



Part 1 Introduction: Thinking Like Jesus
Ch.1 Introduction

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A Three-Fold Cord

Creation, Redemption & Dominion

The Dominion of Jesus Christ Over All Things

From Start to Finish

2nd Edition, Revised & Expanded

Copyrights

Scripture Verse References – All verses are NKJV unless otherwise stated.

Email from Jonathan Welton

Appendix 4: The Authorship Date of the Book of Revelation, Raptureless, 2013

After looking through your table of contents, I am very excited about what you are creating. It looks like a beautiful work that will cover a lot of material.

Yes, you have my permission to use the full contents of the Dating of Revelation section of Raptureless.

George Peter Holford, The Destruction of Jerusalem (1805).

The Covenant Media Foundation has given the author, Michael Hays, permission to print and use this updated version of George Peter Holford's written work (www.cmfnow.com). The author's original footnotes to his booklet have omitted them here for simplicity and readability, can be viewed in the online version. The original public source version is available at a variety of sources online.

The Jewish Book of 1Enoch with Illustrations

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Know the Marks of Cults by Dave Breese

Outline

Dedication

To the One who is “the Way, the Truth, the Life” and true love of my life, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To my Beloved.

To all those who desire “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God.” May your desire for such treasure be fully granted.

To the countless, nameless, faceless souls willing to walk alone, if necessary, to acquire such treasure in a world of compromise. You are never really alone. The Spirit of Truth will move Heaven and Earth to help you.

The Book Cover



The triangle in the circle is an ancient symbol for the trinitarian God of the Bible. From cover to cover this book assumes the trinitarian God is the absolute, beginning and ending, Alpha and Omega, floor and ceiling of all history. When one refers to “God” this is the God of all gods (Dt 10:17, Ps 136:2, Dan 2:47, 11:36, Jn 1-3, 14) that is being referenced. Yahweh has no equal and every knee, in Heaven and earth shall bow to Him (Is 45:23, Rom 14:11, Phil 2:10).

Preface

In 1881, Friedrich Nietzsche asserted, in his book *Daybreak* that “God is dead.” This became the rallying cry for the generations of atheists that followed. The big question is “What did this industrial-strength atheist mean by ‘God is dead’?” He meant that the era of God as a cultural influence was over. God was no longer relevant. He thought an entirely new culture was in order completely devoid of any Christian influence, a complete revision of Western culture. He also thought whatever human lives need to be sacrificed to further the evolutionary advancement of the human race was a good thing. “Life is war,” he said. The last 150 years have been the bloodiest in human history. Nietzsche’s ideas have been very successful, and he is considered one of the top three most influential philosophers in the last 150 years, influencing the Nazi’s and the current malignant stage of postmodernism exhibited most visibly in the political conflicts and public restrooms, where truth itself is no longer relevant. Darwin, Marx, and Nietzsche have transformed the world in a direct antithesis to the great triune Creator.

We are witnessing a war of worldviews, irreconcilable, mutually exclusive views of reality. The division that so many speak of cannot be clearer. One side says, “In the beginning, God, ...” And because of that fundamental truth, we understand that there is structure, order, and purpose for man and a universe awaiting discovery. This is the root idea in America’s Declaration of Independence that says “...all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights...,” as well as the foundation of science. The Creator and the created.

The other, “In the beginning, nothing, ...” And because of that assertion, it is up to man to create his own structure, order, and purpose out of the chaos. This is the essence of the “modern” world. It is up to us to create our own reality, even who and what we are. This is the essence of the “post-modern” world. Of course, there is a whole spectrum of inconsistent shades in between.

Man is made in the image of God with purpose, or we are merely animals, the current form of a long chain of random, meaningless, purposeless accidents. There are atheistic, evolutionary evangelists whose life’s purpose is to convince you that life has no purpose.

The hope of this book is to begin to reverse this trend.

General Table of Contents

Part 1 Introduction

1. Introduction
2. Apologetics
3. How to Study the Bible

Part 2 Lost in Space and Time

- Introduction
4. Origins
 5. The Nations
 6. Eschatology

Part 3 Redemption

7. Redemption
8. Dominion
9. Healing

Part 4 Conclusion/Bibliography/References

Book Outline

Part 1. Introduction

Chapter 1. Introduction

1. Copyrights
2. Dedication
3. Preface
4. Book Outline
5. Ch1 – Introduction
6. My Story

Chapter 2. Apologetics

1. A Better Way of Thinking
2. The Supernatural – The Heart of the Matter
3. Some History
4. Prisoners in Nature’s Box
5. Defeaters
6. Eyewitnesses
7. Thinking Like Jesus
 - a. General Faith
 - b. Great Faith
 - c. The Dignity of Faith
 - d. Trick Questions and Answers
8. Some Definitions
 - a. Definitions
 - b. Enmity
9. Myth of Neutrality
10. Circular Reasoning
 - a. Internal Biblical Proofs
 - b. Philosophical Big Picture
11. A Standard for Standards, The AICP Test
 - a. Don’t Answer/Answer Strategy
12. Some Different Worldviews
13. Apologetic Methods
 - a. Evidential – Empirical
 - i. What is Science?
 - b. Classical – Rational
 - i. Four Basic Rules of Reason
 - c. Presuppositional – Revelational
 - i. The Transcendental Argument
 - ii. Transcendental Objects
 - iii. Question for Materialists
 - iv. Bertrand Russel’s First Cause Objection
 - v. Three traditional arguments for God’s existence
 - vi. A Part of the Intelligent Design Argument
14. Some Other Trajectories
15. Conclusion
16. Appendix A – Apologetics Resources
17. Appendix B – Apologetics Keywords

Chapter 3. How to Study the Bible

1. Introduction
2. Hermeneutics – The Art and Science of Interpretation
3. The Difference Between the Old and New Testaments
4. General Guidelines

5. Heresies, Apostasy & Cults
6. Conclusion

Part 2. Lost in Space and Time

Introduction

Chapter 4. Origins – In the beginning, God

1. Introduction
 - a. The Creator and The Created
 - b. Man and Animal
 - c. Male and Female
2. Which God?
3. Jesus, The Eternal Word & Creator
4. Let There Be Light
5. Two Compromise Theories
 - a. Gap Theory
 - b. Day-Age Theory
6. The Most Basic Doctrines – Cornelius Van Till
7. Philosophical Origin of the Universe (top three of six)
 - a. The Universe Has Always Existed, it has eternal being (Enlightenment belief.)
 - b. The Universe Created Itself (Current popular belief.)
 - c. The Universe Was Created by An Eternal Being
8. A Part of the Intelligent Design Argument
9. Man: The Image of God, Imago Dei
 - a. Jesus Christ, The Image of God Restored
10. Meanings and Beliefs of Evolution
11. Moving Out to The Cosmos
 - a. Two Possibilities for the observed Red Shift
12. The Natural Man
13. The Three-Fold Fall – Supernatural Conspiracy
 - I. Genesis 3 – Separation from God’s House and Death
 - a. By Man Came Death
 - II. Genesis 6 – Total Depravity
 - a. The Watchers Transgression – 1 Enoch
 - III. Genesis 11 – The Division of the Nations and Idolatry
14. Generations Chart – Who lived when
15. Bible vs Evolution Comparison
16. References

Chapter 5. The Nations – In History, God (Tentative Outline)

1. Introduction
2. In a Great House
3. A House Divided – The Family Estranged
4. Prophecies Concerning the Nations
 - a. Old Testament
 - b. New Testament
5. Christianizing the Nations – Kingdom Nation Building
 - a. One King
 - b. One New Man
 - c. One Body
6. References

Chapter 6. Eschatology – In the end, God

1. Introduction

2. Three Views on the Millennium
 - a. Pre-Millennial
 - b. Post-Millennial
 - c. A-Millennial
3. Four Views on Bible Prophecy
 - a. Idealist
 - b. Historicist
 - c. Preterist
 - d. Futurist
4. The Rapture
5. The Kingdom Age is in The Future. Not!
6. Some Key Concepts
 - a. Six splits of Dispensational Pre-Millennialism
 - b. God's Supposed Unfulfilled Promises to National Israel
 - c. The Parentheses
 - d. The Sociology of Eschatology
 - e. Jesus's Coming(s)
7. Jesus's Coming in Judgment
8. Some Key Prophetic Passages
 - a. Daniel 2, 7, 9
 - b. The Wrath to Come
 - c. Fulfilled, Double Fulfillment and Types and Shadows
9. The Book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ
 - a. Dating of the Book of Revelation
 - b. From "The Art of Revelation" by Jon Welton
10. Some Other Quotes
11. Time Frame References
12. Conclusion
13. Appendix A – The Destruction of Jerusalem, 1805

Part 3. Redemption

Chapter 7. Redemption

1. Introduction
2. The Three-Fold Fall
 - a. Genesis 3
 - b. Genesis 6
 - c. Genesis 11
3. The Mystery of the Ages
4. Jesus Christ: The Redeemer
 - a. The Second Person of the Trinity
 - b. The Incarnation - Eternal Word Becomes Flesh
 - c. Born of A Virgin
 - d. Other Prophecies
 - e. The Man Christ Jesus
 - f. What did the people think about 'the Christ' and what was their expectations of Him?
5. The Cross – History's Pivot Point
 - a. Enmity: Personification of The Antithesis
 - b. Broke Sabbath
 - c. Blasphemy
 - d. Prophecies of Death & Resurrection
6. Ascension & Seating: Enthronement of The King
7. The New Birth – New Creation Life
8. Being In Christ

9. In the World but Not of the World
10. Transformation
11. Being Made Righteous
12. Glorious
13. The Inner Work vs The Outer Work of the Holy Spirit
 - a. The Inside
 - b. The Outside
14. More Than Beliefs – Experiential Christianity
15. Knowing God
 - a. Everyone Already Knows
 - b. Old Testament
 - c. New Testament
16. Appendix A – Pain is a Sign of Life
17. Appendix B – The Love of God

Chapter 8. Dominion

1. Ultimate Ownership – Who Is Running This Outfit?
2. King of Kings – The Present Rulership of King Jesus
 - a. Under An Open Heaven
3. Son of the Right Hand
4. Son of David
 - a. David’s Throne
 - b. Authority in Christ
5. City of the Great King – A Tale of Two Cities
6. The People of The King
7. The Gospel of The Kingdom
8. Why Are We Here?
9. The Great Commission

Chapter 9. Healing

1. Healing is Not a Doctrine
2. Pastoral Message
3. Why It Works
4. Some Sacred Cows
5. Jesus’s Methods
6. Sin and Sickness
7. Healing Scriptures
8. The Kingdom and The Power
9. Belief & Faith
10. John G. Lake’s Secrets
11. How to Do It

Part 4. Conclusion and References

Bibliography

1. Glossary of Terminology
2. Books/Links/Videos Referenced in The Book
3. Book References by Chapter
4. Recommended Resources for Further Study
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Truth Is One – All truth is God’s truth

Habakkuk 2:2

Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.

Chapter 1 -

1. Introduction

You shall love the Lord your God ... with all your mind.

In the Gospels, we find the greatest commandment:

Matthew 22:35-40

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

(See also Mark 12:28, and Luke 10:27).

True Christianity is a whole life view or worldview, an overarching understanding of reality itself. It is not one option among many or even the best. It is the only worldview that gives meaning and intelligibility to human knowledge and experience. All others end up destroying meaning, knowledge, and ultimately lives.

Abram Kyper said, “There is not one square inch of the world over which Jesus does not say, ‘Mine!’” I would add that not one cubic inch of the universe acts independently of Christ’s lordship.

Psalms 24:1

The earth is Yahweh’s, the fullness of the world and they who dwell therein.

Isaiah 6:3

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory.

Psalms 19:1

The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psalms 97:6

The Heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His Glory.

Psalms 121:2

My help comes from Yahweh, who made heaven and earth.

Many have compartmentalized their life to such a degree that they can literally believe two opposing beliefs with no discomfort. This is a feature of the current culture. One such split has been called the “sacred, secular divorce.” By imagining life to have a “religious” side and a “non-religious” side, a spiritual or mental schizophrenia has developed, and confusion is rampant. This belief gives power to those who would eliminate the religious side altogether. If Jesus is, in fact, Lord of all, then no such dichotomy can exist. The hardest kind of teaching has to do with overcoming bad ideas believed to be true.

“Never underestimate the difficulty of changing false beliefs by facts.”

Henry Rosovsky, Economic Historian

“No evidence would be sufficient to create a change in the mind; that it is not a commitment to evidence, but a commitment to naturalism. ...because there are no alternatives, we would have to accept natural selection as the explanation of life on this planet even if there were no evidence for it.”

(Steven Pinker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *How the Mind Works*, 162)

“A new scientific truth is usually not propagated in such a way that opponents become convinced and discard their previous views. No, adversaries eventually die off, and the

upcoming generation is familiarized anew with the truth.” Max Planck, Vorträge und Erinnerungen, S. Hirzel-Verlag, Stuttgart, 1949, p13

We are engaged in an epic multigenerational struggle. But fear not, the war was won two thousand years ago, and history will progress and conclude according to God’s satisfaction. Our willing cooperation is a part of that progression. As in the past, if we won’t, God will, in the next generation.

Almost everything in this book has been garnered from the lessons learned from others for more than forty years. I cannot tell you from where or when many of the ideas came. I am more than happy to make references when I can and give credit to whom credit is due. The bibliography will contain many of the source materials. But very few ideas escape without some modification.

“Give yourself to reading. The man who never reads will never be read. He who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other man’s brains proves he has no brains of his own. You need to read” (Charles Hadden Spurgeon).

All of us grow and change from the experience of time and interactions with people around us. Somebody said, “The difference between you now and you five years from now is the people you meet and the books you read.”

I like how Jackson Browne put it in his song “For a Dancer”:

Just do the steps that you've been shown
By everyone you've ever known
Until the dance becomes your very own.
No matter how close to yours another's steps have grown
In the end, there is one dance you'll do alone.

In the end, every human being will stand before God to give an account of the gift of life they were given. Jesus has laid out the steps of the dance, the choreography of the abundant life (2Pt 1:11 and John 10:10).

In this work, I want to introduce a shift in thinking in the following areas:

1. Every person is religious and lives by faith. Having been made in the image of God, there is no such thing as a nonspiritual, nonreligious person, as many, especially atheists, assert. This may sound confusing, but hang on, I will show what this means in the Chapter 2, Apologetics.
2. Throne Room Apologetics – all thinking starts from the throne of God, where all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are located (Col 2:3). All authority is found in Jesus Christ (Matt 28:18). I will refer to this idea as the ‘center of gravity’ around which everything gravitates. In the end, resistance is futile no matter how strenuous the effort.
3. God is the author of logic and reasoning, just like everything else we take for granted. His mind preceded our physical brains, and as we are made in His image, we reflect – however well or poor, in a scaled fashion, those abilities. He is why we can even reason at all.
4. Salvation, in the end, is the gift of God by grace through faith, not reason. Unless there is an advanced work of the Holy Spirit, no one can be “argued” into the Kingdom. No amount of reason, or passion, can save you. If you don’t know you are saved, you are probably not. If you are, God saved you to do good works on the earth (Eph 2:8-10), the nations are His goal. Get to work! Heaven is simply the bonus at the end.

There are those that loudly profess that they are not “religious”, even anti-religion. Ever hear of the Freedom from Religion Foundation (<https://ffrf.org>)? How absurd! It is like fish being antiwet. Atheism is a theological position in that its very label makes reference to God. They will jeeringly say that they arrived at their position by “reason” while we arrive at ours by “irrational faith.” This is simply absurd. (Tim Keller – The Meaning of God, chapter 2) All faith positions are arrived at through multiple streams,

including authority, belief and reason, and take time to mature. The fact is that all human beings, having been made in the image of God, are religious by nature and that all thought systems rest on a foundation of faith with unprovable assumptions. All of them! Religion is simply a person living out their faith on a daily basis, often in faith communities, like the American Atheist Association or Communist Party. I will improve on these thoughts later in the book. This more correctly frames the battles we face.

There are many areas of legitimate study – such as science, geology, philosophy, psychology, and sociology – that have been dominated by fallen, atheistic, humanistic, evolutionary understanding and man-centered logic and reasoning. The obvious flaw is a perspective devoid of the throne as its “center of gravity.” The clearest distinction is between that which has been observed and *the explanation* of that which has been observed. The feet, or foundational stance, of the observer predetermines his interpretation, theory, and solutions.

Early in the last century, liberal theologians began an effort to remove any “Greek” concept from Christianity. I was in a church where the leader said, “The Church is too Greek,” reflecting this attitude. I heard Graham Cooke say, “God doesn’t have a logical bone in His body,” while he logically presents his message. By the way, I love Graham. He has a rare insight and is proof that God is not finished with us. Where does logic (“logos” word) come from, if not from God?

The real issue is that many Christians are too irrational with little solid biblical foundation. We give the opposition too much ammunition. Opinion and belief rule the day. Truth has fallen in the streets.

I have met many that can pull out a couple of verses to prove a given point. Few have ever done a comprehensive examination, Genesis to Revelation, of the point they so confidently assert. With a couple of verses, you can use the Bible to prop up any pet doctrine. This is a major cause of division. I pull my verses, and you pull your conflicting verses. Rightly dividing the word of truth (2Tm 2:15), is a lost art and few have the time to waste, I mean invest, on such trivialities.

We are to exercise the mind of Christ (1Cor 2:16: “But we have the mind of Christ”) and learn to think like Jesus. The divisions are the proof this is not happening. There is much at stake. That is the ultimate purpose of this book.

I am more than happy to receive intelligent, rational corrections to mistakes I make. I am not, however, open to receiving slanderous accusations or idiotic assertions commonly made by the howler monkeys of the world. You know what howler monkeys are, don’t you? They are a species of monkey that defend their turf by screaming and throwing excrement, (*Shattering the Myths of Darwinism* by Richard Milton, p270). If you should be one of those, I will add your messages to my monkey collection to be put on display at a later date – properly caged, of course.

Then there are those that “strain out gnats and swallow camels” (Matt 23:24). They might better serve the public by joining the circus. They thrive by picking at minutia in order to resist the truth being presented. A tiny flaw is enough to justify the rejection of an argument. They really don’t care about enhancing truth. See the “All or Nothing Syndrome” in the “How to Study the Bible” section.

This work is intended to be a more general but hopefully sufficient introduction to the subjects described. Guess what? It is not perfect.

Many of the references in the bibliography are from audio and video lectures. Due to the nature of my work over recent years, this has been a very convenient way to amass a wealth of knowledge from which to glean some of the lessons passed on here. I can also see and hear their expressions and tone of voice.

Each chapter could be a book in its own right, especially if I included the myriad of disclaimers, exceptions and caveats for every detail listed. Arguments and counterarguments are left for a later date. So, things are much simplified. This work is intended to be somewhat modular in that the various chapters can be studied independently but always considering that they are part of the larger whole. Each chapter has elements of the others. There will be some overlap and repetition. Where possible, cross-references will be provided. Understanding reality as a whole as a fully integrated network or system is the nature of a worldview. Every part interacts with every other part in some way. Think of a bow on a gift or a Rubik’s Cube.

“It is much more effective to train by principle than technique” (Curry Blake, <https://www.jglm.org>). There are many, many techniques and few principles. Techniques normally apply to a specific event or thing. Principles can be applied to a wide variety of events and things that have a certain commonality. There is much more freedom in living by principle than by technique alone. It is much more difficult to knock down someone standing on the solid rock of principles. The how-tos are necessary but understanding foundational principles are more important. This also helps with the ‘why’ of things.

2. Three Great Errors That Infect the Modern Church

The answers to these errors are covered in this book. While not always by name, you will see that to hold any of these errors is to break the consistency of the supernatural nature of the universe, history, and life in general. Theologically, they weaken the consistency of biblical and systematic theology. What we have is a failure sandwich. The first and third come from within the church, while the middle rots it all. So, we end up with a powerless, unbelieving, except for salvation, church, and complain that things are getting bad.

- a. Cessationism – The belief that the purpose of the demonstrated supernatural acts of Jesus and the apostles, in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, were to establish the early church. Once the church was established and the Bible was complete, the “Apostolic Era” of miraculous demonstrations were no longer necessary, so they ceased. The “baptism of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2, 10) also ceased. Except for “very special people” throughout the ages, normal Christians were essentially powerless. If you can’t do the stuff, you have to have a theology to explain why.
- b. Millions of Years – I have yet to meet a person who has not heard the phrase “millions of years.” Virtually unknown 400 years ago, this concept marks the greatest triumph of organized atheism or enlightenment thinking. Today, it is universally known. It exists for one purpose: to destroy the credibility of the Bible and thus, the Gospel. Brilliant!
- c. Jesus is Coming Soon – The most widely believed eschatology today was unknown 200 years ago. “End of the world” scenarios play out in government, media, and churches the world over. The psychology of “the world is supposed to get bad” is a self-fulfilling prophecy that motivates the church to resist the necessary hard work to make things better for everyone. Millions have suffered and died directly due to such neglect. The church has been repurposed into a salvation machine so that no one is “left behind,” rather than being the salt and light kingdom builders in the service of King Jesus. The Gospel of Salvation is only the first step of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

3. My Story

In September of 1978 I wasn't looking for God and I didn't care. Since high school, my career goal was to be a medicine man, shaman, sorcerer, or warlock. I wanted the power. We live in a supernatural world, and I began to tap into that reality. I was learning to do the stuff. Being high was normal.

It was a dark and stormy night, literally...on a Friday in Sharon, PA, when everything changed. I decided to take a bath and spend the night being high. There was a thunderstorm going on outside. As I sat relaxing in the bathtub, I began to hear something like a very faint voice. As I focused my attention on trying to hear what was being said, the voice roared out "... AND THE ALMIGHTY GOD!" At that instant it was as though a bolt of lightning hit the window. The room exploded with a brilliant, beautiful white light and the house shook from the thunder and I was in the presence of power greater than anything I had previously experienced. I had been in the presence of spiritual power before, usually accompanied by fear, but the thing that most caught my attention was that in the midst of the awesome power was a most gentle peace. What a contradiction - breathtaking power and sweet, gentle peace!

I sat straight up and said, "OK, God, you got my attention, what do you want"? At that instant I was up in the sky looking down on the earth. I could see that from horizon to horizon was one gigantic wheat field. As I watched, a red glow started on the horizon, then a firestorm, boiling and churning, came up and was destroying everything in its path. I looked closer and realized that each stalk of wheat had a face. Many lives were being destroyed. I knew inside myself that this was a tragedy of immense proportions! Tears began to flow at the realization of so much loss. God was allowing me to feel how He feels about

these lives being lost. He loves *every* person so very much. *Every* lost life is a tragedy to Him. I said, "God, if even one of these can live because of me, I will do whatever You want." With that, the whole thing came to an end. I finished my bath and went to bed.

The next morning when I woke up, I realized that I was different. I had been in the presence of God, and He did something to me. I had never heard about being "born again" but it had happened to me. It exploded into my consciousness that Jesus Christ was the key to everything and whatever the Bible said was true. The Bible is truly God's Book. A former girlfriend had given me a Bible but until that time I had no use for it. It was still in the box, in the closet, under the blankets. I knew I had to get out "that Book" and learn it. All I knew to do was to open to page one and begin reading. I had the Author's assurance it was all true.

I quickly devoured the Scriptures like a dry sponge devours water. In a few months I had worn the gold leaf off the pages and the binding was breaking down. I took it everywhere so I could fill every spare moment with God's word. As I became more knowledgeable, I confess that I became obnoxious. I so much want everyone to know Him. It took 10 years to get "house broken" in the Kingdom of God. Growing up has been slow and painful, like a rock in a rock tumbler having the rough edges knocked off, but that drive has never left. Now after all these years it is very clear - God is faithful and true, He cannot be otherwise! Jesus said He would never leave us or forsake us, even when everyone else does.

In 1985 I became a licensed minister and in 2008 I was ordained. I am often amazed how things work out.

In 1987 I returned to college as an engineering student. Later I switched to physics because I was interested in how the Creator's creation worked. It was during my time at the University that I became interested in Creation Science. It seemed that every class was steeped in evolutionary philosophy and many openly mocked God. It was a pervasive contradiction of what God said he did. Professors would ridicule those who didn't subscribe to the "well established scientific (atheistic) view" of history. There were others who seemed to take particular delight in destroying a lesser prepared student's faith. I wonder how many students have been successfully "evangelized" and now embrace the faith of the evolutionists. Why aren't students allowed to hear the many serious problems plaguing the atheistic/evolutionary belief system from science to philosophy? Why aren't they allowed to hear the flawed philosophical foundation on which their religion of "scientism" rests?

"What science cannot tell us, mankind cannot know." (Bertrand Russell, Atheist Philosopher)

Anyone questioning their authority is branded as heretical. Even debates are becoming increasingly restricted. Such is the control of modern public education. They can't stand up under real competition, so they use the courts to silence any opposition. Academic freedom only exists within the naturalistic, evolutionary box. Liberty is a foreign concept. More on this in chapter 2, "Apologetics."

I knew the Bible was true and that it taught that the universe was thousands, not billions, of years old, but I was ignorant of how to even approach the subject. I didn't even know anyone that did. Saying "The Bible says ..." doesn't go over well in a physics class. It is amazing - when you want to know the truth God will arrange to get it to you. It is one of the jobs of the Holy Spirit to guide us to all truth (John 16:13).

In 1991 a team from a place called the Institute for Creation Research (<https://www.icr.org>) came to the University of Wyoming for a two-day seminar. For the first time I saw that there exists credible scientific evidence and interpretations of history that are consistent with Biblical history. Not only that, but there are many thousands of scientists from every field that turned their backs on the evolutionary/atheistic view of reality because of sufficient scientific evidence that told another story, one that agrees with what the Creator said He did.

I also saw, live, the absurd lengths the evolutionary crowd was willing to go to justify their own religious system. I had been told that "all real scientists" go along with evolution. I realized those who said that were either ignorant or lying. I will give them the benefit of the doubt. I continued to search out and devour everything I could get my hands on.

Not seeing much of a future in theoretical physics I went back to applied physics - engineering. I continued to study everything I could on Creation and the scientific evidence that support it and challenge

evolution. I believe the decline of the western world and the emergence of post-Christian, post-modern America is the result of embracing evolutionary philosophy and its anti-theistic foundation, as well as the Church's failure to defend the Scriptural "It is written..." Since the spring of 2001 I have been actively speaking on Creation and the Kingdom of God anywhere an opportunity presents itself. People need to understand they are not animals, but are made in the image of God, and are alive today for a grand purpose.

On October 6, 2006, God called me to start a ministry that would emphasize the Creator's message of His glory through His creation, redemption, and total dominion in one coherent vision. The ministry started June 1, 2007 and was called Critical Mass Ministries. The Scriptures continue to open up into greater dimensions of God's great majestic work and amazing grace! This book is a compilation of 40 years of learning.

The Gospel is a world changing force for the betterment of all humanity, by Divine design. It seems much of "The Church" openly embraces ideas that are counter-productive to this end, such as millions of years, revision of marriage, making miracles mere natural events. Creation, redemption, and dominion are under an assault unparalleled since the first century. There is much talk about returning to the "early Church", but man-made traditions actually inhibit such movement. But God's plan always has a forward view, not back. It is easy to yearn for "the good ole days" but God is not there. May God have mercy on us all and open our eyes to the future rather than the past.

Jesus of Nazareth has been my Lord and best friend for over 40 years and has proven Himself to be the most loyal and devoted friend. Everything worthwhile in my life is from Him. It has been a supreme honor to be His!

If you discover that life is missing from your existence, Jesus has what you need. Turn to Him. All you have to do is ask.

John 5:38-40

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe [yet]. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 10:10.

I have come that you might have life...

Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom, and with all your getting, get understanding.

This is my Gospel, and it is strong.