



**First things first.** This is about life, real life!

**Many people believe that this life here is all there is.** If this is you, please consider that if that is true, then what we do in this life does not matter as the result of whatever we do is the same, nothingness.

**Some may say** well what we do will live on after we are gone, in people, or in memories. But ultimately that too is meaningless since ultimately everything on this earth either dies or is destroyed in one way or another.

**God planted within you** the desire to live a meaningful, purposeful life, for a purpose much greater than yourself, and He alone can satisfy that desire. You were made by God, you were made for God, and you were put here for a purpose, His purpose. Life isn't going to make a lot of sense without understanding that concept.

**There is an eternal destiny after we die here on earth.** Eternal means lasting forever. No end. We are made from dust (Genesis 2:7), and to dust, we will return to an eternal destiny (Genesis 3:19). Those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awaken, some for eternal life [heaven], and some for disgrace, for eternal abhorrence [hell] (Daniel 12:2).

**Heaven and hell are real.** Some may ask, "what if they are not?" My response is, "what if they are?"

**The document that states they are,** the Bible, is true and using the same tests as any other historical document, can be proven as true. How much do we have to lose by denying the truth? The reality and intensity of that denial are immense.

**You do not earn** your way into heaven through your charitable works, behaving well, or adhering to certain religious principles. Your ethnicity or religious background does not grant you entrance.

**So, what does that all mean** for you? For me? For anyone? So glad you asked!

**Adam and Eve, the first people,** were made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 9:6) as are we. However, we (you and I) are also in the image and likeness of Adam (Genesis 5:3).

**When Adam fell into sin,** the result was every one of his descendants (which is each one of us, regardless of ethnicity/religion/color) also being "infected" with his spiritual DNA, the sinful nature. Spiritually we are dead, separated from God.

**Even if we live as "upright" and "good" a life as possible,** everything we do is out of the body of a sinner as a result of the inherited sinful nature (Isaiah 64:5 Hebrew Bible [Isaiah 64:6 OT]).

**It is like a dirty pitcher** pouring out the water contained in it. There will be contaminants in the water because the pitcher is not perfectly clean. It is the same with us.

**Because of this, we all deserve judgment from God** (Psalm 9:8-9 Hebrew Bible, [Psalm 9:7-8 OT]).

**God is perfect and holy** (Deuteronomy 32:4, Job 8:3) and He will not look upon sin, nor will He allow sin and evil to go unpunished.

**As God is infinite and eternal** (lasting forever, no beginning or end) and since all sin is ultimately against God (Psalm 51:6 Hebrew Bible, Psalm 51:4 OT), only an infinite and eternal punishment is sufficient.

**After Adam and Eve sinned,** they covered themselves with fig leaves, but God quickly covered them with animal skins because their attempts to cover themselves were not acceptable to God.

**Fascinating** that to create the animal skins, a cut had to be made in them, and blood was shed for them. In Hebrew, it is *kārat berit*, which literally means "cut a covenant." From the moment that they had sinned, God initiated His plan of redemption so they could be redeemed back to Him.

**From the time that Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves** with fig leaves, man has been trying to cover themselves in such a way to somehow earn his way into heaven. Many sadly are resting in the false hopes that what they do is enough because they are “better” than someone else. Charity and good works, prayer, attending a synagogue or church, being “better” outwardly than someone else, and believing that an ethnicity earns them a place in heaven are not what God looks at.

**Some cite** Genesis 4:7 to prove that we do not need salvation, we simply need to be good. “Is it not so that if you improve, it will be forgiven you? If you do not improve, however, at the entrance, sin is lying, and to you is its longing, but you can rule over it.”

**Earnest and at times successful efforts at moral reformation are certainly noteworthy**, however, the concept of sin as Scripture details renders this admirable, but ineffective in earning right standing with God.

**We can cast out sin from our nature as effectively as we can eliminate poison from our body by our own energy.** If you have cancer, can you grit your teeth and will it to leave? Of course not. Just as Jeremiah 13:23 says “Will a Cushite (some translations say Ethiopian) change his skin, or a leopard his spots? So will you be able to improve, you who have become accustomed to do evil.”

**The one God** has a triune nature (Genesis 1:26, Genesis 3:22, Genesis 11:7, Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah 48:16). The three form one as does  $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ .

**Abram believed in the Lord**, and He accounted it to him as righteousness, salvation by faith, prior to the Mosaic Law (Genesis 15:6).

**Sin was** in the world before the Law was given (Genesis 4:7-11, Genesis 6:5).

**The Law was given to make us conscious of sin.** It did not contain the power to save anyone (Habakkuk 2:4).

**To temporarily reconnect us with God**, He required sacrifices, almost all involving shed blood, to provide atonement, temporary covering over the sin (Leviticus 4, Leviticus 16, Numbers 15, Deuteronomy 12). When the temple altar was destroyed, God ended the animal sacrifices.

**God made it clear that He would be forming a new covenant** (Jeremiah 31:30-33 Hebrew Bible [Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrew Bible], Jeremiah 32:37-40, Jeremiah 33:14-16, Ezekiel 16:58-63, Ezekiel 36:26-29, Ezekiel 37:21-26, Isaiah 55:3-8).

**Over 300 prophecies stated in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)** were fulfilled by one named Jesus. Our eternal God became man (incarnation) for our salvation; sinless, born under the Law, to fulfill the Law perfectly (Genesis 49:10). Crucified, died, resurrected, alive seated at the right hand of the Father (Psalm 110:1), fully God, fully man (Daniel 7:13-14, Isaiah 52:6-7, Isaiah 9:5 Hebrew Bible [9:6 OT]).

**Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again”** (John 3:1-21). Being born again is for ALL people, regardless of ethnicity, culture, religious background, or anything else.

**When you, from the heart**, not just words from your head and mouth:

**Admit** that you are not perfect, that you sin. That you know we are all limited and will always fall short of God’s perfect standard of holiness.

**Ask God** to forgive you of your sins. Lord, I am a sinner. I know I am sinner. I admit I am a sinner. We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners.

**Believe** that Jesus died on the cross for YOU (grasping the reality that Jesus IS the FINAL atonement, the propitiation). No more covering, no more bartering, no more pleading with God to give you one more chance. You have that chance, it is finished. It has been done for you. Will you seize it?

**Receive** Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**Then, you are now born again and have become heir to the greatest inheritance far beyond any other!**

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