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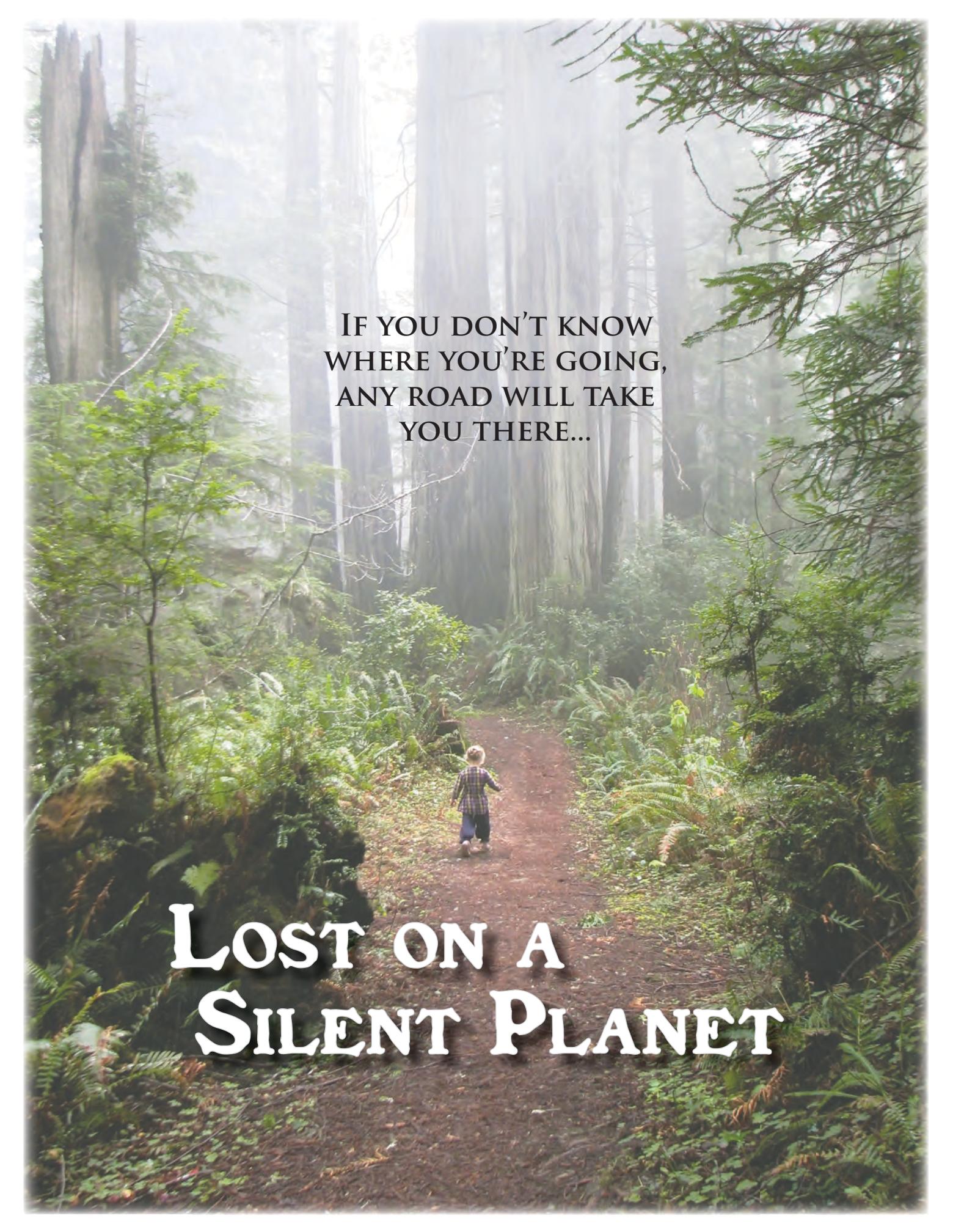
I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR

A Twelve Tribes Freepaper



FEATURING:

- ❖ LOST ON A SILENT PLANET ❖ SOCIAL CHAMELEON
- ❖ AMONG THE RUINS ❖ AN UNEXAMINED LIFE
- ❖ THE THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MAN

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a dense, misty forest. The path is surrounded by tall trees and lush green ferns. The scene is shrouded in a light fog, creating a sense of mystery and depth.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU'RE GOING,
ANY ROAD WILL TAKE
YOU THERE...

LOST ON A SILENT PLANET

I was a loner. And a cynic. I pored over philosophy books on Friday nights with a bottle of wine. The little time I did spend with other people ended in debates over the state of humanity, which I believed was doomed. I went to class. I wrote my papers. I passed by on the conveyor belt largely unnoticed. I listened to music, blasting, in my apartment in the slums of Worcester, Massachusetts. I would go hiking and camping whenever my meager funds allowed me. I prided myself in being a headstrong woman, rejecting all the societal norms that tried to confine me.

Every relationship I was ever a part of served only to further amplify my loneliness. I could not find a solid rock to stand on anywhere, so I set my sights on a peak unseen and began to climb. But on top of cliffs is not where we were meant to dwell.

Even though I watched drugs and alcohol destroy the lives of my family, I began to experiment with them myself. I convinced myself that it brought me closer to God. With every psychedelic trip, I developed what I thought was a deeper love for my fellow man – a clearer perception of reality that dissipated all too quickly once I returned to the wretched state of sobriety, a state that left me all too aware of my loneliness. Then it was back to the daily grind of work, school, and play. I was looking for something eternal that would satisfy my soul; I was convinced I could find it in six to twelve-hour increments of shimmering awareness.

I believed in God, but did nothing to actively seek Him. Still, I felt a deep-seated depression at the thought of what our Creator must think of the existence of life on this planet. Had we all become a mindless mass of pleasure-seeking machines? I was

convinced that God is love. I wanted to understand my purpose and be solidified on the path of loving my neighbor. I spent my days seeking an all-encompassing love, but I could not find it anywhere.

Society perceives creation and our existence as purposeless. This take on reality perfectly lends itself to the shallow and self-centered lifestyle which pervades our culture, our practices, our beliefs, our minds, and our spirits, “*For if there’s no everlasting God, there’s no such thing as virtue, and there’s no need of it.*”¹ Under this regime

I grew more and more dissatisfied, unfulfilled, and empty. I increased my consumption of my many vices, becoming numb and disconnected from others and from myself. I rode on false highs and temporary escapes from reality through pleasurable and isolating pursuits.

**I continued running...
searching desperately
for something
undefinable to fill
my emptiness.**

Nothing could keep me distracted from my innate knowledge of good and evil for long. I could not shake off this awareness, but I also couldn’t live in accordance with it. So I continued running from it, searching desperately for something undefinable to fill my emptiness. “*A rat in a maze is free to go anywhere, as long as it stays inside the maze.*”² I knew deep down that I was a rat, too, just like everyone else. I knew that as a member of society, there was no escaping it – but at least I knew that I was inside of a maze.

The wicked spirits of the modern world continually whisper distractions. In exchange for their promises of entertainment and ease, we learn to silence our conscience.

Convinced as I was that I was set apart from my morally degraded peers, I was really

¹ Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*

² Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

just another lost soul, though the world was trying very hard to mold me into a pre-fashioned box of optimal productivity, neatly assimilating me into society.



As time went by I made it my highest focus to be completely honest with myself. I had learned that attempting to reach this zenith of honesty and truth with another human being always ended painfully. A lack of true human connection further entrenched me in my lonely life, but I convinced myself that I was fulfilled by my books, music, knowledge, drugs, and cynicism.

The thrilling feeling that once arose in me whenever I would think about eternity was replaced with an uneasiness. An impending sense of doom was developing deep in my gut. I was hopelessly lost in a world which encouraged sin and evil, and I knew I wasn't right with our Creator. Still, I lived under the pretense that I was doing the best I could, given the circumstances. The compromise of one's soul is a gradual deception.

I would watch the faces of those I walked by, noting the fleeting eye contact, the anxiety. I felt pity, anger, and resentment for

all of these passers by, under the illusion that I was any different. In the passing moments I would sense the depression and dejection in their eyes, how disconnected we all seemed from the rest of creation and from one another.

I wanted to scream from the tops of buildings: "*Do you not know that there comes a midnight hour when every one has to throw off his mask? Do you believe that life will always let itself be mocked? But he who cannot reveal himself cannot love, and he who cannot love is the most unhappy man of all.*"³ I wanted to snap people out of their drudgery, even though I was also neck deep in it.

Just before going under, I met a group of people whose lives surpassed all of my highest hopes of peace, love, and unity. They lived together, worked together, and shared all things in common. There was no pretense among them. For the first time I saw the true extent of my fallen condition, compared to the limitless love and selflessness I had finally found in them. I never wanted to leave, and they welcomed me with open arms and eyes filled with love. I am now a part of them.

The crooked way in all of us is what makes the world a crooked place to live. The good news I have found in the Twelve Tribes of New Israel is the message of man's salvation – being redeemed for the purpose we were created for.

Our Creator appointed mankind to rule and restore the earth, through love – a love for others that causes us to forget our selfishness. This way of life is the only way

³ Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*

that we can live by the love of God's Spirit. Our Creator gives His Spirit to those who obey him. He set eternity in our hearts. The key to eternity is love – a true, self-sacrificing, all-encompassing love.

I have found the place I have been seeking, a place where we look one another in the eyes, together restoring the human worth and dignity God intends for his highest creation. We are those who were not satisfied with our lives in this world. I am learning from my brothers and sisters what it means to truly walk in love and not just hope for it to someday come. I am learning what it means to build and not just add to the destruction.

Triumphing over the darkness inside of me no longer remains a distant dream.

I have learned that the truth is simple. The truth is love, and love repeats itself over and over again, for eternity – no one is ever left behind. I have joined the ranks of those who have decided to no longer allow evil to triumph over their souls. Through our lives, our God is restoring the streets for all to dwell.

The world is under the sway of the evil one, called Satan. His spirits masquerade as the comforting distractions from our gnawing conscience. The conscience was created to be a light of truth in our struggle to decipher good and evil. We then make choices based on our inherent knowledge of good and evil, and this shapes our eternal destiny. Satan wants to distract people from this struggle.

When anyone disobeys evil and does good, Satan is conquered. Only by knowing the true Man, the One who disobeyed Satan in all things – Yahshua – can we have the power to disobey Satan, even unto death. We love Yahshua for delivering us from the

power of sin and death. We love Him in a real way by loving one another; anything short of laying down our lives daily for our savior Yahshua just continues to build Satan's kingdom.

We know that there are others like us, who are still lost in the world of selfish pursuit and deep struggle. We know that there are others who will give everything up to do God's will. Yahshua has brought us to His home where we can forsake our life in this world and find true forgiveness, and receive the joy that comes from being set free to live for others.

❧

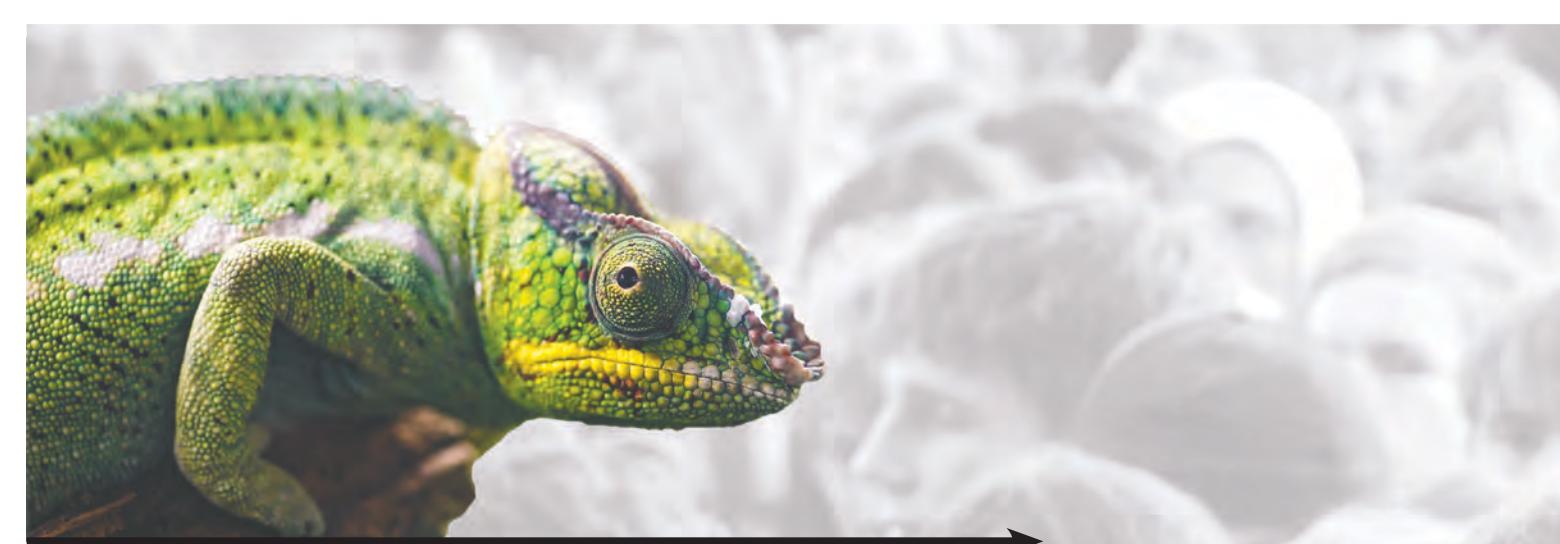
**I am no longer
alone and lost at
sea, hanging on to
a broken piece of
driftwood for dear life.**

❧

I am no longer alone and lost at sea, hanging on to a broken piece of driftwood for dear life. The ship I am now on is sailing hard and fast towards the kingdom of God. The wind in our sails is the love He has poured out in our hearts through His Holy Spirit. By His abundant grace we bring glory to His name through loving deeds and hearts over-flowing with gratitude and fortitude for the rough waters ahead. Our Creator can bring about His purpose only through those who are broken in spirit and see their need for forgiveness. If our life of love stirs your heart, then come with us and abandon the barrenness of this modern world. We need your help to bring about God's purpose on this earth, the purpose that our Father intended for us all from the beginning. ☩

Ishah





I Was a Social Chameleon...

By 19 I had learned how to be a social chameleon. Shedding the confines of school uniform, I left to University to find myself. It was a “life” of work and study, levels and more levels to pass, no time to live, then whooosh... out into the big world.

I'd never asked a girl out. This girl, Beaté, was my first. She said, “Yes.” We went for pizza. I bought a white jacket and tie from a retro shop. It didn't impress. She said, “We can be friends, but not lovers.”

I said, “OK.”

She went to nightclubs. “Do you want to come?”

“Yes, sure...” Another scene.

Her friend, Ralf, was gay. Was that OK?

“Heaven-17 Temptation! Not for me!”

Life is a journey of choices. I knew it was up to me. I can be who I want to be, and not be who I don't want to be. We all have to answer for it in the end.

But I still haven't found what I'm looking for...

Weekends were hiking – out in the hills,

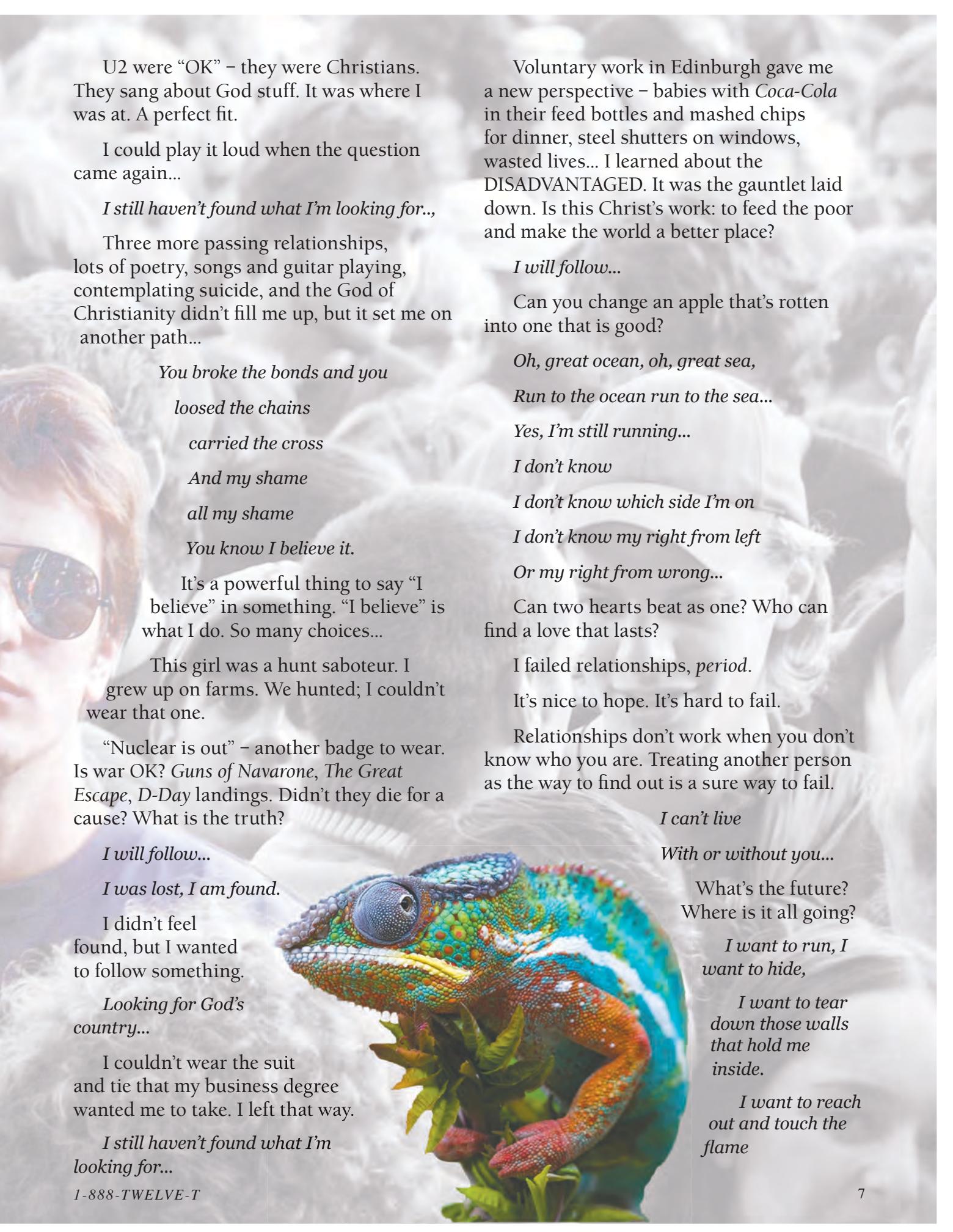
rugged boots, breeches and gaiters, Karrimor backpacks, wind and rain, Yorkshire bitter, beards and cold. Another scene. Rugged Rob had seen a few more years than me, and had learned a few things. Outside of hiking we did pubs and *Led Zeppelin*, and I bought my first guitar. *Hawkwind* played the Student Union. In the bar everyone was passing odd cigarettes. When it came to me, Rob passed it on. He said, “You don't need that.” Do you believe in angels? I didn't need it. Life went on.

Social conflicts... I found that certain relationships didn't mix. Nightclubs and FilmSoc Nerds and hikers don't mix. I have to become me. Who am I?

I still haven't found what I'm looking for...

Emptiness was taking hold. The Christians were pulling me in. Another way or another mask to wear? Something drew me. “Call out to Jesus and be saved!” So I did. Was this me? Can I wear this? Is this the anchor I need?

What is “the World”? What is “the love of the world”?



U2 were “OK” – they were Christians. They sang about God stuff. It was where I was at. A perfect fit.

I could play it loud when the question came again...

I still haven't found what I'm looking for..,

Three more passing relationships, lots of poetry, songs and guitar playing, contemplating suicide, and the God of Christianity didn't fill me up, but it set me on another path...

*You broke the bonds and you
loosed the chains
carried the cross
And my shame
all my shame
You know I believe it.*

It's a powerful thing to say “I believe” in something. “I believe” is what I do. So many choices...

This girl was a hunt saboteur. I grew up on farms. We hunted; I couldn't wear that one.

“Nuclear is out” – another badge to wear. Is war OK? *Guns of Navarone*, *The Great Escape*, *D-Day* landings. Didn't they die for a cause? What is the truth?

I will follow...

I was lost, I am found.

I didn't feel found, but I wanted to follow something.

Looking for God's country...

I couldn't wear the suit and tie that my business degree wanted me to take. I left that way.

I still haven't found what I'm looking for...

Voluntary work in Edinburgh gave me a new perspective – babies with *Coca-Cola* in their feed bottles and mashed chips for dinner, steel shutters on windows, wasted lives... I learned about the DISADVANTAGED. It was the gauntlet laid down. Is this Christ's work: to feed the poor and make the world a better place?

I will follow...

Can you change an apple that's rotten into one that is good?

*Oh, great ocean, oh, great sea,
Run to the ocean run to the sea...*

Yes, I'm still running...

I don't know

*I don't know which side I'm on
I don't know my right from left
Or my right from wrong...*

Can two hearts beat as one? Who can find a love that lasts?

I failed relationships, period.

It's nice to hope. It's hard to fail.

Relationships don't work when you don't know who you are. Treating another person as the way to find out is a sure way to fail.

I can't live

With or without you...

What's the future?
Where is it all going?

*I want to run, I
want to hide,*

*I want to tear
down those walls
that hold me
inside.*

*I want to reach
out and touch the
flame*

Where the streets have no name...

You don't always know what songs are really about, but you fit it to where life is at.

To me, "where the streets have no name" took me out of earthly life to the new Jerusalem, where the streets are pure gold, like transparent glass. It's something you can't find on earth, something clean and clear and without conflict.

We're still building, then burning down love

Burning down love...

Our love turns to rust

We're beaten and blown by the wind

Blown by the wind...

So, where is that city that we can go to, that...

When I go there, I go there with you...

Who is going there; who is finding it?

My last relationship turned to rust. Alone again.

Three weeks' vacation booked from my social work job. Time to get away. I hope I find something this time. God help me. Prayers and candles in the cathedral. Does God hear?

I want to find sunlight on my face

See the dust cloud disappear without a trace

I want to take shelter from the poison rain

Where the streets have no name.

Galicia? It's in north-western Spain. My folk singer friend Dave pulled out a big book on Spain and opened it to pictures of beautiful landscapes. "They play bagpipes there; you'll like that. There are communities there; maybe you'll find something."

Community? I always liked the idea of co-operatives – people working together, no rich

or poor, all equal. Community – I took hope, booked a flight, and set off with my bicycle.

One week in Santiago de Compostella, so many people, and the POPE! By sad coincidence I arrive there along with the Pope, and whole lot of people. Such a challenge to my evangelical Christianity. I'm here with the Harlot and the Antichrist, too. This is not the solution I dreamed of.

Looking for God's country...

Surprise! I found a bunch of happy people dancing circles in the square. It's an all-or-nothing life. They live in community. Not pot and free love, but God is there. Commitment, marriage, loyalty, forgiveness. Not just another mask to wear. My heart was beating faster than it ever had. Could it be that God really heard my prayers?

I was amazed to find what I was looking for – sincere people earnestly serving God, not in some high, religious way, but practical, down-to-earth, embracing the challenge of human beings living together.

I will follow...

I was lost; I am found.

It's an amazing thing to know you are found. God found me. He brought me out of confusion.

You too? ☺

Xonathon



I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR



Who couldn't relate to the passionate cry of the refrain of this very famous song, "I still haven't found what I'm looking for..."? Who among us is fulfilled to the depths of his being? Yet there is a larger issue which easily gets lost in man's incessant pursuit of self-fulfillment, that is, whether our Creator is getting what His heart desires. We imagine things from his perspective to be something like this:

Man, the deepest desire of His heart... He created us in His image and gave us the gift of life. Then He placed us in a pristine garden and walked with us there in the cool of the day. He gave us the most wonderful purpose – to care for the earth and all that lived and moved upon its surface. He rested for a moment as He admired our beauty, His highest creation. But then we turned away from Him, and trusted the voice of the serpent when he offered us knowledge and power. He had to drive us out of His beautiful garden so we wouldn't eat of the tree of life and live forever in our fallen state. He never lost hope for us, but *He still hasn't found what He's looking for...*

HE PLACED US IN A PRISTINE GARDEN AND WALKED WITH US THERE IN THE COOL OF THE DAY.

Then, He gave us the everlasting covenant of conscience, to keep us from eternal death. He covered our nakedness. He humbled us through the painful toil of

bringing our food from the ground, and offspring from our womb, so we wouldn't grow proud and forget Him altogether. He warned us not to follow the folly of the sons of Cain. Yet our hearts were hardened by our insatiable lust for comfort and pleasure. Every intent of our thoughts was continually evil. Finally, He was sorry He made us, and determined to wipe us from the face of the earth. He searched for anyone who had any trace of His image left in them. Noah and his family found favor in His sight. He spared them from

the devastation He brought upon the face of the earth. Yet, *He still hasn't found what He's looking for...*

He gave us a marvelous new beginning and sealed it with His rainbow of promise. He sent us forth with His command to be fruitful

and multiply and fill the earth. Yet we stopped along the way and determined to build a tower into heaven, to make a name for ourselves, in order that we wouldn't be scattered abroad on the earth. In His love for us, He confused our language so that this evil plan would not continue, for He knew it would be our demise. He sent us on to establish many places where we could live in peace and safety, and where we could grope for Him and perhaps even find Him. But, rather than seeking Him, we came up with every sort of strange god. Our idol worship and detestable practices were an abomination in His sight.

Yet, He found another special man who had a heart to know Him. He called him out of his land and his father's house. He trusted Him in every way, even with his very own precious son. So He promised him an eternal prosperity, extending into the infinite universe... Yet, *He still hasn't found what He's looking for...*

From this one man, Abraham, a twelve tribe nation was born. He put His seal upon them and called them Israel. He entrusted them with His great statutes and His commandments, in order that they could represent His justice and righteousness to the nations around them. If only they

would keep His covenant, they would be to Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, His own special treasure among the nations.

But time after time they drifted away, lifting up their souls to the gods and the customs of the nations around them. They ignored His repeated warnings and His calls to return to Him, until finally they were divided as a nation and even went to war against

everything. He expressed His heart and mind perfectly for all the others who would be willing to do His will. With the shedding of His lifeblood, and through His suffering in death, and His resurrection, He established a new covenant by which we could be saved. Yahshua was the seed of a new race of man, the fulfillment of what He created us for — to be a holy nation — His own special possession.

From that precious seed sprang forth a new spiritual nation — New Israel, made up from men from every tribe, nation, and tongue. He poured His love out in the hearts of those who entered into this New Covenant. As a result, *all those who believed were together and had all things in common.* They were of one heart and one soul. No one claimed that anything he had was his own, but they shared everything. Their life together was a living demonstration of His power to redeem man from his corrupted way, and a great light of hope to those who longed for the power to overcome what kept them alienated from their fellow man, and ultimately from their Creator Himself.

their brothers. Though the covenant was broken and the nation was lost, there were still those who had a heart for Him, like King David. Yet, *He still hasn't found what He's looking for...*

In the fullness of time He sent His own precious son — a second Adam, born from a pure seed He had reserved for our redemption. He called His name Yahshua, for He would save His people from their sins. He lived and died as the greatest example of how man was created to be. He stayed close to His Father and obeyed Him in

very subtle and the changes in their life seemed so reasonable and justifiable. They didn't even notice when He had to turn His face from them. For He is holy and has no fellowship with the darkness that overtook them. And how great was the darkness when nightfall came!

They could no longer share all things in common, or even continue to live together. They began to hate one another because of their different "beliefs," even brutally torturing to death those who they regarded as having "the wrong doctrine." They shed rivers of blood through their inquisitions and crusades, all in the name of His precious son. They courted the governments of the nations in order to further their insatiable lust for power and self-glory.

At some point, they began to clean up their act, to make themselves appear more respectable, to establish their influence in every sector of society. They published His law and the words of His prophets, as if they belonged to them. They attempted to lift up His Son as the seal of their righteousness. Yet, their life and character fell far short of the example he left for them to follow, proving that they really didn't know him.

The Son of God, Yahshua, was born and walked among us. He suffered as we do, and

was tempted in every way, yet He never compromised His fellowship with His Father. Yes, He was with Him. But Yahshua was a man. He could have failed. That's why His overcoming is the hope of all mankind – that through him, we can also overcome sin and death as He did, and be with Him.

Their false religion became detestable in His sight as they continued to parade themselves as His people, yet were full of compromise, division, and strife. The whole world is lost in confusion because of them. That is why He calls her *Babylon*. But, within their

astray. He knew we would be ravaged and broken beyond remedy. He knew we would need a savior.

Even before He made us, He planned to redeem us. Some day soon He will be able to say, "I made you, I bought you, you're mine!" This is reserved for His holy nation – a united body of those who fully belong to Him, who live to glorify Him and carry out His will. That is why His Son, Yahshua, said, "It is better that I go," for He knew that His Father has been waiting for a kingdom, a twelve tribe holy nation – His very body where He will dwell for eternity. Yahshua waits with His Father and all the faithful ones for that to come, for that is why He formed us in His image – so we would be His dwelling place, His *home* for eternity.

FOR THAT IS WHY HE FORMED US IN HIS IMAGE, SO WE COULD BE HIS DWELLING PLACE, HIS HOME FOR ETERNITY.

ranks are His people – those sincere ones who will walk in the faith of Abraham, with the heart of David, and in the grace and truth of His son. They will be called out of confusion. So, He has never lost hope in His highest creation, yet, *He still hasn't found what He's looking for...*

If it were not for a preserved seed, the whole world would have become as Sodom and Gomorrah. In His infinite foreknowledge, He knew we would be led

In these very end of days, He has sent the preserved seed of His Spirit once again to form a holy nation of twelve tribes, a body for His Spirit to dwell in, who will carry out His will. It is the time of the restoration of all things, which His prophets have foretold. When this kingdom is complete and fulfills all that He has spoken, then the end of the age will come and His Son will return, for He will have finally found what He's looking for... His home forever and ever... ☩

The THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES of MAN

This is written in the hope that it will liberate people to know the true character of the Creator of mankind. Almost everyone has heard of "heaven and hell," but the good news we have come to know is that there are not just two, but three eternal destinies for mankind.

Even the terms "heaven" and "hell" (as eternal destinies) are misleading. It has been a stumbling block to many people that no matter what kind of person you are, no matter what good you have done, or how sincere or conscientious you may be, "if you don't believe in Jesus, you are automatically doomed to go to a place of torment called the Lake of Fire."

This "man-made" doctrine of there being only heaven and hell has repulsed thousands upon thousands of people from the God of the Bible for almost two thousand years. The Creator of the human race has been misrepresented, accused, blamed, and His name maligned – most often by those who claim to know Him.

We want to "re-present" Him to the world in hope that His true nature and heart could be revealed. The Three Eternal Destinies of Man justifies God's heart toward mankind.

Every person must choose what his or her eternal destiny will be.

Revelation 22:11 declares...

THE THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MAN:

The Filthy and Unjust still...

The Righteous still...

And the Holy still...

These are the final destinations for all mankind. The Creator of heaven and earth leaves this choice up to each individual.



What are the THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MAN?

THE FILTHY

... give themselves over to degrading acts of immorality. They use and abuse others in order to fulfill their own base appetites for pleasure and indulgence.

THE UNJUST

... practice lying, deceit, greed, laziness, dishonesty, and slander. They pursue their own comfort and advantage at the expense of the suffering of others.

Like a dishonest lawyer who makes a living defending the guilty, and an unrighteous judge who condemns the innocent, or a journalist who makes a career out of lying...

Although there are differences between the two, the unjust and filthy both love and practice deeds that violate the law of conscience.

Their eternal destiny is the Lake of Fire.

THE RIGHTEOUS

... are those whose lives are characterized by faithfulness in their relationships, diligence in their work, and kindness toward the those whose lives they touch. Although they are not perfect in it, they suffer to do the good they know in their conscience, even when it cost them discomfort or rejection.

The pull of evil is like the current of a river that a person must exert himself to swim against.

Going against the current of evil in society is truly a struggle, but the righteous use their will to overcome the pull of their fallen nature.

Their eternal destiny is a second and unending life in the nations of the eternal age.

THE HOLY

... are a people set apart.

By His death, the Son of God opened the way to the tree of life so that a people could walk in the same way that He did.

Those who are weary of their own sin and the death sentence it merits, and who see the Savior as worthy of their whole life, will leave everything behind to follow Him – not just their sin, but everything including family, career, and possessions.

They will become a set-apart people, wholly devoted to Him, for that is what "holy" means. They become His visible, tangible Body on earth, living together and loving one another just as the Messiah loved them.

Their eternal destiny is to rule and reign with their Master Yahshua the Messiah as His Bride — the Holy City.



Destiny

Destiny is like destination. It is the place where you arrive at the end of your journey. Each step takes you closer to where you are going, just as every choice you make takes you closer to your eternal destiny.

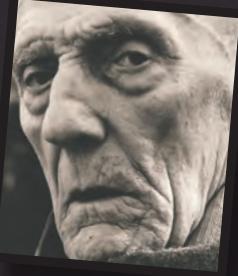


Every person will go to one of the Three Eternal Destinies based on how he lives and conducts his life. God the Creator does not decide for you, as though it were a matter of fate. No! You choose your own eternal destiny. Your actions reflect the choices you make and reveal your inner motives and true character.

Fate or Destiny?

There is a difference between fate and destiny. It is mankind's fate to die once. Fate, like death, is unavoidable. It is an appointment which every person must keep. You can't change fate, but you can change your destiny...

Your eternal destiny is set in direct relation to how you obey or disobey your conscience. Every person has a conscience which tells him instinctively what is right and what is wrong. That is why we are without excuse for the choices we make.



Your deeds, your words, the things you think, and even your hidden motives, are what you will have to give account for. It is so wonderful that God, our Creator, has left us the freedom to choose for ourselves what our ultimate eternal destiny will be.

Eternity...

*The true God is not indiscriminate in His judgments, but distinguishes between the **Filthy and Unjust**, the **Righteous**, and the **Holy**. We can clearly see that there are three eternal destinies for mankind, not just two as Christianity has mistakenly taught us.*

The simple truth is that God recognizes another category of people: those who are righteous according to the instinctive knowledge of the truth which is inherent within their conscience.

Perhaps you are not used to thinking in terms of three eternal destinies, yet the truth of these words resonates with your conscience. How could a righteous and just God cast righteous and just people into the Lake of Fire?

Will He condemn men and women to eternal torment who suffer to keep a good conscience? Will He treat them the same as the cowardly, self-seeking, greedy, deceitful, and sexually



filthy people who defile and corrupt themselves and others?

What is the point of having a conscience anyway if God does not reward those who suffer to maintain it?

So who can you blame when you arrive at your eternal destination? It is ultimately up to you to decide what your eternal destiny will be. The Creator will not force you to do what is right. Since you have the knowledge of right and wrong at work within yourself, you are totally accountable for your deeds.

Fallen man must live by the knowledge of good and evil. He cannot stretch out his hand to eat from the Tree of Life, for he is under the sentence of death for his sin. Only if someone could take his place in death could he gain access to the Tree of Life.

Yahshua, the Son of God, took our judgment upon Himself in death and provided the way back to the Tree of Life. He is the Tree of Life. All who utterly surrender their own lives in order to live only for Him will be able to eat from the Tree of Life. They will be a set-apart people, just as the Tree of Life was set apart from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They are His holy people who will know Messiah intimately in a relationship that endures for eternity.

You can become one of His holy people if you want to.

AMONG THE RUINS OF A FALLEN WORLD



Walking the old railroad tracks in the industrial section of town is how the years of my youth were spent. This was home – the cold concrete and forsaken factories of the northeastern rust-belt, where miles upon miles of abandoned steel shops and obsolete industry lines the horizon. As lost souls, we would roam the streets in hopeless adventure, left as heirs to what some would call the American dream. To us, it was an urban nightmare.

When we were young we never thought much of the desolation. It was just life in the city... where beggars were heartlessly ignored by the shuffling masses... where poverty and decadence contrast like factory smoke amidst the blue summer's sky... where no one notices because no one cares.

I cared, and wanted to believe that others did, too! But if we really do, then why isn't it making a difference? If we did all care, then why do things just keep getting worse? There's almost nothing more frustrating than wanting to change, within and without, but being powerless to do so. Maybe that's the trap we're all in. Trapped! That's what I was. I wanted hope – real hope, a light among these ruins, among this darkness, which for anyone who is honest is a place growing darker each day.

*Hope is what I longed
for but could not find
Just a little light
among the ruins
My search caused me to see
the darkness all around
That which many do not see
If you search for the light
You will understand
the night
And find the truth
That will one day
set you free...*

Decay and corruption swallow up the city as blight devours a field, leaving us hardened by the cruel apathy that has engulfed the citizens of this once-fertile land. A spiritual darkness now covers the land – hopelessness so dark that we are left paralyzed in its grip.

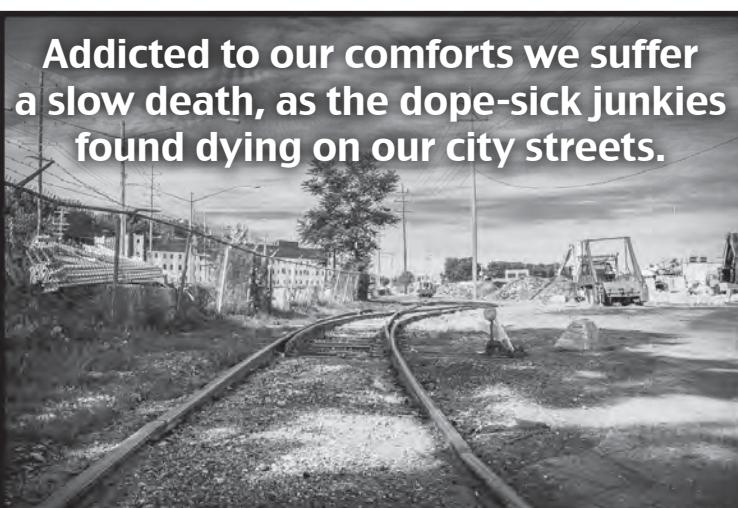
Consumerism is now the new religion, the new opiate of the masses. In this state of “urban advancement” and “social progress,” we are left empty and vulnerable to the deceptive veneer of a million vain products. Our minds are steadily entranced by the sights and sounds of the city’s chaotic amusement – the stimulating lure of a dead culture. Addicted to our comforts, we suffer a slow death, like the dope-sick junkies found dying on our city streets.

In my own state of complacency I would walk these streets for hours, listening to the trains howl like banshees through the night. A mysterious depression weighs heavily upon the land, having its effects on all. Haunted by despair, I was desperately groping for meaning within the confines of this mundane existence.

As this heaviness weighed upon my soul, I felt the urge to just give up. NO! I couldn’t stand it. I was young and disturbed, afflicted in so many ways, but I refused to just give up! I knew that was the

true cause of all this ruin – generations who gave up the fight for something better, something worthy of our true humanity. Despite the struggle, I knew mankind had a potential for something far greater than what we have seen so far. But how it would come about was to me a mystery.

As I walked the streets in turmoil, the headline of the



Addicted to our comforts we suffer a slow death, as the dope-sick junkies found dying on our city streets.

street-corner newspaper box grabbed my attention. On the front page, a South African woman was shown in an agony no one should ever have to know, while holding the skull and mourning the remains of her own son. The headline read: GENOCIDE. She herself had survived, yet only to live in a suffering comparable with death.

Upon seeing this, I cracked. I violently kicked the paper-box and swore in frustration, nauseous with the thought of such human

suffering and injustice. I could vividly feel the shadow of death looming over us all, eager to shatter our fantasies and falsehoods and to pierce through our comforts with the final reality of our guilt!

Accursed! Deep within every heart and soul are found the scars and damage of an afflicted race. We are born under the curse and are awaiting death. It’s

no wonder we’ve resorted to so many vain pursuits in an attempt to soothe the pain – anything to distract us from our true condition.

Also looming over me that day, and towering high above this city of sin, was the cross – an ancient symbol of death. It is the sign that this world crucified the very One who came to bring true deliverance.

As I would pass by the city churches of archaic design, with their locked iron gates and ominous stained-glass windows, the cross was mounted high. This simple symbol has been the sign of the greatest misrepresentation in history – the maligning of Yahshua, the true Messiah. His name and character have been profaned and reduced to a lifeless, bloody Jesus hanging on the wall, or a cross around

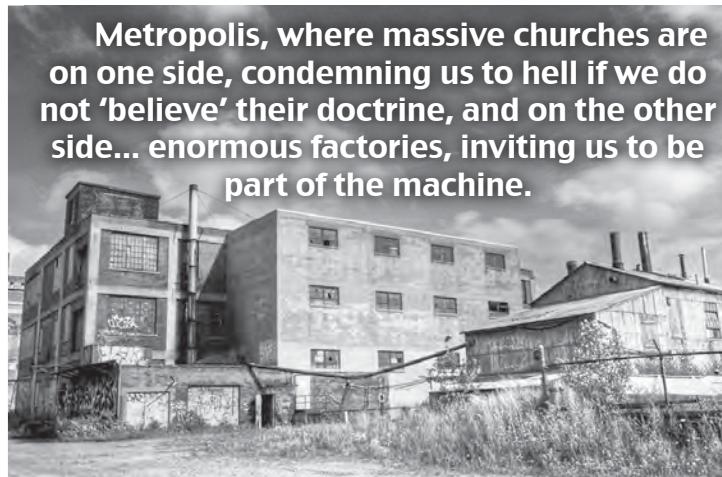
the necks of Christians. As it crowns enormous Gothic churches the world over, its legacy is declared: a trail of deception and terror spanning the centuries. It's a reminder not only of Messiah's murder, but also of the crusades, inquisitions, and cruel religious tyranny. More blood has been shed in the name of religion than for any other cause, and still the curse reigns.

Among the ruins and upon the cursed ground of the world's fallen empires I would walk... among the urban decay and the barren buildings that stand as tombs, forever reminding us of man's imperial madness... reminding us of the ruins of nations past and fallen, of the futility of man's devices.

The insatiable desire to grow, expand, and conquer is what has inspired the mega-cities of today. And for centuries before, the same vision of grandeur and domination has fueled the development of the kingdoms of mankind. We are surrounded on all sides by monolithic concrete structures. Metropolis,

where massive churches are on one side, condemning us to hell if we do not believe their doctrine, and on the other side, enormous factories, inviting us to be part of the machine.

These modern constructs all have very ancient roots – a mentality of nihilism, the deep-rooted idea that nothing really matters because all things are going to nothing. This mindset has permeated so much of history, and today more than ever. Yet,



when I lift my head above the encampment of concrete and look to the stars, I see eternity. The vastness and timelessness of the galaxies somehow gives me hope that this current existence is only temporary – an intense, yet finite test preparing us for what lies beyond...

Death, the great mystery... and the great absolute, the undeniable, inescapable, conclusion of

all life. Every religion has its take on it, trying to figure it out, but how can anyone really know? Crazy as this may sound to some, I felt as if my young, damaged mind had an intuitive sense of what was awaiting us, and it wasn't just going to heaven. I believed in justice – perfect, divine, fair, righteous, and just. I knew, and we all know deep down inside, that we deserve justice.

As we look back through the chapters of history

we see the same mistakes repeating, deepening, worsening, and accelerating until we hit our end. This repetition of destructive powers has culminated in today's modern-day machine – the industrial/atomic age. It is an age of potential human extinction as we have successfully

developed the means to annihilate ourselves! Families, children, whole generations... all living under the shadow of a nuclear holocaust!

Could the ancients ever have imagined such a future? Understanding the deep flaw of the human heart, were they able to foresee our fate? What did the prophets of old see as coming to pass?

THE APOCALYPSE

As I was growing up, I always sensed that the end was near. Just that gut feeling you get when day after day, the endless stream of cars, the empty advertisements, and the cold stares of the passers by churn on, like grinding gears in a system destined to self destruct. To many of us, the signs of the times are everywhere and inescapable. Humanity is in its last hour – an hour of darkness.

It is this time to which the prophets looked – a time of testing unlike any the world has experienced – the apocalyptic end times. This is when the true nature of the spiritual evil that has plagued the planet will be revealed in full force. For the word *apocalypse* actually means “to reveal or unveil.” This was the revelation given to the Apostle John while he was in exile on the island of Patmos over two thousand years ago.

When this evil age approaches its prophetic end, the forces that have devastated the human race will reach their peak, unleashing unprecedented war, violence, and corruption. Families will be torn apart, children will turn against their parents, and the ancient foundations of all morality and integrity will crumble before our eyes. Multitudes will be left

stranded and hopeless in a dying world.

Yet the ancient prophets foresaw not only such great global catastrophe and plight, but also an age of restoration to come. They saw the dawning of an entirely new age for humanity. But this great hope for mankind must begin now, in this age. A people will be gathered, a spiritual nation of those who will stand together in faith and weather the storm.

The end of this age will be like a dark and terrible storm that will rage long and fierce, but will finally break as a new age emerges like the glory of the morning’s radiant sun.

All darkness will pass away; healing for humanity will abound. Nations will have war no more, and peace will reign in the hearts of men. Devastated lands will again surge with new life. The lands that were for so long polluted by man’s machines and greed will be restored to their full potential. Clean waters will flow, rivers will rush, and dry lands will bloom. Bloodshed will be no more, and the lion will lie down with the lamb! *The curse will be broken!*

It is up to us, for these magnificent prophecies will only become a reality if there is a people who will

now, in this fallen age, stand together and not divide.

As this world continues to topple into ruins, this gathering call is being proclaimed. From the dust of this decaying society a tribal nation is being formed. United together in love and bound by faith, a people are being made one. The outcasts and orphans, the oppressed and afflicted, people from all backgrounds are being made one. This is the ancient life and culture of spiritual Israel: the gathered disciples of the Prince of Peace, Yahshua, the Messiah.

No longer enslaved within the cities, streets, or systems of this world, no longer alone or brokenhearted... all those who truly seek deliverance are being gathered and redeemed – from the streets of asphalt in New York City to the streets of gold in the coming kingdom. We now live together in love and unity in real communities across the globe. We invite you to stand together with us in these last days! ☙

Emet



“THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING”

~ Socrates

The Greek philosopher Socrates had a strong sense of the value of a virtuous life. In his old age, he was tried and judged worthy of death for his deeply held convictions, and for expressing them publicly. Socrates accepted the judgment of the court and willingly drank the cup of deadly hemlock.

He believed himself to be a good man, and that a good man would have a good eternal destiny. As the story goes, he received the judgment of those who condemned him, and entrusted himself into the hands of the Almighty.

MAN WILL LIVE FOREVER...

So, why did Socrates think and teach that for a man's life to be worth living it should be examined? Examined by whom? And what does a man do with the examination? Socrates knew that Man is more than the short life he has on this earth. Each of us has an eternal soul, and we determine our own eternal destiny by the choices we make in this life. For our thoughts become our deeds, our deeds form our habits, and our habits result in

our fixed character, and it is the character we formed in this life that we bring into eternity.

Without the judgment of one's life, without the knowledge

**“THE HOUR OF
DEPARTURE HAS
ARRIVED, AND WE
GO OUR WAYS—I TO
DIE, AND YOU TO LIVE.
WHICH IS BETTER GOD
ONLY KNOWS.”**

~ Socrates in his last hours

you gain by this examination of the deeds you did in this life, what are you living for anyway?¹ Without knowing that there are consequences of every choice one makes or deed one does, then what is life? Even the most worthless person actually knows there are consequences, but he goes against that knowledge!

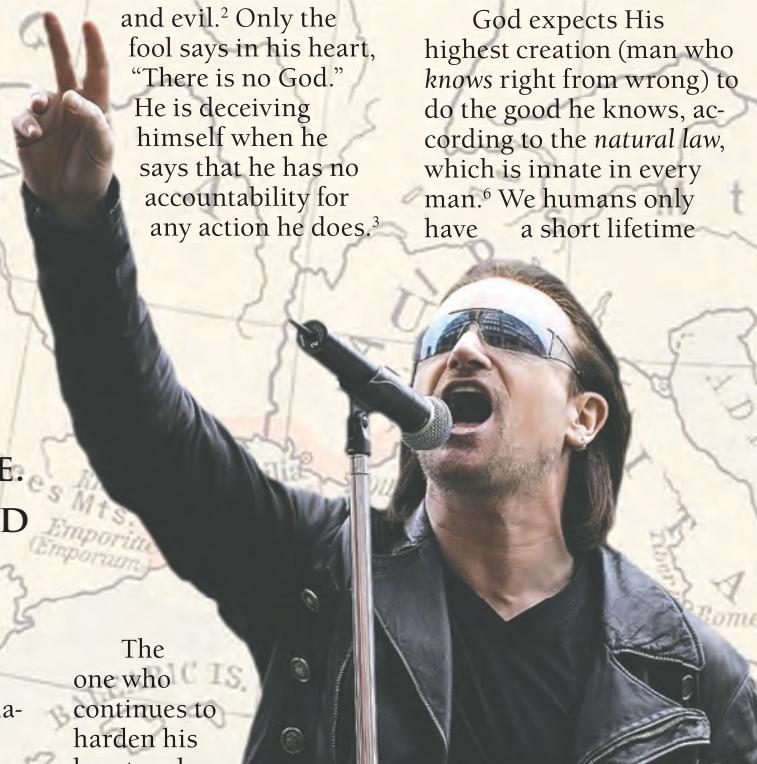
*Then the Lord God said,
“Behold, the man has
become like one of Us, to
know good and evil...”
(Genesis 3:22a)*

The knowledge of good and evil is inborn in all men. It is the way in which men and women are “made in the image of God” and are different from the animals, who have no such awareness in themselves of good

¹ Ecl 12:14; Heb 9:27; Rom 2:14-16; Rev 20:12:15

and evil.² Only the fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” He is deceiving himself when he says that he has no accountability for any action he does.³

God expects His highest creation (man who knows right from wrong) to do the good he knows, according to the *natural law*, which is innate in every man.⁴ We humans only have a short lifetime



The one who continues to harden his heart and justify his wrong-doing will eventually become *depraved*,⁴ and no longer be able to hear from his conscience. He has effectively silenced God's emissary in his heart. This one is “over the waterfall.” He cannot recover from the loss of his humanity – the image of God all men are born with. Having lost all human worth, he will spend eternity with all of the other worthless ones in the Sea of Fire, also called “the Second Death.”⁵ There could be nothing more tragic than the waste of a human soul.

here on earth to choose to either defy God or to obey Him. He is not speaking to us directly with a voice from the sky, but through our conscience, which we all have. The conscience speaks with authority as God's vice-regent. A vice-regent is a person who acts in the place of a ruler, governor, or sovereign.

Our Creator has said that one hundred and twenty years is enough to determine where man will spend eternity,⁷ according to the path each man chooses in this life.

So why did Socrates say, “The unexamined life is not worth living”? Examine means to inspect closely, to carry out a

² Romans 1:18-20:32; 2:6-11

³ Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3

⁴ Depraved: totally immoral, a warped character or a twisted mind.

⁵ Revelation 21:8; 22:15

⁶ Romans 2:6-16, esp. v 14, 15

⁷ Genesis 6:3

thorough examination or investigation. Do you have anything to hide? Are you living in guilt and denial? If so, then your life is not worth living because it will end in futility.

WHAT IS DEATH?

Every man is born with an appointment with death. As the Scriptures say, it is appointed for all men to die once, and then face the judgment of our Creator.⁸ Physical dying is when your soul and spirit depart from your body, going to a place of waiting called *Death*. In Death there are no distractions to keep you from considering your life – your motives and choices, your deeds and the consequences of those deeds. You may not have taken the time to consider your deeds while you were alive, but in Death, there is nothing else to do but wait for the judgment, when your life will be examined by the One who created you and gave you the knowledge of good and evil.

Though you may hope for oblivion⁹ or annihilation¹⁰ when you die, there is no escape from this place of agonizing awareness called Death. In this agony, if a person can receive the truth of his conscience condemning him, perhaps he will “pay the just wages of his sin.”¹¹

⁸ Hebrews 9:27

⁹ Oblivion: the state of being unaware or unconscious of what is happening.

¹⁰ Annihilation: destroy utterly; obliterate. From a Latin word which means, “reduce to nothing.” Some religions teach that when you die you simply cease to exist. This goes directly against the inner knowledge we have that there are consequences for our actions.

¹¹ Romans 6:23

But, in this agony, a worthless person will only rail against the voice of truth about himself. Both will stand before God on the day when God will judge the secrets of men’s hearts and the deeds in their lives, and determine who is worthy of a second life or a second death, both of which will never end.¹²

HOW CAN GOD CONDEMN PEOPLE FOR ETERNITY?

Many struggle to understand why God, who is love, could judge someone as worthy of eternal torment in the Sea of Fire. The fact that the consequences are so dramatic indicates the seriousness of honoring or dishonoring our Creator.¹³

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”
(Mt 25:41)

The Sea of Fire was created for Satan and the angels who followed him in his rebellion. He is the author of rebellion and becomes the father of all the rebellious people on the earth. Rebellion is act of resisting or opposing authority. Iniquity was found in Satan when he reasoned that he could be like God, desiring to actually be greater than God, thus dishonoring the One who created him.

¹² 1 Corinthians 4:5; Revelation 20:12-15

¹³ Romans 2:6-16; Rev 20:12-15

Being an eternal spirit, Satan will have to spend eternity somewhere. Presently he is loose on the earth, seeking to deceive mankind away from God’s righteous standard, just as he did in the beginning with Adam and Eve. Two thousand years ago, the Apostle John wrote



that the whole world lies under the sway of the evil one.¹⁴ How much more today? All who are led astray from following their conscience by Satan, and continue to deny God and follow Satan’s rebellion, will be with him in that place that was created for his eternal destiny.

In His great kindness, God put a conscience into all people to save them from eternal death and torment. That is the reason

eternal consequences are in store for all who refuse the Creator. Those who go against the natural law of conscience are aligning themselves with the Evil One.

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake



¹⁴ 1 John 5:19

which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Rev 21:8)

Some will make themselves worthy of the *second death* by choosing to continually embrace the evil rather than the good. For those judged worthy of a second death, that place of torment will be their eternal dwelling place. This will apply especially to those who are confronted with the gospel. They are offered the *water of life* (which is the Holy Spirit),¹⁵ yet they choose not to overcome what keeps them from drinking.¹⁶ They will not receive the grace and faith of the Holy Spirit who is coming to them to set them free.¹⁷ They are the “cowardly and unbelieving” of Revelation 21:8 – the first on the list of those who will go the Sea of Fire.

To be cowardly and unbelieving is to refuse to receive the truth which would save one’s soul from eternal torment, just as the rich young ruler rejected Yahshua’s offer of eternal life.¹⁸ Those who reject the gospel will have no need to go to the judgment for all men, since they have already judged themselves as unwilling to live in fellowship with their Creator.¹⁹ They are “judged already.”

So many are heedless and do not consider the consequences of their sins. The consequences one will suffer in the second death penalty are far greater than the loss one may temporarily experience for

¹⁵ Revelation 21:6; John 7:37-39

¹⁶ Revelation 21:7; 22:17; John 3:18,36; 7:17

¹⁷ Ephesians 2:8-12; Romans 10:8-17

¹⁸ Mark 10:17-30

¹⁹ John 3:18; Acts 13:46

being honest and upright – *doing* what he knows is right, and *not doing* what he knows is wrong. Every man knows in his heart what is right and what is wrong, and is responsible and accountable for the choices he makes.

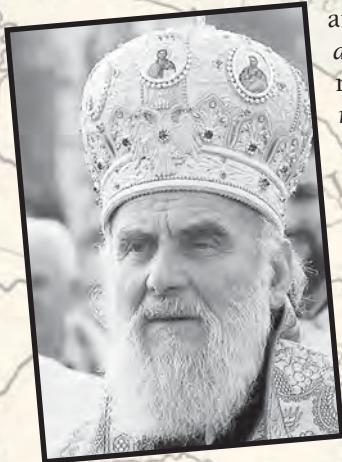
GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A DEPRAVED MIND

No one is responsible or held accountable for anything he did not know in his heart to be wrong. The frightening thing is that it is very easy to trust in your own subjective reasoning and increasingly lose touch with the instinctive knowledge of God that is in your heart, especially when you reason away your conscience in order to feel justified in your wrongdoing.²⁰ Though you may suppress the truth you know, deep inside you still know what you know, and God holds us all accountable for what we know.

Tragically, those who continue to suppress the truth in unrighteousness will eventually cease to hear anything at all from their conscience. They will be turned over to their depraved minds, which do not make a distinction between right and wrong anymore. They have thrown off all internal restraint.

Therefore God gave them

²⁰ Romans 1:18,21



over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things, which are not proper. (Romans 1:24,28)

Sin is lawlessness,²¹ which is to say that sin is to not pay attention to the restraint of conscience.²²

Some people are unrestrainable. They do not submit to natural law, the instinctive knowledge of good and evil.

A depraved mind is not quickly formed. One must “kick against the goad”²³ of his con-

science night and day in order to finally arrive at a depraved mind. But then his name is removed from the Book of Life²⁴ (where every man’s name is written when he comes into existence) and he is worthy of the second death, since he is no longer worthy of a second life.

It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)

The judgment will bring back every secret thing, the good and the evil.²⁵ Some will be able

to pay the just wages of their sin in the first death.²⁶ The judgment will also reveal the sins too terrible for one to pay for in the first death,²⁷ so they will go on to the second death, which is eternal.

As Romans 3:23 says that *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*, but not all have sinned to the degree that they have been turned over to a depraved mind and eternal torment in the Sea of Fire.

All men have sinned and have an appointment with the first death.²⁸ The sins that take a person to the second death²⁹ have to do with one’s own consistent irresponsibility to live up to the expected standard. Our loving Creator instilled the natural law in us all from birth. We are all responsible, which means able to respond.

Those who are responsible are also then accountable. Accountable means that one is answerable to give an explanation of why he did what he did, to see if the reason holds any weight before the judgment bar of God, before which all must stand.³⁰

Every person is obligated to answer for every action. For God will bring every work or deed, every action

into judgment, whether it is good or evil.³¹

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FEAR GOD?

Hardly anyone realizes the reality that the whole duty of man in this age is to fear God and keep His commandments.³² God’s righteous standard is present within every man from birth. This is the *natural law* written in his conscience.

When Gentiles, who do not possess the Law, do instinctively what the Law requires, these, though not having the Law, are a law to themselves. They show that what the Law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them. (Romans 2:14,15)



So anyone who goes against this law or inner restraint is a lawless or restraint-less person. He demonstrates his lack of respect and fear of God by being inconsiderate of others and the consequences of his actions. This is sin:

²¹ 1 John 3:4

²² James 4:17

²³ *Goad*: a sharp stick for driving cattle, a thing that stimulates someone into action.

²⁴ Revelation 20:15

²⁵ Romans 2:16; Ecclesiastes 12:14

²⁶ Romans 6:23

²⁷ Revelation 21:8; 22:15

²⁸ Hebrews 9:27

²⁹ Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8; Matthew 25:41

³⁰ Revelation 20:11

³¹ Ecclesiastes 12:14

³² Romans 2:14-15; Ecclesiastes 12:13

knowing the right thing to do, but not doing it. Sin is restraintlessness,³³ as one who transgresses the natural law written in his conscience, saying in his heart, "There is no God."³⁴ The result of this inner statement is expressed outwardly in evil deeds, even abominable deeds.

When one continues to go beyond the boundaries of conscience he is eventually turned over to a depraved mind, which can no longer hear from the conscience. There is then no fear of God before his eyes,³⁵ which Ecclesiastes 12:13 says one must have as his prime responsibility. We are all accountable to God for how we carry out our responsibility.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

We will all stand before our Maker to give an account for how we lived our life. He will ask: "Did you not have a conscience? Then why did you not obey Me through your conscience? It was your God-given conscience. I gave it to you."



Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil..." (Genesis 3:22a)

Genesis 3:22 is both man and God working together to assure a second life for the man. The conscience³⁶ speaks from the common knowledge that God and man share concerning good and evil.

Although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:32)

Death is separation from life.³⁷ But it doesn't have to be eternal separation. It is according to how we respond to the instinctive law within us. When Adam sinned, he was immediately separated from

God. He could no longer walk with God in the Garden, in the life of hearing and speaking directly with God. But God did not abandon him to a second death, to be eternally with Satan. He gave Adam a way to indirectly hear His voice through

the conscience. This was God's mercy to help him (and us) to walk within the restraints of doing good, not feeling free to do evil, and thus not losing the hope of a second life.³⁸

BEING SAVED FROM DEATH

When one continues to go against the voice of his conscience, he knows deep inside that he is deserving of death,³⁹ and will die, and after the judgment will go into death a second time. He even knows that the second time is for eternity. At least the first death has an end in sight, and then a judgment follows.⁴⁰ Some, who suffered greatly to do good in this present lifetime, will be determined as worthy of the second life in the nations of the eternal age.⁴¹ But for most, death will be the terrifying expectation of judgment for the second death which awaits them, and which is eternal.

God knew before the foundation of the world that man would need a Savior.⁴² He knew ahead of time how Satan would be determined to corrupt us, and how our selfish nature would incline us away from the good we knew to do, how our sin would lead us to death, and for many, the second death. Yahshua,⁴³ the Son of God, paid for our sins by dying and going into death in our place, so we could receive

God's mercy to escape death.⁴⁴ So why die and go to death for your sins when He had already gone there on your behalf?

The penalty of death for sin⁴⁵ can be removed in this present life, but only if one *actually* puts his trust in the One who can save him from death. To be saved from death means to be free from having to pay for our own sins *in death*,⁴⁶ and to be purified from all those things within us that led us to go against our conscience. For the one who actually puts his trust in Him, entering into an eternal covenant with Him, the penalty of sin is broken. The one who keeps his new "garment" (conscience) spotlessly white, obeying His word, will never see death at all⁴⁷ – not even the first death, which even believers will experience who do not keep their garments clean and white.⁴⁸

Eternal life in Messiah cannot be earned or paid for. Nothing one can do earns the free gift of eternal life, but who does God give this free gift to? One *cannot* pay for his obstinate rebellion,⁴⁹ which is *sin with eternal consequences*. But sin which is *not* rebellion can be paid for by one's own death – the agonies of death.⁵⁰

The wages of sin is death.⁵¹ This refers to both the first death and the

³⁸ Genesis 3:16-19; Job 14:14

³⁹ Romans 1:32

⁴⁰ Revelation 20:12-15

⁴¹ Revelation 21:24; 22:2

⁴² Revelation 13:8

⁴³ Yahshua is the Hebrew name of the one who has been more popularly called Jesus. See *Yahshua The Healer* on page 10 for more on the name Yahshua.

⁴⁴ Acts 2:24,27,31

⁴⁵ Romans 5:12; 6:23

⁴⁶ Romans 5:21

⁴⁷ John 8:51

⁴⁸ Galatians 3:27; Revelation 3:4-5; Rev 2:11; 1 Ths 5:14-18; Rev 17:14

⁴⁹ Romans 2:8-9; John 3:36

⁵⁰ Luke 16:28; Acts 2:24

⁵¹ Romans 6:23



second death. Since the fall of man there is a tendency towards selfishness, which leads to sin. But rebellion⁵² is Satan's sin. The Sea of Fire was created for Satan and his angels. Satan was a rebel from the beginning. Those who follow Satan's path will end up where he is going.

REBELLION IS THE SIN OF SATAN

All who rebel against the truth they know in their heart will, by their own doings, bring upon themselves the wrath of God eternally – the never-ending torment of the Sea of Fire.⁵³ When the great search is made through all the names recorded in the Book of Life,⁵⁴ all those whose names are *not* found in it will suffer the same destiny as Satan, because they also were rebels. They rebelled against the restraint that was given to men to keep them from going over the line, to keep them within the boundaries of God's love.

All men were born with their name in the Book of Life. Though all have fallen short of the glory of God,⁵⁵ not all have fallen to the point of being given over to a depraved mind,⁵⁶ and having their name erased from the Book of Life. So, at the judgment of the nations,⁵⁷ there will be some who still have their name in

the Book of Life and will be found worthy to live a second life in the nations of the eternal age.⁵⁸

Today, during his lifetime, a man who was not acquainted with the Law of Moses still has his second chance at life. Man fell into death when Adam transgressed,⁵⁹ yet he is still able to make choices, and according to those choices he is given eternal life in the nations or eternal death in the Sea of Fire. Which are you choosing as you go through your journey in this life? Those who hear the good news and obey the terms of peace are saved from the possibility of eternal death, and by their obedience have the possibility to never see death at all.⁶⁰ But those who hear the good news and reject it are judged already and will go straight to the second death, since they have already rejected eternal life.⁶¹

GOD'S TESTING GROUND

Everything must be tested to prove its worthiness. Man is no exception. Earth is God's testing ground for man. A man's character is formed in this life through his response to the instinctive knowledge of the Creator that is in him,⁶² as he struggles along his path through life.⁶³ One lifetime is enough to determine the eternal destiny of a man, for it is in this life that a man's character

crystallizes into what he will be for eternity. That is why Revelation 22:11 says, "Unjust still... filthy still... righteous still... holy still..." Still means eternally.

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.

(Revelation 22:11)

What benefit is 60 or 70 or 100 years of living selfishly when compared with eternal torment for the unjust and filthy? Or what can be compared to the never-ending reward for the righteous? They paid the price in this life in a great struggle to overcome temptation, and they chose to do the good they knew to do. Sin is knowing the right thing to do and not doing it. It was not that the righteous did not sin, but they did not sin the kinds

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE FOOL?

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They [the fools] have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one. (Psalm 14:1-3)

Psalm 14 speaks of the fool who says in his heart that there is no God – no responsibility or accountability, nor consequences for his abominable deeds. They have corrupted themselves who defy the truth of God they know in their conscience. They have rejected their Creator and will ultimately be away from His presence eternally, with Satan and his angels in the Sea of Fire, which is the second unending death.⁶⁵ All mankind could be blessed eternally, as the righteous will be. As a man sows, he shall reap.

Every man will "lie in the bed he made" in this life – eternally, still...⁶⁶



of sins which the unjust or filthy commit, to the hurt of others, leading them to the same destiny of the one they follow. If they were to live forever, the unjust and filthy would continue to lead others astray eternally, still, just as Satan and his angels for whom the Sea of Fire was created.⁶⁴

(Matthew 25:41)

⁵² Rebellion: resistance to or defiance of any authority, control, or tradition.

⁵³ 1 Samuel 15:23; Proverbs 17:11; Jeremiah 28:16

⁵⁴ The Book of Life of the eternal nations – Revelation 20:15

⁵⁵ Romans 3:23

⁵⁶ Romans 1:24,26,28; Psalm 14:1-3

⁵⁷ Revelation 20:12-15

From time to time, radical men and their radical thoughts have swept across the stage of history. When these men appear, they disturb the comfortable and self-satisfied among us. But there is one man who deserves our special recognition. His life was like the path of a comet – in both its briefness and intensity. Who was this man? He was everything His name describes. He

Him, or called Him a devil, or plotted to kill Him.

What did this man talk about that caused such a stir? What was it that polarized all of humanity, causing some to adore Him and others to grind their teeth at Him?

It was something so wonderful that if you heard it, you could hardly believe it.

The good news He

enduring. That's why His name is important. His name shines in all that He has accomplished. His name is Deliverer.

What was it that polarized all of humanity, causing some to adore Him and others to grind their teeth at Him?

The same world that He came into has made Him the victim of a great campaign, a campaign to distort His true image. His shocking message and what it brings us all to has been intellectualized by a million hollow words. We've lost sight of Him in the dust of a stampede to enshrine Him and institutionalize Him. Although He poured out His life in the dusty, sun-bit villages of Judea, artists have insisted on presenting Him clean, combed and sleek, in spotless clothing, and with an expression that the average child would think strange and repelling.

These, among a million other impressions, have made Him unreal to so many of us. This distortion of His image has also distorted His name. If we view Him in an unreal way, we truly cannot know Him or be connected to Him. His name is Restorer.

The traditional groups that have a supposed devotion to His memory largely ignore the matter that was closest to His heart – the message of His kingdom, the call of deliverance

still is. His name is Healer.

Though His years were short, His extraordinary life established a new race among the afflicted, broken-hearted, and strife-torn peoples of the earth. There has never been a light like the light that shone forth from this man. His words broke into the unexplored areas of the human heart, bringing men's motives out of their dark burrows and into plain view. Even those who followed Him found the ancient foundations of their lives quaking in devastation.

The words that He spoke had an amazing effect on people. When He spoke, some people totally abandoned their homes, families, jobs, and properties to follow Him from town to town, doing whatever He told them to do. Others heard His words and turned their backs on

proclaimed was this:

Deny yourself. Turn away from your self-centered life. Let your old impulses and desires die inside of you. Follow Me in the way I am going and you will find yourself caring for others and having all your needs met.

Is it any wonder that the society of His day cried out against Him? Whatever else the deafness and blindness of His hearers might have missed, it's clear that they saw this: He was the seed of a whole new order of things. The greatest enemy to this man's message was the fossilized human heart.

Yet, what this man accomplished was

from the decaying society in which we live. He was the most passionate and determined man who ever lived. The blazing quality of His life was so pure that even death has bowed down before Him. His endurance and single-mindedness have established a beachhead in this hostile world.

He accomplished the mission He was given to do. He is God's Anointed Son, sent by His Father to set all creation free.

To the complex reasoning of the resisting heart, He is a tyrant, demanding total obedience. But to the yielding heart, He is a King who offers total care. To take Him seriously is to enter upon a challenging and radical new path. Of those who find themselves stirred by His word, He said, "These are My sheep. They will hear My voice." He is the perfect Shepherd.

The life He established is unending, and one day it is going to fill the whole earth, and then the whole universe. Despite what we may have been told, we now know that His name is Salvation. This is the name He is known by among the people He is gathering. His name is true because it says what He is. His name is Yahshua. Does His name stir your heart? ☩

*Yahshua is the Hebrew name of the Son of God. It is what His father Yoceph (Joseph) and His mother Miriam (Mary) called Him when He was born, as recorded in Luke 1:31 and Matthew 1:21. The footnote for this verse in the NIV New Testament reads: "Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua." In Hebrew, as in old English, there is no "J" sound, and the name is more accurately rendered Yahshua. It means, "I am powerful to save," since it is constructed from Yah, the name of the Father (as in *Hallelujah*, "Praise Yah") which means "I AM," and shua, which means "power and authority to save."

We call Him Yahshua because that is truly His name (John 5:43; 17:11)



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THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds – to love their Creator with all their heart, mind, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being just ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that the Son of God came to earth to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created.

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