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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 4

## 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](mailto:info@housetohouse.com)

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The most commonly asked question about God—which has been called the “Achilles Heel” of Christianity—is, “Why does a loving, all-powerful God allow suffering in His world?”

This is not the death knell for Christianity that some make it out to be. Even asking “Why do bad things happen to good people?” implies more than the secular viewpoint can explain:

- There are values in this universe;
  - The universe is logical and orderly;
  - People are important;
  - Life is really worth living;
  - We can find answers that will help us.
- (Warren W. Weirsbe, *Bumps Are What You Climb On*).

There are five primary causes of suffering:

### WE ARE MORTAL AND LIVE IN A DISEASE AND DEATH ENVIRONMENT.

Nature does not discriminate between good and bad, atheist and believer. The sun and rain—including droughts and storms—fall on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45).

The Christian worldview does not require a spiritual explanation for every life experience. Suffering can be without any

moral cause. Jesus raised the question of “those eighteen” upon whom a tower fell: “Think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay” (Luke 13:4-5). They were not being punished. It was an unfortunate accident.

Three historical events help explain the existence of suffering in the world:

*The Creation (Genesis 1).* God set up His world with natural laws regulating such things as gravity, matter in motion, weather patterns, the water cycle, ocean tides, and geological/meteorological conditions.

Those laws were implemented for man’s good, but if violated, they bring consequences. One can cook with fire or be consumed in it. Gravity keeps us attached to the planet, but it also crashes us to the ground if a plane engine fails. Two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, so one hit by a car will be injured or killed.

*The Fall (Genesis 3).* Why didn’t God create a world free from natural disasters? He did. On the sixth day everything God made was pronounced “very good” (Genesis 1:31). The Garden of Eden was an incomparable paradise of physical beauty and tranquil peace. It had no sickness,

disease, pathogens, genetic flaws, harmful mutations, viruses, or other threats to man's mental peace or physical well-being.

Man was designed to live forever in Eden, but he sinned (Genesis 3:6), and everything changed. God warned that the forbidden fruit would cause them to "surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Thus sin introduced death—spiritual and physical. Post-sin Adam was subject to the sweat of toil and the pain of thorns "till thou return unto the ground" (Genesis 3:17–19). With no access to the tree of life (Genesis 2:9; 3:22–24), those perfect bodies that God had whipped up from divine breath and earth dust began to decay. Since all men sin, mortality is universal: "So death passed upon all men" (Romans 5:12). Man had an expiration date. "Death" entered our vocabulary.

Death is a point in time (James 2:26), but also a process. All die eventually (Hebrews 9:27); all are dying now (Ecclesiastes 12:2–7). A part of that "death that passed upon all men" is the constant threat of death. Random conditions exist that can destroy at any moment. None are guaranteed a full lifetime (Psalm 90:10; Luke 12:20). Eminem said, "The truth is you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. Life is a crazy ride, and nothing is guaranteed." Since life can end at any time, we must always have our houses in order—regarding both the world we will leave behind and that to which we go (2 Kings 20:1; Luke 12:16–21).

*The Flood* (Genesis 6–8). Peter contrasted today's world with "the world that then was" (2 Peter 3:6). Many believe the flood changed the planet's topography, geology, and meteorology (cf. Psalm 104:6–10). Some scientists postulate that natural disasters—heavy rains, dangerous winds, earthquakes, volcanic blasts—did not exist pre-flood.

### **WE ARE FOOLISH AND MAKE BAD DECISIONS.**

Suffering can be—and often is—self-inflicted. Oxford scholar C.S. Lewis estimated that eighty percent of human suffering stems from human choice.

The most dangerous gift that God gave man was volition—the ability to choose. God did not create evil, but He did create the possibility of evil. Adam and Eve were told what they could and could not do (Genesis 2:17). They introduced suffering into the world by choosing to disobey God. They soon learned of punishments involving sweat, subservience, pain, and toil (Genesis 3:17–19). They were driven from the paradise (3:24).

Every human is born with the ability to choose (Joshua 24:15). We suffer if we use the gift foolishly. A frugal person has a surplus; a spendthrift can't pay the bills. Hate leads to violence, and violence to pain. Greed leads to stealing and abuse. A violent temper leads to fights, injury, property damage, murder, and arrest. Drunkenness causes hangovers, wrecks, cirrhosis, poverty, and spouse abuse (Proverbs 23:29–35). A busybody who sticks his nose where it should not be will soon have few friends (1 Peter 4:15). Sexual promiscuity leads to unwanted children, disease, abortion, and divorce (Hebrews 13:4).

Paul wrote, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7–8).

### **WE ARE CONNECTED AND INJURED BY OTHER'S DECISIONS.**

Much of the pain in this world is collateral. Jonah's rebellion caused a ship's crew to be caught in a fearful storm (Jonah 1:14). David had Uriah killed, but others died with him (2 Samuel 11:17). Herod left a whole village to grieve (Matthew 2:16–18). Innocents have always suffered because others choose greed, lust, hate, addiction, and selfishness. Radical adherents to a violent religion killed 2,998 in the Twin Towers and left a nation hurting. Families go without food because a parent is addicted to gambling, drugs, sex, or alcohol. Good spouses are divorced and left to rear children alone because the other found someone else (cf. Matthew 19:9).

People are killed on highways every day by drinking drivers.

### **WE ARE VULNERABLE AND SUFFER FROM MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN.**

The might-makes-right crowd takes advantage of society's powerless. Robbers steal. Murderers kill. Identity thieves prey upon citizens, ruining credit and causing chaos. The unscrupulous lie to the old and steal their retirement savings. A ruffian finds a woman in the wrong place and forces her—or lures her on a date, then drugs and rapes her. Terrorists plot, plant, murder, and maim. Criminal cowards shoot innocent children in schools and target moviegoers catching a Batman flick. Greedy businessmen take advantage of the unsuspecting and leave them high and dry.

Why doesn't God step in? He allows the freedom to choose evil. When trouble brewed in the first family (Genesis 4:5–8), God did not step in and stop the fatal blow. He did not supernaturally heal Abel's wound and bring him back to life. He allowed Cain the freedom to choose love or hate, and everybody had to live with the consequences. God will eventually right the scales of justice at the final tribunal (Matthew 25:31–33; Hebrews 10:31).

### **WE ARE RIGHTEOUS, AND DARKNESS HATES LIGHT.**

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). Jesus was executed on a cross even though He lived a sinless life (Matthew 27:35). He explained that His followers will also have tribulation in this world (John 16:33).

A woman had trouble after trouble. She asked her preacher, "When am I going to get out of these troubles?" He responded, "Ask instead, 'What am I going to get out of these troubles?'" We do not get "out of troubles" here (Job 14:1), but we do get much out of our troubles (Psalm 119:71).

When God's children suffer, we can trust that God will always do what is right (Genesis 18:25) and that He will always work things out for the best (Romans 8:28). Corrie Ten Boom, Holocaust survivor, wrote, "When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer." "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).





# Shelter in the Storm

## Children Are Quick

**Teacher:** Why are you late?

**Student:** Class started before I got here.

**Teacher:** Glen, why do you get so dirty?

**Glen:** I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

**Teacher:** Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

**Simon:** No sir, I don't have to; my Mom is a good cook.

**Teacher:** Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

**Clyde:** No, sir. It's the same dog.

**Teacher:** Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

**Harold:** A teacher.

**Teacher:** George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree but also admitted it. Now, Louis, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

**Louis:** Because George still had the axe in his hand.

*"He that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast."*

PROVERBS 15:15

A young man named Gus was taking a walk through the English countryside one day in 1753 when a sudden storm swept across the landscape. Running for cover, he spotted a wide rock formation with an opening where he sought shelter until the storm passed. He had been fortunate to find this hiding-place so quickly, and he began to muse on the connection between his shelter and God's help in life's storms.

As he contemplated this scenario, the words for a poem began to form in his mind, but he had no paper on which to write them. Looking down on the floor of the cave-like structure, he saw a playing card—considered a sinful thing by the young cleric. Nevertheless, he picked it up and began to formulate his thoughts and write them on the card.

Sometime later, the life of the writer of those words, Augustus Toplady, was cut short by tuberculosis. On August 11, 1778, he passed from this life and was buried in Tottenham Court Chapel in London. In his memory, a stone was erected; it was inscribed with the words he had jotted down on that playing card years before:

Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;

Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

These words had become the beloved Christian hymn: "Rock of Ages."

As Gus found shelter under a rock formation, so you and I can find "shelter" (forgiveness) from the "storm of sin" in the Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ.

Jesus endured God's wrath against sin on our behalf by dying on the cross. He paid the price for our redemption (Ephesians 1:7). Through His blood, we receive the "double cure": we are cleansed from the guilt and the dominion of sin.

We find shelter in the Rock of Ages when we place our trust in Him (Acts 16:30–31), turn from our sins in repentance (Acts 17:30–31), confess Him before men (Romans 10:9–10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26–27).

"From the end of the earth will I  
cry unto thee, when my heart  
is overwhelmed: lead me to the  
rock that is higher than I."  
—Psalm 61:2

—David Sargent, Mobile, Alabama

*"Think on these things."*

PHILIPPIANS 4:8



# Home PAGE



## The Best Way to Pray

Three ministers were discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

“Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray,” the first one said.

“No,” said the second. “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.”

“You’re both wrong,” the third said. “The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor.”

The repairman could contain himself no longer. “Hey, fellas,” he interrupted. “The best prayin’ I ever did was when I was hangin’ upside down from a telephone pole.”

*“A merry heart doeth good.”*

PROVERBS 17:22



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com).



## When David Really Messed Up

David is one of the most popular characters in the Bible. He triumphed over a lion, a bear, and a giant.

He maintained integrity while hunted like a wild animal by King Saul. He even led God’s people to spiritual dedication while he was king.

However, even a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22) can mess up his life. David sinned and messed up his. He acted irresponsibly (2 Samuel 11:1), irreverently (11:2–5) and irrationally (11:6–27). David broke 50% of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20):

- #7: Adultery (2 Samuel 11:4)
- #10: Coveted neighbor’s wife (2 Samuel 11:3)
- #8: Stole another man’s wife (2 Samuel 12:9)
- #9: Lied (2 Samuel 11:7–8, 12–13)
- #6: Murdered (2 Samuel 11:17; 12:9)

David’s sin was great.

### What help did David need?

David needed someone to be totally honest about the sin in his life. He didn’t need someone to soothe his conscience or pacify his soul; he needed truth and honesty. Nathan was the man (2 Samuel 12:1–4).

David needed a heart that could be broken. He needed a contrite heart (Psalm 51:17); a heart that was tender and receptive.

David needed assurance of forgiveness. Our number one problem is sin; thus our number one need is the forgiveness of sin (Psalm 32:1).

David needed continued strength to carry on after his sin had been forgiven. There is great need for encouragement

and exhortation in the world and in the church. Paul said, “lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow” (2 Corinthians 2:7).

### David learned some valuable lessons:

He learned the certainty of exposure (Numbers 32:23).

He learned the certainty of harvest time (Galatians 6:7).

He learned the certainty of separation (Isaiah 59:1–2).

### What did David do when confronted with his sin?

David admitted/acknowledged his sin (2 Samuel 12:13). He showed personal responsibility for his sin though he was not the only sinner.

David turned to God (Psalm 51:4). There are no small sins against the great God.

David asked God for forgiveness (Psalm 51:1). He didn’t use elaborate or soft vocabulary. He said, “I have sinned.”

God forgave him.

Conclusion: In the original Hebrew, David’s statement “I have sinned against the Lord” amounts to only two words: *hata al-Yahweh*. These two words, and the heart they reflect, show the fundamental difference between David and Saul.

Confession doesn’t need to be long to be real and sincere. David’s confession is an example for each of us. He placed the blame squarely on his own shoulders. He did not minimize his offense. David realized that his sin was against God.

—Mark N. Posey, Decatur, Alabama

*“Have mercy upon me, O God.”*

PSALM 51:1

# THE ACTION AND DESIGN OF BAPTISM

## THE THINGS DONE IN BAPTISM

## THE BLESSINGS RECEIVED

Baptized  
Baptized  
Buried  
Baptized  
Planted  
(united)

into Christ  
into His death  
with Him in baptism  
into death  
in baptism  
Raised (put on Christ)  
Raised (reach the blood)  
Raised with Him  
Raised to new life  
Likeness of resurrection

in baptism  
in baptism  
in baptism  
in baptism  
in baptism

REFERENCES  
Rom. 6:3a  
Rom. 6:3b  
Rom. 6:4a  
Rom. 6:4b  
Rom. 6:5a

# BAPTISM

Its actions and blessings

REFERENCES  
Gal. 3:26  
John 19:34  
Matt. 28:19  
Rom. 6:10  
Rom. 6:5

# THE FORM OF DOCTRINE

## THE DOCTRINE ITSELF

Death of Christ for sin  
Burial of Christ  
DOCTRINE  
Resurrection of Christ

REFERENCES  
1 Cor. 15:3b  
1 Cor. 15:4a  
1 Cor. 15:4b

## THE FORM OF DOCTRINE

Believer dies to sin  
FORM  
Buried with Christ in baptism  
Raised with Him in baptism

REFERENCES  
Rom. 6:2b  
Rom. 6:4a  
Rom. 6:4b

# THE WHOLE PROCESS

BEFORE THE ACTS — they were servants of sin  
HOW IT WAS DONE — obedience from the heart  
WHAT THEN — the Form was obeyed  
THE RESULTS — they became servants of righteousness — planted and united with Christ  
REFERENCES — Rom. 6:17–18; Rom. 6:2, 6

## Bible QUIZ

HTH Issue 18:4



Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the Plan of Salvation bookmark as a way of saying "thanks" for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions Taken from the King James Version

**Answers to Last Issue: The Inauguration of the New Testament Church:** 1. Pentecost (Acts 2:1); 2. Sound of rushing wind; cloven tongues like as of fire; 3. Tongues, language; 4. F (Jews only); 5. New wine (drunk); 6. Joel 2:28–32; 7. Call, baptized; 8. Miracles, signs; 9. F (foreknowledge); 10. F; 11. Throne; 12. God, Jesus, Lord; 13. F (pricked); 14. Repent, baptized, every, remission; 15. F (3,000); 16. T; 17. A; 18. F (no choice given; "baptism" means immersion); 19. Steadfastly.

## The Ever Meaningful Story of Job

**Directions:** Find your answers in Job 1, 2, 3, 16, 38, 40, 42.

- Job lived in the land of \_\_\_\_\_ (1:1).
- T/F Job had three sons and seven daughters.
- Job offered \_\_\_\_\_ offerings for his children, indicating that he lived before the Law of Moses (when priests instead of fathers offered sacrifices).
- T/F Satan appeared before God with the "sons of God."
- God said of Job that there is none like him in the \_\_\_\_\_, a perfect and an \_\_\_\_\_ man, one that feareth God, and escheweth (shuns) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Satan said that Job would \_\_\_\_\_ God to His face if He took away his blessings ("touched all he had").
- T/F Satan caused a fire to kill Job's children as they feasted together.
- T/F The Sabeans stole Job's sheep.
- T/F The Chaldeans took Job's camels.
- When the report of all the evil things came to Job, he arose and rent his mantle, and \_\_\_\_\_ his head, and fell upon the ground, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- T/F When Satan came the second time, he wanted to remove Job's health.
- Job had sore boils from the sole of his \_\_\_\_\_ unto his \_\_\_\_\_.
- T/F Job's wife encouraged him to be patient and keep his faith in God.
- Job's three friends were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (2:11).
- T/F Job's friends were a great encouragement to him.
- T/F God spoke to Job through a small still voice.
- After God spoke to Job, Job said, "I am \_\_\_\_\_; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my \_\_\_\_\_" (40:4).
- Although Job never knew why the bad things happened, he came to understand God could "\_\_\_\_\_ everything" and that was enough (42:2).
- T/F God restored Job only as much at the end as he had at the beginning (42:10).
- T/F God gave Job a new family of seven sons and three daughters (42:13).

—adapted from Biblequizzes.com  
www.housetohouse.com



# Finding Time

Don't have time to read the Bible? It takes less time than you might think.

It takes 70 hours and 40 minutes to read the whole Bible at pulpit rate. By reading just 90 verses a day one can read the entire Bible in one year. This takes about 15 minutes a day for the average reader.

Generally, set your pace to read a book from the Bible a week. Reading the longest book takes no longer than most of us devote to reading other things in a day.

When possible, read an entire book at one sitting. With some books this is difficult—like Genesis, Psalms, or Luke—but most are short enough to be read easily at one time. If studying a book in class, try to read the book once a week. By the time class is over, you will know it chapter by chapter, and many verses will practically be memorized.

We are all busy, but we can all make time for things that are important (Ephesians 5:16). If we are going to learn the Bible, we must take time to study it. There is no other way.

*"Learn of me."*

MATTHEW 11:29

## Free Audio Downloads!



- ▶ Where Is God in Times of Grief? —Don Williams
- ▶ Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? —Wade Webster
- ▶ Rejoicing in Suffering —Tom Holland
- ▶ Trusting in the Power of Prayer —Cliff Goodwin
- ▶ The Problem of Evil, Pain, and Suffering —Kyle Butt
- ▶ The Benefits of Suffering —Allen Webster

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## Recommended Viewing

We recommend *Getting to Know Your Bible* with Billy Lambert, well-respected gospel preacher. The program can be seen on Channel 377 TCT Monday–Friday, 9:30 P.M. and 3:30 A.M. CST. Open your Bible and tune in each week. To learn more go to: [www.gettingtoknowyourbible.com](http://www.gettingtoknowyourbible.com).



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## More!

- I want to better understand the church of Christ.
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- Quiero Recibir *Casa a Casa* en Español.
- I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- I have a prayer request: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a Bible question: \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to know more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

## I want to learn more about the Bible!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Bible Study Helps:

- Enroll me in a Free Survey of the Bible Home Study Course. *Pressure-free . . . work on your own at home.*
- I want to see the *Visualized Bible Study* series (an in-home personal study). *These popular videos have been seen by people of all religions all over the world.*
- I would like a daily Bible reading schedule.

### Tracts:

- NEW!** Pursuing the Elusive City of Gold
- NEW!** Second-Time-Around Dating
- NEW!** Steps to Salvation: Repent
- NEW!** What Should I Teach my Child about Baptism?
- The Five Sacrifices of Calvary
- A Hopeless, Helpless, Hapless Man
- I've Got Friends in Low Places
- How to Have a Great Spiritual Retirement
- Simple Directions to Heaven
- The Restoration Plea
- What Will We Leave Behind?
- Your House Is on Fire!
- Mary and Jesus at a Party
- Allegiance Should Show on Sundays
- Understanding Children
- Children: Preprogrammed or Blank Slates?
- When There Is Nowhere to Turn
- Was Joan of Arc Really Noah's Wife?
- A Thief Who Has Robbed Us All
- You Can't Get to Heaven Alone
- How to Get More Time Out of Your Day
- Asleep in the Storm
- How to Get Ahead by Not Getting Even
- Five Animals You Won't Meet in Heaven
- Why Not Be a Prodigal? Part 1 (youth)
- Married for Life. How Five Couples Reached Fifty Years.
- When Jesus Was a Boy
- Abortion Wrongs
- Christian Soldiers
- Investing Time Wisely
- Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- God's Lamb in the Devil's Zoo
- Why I Quit Going to the Beach
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
- Can God Really Forgive Me?
- Glorifying God as Women
- Does Jesus Love Poor People?
- Next Week's Best Seller
- Church: Why Bother?
- Lonely?
- A Proud Look
- Slow to Speak
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*

# The Gospel in 1 Verse

“For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26).

**The Enormous Evil** – Sin. Many of us never come to grips with how awful our sin really is. Sin separates us from God and will condemn our souls (Isaiah 59:1–2; Ephesians 2:13). One dare not take evil and unrighteousness lightly (1 John 3:4; 5:17).

**The Glorious Solution** – Christ. “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus means “Savior.” Christ means, “Anointed One”—the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. The only real solution to sin IS Jesus.

**The Incredible Event** – He appeared once for all. Jesus, the very Son of God (John 1:14, 18), came to this world to deal with our sin. His name, “Immanuel,” means, “God with us.” This was all part of the eternal plan and purpose of God (Ephesians 3:9–11; 1 Peter 1:20). Fully God, Jesus came to this earth and became fully human (yet without sin)—He truly became a man (Hebrews 2:17; Romans 8:3). Jesus knows what it’s like to live on this earth and deal with sin and pain.

**The Ultimate Sacrifice** – The sacrifice of Himself. Jesus “gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Galatians 1:4). The greatness of the sacrifice required indicates the awfulness of sin. Surely if there were any other way to deal with sin, God would have done it. But the Father gave His Son!

**The Magnificent Achievement** – To put away sin. What Jesus did at the Cross is sufficient. Christ’s sacrifice once and for all deals with sin. Jesus died to put away sin and to bring us to God (1 Peter 2:24; 3:18). Oh, what a Savior!

—Mike Vestal, Midland, Texas

*“Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. . .”*

HEBREWS 9:26

## Isaiah’s Telescope

Isaiah looked down the telescope of prophecy and saw 700 years and more into the future.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end . . .” (Isaiah 9:6–7).

- Isaiah saw a crib: “unto us a child is born.”
- He saw a cross: “unto us a Son is given.” The everlasting Father is a Son given.
- He saw a crown: “and the government shall be upon his shoulder.”

—Wade Webster, Southaven, Mississippi

*“The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”*

ISAIAH 9:7



## Amazing!



Everywhere Jesus went, men marveled at His greatness.

- When He was just an infant, Mary and Joseph marveled at what was spoken of Him (Luke 2:33).
- At twelve, they were amazed at Him as He discussed questions with doctors in the temple (Luke 2:48).
- His hometown synagogue wondered at His gracious words (Luke 4:22).
- The Jews marveled that He knew letters, having never learned (John 7:15).
- The disciples were amazed at His transfiguration (Mark 9:1–15). They were amazed (Matthew 12:23) and marveled at His power to do miracles (John 7:21).
- The “multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel” (Matthew 15:31).
- His disciples marveled that His word could wither a living fig tree (Matthew 21:20), that He talked with a Samaritan woman (John 4:27), and that He controlled nature: “What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!” (Matthew 8:27),
- His followers were amazed at His teachings (Mark 1:27), and wondered at His resurrected body (Luke 24:39–41).
- His enemies marveled (Matthew 22:22).
- Governor Pilate marveled at His restraint (Matthew 27:14).
- His executioners marveled at His greatness (Luke 23:47).

Follow Him; He will amaze you, too!  
(John 10:4).



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