

A man was thinking and he realized that ...

two divine acts were also two witnesses ...

divine evidence, as it were, of a
promise being sure.

Divine Evidence

By

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To Mankind

Introduction

Most people would like to be both happy and to live forever. Pain and suffering take the joy out of life. And death seems such a final and permanent loss - which also causes great pain to those who live on. In this regard, does the Bible offer any hope for mankind, i.e., overcoming the seeming finality of death? And does the Bible offer any serious and credible evidence to make this hope of overcoming death real? Indeed it does and explaining just what that evidence is, is the main purpose of this book. It is always your author's goal to provide a camera angle as to what is really happening and why. In the pages that follow I share with you divine evidence, along with some reasoning that there is hope that is real. A part of what I write will be from the Bible and a part of what I write will be based on logical reasoning, history, and life experiences.

As a housekeeping point, the scriptural references, herein, are from the King James Version, KJV, unless denoted otherwise. In addition, I will also quote from Today's English Version, TEV, also known as The Good News Bible. Any emphasis, in the scriptural or other quotations, is mine throughout this book.

As an additional important note, I have chosen to write the pages that follow mainly in a conversational style. Having said that, let's get started. I offer for your serious consideration and hopeful edification what I have learned below.

The Importance Of Witnesses

This is a book about divine evidence and so your author thought it wise to talk about the importance of witnesses in establishing a matter. We shall see why this is important as this book unfolds.

The Bible instructs that the testimony of two or three witnesses shall establish a matter. In other words, two or more credible witnesses can settle a matter, but not so if there is only one witness, however credible. The reasoning is pretty obvious. If there was a dispute and if there was only one witness, then it would be one person's word against another's. And this would not be enough to establish or settle the matter at hand.

"One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he

sinneth: **at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.**"

Deuteronomy 19:15, KJV

"But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, **that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**" Matthew 18:16, KJV

"... In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."

2 Corinthians 13:1, KJV

"Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."

1 Timothy 5:19, KJV

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:"

Hebrews 10:28, KJV

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." Revelation 11:3, KJV

The Bible is consistently clear that two witnesses can establish and settle a matter.

And when your author was thinking about the biggest events mentioned in the pages of the Bible, he realized something interesting. And that something interesting is that two of the biggest and most important events in the Bible have already happened and they together function as two witnesses pointing to the third big event yet to come. In other words, from the point of view of someone presently reading the Bible, the biggest event yet to come is witnessed to by the two biggest historical events to date. And those two biggest historical events to date function as two witnesses from God as to his intent to defeat death once and for all. They are divine evidence that mankind has real hope.

Creation: The First Witness

Your author was once the number two officer of one of the world's largest citrus packinghouses. The citrus packinghouse packed about 5,000,000 twenty-kilogram cases of oranges, lemons, and grapefruit per year and the packed fruit was sold throughout Asia and North America. The number one officer and I did the strategic and operational planning of the enterprise and we were very aware of what our competitors in the industry were doing.

We took notice that one of our better-capitalized competitors built about a \$30 million dollar, brand new facility to pack their oranges and grapefruit. They were not a lemon packer. This competitive enterprise also owned thousands of acres of citrus and they were obviously quite serious about having a state-of-the-art facility in which to process and sell their citrus. Their new packinghouse was larger than ours and filled with brand new equipment. And they had very professional management. They were going to be a very serious competitor for many years to come.

There is absolutely no way that my boss or I believed that our formidable competitor, with a brand new facility and thousands of acres of their own citrus to pack and sell, would spend \$30 million dollars and then have their brand new packinghouse just sit idle. In other words, there is no way someone would build a brand new citrus processing facility, and also own thousands of acres of citrus, and then not use their brand new custom-built facility to pack citrus. Our competitors were not stupid. They would not invest the capital to build such a plant and then, in essence, say, "Just kidding." And then not follow through with actually using the plant to pack their fruit. My boss and I

certainly knew they were going to use that brand new plant and we knew they were going to be tough competitors for years to come. My boss and I, and our Board of Directors, had evidence there was a tough competitor in our industry with a brand new \$30 million dollar citrus processing plant. **We had evidence.** Not much else needed to be said.

This got your author thinking about God creating an entire universe, including a custom-built planet, the earth. Is that not evidence that a great entrepreneur is doing something of significance? Yes, it is. If a \$30 million dollar, brand new, citrus packinghouse could convince me there was going to be citrus packed, how much more should the universe and a custom built planet, the earth, convince me that a project of great importance is being undertaken – especially when the entrepreneur behind the project is none other than God himself?

| |
|--|
| Creation is God's first witness, the first piece of divine evidence that, "The Big Entrepreneur In The Sky" is undertaking something really big. |
|--|

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed,

and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that

moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and

over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."
Genesis 1:1-2:3, KJV

To create a universe, with all of the laws to go with it, e.g., gravity, nuclear forces, electromagnetism, logic, mathematics, etc., is a mind-boggling effort and achievement. To further custom create a planet, the earth, with its own atmosphere, water, land, vegetation, animal life, etc., which is just the correct distance from the sun for life to thrive, is additional evidence that God is very serious about accomplishing something of significance. But the real capper to it all is for human beings to have been given the honor to have been made in God's image. And not just to look like God, but God gave us a spirit so that our brains became minds, thus allowing man the ability to think and reason and understand things. Man is not governed by instinct. Man uses his mind to survive on the earth.

"But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." Job 32:8, KJV

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:"
Isaiah 42:5, KJV

We are alive. We are in an environment that is good for us, the earth. We can think and reason and work and produce and also find joy with each other. And when we look at the stars, the universe speaks of an eternal future with unlimited places to go and things to do. None of this just happened. God purposed it and made it happen. Man himself is God's workmanship.

"For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10, KJV

"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me:

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." Isaiah 45:5, 12, KJV

"... The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."
Psalms 19:1, KJV

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”
Colossians 1:16, KJV

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God 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.”
Isaiah 45:18, KJV

The Apostle Paul pointed out that creation itself should be a witness to the power and glory of God, but much of mankind has rejected this first witness of God and set up idols and other such things to their own hurt.

“I have complete confidence in the gospel; it is God’s power to save all who believe, first the Jews and also the Gentiles. For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself [God wants his workmanship, mankind, to be right with him]: it is through faith from beginning to end. As the scripture says, “The person who is put right with God through faith shall live.” God’s anger is revealed from heaven

against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known.

God punishes them, because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God himself made it plain. Ever since God created the world, his invisible qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature, have been clearly seen; **they are perceived in the things that God has made.** So those people have no excuse at all! They know God, but they do not give him the honor that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness. They say they are wise, but they are fools; instead of worshiping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortals or birds or animals or reptiles." Roman 1:16-23, TEV

God, as entrepreneur, did a lot of work. He created the universe. He created a special planet, the earth, to provide a custom environment for mankind. Even if other planets have life it does not take away from the uniqueness of the earth for mankind. Mankind was given the honor of not just looking like God, but also was given a spirit in man to enable him to also be able to think. And he was told to

practice using his mind and to work to subdue the earth and to dress and keep it (take care of the earth). Man can think and take action to achieve his goals, just like God, only on a limited scale. We have life, but we are mortal and can die. Life is our opportunity, but death is our enemy. And, for now, creation itself is God's witness number one that he is in the process of accomplishing something amazing.

Jesus Christ: The Second Witness

Many years ago there was an angelic rebellion. Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 both speak to this. Revelation 12 also speaks to it and foretells of a future additional battle in the heavens. Of course, the two Jehovahs and the angels remaining loyal to them defeated Satan and his team of fallen angels.

Genesis 3 reveals that Satan, in the form of a serpent, enticed Adam and Eve to sin. This resulted in the fall of mankind and the expulsion of mankind from the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3 further reveals that the earth was cursed as a result and that life would now be hard. Sin causes pain, suffering, and death (Romans 6:23).

The Bible further reveals that Satan is the current god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4 and Matthew 4:8-9). The various peoples of the earth are deceived into following Satan and his fallen angels. Even Israel fell victim to following beings, which pretended to be gods, but were not.

“But Jeshurun [a symbolic name for Israel] waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he [Israel] forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. **They sacrificed unto devils, not to God;** to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.” Deuteronomy 32:15-18 KJV

As the timeline for mankind went on, things got worse. And toward the end of this age the various nations will be banded together in league with Satan in rebellion against God the Father and against Jesus Christ. Psalm 2 describes this worldwide rebellion and advises that the rebellious nations and peoples of the

earth "kiss the Son, lest he be angry" (Psalm 2:12).

The reason that the Apostle Paul (formerly Saul) was called is made plain by a passage of scripture in Acts 26. The main reason Paul was called was to offer a message of reconciliation to both Israel and the Gentiles. This message of reconciliation was to turn from Satan and darkness to God and light so that sins could be forgiven and a divine inheritance could be granted.

"Whereupon as I [Saul about to be Paul] went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: **for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose**, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those

things in the which I will appear unto thee;
Delivering thee from the people [Israel], and
from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,
To open their eyes, and to turn them from
darkness to light, and from the power of Satan
unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of
sins, and inheritance among them which are
sanctified by faith that is in me."

Acts 26:12-18, KJV

The rebellion of Satan and his team of fallen angels led to the corruption of mankind, mankind being thrown out of the Garden of Eden, and Satan becoming the de facto god of this world. This was the difficult backdrop into which Jesus Christ came as a human being in order to live a sinless life and to die a sacrificial death for mankind.

The Jehovah who became Jesus Christ, by being born in the flesh, basically **parachuted into a war zone in order to save mankind.** This was the same undeserving mankind that had largely forsaken their Creator. And now, wittingly or not, most of mankind has gone off the deep end by participating in a rebellion organized and led by the evil Satan. In essence, most of mankind has largely given their time and energy to an evil being

pretending to be god, but whose intentions are to enslave and/or to kill them. This did not dissuade Jesus Christ from being determined to save mankind, his creation, not only from Satan, but also from itself.

For the number two being in the universe to be willing to temporarily give up his deservedly exalted position and to become flesh, to go on a divine rescue mission for mankind, took a lot. He had love, courage, vision, humility, determination, vigilance to be careful not to sin, and other great qualities of character. Some of these great qualities of character are discussed in a later section of this book.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” John 1:1-5, KJV

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that

Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, **but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ**. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
John 1:6-18, KJV

There are numerous scriptures that comment on and provide information on God the Father and Jesus Christ’s plan to save

mankind. The Word (Jesus Christ) becoming flesh, living a sinless life, experiencing a sacrificial death, and being resurrected back to God the Father's right-hand side, was thought out a long time ago by the two Jehovahs.

"For God [the Father] so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16, 17, KJV

"... of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8, KJV

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8, KJV

"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." Ephesians 5:2, KJV

"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy,

hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Titus 3:3-7, KJV

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 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. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 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 9:24-28, KJV

“He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him for this purpose long before the world began, but now in these final days, he was sent to the earth for all to see. And he did this for you.” 1 Peter 1:19, 20, NLT

“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”
John 10:17, 18, KJV

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”
John 15:13, KJV

“God [the Father], who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins,

sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" Hebrews 1:1-3, KJV

It took a lot to go through with the crucifixion. It was a very tough night and day. Jesus Christ experienced a lot of physical, and emotional, pain and suffering from the beatings and from the crucifixion itself. He also suffered public humiliation and mocking and he knew that the crowd he came to save picked a criminal to be released instead of him. The night of his arrest he was no doubt feeling very human and vulnerable.

"Then saith he [Jesus Christ] unto them [the disciples], My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matthew 26:38, 39, KJV

"Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged [whipped] Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him [naked], and

put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And **after that they had mocked him,** they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him." Matthew 27:26-31, KJV

"And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. **And they crucified him,** and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots."
Matthew 27:33-35, KJV

"Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders [the leadership of Israel at the time], said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he

said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth." Matthew 27:41-44, KJV

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"**
Matthew 27:45, 46, KJV

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost [died]. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; ... Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, **Truly this was the Son of God.**" Matthew 27:50-54, KJV

The Word became flesh, lived a sinless life, and then offered himself up as a sacrifice for all mankind. He did it willingly, out of love. The number two being in the universe humbly gave up his position to experience pain, suffering, and humiliation in order to save a rebellious sinful mankind – a mankind that was then

largely following his arch-enemy, Satan the rebel. This courageous loving act is a very sobering witness of the intent of the two Jehovahs to follow through with their plan.

The life, sacrificial death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ back to life are the second witness.

The two Jehovahs' testimony is now perfected. It is perfected via their two witnesses: 1) creation and 2) the sinless life, perfect sacrifice, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Resurrection: The Promise

One, creation and two, the life, sacrificial death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are both two witnesses – two major pieces of divine evidence that what the two Jehovahs have been working on shall succeed. What have they been working on? What is their work? We are.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10, KJV

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again **until Christ be formed in you,**”
Galatians 4:19, KJV

“And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.” Philippians 1:6, NLT

If we cooperate with God, and let him form his character in us, we will be resurrected with an eternal spirit body, incorruptible, and have eternal life.

Revelation 1:12-18 gives one of the Bible’s depictions of what God looks like. I am sure there is more to his description than he has shared and I am also sure each of us will read the verses below and then have a slightly different picture in our mind. And that’s all right. At least God gave us something to go on.

“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as

white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:12-18, KJV

The Apostle Paul asked and answered the question (to some extent) of what we will look like after the resurrection. He did so in I Corinthians 15:35-49, which says:

"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of

beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [Jesus Christ] was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” 1 Corinthians 15:35-49, KJV

It was important to quote the above scriptures regarding Christ's appearance, and

the resurrection, because they paint a picture of what we can look forward to.

The reference, in verse 43 above, about being sown in dishonour, means comparably speaking to the spiritual body mentioned in verse 44. It is also part of the continuing agriculture analogy Paul used starting in verse 36. That analogy is about a seed being planted in the ground and the necessity of the seed dying before it can sprout upward. This is an interesting analogy because, after repentance, God places his Holy Spirit seed into us who have sinned and therefore become corrupted. Which is why he says in verse 42, "It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption." And this continues on into verse 43 where he says, "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory." Because sin corrupted us, we are now corruption. And because we have been corrupted, through sin, we have also dishonored God, our Creator. That does not take away from, or diminish, that God gave us a great honor by making us in his image and likeness. It just means that sin has infected us and corrupted us and that we have dishonored God, our Creator. Fortunately, God, with his vision, love, purpose, and follow-through will yet ultimately fix the problem. In I Corinthians 15:50-57 it explains:

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, **and we shall be changed.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory.** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Corinthians 15:50-57, KJV

If all of the above seems a bit much, John clarifies the incredible promise of God, toward us, by stating in a rather direct manner, “we shall be like him.”

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:1-3, KJV

After the resurrection we will have the greatest honor of all. We shall be like him, obviously lesser, but we shall be like him. That is God’s ultimate great honor toward us. For now, it is an honor to be made in his image – not trivial, to say the least. The ultimate honor, however, is to actually be resurrected and become an eternal being, incorruptible, with integrity, ability and passion and to be allowed to live in the new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 21) - more of which is later in this book.

While all this may seem incredible, the Bible has numerous other confirming scriptures.

“God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. I have

said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High." Psalms 82:1 and 82:6, KJV

Psalm 82:1 and 82:6 might make some uncomfortable, but Jesus Christ himself clarified the matter. In John 10:30-39 it says:

"I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, [referring to Psalm 82:6, quoted above], I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came [John 1:1,14], and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,"
John 10:30-39, KJV

Jesus Christ, in defending himself against the Jews, explained quite clearly what Psalm 82:6 actually meant, that human beings are considered by God to be future gods. What an honor for us to be made in God's image and to have this potential.

"But to which of the angels said he [God the Father] at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? [This is referring to Jesus Christ sitting down, rightfully so, at the right hand of the Father.] Are they not all ministering spirits [the loyal and righteous angels], sent forth to minister for them [men who are Christ's] who shall be heirs of salvation?" Hebrews 1:13, 14, KJV

"For unto the angels **hath he not put in subjection the world to come**, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified [a quote from Psalm 8], saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with

glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons unto glory**, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: **for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren**, ...

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.** For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham [the Word, aka Jesus Christ became flesh John 1].

Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

Hebrews 2:5-11, 14-18, KJV

The above scriptures tell a lot about Jesus Christ’s saving sacrifice and resurrection and what God’s plans for man are. And they are for us to help manage the universe, under God the Father and Jesus Christ, and man will ultimately be over the angels themselves. After mankind is resurrected and perfected (I Corinthians 15 and I Thessalonians 4), we will judge the angels.

“Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

1 Corinthians 6:3, KJV

Physical death is not a big problem to God. He can simply resurrect the dead back to life when he is ready to do so.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by

baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"
Romans 6:3-5, KJV

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep [physically dead], that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one

another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, KJV

Jesus Christ will come again and there will be a resurrection back to life for those who are dead in Christ and a change to spirit for those who happen to still be alive at the time of Jesus Christ’s return to the earth. This is the first resurrection.

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, KJV

Some may ask one or more of the below questions:

- 1) "Has Satan substantially defeated God the Father and Jesus Christ in that most men who have ever lived have either not known or accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior?"
- 2) "What about all those who died before Jesus Christ came to the earth?"
- 3) "What about all those who died as babies, or were aborted?"
- 4) "What about all those who have never even heard of the name of Jesus Christ, the only name under heaven whereby men may be saved (Acts 4:10-12)?"

The two Jehovahs figured all this out a long time ago. They are not going to lose to Satan, their adversary. They want all men to be saved (2 Peter 3:9).

The answer to this seeming dilemma is a second resurrection back to physical life for those who have not willfully rejected God. This would include babies, men who lived out their lives and died without ever really understanding the plan of God, including Jesus Christ's role in living a sinless life and then dying a sacrificial death for mankind and then being resurrected

as the firstborn among many brethren. Very few men, who have ever lived, have actually known the plan of God and then willfully rejected God and eternal life. In other words, very few men have come to know the plan of God and rejected it – thus preferring to pay the death penalty for their own sins themselves and therefore preferring to be dead for all eternity. Most have just lived out their physical lives and then died, not really knowing Jesus Christ or the plan of God. So God is going to resurrect them back to physical life, teach them so they understand the plan of salvation, and most will then accept Jesus Christ as savior and ultimately become part of those who are subsequently resurrected to eternal life.

Ezekiel 37 speaks to God resurrecting the dead Israelites back to physical life and then bringing them back to their own land so they can finally learn the plan of salvation. While this chapter speaks directly to Israel, it is clear that God is going to also resurrect others, non-Israelites, back to physical life as well. This is so that all men who have ever lived can also finally learn the plan of salvation and have a very fair chance to ultimately be given eternal life. God is not a respecter of persons in this regard (Acts 10:34).

“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live [this is clearly a resurrection back to a physical fleshly life]; and **ye shall know that I am the LORD.** [They will finally know God the Father and Jesus Christ and their plan of salvation.] So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind,

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live [physically again]. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are **the whole house of Israel**: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. [It is very clear that God is speaking of bringing dead Israelites back to physical life again and bringing them into the promised land where they belong.] **And ye shall know that I am the LORD** [the purpose of bringing the dead Israelites back to physical life is to help them finally know that God is the LORD and to know his plan of salvation for them.], when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD." Ezekiel 37:1-14, KJV

The two Jehovahs are not going to lose to Satan. All will eventually have a chance to really know God the Father and Jesus Christ and their plan of salvation. And most will repent of their sins and rebellion and accept Jesus Christ as savior and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Eventually, at a time of God's choosing, they will also be resurrected to eternal life. God the Father and Jesus Christ, and most of mankind, are going to win. Satan and death are going to lose – of this we have the aforementioned divine evidence.

The Character Of The Promisor: God's Qualities

In the past your author has studied on contrasting some of the qualities of Jesus Christ versus the counterpart qualities of the adversary, Satan. And so now I want to rehearse some of these qualities of Jesus Christ, to bring them fresh into our minds. I am not sharing these observations in any particular ranking order. I am sharing them, and calling them out, so that we can focus on why it is an honor to be made in the Creator God's image.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God,

thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
Philippians 2:5-8, KJV

The first quality I want us to consider is that God the Father and Jesus Christ are **humble**, which is almost a paradox, isn't it? If you are that great, why would you need to be humble? But they are. Christ, in particular, was so humble that he left a higher estate to come down to earth in order to rescue humans. Note that Christ mentioned if you have seen him (Christ) you have seen the Father (John 13:9) and that the Father is greater than I (Christ) (John 14:28). Ergo, I am also including God the Father in this listing of godly qualities because he obviously has them, too.

Christ was in the form of God, but made himself of no reputation and took the form of the likeness of men, which according to Genesis 1:26 is the same form, but obviously not the same glory, or composition. He was spirit and eternal and now he was flesh and mortal. That is humility. And being found in fashion as a

man, he humbled Himself, and became obedient until death, even the death of the cross. That God the Father and Jesus Christ have this much humility is amazing to me.

God also has a **vision**. Two verses in John 12 bear this out. The first is in John 12:27, which is when Christ was praying the night before he was crucified. It says:

“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: **but for this cause came I unto this hour.**”
John 12:27, KJV

The second is five verses later in verse 32. It says:

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” John 12:32, KJV

Even though Christ was suffering mentally and emotionally, because he knew he had to be crucified to save mankind, he went through his mocking, physical torture, and crucifixion anyway. It is difficult to comprehend what he felt at that moment. Suffice it to say that it takes great vision to see beyond the darkness and to have the resolve to keep going anyway.

Christ was not just living for today, he was thinking of a better tomorrow – a tomorrow that would not be possible unless he followed through, which he did. He was thinking of an eternity and that takes a lot of vision.

Before I go any further it is obvious that the entire Bible shows almost innumerable qualities which God the Father and Jesus Christ possess. I can't list them all because I am not smart enough to apprehend them all. And another reason I cannot list them all is because a human being cannot, thankfully, put "God in a box." I can only observe some of the good qualities that God has. My main point here is that by understanding the qualities of God we are able to apprehend, and then, stopping and thinking, you come to the obvious conclusion that God is great, in fact the greatest – which is why it is such an honor to be made in his image.

Christ also had **passion**. A lot of people saw the movie, "The Passion Of The Christ," which was very visually depictive. God has passion. Hebrews 2:9-18 shows that Christ had tremendous passion and other qualities, too. It says:

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, behold I and the children which God hath given me.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a **merciful** and **faithful** high priest in things pertaining to God,

to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." Hebrews 2:9-18, KJV

Notice that Christ did not take on the nature of angels. Instead he was made like us. And he is not ashamed to call us brethren. We are being honored here. And ultimately Christ was crowned with glory and honor.

Christ went through all the above because he had a purpose - to help us to ultimately be resurrected and to destroy him, who had the power of death, that is the devil. It took courage, purpose, and a lot of **passion** to get through his suffering and death and to deliver those who, through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage. This passage of scripture also shows he is **merciful** and **faithful**, two more qualities to take note of.

Philippians 4:6-8 shows another quality of Christ. My main point here is that Jesus Christ is thankful. He is an **appreciator**. That is his mindset. He is not an expecter. Satan is obviously an expecter and rebelled when he did not get what he expected. Christ, however, did not expect everything to come to him on a silver

platter. Christ came to deliver us and to suffer in the process. He came to demonstrate a way of life and a thankful, positive mindset.

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Philippians 4:6-8, KJV

Christ did not expect, when he came here, to live in a mansion and eat caviar and peeled grapes and all of that. He came to do a job. And he did his difficult job with a thankful and positive mindset. He was not an expecter - which is how Satan thinks.

Christ also is a **hard worker**. John 5:17 says:

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” John 5:17, KJV

So Christ is a worker, like the Father. Christ did the Father’s work, and what that work is, is delineated in Ephesians 2:10-12, which says:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:”
Ephesians 2:10-12, KJV

The above gets back to why we are made in God’s image and likeness, because we are his workmanship. When God the Father and Jesus Christ are working, they are working on us! God’s work is human beings, i.e., us. Again, we are honored.

If we drop down to Verses 18-22 in that same chapter, it says:

“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”
Ephesians 2:18-22, KJV

So, we are his workmanship. He is building something - a household of God and a holy temple. He has a plan and that's one of the reasons why we are made in his image.

Even though Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23) he is not tyrannical like some of the people we have been exposed to - either in human governments, or in the business world, or perhaps even in organized religion. He believes in service and the right use of power. He is a **servant**. In Matthew 20:28 it says:

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28, KJV

This is very different mindset from how most of the managers in this world govern, a very different mindset indeed.

Obviously Christ had **integrity**. It says in Hebrews 4:15:

“For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15, KJV

One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible is found in Ephesians 3 because it shows that God the Father actually created all things through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:9 shows that Christ is also a **Creator**.

“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 [the Father], who created all things by Jesus Christ:” Ephesians 3:9, KJV

To create a universe, galaxies, the solar system, the earth, and men made in his image and likeness, is not a trivial undertaking. It requires **intellect** and **purpose** and follow-through. Jesus Christ actually has life-giving technology. This is in contrast to Satan who wishes he had it, but instead brings death and destruction wherever he goes (Hebrews 2:14). Satan thinks he has technology. God actually has technology. God has great **ability** and when you combine integrity with ability and passion then you have really good things start to happen and that's what God is. He is integrity. He is ability. And he is passion. There is no substitute for God.

Christ is also a **teacher** and a **miracle-worker**.

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”
John 3:1-2, KJV

To experience the death of the cross Christ exhibited great **courage**. He was very **brave**.

Christ was a braveheart, as demonstrated in Luke 22:44, which is one of the most touching verses in the Bible. To set the context, Christ was praying the night before he would die and it says:

“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”
Luke 22:44, KJV

This scripture really gets to me when I read it because it shows to what length a braveheart will go. What more can you say about Christ and his intent to save us? If you want an example of **follow-through**, here it is. Here is a guy that has not been captured yet, who knows he is going to be tortured and killed for us, and what does he do? He waits to be captured and then goes through with it all being faithful unto death. He didn't have to do it, but he did.

God and Christ are also **patient** - thankfully so. In Romans 15:5 it says:

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:” Romans 15:5, KJV

If you have a vision and you are doing something great and grand you have to have some patience, because the success is not going to happen overnight. It just isn't. There is a lot of moving parts down here. God gave us free will and it is messy so he has to be patient.

If someone you are trying to have a relationship with does not have integrity, it is very hard, almost impossible. Fortunately for us, God the Father and Jesus Christ have integrity. They are good for their word and their word is **truth**.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6, KJV

This is all in sharp contrast to Satan, who was described by Christ, in John 8:44, as follows:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44, KJV

God is **love**, which I could have mentioned first because it shows his motive and it is also probably his most commonly accepted defining characteristic. In 1 John 4:16-17 it says:

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”
1 John 4:16, 17, KJV

Please note the above underline, “because as he is, so are we in this world.” We are not just supposed to look like God outwardly. We are also to become like him inwardly. The above speaks to the process of character creation inside of us where God, through Christ, graciously forgives our sins and gives his Holy Spirit so that we can become like God inwardly!

God is **light**. In Matthew 4:16-17 it says:

“The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. From that

time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
Matthew 4:16, 17, KJV

Last, and very importantly not least, God is gracious. He gives **grace** to us. This is unlike Satan, who accuses us constantly before God (Revelation 12:9-10). God justifies instead of accuses. In Romans 3:24, (and many other places), it says:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”
Romans 3:24, KJV

Again, I could go on and on detailing the great qualities of God. And my list would be incomplete because I am only one human being with a limited perspective – a limited camera angle as it were. But I thought it important to detail out at least some of God’s great qualities because we are made in his image and likeness. And when you add them all up it is clear that we are talking about GREATNESS. We can see integrity. We can see ability. We can see passion. God the Father and Jesus Christ, “The Big Entrepreneurs In The Sky,” are working to build something of lasting value.

Then you have to stop and think, at least I did, and say to yourself, "You know, just being made in God's image is a tremendous honor." It is a tremendous honor and it was not an accident. It was by the intentional choice and design of the supreme intellect in the universe! It shows intent on the part of the Creator God. Remember, he had all the time he needed to think up his great plan. And when you've got the being with the most integrity, ability, passion, love, and all of these other great qualities saying he wants to help us become like him, it is quite a statement. This should be encouraging to us. And it should be motivating to us as well.

And so now we ourselves have a job to do, which is to work with God to become like him on the inside. And that is a lifetime project for each of us. Fortunately or not, the only human being you can change, on the face of the entire earth, is you.

To summarize my listing, of just some of the great characteristics of God the Father and Jesus Christ, as highlighted above, they are as follows:

Humility
Vision
Passion
Merciful
Faithful
Thankful (appreciator)
Hard worker
Servant
Integrity
Creator with intellect and purpose
Ability
Follow-through
Patience
Honest (truth)
Love
Light
Graciousness (grace)

Jesus Christ, with his correct vision, his passion, and all of his hard work is going to see a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21). And he is going to see resurrected righteous men and women – the saints (I Corinthians 15). Christ's work is going to bear much fruit. Christ is going to be able to spend eternity with righteous spirit beings in a beautiful new heavens and new earth. Christ is also going to destroy Satan's work (1 John 3:8) and quite possibly, Satan himself (Isaiah 27:1). Character

matters. And the various aspects of the character of the two Jehovahs, the Promisors, are further divine evidence that their promises and their word are good.

A Flourishing Eternal Life

The Bible promises that the two Jehovahs will some day create a new heaven and a new earth, in essence, a new universe. The Bible further promises **there will be no more death, no more sorrow, and no more pain.**

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, **I make all things new.** And he said

unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:1-5, KJV

God, as the Healer, might as well say, "Behold I am healing everything."

How are God The Father and Jesus Christ going to create a new universe? I have no idea, but since they are "The Big Entrepreneurs In The Sky," I am not going to bet against them. This was all planned long ago. The two Creators, with their integrity, ability, and passion are the key, not the material universe. The two Creators can do it all again, only better, and that is what they are going to do. Evidently, they are going to burn up the existing earth and heavens and replace them with something far better.

"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They [the earth and the heavens] shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they [the earth and the heavens] shall be changed: **but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.**" Hebrews 1:10-12, KJV

“That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; **because the former troubles are forgotten**, and because they are hid from mine eyes. For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”
Isaiah 65:16, 17, KJV

“And God has also commanded that the heavens and the earth will be consumed by fire on the day of judgment, when ungodly people will perish.

But you must not forget, dear friends, that a day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be exposed to judgment. [God is evidently going to burn up all

prior evidence of sin and its effects, including the incorrigibly wicked, who refuse to repent of their sins and serve God.]

Since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives you should be living! You should look forward to that day and hurry it along - the day when God will set the heavens on fire and the elements will melt away in the flames. **But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world where everyone is right with God.**" 2 Peter 3:7-13, NLT

In the new heavens and earth the wicked will not be present to disrupt, to destroy, or to waste precious lives – lives made in the image and likeness of God. There will no longer be wars or preparations for wars. There will be no more sickness or disease. There will be no more foolish and immature people who are time wasters for the productive righteous people to have to deal with. Those who remain will be peaceful and right with God. By implication, they will be right with all others, too. As righteous spirit beings with eternal life we will not have to spend time sleeping, nor will we have to spend precious time on all of the daily maintenance tasks that now eat up a lot of our

time. In other words, we will have plenty of time to do the things we would really like to do. We will not be under time pressure to get something accomplished, as we will have an eternity of time in a great new environment. If you always wanted to learn how to play the guitar, or drums, or travel, or write, or whatever, now you will have the time to do so. And you will be sharing time with other righteous eternal beings – beings that will not lie to you, who will not steal from you, who will not assault you, who will not do anything bad of any kind to you. No one will initiate force or fraud upon others. **In short, life will flourish and there will be social harmony and peace.** Everyone present will be peaceful, righteous, productive, a clear thinker, and will bring joy to others. Because everything that will be done will be within the context of the two Jehovahs' rational, objective, ethical system of morality, each will be free to be their righteous unique self. What righteous, productive, entrepreneurial beings, with the correct philosophy to guide them, can create and experience in an eternity of time is currently beyond prediction, but it will be astonishing.

The character of Jesus Christ and God the Father, the two Jehovahs, is detailed in an

earlier section of this book and their character is beyond reproach. Their word is good.

“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? **or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**”
Numbers 23:19, KJV

The creation account in Genesis, including God making man in his image and likeness, was a huge historical event that is a major piece of divine evidence that the two Jehovahs were very serious and intent upon accomplishing a major undertaking.

The willingness of Jehovah number two, (the being now known as Jesus Christ), to come to this earth, as a human being, in order to live a sinless life and to die a suffering sacrificial death, and then to be resurrected by God the Father, is a further major piece of divine evidence.

“But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, Adam, now the

resurrection from the dead has begun through another man, Christ. Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man. But all who are related to Christ, the other man, will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies of every kind. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. **And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.**" 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, NLT

The two Jehovahs have had many things planned from a long time ago. The next really big thing, to occur in their great plan, is our promised future resurrection to an eternal, righteous, flourishing life, and ultimately to live forever in a great new heavens and new earth. How do we know it will all come to pass? We can know it because we have **divine evidence.**