

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

JUDGMENT ALWAYS BEGINS WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

RLJ-1025

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APRIL 16, 2006

PART 1: WHO IS JESUS?

During the early part of April, there were swarms of tornadoes that swept over the Midwest that caused material destruction, but also resulted in the death of dozens of people who were killed in their homes. The northern part of Tennessee was hit the worst as homes and businesses were lifted off their foundations, ripped apart and tossed hundreds of feet away. Church buildings were destroyed; power lines went down and millions of people were without electricity. While all this was taking place, people were asking, *"What is going on? Why are these catastrophic events taking place in the area known as the Bible belt? Why couldn't this have hit Las Vegas, which is known as a sinful place and just as wicked as Sodom and Gomorrah? What about San Francisco and Hollywood?"*

For the last 2000 years, there have been no prophets living on the earth in the same class as the Old Testament prophets who spoke for God and foretold events which were going to happen in the future. It is therefore difficult for Christians to find out in advance what is going to happen and also hard to discern if catastrophic natural disasters are the result of judgment from God. Has God spoken concerning this issue? Yes He has, let's take a look in **Hebrews 1:1-3**.

GOD HAS SPOKEN ONCE AND FOR ALL THRU JESUS CHRIST

There will be no more prophets like we find in the Old Testament. Prophecy from God will be given to individual Christians as recorded in **1 Corinthians, chapters 12 and 14**. From time to time God will reveal future events, the most well known prophecy is one that was recorded in 1852, fulfilled in 1914 and given to the Armenian people living in Turkey. Here is a written record, which has been preserved by the Shakarian family:

Demos Shakarian (1913-1993)

Founder of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship

"Demos was named after his grandfather, a remarkable man who fled from Armenia in 1905 to settle in Los Angeles in America. The family left their homeland in response to a prophecy in 1852 that a time of unspeakable tragedy would come to Armenia and that hundreds of thousands of people would be killed. When the same person who had given the prophecy announced the time for the tragedy was near, it was the sign for many people, including grandfather Demos to move.

The prophet was a true prophet. In 1914 the Turkish people drove the Armenian population out into the Mesopotamian desert. Over a million men, women and children died. They massacred another half a million people in their villages, often by locking them in barns and burning them to



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death. Everyone still in the home village of grandfather Demos died! The world did not respond to what was happening and allowed it to continue. Later on they reaped a reward for their shameful inaction. When Hitler started his campaign to exterminate Jewish people, he believed that 'no one cared about the Armenians; they will not care about the Jews'." (www.christianheroes.com)

In order for the reader to better understand the structure of the New Testament Church, let's read **Ephesians 4:11-16**. The Bible as we have it today with its 66 books is a completed work and God is not adding any more to it. What is written stands and the work of leaders in the body of Christ is to study the Bible, interpret it, teach it, and apply it. I have written this based on the understanding that the Holy Spirit has given me and now it is up to you to follow the instructions of the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. **1 Corinthians 14:29-33**

WHO IS JESUS?

In order to understand biblical truth, it is essential to know more about Jesus. Who was He, and what did He do? Over the years, Jews have accused Christians of having more than one God and reject the concept that Jesus is the Messiah. The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus is God, furthermore, Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit are one. Let's briefly look at the offices Jesus is holding:

- ❑ **JESUS IS THE CREATOR**
- ❑ **JESUS IS THE SAVIOUR**
- ❑ **JESUS IS THE JUDGE**

When the translators of the King James Version did their rendition, they chose to use the word "God" rather than the Hebrew words used in the Old Testament when referring to God. Therefore, unless an English speaking person is willing to grab a concordance and look up the names of God, they will not have a complete understanding of what God has said about Himself. **Genesis 1:1-2**

In the first two verses of the Bible, we are informed that God created the universe and that the Holy Spirit was moving upon the earth. Later in this chapter, the translators tell us that God was speaking to someone else when He was ready to create man. Who exactly was God talking to when before He created man? **Genesis 1:26-27**

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, the language of the twelve tribes of Israel. In the Old Testament, there are seven names for God.

1. **YAHWEH: THE EXISTING ONE** (Found in Exodus 3:4 and translated LORD in the King James Bible)
2. **EL: MIGHTY ONE** (Found in Genesis 14:18 and translated God)
3. **ELAH: AN OBJECT TO WORSHIP** (Found in Ezra 4:24 and translated God)

4. **ELOHIM:** *GODS OF WORSHIP* (Found in Genesis 1:1 and translated God)
5. **ELOAH:** *OBJECT OF WORSHIP* (Found in Deut. 32:15 and translated God)
6. **TSUR:** *A ROCK* (Found in Isaiah 44:8 and translated God)
7. **HAYAH:** *TO EXIST, TO BE* (Found in Ex.3:14 and translated I AM THAT I AM)

Please note that the Bible does not tell us the personal name of God, but rather each name is an attribute. The same holds true for the Son of God. Jesus is Greek for the Hebrew word “Joshua”, which means “Saviour”. Christ is Greek for the Hebrew word “Messiah”, which means “The Anointed One”.

When Jacob wrestled with God, he wanted to know God's personal name, but it was not given him (**Genesis 32:29**). And in the book of Revelation we find the same thing, no man knows the personal name of the Son of God. **Revelation 19:11-13**

For many years I believed that Jesus, the Son of God, did not come into existence until he was born by Mary in Bethlehem. Even after I gave my life to Christ and had been active in the church for a number of years, I still believed that Jesus began his life in Bethlehem. I thought that God the Father was the Creator and the concept that Jesus actually was God was totally foreign to me. I saw God as a mean and judgmental God, whereas Jesus was kind, loving and did not judge people. It was not until I began to really study the New Testament that the Lord began to open my understanding on this matter. In the following Bible references you will find Jesus explaining his relationship to the Father. **John 8:54-55, 14:7-11, 14:23, 26**

Look at this statement: *When Jesus walked on this earth, the Father was in heaven and the Holy Spirit made it possible for Jesus to communicate with the Father.*

Now let us look at **John 1:1-14**. When I did a deep study of this scripture passage, it became clear to me that Jesus was God and that he was also the Creator. The Bible clearly states that this is true. **Ephesians 3:9-11; Colossians 1:12-20**

With two solid references from the writings of the Apostle Paul, there can be no doubt that Jesus is indeed the Creator. In the beginning of this writing, I started off with a reference from **Hebrews 1:1-3**, which also asserts that Jesus Christ is the Creator. Add what the apostle Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 15:22-28**, and it becomes clear that of the Godhead, the Father has chosen to manifest Himself to mankind in the form of the Son, Who is the Creator, Saviour and Judge.

Accordingly, we can also draw the following conclusion: It was not the Father but Jesus Christ who walked in the Garden of Eden. It was Jesus that spoke to Abraham, Moses and all the other saints in the Old Testament. It was Jesus who came in the form of a man at times and was also referred to as the “Angel of the

Lord” (**John 8:54-58**). The apostle Paul clearly states that Moses dealt with Jesus, not the Father. **1 Corinthians 10:1-3**

We can now really understand the full impact of what Jesus meant when he said, **“if ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15**

Jesus was the lawgiver and judge that meted out punishment during the Old Testament times and now He is the Supreme Ruler in the Universe. One day He will come back to this earth, not as the Saviour of mankind, but as the Judge! **Revelation 1:13-18**

Do you have an ear to hear with?