

# VIDEO SCRIPT – August 12, 2009

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Infinity – ever thought about how long it really is? Our lives are short, but time will continue forever. Spend 40 minutes to see what the Bible says that may change where you spend eternity.

## **SCENE 1. CREATION (map 1)**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth. On day six<sup>1</sup> of creation God created man from the dust of the ground, and placed him in The Garden of Eden.<sup>2</sup>

God told Adam, the first man, he can eat the fruit of any tree in the garden. The only exception was a special tree known as the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil: because if he eats from it he will surely die.<sup>3</sup>

Later God created the first woman, Eve<sup>4</sup>, so that Adam would not be alone<sup>5</sup>. Together, Adam and Eve lived in a perfect land in communion with God, free from death, pain and sin.

There was a serpent in the garden that convinced Eve to eat from the forbidden tree<sup>6</sup>. Eve ate the fruit then gave it to Adam who also ate. When they did they became ashamed and hid from God because of their disobedience<sup>7</sup>. Now they were destined to die<sup>8</sup>. Disobedience to God is the cause of death - physically, and spiritually.

The book of Romans tells us that the wages of sin is death.<sup>9</sup> Disobedience separates mankind from God because His Holiness – His purity - was and is not able to be a part of our sinful nature<sup>10</sup>.

Because of their disobedience God cast them out of the Garden to prevent them from eating of another special tree - the Tree of Life<sup>11</sup>. If they ate the fruit of this tree, they would never physically die. Without death, they could never be reconciled to God – they, and us, would be eternally separated by sin.

Is it important to believe in a literal 7 day creation of the world? The primary point is the order of sin and death. They became spiritually dead at the moment they sinned because God, who is sinless and so Holy, could not fellowship with their sinfulness. With sin came a promise of physical death. As sin was introduced by one, so is the salvation by Jesus Christ upon the Cross who came to redeem us<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:31

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 2:7-8

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 2:16-17

<sup>4</sup> Genesis 1:27

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 2:18

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 3:1-6

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 3:8

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 3:19

<sup>9</sup> Romans 6:23

<sup>10</sup> 2 Corinthians 6:14 – light has no communion with darkness.

<sup>11</sup> Genesis 3:22-23

<sup>12</sup> Romans 5:17

## **SCENE 2. NOAH AND THE FLOOD (map 2)**

The population of the earth grew after being expelled from the Garden of Eden, and mankind grew very wicked.

God cleansed the earth by a great flood, saving only Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives<sup>13</sup> because they followed after God.<sup>14</sup> God instructed Noah to build a large boat, or ark, to carry their family and animals so the earth could be repopulated. There were 2 of each kind of most animals, but some there 7 of each kind as told in Genesis 7:2-3.

The ark landed in the mountains of Ararat - located in the country we know as Turkey<sup>15</sup>. Today there is a visitor center that overlooks a large boat-shaped formation<sup>16</sup> at the base of Mount Ararat that is believed to be the ark.

## **SCENE 3. TOWER OF BABEL (map 3)**

100 years go by and some of Noah's descendants travel to the land that we know of today as Iraq<sup>17</sup>.

The Bible tells us the people began to build a tower to heaven<sup>18</sup>. Instead of spreading throughout the world and multiplying, they were committed to remain together and glorify their own achievements. But, God forbid it and caused the people to speak in different languages to confound their works.

They were then dispersed throughout the world speaking different languages<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> Genesis 8:16

<sup>14</sup> Genesis 6:11-13

<sup>15</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Ararat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Ararat)

<sup>16</sup> <http://anchorstone.com/ASI-Newsletters/Noah-s-Ark-Museum-Center-Update.html>

<sup>17</sup> Genesis 11:2 – Land of Shinar is in Babylon

<sup>18</sup> Genesis 11:4

<sup>19</sup> Genesis 9:19 and 11:9

#### **SCENE 4. ABRAHAM AND KIDS (map 4)**

The lineage from Adam to Jesus is recorded in the books of Genesis, Matthew and Luke<sup>20</sup> - naming every blood-descendant in between. Ten generations after Noah<sup>21</sup> was Abram, a faithful servant of God.

Abram grew up in Ur near the Persian Gulf, then **(map 5)** traveled to Haran<sup>22</sup>.

Here, God tells him to get out of Haran and go to Canaan where God will bless him and his family<sup>23</sup>. **(map 6)** They leave for Canaan, which is the present day land of Israel<sup>24</sup>, where most of Abram's biblical stories take place.

God established a covenant, or promise, to Abram and changed his name to Abraham, meaning "Father of many nations"<sup>25</sup>.

God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son, Isaac. After traveling three days Abraham followed God's instructions and built an altar. As he attempted to sacrifice Isaac God called unto Abraham and told him not to harm Isaac. God was well pleased that Abraham was willing to give his only son through his wife, Sarah.

Instead of Isaac as a sacrifice, God gave them a ram<sup>26</sup> to offer instead<sup>27</sup>.

This story is very similar to how God offered His only begotten Son, Jesus, for our sins. Jesus is known as the "Lamb of God" because He was the perfect sacrifice.<sup>28</sup>

God promised Abraham that He would make an everlasting covenant with him and his sons – promising that kings would come from him<sup>29</sup>. Looking back, we can now see that Jesus, the King of all Kings, was a descendant of Abraham through the tribe of Judah.<sup>30</sup>

Abraham's son was Isaac, and Isaac had Jacob, whom God blessed. Jacob's name was later changed to Israel by God. The "12 Tribes of Israel" are Jacob's sons and 2 of his grandsons. The promise of kings from Abraham, later confirmed to Jacob, is shown in [Genesis 35:9-12](#).

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<sup>20</sup> Genesis 5, Matthew 1, Luke 3

<sup>21</sup> Genesis 11:26

<sup>22</sup> Genesis 11:31

<sup>23</sup> Genesis 12:1

<sup>24</sup> Genesis 12:5

<sup>25</sup> Genesis 17:5

<sup>26</sup> Lamb is a younger version of a ram, which is male.

<sup>27</sup> Genesis 22:16-18

<sup>28</sup> Genesis 22:9-14

<sup>29</sup> Genesis 17:3-7

<sup>30</sup> Matthew 1 and Luke 3 shows lineage of Jesus

## SCENE 5. CANAAN TO EGYPT

Jacob highly favored his son Joseph<sup>31</sup>. He demonstrated it by making Joseph a coat of many colors which caused his other sons to become very jealous.

Genesis 37:-4 - And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Afterwards, Joseph dreamt a dream and told it to his brothers that implied Joseph would soon have power over them<sup>32</sup>. At this point, **(map 7)** Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him<sup>33</sup>. Reuben, the oldest brother, convinced them to put him in a deep well instead<sup>34</sup>.

Travelers came near, and Judah convinced the brothers to instead sell him into slavery in Egypt<sup>35</sup>.

Joseph interpreted a dream for the pharaoh of Egypt that no one else could<sup>36</sup>. Pharaoh's dream foretold seven years of famine to come and how they should plan for the upcoming years. In his appreciation, Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over all the land – 2<sup>nd</sup> in command only to Pharaoh<sup>37</sup>.

When the famine did come in Canaan, Joseph's brothers came into Egypt seeking food<sup>38</sup>, and eventually Joseph told them who he really was<sup>39</sup>. Then, the entire family migrated to Egypt.

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<sup>31</sup> Genesis 37:3

<sup>32</sup> Genesis 37:6-9

<sup>33</sup> Genesis 37:18

<sup>34</sup> Genesis 37:22

<sup>35</sup> Genesis 37:26-27

<sup>36</sup> Genesis 41:25-32

<sup>37</sup> Genesis 41:39-40

<sup>38</sup> Genesis 42:1-2

<sup>39</sup> Genesis 45:1

## **SCENE 6. EXODUS**

Exodus 1:6-10 And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

After becoming slaves to the Egyptians, their prayers were heard. God sent a deliverer to bring them out: Moses. Born of the Jewish people, but raised as an adopted son to the daughter of Pharaoh, Moses was well trained and educated. But, he felt sympathy for his people, and rescued one of them by killing an Egyptian guard.

Now having broken the law of Egypt, he escaped from Egypt and found the land of Midian – there to meet his wife and hear God's plan for him:

Exodus 3:2-10 - **And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses.**

**And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**

~~And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.~~

## **SCENE 7. THE LAW (map 8)**

The Israelites left Egypt – but only after many failed attempts to persuade the Pharaoh to let them go, and many plagues sent by God. During the trip God gave Moses the 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai.

These commandments established what God expects and what God identifies as sin. The 10 Commandments list rules forbidding killing, adultery, stealing, lying, and most importantly, that they must not worship any other gods or idols. Later, Jesus summarized these rules by saying we should love God first, and love our neighbors as well. Love, not hatred, prevents us from stealing or lying against others.

Once they had the law – or the 10 Commandments - everyone was found guilty because of their disobedience to God. To “pay” for their sins, God told them to sacrifice a lamb once a year on the Day of Atonement and use the blood to cover the law (tablets) - essentially *covering* the sins of the people. The 10 Commandments were held in the Ark of the Covenant, which was placed in the tabernacle where sacrifices were made. The Ark was in a very holy place called the Most Holy Place, or the Holy of Holies – which was the innermost room of the tabernacle that was filled with the presence of God. Following instructions from God on how to cleanse the sins of the priest first, the high priest would enter into the Most Holy Place and proceed to sprinkle blood on the Mercy Seat on that one special day of the year. If he had sin that was unforgiven, he would die in that room.

Their sin had to be paid – much like we pay for speeding tickets or littering now after breaking the law. The blood of a lamb was the down-payment for breaking God’s law, with the blood of Jesus as the final payment.

What greater sacrifice to pay for sins could there be than blood, where a life is sacrificed? In the book of Hebrews the author tells us that without shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sin. **Leviticus 17:11** - *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

Unfortunately, most people don’t know that Jesus is that perfect sacrifice. His blood *alone* was able to make the final payment for our sins and prepare us for Heaven. That’s why Jesus is the **ONLY** way to heaven and to the Father.

Because the sacrifices of those days were imperfect and with blemishes, the sacrifice was only good enough to cover their sins<sup>40</sup> when the High Priest would sprinkle it on top of the Mercy Seat<sup>41</sup> – which sits on the Ark of the Covenant.

Therefore, a more perfect sacrifice had to come, which was established even before the world was created. His name was Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in flesh.

Like in the days of Noah, those inhabitants prior to Israel’s arrival were wicked in the sight of God. Therefore, God allowed the Israelites to overtake the Canaanites and other inhabitants of the land. **(map 9)**

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<sup>40</sup> Hebrews 10:4 – also see Bible page 148 (Dr. Schofield’s footnote)

<sup>41</sup> Leviticus 16:14 (vs 21 talks about the escape goat)

When the Israelites entered into the promised land of Canaan they split the tribes of Israel into geographic areas. The land became known as Israel.

After the tribes had their own lands, the nation of Israel repeatedly disobeyed which led them into captivity by their enemies. God placed a series of judges in Israel such as well-known Bible figures Samson and Gideon to deliver Israel from their evil ways<sup>42</sup>.

## **SCENE 8. KINGS**

Later the nation of Israel demanded a King to rule over them like in other kingdoms, replacing the judges. God warned against it, but allowed Saul to be their first king. Saul became wicked and soon David was put in place to rule<sup>43</sup>. This is the same David that single-handedly defeated Goliath in his younger years. David's son, Solomon, the wisest man, was the last to rule over the united tribes. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, was wicked and so the 12 tribes split<sup>44</sup> - Judah and Benjamin became known as the 2 southern tribes and the others became the 10 Northern tribes. The kings of Judah were direct blood-descendents, from Abraham, fulfilling the promise that Abraham would bring forth many kings. The line from Abraham stretches to the highest king, Jesus Christ.

## **SCENE 9. CAPTIVITY (map 10)**

Following the division of Israel, about 20 kings ruled over Judah (southern tribes) and 20 over the remaining 10 tribes of Israel (northern tribes). Then, the tribes were taken into captivity because of their continual disobedience.

The northern 10 tribes fell first into captivity by the Assyrians in 722 bc. Soon after the Assyrian empire was conquered by the Babylonians. Then, around 600 b.c. a prophet named Jeremiah was called by God to warn Judah about their impending captivity if they didn't repent. They didn't, so Judah fell into captivity in 587 bc during King Nebuchadnezzar's reign. During this time of captivity the Israelites were warned to repent by prophets like Ezekiel and Daniel. The Babylonians were later overtaken by the Persians<sup>45</sup>. Many Jews gave up on God and chose to stay where things were good, but some (**map 11**) went back to Jerusalem to rebuild. As the new leader of the Persian empire, King Cyrus allowed Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem which had been destroyed by the Babylonians<sup>46</sup>. Although they came back to rebuild, the "Nation of Israel" wasn't official until 1948.

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<sup>42</sup> Judges 2

<sup>43</sup> 2 Samuel 5:3

<sup>44</sup> 1 Kings 11:43

<sup>45</sup> Book of Lists, page 41

<sup>46</sup> Ezra 1:1-2

## SCENE 10. JESUS

Within the Bible is a prophetic book called Isaiah which was written 700 years before Jesus was born. Complete un-revised copies of the book of Isaiah were found in the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1949. It confirms that the wording of the Bible hasn't been degraded since it was written. Isaiah describes the conditions and settings for Jesus – including where He would be born and how He would be rejected by those He would come to save. The Bible can be trusted, and so can our faith in God.

Another prophetic book of the Old Testament is Daniel, which also foretells of the coming of Jesus in Daniel chapter 9 more than 500 years before He came. Around 0 ad, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said:

“Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins<sup>47</sup>.”

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, would be tortured and would die by His own choice. He was the Lamb of God that was sinless, able to replace the once-a-year sacrifices for the atonement of our sin.

Jesus came as God manifested as human, but He was God. God is a trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit existing eternally before us and for eternity coming. It's much like we are composed of body, soul and spirit, but still one person. Through our senses like smell and touch our body gives us an awareness of our world. The second part, our soul, holds our desires, affections and even consciousness. The third part, our spirit, communicates with God if we are a believer.

The very first verse in the Book of John describes Jesus as the Living Word, and confirms that Jesus, along with the Father and Holy Spirit, IS God:

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

God (the Father) sent Jesus on a mission to save the world by paying for our sins. The world was already condemned by their sin<sup>48</sup>, Jesus came with a mission to save the world. It was voluntary on Jesus' part – at any moment He could have saved Himself from the death and persecution, but His purpose on Earth was to rescue us.

**Matthew 27:27-54 - Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.**

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<sup>47</sup> Matthew 1:20b and 1:21

<sup>48</sup> John 3:17-18

And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. And sitting down they watched him there; And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, **why hast thou forsaken me?** Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the **veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom**; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying,

*Truly this was the Son of God.*

## SCENE 11. COMMANDMENTS TO CONVICT

Some people say they're Christian because their parents were or they attended church when younger. But the Bible says that a Christian, or follower of Christ, is someone who must transform their life into one ready and willing to serve God. You must believe that Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and that God raised Him from the dead.

Do you?

It's not all about proving something, it's about FAITH. As Jesus told doubting Thomas "because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."<sup>49</sup>

Would you say you're a good person? Most people would. They say their good has outweighed their bad. But God gave us the 10 commandments as criteria to determine if we are indeed good. Since we've all broken at least one of them at least once, there are none righteous<sup>50</sup>.

Remember, the Commandments say:

- \* God said that we must have NO god before Him. Whereas many religions believe in many gods, God said we must only worship Him. But a "god" doesn't just mean a divine figure, a god also could be something you cherish: cars, sports, another person. Would you skip church to watch a football game? That may imply you value football more than spending time with God.
- \* Thou shalt have no graven images. We're not to make statutes or idols to worship.
- \* Don't take name of Lord in vain. Ever used the "God" or "Jesus" as a swear word or negative, demeaning way? Then you've taken the name of the Lord in vain. When the King James Version of the Bible was written, the scribes who copied it by hand would stop writing, wash their hands, then come back to write the name of God each and every time.<sup>51</sup> The name itself is that holy.
- \* Keep the Sabbath day. God rested the 7<sup>th</sup> day of creation, and so should we. It's a day of rest to worship God.<sup>52</sup>
- \* Honor our parents
- \* Don't shed innocent blood. Most have never murdered anyone, BUT the Bible says
  - a. 1 John 3:15 - "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." Hatred is comparable to murder.
- \* Don't commit adultery.
  - a. Matthew 5:28 – Jesus said "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." It's not OK to look with lust at another person. James 1:15 says it well: "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Be very careful to avoid the temptation – and careful not to make someone else stumble.
- \* Don't steal
- \* Don't bear false witness – or said in a different way, don't lie.
- \* Don't covet – meaning that we are not to be jealous for things someone else has. God provides our needs.

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<sup>49</sup> John 20:29

<sup>50</sup> Romans 3:10

<sup>51</sup> Washing hands before writing name of God - ???

<sup>52</sup> Deuteronomy 5:14

In 1 John 3:4, the Bible says that sin is breaking the law, or going against God's commandments: "Whoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**" The law helps us to identify what sin is – a solid criteria for us to judge good and bad<sup>53</sup>. The Bible also says that breaking even one commandment in your entire life means you are guilty. James 2:10 - "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

You may say that your sins are just little ones – so what if I've lied once or twice? Think of it this way: imagine a chain with just 10 links, and you're at the bottom of the chain holding on for dear life. If any *one* of those links fail, the result is the same as if they all failed. Likewise, breaking just one commandment makes us fall the same as if we break all the commandments. The result is that we've broken the law, and will be held accountable on the day of judgment when we stand before God.

To think of it another way, imagine a convicted killer stands before a judge after the conviction and pleads "I only did it once, come on judge, let me go". What would you think of a judge that let him go because it was just once? Likewise, justice must be served – every sin must be accounted for no matter how big or how small.

Matthew 12:36 – "But I say unto you, **That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**"

The primary point one can ask is this:

If you are found guilty when judged by your sins, would you expect to go to Heaven or to Hell?

The Bible says that there are none righteous, not even one person. All have sinned and come short of God's standards. BUT, God loved us so much that he knew we weren't able to be good enough, so He gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice to pay for our sins so that we would no longer be judged by the commandments. **However**, we must place our faith in Jesus Christ, trusting that He died, was buried, and came back to life. Then, we are saved by grace instead of keeping the law. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus is the ONLY way. There is no such thing as "good enough." Jesus is the "Lamb of God" – replacing the need for yearly sacrifices to pay for our sins. Because He never sinned, His blood was good enough to pay for our sins for all time.

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<sup>53</sup> Romans 3:20

## SCENE 12. LEADING TO SALVATION

How do you go to heaven?

### Admit

The first step is to ADMIT that you're a sinner: someone who has broken God's law and deserves punishment. Romans 3:23 says "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Unfortunately many people won't say they've sinned because then they know they're guilty. It's easier just to deny it. But,

1 John 1:8 – "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

As a sinner we deserve to pay for our sin just like a convicted criminal deserves jail or prison. Fortunately, if we accept Jesus then He has paid for our sin.

Romans 6:23 – "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

*If you don't believe you've ever sinned, then you cannot be saved until you do.*

### Believe

The second step is to BELIEVE. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, making us acceptable in the sight of God (Father). Then we can enter into Heaven without being condemned by our sin. Jesus had to die, and only His perfect, sinless blood was good enough to pay our sins. Hebrews 9:22 says "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

*We must believe in Jesus! Probably the most famous Bible verse, John 3:16, says it all:*

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It's not enough just to believe in the existence of Jesus, we must put our trust, hope and faith in Him. The Bible says that even the devil "believes" in Jesus but the devil stops there.

### Confess

The third step is to confess Jesus as your Savior. You know in the movies they show the teenagers that are ashamed of their parents when they pick them up from school? Imagine if we treated the One who Created us like that – our Heavenly Father. We must be willing to say "That's my Father!" when others ask. Early Christians risked their lives to confess their belief in Jesus.

Romans 10:9 says "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, **thou shalt be saved.**"

Jesus is real! Know that He died for you, so put your trust in Him because *only through Him* can we get to Heaven!

John 14:6 – "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In John, chapter 3, Jesus is speaking and tells everyone that they must be “born again”. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, responds to Jesus’ speech and asks what it means to be born again. “Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” he asked. Jesus states that we are born once physically, but within us is a spirit also. That spirit is dead until we accept Jesus Christ as our saviour. At that moment, our spirit is “born again” and our fellowship with God begins. Just as Adam and Eve had fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden *until* their sin, we have fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit because Jesus has essentially “erased” our sin.

## SUMMARY

In summary, putting your trust, faith and hope in Jesus Christ, that He died, was buried, and rose again is the only way to get to heaven. John 14:6 says that Jesus is the only way to get to the Father. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that it’s not by works. Stories of Phillip and the Eunuch in Acts chapter 8 tell us that we must believe first, then get baptized. Without salvation through our faith in Jesus, baptism is pointless. When Jesus died on the cross, our sins were taken away forever. At that time Jesus said “My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?” – this was because at that moment our sins were placed on Jesus which separated Him from God. When He died the veil in the temple was ripped in half which made it possible to come to God without a humanly priest interceding for us. Jesus became our Great High Priest that brings us to the Father.

There is no peace, no freedom, no joy comparable to what God offers you.

1 Corinthians 2:9 – “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the *things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*”

If you Believe and put your trust in Christ your sins are forgiven and forgotten, never more to condemn you. If you sin after becoming a Christian just confess to God what you’ve done wrong and believe that He will forgive you.<sup>54</sup> You are no longer under the law, but now under the Grace of God.

But, you must choose. In the words of Joshua, before entering into the promised land of Canaan (Israel), he said to them “Choose you this day whom ye will serve.... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”<sup>55</sup>

And what better place to serve, than at Emmanuel Baptist Church right here in Midland?

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<sup>54</sup> Romans 6:14 – Grace > law

<sup>55</sup> Joshua 24:15