

Chapter 2

"And God Said"

Before we start to unravel God's tapestry, let's affirm God's authority and trustworthiness by establishing a firm foundation. Let's start our exploration with the question "Can we trust God and His word to be true?" There are the only two options. If God's word is not true, then we can quit right here. If God's word is true, then we must consider that God's truth is complete. He is either all true or none true. One cannot pick and choose in His word what is or is not true like a cafeteria smorgasbord. He is not a God of partial truth. [Proverbs 30:5 \(NLT\)](#) "Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to Him for protection." We may not understand, comprehend or be able to explain everything but you can rely on that it is true. His truth began at creation to the relationship with the Jewish forefathers to Jesus' birth, life, sacrificial crucifixion, and resurrection, to His promise of redemption and forgiveness, to His return, and finally ending with His living in heaven with Him victorious are all true.

Next, if God does exist, how then does He make Himself known to us, if at all? The Bible says that God spoke directly to Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and the prophets. [Hebrews 1:1-2 \(NKJV\)](#) "¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds." God spoke through Jesus to the Apostles and the people (Jew and Gentile) who were alive then. When Jesus was on earth, He taught His disciples by speaking directly with them and living by example. They had the benefit of conversing with Jesus face to face. There was no ambiguity. If they had a question or needed clarification on a specific point, they could just ask Him. It was person to person contact. God sent other messengers, such as John the Baptist, Paul, and the 12 Apostles, and the angels Michael and Gabriel. God speaks to us through intercessory prayer, inspiration, and His written word, the Bible. Today God still speaks to us through God's written word and the Holy Spirit. [2 Timothy 3:16-17 \(NLT\)](#) "¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." The Bible gives us insight into God's desire for us and for future generations, regardless of circumstance, stage of life, or station. God communicates with His children. He is not an absentee parent. The Bible is the only written word of God. [Deuteronomy 4:2](#) "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." The Bible stands above all others religious writings. The book of [Exodus](#) speaks of Moses arrival at Mount Sinai, where he met God on the top of the mountain. [Exodus 24:12](#) "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that thou mayest teach them." God sealed the meeting by God Himself writing with His finger in the rock and gave His Law to Moses to bring to the people.

We also need to consider whether the Bible is either allegorical or literal. An allegory is when a story is told to represent ideas or meaning, but not actual literal events. Our faith system is based on the Bible being true, and therefore, literal. If it is not literal, how could faith in a supremely loving God have lasted so long without man directly experiencing God's workings throughout history? Furthermore, the Bible is all inclusive. Whatever God wanted us to know about prophecy is in there. If God wanted us to have specific information or knowledge, He would have included it. This will become self-evident when we look at the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Jeremiah.

Before we move on, a point about Bible History needs to be explained. The English language Bibles we use today are translations. Remember that old saying, "it loses something in the translation?" Well, it truly does apply. The Bible, as we know it, is not a word by word translation; otherwise, it may be unreadable. Most editions are either a phrase by phrase or a thought by thought translation. It is also an inspired divine act of God to carry on His word to be without error or ambiguity. Remember [2 Timothy 3:16-17 \(NLT\)](#) "¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to

make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” When the Bible was written, the original writers used common figures of speech or expressions with which they were familiar. There are some expressions that would have been understood by the Hebrews that the gentile ear does not pick up. These are called idioms. Here is an example of an idiom. When we talk about “Beantown” we all know it is a reference to Boston and not a place where beans are grown. Throughout this text, we will be referring to several Jewish idioms as we get into some of the phrases that Jesus and the disciples used.

The Old Testament is written primarily in Ancient Hebrew and a small amount of Aramaic. The New Testament is written in the Koine (common) Greek language, which was the basic language used during Christ’s time. It replaced Hebrew and Aramaic from when Alexander the Great conquered most of the then known world in the third and fourth centuries BCE. Hebrew was not as well studied, mostly because Hebrew scribes were in decline as a result of being exiled and the increase of Greek as the language of commerce and government. In the second to third centuries BCE, the Old Testament was translated into Greek and was called the Septuagint (70 translators). Latin took over as the dominant language of the church under Emperor Constantine. In the fourth century, St. Jerome translated both the Old and New Testaments, and was called the Latin Vulgate. In 1440 AD the printing press was invented and multiple copies could be made, which was much easier than the old method of one scribe writing one copy at a time by hand. A number of priestly learned men tried to translate and then promote their own editions which caused a great deal of controversy and led to several versions, which were intensely debated. The final draft, with the selected books, of the Roman Catholic Bible was accepted at the Council of Trent (1545–1563). Several other versions were translated before 1611, when King James commissioned an English version. Of course, it was written in old English, which was the language of the day. Today, there are many contemporary versions, which makes it a little easier to read and understand. If there seems to be any contradictions in the text, it is probably a defect of the translation. One other book that is important to understanding the original text is called *Strong’s Lexicon or Concordance*. It is considered by many as *the* definitive source that translates the Bible word by word for both the old (Ancient Hebrew and Aramaic) and new (Greek) testaments. It assigns a number to each word which will become apparent as we look at specific words throughout this book.

The Qur’an and Hadith of Muhammad, the writings of Confucius, Buddha, Dalai Lama, Taoism, Gandhi, Hindu, and Shinto were all written by people who considered themselves to be “enlightened,” but not God. Those teachings say that one can be rewarded for being a good person in this life or the next, but they do not have the authority or capability to provide eternal life. Men such as Moses, King David, Solomon, all the prophets, the gospels of the Apostles, Paul’s letters to the early churches, and John, all did the actual writing, but the Bible was from a direct communication or by inspiration with God. Therefore, the Bible has to be the inerrant, infallible, and indisputable Word of God. [Psalm 119:105](#) “Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

So, if God is true and He communicates with us via the Scriptures, what does His word say about Himself? In no particular order of importance:

- First, He is the creator. [Genesis 1:1-2](#) ¹ “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. ² And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” During the subsequent verses of [Genesis 1:3-31](#) Moses provides a detailed progression that only in the last few years have we been able to comprehend. When these words were written, man did not have the understanding of astrophysics and planetary mechanics that we have today. What do you think the odds are of

Moses writing out the exact order of creation in the exact order in which they happened on his own? They would literally be astronomical. The ability to understand and comprehend these complex mathematical concepts comes from God. If we are made in God's image, would He not include the ability to learn to decipher these in time? [John 1:1-5](#) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." God created the universe in five days. On the sixth, he created man in his own image, and on the seventh, He rested. When He was finished, He saw that it was good (no sin involved). [Genesis 1:31](#) "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And evening and the morning were the sixth day." God's ability to physically intervene into our world pales in comparison to the love God has for us by sending His son to pay the ultimate price to redeem us, even though we do not deserve it.

- There is power in the spoken word of God (omnipotent). [Genesis 1:3-5](#) "³ And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light that it was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." Certainly, if He made the earth, He can manipulate it at His pleasure. To illustrate, we only need to read the stories of Noah, Moses at the Red Sea, caused fiery hail to down from the sky, earthquakes that swallowed Moses' enemies, and the stories of Joshua, Lot, Isaiah, and Daniel. [Jeremiah 10:13](#) "When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures." These examples demonstrate God CAN supernaturally affect the physical world. With His same breath that He generated life into man. [Genesis 2:7](#) "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." [Hebrews 4:12](#) "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
- God owns all that is in the earth and is generous. Since God created the heavens and the earth all things under heaven belongs to Him. [Genesis 14:22](#) "And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth." [Deuteronomy 10:14](#) "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, also with all that therein is." [Psalm 24:1](#) "The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, thereof; the world and all that dwell therein." [Psalm 51:11-13](#) "¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me by Thy free spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee." [1 Corinthians 10:26 \(NIV\)](#) "For, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." [Romans 8:32-33](#) "³² He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth."
- God sets His own authority. When Moses saw the burning bush, he asked God what he should tell the Israelites what His Name was, God said in [Exodus 3:14](#) "And God said to Moses, "I AM that I AM." (aka YAHWEH) And He said, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, 'I AM hath sent me unto you.'" That declaration then set His authority above all creation, including mankind. His name translates to the English name of Jehovah, our Lord, and Sovereign. Being Sovereign He has complete authority over man and all creation. As Americans in the 21st century, we do not easily relate to the concept of Sovereign and subordinate. The subordinate is reliant on the Sovereign for just about everything regarding

sustainability and safety. In today's world of Political Correctness, everybody is equal; therefore, there is no accountability.

- God claims Himself above all other gods and as such, He and He alone is worthy of our loyalty, praise, and love. [Exodus 20:1-6](#) “¹ And God spake all these words, saying, ² I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me. ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; ⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.” [Psalm 139:14](#) “I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Thy works, and that my soul knoweth very well.” Remember [Isaiah 46:9](#) “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no else; I am God, and there is none like Me.” [Isaiah 44:6-8](#) “⁶ Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. ⁷ And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. ⁸ Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.” [Psalm 150:1-6](#) “¹ Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. ² Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. ³ Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. ⁴ Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. ⁵ Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. ⁶ Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.” [Psalm 113:3](#) “From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD’s name is to be praised.” God inhabits our praise. [Psalm 22:3](#) “But Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.” To be clear, God made us in *His* image including with the traits of free will, intelligence, and expression. Instead of creating automatons, He created a being that has the capacity to assess, appreciate, and freely offer gratitude and praise for His effort. God extends the same prerequisite courtesy to His son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. [Revelation 3:20 \(NKJV\)](#) “Behold, I (Jesus) stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” [John 4:22-24](#) “²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” [John 14:17](#) “Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not; but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and will be in you.”
- God is constant and does not change. [Malachi 3:6](#) “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.” [Job 23:13 \(NKJV\)](#) “But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does.” While we often say God never changes, do we really understand the breadth of time and space that quality embodies? [Psalm 90:2](#) “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.” When God gives His word, He does not break it or change it. If He did, how could we trust in His promises like [Deuteronomy 31:6](#) “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” [1 John 1:9](#) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

They would be meaningless. As the William Marion Runyan hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, says “Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not, As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.” Someone once said that if you feel separated from God, it is you that has moved, not Him.

- God gave humankind His highest valued trait, free will. [Genesis 1:27](#) “So God created mankind in His own image; in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” [Genesis 5:1 \(NKJV\)](#) “This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.” This means that God gave some of his traits to his creation. Paramount among them, is free will. Maybe a better way to define it is to say we have the freedom (and responsibility) of choice. Choose correctly and you get eternal life; however, choose incorrectly, you will be eternally separated from God. [Deuteronomy 30:19-20](#) “¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: ²⁰ That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” God had to give man a free will so that He could experience true love from His creation, so that He will be glorified. He wanted man to love Him willingly. Free will allows man to do that. Not doing so goes against reason, and God is a logical person, which is why He saw it right to give mankind the freedom to choose for himself. He hoped that we'd use it to give Him pleasure and bring glory and honor to Him. Unfortunately, He knew they wouldn't, even when He created them. So even from the beginning, He put into place a way back to Him.
- God is a God of justice. He will reward the faithful with blessings and reprimand the unfaithful. [Isaiah 30:18](#) “And therefore will the Lord wait, that He may be gracious unto you; and therefore, will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you. For the Lord is a God of judgment; blessed are all those who wait for Him.” [Deuteronomy 32:4 \(NKJV\)](#) “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” [Isaiah 59:2](#) “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.” [Proverbs 10:16\(NIV\)](#) “The wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.” [Romans 6:23](#) “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” While there may be varying degrees of sin and punishment in this life, they are all equal in that they will keep us from the presence of God in the next. There are many examples of God holding off the sentence that justice demands in the hopes that we would turn away from our selfish ways and look to him. When a sin or offense is committed, the guilty must have a penalty, otherwise, there would be no point or reward for being “good.” It is the basis for our system of justice. God offered His own son to pay that debt price with His own blood. He freely subjected Himself to suffering, died and rose again. With that victory, He joined His Father as being worthy to be praised and worshipped. He still would have had to do so if there were only one person on earth. God rejoices when one of His creation accepts His gift. [Luke 15:10 \(NIV\)](#) “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Conversely, God takes no pleasure when one of His creation is consigned to hell. [Ezekiel 33:11](#) “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ saith the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways! For why will ye die, O house of Israel?’” [John 3:17](#) “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” I believe that God grieves greatly when He is forced to send a soul to hell because the price of redemption was paid with His Own son's blood.

- God's grace and mercy are limitless and will last forever. Grace is the gift of forgiveness that one does not deserve, while mercy is the removal (pardon) of our guilt for our transgression. God has both in abundance and is longing to give to those who ask. [Psalm 86:15](#) "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and plenteous in mercy and truth." [Hebrews 4:16](#) "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." [2 Corinthians 9:8-9 \(NIV\)](#) "8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." Once He forgives your sins He will separate you from it to remember it no more. [Psalm 103:11-12](#) "11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, so hath He removed our transgressions from us." [Isaiah 43:25](#) "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and remembers your sins no more." [Micah 7:19](#) "He will turn again, he will have compassion on us, He will subdue our iniquities, and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." [Hebrews 8:12](#) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities (past, present and future) will I remember no more." [Psalm 32:1-2 \(NIV\)](#) "1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2 Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit." [Psalm 103:2-3](#) "2 Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits; 3 who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases." [Romans 4:7-8](#) "7 Saying, "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." God wants to forgive our transgressions but it requires us to ask. The Bible also says there is one sin that cannot be absolved, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. [Matthew 12:31-32](#) "31 Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." [Mark 3:28-29](#) "28 Verily I say unto you, all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: 29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." Luke calls those fellow Jews who heard the message but discounted the meaning in favor of following "the law" the same term used by Moses earlier. [Acts 7:51-53](#) "51 Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did, so do ye. 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the Just One, of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."
- He is a covenant or promise keeper. The covenant relationship is the most sacred bond between God Almighty and mankind. It is the basis of reward and curse, justice v injustice, and trustworthiness or untrustworthiness. When God gives His word, He does not break it and it holds forever. There is no other name under heaven to swear to higher than God Himself. [Hebrews 6:13 \(NKJV\)](#) "For when God made a promise to Abraham because he could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself." [Isaiah 45:22-23](#) "22 Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is none else. 23 I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." God can do whatever He wants, but will not operate outside these tenants. If He makes an exception for one and not for another, how could we trust Him or His word? [2 Corinthians 1:20 \(NIV\)](#) "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God." If there is one lesson the covenants and prophets will reveal, it is that God

always gives warning for people to change their evil ways and turn to Him before judgment is exercised. [Proverbs 18:24](#) “A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” We may fall away from Him but He will never leave us. We will be referring to God’s covenants, both unconditional and conditional, with His chosen people a little later on.

- God is a God of truth, and as such, He does not lie, nor is He deceitful to his children. [Psalm 31:5](#) “Into Thine hand I commit my spirit; thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.” [Psalm 119:160](#) “Thy word is true from the beginning, and every one of Thy righteous judgments endureth forever.” [John 17:17](#) “Sanctify them through Thy truth. Thy word is truth.” [Hebrews 6:18 \(NLV\)](#) “God gave these two things that cannot be changed and God cannot lie. We who have turned to Him can have great comfort knowing that He will do what He has promised.” [Titus 1:2](#) “In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began.” [Numbers 23:19](#) “God is not a man, that He should lie, neither the son of man, that He should repent. Hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or has He spoken, and shall He not make it good?” [1 Samuel 15:29 \(NIV\)](#) “He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for He is not a human being, that He should change his mind.” It is not in His nature to be deceitful. [James 1:13](#) “Let no man say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God “; for God cannot be tempted by evil, neither tempteth He any man.” His ways are also higher than the mind of man can comprehend. [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) “⁸ For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” saith the LORD.”⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”
- God does not operate in linear time like we do (omnipresent). He operates out of the boundaries of normal time and space. [2 Peter 3:8 \(NIV\)](#) “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” [Psalm 90:4](#) “For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.” Remember [Isaiah 46:10](#) “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.” He designed His plan of salvation even before the worlds were created. [2 Timothy 1:9](#) “Who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” Unlike us, who can only see the past and present, God sees the past, present, and future as the same. [Revelation 1:8](#) “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,” saith the Lord, “which is and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” The end HE is bringing us to is eternal life with Him. [John 3:16](#) “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.”
- God sets His own calendar. The Feasts of the LORD are recorded and begin in [Leviticus 23:1-2](#) “¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ² Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are My feasts.” There are two important words, which we will examine in the original Hebrew. 1) The word for “holy convocations” is Strong’s #H4744 “miqra” which means a sacred assembly or dress rehearsal. 2) The word for “Feast” is Strong’s #H4150 “mow`ed.” It means an “appointed time” like to set a specific day to hold aside. All the festival days were aligned to celebrate the two harvest cycles around the spring rain and fall rain. They were also arranged around the full moon or lunar cycle around which the Hebraic calendar is calculated. God again shows us the example of a pattern (i.e. the yearly cycle). We will know in advance

what to expect when Jesus reigns in the Millennium. We will be referring to these Feasts several times throughout this book. They will be relevant and explained further on with Moses, and then with Jesus.

- God works in patterns both, mathematically and in cycles, as the aforementioned Feasts of the Lord. [Colossians 2:16-17 \(NIV\)](#) “¹⁶Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.” The number 7 is known as the number of perfection. There are 7 days in the week, the 7x7 year cycle and its multiple variations (i.e. 490 cycle (7x7x10)), 70 years of exile in Babylon for the Jews, and the 7 churches in the opening of the book of Revelation. There are also patterns of His workings in the past and what to look for in the future. The first example of God working in a pattern will be mentioned when we look at Abraham. We will also be referring back to God’s working in patterns when we talk about Moses and his experience at Mount Sinai.
- God knows all (omniscient) and is perfect. [1 John 3:20](#) “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.” [Psalm 147:5](#) “Great is our Lord, and of great in power; His understanding is infinite.” [Job 37:16 \(NKJV\)](#) “Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?” [Proverbs 1:7](#) “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Knowledge is imparted to the believers and ignorance is the byproduct of the unbeliever. [Proverbs 1:28-29](#) “²⁸Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they will seek Me early, but they shall not find Me. ²⁹For that they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD.” God formed the plan of prophecy and Jesus’ sacrifice before the universe was made. Earlier on, we talked about God as Creator and the progression of the universe’s creation. One of the most asked questions is “If God knows everything and He knew that Satan and Adam and Eve would sin, then why did He allow it?” Let’s look at this in greater detail. The Bible does not specifically say when the angels and Satan were created, but Bible scholars believe that according to [Job 38:6-7](#) “⁶Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof. ⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” they may have been created before He created the universe. It is also believed that the angels were present at earth’s creation. [Genesis 1:26](#) “And God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:” It is believed that the “our” referred to in the above verse are angels. [Genesis 2:1](#) “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.” The word for “host” Strong’s #H6635 is “tsba.” It translates as angels and has dual applications to the king of Tyre and Satan. [Ezekiel 28:12-16](#) “¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, thus saith the Lord GOD; “Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore, I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.” In [Psalm 8:5](#) “For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.” and [Hebrews 2:7 \(NKJV\)](#) “You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor and set him over the works of Your hands (earthly realm).” Both groups were made at God’s command. God placed angels above man by giving angels nonphysical spiritual bodies

and man physical spiritual bodies with a soul. [Mark 10:6](#) “But from the beginning of the creation God made them (human) male and female.” God created angels to carry out his instruction and deliver messages to His people (i.e. Michael and Gabriel). God did not want Adam to be lonely so He created a wife for him. [Genesis 2:18 and 22 \(NIV\)](#) “¹⁸ The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” and “²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.” Sin is not introduced until [Genesis chapter 3](#) when Satan appeared as a snake to deceive Adam and Eve. The Bible does not say when Lucifer/Satan fell from grace, however, I think the iniquity the above verses refers to is the sin of pride. It was pride that caused Satan to think he could pull off a palace coup and dislodge God from His throne. [Isaiah 14:12-17](#) “¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶ They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, “Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; ¹⁷ That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” Failing that, he tried to deceive God’s creation, which consisted of some angels, and subsequently man, into thinking he (Satan) was as powerful as God and his equal. He still has not fully understood how wrong he is. His reward was being unceremoniously kicked out of God’s presence. This could have occurred anytime from when God created the angels, including Lucifer, to before the physical world to the beginning of [Genesis chapter 3](#) when Satan first appears. Satan used deception and pride to tempt Adam and Eve to try to make themselves equal with God by eating of the tree of life. [Genesis 3:4-5 \(NKJV\)](#) “⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When God confronted them, instead of owning up and confessing their sin, they tried to deflect the blame, a singularity human reaction, and were expelled. He also knew there would be those who would not follow His laws, either by design, unintentional consequences, or ignorance. Their failure to consider their standing regarding their eternal placement in this life will have devastating results in the next. God allowed Satan and Adam make poor choices so that when Jesus returns to set up His eternal kingdom, as told in the end of the [Book of Revelation](#), His victory will be complete and final.

- God is wise. The definition of wisdom is taking knowledge and applying an action or understanding correctly for the greater good. Along with free will, God imparted wisdom to His creation, or at least a portion of the ability to observe, assess and ascertain whether the source of the situation comes from either God or elsewhere. In short, the ability to discern right from wrong. [Proverbs 1:2-3](#) “² To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding. ³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity.” [Proverbs 9:10](#) “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.” [Isaiah 31:2](#) “Yet He also is wise and will bring evil, and will not call back His words, but will arise against the house of evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.” [2 Samuel 14:20](#) “To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and My lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.” [Romans 11:33 \(NKJV\)](#) “Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways!” [1 Corinthians 1:25](#) “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than human men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” [1 Corinthians 12:8](#) “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.” [1 Timothy 1:17](#) “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen.” [James 1:5 \(NIV\)](#) “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” [James 3:13-17 \(NIV\)](#) “¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” [Jude 25](#) “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” As the Irish say, here’s the rub, we get ourselves into trouble when we choose poorly.

- God sees all and nothing is hidden from Him. [Hebrews 4:13](#) “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” [Jeremiah 23:24](#) “Can anyone hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him?” saith the LORD; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” saith the LORD.” [Psalm 139:7-8 \(NIV\)](#) “⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, You are there; If I make my bed in the depths, You are there.” [Psalm 69:5](#) “O God, Thou knoweth my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from Thee.” [Matthew 12:36](#) “But I say to you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.” One day we will be called into His presence to give an account of our life. It will be at the Great White Throne Judgment for those who failed to make the right choice when they had the opportunity to do so in this life. [Isaiah 1:28](#) “And the destruction of transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.” [Ezekiel 11:5](#) “And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said to me, “Speak! “Thus saith the LORD: “Thus have ye said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.” [Mark 4:22 \(NKJV\)](#) “For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.” [Matthew 10:26 \(NKJV\)](#) “Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known.”
- God is a God of patience, long-suffering, and second chances. There is one principle that God respects, obedience brings blessing and disobedience brings judgment. [Deuteronomy 5:33 \(NIV\)](#) “Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess (see the Mosaic Covenant below).” [Proverbs 28:13 \(NKJV\)](#) “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” The Old Testament mentions God being “slow to anger” several times. [Exodus 34:6-7](#) “⁶ And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷ Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.” [Psalm 30:5](#) “For His anger endureth but a moment, His favor is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” [Psalm 103:7-9](#) “⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel: ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. ⁹ He will not always chide, neither will he keep his anger forever.” [2 Peter 3:9](#) “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” Peter stresses that God’s will is that we share His gift of life rather than lose it to death forever. In service to God’s trait of Justice, this is the only trait that has to have a finite end. God has

been and still is patiently waiting for each person, Jew or Gentile, to accept His gift of redemption.

- Jesus is the Son of God AND the Son of Man. The Jewish leadership of the time had a preconceived narrow idea of what the Messiah would be. Defined as an expected king or deliverer of the Jews they were looking for a military leader, they totally missed the point. Jesus came to be the only pathway back to God. Jesus and God are the same. [John 10:30 \(NKJV\)](#) “I and the Father are one.” It is at this point that God makes a way and makes a new covenant by graphing those who are uncircumcised (gentiles) unto Himself. [John 1:14](#) “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of Father,) full of grace and truth.” When Jesus was born, they did not see Him for who He was. [John 1:11](#) “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” Jesus had the same quality of attributes of God. He is consistent. [Hebrews 13:8](#) “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” There is power in His voice. [Matthew 28:18](#) “And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” When Jesus spoke, He calmed the storm, He healed the sick, made the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk and the dead live. He may have performed scores of miracles, if not hundreds. However, there are only 27 recorded miracles Jesus performed where He healed the sick. [John 20:30-31 \(NIV\)](#) “³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” Finally, Jesus and God both deserve our gratitude and devotion because they are equals. [Philippians 2:5-11](#) “⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name. ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” [Hebrews 12:26-28](#) “²⁶ Whose voice then shook the earth: but now He hath promised, saying, yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. ²⁷ And this word, yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” Jesus Christ IS God’s son.

So, let’s begin. We’ll try to identify and follow the prophetic thread that runs through the Bible. Since we have first established that God’s word is a sure foundation, the second loop when exploring the issue of prophecy is that most people who are confused by it think that it does not start until the [Book of Revelation](#). Actually, the first mention of a prophetic thought is in [Genesis 3:14-15](#) “¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Enmity, which is defined as a feeling or condition of hostility, hatred, or ill will. Satan hates mankind, and especially the Jewish people, because God chose the Hebrews as his beloved people and to be His conduit for our redemption. [Deuteronomy 14:2 \(NKJV\)](#) “For you (the Hebrews) are a holy (from the Hebrew word root meaning “set apart” or “above”) people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” Through them, we have the Patriarchs, covenants and laws (upon which all Judeo-Christian laws are based), the Holy Scriptures, the major and minor prophets, the apostles, the blood line and pivotal person on whom His plan of

forgiveness and final victory hinges, His son Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the Jewish people are the root for blessing or judgments from God to individuals and the nations. [Genesis 12:3 \(NKJV\)](#) “I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” It’s fair to say that Christianity cannot validate its existence without Judaism but Judaism can validate its existence without Christianity. Even when the early Jewish tribes disappointed Him by worshipping other false Gods, He still gave his word to keep and bring them back to the land He promised their forefathers. [Deuteronomy 30:3 \(NIV\)](#) “Then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.”

The third loop is whether or not we can decipher or unravel God’s mysteries. God’s word says the answer is yes. Jesus said in [Matthew 13:11](#) “He answered and said unto them, “Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them (unbelievers) it is not given.” This seems to indicate that those mysteries can be revealed but only to those who profess Jesus as Lord (Messiah) and seek His face. [Deuteronomy 29:29](#) “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” [Matthew 6:33](#) “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” [Ephesians 3:1-7](#) “¹ For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, ² If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: ³ How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, ⁴ Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) ⁵ Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶ That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: ⁷ Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.” Paul called God’s plan a mystery. However, a mystery is only a mystery until it becomes revealed. [Romans 16:25-27](#) “²⁵ Now to Him that is of power to establish you according to My gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: ²⁷ To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.” [Colossians 1:25-27](#) “²⁵ Whereof I (Paul) am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ²⁶ Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: ²⁷ To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Paul confirms that God knew in advance and laid the foundation before creation that He would need to provide a way to atone for the sins of men in order for us to be able to be redeemed and find way back to a relationship with Him. [Ephesians 1:4 \(NIV\)](#) “For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.” When examining this mystery, it is said Old Testament mysteries are “concealed”, and the New Testament mysteries are “revealed.” God portioned out only small amounts of information regarding prophecies to many individuals over the centuries. He gave other prophets other pieces of information like a jig saw puzzle. Around 606 BCE, God gave specific instructions to Daniel in regards to end time prophecies. [Daniel 12:4](#) “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” [Daniel 12:9](#) “And he said, “Go thy way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.” These passages suggest there was only so much information God was willing to give Daniel and a limited amount of understanding was given to him. This limit would be in place until God deems it time to share more.

God sent messages through the “prophets” of God which were not well appreciated or received. In fact, several of the prophets were killed by the Hebrew authorities because they didn’t like the message. [1 Kings 19:10](#) “And he (Elijah) said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, thrown down Thine altars, and slain Thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.” Fast forward to 2018 and we have had nearly 3000 years to read, consider, and understand what was previously not understood. Solving this mystery is sort of like looking at a painting. If you were to step back you would be able to take in the whole picture and have a greater appreciation of it than if you were to look up closely, where your field of vision is less. By putting these stories in context, it will help us get the correct perspective on where we are, prophetically speaking. It is crucial to understanding the prophecies of the end times we will need to look at the narrative history in the Bible which brings us to our next thread.