

Author's Preface

Over many years of studying the Bible, living life, reading widely, and thinking very hard, your author has pondered many things and had numerous directed thoughts. The purpose of this series of (mostly short) books is to share the current results of that thinking process.

This first volume of eight chapters (books) pertains mainly to the purpose of our human existence. In other words it answers the main human question of life, which is, "Why are we here?" Put another way, "What is the purpose for your life?"

Each chapter can stand, on its own, as a book in its own right. Because of this, each chapter has its own Introduction, Table of Contents, a separate Dedication, etc.

Honor explains that God honored each of us by choosing to make us in his image and likeness. It further explains that God is writing a Torah Story and what that story is.

Creating Characters With Character discusses the original concept (at least to your author) of God being, in essence, a Master Novelist who is creating original and unique characters with righteous character. He is doing so in order to share eternity with them in a beautiful new environment – a new heavens and a new earth. This book seeks to help explain human suffering, trials, tests, and triumphs from this unique point of view.

Values, Choices and Consequences explains that the reason for bad consequences goes far beyond just bad choices. It ultimately goes all the way back to the values and beliefs each of us hold.

Go To The Healer is one of the main messages of the New Testament. If broken, can a human being be fixed? The bottom line is we all need healing and we need that healing on many levels. Fortunately, there is a Healer who will ultimately heal.

Fixer-Upper People uses an analogy of inheriting an old house, which desperately needs to be fixed up, to provide a strategy for becoming a better person. If we did inherit a fixer-upper house we would probably do just

that, fix it up. We would want to capture all of the value we could from our inheritance. And since fixing up the inherited fixer-upper house is what it would take to maximize the value, then that is what most of us would do. How much more, then, should we want to fix ourselves up? **Our life is an inheritance and we should value it.** After all, we are with ourselves wherever we go. This book is a message of hope, coupled with ideas as to how to become a better person. It is not where we start out that matters, or even where we are right now. What matters is where we end up.

Freedom And Christian Responsibility explains that God made men free. He had to in order to develop character in each of us. And God gave us dominion over the earth, not each other. The freedom God gave us also makes us responsible for our choices. The main purpose of this book is to survey the freedom God gave each of us and to discuss its ramifications, its power, its role in a natural rights explanation, and to encourage each of us to accept the responsibility that comes with that freedom. Freedom and responsibility are inextricably linked. Don't be afraid.

What Now? notices that world news these days is not for the faint of heart. World conditions seem to be steadily deteriorating, either through natural disasters, self-inflicted economic problems, poor political leadership, or a decline in the character and thinking ability of people in general. Many people are living in fear of what might happen next. They are worried not just for themselves, but for their children and grandchildren, too. What kind of lives will they have? This book explains how we can be anchored to something solid, even if the world deteriorates around us. And, in particular, it offers the suggestion that the way out of our problems is to obtain divine favor. How to do so is not often thought about, or taught. It is pretty obvious that humans, acting alone, are not going to resolve their problems. Human leaders, at all levels, have shown themselves to be failures and they cannot be trusted. Obtaining divine favor is our best chance going forward.

The reader might take notice that the overall volume is entitled, *God And Man*, which might seem a bit ostentatious. Your author is not a prophet speaking for God. That being said, every effort has been made to ensure a large number of scriptural supports have been used.

In other words your author's thinking is always double-checked, as best a limited man can do, with the Bible for consistency. It is up to the reader to determine how well said scriptural supports were actually used. And since your author is only one man, he is obviously not speaking for all of mankind. The title *God And Man* was purposely chosen because it forms the subject matter of the book.

The reader might take further notice that the subtitle of Volume One is, *Divine Individualism*, which sounds like it might need some serious explanation. In a nutshell, the main purpose of this book is to explain the purpose and value of human life and to survey how each man and woman can cooperate with God in helping to realize their priceless eternal potential. Beyond this brief comment, since this particular chapter (book) is longer, and takes numerous pages to explain what is meant, nothing further will be commented on here. From the point of view of your author it is the most important book he has written to date.

The reader can, and should, study The Bible for themselves. They should also ask God for guidance, read widely, and think hard to formulate their own judgment on these and

other matters. All of these things being written,
best wishes to all men and women of good will.