



# 100% Guaranteed

YOU HAVE AN  
APPOINTMENT  
WITH **DESTINY**

STEVE MAGILL

# **100% guaranteed: You Have an Appointment With Destiny**

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# Introduction

WHERE ARE YOU going to spend eternity? Whether you believe it or not, you will continue to exist after you die. But where? A common response to this question is, “Heaven, I hope.”

Of all the questions we must answer, this is certainly the one that will affect us most. For each of us, our eternal destiny will come upon us suddenly, it is permanent, and we will be somewhere one million years from now. With the stakes so high, don’t you think it is important to be certain where you will be after you die? Death is something that we all will experience—100% guaranteed.

To not consider what will happen to you once you leave this life is equivalent to standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon, jumping off, and hoping you will land at the bottom unharmed.

As you journey through this little book, I pray that you will think about what will happen to you after you die. You have a confirmed appointment with destiny, and you can be 100% sure where you will spend eternity. This book will help you to be prepared for your eternal destination.

## CHAPTER 1

# 100% Guaranteed

NIAGARA FALLS IS incredible. The raw power of four million cubic feet of water per minute, rushing one hundred seventy feet to the bottom and exploding into white mist, leaves me with one thought: Wow! The energy it displays is amazing.

These great falls are not unlike our lives. Our days pass by in a mad, noisy rush, until they all-too-quickly come crashing to an end. The Bible describes our life as a vapor; our stay on this earth is brief, then all we have worked for disappears in a mist.

This is why it amazes me that people spend great amounts of time and energy choosing temporary things—what they’re going to drive, where they’ll live, how they’ll dress, what they’ll watch or listen to—but give little thought to what will happen to them after they die.

Most people, when asked, will happily go into great detail describing their favorite video, food, or hobby. But ask about what will happen when they die and they’ll give you an uneasy, uncertain, or flippant response. Considering that death is permanent, and where you go after death is forever, wouldn’t you think this would be a question that everyone would have an answer for? Think about

it: Where will you be a million years from now? What could be more important than settling this crucial issue?

## **TEN OUT OF TEN**

My family recently returned from the funeral of a friend's son. He was fifteen, healthy, and had a promising life ahead of him. In three short days he died unexpectedly of a disease no one knew he had. As tragic as that is, the fact is that ten out of ten people die. Death is 100% guaranteed. We don't know when it will happen to us, but when it does, death occurs only once and lasts forever. Death is not a repeat experience like our continual changing of clothes and cars. We are dead much longer than we are alive and once we reach our destination, there is no turning back.

I have met few people who do not believe in some sort of life after death, and a whole lot of people who have no clue as to what is on the other side. When you consider the different and contradicting beliefs about the afterlife, it's important to ask, "Which one will I experience?"

## **THIN ICE**

When I was a boy my dad took me ice fishing. He knew the ice was not strong enough to support his weight, but believed it would hold my skinny, eight-year-old frame. He sent me out...the ice cracked...I fell through into the icy waters.

Most people are standing on thin ice when it comes to their belief in what happens after death. They will be sent out into

eternity only to find that what they believed cracked under them and sent them plummeting toward a horrifying eternal destiny. Are you 100% sure of what will happen after you die? Do you have solid evidence to support your beliefs? More important, is your evidence based on reality?

Many years ago a lady who came into my office saw my dog lying by my desk and commented on how he had grown. I explained that I had two Shelties and the smaller one was at home. Since this person had seen me many times before, but never with two dogs, she thought I was joking. I tried to convince her otherwise, but she left my office believing I had only one dog. The reality did not change: I had two dogs whether she believed it or not. Many people have strong beliefs about what will happen after death, but will discover after they die that what they believed was not true. Their beliefs will not change reality.

In these pages I want to consider some evidence for eternity. The reality of eternity does not depend on what you believe, but is something that everyone will experience—100% guaranteed.

## CHAPTER 2

# The Design Dilemma

THE QUESTION OF our eternity begins with whether there is a God. In our culture there are two leading views. The first is that there is a God and all things were made by Him. The second is that there is no God and all things came into existence by chance through the random process of evolution. Since the two primary options to explain our existence are God and evolution, let's take a look at the theory of evolution to see if the evidence supports it.

### **ORDER OUT OF CHAOS**

Those who believe in evolution accept what is known as the "Big Bang Theory" to explain the origin of our universe and all it contains. However, this theory does not tell us where all the elements came from, nor what caused them to go "bang." It also does not explain how time, space, matter, power, and motion came into existence as the result of this bang, and in such a precise and orderly fashion. This goes against every observable explosion recorded throughout history: If you have an explosion, it creates only disorder and chaos, not order and beauty!

To illustrate the absurdity of evolution, one pastor uses this story of a Coke can. Imagine that billions of years ago, a big bang produced a large rock; eventually sweet brown liquid formed on its

surface. As time passed, aluminum molecules came into existence, formed themselves into a can, and then a lid appeared followed by a pulltab. Millions of years later, red and white paint fell from the sky, adhered to the can, and formed into the words: “Coca-Cola, 12 fluid oz.” (1)

Now if I expected you to believe this actually happened, it would be an insult to your intellect, because you know if there is a Coca-Cola can it must have a maker. To believe it came into existence by chance is to move far away from truth and reality. We know there must be a builder for every building, a painter for every painting, a designer for every watch, and so on. But when it comes to the complexities of the universe, we jump off our intellectual ship and say it all happened by chance through random processes.

Our bodies are incredibly intricate, displaying infinitely more order and design than a simple Coke can. Each individual has unique DNA, consisting of three billion pieces of information in each cell. Imagine that complex information coming together by chance!

If the universe came into existence by a big bang, science has yet to explain how an explosion could cause order and beauty.

## **A FIRST CAUSE**

There is something in philosophy called the Law of Cause and Effect. Every effect had to have something to cause it. Here’s a simple illustration. When my sons were young, I often sat down with them to draw various pictures. One moment the pictures never existed, the next moment they were fully developed. How was this possible?

Because my sons and I were the creators of our drawings; we were the cause of their existence.

In a similar manner, there is a cause to everything that came into existence. If you keep looking backward for the cause of each effect, eventually you arrive at a “first cause.” There had to be something uncaused that caused that first effect. Even Charles Darwin, the father of evolutionary theory, admitted that it is difficult to look at our world and not conclude that there had to be a God who created it. In a letter to a university student, Darwin wrote:

*The impossibility of conceiving that this grand and wondrous universe, with our conscious selves, arose through chance, seems to me the chief argument for the existence of God...I am aware that if we admit a first cause, the mind still craves to know whence it came, and how it arose. (2)*

In this statement Darwin acknowledges that the most natural and reasonable conclusion is that if there is a creation, there must have been a Creator. Logically, there must be a “first cause” that caused everything else to come into existence. We don’t question that a painting has a painter, or a building has a builder. Why should we question that our “grand and wondrous universe” has a grand and wondrous Designer?

Again, if the universe came into existence by a big bang, it had to have something to cause it. Science can’t offer any evidence for its origins.

## **TRANSITIONAL FORMS**

Charles Darwin was not as dogmatic about his theory as many who advance it. According to evolutionary theory, transitional forms are the intermediate stages in which one species gradually changes over time to become another species. Darwin admits that his theory could be true only if fossils are found showing the species in various states of transition. He writes:

But, as by this theory innumerable transitional forms must have existed, why do we not find them embedded in countless numbers in the crust of the earth?...If my theory be true, numberless intermediate varieties, linking closely together all the species of the same group, must assuredly have existed. (3)

Keep in mind that there would have been countless transitional forms between one species and the next, for each and every life form. In the nearly 150 years since Darwin published his book, scientists have been earnestly searching for proof and have found millions of fossils. But none have revealed transitional forms—not a single one. In Darwin’s own words, his theory is not true if these forms do not exist.

Many people have been led to believe that scientists have actual evidence for how one species evolved into another, and are unaware that the fossil record doesn’t yield a single one! Also, did you know that every proposed “missing link” between apes and humans has been scientifically disproved? So evolutionists have no evidence for their case. Instead, here is what the fossil record does show: In the

period known as the Cambrian Explosion, all the major animal groups appeared fully formed all at once—the opposite of what evolutionary theory requires. Should you base your eternal existence on a theory that has no supporting evidence, and that the evidence actually refutes?

## **THE MORAL CODE**

Another aspect that the theory of evolution cannot explain is a moral code. Having six children running through the house, I have always been amazed at how they have known when something was right or wrong, fair or unfair, even before they could walk or talk. A toddler caught reaching into a candy jar will pull his hand away and look guilty, knowing he's doing something forbidden. Where did this internal moral compass come from? How could they intuitively know that something was wrong or unjust?

This could occur only if right and justice exist separate from an individual's own sense of right and wrong. We see evidence of this in cultures all around the world; people everywhere know that activities like murder, stealing, adultery, and lying are wrong. This universal moral code, written on our conscience, had to come from somewhere, and science and evolution have no explanation for this.

In fact, this moral code runs counter to the evolutionary concept of “survival of the fittest” where, in the animal kingdom, might makes right. If humans were just more highly developed animals, why shouldn't we do whatever it takes to ensure our own individual survival? Animals don't feel guilty when they steal food, and they don't set up courts to seek justice when wrongs have been

committed. Yet humans do this, all around the world. Do you really believe that the sense of morality and justice developed by chance?

## **BLIND FAITH**

As we have seen, every effect must have a cause. So the conclusion is that if there is a creation, there must be a Creator. The clear design seen in our universe points to a Designer. It's also true that an effect cannot be greater than the cause. Therefore, since the creation exhibits intelligence, the Designer must be intelligent; since the creation has life, the Designer must have life; and since the creation exhibits morality, the Designer must be moral.

In the introduction to Darwin's *Origin of Species*, L. Harrison Matthews, a British biologist and evolutionist, raised this question:

...Evolution is the backbone of biology, and biology is thus in the peculiar position of being a science founded on an unproved theory—is it then a science or a faith? (4)

Unlike many who advance the theory, Darwin and Matthews acknowledged that evolution is just that—a theory. We know that a theory is based on assumptions until it has evidence to back it up. Darwin was aware that his theory could not yet be proven. Scientists today, a century and a half later, still lack the evidence to support Darwin's theory and a growing number of prominent scientists are moving away from the theory altogether. Today there are thousands of highly reputable scientists representing every scientific discipline who completely dismiss the concept of evolution. For example, Nobel Prize winner Sir Ernest Chain stated:

To postulate that the development and survival of the fittest is entirely a consequence of chance mutations seems to me a hypothesis *based on no evidence and irreconcilable with the facts*. These classical evolutionary theories are a gross over-simplification of an immensely complex and intricate mass of facts, and it amazes me that they are swallowed so uncritically and readily, and for such a long time, by so many scientists without a murmur of protest. (emphasis added) (5)

The dictionary defines “blind faith” as “not based on reason or evidence.” Because the theory of evolution has no evidence for it, and is irreconcilable with the scientific facts, wouldn’t you agree it takes blind faith to believe that there is no God and that everything happened by chance? Based on the evidence, it’s much more reasonable to conclude that there is a God.

Our next question to consider is who this God might be. We’ll explore this in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER 3

# Completely Credible

AS WE HAVE we have seen, there is more evidence confirming there is a God than that there isn't...but who is He? Which religion's God is the true God? Or do they all just use different names for the same God? If you were to examine the different religions (Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, and Christianity, to name a few), how would you determine which religion's God is the Creator? Each religion's concept of God is contradictory to the others. They are not all referring to the same God, as some people like to believe. Logically, they all can be wrong, but there is no way they all can be right. So how can you determine which one, if any, is true?

### **ONLY ONE TRUTH**

Consider this simple math equation:  $1 + 1 = 2$ . There is not a broad range of possibilities—only one answer to  $1 + 1 =$  is true. All other answers can be eliminated. In the same way, all truth is narrow. If you are wearing a solid white shirt, you cannot truthfully say the color of your shirt is blue. If it is currently cold and cloudy outside your window, it cannot be true that it is also hot and sunny. Once you have the true answer, all other options can be discarded.

Religious truth is the same. It is narrow and has only one right answer. If it is true that there is nothing after you die, it cannot also be true that there is eternal life after you die or that you come back in another form. It is impossible for two or more contradictory statements to be true at the same time. If one is true, then the others are false; they cannot all reflect reality. Do you honestly believe there is more than one eternal reality? If logically there is only one truth about what happens when we die, do you know what the right answer is?

## **WHO IS RIGHT?**

Each religion's concept of God comes from its religious writings. So wouldn't it be important to verify the credibility of these texts to determine the credibility of their views of God? When you objectively analyze the evidence, you find that one text sets itself above the crowd. The Bible has been scrutinized by countless archaeologists, historians, scholars, and scientists for hundreds of years and has been found superior to other religious texts in numerous ways. The Bible is unique for several reasons:

- *Archaeological evidence supports the Bible.* Over 25,000 archaeological finds demonstrate that the people, places, and events mentioned in the Bible are real and are accurately described. No archaeological finding has ever refuted the Bible.

- *Historical evidence supports the Bible.* More than 24,000 ancient copies of portions of the New Testament are still in existence today. These far exceed its closest competitor, Homer's Iliad, which has only 643 ancient copies preserved. Caesar's Gallic Wars has only 10 copies in existence, and they're dated over 1,000 years later than the original writings. By contrast, we have portions of the Bible dating back to within 35–40 years of the originals written by the apostles.
- *Scientific evidence supports the Bible.* The Bible tells us that the earth is circular (Isaiah 40:22) and hangs in space (Job 26:7). It also describes the water cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7; 11:3; Amos 9:6) and air currents (Ecclesiastes 1:6), and mentions many other scientific concepts—thousands of years before they were accepted by science.

In the Bible, the one who created our bodies gave us medical knowledge long before doctors “discovered” it. For example, it wasn't until the 1800s that doctors learned about microscopic diseases; but for proper hygiene, the Bible directs those with illnesses to wash in running water to remove germs (Leviticus 15:13). Male babies are to be circumcised on the eighth day—the very day the blood's coagulating ability and the body's immune system are both at their highest (Genesis 17:12). (6)

- *Fulfilled prophecy supports the Bible.* The Bible is the only book in the world that contains thousands of detailed prophecies and records their precise fulfillment. The prophecies cover the rise and fall of cities and empires, the failures and successes of national leaders, as well as national calamities and other events. For example, the Bible says the Jewish temple would be rebuilt by a King Cyrus, identifying him by name hundreds of years before his birth. The most important are the hundreds of fulfilled prophecies that relate to the lineage, birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. God promised to send a Messiah to redeem mankind, and He wanted there to be no mistaking who he would be!

The only prophecies not yet fulfilled concern the last days and the second coming of Jesus. No one can tell the future like this with perfect precision, except God. The Bible is also the only religious text that keeps itself in check by asserting that it must be 100% accurate in its fulfillment of prophecy, or it is not true. How can it make such a bold claim unless God is behind it?

- *Internal consistency supports the Bible.* The Bible is a compilation of 66 books, written in three languages by forty writers, coming from various backgrounds and continents, over a period of fifteen hundred years, yet presenting

complete harmony and consistency of thought. Its amazing consistency confirms that an overseeing power must have guided it. In fact, the Bible asserts that it is written by God. Though God used men as His instruments to record His words (much as you would use a pen to write), the words are inspired by God Himself. All other religious texts were written by men who claimed to be speaking for God. Doesn't it make sense to read the only book that claims God as its author?

- *The test of time supports the Bible.* The Bible remains an all-time best-seller, selling over 150 million copies year after year. Since its first printing on the Gutenberg press, over seven billion copies of the Bible have been printed in over 1,800 languages and dialects—more than one copy for every person living on earth. No other book comes close to the Bible in total circulation. Since it is the world's number one best-seller, it's worth checking out to see why so many consider it to be the best piece of literature ever written

I have only scratched the surface of the evidence that supports the Bible as a trustworthy text. For further details, read the extensive evidence researched by Josh McDowell in his book *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*. The Bible has proven itself repeatedly over the generations. It's been shown to be completely credible

and superior to other religious writings in its archeological, historical, scientific, and prophetic reliability. Doesn't it make sense that if you can rely on the credibility of the Bible in these areas, then you can rely on it concerning God and your eternal destiny?

In the next chapter we will take a look at two choices that the Bible presents about your eternity.

## CHAPTER 4

# Code Blue

MY GRANDMOTHER WAS declared “Code Blue” as they transported her to the hospital—she went into cardiac arrest. In fact, she died several times that day. She was revived and spent several days in the hospital. After returning home, she spoke of seeing her brother and other long-dead relatives. She talked about feeling the prayers of others drawing her back to earth. During her last three years of life on earth, she yearned to “go home.” She had caught a glimpse of paradise.

The experience of my grandmother is not unusual. Hundreds of people each year have a near-death experience where they believe they’ve seen heaven. Others have not been as fortunate and have spoken of experiencing darkness, torment, flames, and heat.

### TWO CHOICES

The Bible is clear on what to expect after you die. It says that you have a soul that will continue a conscious existence when your physical body dies (Matthew 10:28). In Luke 12:18–21 we are told of the death of a rich man, who thought he had plenty of remaining

years to enjoy life the way he wanted. But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you." His death makes it clear that death often comes suddenly when it's not expected. My daughter died at age seven. My wife's first husband died at age thirty-three. One of my grandmothers was ninety-nine, the other seventy-eight. No one knows when death will come...but death is certain.

Death is also permanent. It is true that we only go around once in life, and then we face our destiny:

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)

In life we are used to having a smorgasbord of choices. In death there are only two. Here's what the Bible says about our final destination:

....those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

The Bible is clear. In an instant, you will pass through the door of death and will find yourself in either the joys of heaven or the contempt and suffering of hell.

## **HEAVEN**

The Bible describes heaven as a “better country” (Hebrews 11:16), which will have many places to live described as “mansions” (John 14:2). There will be no decay or corruption in heaven (Matthew 6:20). We will have bodies free from aging, health problems, and any sort of deterioration (1 Corinthians 15:44); there will be no more death, sorrow, or pain, and no hunger, thirst, or tears (Revelation 7:16,17; 21:4).

These are only a few of the descriptions of heaven found in the Bible. The bottom line is, heaven is going to be a wonderful place where we will live eternally with God. We have to ask ourselves: “Am I going to be there to enjoy it?”

## **HELL**

The Bible also describes hell. Hell is a very real place, and most of our detailed information about it comes from Jesus as He warned people of its horrors. In fact, Jesus spoke more of hell than He did of heaven. He did not want anyone to go to that place of torment.

The Bible says that hell is a place of “unquenchable fire” (Matthew 3:12), where those who do not obey God will “be punished with everlasting destruction” (2 Thessalonians 1:9). There will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:42), “everlasting punishment” (Matthew 25:46), “indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil” (Romans 2:8,9). In Mark 9:43–48 Jesus warns us in graphic detail to

avoid hell at all costs. If our hand, foot, or eye is leading us to sin, it would be better to remove it and go through life without it, than to end up in the fires of hell. As drastic as that sounds, Jesus is telling us that hell is infinitely worse. No one really wants to end up in hell, yet few understand how to avoid it.

I've spoken with many who flippantly say, "I'll be there with my buddies drinking it up." If they truly knew the terror that was waiting in hell, they would understand that the very worst atrocity that could be experienced on earth would be "heaven" compared to the unending horrors of hell.

The bottom line is, hell is a fearsome place of eternal torment. We have to ask ourselves: "Am I going to hell to suffer forever?"

It is not God's desire for you to go to hell. It is your choice. Our next two chapters will help you to know where you are headed right now—so you can change your destination before it's too late.

## CHAPTER 5

# The Ultimate Standard

WHEN I WAS a boy, I thought God was counting all my good and bad deeds to see if the good I did was more than the bad. As long as my good deeds were greater, I thought I would enter heaven. I always thought of myself as a “good” person. Many adults still think that God is keeping a tally on their good works and will reward them with heaven for all their efforts. However, in God’s eyes, there are no “good” people, and we could never do enough good works to gain entrance into heaven. The Bible explains why:

Now behold, one came and said to [Jesus], “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness’... (Matthew 19:16–18)

It is incredible, but the Bible is clear that there are no “good” people—not one. Only God is good because He is perfect and holy.

When we stand before God on Judgment Day, He will judge us according to His perfect standard of “goodness,” not ours. As Jesus points out, the standard God uses is the Ten Commandments, His moral law. If we break this law, the Bible calls that “sin,” and just as when we break man’s laws, there are consequences:

The soul who sins shall die. (Ezekiel 18:4)

This isn’t just physical death, but the punishment of eternity in hell. Jesus makes it clear: To be good and gain eternal life in heaven, all we have to do is keep God’s moral law. So let’s take the time to go through the Ten Commandments and see if we are living by the law God gave us.

## **FIRST COMMANDMENT**

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Exodus 20:3)

This first commandment means that God should be the first priority in your life. What captures your affections? What do you spend your time and money on? What do you think about? What are your dreams and aspirations, and what goals are you working toward? Answering these questions will help you to understand where your priorities are. How does God fit into the picture? Are you living to please yourself, or to please Him?

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the first of the Ten Commandments by not making God my first priority?

## SECOND COMMANDMENT

“You shall not make for yourself any carved image.”  
(Exodus 20:4)

This second commandment is speaking of worshiping idols. An idol is nothing more than creating your own morals, values, and philosophy of life apart from God. Maybe you imagine a god who doesn't mind certain sins, or is too loving to send anyone to hell. In this way you make a god to suit your ideology and beliefs instead of acknowledging the true God. You also make an idol when you worship or adore something more than the God who gave you life. When you place your possessions, money, sports, movies, girlfriend/boyfriend, or anything else in the place of God, you make a idol to suit your own desires.

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the second commandment by having idols in my life?

## THIRD COMMANDMENT

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who *takes His name in vain*.” (Exodus 20:7)

This third commandment is speaking of using God's name lightly or in a profane or wrong manner. We do this when we use it as a curse word, or when we cry out, "God help us..." or flippantly say, "Oh, God..." as a meaningless exclamation instead of a prayer to an actual God.

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the third commandment by taking God's name in vain?

## **FOURTH COMMANDMENT**

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8)

God has given us one day a week to set aside for rest and to focus on Him. It is a day ordained by God for a specific purpose. We have six days in which to labor, but God wants us to rest on the seventh day and do no work. This shows our trust in Him as the one who has given us our life, our every breath, our loved ones, and the possibility of eternal life in heaven with Him. With grateful hearts we set aside one day to acknowledge and honor our Creator and Provider.

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the fourth commandment by not keeping God's day holy and reserved for Him?

## **FIFTH COMMANDMENT**

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is *giving you*.”  
(Exodus 20:12)

We are not commanded to honor our parents only if we think they are good and did the best for us. We are to respect and obey our parents regardless of what kind of parents they are, just because they are our parents. This is the first commandment with a definite benefit attached to it: long life. If a child will not submit to his parents' authority and rules, as he grows up he likely will not submit to other authority figures (such as teachers and police) and obey society's laws. He likewise may ultimately reject God's authority and His laws. Things definitely will not go well with him—either in this life or the afterlife.

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the fifth commandment by not honoring my parents, by disrespecting or disobeying them?

## **SIXTH COMMANDMENT**

“You shall not murder.” (Exodus 20:13)

Because God sees and judges our thoughts as well as our actions, the Bible describes murder as more than taking a person's life. Jesus tells us that being angry with someone is the same as murder and will receive the same punishment (Matthew 5:21,22). The apostle John

also writes that a person who hates is a murderer (1 John 3:15). If we harbor hatred toward someone, have murderous thoughts, or wish the person harm, God holds us accountable for what's in our heart.

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the sixth commandment by having anger or hatred toward someone?

## **SEVENTH COMMANDMENT**

“You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14)

Many will claim they haven't broken this one...until they hear the words of Jesus. In Matthew 5:27,28, Jesus taught that to look at a woman (other than your spouse) with lust is to commit adultery with her in your heart. Again, God holds us accountable for what's in our heart.

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the seventh commandment by looking with lust and committing adultery in my heart?

## **EIGHTH COMMANDMENT**

“You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)

If you take something that doesn't belong to you, how much does the item have to cost before it's considered stealing? Have you ever stolen from your parents? What about stealing an answer from a test in school? How about that paper clip from work? The bottom line is,

stealing is stealing regardless of the value of the item or how long ago the theft took place.

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the eighth commandment by stealing even one thing in my life?

## **NINTH COMMANDMENT:**

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”  
(Exodus 20:16)

No one likes to consider himself a liar. But have you ever thought how many lies you need to tell to be a liar? It takes only one.

Have you ever told a lie? We may not think lying is very serious, but a holy God does. The Bible warns that all liars will have their part in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

Now ask yourself: Have I broken the ninth commandment by telling one lie in my entire life?

## **TENTH COMMANDMENT**

“You shall not covet...anything that is your neighbor’s.”  
(Exodus 20:17)

Coveting is jealously desiring something that belongs to someone else. It is a great yearning, envy, or lust for someone’s possessions, money, success, relationships, popularity, fame, or whatever else is desired. Coveting is the main reason people go into debt: always

wanting what others have, they become deeply indebted buying things they cannot afford.

Ask yourself: Have I ever broken the tenth commandment by coveting what others have?

## **HOW WELL DID YOU DO?**

There you have God's standard of goodness. How well did you do? Like most people, you probably consider yourself to be a "good" person, but the important issue is how God sees you. If your daughter introduced her new fiancé as a liar, thief, blasphemer, murderer, and an adulterer at heart, would you consider him to be a good person and a welcome addition to the family? If you're honest, you'd have to say no. God's standard is infinitely higher than ours.

The truth is, none of us can measure up to God's holy standard. Most of us have broken every commandment, not just one or two. But breaking even one law is enough to earn us the death penalty and eternity in hell. The Bible tells us:

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. (James 2:10)

Just as with man's laws, we only need to break one law, one time, to be guilty and deserve punishment. And it doesn't matter that our crime was committed long ago; we're still guilty.

In addition, the Bible says that God has written His law (that universal moral code) on our hearts and that our conscience bears witness. So every time we sin, we know that we're doing wrong. We are without excuse.

The Bible gives us these sobering words about our true condition:

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

We each have broken God's laws numerous times, and no amount of good works can ever bribe the Judge to let us go. He views even our good deeds ("righteousness's") as detestable filthy rags. So how do you think He views our sins?

If you are like me, you are left with a sense that there is no hope. No matter how religious I am or how many good works I do, I will never be able to avoid hell and enter heaven. We all are guilty and headed for the punishment of eternal hell. But there is a way to escape this fate.

Let us now look at the good news in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER 6

# Good News

DO YOU SEE the predicament you are in? You've broken the law of a holy God, not once but innumerable times. One day you will stand before this Judge. What will you say in your defense? Your own conscience tells you that you're guilty.

But there is good news: Although God is just and must punish sin, He is also merciful and has made a way for you to be forgiven. In this chapter we will look at the incredible thing that God did for you so you could be pardoned from hell and enter heaven.

The prophet Isaiah records the first step to avoiding hell: We must realize that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Instead, God tells us that we are to look to Him (place our trust in Him), recognizing that there is only one God and none other:

“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:22)

The Bible also reveals that God has given authority to only one person on the earth to save us from hell. There is no one else in all of history who has been given this position. This is how the Bible says it:

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

The Bible is clear that Jesus is the only one who can save us from hell; there is no one else. He alone can mediate with God for us and negotiate our release. Jesus is the only possible Savior because He is more than a man; He is God in the flesh. He is not like Buddha, Mohammed, or Krishna who acknowledged they were sinful men. The Son of God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and willingly died an excruciating death on the cross in our behalf, shedding His blood to pay for our sin. He then rose from the dead, showing He has power over death, and is now seated in heaven.

It's incredible that the Son of God—holy and without sin—would take your place and suffer the death penalty that you deserve. Yet that is exactly what He did. Because God is a just Judge, He must ensure that justice is done and all wrongdoing is punished. But rather than sentence you to death and hell for your crimes, Jesus—God Himself—took your punishment for you. He chose to die in your place so you could live.

## 180 DEGREES TURNAROUND

What the Ten Commandments, good works, and religious rituals could never do, the suffering and death of Jesus Christ accomplished—pardon from hell and entrance into heaven. Now that the door to heaven is before you, how do you open the door to enter in?

Think of it in this way. If you are standing before a judge, and the evidence proves that you are guilty, denying your guilt will only make your case worse. The only hope you have is to confess your wrongdoing and throw yourself on the mercy of the court. The same is true of God. We first need to acknowledge to our merciful Judge that what we did was wrong:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all *unrighteousness*.” (1 John 1:9)

Confession is more than simply reciting a list of our sins. Some people believe that once they’ve verbally listed their sins, the slate is wiped clean and they’re free to go out and commit them again. They don’t really agree that those actions are worthy of punishment and they have no intention of changing their ways.

Instead, “confess” comes from a word meaning to “say the same as.” When the Bible says we are to confess our sins, it means we are to agree with God about them. We must “say the same as” God does about our sins, to see them as filthy and detestable as He does. Our

mind will acknowledge that those things are wrong, and our heart will be grieved that we've offended our holy Creator. The Bible describes this as an attitude of humility before God:

"There you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you were defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed." (Ezekiel 20:43)

"The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

"Is your heart broken by your sin? Do you have a sincere remorse for breaking the laws of God?" The Bible assures us that "godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

When we have godly sorrow and truly agree with God about our sins (confess), we will turn from them (repent). Repentance is simply turning 180o away from sin and turning toward God. Repentance is first a change of mind and is always accompanied by a change of actions. For example, when my wife and I vacationed in southern West Virginia, we decided to turn off the main interstate and enjoy the scenery on one of the less traveled dirt roads. It didn't take long for us to understand the phrase "Wild West Virginia" and change our minds, as we turned our van 180 degrees and returned to the comfort of the interstate.

If you really find your sin (and its consequences) detestable, you will not want to do it anymore. You can claim this wonderful promise from God:

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)

Do you want to receive mercy from the Judge? Then confess your sins to God, turn from them, and place your trust in Jesus Christ—the one who suffered and died on the cross in your place, paying your death penalty for you so you could go free. Only then will you be pardoned, released from your sentence of hell, and able to enjoy heaven for all eternity.

## **COUNT THE COST**

When God forgave us of all our sins and pardoned us from hell, it cost Jesus His earthly life. Our salvation costs us something too, as Jesus explains:

If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. (Luke 9:23,24)

God asks that we surrender our life to Him—not just part of our life, but all of it. Jesus warns us clearly about hell, so we would do

whatever is necessary to avoid it. If that isn't enough incentive, He also gives us a glimpse of what heaven is like:

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:44–46)

Jesus, who came from heaven, can speak with authority concerning what heaven is like. He assures us that heaven is worth everything we have and everything we are...and you don't want to miss it! When we give control of our few short years on earth to the one who loves us so much, in exchange for more than we could ever dream of for all eternity, we cannot lose. The only time we lose is when we reject such an incredible offer—and we will truly lose it all.

## **ARE YOU READY?**

On a day that you do not know, you will die and then enter either heaven or hell. Are you ready to place your trust in Jesus, repent of your sin, and commit your life to Him? Doesn't it make sense to prepare yourself now before you stand face-to-face with God? If you wait until then to decide whether to believe in Him, it will be too late. The Bible tells us that today is the day of salvation:

In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the *accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* (2 Corinthians 6:2)

You may not get another day or another hour to receive salvation. Today is the day to avoid hell, not tomorrow or next week or when you “feel ready.” Salvation is not dependent on your feelings; it results from an act of your will, when you make the decision to turn from your sin and trust in what Jesus has done for you.

The choice is yours. If you don't make a conscious choice to repent and believe in Jesus, be aware that you have chosen eternal punishment in hell, because you stand condemned already for your sins. Repentance releases you from condemnation. If you reject Jesus, you reject the only one who can pardon you:

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be *saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God...He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.* (John 3:17,18,36)

You know you are guilty and will one day stand before the Judge of the universe. Do you want to be pardoned and receive eternal life

in heaven? Or do you want to face God's wrath and suffer everlasting punishment in hell?

If you were to die tonight, would you know without a doubt—100% sure—that you would avoid hell and enter heaven? I pray that you will make the right choice...before you turn another page.

In the next chapter, you will discover how trusting in Jesus not only gives you eternal life in heaven, but changes your life here on earth.

## CHAPTER 7

# A New Creation

IF YOU MAKE the decision to follow Jesus, you will be amazed at the changes that will take place in your life. You will no longer be the person you used to be. Something happens that changes the way you see things. You find yourself beginning to love the things that God loves, and hate the things that God hates. This is because you become a brand-new creature:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Talk about a transformation! God doesn't just forgive your sin, He makes you a whole new person. Your old self lived to please your own wants and desires, looking out for number one. But when you trust in Christ, God promises, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you"* (Ezekiel 36:26). This is how the apostle Paul describes the change that takes place:

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

We turn completely from our old life, put to death our old sinful nature, and desire to live the new life that Christ gives us.

Becoming a new creature with a new heart and a new spirit is what the Bible calls being “born-again.” We are born into God’s family and become His children:

But as many as received [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. (John 1:12)

When you are God’s child, you have Christ living in you through His Holy Spirit, giving you the desire and ability to become more like our heavenly Father in His character. After all, it’s normal for children to resemble their parents. Galatians 5:22–25 talks about this Spirit and reveals what we are striving to be:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

What could be more incredible than God actually living in you, helping you to live a life that pleases Him.

## **SAVED TO SERVE**

Just as parents have expectations for their children, God has expectations for His. He expects us to serve Him and others by doing good works. Good works are the natural result of the transformation that has taken place within us. Our good works

don't save us, but they are a way we can show our gratitude to God for our salvation. This is what the Bible tells us:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we *should walk in them*. (Ephesians 2:10)

Another expectation that God has of His children is that they represent Him on the earth and continue His work of encouraging others to repent of their sins, trust in Christ, and follow His teachings. The Bible actually calls us ambassadors, representing our new homeland (heaven):

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

## **AMBASSADORS IN TRAINING**

To represent their countries, ambassadors must know what is required of them, the authority given to them, the particulars of the country they represent, and the country to which they are going. This information is given to us in the Bible, the Word of God.

The more you read, study, and put into action God's Word, the more you will grow in your understanding of the Bible and the more you will perceive the reality of heaven, hell, and those things the Bible speaks of. The more real these things become, the more motivated you will be to obey God's Word.

Also, the ambassador needs to be in communication with the one who sent him. Prayer is how you keep the communication

lines open with God. The Bible encourages you to pray always and not give up, and to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

This doesn’t mean to do nothing but pray, but to live in a spirit of prayer, so that wherever you are and in whatever you do you are always listening for God’s direction.

An ambassador of God is also one who learns to love others—not just those you like, but also your enemies. Jesus emphasizes the importance of showing love:

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. (Matthew 5:43, 44)

Our love for others is expressed through good works toward them. The highest expression of love is to tell others about Jesus. Christians know the reality of heaven and hell. To have this knowledge and not warn others of the danger ahead is equivalent to watching a house burn and not doing anything to try to save the people inside. To put things in perspective, watching people go to their death in a burning house is not as horrible as letting people go to hell to burn for eternity. Love sees the danger and does everything it can to save others from it.

## **CLIFF JUMPERS**

The most important question you can answer is, “What will happen after I die?”

You are definitely going to die and enter eternity—100% guaranteed. To leave this question unanswered in this life is equivalent to jumping off a 500-foot cliff and hoping you will hit the jagged rocks below without any harm.

You make careful, deliberate choices about numerous things in this life that do not last and that constantly change. Shouldn't you give greater consideration to an event that is experienced once, is permanent, and is going to affect you for all of eternity?

Don't leave this question unanswered. Weigh the evidence—where you spend eternity depends upon it.

# Notes

(1) Adapted from Ray Comfort, *God Doesn't Believe in Atheists* (Gainesville, FL: Bridge-Logos, 2002), 17.

(2) Letter to a Dutch student at the University of Utrecht, April 2, 1873, *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin* (London: John Murray, 1888), 306.

(3) Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (London: John Murray, 1859).

(4) Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (London: J.M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1971), x-xi.

(5) As quoted in Dr. Scott Huse, *the Collapse of Evolution*, Second Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1993), 146.

(6) See *Scientific Facts in the Bible: 100 Reasons to Believe the Bible is Supernatural in Origin* by Ray Comfort, for at least 100 facts spoken in the Bible and confirmed by science.

# Recommended Resources

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES offer greater detail than what has been outlined in this book. To learn more about what I have presented, first read, *One Heartbeat Away* by Mark Cahill. Then read Josh McDowell's *New Evidence that Demands a Verdict*; this book is quite extensive in its research and leaves no stone unturned. Then read the other resources for more specific detail. As you read, you will be totally amazed at this God who created you.

Christian Answers.net

<http://christiananswers.net/archaeology/>

*Every Prophecy of the Bible* by John F. Walvoord

*God Doesn't Believe in Atheists* by Ray Comfort

[www.livingwaters.com](http://www.livingwaters.com)

*New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell

[www.joshmcdowell.com](http://www.joshmcdowell.com)

*One Heartbeat Away* by Mark Cahill

[www.markcahill.org](http://www.markcahill.org)

*Scientific Facts in the Bible* by Ray Comfort

[www.livingaters.com](http://www.livingaters.com)

*The Answers Book* by Ken Ham

[www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)

# About the Author

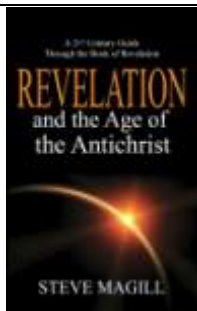


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For a free study guide or audio of this book, visit [www.ageofantichrist.com](http://www.ageofantichrist.com)

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# Other Resources



**Book:** *Revelation and the Age of the Antichrist* is a brief commentary on the book of Revelation. The Revelation is the timeline of the age of the Antichrist and earth's final seven years.

**Chart:** CHART OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION is a companion to the book, *Revelation and the Age of the Antichrist*.



**Book:** *Age of the Antichrist: ARE WE THERE YET?* focuses on the timelines recorded in the books of Daniel, Matthew 24, and the book of Revelation to form a comprehensive timeline of the last days.

**Chart:** THE CHART OF THE PROPHETIC TIMELINE is a companion to the book *The Age of the Antichrist, ARE WE THERE YET?*



**Book:** COMING SOON. Understanding the last days does not have to be complicated. Jesus made this clear when in Matthew 24 He outlined the events and ordering of last day events in only 28 verses.

Study Guide available