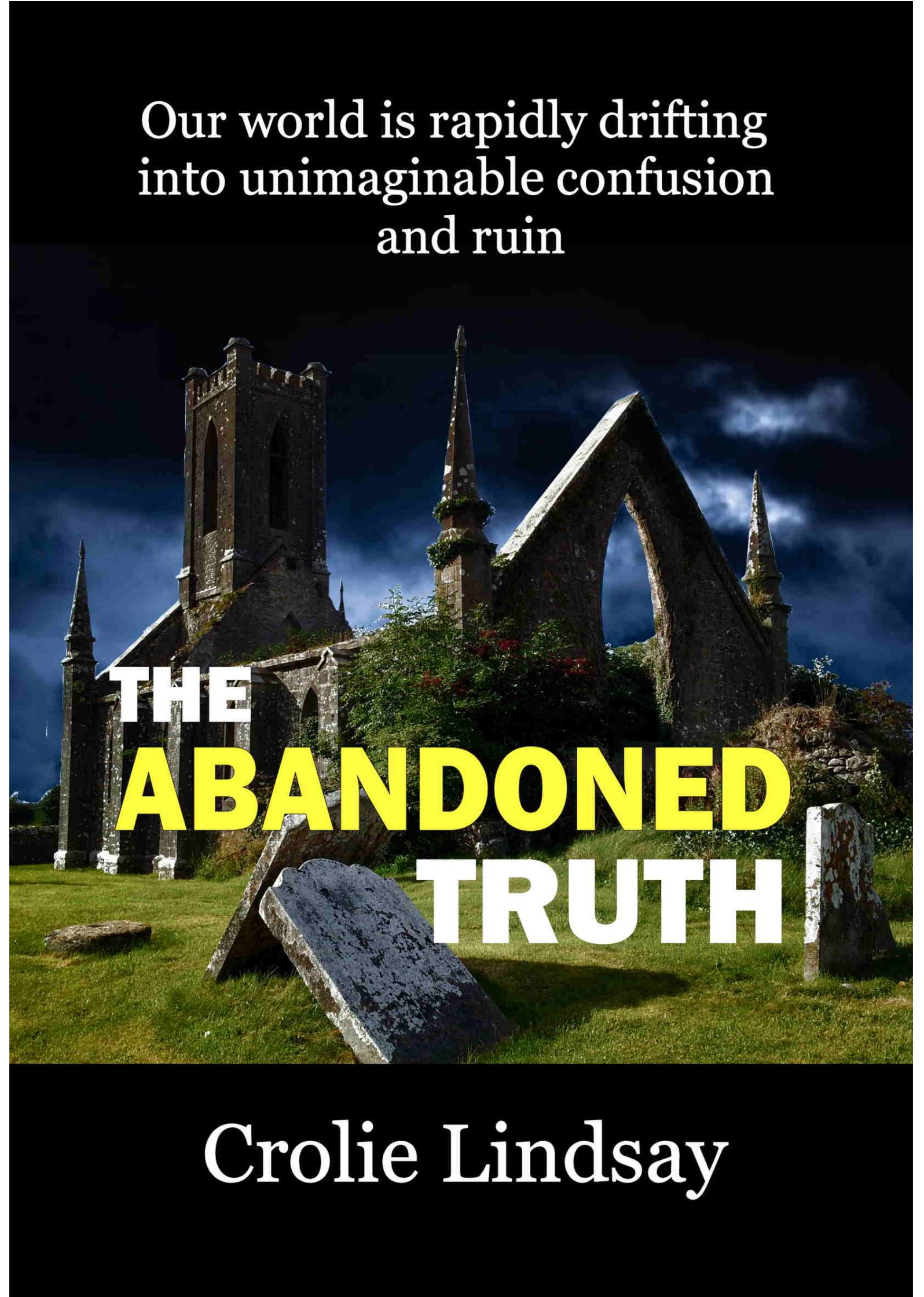


Our world is rapidly drifting
into unimaginable confusion
and ruin



THE
ABANDONED
TRUTH

Crolie Lindsay

THE ABANDONED TRUTH

CROLIE LINDSAY



Bladensburg, MD



Published by Inscript Books
a division of Dove Christian Publishers
P.O. Box 611
Bladensburg, MD 20710-0611
www.inscriptpublishing.com

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Book Design by Mark Yearnings

ISBN: 978-1-7375177-5-7

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Printed in the United States of America

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CHAPTER

1

The Heart of the Matter

As I approach the twilight of my life, I think back over the years that I have taught the word of God. My hope has been to share the *'full measure'* of all that we can experience in a close walk with the Lord. I look around and realize how close we are to the final days of the world's existence before the return of Christ and how far we have fallen. It seems we are lost in a world of confusion, distracted by the hustle and bustle of all that is going on around us. Our minds are flooded with new technology and knowledge. In the Book of Daniel, Chapter 12, the angel explains to Daniel that in the last days, "*many will run to and fro, and knowledge will be increased.*" Since the horse and buggy days of the early 1900s, we have moved on to unimaginable modes of transportation. Knowledge is advancing at a dizzying rate. We are told that our day will be like the days of Noah; we will be so caught up with perceived necessities that we will not recognize the coming of Christ until it is too late (Matthew 24:37-39). For all our new technology and conveniences, we are being drawn far from God, and we are left with little more than a fading picture of His love. Our house (that is, our connection with God) is being left to us desolate and abandoned! (see Matthew 23:38).

My heart aches over the fact that I am not all that I should be. I am saddened that there seems to be no sense of urgency regarding our need for a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

I need to let His light shine in me! I am concerned that those I love and care about have not come to know the full assurance and comfort of truly walking with God, making Him real in our lives! In these days, with hurt and sorrow all around, I want everyone to know that we can have peace in our lives that is beyond all understanding or explanation, so much so, that in the depths of our greatest trials, we can be at rest in Christ. And we can always know that no matter what circumstances bring, it is ultimately for our good, taking us to our best ultimate future (see Philippians 4:4-7 and Romans 8:28, 31, and 32).

Salvation is easy; it is simply a gift of God's grace. All we need to do is slow down enough to listen to God's calling, His Holy Spirit drawing us near to Him. ***"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all"*** (Titus 2:11). To everyone! This salvation is freely offered by a God longing to give it. In Matthew 23:37, Christ called out, ***"How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing..."*** The heartbreak in His voice is palpable! God desperately wants us to embrace Him as He embraces us! We are His children. As 1 John 4:9 has it, when we come to know Him as Father, we will come to love Him because we recognize He first loved us. Another scripture that helps us to understand this relationship comes from Matthew 7:11: ***"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him?"*** Now, I know that many don't understand or even believe these words because of the sorrows and hurt we see in this world every day. But, just like our children face growing pains, we must grow up in Christ. We just need to take time to listen as He speaks to us. From Ephesians 4:13, we find that as we grow in this relationship, ***"... we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature and complete, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."*** (He wants us to grow up, just as we

want our children to grow!) James says, “... *that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything*” (James 1:4).

David, though he failed many times in his relationship with God, knew and trusted God’s leading. Here I quote just a part of Psalm 23; “...*though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me... surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*” Even in his failures, David was at peace with God. And, in Romans 8:38, we find that nothing can separate us from this all-encompassing love that comes from God.

We need to understand that we are a part of something much bigger than ourselves or even this world; we are an example to the heavens and the universe of how separation from God’s love brings pain and destruction. Our choices and our actions either bring disgrace to God or honor Him. Please become “*strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes... so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand*” (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Perhaps, sometimes we may feel that there is no way to measure up to the will of God. And you know what? ‘We’ can’t! We fail, but Christ changes us as we get to know Him better. We don’t have to give up anything! As we grow in His love, He affects change in us. At times, we will fail, but He is always there to lift us up; He readily forgives us, just as we want to pick up our children when they fall and forgive and rejoice over them as they grow to maturity. I am reminded of the Apostle Paul’s own frustration with his failures. Here is a part of what He shares about himself in Romans 7: “... *I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do... I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?*”

Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord.!” Christ changes us; He does the work. We just listen to our Father in heaven through the Holy Spirit, and He leads us *“in the paths of righteousness.”* By believing, we become a part of the family of God. Just keep getting closer; He will not let you fall.

We shared earlier about how God will willingly give us all things if we will just come to Him. Think of the family relationship in a loving home. As parents, we love our children unconditionally. We want to raise them up to be successful, honorable, and loving adults. Sometimes, this requires discipline and direction, even heartache, but our continued hope is that by loving them, they will choose to do that which is right and good. We forgive them, lead them, and give good things to them because we care, and we hope that they grow up to love us as we love them. Do you see? That is all that God wants from us; a loving relationship! He wants to restore us to a close walk with Him, strolling through the garden with Him, talking with Him regularly, just as we would talk to a very close friend, even sharing our innermost selves. He wants us to know Him as the loving Father that He is. He wants us to have all good things (see James 1:2-5).

So, we come again to the question: why do I suffer? Why must I face illness, struggles, and loss? I answer this at length in the following chapters, but I want to address it partially here, starting with another question. Have you ever considered the training of a Navy Seal? These individuals willingly go through trials that test them to the edge of death. It is amazing the sacrifices they make to become the best. They offer themselves to perform a duty in service to a country they love. What about an athlete? They train hard, dedicating themselves to the time, pain, and sacrifice required to help them succeed. The Apostle Paul spoke about his sufferings in 2 Corinthians 11, and in Romans 8:18, he shares, *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”*

And he says, "*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 3:14). I want to exalt and confirm the love of God before a watching universe!

God wants to bring all suffering to an end. He is about to bring the battle to a close. He asks that we be watching, that we be ready. He will move us beyond our present suffering to eternal life where our joys will know no bounds, and our endeavors will take us beyond our wildest dreams in a world made new for you and me. "*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him...*" (I Corinthians 2:9).

There is so, so much that I want to share... Listen, the Word proves itself. It is not some fairy tale or ancient book that no longer applies to us. Its impact and its relevance are greater today than ever! In fact, the Bible says that we are without excuse because He has revealed everything to us that we need (Romans 1:19, 20). We are told to 'Wake up'; his coming is near, and we can be ready. He wants us to be ready. Study His word, and you will come to know even the deepest things about God through His Spirit (I Corinthians 2:10-16). And you will know that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:31-39).

Please study and prove the chapters that follow. They will establish prophetic, historical, and scientific facts of the relevance of God's word in our world today, that you may know the Truth that sets you free.

Amen.

CHAPTER

2

It's Time to Wake Up!

We live in a busy world. Our days seem to run together, and each is much like the day before. We have our ups and downs; we worry about health, finance, food, and shelter. We are concerned about lawlessness and world events, but what else is new? It has always been like this. Right? Many are left saying, "I really don't have time to start worrying about reading the Bible or going to church. Besides, I don't even know if God is active in our world anymore." **This is where we have come!**

It seems that, for many, it is easy to dismiss the idea that there even is a God! Not only that, but there are so many versions of Christianity out there; how can you know which one is right? People have been talking about the 'soon coming' of Christ for more than two thousand years; why get anxious about it now? Some may think the message is no longer relevant, even fanatical. But the message is real, and it is urgent!

The Bible says, "**Behold, I am coming soon!**" but, again, that was a long, long time ago. I Peter 4:7 declares, "**The end of all things is near...**". But here we are, two-thousand years later. And people say, "I don't know why I should be getting all excited about it after all this time." And, "I really don't have time to worry about stories of the 'end of time.'"

This is no time to be getting discouraged or dismissive. Many 'end time' prophecies have come to pass since the above messages

were given. Scripture has told us that these things would happen! It is time to take note! *“First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come... They will say, ‘Where is this ‘coming’ he has promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation”* (2 Peter 3:3, 4). Today, even more bible prophecies are being fulfilled—end time prophecies! Jesus constantly asked that we watch, that we are ready. *“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:8,9). The Lord is urgently calling for us to *“Watch ... do not let him find you sleeping”* (see Mark 13:36,37). Many of Christ’s teachings and parables spoke about being ready. Please don’t be caught unaware.

We can know when the time is near; The Lord is providing an abundance of evidence! *“Learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door...”* (Matthew 24:32-35). The Bible has given us so much evidence if we will just look. God will not leave us wondering, if we will just take time to talk to Him and study His word. *“Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.”* (Amos 3:7). We have been given prophecy in order that we can be ready: you need not be caught unaware. *“The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here...”* (Romans 13:11,12).

Amid all the worldly confusion, we need to ‘want’ to know the truth! We need to be searching for truth. It is all too easy to be misled. Paul, speaking to the Galatians, had this to say: *“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you*

by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ!” (Galatians 1:6,7). It is interesting to note that though the disciples were with Christ for three and a half years, constantly teaching them and preaching and healing multitudes before them, they did not understand what was going to happen in their day. This was because they expected Jesus to do what tradition had taught them to believe, what they wanted to happen! We need to let go of the world with its preconceived ideas and traditionalized beliefs. We need to intently study God’s word. It needs to be personal. The Bible says, “*.. the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth, and turn aside to myths*” (2 Timothy 4:3,4). That time is here! People don’t really want to know the truth. They want to be told that they are okay just where they are. Besides, they say, “I’m a pretty good person, I go to church, I give my offerings. I believe in God!” But in James 2:19, we read, “*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that...*” So, the question is, “How do I keep that knowledge of God, that relationship, alive? How do I come to understand the truth?” We need to walk, talk, and study with God every day. As we get closer, He changes us, and a new life within us is revealed! Our friendship and our love of God must be alive, and it will come alive! James says, “*.. you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything*” (James 1:2-4). And, “*Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, then you really are my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’*” (John 8:31,32). Interact with Him. “*Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord...*” (Isaiah 1:18). God even invites us to reason with Him and discuss His actions and will in depth! “*.. be transformed by the renewing*

of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2).

Today, there are so many errant teachings and traditions that a clear ‘thus says the Lord’ cannot be easily found. More than that, false teachers abound, saying things we want to hear while ignoring the truth. It is no wonder that the world is confused about Christianity. We have thousands of different churches, each teaching various versions of one truth. “... *false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time*” (Matthew 24:24, 25). Please, “*Come out of her my people, so that you will not share in her sins...*” (Revelation 18:4). And know this, “... *God is not a God of disorder (or confusion) but of peace*” (I Corinthians 14:33). The word of God is consistent and true. Listen! These are all end-time events. The Bible says that the whole world will wonder after the beast. (Revelation 13:3). The deception will be astonishing and unexpected. “... *for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light...*” (2 Corinthians 11:14). That is how the Bible says it will be in the last days.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man...” [Though Noah had preached to them for a hundred years] “... *they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man*” (Matthew 24:37-39).

“Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So, you must also be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him” (Matthew 24:42-44).

Wake up; the day of our Lord is almost here.

CHAPTER

3

Are We Too Smart to Believe In God?

There is an old sacred document, handed down through the ages, that provides an explanation of the creation and life in the universe. It predicted the rise and fall of empires; it prophesied the birth and life of a redeemer, and it tells of world events leading up to the end of the age. This document has also predicted the days we live in and shares evidence of it all.

Many ask if there is a God and, if there is, if He is really active in our world today. Many feel lost and empty, with nowhere to turn. But we can both know and understand what is coming upon the world; there is someone to show us the way. However, there is one major problem. Our modern world has sought out every conceivable way to deny that evidence and knowledge in order to ignore the existence of our Creator. Consider how we have taken God out of the schools and out of our political leadership. The world is seeking to change the truth in order to justify a modern way of life that has little room for God, and many don't even know it's happening. As we have seen, the Bible predicted that people in the last days would not be interested in truth; they just want to be told they are okay without changing their lifestyles. Remember this verse, *"You must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the*

beginning of creation.’ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and with water. By water also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. . .” 2 Peter 3:3-6

Talk about deliberately forgetting; for more than 150 years, man has been making a concerted effort to deny the God of creation, the flood, and the historical evidence for world events revealed in scripture. To be truly educated, how can we deny this evidence by just turning a blind eye to it? Shouldn’t we at least be willing to take an educated look?

Now, I’m not talking about just watching Bible documentaries on television. Most of those are anything but a Bible study. And most are sadly devoid of truth, and they are produced apart from seeking any relational knowledge about God.

In the few pages of this chapter, I can only provide a small part of the substantial evidence offered in the Bible to explain and touch upon the events of our world’s history, science, and prophecy. I challenge you to look with an open mind at the information presented and then follow where it leads.

Perhaps, as an interesting start, we might read this from Hebrews 11:3: *“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”* The writer of Hebrews obviously understood a basic reality that science has only recently come to understand; that everything we see is made up of atoms and molecules that cannot be seen, and that we ourselves are largely empty space. Out of nothingness, God spoke, and it came into being! (see Psalm 33:6-11). The Bible has provided the insight, but man ignores the evidence.

Man has steadfastly sought, apart from scripture, explanations for life by developing theories that he has been unable to prove and that he has constantly modified with ever-changing assumptions. Interestingly, as science has become more aware of the great complexity of life, many have come to realize that

life could not have begun spontaneously. They are finding that it required intelligent design. Again, we have taken the long way around, and still, we deny the Almighty God of the Universe, even devising theories that ancient aliens somehow brought life to earth. Look again at the scripture: *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness., since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities -His eternal power and divine nature -have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse”* (Romans 1:18-20). The evidence is right in front of us!

Let’s go back to the beginning! We will take a look at the biblical creation record in outline form and see how it might bring some sense to it all, compared to existing so-called ‘knowledge.’ (see 1 Timothy 6:20,21).

Let’s start with the Book of Genesis Chapter 1:

DAY 1

The earth was covered with water. And God brought light, His creative power, upon the earth. God reckoned the light as day and the darkness as night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. We will see that this day represented 24 hours (verses 1-5).

DAY 2

“God said, ‘Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.’ So, God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. God called the expanse sky.” Can you see it? God was creating a magnificent greenhouse environment for life on earth. By placing a layer of water above the atmosphere, he would protect the earth from the harmful, degrading effects of the sun and outer space; This prevented molecular mutations caused by ultraviolet light that would come later, after the flood. This

envelope of water would also provide for a stable environment, where weather was mild and constant. The night would not be as dark, and plant life would flourish beyond imagination (verses 6-8). In Genesis 2, we find that rain had not yet come upon the earth, but that the ground was watered by artesian effect, as “... *streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.*” This continued up until the time of the flood. (Science is still looking to explain the wondrous plant life that existed historically.)

DAY 3

“Let the water under the sky be gathered in to one place and let dry ground appear.” While scripture does not specifically say it, we can see a picture of rolling hills and gentle seas in preparation for what was soon to come. (The great rifts and mountains due to the shifting of the earth’s crust would not come until the flood of Noah’s day). *“Then God said, ‘let the land produce vegetation; seed bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their kinds...’”* So, mature plant life appeared, bearing fruit (verses 9-13).

DAY 4

“God said let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons, days, and years.” So, from the beginning, on the fourth day, we were given a calendar. Note that the Bible is yet reckoning evening and morning as a literal day (verses 14-19) Note also that now the sun and moon would establish elements of light on the earth, where God’s creative power was the sole light of the world previously.)

DAY 5

“And God said, ‘Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.’” God is building toward a wonderful climax, making everything perfectly ready for the central focus in all that He was creating (verses 20-23).

DAY 6

“And God said, ‘Let the land produce living creatures... and it was so.’ And now everything is ready: a beautiful, mature land with abundant plant life and animals (verses 24 and 25).

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...’ The creation of man was different from the rest of creation. It was more intimate. God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life, and man became a living being made in the image of God. And mankind was to rule over this perfect, unimaginable world (verses 26-31). (Thinking of the earth made new, we are told, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him”, 1 Cor. 2:9).

DAY 7

God then created a memorial of all He had created. The seventh day. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy. And God rested on the seventh day. It was to be a special day also for you and me. Christ would declare in Mark 2:27, *“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”* It was to be a day of rejuvenation and rest. It was also to be a memorial to Creation and God’s creative power. It was to be a day of special blessing and connection to God. A day to be especially remembered, to keep it Holy. Sadly, as in many other circumstances, it is a day that man has chosen to obscure, deny, and ignore (chapter 2: verses 1-3).

Soon after creation, Adam and Eve fell into sin by not trusting God. Prior to their fall, they walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden and would have lived forever. However, the act of sin brought separation from God, degeneration, and death.

Though man had fallen, in those pre-flood days, the earth remained much as it had been created. So, though mankind entered into sin, he existed in a world that had not yet experienced the catastrophic events that would come with the world-

wide flood of Noah's time. But men were moving toward such tremendous wickedness that God would decide to destroy the world of that day. As the Bible put it, "*The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time*" (Genesis 6:5). (The Bible tells us it will be like that again, in the last days.)

Now looking at the biblical history before the flood, we find something interesting. Men were living 700, 800, and 900 years. In that day, the earth was still protected from the harmful effects and degradation caused by ultra-violet light, gamma rays, etc., by a layer of water above the atmosphere. However, with the flood, tremendous degeneration would come from catastrophic changes in weather, and there would be a much harsher environment. These impacts are again clearly witnessed in scripture as the ages of men rapidly declined; 500, 400, 300, 200, 100 years of age. Just the shortening in the length of the life of men bears out the changes in the world of that day and supports the reality of the flood. Still, science ignores the evidence.

Looking at the events that occurred during the flood and revealed thereafter by proven geologic evidence, we find environmental changes consistent with the biblical record (though the supposed eons of time are vastly distorted).

Let's look at the Biblical account of the flood and relate them to some modern concepts of science. "*Seven days from now I will send rain upon the earth for forty days and forty nights*" (Gen. 7:4). Now keep in mind that up until this time, no rain had ever fallen upon the earth (Gen. 2:4-6). "*After the seven days the floodwaters came upon the earth... on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened... The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet.*" Remember that prior to the flood, the ground was watered by the artesian effect, and the sky was covered above by a layer of water. Imagine, at the flood, there would

be a great upheaval of the earth's crust as waters burst forth from below ground. At the same time, the layer of water above the earth would fall to the surface of the ground. Unimaginable storms came, and earthquakes and volcanos would occur due to the great movement of the ground. And Noah would remain in the ark for a year and ten days until the waters began to recede.

Where did the waters go? Through the shifting of the earth's great plates, as the earth collapsed in upon itself to fill the voids left by upheaval, mountains were pushed up, and the oceans fell to tremendous depths in a very short period of time. The environment would heat and cool in rapid succession as volcanic action with dust, smoke, and cinder alternatively obscured the sun and then settled due to the cold weather and cleansing rains that would follow. Would not this picture of events explain plate tectonics and the coming and going of ice ages in rapid succession? The tremendous layers of sediment and folding of rock formations? This is a part of the Bible record, but science doesn't go there. We could go into these things in greater depth, but the point of this study is to awaken the mind to see the possibilities and their consistency with Scripture.

Moving on... the bible is rich with prophecies and events that were fulfilled in history. We will begin with the Book of Daniel. In this Book, there are a number of repetitive prophecies that build upon each other, and they are interpreted within the book itself; thus, there is little doubt about what they describe.

In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, has a dream (the year is about 603 BC), but he cannot specifically remember it. Because of demands made by the king, Daniel prays to be shown the dream and to learn its meaning. This is the dream: Nebuchadnezzar had turned his thoughts to the future; he had seen a great statue, awesome in its appearance. The statue had a head of gold. Its chest and arms were of silver, and its belly and thighs were of bronze. The legs were of iron, and its feet were part iron and part clay. While the King was watching, a rock was

cut out, but not by human hands. The rock struck the statue on the feet, and the statue crumbled to dust and was swept away without leaving a trace. The rock became a huge mountain that filled the earth. That was the dream.

The Bible then provides the interpretation of the dream; it was about the future. The head of gold in the dream was Babylon (606-536 BC). Then came the Medo-Persian Empire (536-331 BC), represented by the chest and arms of silver. The Grecian Empire came next, represented by the belly and thighs of bronze (331-168 BC). Then would come the Roman Empire, represented by the legs of iron. As a world power, Rome would continue from 168 BC to 476 AD. Subsequent to this, the empire would be divided, as represented by the feet of iron and clay. And though many efforts would be made, the lands made up of the previous empires would not hold together. After this, Christ would bring in an everlasting kingdom. Additional visions bring much more detail, even identifying Cyrus in Isaiah 44:28 (712 BC) some 176 years before he came to reign. Scripture also details the campaign of Alexander the Great and his early demise more than 380 years before he came to power (see Daniel 8:5-8). These prophecies are amazing in their accuracy.

A primary event predicting the life and ministry of Jesus Christ is chronicled in several books of the Bible. However, the most precise, in dealing with time, comes from Daniel chapter 9 and the Books of Ezra. According to the prophecy, 490 years were determined for Israel to return to God. That period of time would begin with the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, as specifically recorded in Ezra 7, and historically fulfilled by a decree from Artaxerxes in 457 BC. From there, it was to be 483 years to the Anointed One, Jesus Christ. Christ was baptized by John the Baptist and began His ministry at about the age of thirty, 483 years after the command to restore Jerusalem. Christ ministered for three and one-half years, being cut off (crucified) in the middle of the last seven years, according to the prophecy

(about AD 31). (Note that Christ was born about 4 BC). Three and one-half years would remain for Israel to turn to God. Three significant events would mark the end of the 490 years. Peter received a vision to minister to Gentiles. Stephen was stoned to death as he tried in vain to touch the hearts of the people and turn them back to God. And finally, Paul was sent out to the Gentiles to teach the good news of Jesus Christ. All this fits the prophecy precisely.

As can be easily seen, the accuracy of the word of God brings many answers to questions still being asked by modern man. The answers are there, but it's obvious that men are seeking their own explanations, ignoring the truth of God's word. As previously shared, "*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...*" and, "*... men will not put up with sound doctrine... they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear*" (2 Tim. 4:3,4). This is already happening!

In the chapters that follow, you will find Bible verses that have been previously quoted. This is done to show relevance in regard to the subject being shared and to magnify the applicability of scripture in so many areas of our lives. As you truly study the Word of God intently and with an open mind, you will find an abundance of reasons to believe in the reality of God. Your life will be changed, and your eyes will be opened to so many things you did not know before, and you will stand tall in this modern educated world.