Jesus returns, He will cast Satan into hell, the lake of fire, where he will be tormented forever (Rev. 19:11-20:3). Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, but rebellious sinners who reject Christ and believe Satan's lies will also suffer with them (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:11-15).

Satan seems to control my life. How can I beat him? There are three steps to defeating the devil: (1) We must *recognize* when the devil is at work (2 Cor. 2:11). For instance, when there is a lack of love, we can be assured that the devil is near (1 Jn. 3:10). (2) We must *respect* his subtlety or slyness (2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Pet. 5:8). (3) We must *resist* him with the Word and prayer (Mt. 4:1-11; Jas. 4:7, *resist, anthistemi*, "to stand against, oppose, withstand;" Eph. 6:17,18). To resist we must: (1) *Put on our protective gear* (Eph. 6:10-18). We wouldn't think of going into a radioactive area without putting on breathing equipment to avoid contamination. How foolish to go into the arena with the devil without the gear God has given for our protection. (2) *Rely on Christ and the Spirit* (Rev. 12:11; 1 Jn. 4:4). When Satan desired to sift Peter as wheat, Christ prayed for him (Lk. 22:31; Acts 26:16-18). (3) *Take away his advantages* (Eph. 4:27). Paul names some sins that give Satan a foothold: lust, lying, anger, stealing, corrupt speech, evil speaking, an unforgiving spirit, bitterness, malice, and so forth. Any sin we enjoyed before becoming Christians can be brought over to ruin the new life, so be sure to keep your heart clean. Husbands and wives are taught not to defraud each other sexually lest Satan use that advantage to tempt them to commit adultery (1 Cor. 7:5).

We can beat the devil at his own game. The stakes are high and the consequences are eternal. Don't give up. Don't ever give up.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

The Very Devil

Hints (in order): Jude 9; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10; John 14:30+16:11; 8:44; Mt. 13:19; Jn. 8:44; Eph. 2:2; Mt. 12:24; Mk. 1:23-26; Ezek. 28:11-19; Lk. 10:18; 1 Chron. 21:1; Lk. 22:3-4; 22:31; Acts 5:3; 19:16; 1 Sam. 16:14-23; Mk. 9:17-29

- Who disputed with Satan over the body of Moses? _____
- To what animal does 1 Peter compare Satan? _____
- Where does Paul call Satan "the god of this world?" _____
- What is the final place for Satan? _____
- Who does Jesus call "the prince of this world?" _____
- Of what is Satan the father? _____
- In the Parable of the Sower, what happens when someone hears the word and does not understand it? _____
- According to John, Satan was from the very beginning both a liar and a _____.
- Satan is the "spirit that worketh in the children of _____?"
- Where is Satan called "Beelzebub?" _____
- What did the evil spirit do when Jesus cast him out of the man at Capernaum? _____
- What apostle spoke of the contrast between Christ and Belial (another name for the devil)? _____
- Jesus compared the fall of Satan to what? _____
- Who did Satan provoke to do a census in Israel? _____
- What disciple did Satan enter into? _____
- What disciple did Satan want to sift like wheat? _____
- Who did Satan provoke to lie to the Holy Spirit? _____
- Who had seven sons that were overcome by an evil spirit they were trying to cast out of a man? _____
- What king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? _____
- What had the evil spirit been doing to the demon-possessed boy healed by Jesus? _____

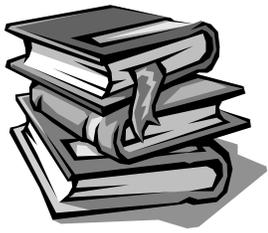
List the Three...

Hints: Gen. 4:1,2,25; 5:32; Deut. 1:8; 2 Sam. 2:4+1 Kgs. 1:43; Dan. 3:13; Mt. 17:1,2

- First children of Adam: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
- Sons of Noah: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
- Best known patriarchs: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
- Kings of the United Kingdom: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
- Men thrown in fiery furnace: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
- Apostles at Jesus' transfiguration: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Answers to last month's questions: *Who Dared Ask God?* 1. Habakkuk (1:1-3); 2. Jeremiah (15:18); 3. David (1 Sam. 23:1-2); 4. Cain (Gen. 4:9); 5. Abimelech (Gen. 20:4); 6. Abraham (Gen. 18:25); 7. Moses (Ex. 3:10-11); 8. Ezekiel (11:13); 9. Job (40:3-4); 10. Abram (Gen. 15:7-8); *Speaking of Churches:* 1. Laodicea (Col. 4:16); 2. Antioch (Acts 11:30); 3. Crete (Tit. 1:5); 4. Pergamum (Rev. 2:13); 5. Jerusalem (Acts 8:5, 14); 6. Antioch (Acts 15:34); 7. Berea (Acts 17:10-15); 8. Ephesus (Rev. 2:6); 9. Laodicea (Rev. 3:20); 10. Jerusalem (Acts 2:47); 11. Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-45); 12. Barnabas (Acts 11:22)

Send your answers in for an opportunity to win a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary. We'll grade and return all entries.



Four Recommended Books about Jesus



The Library of Congress has more books about Jesus of Nazareth than any other historical character. In fact, more books have been written about Jesus than any other subject *period*. Of all these books, which would you recommend? There are four that we can recommend without reservation. They were the originals, and they have never been improved upon. Their Author is the Holy Spirit, and they are named, simply, “Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.” These four accounts of the life of Jesus the Christ comprise the first of the four sections of the New Testament.

BIOGRAPHIES OF CHRIST (4)

Matthew—*Christ is the King of the Jews* (28 chapters/ 1071 verses; reading time: 145 minutes). This book was written to Jewish readers and proved that Jesus was their long-awaited King (“king” used 20 times; cf. 2:2; 21:5; 25:34,40; 27:11,29,37,42).

Mark—*Christ is the Servant of God* (16 chapters/678 verses; reading time: 90 minutes). This book was written to Roman readers and emphasized Jesus as a Servant (“servant” used five times; cf. 9:35; 10:44; 12:2,4; 14:47).

Luke—*Christ is the Son of Man* (24 chapters /1151 verses; reading time: 155 minutes). This book was written to Gentiles and shows Jesus’ human side. He is referred to as the “Son of man” 25 times (e.g., 5:24; 6:5; 7:34; 9:22,26; 44,56, 58; 11:30; 12:8,10,40; 17:22,24,26,30; 18:8,31; 19:10; 21:27).

John—*Christ is the Son of God* (21 chapters/879 verses; reading time: 121 minutes). This book was written later than the others and serves as a supplement to the others. It repeats little of what is recorded in the previous three. Jesus is shown decisively to be the “Son of God” (“Son of God” is found ten times; cf. 1:34,49; 3:18; 5:25; 9:35; 10:36; 11:4,27; 19:7; 20:31).

Why have four accounts of the same life? These books are portraits that present four different poses as *one* unique personality. Jesus is presented as Lord and Savior, rather than describing all He did in the precise order in which He did it. They center in the Messiah’s threefold ministry of Prophet, Priest, and King (cf. Heb. 1:1-3). As Prophet, fulfilling Moses’ great prediction (Deut. 18:15-19), He was *the* Prophet who spoke not merely *for* God as the prophets before Him, but God spoke *through* Him as His Son (Heb. 1:1,2). As a Priest, Christ became both the Sacrifice and the Sacrificer as He died on the cross to save sinners (Heb. 9:14), and through His resurrection lives eternally to make intercession for them (Heb. 7:25). As King, He ascended back to heaven to reign over His kingdom until He comes to deliver it to His Father (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

Would you like to learn more about Jesus? Read these four books in your Bible (17 days @ 30 minutes/day) and then follow up and supplement this study with the correspondence course and free study materials offered below.

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK)

- YES!** I want to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. Please enroll me in the “Survey of the Bible” Study Course.
- I am interested in seeing the “Visualized Bible Study” Video Series.
- I would like a daily schedule for reading the entire Bible in a year.
- I would like to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- I would like to learn more about your Bible school.
- I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- I would like to learn more about your programs for: children/teens/college/singles/young couples/adults/seniors (circle one/more).
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____

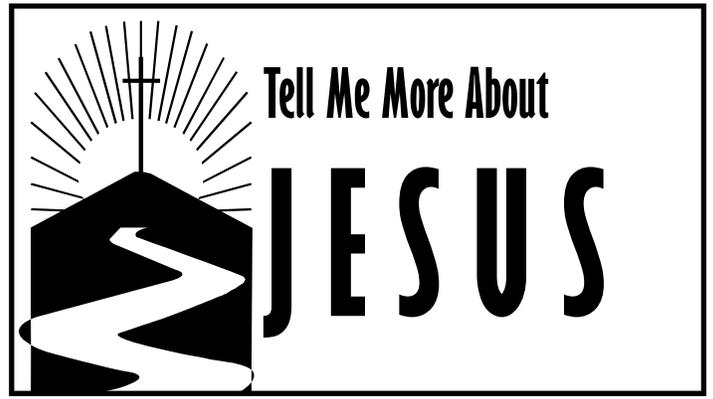
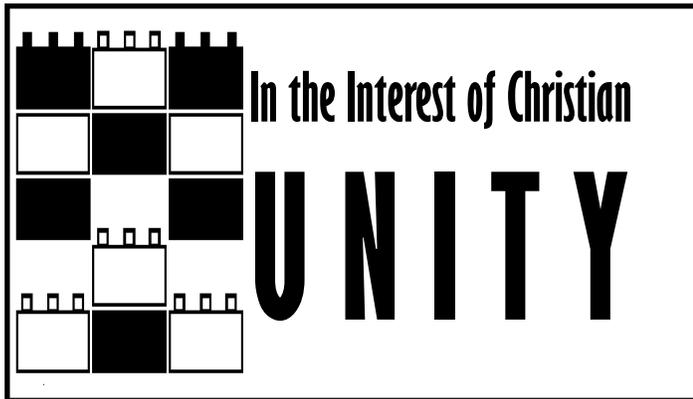
Featured Materials:

- Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):*
- HTH Booklet: A New Look at the Old Rugged Cross
 - HTH Booklet: Wait Till the Honeymoon? (Youth/college)
 - Heaven, Glimpses of Glory yCoping with Loneliness
 - The Truth about Lying yThe Rapture?
 - Special Scriptures for Special Needs yThe Savior’s Way
 - How I Studied the Bible yQue es la Iglesia de Cristo
 - Practicing Safe Sin yProfanity yHypocrisy
 - Is Christianity a Cult? yThe Holy Spirit
 - The Pillars of Calvinism yDance (youth)
 - Are There Too Many Churches? yThe Lord’s Supper
 - The Work of Women in the Church yAmazing Grace
 - Has the Tongues Movement Convinced the Language Experts?
 - Have You Wondered about Predestination?
 - Justification by Faith yIs One Church as Good as Another?
 - Is Church Attendance Necessary? yOther: _____
 - This month’s packet (booklet plus all above)
 - Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

Please send me the NEWEST HTH Booklet: Full color, readable, interesting, and FREE!

Shall We Gather at the River? (A Fresh Look at what the Bible Says About Baptism)

~ As always, all materials / services are provided absolutely FREE as a ministry of the church! ~



They Played By The Same Rules

It was historic! It had been more than forty years since it had last happened; but, in this generation of seeing walls come down and records broken, it was not really surprising. Perhaps you saw some of it. I speak of the baseball game between the Cuban National team and the Baltimore Orioles. It happened on May 28, 1999 *in Cuba*. Fidel Castro himself attended, attired in his official garb, and watched the activities with the mostly solemn crowd of by-invitation-only fans.

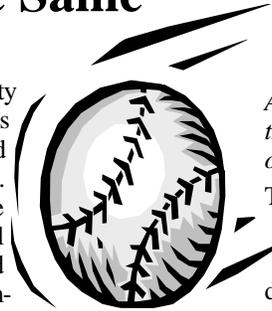
The Orioles eventually won. What was amazing was that both teams played by the same rules and no disagreements broke out. Why was this amazing? Because these teams came from different cultures, lived under opposite forms of government, and spoke different languages. Sure, a few could speak the other's language, but, by and large, they were from different worlds. Yet, the game went off without a hitch. Why? The reason is simple: they had one rule book to govern what they did. The standardized rules of baseball are the same in Cuba as in the United States; they are the same in Spanish as in English. The language barrier did not prevent them from playing the same game. The culture barrier did not hinder their competing in the same fashion.

Spiritually speaking, we have one "rule book" (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:3). The Bible says the same thing to every individual (2 Pet. 1:20). Why is it, then, that there are so many people "playing by different rules?" To answer simply, it is because of a lack of respect for the authority of God's Word (1 Chron. 15:13). What would have happened in the historic game if the Cubans had decided to interpret the rulebook how they wanted and the Orioles had done the same? There would have been total chaos and confusion—which is exactly what happens when men turn away from the only source of authority in religion.

God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33); in fact, He wants us all to "speak the same thing," be "perfectly joined together," and be of the "same mind and judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). Man—not God—is the author of division and confusion in the religious world. In an attempt to make religion more pleasing to himself, man has modified, altered, changed, added, and deleted what God said. This amounts to a serious lack of respect for God.

The Cuban Nationals and the Baltimore Orioles would never have been able to play the game of baseball had they adopted the ideas of the religious world. If two baseball teams can see the need for authority and seeing matters alike, why can't we in the religious world? Think about it... —adapted from Eddy Gilpin

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD..." —Isaiah 1:18



Evidences of Jesus' Death

As strange as it may sound, some unbelievers—in order to get around the miracle of the resurrection—have denied that Jesus actually died on the cross. Let's explore the evidence...

The precipitate cause of Jesus' death is not precisely known, but His death is attested to by four recorded facts.

First, the soldiers (professional executioners) testify of His death. They perceived that Jesus was dead and did not break His legs—a normal procedure to hasten death (Jn. 19:33). Instead, they pierced His side with a spear (*logche*, made of iron, with a egg-shaped head as wide as a man's hand) (Jn. 19:34). If He had not been dead, this would have been a fatal wound.

Second, the flow of blood and water from His side is proof of His death. This piercing almost certainly indicates a laceration of the heart itself (pericardium) which would, even under normal circumstances, be fatal. Albert Barnes wrote, "This membrane [pericardium] contains a serous matter or liquid resembling water, which prevents the surface of the heart from becoming dry by its continual motion." The separation of blood and water further implies some time had elapsed since His death. The blood and water indicate a post-mortem separation of the cellular components of blood from the fluid component (serum).

Third, Jesus Himself attested to the immediate proximity of His own death by saying, "Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit" (Lk. 23:46). Matthew adds, "Jesus...yielded up his spirit" (27:50). The Greek implies a willful sending forth of the spirit at the point of death (*aphiemi*, "to send forth"). Jesus had said that He would lay down His life (Jn. 10:17,18).

Fourth, there are supernatural evidences that He had died. The Temple veil was rent in two *from the top to the bottom*. This veil hid the Holy of Holies, the place where dwelt the very presence of God. No man could enter it except the High Priest, and he only once a year, on the great day of Atonement. It was as if the way to God's presence, hitherto barred to man, was opened to all. It was as if God's heart, hitherto hidden, was laid bare (Jn. 14:9). On the cross, as never before and never again, men saw God's great love. Also, tombs were opened and bodies raised. This symbolizes that Jesus had conquered death. The tomb lost its power, and the grave lost its terror, and death lost its tragedy.

All that remains to complete the scene is the removal of the body and burial in the new tomb to await the resurrection on Sunday morning (Mt. 27:57-60). The certainty of Jesus' death has thus been verified both medically and Biblically.

"...Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing" —John 20:37