

My
Belief

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Joe Isaac Gauthier

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1 Introduction to Belief	1
Chapter 2 Paradigms	8
Chapter 3 Tribal Belief and the Origin of Creation.....	15
Chapter 4 Judaism	20
Chapter 5 Genesis.....	31
Chapter 6 Adam and Eve.....	50
Chapter 7 Cain, Abel, and Seth	58
Chapter 8 Proof of the Existence of God ~ Noah	65
Chapter 9 Egyptian Belief ~ Monotheism.....	74
Chapter 10 Founding Fathers	79
Chapter 11 Hinduism.....	106
Chapter 12 Taoism and Buddhism.....	111
Chapter 13 Judges, Kings, and Prophets	129
Chapter 14 Christianity.....	134
Chapter 15 The Prophet Muhammad	155
Chapter 16 My Belief.....	173

1. INTRODUCTION TO BELIEF

For thousands of years, man has sought to find the answer to the purpose of life—the how and why of all things. With the many religions and scientific dogmas, it is easy to see how people can become lost in what they believe, and have the very foundations of their faith shaken—where we come from, where we go, and how we will get there. Each religion claims to know these answers and claims that, if faith is sought correctly, an answer and spiritual revelation will be given to you.

All religions (including science) share this in common: the belief in God. Even the earliest fathers of science had a belief in God. I do not know what to call this writing; however, a belief is what it is. It is a belief in life, the facts of life, and the truth that I have discovered and found. That, my friend, is *My Belief*.

My Belief is not solely one view of any specific religion, but a compilation of all major religions (including science). When viewed from the point of neutrality, all these ways of life share a common ground. When science and logical reasoning are applied to the history and content of these religions, the unity and evolution of the word can be seen in the eventual evolution to modern science. Even science is simply a religion (an organized school of thought and belief, sharing a similar view of life and how it is governed) for the people of this time, and for people who need proof. For even the most modern of these scientists acknowledges that the mysteries of the universe are so great and abundant that only a fool would claim to know everything.

My Belief attempts to explain many religious and other phenomena that many people experience. *My Belief* offers scientific explanations for the stories recorded in the history of man in the Bible, Qur'an, and other

MY BELIEF

historical documentation. This book will attempt to show how religious documents are as historical records, as well as attempt to prove that scientific logic must be used in understanding the relationship of the universe and the events that took place during historic times. Much like poetry, the explanation and description of our universe can be said in the most infinite of words and comparisons. For example, science is arguably accurate, and we have instruments to prove many of the theories and methods we have come to embrace. In fact the scientific world is even so noble as to acknowledge these discoveries and beliefs as “theory,” expecting perhaps a more rational governance or greater being in control.

Many people who embrace science have the inability to understand how we explained creation and scientific processes before these instruments and methods were available. And many people who embrace the writings of religions have the inability to view things from a scientific standpoint. The truth is much like Galileo said,

RELIGION TELLS US HOW TO GET TO THE HEAVENS,
AND SCIENCE TELLS US HOW THE HEAVENS WERE MADE.

GALILEO (1564–1642)

With this in mind, we can see the clear unity between science and religion, and how they complement each other in this beautiful dance we call life. This is the difference between words and numbers, yet both must be used in order to explain the supreme functions of the universe and the supreme being or energy which controls it. Words must describe and tell us what has happened, and numbers explain the order in which they work or occurred. But even numbers cannot describe history and events that have occurred, which is why we have the written word.

In the age of science and with the many different religions that surround us, it is no wonder that people are having the foundations of their faith tested and the belief of God challenged. Many people share similar beliefs and thought patterns, however most share this in common—a bias in view. When discovering the truth and secrets to life, it is important to look at the evidence through the eyes of a child, wide and open, absorbing what what a child sees. With this concept in mind we can see that the unity of man and the oneness that we are created from can be understood and embraced.

This book portrays the evolution of man and the beliefs we have embraced, beginning first with the first religions, and eventually moving on to modern science. The book demonstrates through all beliefs the unity and oneness of a supreme energy that we live in, are part of, and are created from. Keep in mind that this energy is what we and all things came from. Life is intelligent; therefore, we can conclude that the energy we are created from is intelligent as well.

With the discoveries and revelations in this book, compiled with historical and scientific truth, these questions hopefully will be answered for you. I hope you will find a renewed faith in people, science, and, yes, religion. It is important to read this book without bias, as all literature should be read; for if you read with doubt, you have already decided to shut your heart to the truth. Bias and prejudices are all part of being a person; however, recognizing these prejudices and identifying them will help guide you to the unbiased truth. What is truth? A series of logical thought patterns that describe and depict accurately a series of real life events and emotions.

THE ONLY TRUTH IS THE UNBIASED TRUTH.

So when you decide to “not listen” to something or someone, ask, “Is this a prejudice of mine?”

**TO BE ABLE TO JUDGE OTHERS IS FIRST TO BE ABLE TO
JUDGE YOURSELF.**

This is also another way of saying,

**JUDGE NOT, THAT YOU BE NOT JUDGED. FOR WITH WHAT JUDGMENT
YOU JUDGE, YOU WILL BE JUDGED; AND THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE
MEASURED BACK TO YOU**

MATTHEW 7:1–3 (NKJV)

Once you understand this concept, then, and only then, will you be able to look at things through an unbiased lens. Unfortunately there are not many people who have this ability. People from all walks of life let EGO or bias influence and control what they perceive. This creates a false sense of what is real in the world and universe that surrounds us; it is important for those who have the ability to seek knowledge without bias to do so. This mindset provides a

MY BELIEF

guideline to the path of enlightenment and helps establish the foundation to spirituality that can only be attained with a connection to the higher plane of existence that we live in and are part of.

Growing up, we face many challenges in everyday life; we find out how to learn, love, laugh, kiss, etc. But most importantly we learn the difference between right and wrong. Believe it or not these are the most fundamental skills and practices we learn. These lessons define who we are, who we will be, who we will become, and how we will react. These lessons will also be the beliefs, values, and morals we will hand down to future generations. These beliefs and values are the fundamental systems that govern our societies.

Since the evolution of the word and the law established by the first people, it is possible to see through the events in history how these lessons and laws are the very ones that have led humanity to its current destiny. We have evolved from and embraced these values and beliefs as the supreme laws and constitutions of our lands. These laws are evolved from religious scripture and have governed and dictated whether we war, love, or punish those we live with. It could be said that the laws we love and the freedoms we defend come from a greater sense of being or conscience. With that premise in mind we continue to delve toward the truth.

The experiences that life teaches us are the experiences and emotions we will relate to in our adult lives. Of course we change quite a bit from when we were children...or do we? A very special experience you had with a girlfriend or boyfriend for example will be carried on in future situations. Depending on how the experience went (good or bad) will affect how you respond to similar situations in the future. Action and reaction. Some people will gain confidence from a situation and some respond with anger; they will be the same situations, yet at the same time very different. They would be similar only in a sense.

**BECAUSE EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT, NO ONE EXPERIENCE
WILL EVER BE THE EXACT SAME, ONLY SIMILAR.**

The above situation strictly applies to living organisms; for example, although a snowflake may always be different (not proven, for it is impossible to collect all the snowflakes that have ever fallen), you cannot interact with it like a plant, dog, or baby. It will not grow, respond to stimuli, or procreate. The above situation is a similar event that almost all human beings will eventually be able to relate to. Although these experiences are similar, they can

never be identical. Even though rocks can be similar, they cannot experience emotions and take action to influence events. A rock cannot love, be angry, or feel pain; these emotions make the human and animal experience much more unique and complex than things in our surroundings. This means there are remarkably unique experiences for every individual being on earth.

A snowflake is like a rock made up of atoms and energy, but not of life. You can have living plants that are identically and genetically the same, growing in the same environment, and not have them grow or look the same way. Much like identical twins, they can be the exact same (essentially a clone), growing up in the same environment, and not end up with the same characteristics, personalities, and behavior traits. Each level of life represents a different piece of the light or subatomic energy spectrum. This is what in religious and spiritual contexts can be referred to as the HOLY SPIRIT or a SOUL.

Thought patterns and brain development (neuronets) are created through different life experiences and emotions, and will therefore create different degrees of consciousness and reality (as everyone's level of consciousness and reality differs), thus adding an individual perception of the reality that surrounds us. This process occurs with each individual life, creating billions of completely different possible realities or perceptions of reality that will affect dozens, thousands, millions, and/or billions of lives that are all interdependent (mankind).

Take a minute, sit back and think of your life...your childhood, adolescence, and if you're old enough, your adult life. Each time period, age/stage, and thought/moment creates a chemical response to make you feel the exact emotion you did when you were in that situation. This is a survival tool that enables us to react differently or in a way helps us respond to situations of a similar nature. Since no situation can be the exact same, just similar, we can never fully be prepared or know exactly what to expect in any situation. We simply work from past experiences and hope they do not lead to mistakes in the future.

If your reflection of the past brought up angry feelings, chances are the next person you meet will feel the negative energy coming from you. If the reflection was a positive experience, then the positive energy will be felt. The fact that memories of the past are still influencing the thoughts of today is amazing. Where is that energy or thought coming from? It is a proven fact that we absorb and reflect light, which is a form of energy.

MY BELIEF

FOR WE LIVE IN THAT ENERGY, AND THAT ENERGY IS IN ALL THINGS; NO MAN CAN BE ALL THESE THINGS AT ONCE, BUT A MAN CAN THINK LIKE ALL OF THEM TOGETHER.

Memories affect and influence our decisions and thought, thus creating thoughts and decisions for the future; therefore, creating a whirlwind of possibilities for the future. What is a memory? A past event that has occurred, or essentially a moment in time or in the past. A memory is simply a grouping of energies at a certain point in time. Is it possible to have memories of the future as well? Perhaps memories of the future are just paths that we may take or decide to take in the future. This concept paves the way for the possibility of prophecy and revelation that is spoken about in many religions.

Scientists call this concept a thesis or hypothesis, a speculation, based on past experiences that will lead to a plausible solution or outcome. A doctor predicting a patient's life expectancy after the diagnosis of an illness is likely to be right; however, the patient may influence the outcome and overcome the illness. This is much like a prophet warning mankind of what is to come; a prophet is a doctor of life (psychology, medicine, religion, arts, etc.). Mankind can choose to influence or change the course of our destinies, or we can simply accept the prophecy or warning of what is to come.

From the beginning of time, man has depicted the creation of the universe by way of metaphorical interpretation. The people of their time were of primitive nature. Modern explanations would be of no value to the people hundreds of thousands, and millions of years ago. They would simply call the energy we live in "spirit" and "God," having no need to break it into atoms, protons, and electrons, etc. Spiritual leaders and others of similar roles in their respective cultures were given explanations from spiritual connections they established with the universe and the energy that surrounds them. To many of us in modern times, these explanations and stories seem silly and mythical. However, if your mindset is placed in the correct time frame, you can see how logical reasoning was used in creating a monotheistic truth that coincides with scientific belief.

As man evolved, the explanations and reasons for how we came into being grew more and more sophisticated. As man evolved so has the word, and the word was eventually recorded along with the events of history. Granted that many of these recordings may have been distorted, but they do in fact depict many elements of historical truth. Keep in mind these

scriptures and writings have been translated and rewritten many times.

As with all things, religion is a perspective of reality; the truth is a reality that coincides with all realities, explainable through a perspective. A proven perspective of reality then becomes a paradigm, and that paradigm becomes the school or frame of thought that is used when making moral or logical decisions. It could be said that if a false paradigm or belief were to be followed, moral decisions would be adversely affected, affecting the realities of everyone and everything around us.

2. PARADIGMS

Paradigm: A school of thought applied to the workings of everyday life, a collection of thoughts, beliefs, and laws governing and explaining how life functions.

To begin to understand a paradigm or any other religious, spiritual, or scientific culture, it is very important to keep an open mind and read the literature associated with the paradigm. For example, many people practice and preach a belief that they have never read about (i.e. Bible, Qur'an, math, etc.). Many Christians have not read the Bible; many Muslims have not read the Qur'an, and many atheists know nothing of science. How can you base the way you live on a religion or science that you have never read about? This also applies to atheists and their biased view of religion. Many atheists have not read any religious material, yet claim not to be religious; and many religious people know nothing of the science that surrounds them. How ignorant is that...in both cases?

While studying a religious or spiritual culture it is acceptable to apply scientific thought to the process. Is this possible? Are the facts in keeping with other records of history (collaborating evidence)? These principles and methods are applicable to criminal investigation and should be applied to historical truth seeking as well—like an investigation of the truth. It is a key point to remember that logic generally applies to the workings of the universe, and this logic is what scientists claim to be scientific law. Before science, however, there was religion. Many religious laws and metaphors explain scientific law that would later be attributed to views of religion. Religion never said the world was flat; people did. Would society work if we did not treat each other with the golden rule?

THEREFORE, WHATEVER YOU WANT MEN TO DO TO YOU, DO ALSO TO THEM,
FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.

MATTHEW 7:12 (NKJV)

Although mathematics may be used as a paradigm, mathematics cannot in fact govern society, thus giving purpose to the rule of law. The rule of law cannot explain emotions, thought, or the representation of mathematics, thus giving purpose to religion. It is possible for someone to have beliefs in multiple paradigms. For example, someone may believe in Newtonian theory because it explains the macro world, and quite frankly it has proven itself over and over in the construction of modern structures and in the understanding of the motion of macro structures in space (planets). This same person who believes in the mathematical physics of Newtonian theory may also be Christian, believing that the world is in fact governed by God, and his Son, Jesus Christ. This type of belief would form another paradigm or belief that may be the cause for another denomination, religion, or theory to emerge.

It is impossible to deny that the paradigm of mathematics does not govern parts of our world; it is a proven fact. But what governs math? What determines the order in which numbers appear and the image they will portray, send, and convey through the forms of thought, light, gases, atoms, and energy for that matter? In essence, math is like religion and spirituality, created from man by the guidance of life. It is a set method of explaining the order in which our existence and other things occurred, will occur, or are occurring. In essence, religion and math explain existence and are both needed in understanding life.

There are an innumerable possibilities, numbers, and atoms in our world and universe. If it were possible to number every atom in the universe and determine the order in which they appear, and all the possible outcomes that may arise, you would find that these formulas or equations would still not be able to explain where we came from or how the (numbers) originated. We cannot use numbers to explain thought, because numbers are created from thought, giving purpose to the word. We can use words to explain thoughts; therefore, we can explain thought with the word.

MY BELIEF

MATH MAY EXPLAIN HOW OUR UNIVERSE WORKS, BUT IT WILL NEVER EXPLAIN HOW IT GOT HERE.

Quantum events, which determine the order of mathematical numbers, cannot be explained through mathematical representation (i.e. formulas). Is it any wonder...you cannot use numbers to explain how numbers are created? Numbers are manmade; how can you use numbers to explain the thoughts that created them?

Thought remains the one element of life that numbers cannot explain.

The variables and constants mixed with the endless possibilities, outcomes, and realities are so countless and innumerable to even begin to list. It is impossible to predict the future completely, but only possible to guess the general path based on a course of probabilities (that are continually changing based on people's thoughts and reactions). This is the reason math works, and why our universe functions in perfect unity with all parts and forms of life. Nature is based on sacrifice for the whole (whole in this case being the earth); humans, however, do not function for the whole, but rather for the ME (self). It is this mentality that creates wars, persecution, and divisions among the people of the world. Animals take what they need; people take what they want (generally speaking).

Many psychics (if you believe in such a thing) say that a person's future can be altered if they begin to change their path. This is true as people must make changes in their lives to experience different events. If they remain the same, then they will experience only similar events, because nothing is ever the same, just similar.

Never changing or altering the course of one's future or actions will lead to never experiencing anything different. People would then not be able to change their fate. For example, if the world was on course for destruction, and no one did anything to avert it, we would experience the destruction of the planet. If that energy and attitude changed, perhaps we would experience something different (peace on earth?).

Are there key points in our lives that never alter or change no matter how many times this life occurs? The car accident that left you maimed, the people you meet, love, and lose? In all the chaos, is it the thought that maintains the order? (creating order out of chaos?) And if that is true, is that order always maintained? Although we think we create a

reality out of chaos, it is that thought process which in turn creates an order that will always be maintained.

If you were placed in the exact same situation, with the exact same possibilities, you would in turn make the exact same decisions.

That would mean we are in service to the universe, and not ourselves, no matter what we may think. You will live, and you will die... there is no escape. That being said, it is not all doom and gloom.

But what about events like dreams and déjà vu? Someone may have had a dream where they crashed in a car accident, then three weeks later a situation occurs very similar or identical to the dream (déjà vu) and you react differently because you were warned. Is this a message from the universe? Was something warning you? People are always thinking a little differently and the warnings and signs may vary according to how different people interpret what they have been “sent.” You either ignore the eerie similarity and the dream then becomes real, or you respond differently, altering the future that was set for you and the people that surround you.

Your life, as in the previous example, is numbered. Let's say you have the number (1234567890) in the world of numbers representing lives; eventually in the infinite amount of numbers (12345...infinity), your number will eventually come up again (1234567890) even if it is sequenced differently. For example, (1234567890) may appear again in the “life number spectrum” @ 567 834 123 456 789 089 (Looking in actuality like 567834123456789089...); the underlined number is your life number appearing again in the numbers of infinity.

Because numbers are infinite, so is your life (conscious). Remember that energy can never be destroyed, simply re-created. The life number you are given encompasses a combination of so many variables, possibilities, and realities that it would be impossible to number and give an equation to. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT LIFE NUMBER because there are too many numbers to apply, log, and calculate, and, and, and.... But...if you could, that number would remain constant, and you would always be reborn, and all that energy and life would be regenerated and re-created by your mind and the universe, which is creating reality. But everyone's reality is dependent upon each other, for if we did not create our separate realities, we would never have a reality to create from.

MY BELIEF

Life is like a whole bunch of chain links—if one link is missing, the entire chain fails. This chain is life and the links are living organisms which retain different levels of consciousness, therefore creating different levels of reality. These different realities are shown through the macro and micro worlds that exist, creating their own realities, which create life. Life is the reality that we all create and are created from. Therefore, we are all dependent on each other's realities on all levels of life. This energy which encompasses every atom and subatomic particle in the universe can therefore be deemed to be GOD.

FOR IT IS EVERYTHING AND EVERYWHERE AT ALL TIMES, IT CANNOT BE CREATED NOR DESTROYED; YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM IT OR BEAT IT. IT IS THE NEVER-ENDING ENERGY THAT ENCOMPASSES EVERYTHING WE ARE AND LIVE IN.

As far as I know, in every religion/belief, spiritual or scientific, this is what we would call GOD.

IT IS THE ONLY ENTITY THAT CAN NEVER BE PROVEN OR DISPROVEN; FOR IT IS EVERYTHING AND GOVERNS EVERYTHING. ALL COMES FROM AND RETURNS TO THIS ENERGY.

This is why *My Belief* includes the paradigms and religions of every race and people. The spiritual understanding and oneness given through the poetic events and stories, which are derived from religion and written in religion, are the most inspiring works of mankind and portray the true personalities (sins and selflessness) of man. These texts describe a variety of events that are in many cases collaborative with historical events of the past. For example, the temple of King Herod, which was recently discovered, is testament to the fact that a man by this name (King Herod) in the time of Jesus Christ did in fact exist. So are the stories concerning the life of Christ true also? Did Moses save the Jewish people? Did Noah build boats to save the people from drowning? Did the prophets not preach the disaster the people were going to face if they did not change their ways? Was Galileo correct in determining that our planet (Earth) revolves around the sun?

Time and time again this has happened in history and it happens to everyone at some point in their lives—maybe not saving the world, but being able to see the errors of someone or a group of people, and then predicting their resulted fates. This is also known as karma. To be able

to accurately determine the fate of a large group of people, you must consider the mentality of that group of people. In essence you must look through the eyes of those people.

When delving into paradigms, you must also take into account that a story (history) is simply a point of view. Remember that stories can be both fiction and nonfiction; therefore, history (which is a point of view) may also be at times both fiction and nonfiction. For example we know that Jesus Christ was alive, but the details of his life differ greatly among denominations. We know that Muhammad was alive, however, the story of the things he did and meanings he meant to convey (interpretations) are different among denominations. Searching for the truth is different from learning from lies; the truth contains unity, this unity is what brings the truth. The same applies in a court of law; the evidence must make sense, otherwise it will be deemed to be false.

Although there are many differences in religious denominations, there are also many similarities. It is important to note that if a similarity keeps popping up amongst different denominations then in most cases it is probably true. Keep in mind though, the game of “telephone.” We all know what happens in that game! Telephone is a game (like “Whisper Down the lane”) where one person tells a story to someone else and the story is retold to another person, and so on. Over time, the original story becomes distorted (thus giving purpose to the written word).

This is why scientists love science; it can be proven and disproved through a series of experiments and/or mathematical equations. But, remember what I said about God? This is what religion is attempting to explain...the unexplainable..., and what is science trying to explain? Ahh! Yes! The unexplainable! So what is science and religion trying to explain? GOD. Or at the very least, how God governs and controls this world and universe. Remember that God is a never-ending energy.

**FOR HOW CAN A MAN BE GOD? FOR HE CANNOT BE A MAN,
OR ROCK, OR THE AIR AT THE SAME TIME; ONLY GOD IS
EVERYTHING AT THE SAME TIME.**

Since we all create our realities and our destinies, then in a sense we all are like God, or made in the image of God. Since we are made in the

MY BELIEF

image of God, we cannot be God. Since God is in all men and all things, a man writing or preaching the word of God is technically a messenger or *angeles* (Hebrew), *angellos* (Greek), all meaning messenger of God. There are people sent by God to deliver a message to help guide and shape societies, in order that they do not collapse or fail to evolve. The choice, however, is largely up to the people, for if they choose not to accept these words, then the future or their destinies cannot be altered.

This unity is seen in the messages of the people written about in the religions and sciences of the world, a message sent to the people, and the expected outcome theorized. Many prophets and scientists were persecuted because the people failed to acknowledge their message; as a result society has paid for the sins of these people. If we just listened to the words of these men (truthful men), then maybe society would already be the perfect world we dream of. These men have been persecuted since the beginning of time because people cannot view paradigms without BIAS.

We are only servants/creations of God or a greater energy meant to serve a purpose in the master plan. Is a messenger sent from God? Yes, since God is in all things. Can a man be God? No, but he can be God's son. Since a man cannot be all things, can a man be closer to God or this energy than anyone else? Yes, this will later be shown in the scientific paradigm (believe it or not). Are monks and priests not considered more spiritual than most people? Is religion and spirituality not a key factor in attaining the oneness needed in creating, altering, and accepting our realities? And if so, how far can one alter that reality? Were Jesus and the prophets the closest men to God? Were they able to alter our reality more than others? That is an answer you will have to find for yourself.

When reading these paradigms, please, please...keep an open mind! Please remember that it is possible to believe in more than one paradigm. I believe that this universe and world is governed by the supreme energy found in all matter, which is explained through different religious and scientific paradigms. Remember that the more we discover about our mind and our universe, the more we find out that anything is possible... anything!

THOUGHT REMAINS THE ONE ELEMENT OF LIFE THAT NUMBERS CANNOT
EXPLAIN.

3. TRIBAL BELIEF AND THE ORIGIN OF CREATION

150000 BC–15000 BC

These times were before the Mayans, Incas, and North American tribes; this period of time strictly applies to the first groups of men found in Africa. The oldest human ancestry can be dated to the origin of the African people, millions of years ago. Before the world was divided like it is with the many continents, it was formed as one, a period in geological time called Pangaea. This one continent phenomenon explains why we find dinosaurs on every continent in the world. Mankind arose from the time period after Pangaea, once the dinosaurs became extinct. Until this time, the animals ruled the planet and this has been said since the beginning of time.

If you look closely at the map of the world, you can see that the continents of the world fit together as one. The wholeness of Pangaea can be seen as the continents fit into each other like jigsaw puzzle pieces. During the time of the dinosaurs, these plates (continents) were whole, forming Pangaea. Eventually after millions of years a comet or asteroid hit earth, shattering the plates and causing havoc and devastation on the earth itself. This event would cause natural disasters of huge proportions, plummeting the earth into nuclear-like winters and causing tsunamis and earthquakes of massive proportions. The impact of such an event would also cause huge faults and volcanic dykes or pipes, which would form many of the volcanoes of today. The chance of survival would be slim for creatures such as dinosaurs, and they would slowly die off after hundreds and thousands of years. Only the most rugged and adaptable of reptiles and animals would survive.

The lack of competition for food in these areas would give rise to the emerging mammalian age, and the eventual dominance of man estab-

MY BELIEF

lished over the earth. This method of thinking is applicable even to the religions of the world, as Genesis describes the first events of the universe and the world in this fashion. Only in creation are the cycles and stages of these events characterized as days; a day is the most basic form of cycle. A beginning, and an end, night and day, yin and yang. This concept will later be explained in the Judaism chapter, describing the scientific process in religious metaphor according to the word of God. Believe it or not, a unity will be shown, with the scientific process not being compromised as a result. Remember words are a different way of depicting what numbers cannot.

THOUGHT REMAINS THE ONE ELEMENT OF LIFE THAT NUMBERS CANNOT
EXPLAIN.

These first tribes of men were the result of the events previously mentioned. Large quantities of snow would create glaciers and other forms of fresh water supplies, creating boreal types of forests found in Canada and Russia. Because the continents began to shift, this may have caused the poles to become off balance, resulting in the rotation of the earth's axis that we experience today. Keep in mind that the impact may not have been enough to cause this rotation, simply the weight of the world causing the earth to form an oval or egg-like structure may be cause for the axis tilt. The weather patterns and wind cycles would change, causing different types of weather patterns in the world. The geological conditions for the first people became ideal (especially in Africa and South America), and the emergence of man began.

Central Africa and Central America retained much of its jungle-like climate, which enabled some reptilian creatures to adapt, crocodilian, modern day lizards and snakes to name a few. Because food competition began to be more aggressive and less food was available for larger reptiles, reptiles became smaller and more agile; only some giants of the sea retained their size, the blue whale being one of them (believed to be more than forty-five million years old), turtles, sharks, etc.

We can also conclude that the mean global temperature decreased as a result of these events, and that the oxygen levels may have been lowered as a result. As tropical forests were destroyed from the meteoritic impact, many millions of hectares of land were destroyed. It is proven that the desert-like climates of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Afghani-

stan, Iran, and other parts of the world were at one time lush climates consisting of heavily forested areas.

Because large amounts of oil are found in these areas, and oil is a biological fuel (made from decomposing organic matter), we can draw the conclusion that these areas were once heavily populated with many millions of acres of forests and other types of sub growth. These types of formations are also common in Alberta as one of the largest deposits of oil in the world is found there. Coincidentally the first discovery of dinosaurs was also found there, indicating that dinosaurs were found all over the face of the globe. Because oil is a fossil fuel, and this process takes many millions of years, this proves that there were lush forests in many desert-like climates, and that the age of the planet is extremely old as this fuel process takes millions of years of compression and containment in the earth's crust to form into coal and fuel forms.

To begin the introduction to the origin of man, we begin with the religion or paradigm of tribal belief. The origination of tribal belief is the foundation on which pre-civilized man (African tribes, South American tribes, North American natives, Judaeo-Christian tribes, and early Chinese tribes) created their religions. There are many stories and beliefs associated with these cultures; however, the main premise is spirituality.

Although many of these religions practice the belief in multiple deities, they acknowledge that even the gods arise from the Creator (God). For example the shaman or priest of these cultures was believed to have direct contact with these gods (in fact they were communicating with God or the supreme energy); and from there they would give interpretation to what they received (signs and other forms of communicative interpretation).

These tribes were migratory and nomadic people, hunters and gatherers who depended on cunning and physical strength in numbers. The reason for man's success is because they learned to work together as an organized group. The first cultures learned how to survive off the land and the animals around them, using pelts for warmth and burrowing in caves or in shanty-like structures.

Naturally as man progressed over time, they began to wonder where they came from and where they were going. Even before this period, rituals and prayer were used in hunting and gathering. Death was commonplace among these cultures, and ways to cope with grief were instrumental to society. Life was based upon sacrifice for the whole, and the strong

MY BELIEF

protected the weak (women and children); and the first sense of duty, honor, and law rose amongst the people.

This sense of duty and honor eventually led to rituals and rites of passage into manhood and womanhood. Ceremonies and celebrations were initiated to and for the gods or God (supreme energy) to glorify and honor the people and help them in their journey of life. Laws and the first forms of councils were then arranged with the spiritual leader; and these ceremonies were then adopted and created as law and customs. The foundations of the first laws were set, and creation myths from the shamans and priests were then created. Many of these stories and beliefs come from a divine sense of spirituality and connection with the universe that is understood only by the most spiritual of cultures and people. Even in modern society these religious leaders seek this spirituality and divinity which connects us to God, the energy of the universe.

These groups of people were centrally located in Africa; and began as one people millions of years ago (No exact date can be given on the first emergence of what we know as man; some fossils of human-like bodies have been found to be millions of years old). Once man evolved and adopted what we know as a soul or conscious thought (the ability to reason), this is what I deem the emergence of MAN. The period in the time specified is not one of written history, and can be counter-argued with no physical evidence on either side except for the bodies that have been found. The oldest fossil in the world is an ape-like man, called Lucy, believed to be millions of years old. This evidence supports the theory that the first man was centrally located in Africa. Over time man began to migrate northward, eastward, and westward across the Bering Strait, populating what we know as North America, Central America, and South America, becoming the Chinese, and native people of today.

Even though written history was not created yet, some forms of communication would have been established in order for the people to function as organized groups. Oral or ritual motions and movements were handed down and memorized by the descendants and passed on from generation to generation. Eventually over time, pictures and other forms of wall writings were created, and the oral tradition eventually became a written tradition, evolving into the present and past day religions. Even though these first people had no form of writing, they had a deep respect and understanding for the sun, moon, and the cosmos around them. Since man began to develop a sense of consciousness, the wonder of our

surroundings continued to fascinate us.

The energy and altered consciousness these people embraced mystifies us even today. Scientists have just begun to make breakthrough discoveries that link consciousness to the world and universe that surrounds us. It is believed that the molecular structure of water can be changed according to emotion and/or thought. Who knows how long these first people would have been able to influence such energies around them? The concept of these energies will be explained in the text, but that energy is found everywhere and anywhere at one time; and, like a spider web, connects everything in the universe.

Somehow the first men understood this connection and dependence on favoritism of this energy found in his surroundings; they believed that when these forces favored them, they were prosperous and successful. But when they strayed from their paths, they were punished and did poorly. Eventually from this concept arose the need for sacrifices and other offerings to be offered to the God or gods. This concept transcended into the teachings of religions for many millennia afterward, and offerings are still performed in mass ceremonies across the world.

Many people who believe in psychic phenomena and other superstition can and may believe that the shamans and priests possessed some of these qualities. Many believed that these men and women possessed the ability to look into the future, and to carry on healing rituals and burial ceremonies. Some of these traditions are carried on to modern day society and are respected among their respective cultures. These ceremonies and healings help bring us a sense of hopefulness and closure, allowing us as a people to move forward. This was especially true in ancient times, when death lurked at every corner of existence.

The main emphasis of tribalism is to confirm that an organized school of thought began to emerge and primitive man began to understand philosophy by asking, "Why?" These questions of why, have engaged our minds to create the many answers we have today. Although we as a people know so much now, we in essence are living with the same blind faith that these first people lived with. We may be more sophisticated and intelligent; however, this may be the reason for our ignorance also. One would think that with evolution we would also become more spiritual; in many situations this not the case. The first concept of spirituality and faith arose from the first man and people; this is what the message of tribalism gives us.

4. JUDAISM

For many millennia Judaism has been one of the dominant religions in the world. Some of the world's most influential religions have originated from Judaism (Christianity, Islam). They are both based on Jewish scripture (the Old Testament). Even Jesus was Jewish, and a man who believed in the Jewish God and practiced other forms of Judaism. The Qur'an is also based on Jewish law. Judaism is one of the first forms of written religion and has been the most translated works in modern history (Bible).

This chapter will demonstrate the unity and evolution of the word according to the Jewish faith. This chapter will not specifically focus on the Torah and ancient traditions concerning sacrifices and methods in dealing with the dead, but rather the core issue of the prophets and their struggles in preaching the word of God to the people, also the trials and tribulations these people faced and overcame, claiming to have achieved such victories with the help of God.

This chapter will try to show the nameless and ever-so-powerful God of Israel, showing the qualities this God possesses, the relationship with the universe, and how our parts are played out in the game we call life. The energy found in all things and all people is this God that is spoken of in Judaism. Much like the tribal belief system, rabbis and priests (judges, prophets) believed they had a connection with God beyond that of the average human being. In Judaism many of these priests and prophets performed sacrifices to the God and sought favor during times of battle and hardship. Many altars, shrines, and temples were created and dedicated to this God over the course of time. Similar to many other religions of the world, Judaism embraces the monotheistic view of one God, and embraces the knowledge of being the "cho-

sen” people. Because of their obedience, God sent multiple prophets and judges forward to guide Israel.

As with all religions studied in the text, no one denomination or branch (orthodox/unorthodox) will be studied or mentioned. True Judaism is one of the oldest religions in existence and predates Christianity by a significant amount of time, dating back to the time of creation. If you practice Judaism in any form, you adhere to the ancient Hebrew texts, which remain fairly consistent among denominations. In my opinion all forms of Judaism preach and express the same message of one God, led by the prophets (God’s sons); and that God should be reason enough to unite all Jewish people. Although the previous definition of Judaism is said to have occurred with the covenant of Abraham or Abram; it began long before this. Judaism’s principles come from tribal belief systems predating Noah, and continuing back to the time of creation.

Every denomination can agree that prophets and messengers were sent down to man to preach and send guidance to the people. These prophets and messengers can be seen as angels. “The word *angel* in English is a fusion of the Old English word *engel* (with a hard g) and the Old French *angele*. Both derive from the Latin *angelus*, and thence the Koine Greek *angelos* (messenger) used in the Septuagint to translate the Hebrew “mal’akh” (yehowah) “messenger” (of Yahweh).”¹

These angels can then be called angels of the Lord, as seen many times in the Old Testament. The angel of the Lord also came down and removed the stone from Jesus’s tomb and cast away the Roman high guard from the entrance. Even in the time of Abraham/Abram, the angel of the Lord spoke to him. Or were Abraham/Abram and Jesus Christ the angel/messenger of the Lord? The text and scripture has been translated so many times that people now believe angels to be winged creatures sent from heaven.

These messengers and prophets were sent to the people as angels of the Lord and came proclaiming belief in God and God alone. Angels in history are seen to hate idols and worship solely God; they come to teach a direct connection with God. Over time the translations of the texts became distorted, lost, and intermingled as one. Many times these people have been sent to warn and guide man to change their ways; however, when this was not adhered too, great disaster fell amongst the people—beginning with Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham/

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel> (Accessed December 2011).

Abram and continuing on into modern day.

Many times these men were persecuted for their beliefs, messages, and scriptures. History outlines and portrays this struggle as both individual efforts and as by groups of people. Although the scriptures portray how these people triumphed over their struggles, it does not show the history of the Jewish people after these periods in time. Many of the scriptures found in Christian Old Testaments, including the prophets (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel) are not specifically mentioned in the Judaism chapters. Many of these scriptures contain events of the Jewish capture by Nebuchadnezzar, and his Persian forces. Where we have differences in denominations of Judaism is where written history takes place. Remember that religion is written metaphorically and that literal translation of any religion may result in chaos or unrealistic demands put on our society. For example “the man moved like a lion.” Did the man have claws and fur like a lion? No, it is a metaphor used to express the power of the man in question. Some things are literal, like the Ten Commandments. For these instructions are written, “Thou Shall” or “Do not.” This is like saying the man is dead; there is no metaphorical meaning to this, it is as it is.

Since God’s messengers or angels guide humanity along their path of evolution, it is not always wise to regard all law, as law that should still apply to the standards of the time. Although the Ten Commandments still apply (our current Western law is based on these commandments), these laws are much more evolved. Would we replace the Criminal Code with the Ten Commandments? No, because the law is derived from these commandments already; why replace our laws with their predecessors? This idea and concept paves the way for new prophets and messengers to be sent down from the light (heaven) to guide and instruct man on a new path of social evolution.

If it is God’s will to guide man through the course of our existence, then would those instructions not also change? Just because we no longer put the “blood of the lamb along the inside of our doorways,” does not make us any less of a believer. It is the guiding principles of God’s law that guide us and unite us as believers. It would be a waste of cattle and a little unsanitary if we did many of the old traditions in contemporary society. Also, the sanity of someone would be questioned if they performed some of these rituals in modern Western civilization. Why then the “blood of the lamb” or other old and archaic traditions? Remember that there is an explanation for everything!

The Blood of the Lamb for example may have been for the people who were not following the leadership of Moses that partook in evil acts (incest, murder, robbery, etc.). Since paint was not commonplace (especially in the desert), it would be hard to mark the “good people” from the “bad people.” The method to do so would be by the blood of a lamb. Since everyone of that time period sacrificed lamb and had some form of cattle, it would be quite easily accessible for everyone to have lamb’s blood present. If they did not do this (mark their doorways), it would be hard to determine the believers from the nonbelievers.

Since the band of nonbelievers would be of an evil nature (stealing, murdering, raping, etc.), they would have to be destroyed or exiled in order for the “will of God” to be performed. Nonbelievers would be the people not adhering to the Ten Commandments or Abrahamic law; therefore, not putting the blood of the lamb along the inside of their doors. If these people (nonbelievers) were not defeated, then the Jewish people would not have evolved into the people they are today; this is just an example of one act that helped form and create the societies we live in.

Which brings us back to the original point of why Moses was sent down from God: to free the Jewish people from oppression, slavery, and even possible extinction; to teach the Jewish people how to live in a civilized manner with rules to guide and maintain that society; and to show the enemies of God the true and straight path of mankind. Sometimes (especially in the past) violence was necessary to overcome and overthrow these transgressors who were oppressing the people. This is the reason why some people regard the Old Testament God as a wrathful, vengeful, and a merciful God. For it is a mercy for the people to have these transgressors eliminated and executed for their blasphemies, because they were harming other people. Wrath is the means by which these people were removed.

The Old Testament of the Bible along with the writings of the Hexateuch and Septuagint show that violence was commonplace in the past. This is shown through the multiple offences against the messengers of God (starting with the slaying of Abel), right to the stories of war and glory that are so prevalent in our history. Violence is still common in society; can we expect a people of such a difficult and trying period to be any less violent than we are today? Any one of us would do practically anything for our families and children. In a time when survival

MY BELIEF

was so hard and just trying to find food was difficult, is it any wonder that the people needed to be rescued and shown how to live?

The statutes that paved the way provided a guide for the people to refer to, and that law was followed for hundreds and thousands of years, and is the basic law that guides us still. These laws are the glue that hold the fabric of our societies together; the fabric is the people, and the glue is religion, which formed the law and standards that we as a people live by today, which in essence is morality.

The prophets and angels wanted unity among the Jewish people and believers; to achieve that unity, laws, rules, and punishments had to be handed down. Were the prophets and angels successful in achieving this? Well, we have some unity (meaning we are not killing each other needlessly in mass quantities) among our societies. Religions that have developed, adopted, and based their societies on these laws are the most successful people and nations, having the lowest crime rates within their societies. Many Western nations (whose laws are based on the Ten Commandments and Abrahamic law) have the most unity among nations, are generally not in civil wars, and have some of the greatest democracies on the earth. Although some successful nations follow other laws and are equally successful, generally speaking the previous statement is true.

So did the prophets and angels achieve their goals? You be the judge. It is this use of logic that must be maintained when studying all religions. What is the purpose of this? Why would God instruct a messenger to perform such acts? Since history is written from the hand of the conqueror, you must assume that not everything written is true, or the true meaning of why things and rituals were done was lost along the way. Many of the teachings of Moses were in fact not written down and were of an oral tradition; he may and probably did have many similar teachings to that of his forefathers (including Abraham). Although the law was written, and enforced very strictly, it would be safe to assume that Moses also taught the people to forgive each other, and other laws may not be of his origination.

Granted that any religion in its purest form is not violent, and preaches unity and peace amongst all people, many societies choose to not adhere to these teachings, and their societies are functioning in chaos. Look at the top nations in the world, and look at the lowest. Among the top,

there is a sense of equality, order, and respect amongst all people. Among the lowest there is murder, theft, rape, and genocide. The facts speak for themselves, and the evolution of the people can be seen on how they adhere to their messengers or “roots”—whether it’s the tribal people not adhering to their “root” teachings of oneness amongst everything or the Muslims who are not adhering to the Qur’anic teachings of peace, unity, and wholeness amongst the universe, or the Christians not practicing forgiveness, or the Jewish people not adhering to the law (commandments). Each society has been punished and rewarded accordingly to their adherence to the way of life that God has attempted to show them. Whether or not they follow the messengers and prophets is up to the people, and the people cannot say they were not warned.

Since each society and people are different, is it any wonder that the teachings and messengers sent to the people differ so much? Between Buddha, Muhammad, Jesus, and Abraham, the fact is that at one point we were all one people, and the straying from that oneness has led us to a path of destruction and deceit. The core principles and teachings of all religions are a respect for life, death, humanity, and the never-ending cycle that we as beings are condemned to. It is on this note that we delve further into the teachings of *My Belief* and that ever-present energy that we call God.

When studying biblical religion, it is VERY important to not put any bias on the study. Many Christians who study the Jewish religion and spirituality do not read without bias because the Jewish people were the betrayers of Jesus Christ. Although this is true to some extent, people are largely ignorant of the events and politics that were surrounding this young man (Jesus) at the time. It will be later explained in the text some of the many problems politically and socially that Jesus Christ faced in his time.

Many of the Christian people who hold a bias against Judaism are the same Roman descendants that partook in the execution of Christ. Remember that it was a ROMAN ORDER to have Christ crucified, not a Jewish one (although the Jews demanded it). Although the Jewish community did in fact influence the discussion, it was ultimately up to the Caesar who issued orders to the governor, Pontius Pilate, whether or not to crucify Christ. So how hypocritical would it be to blame the Jewish community solely, when in fact the Roman descendants share equal fault. This will be discussed in length in the Christian paradigm.

Also later mentioned in the text—the sacrifice of Christ did in fact lead to the salvation of the Jewish people and the fall of their conquerors and oppressors, the Roman Empire. It was, believe it or not, the goal of Christ to free the Jews from Roman oppression. Christ was a Zionist (Zion means a holy place of peace) and a zealot leader (wanting to overthrow Roman rule over Jewish states). It is the adoption of Christianity by the Romans that later perverted the message of Christ and raised him to the status of an idol. This is clearly not what was intended by Jesus, as he spent his life preaching and teaching love and equality amongst men, women, and children. This is also the first teaching of Moses (an eye for an eye is a different way of saying, “do unto others as you have done yourself”). Christ will later be discussed further in the Christian paradigm, where divinity, miracles, and faith will be discussed.

Before we delve deep into Judaism, it is important to first understand some terminology associated with Jewish scripture and writings. For the purpose of this text, the following definitions shall be defined as follows:

Torah (The law): This means original law. These teachings come from the old covenant (Old Testament). The Torah contains many similar writings to that of Chronicles II. It was believed to be first written in Hebrew; however, there is no Hebrew manuscript that can be dated earlier than approximately 900 BC.

The first Torah must have been written in the Aramaic/Hebrew language. It is hard to verify that this is true as the Aramaic/Hebrew language was severely oppressed during and after captivity; the language was eventually replaced with the Greek language, which later formed the Greek Septuagint in the time of Christ. Many of the ancient writings come from the Greek Septuagint; the earliest date for these works is the year 284 BC. Two versions of the earliest sacred scriptures exist in different languages and different spiritual body. These works come from the reign of Hezekiah in about the year 727–697 BC.

Talmud: Connected with the Arabic term Tilmidh, meaning disciple or student. This was a form of oral expression, later transferred to written teachings with a specific school of thought. Many of these teachings were taught just prior to the creation of Islam. Largely practiced in the 500s AD, the first teachings originated from the part of Talmud called the Mishna. These are the works of the Rabbi Judah in approximately the year 150 AD.

Nevim (The prophets): Jewish writings which are believed to have come from Talmud teachings. This was the accepted form of teaching to students in the ancient time of the prophets.

Pentateuch: Greek term meaning “the five books.” These are the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. A great deal of Mosaic law is portrayed in these writings—believed to have been written in about the year 536 BC, after the return of the Jewish people from Babylonian captivity.

Hexateuch: Greek term meaning “the six books.” The book of Joshua containing the entry into the Promised Land is largely considered to be part of the Pentateuch, which is subsequently called the Hexateuch. Joshua is handed the covenant of Israel, and the history of Kings begins. Kings is not part of the Hexateuch.

Septuagint: Latin, meaning seventy, supposedly created by approximately seventy or seventy-two Jewish prophets working separate from each other, and in different time lines or lives. The earliest portion of this text was believed to be created in approximately 284 BC.

This version was accepted by the Jewish people of Alexandria and the Jewish Hellenized people. Later in history the Vulgate was created, which is the translation of this text from Hebrew to Latin. The present text of the Vulgate was accepted by the Roman Catholic Church in the years 1592–1605. The seventy prophets are spoken of in Numbers and considered in the Christian Bible. Numbers plays a fairly important role in the scripture as it lists the genealogy of the Jewish people who followed Moses in the Exodus.

Vulgate: A Latin text which has been translated from the Hebrew Septuagint text to the present day Roman Catholic text.

Old Testament: These are the records according to Christians of the ancient Hebrew and Greek scripture. Although there are different expressions of the meanings found in the compilations, the general idea and teachings of the Jewish religion are considered to be expressed and conveyed in practically all writings.

Firmament: Adopted in the **Vulgate** in an imitation of a Hebrew word meaning probably meaning “expanse.” In the **Old Testament**, **Fir-**

mament gives indication to the meaning of firm or solid structure.

Tanakh (**Hebrew**: also Tanach, IPA: [tanax] or [tenax], Tenakh or Tenak) is an acronym that identifies the Hebrew Bible. The definition is formed from the initial Hebrew letters of the Tanakh's traditional subdivisions, including the,

1. **Torah** (הַתּוֹרָה), **meaning “teaching” or “law,” includes the Five Books of Moses.** The printed form of the Torah is called “the Chumash” (שְׁמוֹנָה), meaning “five-part.” The Torah is also known by its Greek name, “the Pentateuch,” which similarly means “five scrolls.”

2. **Nevi'im** (נְבִיאִים), **meaning “prophets.”** This division includes the books which, as a whole, cover the chronological era from the entrance of the Israelites into the land until the Babylonian captivity of Judah (the period of prophecy). However, they exclude Chronicles, which covers the same period. The Nevi'im is often divided into the earlier prophets, which are generally historical, and the later prophets, containing more exhortational prophecies.

The roots of Judaism date back longer than those of Abram; for example there would have been no written history of Abram and his covenant in his time. This event took place sometime before Moses. As Moses wrote the laws on stone tablets, this would indicate that paper was scarce as the people were constantly on the move. Many Greek codices and Hebrew scriptures were written after the time of Moses, which means that many of Moses' teachings were oral traditions, in which the prophets and judges wrote of later in history.

The first teachings of Judaism are believed to be that of an oral tradition handed down to the elders and trusted men of God throughout the history of the Jewish people. Many of these stories and teachings were added to and deleted from as time went on. Remember that like all oral tradition, the “telephone” game eventually comes into play, and men add and delete parts of the story or history when they see fit to do so. Much of this adding and subtracting of scripture is because of memory, meaning that not all parts of the teachings can be remembered; therefore, not all of the history or tradition can be written. Since the beginning of time, men have put their input on these writings, meaning that not all law is the law of Moses or Abram directly. Just like many parts of the Bible are not true translations of the law.

**THE BIBLE IS AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF HISTORY, NOT
A PRECISE ONE.**

Remember that history is an account from a point of view; the New Testament is a testament to the fact that a life may be recorded from multiple different perspectives. We can see from the different accounts of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John that they are in fact different perspectives of the life of Jesus Christ. The variations of the accounts of the life Jesus vary; however, the general accounts of his life and works remain consistent in all versions. This is like the scripture found in the Old Testament, they are accounts from the perspective of people that were with the individuals at the time and handed down as oral tradition.

Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah of the Old Testament are examples of a prophets' work cut short by invaders. Many times the prophet societies were under threat of invasion by foreign forces. Much like today, the world was under threat of improper rule of greed, oppression, poverty, and hunger. The prophets and angels come down to instruct and guide the people to salvation. Sometimes these prophecies and warnings fall on deaf ears and the future cannot be changed. Remember that prophecy can be altered, which is the reason for the prophets and angels to lead humanity to the rule of reason.

**THE REASON FOR LIVING IS LOVE; OTHERWISE WHY
WOULD WE LEAVE PERFECTION?**

Many times, because we come from such a technologically advanced time in history, it is hard to imagine life of the people of the past. This bias often distorts the meanings and struggles of the Bible, and the generations of the future often ridicule or cannot relate to the word of the past. As the prophets and angels continue man's evolution forward in time (history), more stories, sacrifices, and struggles are recorded and illustrated to serve as an example for humanity to follow and learn from. Later as the future becomes real, these values and doctrines become laws and ways of living for the people of the time.

The primary focus in the Judaism paradigm will be the six books that make up the Hexateuch. These books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviti-

MY BELIEF

cus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and the book of Joshua. The compilation of these six books forms the Hexateuch(meaning six books in Greek expression translated from the Septuagint). These are considered to be the oldest translation of Hebrew scripture into Greek. From Greek it then was translated into Latin. From Latin it was translated to English and French, and is currently the majority of what makes the Old Testament.

We start with Judaism, because true Judaism dates back to the time of creation; it is the forming of the world, which is the first evolutionary process to the beginnings of life. Since this book is attempting to explain the progression of man, and the proof of God, it would be logical to begin at the start of time when the world and universe was said to be created. This begins with the acts of Genesis and will progress through to the prophets.

The text attempts to show the evolution of the law and the result of the people transgressing the word of the prophets. What we see is the unity of all religions and the proof of these religions through the scientific process, which makes the events of the Bible more of a miracle than people may see. So it makes complete sense to begin with Genesis and eventually evolve to modern science, which will hopefully give the reader greater insight of the progress of man, religion, science, and the reason why we are here and where we are going.

Remember that Judaism's birth may begin at the time of Abram, but it is the written oral traditions of the forefathers (Noah, Shem, Ham) that have been recorded and written by Moses and the elders. These scriptures have been handed down since the beginning of communication and have come from divine insight of the prophets and angels (messengers).

5. GENESIS

The Neolithic period began in approximately 25,000 BC, Neolithic meaning first societies of man grouping together in nomadic lifestyles similar to the native people of North America or the tribal communities found in Africa and South America. The first oral teachings of Judaism originated at some point in this time period. Since these dates are much earlier than the emergence of written history, many of the thoughts and origins of these beliefs can only be educated guesses with the use of deductive reasoning and rational. It cannot be proven whether or not the writings of Genesis stemmed from these oral traditions.

Many parallels in native writings include the formation of man out of clay, fire, and water. There is reference to man being made of clay in the Qur'an.

HE IT IS WHO CREATED YOU FROM CLAY, AND THEN DECREED A STATED TERM. AND THERE IS IN HIS PRESENCE ANOTHER DETERMINED TERM; YET YE DOUBT WITHIN YOURSELVES.

Surah 6:2-Al' An'am¹

It is a scientific fact that we are made of water and minerals (metaphorically speaking, clay.). Genesis does not state that we are made from clay, but suggests that we all come from Adam (even Eve is suggested to have originated from Adam <rib>). Egyptian writings suggest that we come from Aton (which sounds remarkably similar to Adam), the ruling god of the sun. Since God could be said to be the universe and the first man his sun (metaphorically), we could say that Adam is

¹ Abdullah Yusuf Ali, The Meaning of The Holy Qur'an, Amana Publications, 1408 AH/1989.

the ruling god of the sun or the Son of God (the light of the world).

Since even clay, light (sun), and water is made up of atoms, and the basic scientific unit of life is an atom, then we all can agree that we are made from atoms. All living things are made from water and minerals (clay), it can then be said that we are “born of clay,” therefore, making us all come from atoms. This would eventually over many millions of years give rise to the first man “Adam,” who can be seen as the light of the world or the sun/son of man. We all come from “Mother Earth” (Eve, Gaia, the egg), therefore giving a metaphoric mother to the first man ever born, and all life on earth for that matter.

There is an Egyptian creation story that shows how the first pharaoh Ra came from “the great solar disk” in the universe as an eagle to the giant egg or world (earth/Mother Nature), thus giving rise to the creation of the world. This is similar to the creation story of the natives: the Creator created life on the giant turtle’s back, then breathed life into clay, forming man. This illustrates metaphoric comparison of the earth to animals, and man to nature. These illustrations were needed to relate to the people so they could understand. “The earth rose from the sea like the back of a turtle, filled with clay and earth,” is a relation and metaphor that the people of the time could understand. We also begin to see the comparison of people to the earth, universe, sun, and animals.

Since nothing on earth can survive without the sun, this would refer to the star of our earth being more like God than anything else. From this use of logic we find that Apollo in mythology (being the sun god) and the Star of David in Judaism (being a star) have a close relation and a close timeline. Many native and tribal cultures have beliefs that the sun is the greatest god on the earth, and attribute the origination of all life to come from the sun or something like a sun (star). Since man is made in the image of God, we therefore are all gods.

LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, ACCORDING TO OUR LIKENESS; LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH AND THE SEA, OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND OVER THE CATTLE, OVER ALL THE EARTH AND OVER EVERY CREEPING THING THAT CREEPS ON THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1:26(NKJV)

Since all life does essentially come from the sun, earth, and water, it would be easy to see how primitive people would give the name “gods”

to these elements, or perhaps men could or be perceived to manipulate these phenomena. Since God is the creator of life, and all these elements combined form life, it would not be hard to see why these people attributed great importance to these phenomena.

Remember that even the gods rose from a greater conscious or supreme energy. The fact is that light (energy) and water are the only “true” elements that defy the laws of chemistry. Water expands when cold, and light (electricity) takes the easiest path. Water is primarily what makes up all living beings, and light is theoretically everything..., including water (explained in final chapter).

Most religions, if not ALL, imply that God is the ruler of the gods, or us as a people. This is the God or energy of the universe that Judaism believes in. Most if not all religions of some sort make parallels with the sun or metaphors with the sun (star) or greater star in their analogies. In fact when making reference to God, all religions use metaphors of all of life’s emotions and surroundings to describe and relate to their creator.

It is for this life and these emotions that are our reason for being and purpose of existence came into being. Thus we have the birth of Judaism, being the star of the universe that even our sun came from (Big Bang) and all things that have ever been created. When all that energy from the universe is together for one moment in time (the point of origin), that is God. This energy is ever present, found in all things, and can never be destroyed, simply transformed from one state to another. This energy can never be proven or disproven; it simply is.

When we speak of God, we refer to a nameless entity that governs the dimensions and parallels of existence. This entity can only be named as the nameless, and it is beyond our realm of comprehension and understanding; this life on earth helps us prepare for that comprehension and understanding. We as beings and people represent a higher and greater conscious; every animal, plant, and thing has their own domain and purpose.

The events described in Genesis clearly happened prior to the creation of written history; it would be best assumed using logical reasoning that the creation writings in Genesis were oral in nature. These verbal teachings were handed down from generation to generation amongst the elders or shamans, similar to the native people and their chiefs. These elders eventually over time evolved into priests, scribes, judges, and rab-

MY BELIEF

bis. These elders were usually in control of high rank or key positions in society. These figures possessed huge political influence, and often their word overpowered the rule of kings.

This is commonplace even in modern society, as the pope has enormous political and societal power over many people and parts of the world. Genesis contains the primary conveyance of the first teachings of these elders or ancient leaders. Some tribal cultures have an eighty to ninety percent accuracy ratio for oral traditions (from son, father, and grandfather) and seem fairly accurate among history. Some of these cultures have carried ancient traditions and stories for thousands of years.

This timeline is factual within science, and corresponds with historical documentation of human history up to the year 55,000 BC (approximation). Much of what is history prior to this year is actually just assumption and educated guesswork based on ancient human remains and artefacts.

Imagine trying to explain the Big Bang theory and quantum physics to people 12,000 years ago! Genesis says,

THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS ON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING OVER THE FACE OF THE WATERS.

GENESIS 1:2 (NKJV)

Life would not have existed on earth because light, water, and earth did not have a chance to evolve and interact yet—thus making the earth “without form and void.”

Prior to the Big Bang all the energy of the universe was joined together in a formation which I have deemed to be the point of origin. This “point of origin” could be viewed as heaven or hell, depending on the life you have lived. Once there, all living things (meaning life with consciousness) are then enlightened with the knowledge of God. For one second in time all beings are alive without the fear of survival, death, or worry. Since all beings are enlightened or at peace with their creator (being the omniscient energy found in all things), their lives will therefore be judged according to themselves.

If you lived a meaningless life of murder and rape, for example, you

will spend eternity dwelling on these actions, questioning forever why you have done these things. Once the knowledge of the creator is in you, acts such as murder or rape will be seen as pointless, meaningless, and destructive, therefore, making the person's entire existence meaningless, pointless, and destructive. Once filled with the knowledge of God, the soul will be then judged to have little or no value. Imagine dealing with that for eternity.

Imagine the fact that you have brought nothing but the destruction of life and been the cause of pain to the people that God has placed around you. This cycle of evil committed in the life the person lived will be judged; however, eventually all sin is forgiven at the point of origin if the person truly seeks forgiveness. The point of this is to cleanse the soul of sin, pay your debt to God, and hope the mercy of salvation in God will be placed on your soul. If not, you may never exist again or be put through an endless nightmare in which torment cannot be escaped.

Granted even the energy of rocks and gases will be at the point of origin. The difference between the energy in the stones and the gases is that they are not conscious on earth; so why then would they be conscious, or have knowledge of being at the point of origin? If you do not experience life here, then why would you experience life after death? Meaning:

A ROCK HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF BEING A ROCK ON EARTH; BUT A HUMAN OR DOG MOST CERTAINLY DOES. A ROCK WOULD HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF BEING A ROCK AT THE POINT OF ORIGIN, SO THE SAME WOULD NOT BE TRUE FOR A HUMAN OR A DOG.

After the initiation of the Big Bang, the atoms (containing everything the universe is compiled of) were sent hurling into the void, endless expanse we call space. These atoms were propelled in all directions and all forms, containing all elements of life (ranging from light to rock) from densest to least dense atoms. They were sent in all directions. Essentially it was the largest burst of energy ever created, and its magnitude cannot even be fathomed or understood to by the human mind. Prior to this, the point of origin would have been the largest single star in the universe. Not a star, but a collection of conscious, for it is the thought that governs creation, a greater intelligence.

Our galaxy was caught in a perfect convection of push and pull forces, creating a perfect balance in space. The atoms began to attract and join together; Genesis states that God made the heavens and the earth in six (6) days and on the seventh day God rests. This is the com-

mon creation writing shared between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. You will note that at the end of every segment of days, scripture concludes with “So the evening and the morning were the first day.” Or “So the evening and the morning were the second day.” And so on... What would the logical reasoning for this be if the sun and moon were not created until the fourth day?

Imagine trying to explain how the world formed and took shape to a people 3,300 years ago (time of Moses). These people had no idea what a stage or cycle is. As a matter of fact, I don't believe there was a word to explain these meanings until scientific thought or language evolved. Naturally every human being experiences a day; it would be easy to explain or conclude a stage or cycle by way of evening and morning. When evening turns to morning or vice versa, this would naturally conclude the end of a day's work. This term or concept would be familiar to all people and is a term that all common folk could understand. Remember we are dealing with a people who cannot read, write (primitively), and/or speak very well. The concept of days can also be applied to the scientific school of thought when understanding how the earth formed through metaphoric interpretation. How is this possible? Let me explain.

First Day

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void (Prior to the Big Bang, the earth would be without form and void as it was not created yet).

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light, meaning that the Big Bang was initiated and the light began to travel in the void darkness of space.

AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT, THAT IT WAS GOOD; AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS.

GENESIS 1:4 (NKJV)

Suns and planets began to form galaxies that exist in space. As different atoms formed and bonded together, gases that create the atmosphere were settling; eventually light began to penetrate through, and this light was good. As all life on earth needs light energy to survive, this light is also good in science. The light in the expansion of the heavens began to pull away from the darkness of space.

This is the most basic form of intelligent reasoning. For all liv-

ing beings in our environmental surroundings know of the night and day concept, even plants. This theme is the basis of our everyday lives. Most religions make reference to night and day as metaphors to explain God. Night and day, good and evil, and yin and yang concepts are also largely used in the explanation of life. When explaining life, it can be interpreted to be explaining God, as all life comes from God. There would be no words at the time to explain the dark matter in space; the only form to explain it would be the term darkness. Much still remains not understood about the dark matter in space.

GOD CALLED THE LIGHT DAY, AND THE DARKNESS HE CALLED NIGHT. SO
THE EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY.

GENESIS 1:5 (NKJV)

This is true in science also. As “days” in the book of Genesis can be seen as “stages” in science; the first events or stage prior to life on earth was in fact the formation of our atmosphere in a perfect planet full of water explained through the atomic order of atoms (since water is denser than gas, but not as dense as rock), also known as the periodic table of elements. As our planet would be “dead” prior to the light, it could be said that,

THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS ON THE
FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING OVER THE FACE
OF THE WATERS.

GENESIS 1:2(NKJV)

This indicates that the earth was at one point full of water (it still largely is). Since oceans are deep, the metaphor that “darkness was over the face of the deep” is completely true as all oceans that I know of are quite deep.

When the earth first began to form, it would have been layered according to atomic density, and arrangements of atoms (periodic table of elements). Before the earth had a chance to become “alive” or become the working machine it is today, the atomic structure of the earth would have been arranged according to density. Meaning that atoms would join with like atoms; these atoms would arrange according to density and eventually the chain reaction, or the “machine” we call the earth would start. Since plutonium and uranium are the densest natural elements, it

MY BELIEF

can be assumed that the center of the earth is compromised of these elements.

Much like our sun, these elements would be under such enormous pressure (the weight of the earth). This pressure could cause a “nuclear event,” which would cause enormous heat and pressure in the earth’s core. Since the earth is constantly changing, shifting, and moving, the atomic arrangement of atoms (rock formations) would then alter, shift, and the layers would change because of faulting and metamorphosis, making the earth a mini-star at the center...like our sun.

It is believed that the center of the earth is nickel and iron; however, I believe this not to be true. The arranging of atoms in the world would not allow for this statement to be true. Meaning if you place a rock in water, the rock then sinks. Why? Since water is roughly half as dense as rock (scientific fact), this is what causes the rock to sink in the water. The rock is denser than the water, therefore, the rock sinks. It is much like the sky diver falling through the air; why is the diver falling? Because the sky diver is heavier (denser) than the air; therefore, the diver begins to fall through the air. The earth is layered accordingly also; as the air is on the outside of the water, water is on the outside of the rock, and rock is located in the inner of the arrangement “shells” (different layered densities) in the earth’s crust.

Mineralogy and the discovery of mineral deposits give evidence that minerals and precious metals are formed in the above-mentioned way. The following chapter will discuss how these deposits were formed by volcanoes, faulting, and meteors/asteroids. Remember that up until this point, the earth has just layered together, formed an atmosphere, and its surface is water. As this process is occurring, simultaneously the sun and the moon are forming at the same time. Up until this point there is no “land” on the earth and the light of God is upon the waters of the deep... now the machine begins.

Second Day

After the “perfect” joining of atoms, and the complex push and pull cycle initiated by the Big Bang, a spherical like “rock” containing water on its surface and gases on the outermost shell was formed; this planet would later be known to man as the planet earth or “terra.” Once the earth was formed, God said,

LET THERE BE A FIRMAMENT IN THE MIDST OF THE WATERS, AND LET IT DIVIDE THE WATERS FROM THE WATERS.

GENESIS 1:6 (NKJV)

This indicates to me that the living earth began to manifest itself and begin the miraculous machine we call life. Since God is in all things, including the rocks and earth, God, therefore, made the “firmament in the midst of the waters, dividing the waters from the waters.”

Once the atoms joined together from the Big Bang (a process taking many billion or trillion years), the intense heat, fueled by the chemical reaction in the rocks at the earth’s core (plutonium and uranium), formed a magma known today as the “core.” The oceanic waterbeds under the water of the oceans (which were pure water) began to fault, metamorphose, and shift. This would also cause under-sea vents that would trap the sea water and (has been proven in science) and begin produce amino acid chains (the building blocks of life).

These geological formations and phenomena caused massive super volcanoes to begin to erupt in the ocean floors. Eventually as the magma was injected into the water, it began to cool and form a large continental plate known to geologists as Pangaea. Also since NaCl (salt) is so high up on the density of the atomic scale (meaning does not weigh much), the faulting caused this material to be deposited in the water, causing massive salt deposits on the earth, resulting in the salt water found in the oceans.

Remember that the earth began to form according to atomic density, and that faulting would cause geological anomalies to form in the earth, creating the mineralization that we see today. Since many rock formations on earth are plutonic, we can assume that they came from a source that did in fact contain plutonium. It is my belief that the center of the earth is in fact plutonium and uranium, therefore, making plutonic formations plausible in many parts of the earth.

Over time, large fault zones were created by asteroid, meteor showers, and volcanoes, causing large fractures in and around the earth’s crust. These large fractures caused huge fault (stress) cracks in the surface. These effects would be similar to a “bullet in the glass” effect. These effects would later result in rivers and lake formations on the earth. The geological and scientific evidence and data that supports this theory are present in our solar system (the moon has many craters), volcanoes that

MY BELIEF

exist in the ocean floors, and the fact that the geological surface of the earth can also be seen to have these meteor and asteroid impacts. For example, I believe that the Gulf of Mexico, Hudson and James Bay are results of large meteoritic impacts.

Thus this concludes the first and second days or “stages” by God. We are still living on the earth right now, but night and day are still ever present (first day), and the ground is still ever changing, faulting, and shifting as we speak (second day). This faulting and shifting of the earth is causing “firmaments” to occur and separate the seas. This suggests that these days or stages are factual and are proven by science, since we can still view these phenomena.

With the earth shifting and moving like a slow, powerful, and mighty engine, the atmosphere began to be created. The carbon and vapors coming from the volcanoes, water and faulting of the tectonic plates would cause intense heat, causing the water (H₂O) to evaporate, creating oxygen levels to rise, as well as CO (carbon monoxide) and CO₂ (carbon dioxide) to be increased. These events would lead to the planet being able to sustain life. It is my belief that the oxygen level on earth was generally a lot higher than it is today (25–27 percent). This was because of the tropical state that was created before mammalian animals began to walk the earth.

Third Day

Once these above acts were in their very beginnings, God made another decree or step/stage. God said,

LET THE WATER UNDER THE HEAVENS BE GATHERED TOGETHER INTO ONE PLACE, AND LET THE DRY LAND APPEAR.
GENESIS 1:9 (NKJV)

This is the point in time that God stated for the lands to form so they caused oceans, seas, and rivers to form in the lands, as stated on the second day. However, on the second day these processes were in the beginning stages and did not yet form seas, lakes, and rivers. These events in on the third day then began to happen, and God issued another decree.

LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH GRASS, THE HERB THAT YIELDS SEED, AND THE FRUIT TREE THAT YIELDS FRUIT ACCORDING TO ITS KIND, WHOSE SEED IS IN ITSELF, ON THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1: 11(NKJV)

This is basically a poetic way of saying that water began to cesspool on the surfaces of the newly formed rock formations (continents), and bacterial cultures began to form, causing vegetation on earth, and bacteria life in the water formed from volcanic vents.

This culture began to mutate and form plant growth, at which time the bacteria and amino acids forming in the water began to receive the light (sun) and began to mutate, causing minimal forms of life in the water (plankton, amoebae, etc.). Plants and algae began to form on the rock (earth), causing grass, herbs, and trees to grow on the surfaces. Mass decay and decomposition eventually formed soil on the crust of the earth.

Note that once the earth began faulting and shifting, the rock was ground and pounded into fine dust. Once the right mixtures of rocks and algae life were combined with the water, fertile soil would be created, enabling these plant forms to live. These plants and herbs would then begin to grow and seed, replicating itself and multiply across the newly formed lands. Wind would eventually spread seeds and sediments along the newly formed world called Pangaea.

Since plant life feeds off of CO and CO₂ emissions, there would be an abundant source of these gases present on earth during the formation of the plant life. Land masses would be forming by volcanic activity (super volcanoes); the emissions sent into the atmosphere by these huge explosions would generate more than enough gases and ash in the atmosphere to sustain soil formations and support plant life on earth.

The way the land (firmaments) formed can be proven by the volcanoes still visible in the bottom of the ocean floors. They explode under the sea and begin to cool and harden, causing land formations to occur in the form of small islands. Along with the small island formations, a massive amount of volcanoes began to form a giant land mass which resembled the back of a turtle. This land mass was known as Pangaea, and began to harbour large amounts of plant life on the surface.

MY BELIEF

The variations of the herbs and trees begin to cross pollinate and mutate, causing different fruits, vegetables, and trees to form across the land. Since this newly created plant life began to produce oxygen, and displace carbon emissions in the air, this opened the doors for new forms of life to form. This plant life began to die, causing worms and flies to begin to grow (like fruit flies). You cannot visibly see these organisms on you or on garbage, but they are there and will begin to form and consume you once you die. Since the very beginnings of our life cycle are forming, we then are led to the beginning of the fourth day.

Remember that the third day or stage is still occurring today as we can still see plants growing, pollinating, and dying in the never-ending cycle of life. Like all the days previously mentioned, these stages are still happening and forming the world as we know it. In essence a day is like a continuous cycle, therefore, a limited omnipotence.

The third day is, as is the second day, as is the first day.

Fourth Day

Then God said,

LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVENS TO DIVIDE THE DAY FROM THE NIGHT; AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS AND SEASONS, AND FOR DAYS AND YEARS; AND LET THEM BE FOR LIGHTS IN THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVENS TO GIVE LIGHT ON THE EARTH.” HE MADE THE GREATER LIGHT TO RULE THE DAY, AND THE LESSER LIGHT TO RULE THE NIGHT. HE MADE THE STARS ALSO.

GENESIS 1:14–17 (NKJV)

Once these days or stages were in full swing, the sun and the moon began to play a major role on the earth. Since life (plants) did not exist on earth until the third day, the role of the sun and moon did not play an important role on earth. Reference to the moon (lesser light to rule the night) was not made until the fourth day. This may indicate that the moon did not begin to revolve around the earth until a meteor or asteroid struck it and a piece of the meteor or asteroid got trapped in the orbit of the earth, causing the moon to play an important role on the earth. The moon may have formed also with the creation of the earth,

thus making their age the same as the earth's. In either case, the age of the moon and the earth should prove to be the same.

Remember that the moon is not necessary to support plant life on earth (although it does produce gamma radiation), meaning that the moon may have played a huge role in the metamorphosis of plant cells and bacterial cells. This would possibly be a key factor in the formation of animal cells and the very beginnings of animal life on earth. This theory would also correspond with the days in the Old Testament, as animals begin to make an appearance on the fifth day shortly after the formation of the moon. It is important to note that there would not be a need to really consider these two phenomena until the stage was set for animal life. Until the dust fully settled and the atmosphere was created, these "lights" would not be able to penetrate or be seen from the earth as they would be blocked by the sun.

The concept of the sun (greater light) and the moon (lesser light) being the factors to determine the seasons, signs, and years has been around as long as man can remember. Since we as a people still keep track of the seasons, years, and time by way of the sun and the moon, this would still be true today. For example, the harvest moon indicates when to reap the crop; the shorter the sunlight gets and the greater the moon gets indicates the changing of the season. How many times the sun rises and the moon rises are the factors that determine our calendar year, and paramount to how we keep track of the days.

Since a full cycle of this rising of the sun and moon are a day, this would enable primitive man to keep track of time, days, and years. This would make this day or stage true, as this cycle is still prevalent and used. The sun and moon exist and are formed today; the sun can be seen as the greater light, and the moon can be seen as the lesser light. The reasons for these conclusions are obvious as the sun clearly contains and emits more energy than the moon.

The grand significance of Moses mentioning the fourth day was to incorporate the moon into the cycle of life. As stated prior to this, there is no specific reference to the moon before this in any of the days. Since the moon (lesser light) makes an appearance in the fourth day and is extremely important to animal life on earth, this would indicate that the moon did not form until the fourth day. The concept of the greater light and lesser light is much like the concept of life and death.

MY BELIEF

The moon would be insignificant and would not shine without the sun. Since the sun is the source of the moon's light, it would therefore be the greater light and the moon the lesser one.

Fifth Day

As we begin to see the days or stages of the earth beginning to coincide and cycle in unison with each other, we then are introduced to the very beginnings of animal life on earth. The very first forms of life, even prior to dinosaurs would have been fish, birds, and other oceanic water life.

On the fifth day God said,

LET THE WATERS ABOUND WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF LIVING CREATURES, AND LET BIRDS FLY ABOVE THE EARTH ACROSS THE FACE OF THE FIRMAMENT OF THE HEAVENS. SO GOD CREATED GREAT SEA CREATURES AND EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVES, WITH WHICH THE WATERS ABOUNDED, ACCORDING TO THEIR KIND, AND EVERY WINGED BIRD ACCORDING TO ITS KIND. AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD. AND GOD BLESSED THEM, SAYING: BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY, AND FILL THE WATERS IN THE SEAS, AND LET BIRDS MULTIPLY ON THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1: 20–22 (NKJV)

This passage in reference to the fifth day suggests that the first animals to metamorphose into animals were the fish and the birds. This is interesting as many people will ask about the dinosaurs. Let it be known that some scientists believe that dinosaurs may have had feathers (believe it or not); this would make these beasts a form of bird. We have great sea creatures which are proven to be as old or older than dinosaurs still present in the ocean (large squids, whales, and some breeds of sharks, etc.). Since dinosaurs are closely linked with fish (meaning that reptiles are more similar to a fish than mammals), it can be seen how the first animals to metamorphose on the planet were fish, birds, and dinosaurs.

Also, dinosaurs may have evolved from the “great sea creatures” that filled and multiplied in the seas. It is not hard to imagine how, after millions of years of evolution, beasts of these magnitudes would or could metamorphose into the land dinosaurs most of us are familiar with. Look how much humans have changed in thousands of years; imagine hundreds of thousands and millions of more years from now.

Imagine how much the earth, humans, and animals will have changed.

Since Tyrannosaurus Rex and other predatory dinosaurs of the late Jurassic period are bipedal in nature and in a sense more evolved, it would support the evidence that these beasts originated from the massive creatures of the ocean that were in the beginnings of the Cretaceous or pre-Jurassic era. The dinosaurs of the “later years” are, generally speaking, smaller, predatory, and more evolved in terms of a successful land creature. The jump from birds to dinosaurs may not seem plausible, but not impossible. From great sea creatures to dinosaurs is more plausible and highly more likely. Reference to these sea creatures as being GREAT would give more emphasis to them being extremely large... dinosaur style. Dinosaurs may be a combination of both bird and fish life; although, I believe that even birds started as fish in the sea.

Thus concludes the fifth day and the beginnings of what is now known as animal life or true life on the planet earth. Remember that each one of these days or stages takes thousands, millions, and billions of years to happen and evolve to what we know today.

Sixth Day

LET THE EARTH BRING FORTH THE LIVING CREATURE
ACCORDING TO ITS KIND: CATTLE AND CREEPING THING
AND BEAST OF THE EARTH, EACH ACCORDING TO ITS
KIND; AND IT WAS SO.

LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, ACCORDING TO OUR
LIKENESS; LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF
THE SEA, OVER THE BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND OVER THE
CATTLE, OVER ALL EARTH AND OVER EVERY CREEPING
THING THAT CREEPS ON THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1: 24, 26 (NKJV)

SO GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE; IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREAT-
ED HIM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. THEN GOD BLESSED THEM,
AND GOD SAID TO THEM; “BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY; FILL THE EARTH
AND SUBDUE IT; HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, OVER THE
BIRDS OF THE AIR, AND EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVES ON THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1: 27–28 (NKJV)

MY BELIEF

AND GOD SAID; SEE, I HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERY HERB THAT YIELDS SEED WHICH IS ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND EVERY TREE WHOSE FRUIT YIELDS SEED WHICH IS ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND EVERY TREE WHOSE FRUIT YIELDS SEED; TO YOU IT SHALL BE FOR FOOD.

ALSO, TO EVERY BEAST OF THE EARTH, TO EVERY BIRD OF THE AIR, AND TO EVERYTHING THAT CREEPS ON THE EARTH, IN WHICH THERE IS LIFE, I HAVE GIVEN EVERY GREEN HERB FOR FOOD. AND IT WAS SO.

GENESIS 1:29–30(NKJV)

This would indicate that after the dinosaurs had finished their paths of evolution, the forefront for the mammalian era was created. This also coincides with the course of evolution described in Darwinian theory, as mammals did not make their way on the world stage till a long time after the earth was created (150,000,000 years ago).

We are supposedly created in the image of our God. Since the emphasis here is on the fact that “our” is mentioned in the parable, this suggest that if God could take an image, it would be of man. Since man has dominion over all things on earth, it would make sense that this would be the image that God would take if he had a choice. Since “our image” is emphasized, this would lead me to believe that God has multiple images or personalities and that every human being alive represents a piece or part of that “our.” Since God would be able to communicate with and understand all people on earth, this would explain the “our image” part as the collective consciousness of people that would be at or in the source. Since we are in the image of the Creator, the Creator would be in the image of everyone (having the personalities or characteristics found in everyone and everything).

Remember that God is in all things and everything; and that the Holy Spirit is in all things living. So if man was created in the likeness of God, he went through all stages of evolution and was at one time like everything in the world (like a bird, fish, dog, pig, etc.). Because we evolved from all things or in the likeness of all things, this is the reason why man can retain control over the entire world. A man can represent the Holy Spirit, but can never be all things at once.

FOR HOW CAN A MAN BE GOD? FOR HE CANNOT BE A MAN, OR ROCK, OR THE AIR AT THE SAME TIME, ONLY GOD IS EVERYTHING AT THE SAME TIME.

Since God gave man authority over the third, fourth, and fifth days or stages, we would be the closest things or beings to God. This is true today as man does have authority over all things and the power unfortunately to end all life on earth. In this passage, however, there is no reference to man having authority over the heavens (space). This is also true today as we cannot even journey to our neighboring planets (Mars, Venus), much less to the end of the galaxy or the end of space (whatever or wherever that may be).

Since we cannot physically become light, travel to the end of the heavens (space) is not and never will be a possibility for us. Is it any wonder that we were not given authority over the heavens? It was not stated; therefore, it is not a possibility.

THEN GOD SAW EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD MADE, AND
INDEED IT WAS VERY GOOD. SO THE EVENING AND THE
MORNING WERE THE SIXTH DAY.

GENESIS 1: 31(NKJV)

Seventh Day

AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY GOD ENDED HIS WORK WHICH HE HAD DONE,
AND HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORK WHICH HE HAD
DONE.

THEN GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY AND SANCTIFIED IT, BECAUSE IN IT
HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK WHICH GOD HAD CREATED AND MADE.

GENESIS 2:3 (NKJV)

This seventh day suggests that after the heavens (space), earth, and all life on earth were created and finished evolving, that our lord and creator God RESTED. When all life on our planet is finished, and the sun burns out and the balance of our galaxy is lost, our planets will collide and be smashed into pieces and will eventually drift over time (billions of years) into different galaxies and parts of the universe. All the energy (atomic and subatomic) will collectively accumulate and return to its original form. The energy will group in space, grouping together as one, with all the energies of the atoms present at this location for one moment in time.

MY BELIEF

This point in time can be called the point of origin and is the beginning and origination of all things conscious and not conscious. Essentially it is the pre-Big Bang or God. Infinite energy, knowledge and power are present in this stage or cycle. In essence the beginning and the end is the same thing and the same point in time. It is thought and consciousness in its purest form, giving our souls a place to heal, charge, and absorb the life that has been lived or lives that have been lived.

This collective grouping of all energies and life will be to some a heaven, and to others a hell; based on the life you have lived (good outweighs the evil; or vice-versa). This grouping at the point of origin will be the one moment in time in which the universe is at rest, giving God rest. This will be the one point in time in which all living organisms containing a level of conscious are given the gift of God's knowledge. For one single point in time all living things will have peace, not worrying about eating, breathing, dying, or just surviving.

Living beings, especially human beings, will have only time to reflect on the life or lives they have lived and enjoy the feelings of life that they were granted. Now, someone who has done only evil and destructive acts will have only the negative or evil deeds to reflect on during their time there, making this peaceful bliss resemble an eternal hell or prison cell.

EACH SOUL WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN ACTS AND LIFE;

JUDGMENT WILL BE ON THY OWN SELF.

This once again will be the pre-Big Bang and the origination of all life in the universe (life meaning: all atoms and energies ever created); eventually this cycle will re-initiate and start again, as it is an, never-ending cycle that is governed solely by God. This brings me to my favorite saying for the end of days:

IF GOD RESTS ON THE SEVENTH DAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE DOING?

If at one point in time God is whole and at rest, then one of the creations can only pray and hope to experience the same form of bliss, mercy, and rest. This therefore concludes the seventh day, as it is simply stated that existence will be at rest. The seventh day will mark the end and beginning of time, a place called heaven, where everything and ev-

JOE ISAAC GAUTHIER

everyone is at peace, bliss, and rest.

AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY GOD ENDED HIS WORK WHICH HE HAD DONE, AND HE RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORK WHICH HE HAD DONE.

THEN GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY AND SANCTIFIED IT, BECAUSE IN IT HE RESTED FROM ALL HIS WORK WHICH GOD HAD CREATED AND MADE.

GENESIS 2:2-3 (NKJV)

6. ADAM AND EVE

It is said in the scriptures that Adam had a direct relationship with the Lord God. Adam was God's first son. Adam was warned what would happen if the forbidden fruit was eaten; he would then possess the knowledge of good and evil, life and death.. Since the soul or spirit of Adam would be older than any other soul or spirit in the world, he would therefore possess more knowledge of God than any other human being or soul/spirit. This would make Adam's soul or spirit Malak el' YAHWEH (meaning messenger of God) the divine messenger of man, the son of man, the angel of the Lord, the Holy Spirit, etc. All humans stem from this father, and the law and the word has been recorded by his ancestry, which in essence is the blood of the world.

Through root blood lineage, Greek, Roman, African, or Egyptian, Adam and Eve can identify their roots as being millions of years old. Although in actuality the creation story of Adam and Eve is probably only thousands of years old and was passed down as oral tradition over the years. Lineage and human migration patterns will indicate this occurrence and provide proof to their age and origin. The earliest humans may be seen to be millions of years old; however, according to chronological evidence of oral traditional history, and actual history of man, the evidence suggests that millions of years ago Adam and Eve evolved into the amazing species we are now; that is Homo sapiens, or man.

The story of Adam and Eve presents a interesting and metaphorical story about the beginnings of man. This is a common ground between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. These three religions all have the same creation story. In Judaism and Christianity it is believed that the serpent tempted and tricked Eve with the forbidden fruit, which

later became traditionally known as the apple. This apple represents the knowledge of good and evil.

Since Adam and Eve were born into a garden of felicity, the knowledge of evil would not be known, as all trees bearing fruit and animals to feed were given to Adam and Eve at will. The story continues on with Adam apparently feeling lonely in the Garden of Eden as no animals that were put on earth are comparable to him, meaning that Adam was longing for other human companionship. This would prove that God is not man, as Adam longed for physical human companionship, not only spiritual companionship given from God. God apparently put Adam into a deep sleep and removed a rib from his body, causing a woman to arise from the rib.

This conflicts with many of the creation days that God made. For example God created a double of everything (meaning male and female). He created a double of every animal, tree, fruit, and herb. This concept would suggest that the same would occur for human beings, creating a double in the likeness of each other. Moses may have been trying to explain metamorphosis through metaphoric interpretation. Explaining how cells divided and multiplied during the time of Moses would be extremely complicated to primitive people, especially 3,300 years ago.

A way of explaining how seed divided from seed and became in the likeness of each other would be similar to Eve coming out from Adam's ribs. Until Adam became the conscious being known as man, he could be seen to be in a deep sleep. Much like the serpent; the rib may be a misinterpreted form of metaphorical interpretation and could have been translated into the scripture we know today. Before Adam became conscious, he was in a deep sleep, being one of the first organisms in the world. He multiplied and divided, and Eve was the next being that divided from him, essentially coming from his rib.

An example I like to use the most is the concept of multiplication. As he was the first animal entity on earth, Eve could have simply have replicated or "multiplied" from him, giving rise to the first living organisms. Since Eve would literally grow for Adam, we can see how Moses would say or compare that to her growing from his rib. Since human conscience would not exist at this time, these entities could be seen as being in a deep sleep, as their conscious would still be in heaven.

MY BELIEF

In ancient scripture and when the scripture was first created, a serpent may not have even been involved in the story. The serpent could have been meant to be feared in a different way or context. The greatest hunter in the jungles of ancient times was in fact the serpent; in some countries the term “man-eater” is still used and the snake is still highly feared. Remember that the serpent could out climb, out swim, and some cases outrun many primitive people.

There is no evidence of the rib creation story in ancient mythology or tribal creation stories. However, these ancient writings also mention how man was made of clay; God then breathed the breath of life into man. Genesis speaks of man being created out of dust, which is a comparable metaphor. The fact that the serpent represents evil is completely sensible, as well as the fact that God made it slither on its stomach as penance. It is a proven fact that snakes did have legs (rear of tail) at the bottom of the tips of their tails, therefore suggesting that at one time they did in fact walk.

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 BEING.

GENESIS 2:7(NKJV)

The above examples help illustrate how metaphorical interpretation can be misunderstood. There are not many more logical conclusions that could be made for how the female of our species could have been thought of as coming from a man’s rib. Although many hard-line religious people will deem that it is the word of God, and that is that. Although to some that may be true, it is not really a valid way of looking at God and the Bible. For example, the Bible is written in metaphors and allegories, and when looking for or seeking God it is important to be in touch with that “divine” concept. How else would you be able to find the spiritual guidance of God? Can anyone describe life in one word?

To interpret something completely literally, especially something as beautiful and mystical as religion, it is important to use metaphors and logical reasoning. It is depending on this fact whether or not you are able to accept God’s message. For example you must have an open mind to accept the truth; then and only then will you understand mercy. Mercy is the key of life, for without mercy there is no regard for life (on all

levels). To not appreciate life is to not understand it fully, appreciate all forms and aspects, including the acceptance of all people. With this in mind, one is well on their way to finding the message of God, and or spiritual guidance.

To interpret religions literally has been the cause of many wars and malicious acts. Religions have been written and commanded to help shape the people of that time, and help guide them toward a better life, bringing them to a better understanding of their Creator. It is the goal of all religions to find God and help others find God in whatever way is true to them. Because people are so different and have so many different personalities and emotions, this is why every culture and people has had different messengers or prophets sent down to guide and shape their societies.

It is not clear whether or not the serpent is a metaphor explaining the evil nature of man. Evil here is not necessarily the wilful act of doing wrong, but instead the knowledge or self-realization of the surroundings and recognizing the cycles of life, death, and birth. Once they (Adam and Eve) noticed these cycles they would have knowledge of all things; death, birth, and life would then find a place in their lives, and the history of man would begin. The apple or “forbidden fruit” concept is an excellent metaphor to describe the knowledge of the history of man. For what is more scary, horrifying, and beautiful than the history of man? Essentially the forbidden fruit would be comparable to a loss of innocence.

Why is the mention of the serpent in all this? Since tribal man was beginning to form organized societies, snakes in the wilderness would be cause for great fear among the people. Look at the African tribes in the jungle. Man eaters are the name of snakes that can consume a man whole. In the eyes of the first man, what would be more terrifying than a snake that can consume humans whole? Even lions fear a snake this large; it can move faster, climb faster, and swim faster than anything in the jungle.

Although there are many animals that could kill man in ancient times, such as the lion, tiger, elephant, etc., none of these animals could consume a man whole. Imagine hunting with your brethren in the forests, or women tending to their children playing in the fields, and then witnessing one of your loved ones being consumed whole before or af-

MY BELIEF

ter they have been crushed. The snake is a cruel, cunning, and slow killer. There has been long-felt mysticism about snakes in various cultures around the world; this mysticism must have an originating premise.

To witness a large snake consuming a person would probably take from fifteen minutes to one hour, depending on the size of the snake. This would be agonizing and horrible to witness in the wild; there are not very many people even today who are not afraid of man-eating snakes. Snakes strike quickly, can hardly be seen, and are merciless in their kill. Is this not a good description of an “evil” animal? Would this not be a suitable metaphoric way to put a face to the thoughts of evil we all possess? There is not a single person alive that has not had a bad thought; and if you claim that you haven’t then I will be so abrupt as to call you a liar! I suggest you re-examine yourself and consider what you think on a daily basis; because in essence...we are all similar, or alike.

OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN YOU MAY FREELY EAT; BUT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL YOU SHALL NOT EAT, FOR IN THE DAY THAT YOU EAT OF IT YOU SHALL SURELY DIE.

GENESIS 2:16–17 (NKJV)

Let me pose this question: Before man had a conscious, would he possess knowledge of good, evil, and death?

The apple has been traditionally accepted as the forbidden fruit. However, this is not the case; the Bible does not specify that it was indeed an apple. God only decreed that you shall not eat of the fruit that is forbidden. There is no reference to that fruit being an apple; this would lead me to believe that the apple story was created somewhere down the line through oral tradition. This illustrates my theory of the telephone game that would cause eventual addition or subtraction of the original story.

There is also the belief that consciousness affects reality; if Adam and Eve had no knowledge of death, then they would not die. It is only after this initiation of taking the apple or forbidden fruit that they then possessed the knowledge of death. They gained the knowledge of God, that being of good and evil. They begin to view and understand the cycles of life, death, labor, grief, and strife all becoming a part of their lives.

It is suggested that the serpent did not slither on its belly prior to this event. For after God saw what happened, he cursed both Adam and Eve

and decreed that the serpent shall slither on its belly the rest of its days.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE THIS, YOU ARE CURSED MORE THAN ALL CATTLE, AND MORE THAN EVERY BEAST OF THE FIELD; ON YOUR BELLY YOU SHALL GO, AND YOU SHALL EAT DUST ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE, AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN YOUR SEED AND HER SEED; HE SHALL BRUISE YOUR HEAD, AND YOU SHALL BRUISE HIS HEEL.

GENESIS 3:14–15 (NKJV)

Adam will have to reap and sow the land, and Eve will experience the pain of childbirth and be a servant to Adam the rest of her days (eternity).

TO THE WOMAN HE SAID,

I WILL GREATLY MULTIPLY YOUR SORROW AND YOUR CONCEPTION; IN PAIN YOU SHALL BRING FORTH CHILDREN; YOUR DESIRE SHALL BE FOR YOUR HUSBAND, AND HE SHALL RULE OVER YOU.

GENESIS 3:16 (NKJV)

THEN HE SAID TO ADAM;

CURSED IS THE GROUND FOR YOUR SAKE; IN TOIL YOU SHALL EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE. BOTH THORNS AND THISTLES IT SHALL BRING FORTH FOR YOU. AND YOU SHALL EAT THE HERB OF THE FIELD, IN THE SWEAT OF YOUR FACE YOU SHALL EAT BREAD, FOR OUT OF IT YOU WERE TAKEN; FOR DUST YOU ARE, AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN.

GENESIS 3:17(NKJV)

As a penance; Adam and Eve lost their unique innocence and became familiar with all aspects of life (meaning life and death). This seems like a very intricate way of explaining how life is; for all our lives can be summed up in that following fashion. Life is struggle, sacrifice, and love; it is that love for each other that propels the world and keeps it turning.

**THE REASON FOR LIVING IS LOVE; OTHERWISE WHY
WOULD WE LEAVE PERFECTION?**

God knows we will return to him or it; it is that “fatherly” knowledge that embraces the people of the world. Like giving birth to a child,

knowing it will eventually die in the world you brought it in...does that make you evil? Or does it make you a little more knowing? Knowing your child can experience the beautiful parts of life and learn and grow as a soul should on earth. Also since the snake is an excellent example of evolution (the tail end of a snake has little feet), it can be seen how Moses would use the snake as an example of how God could change and alter creatures at will. Perhaps if man were evil they would evolve and lose their legs also?

Remember that Moses preached the book of Genesis; and when he refers to man being made in our image, he is referring to Adam and Eve looking like or resembling himself and the other people of his time. He is trying to use explanations and examples for the people of his time, making references to days, night, light, good, and evil. Many metaphoric similes are used in preaching and teaching; this is seen even today with ministers, priests, rabbis and spiritual teachers all over.

It would be easy to see how the oral teachings of Moses could have eventually been miswritten and misunderstood over time. I'm not saying that the words of the Bible are incorrect; I'm simply saying they are accurate records...not precise (exact).

THE BIBLE IS AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF HISTORY, NOT A PRECISE ONE.

Remember that history is a point of view; and the Bible is a history of mankind and the struggles of the chosen people of the time. From these works of history, we can understand the struggle of the people who choose to stand for good and God against those that seek the other path of greed, lust, and immorality. The lack of organized religion in modern society has led to godless and immoral generations in the Western cultures and elsewhere. We see pollution, greed, lust, and waste on scales never before seen.

Many times when referring to God, or when God speaks he is referred to or refers to himself in the third person (Our, Us). This is because God is anything and everything; therefore, like many members of royalty the third person is used. Since God is everything and everywhere, the third person use is proper especially in the form of us, or our as found in Genesis. "Our" is an inclusive metaphor that allows the listeners to feel as if the word of Moses is their word also.

When Moses is attempting to explain to the people how Adam and Eve were created, he used metaphors that the people of his time could relate to. The sense of the meaning of “us” that Moses may have meant is the fact that Adam and Eve are now like himself, and his brethren, knowing both good and evil. When he is making reference to us, he is essentially saying that now Adam and Eve are like modern man. Everyone can understand both good and evil, therefore making Adam and Eve to be both good and evil (They have become like us).

THEN THE LORD GOD SAID, BEHOLD, THE MAN HAS BECOME LIKE ONE OF
US, TO KNOW GOOD AND EVIL.

GENESIS 3:22 (NKJV)

7 • CAIN, ABEL, AND SETH

This is the story of the second betrayal in the Bible after Eve's neglect to adhere to the word of God and the warning from Adam. Remember that as time passed, more and more children began to be born in the Garden of Eden. Although this point in time makes reference to only the births of Cain and Abel, it is most certain that there were also other female offspring present. For example Cain was not banished alone, but instead his tribe was banished.

In ancient times people used to divide themselves according to tribes and some even took the names of their previous fathers. King Phillip II and King George II are examples of lineage retaining the namesakes of their fathers. When considering the story of Cain and Abel, we must realize that these men represented tribes of people; however, the other members of the tribes are not mentioned. We find later that the wife of Cain is included in the banishment (Enoch), and we must assume that others were banished, too. When we refer to Adam, Cain, and Abel, we refer to the tribes they represented in a patriarchal type setting—the tribe of Adam, the tribe of Cain, etc.

Cain's generation would have been the first generation of wanderers, the ancient forefathers of the ancient tribes of migratory people. The migratory patterns of these people out of Africa corresponds with the time of banishment (approximately 50,000 BC), as well as the migration for the Bering land bridge (approximately 25,000 BC) through North America, down to the jungles of South America (6000 BC). These historical migratory patterns coincide and show how settlements along the way were established (China, Mongols, various North American native tribes). For even the descendants of the Jewish people are from Central Africa, and took thousands of years to migrate to the promised lands of Abraham.

Cain and Abel are the first example of division among people in the Bible. For the first point in time a conflict in interests arises and the banishment of the betrayers is the only solution at the time. Adam did in fact commit the cardinal sin of favoring one son more than the other. Although Cain displayed jealous and envious traits, there is an explanation to why Adam favored Abel's sacrifice as opposed to Cain's. There was not simply one man involved; they were consisted of tribes (many people), and war broke out in the land or the fields.

God warned Adam of what was to come when the forbidden fruit was eaten. The knowledge of life, death, birth, envy, and jealousy did not exist prior to this. For if there were only Adam and Eve present in the garden of bliss and felicity, then there would be no other people to worry about. If there is no one around to become jealous of you, you do not have to worry about being betrayed. As soon as another person is added to the equation (for example, one girl and two guys, or two girls and one guy, etc.), you can already see the potential for violent situations. This concept is easily visible when watching children playing with each other in school.

Cain was banished to the Land of Nod. Nod in Hebrew means wanderer, so Cain was banished to the land of the wanderer. Since Cain was banished to the wandering lands, he and his brethren would then migrate northeast as is said, and begin their voyage or wonderment to their own lands. They were banished to wonderment, and they in fact wondered for many millennia, all the way to the Americas where they colonized the lands as natives, Mayans and Aztec like tribes in the North and South Americas.

SO NOW YOU ARE CURSED FROM THE EARTH, WHICH HAS OPENED ITS MOUTH TO RECEIVE YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD FROM YOUR HAND. WHEN YOU TILL THE GROUND, IT SHALL NO LONGER YIELD ITS STRENGTH TO YOU. A FUGITIVE AND VAGABOND YOU SHALL BE ON EARTH.

GENESIS 4:11–12 (NKJV)

Although the Lord banished Cain, he also protected them with a prayer. They were sent to find an understanding of life, death, and the purpose of sacrifice, which was the purpose of their banishment, to work together and use the animal sacrifice to survive off of the land. God did not hate the tribe of Cain; he wanted them to learn and ensure that needless killing did not take place again.

MY BELIEF

AND THE LORD SAID TO HIM, “THEREFORE, WHOEVER KILLS CAIN, VENGEANCE SHALL BE TAKEN ON HIM SEVENFOLD.”

GENESIS 4: 15(NKJV)

The tribe of Abel offered a sacrifice of life, slaying the prime of his sheep or cattle for feed and offering to the tribes and the Lord. In order to farm, the understanding of life and death is essential to raising healthy, well-balanced stock. Abel, like the Lord, had a respect for life and death; to understand the concept and cycle of life and death is essential in being able to achieve spiritual growth and understanding. An enlightened soul when slaying an animal understands that it is of necessity and that the animal is a gift from God and needs to be respected and have as many parts of the animal used as possible.

ABEL ALSO BROUGHT OF THE FIRSTBORN OF HIS FLOCK AND OF THEIR FAT.
AND THE LORD RESPECTED ABEL AND HIS OFFERING.

GENESIS 4:4 (NKJV)

Many people today take for granted the meat they consume and the leather they wear. These things come from the sacrifice of animals and are necessary to ensure healthy and comfortable living. Cain lost this respect and sense of awareness and understanding; the sacrifice of his brother or brothers was of no benefit to anyone. It was simple murder for the fact of Cain's people being too covetous to bear or acknowledge the offering of Abel to be greater. The offering of Cain was also acceptable, but the sacrifice of the fruit of the ground was not as great as the sacrifice of the prime of Abel's flock (animal life and plant life).

AND IN THE PROCESS OF TIME IT CAME TO PASS THAT CAIN BROUGHT AN OFFERING OF THE FRUIT OF THE GROUND TO THE LORD.

GENESIS 4: 3 (NKJV)

BUT HE DID NOT RESPECT CAIN AND HIS OFFERING. AND CAIN WAS VERY ANGRY, AND HIS COUNTENANCE FELL.

GENESIS 4: 5 (NKJV)

Although the tilling and sowing of the ground is an honorable and labor-intensive job, there is only a respect for life, and not an apprecia-

tion for death. Plants give life and food; however, when they pass on, their sacrifice and heartfelt loss is not as great. It would be like comparing a house plant to a family dog. Without the warmth of clothes (animal skin), the people would not have clothes or blankets, diapers, or tents. Animal sacrifice was key to the survival of the human species, and the closeness to God allowed for the animals to sacrifice themselves to the human beings. This concept can largely be seen in the native cultures up until the late 1700s to mid-1800s. Many times hunters and warriors would get together and pray for a good hunt; many times they would have a good hunt.

A closeness to God was also required by the tribe of Cain to be able to farm the plants and till the ground. Plants also need love and understanding in order to yield a healthy crop. You cannot compare a plant to an animal (in regard to intelligent life and emotion). As stated previously it requires great strength to raise something from birth in order to sacrifice it for a greater cause (survival). Much like the God that watches us live and die, death is an understanding we will not achieve until we return to the Creator. This is hard for many of us to see, as suffering and pain is so common in the world; but if we do not work together, then how can we get better? God solely wants us to function in peace...the rest will follow.

When Adam is given the forbidden fruit, he then became aware of his conscious. That consciousness was God; and God has guided the way for mankind, the greatest animal and being to walk the plains of material existence. For the first time in evolutionary history, there was an animal born that had the ability to comprehend the divine light and spirit known as God. Cain did not know this appreciation and respect of death for a greater life or purpose (sacrifice). Much of the clothing for survival and bones for tools arise out of the carcass of prey. Prey was essential to the survival of the first humans, especially in Nordic climates where the temperatures were not always warm enough to sustain life.

In turn, the natives and Asian people became some of the greatest hunters and gatherers in the world. To this day, these people still have the greatest appreciation and understanding for the cycles of life and death (Taoism). This was the punishment and lesson of God, but also a mercy.

GOD WOULD RATHER GUIDE THEIR CREATIONS TO HIS DESIRE, THAN PUNISH
AND CONDEMN THEM FOREVER.

MY BELIEF

By the Lord casting Cain and his people out of the Garden of Eden, or Eden, the generation of Cain gained the understanding that they never had. The intended desire and understanding in regard to the lessons which the Lord intended to show Cain—the respect for life, death, and sacrifice was achieved. As stated earlier, these people had to survive by killing and sacrificing the animals to survive the harsher climates. The generations of Cain later became some of the greatest keepers of the earth in the history of man.

Eventually over time, these tribes would co-exist and procreate together, forming the diverse world we live in today. Although the banishment of the tribe of Cain is a real event in history, they are not the evil generation of Satan that many extremists view and believe; however, evil thought or evilness could be given the term Satan or sin. Life is a lesson and we are taught that lesson in many different ways and forms throughout life. The story of Cain and Abel is to emphasize that needless and pointless killing should not be tolerated; the only time we should kill is for the sacrifice for the greater good.

Eventually as the populations began to rise, these banishments became more and more commonplace among cultures. People of different cultures intermingled more and social groups began to divide according to interest groups. Those with similar interests and beliefs would war with those not sharing the same views. Outcasts of different tribes began to band together and create new ones; others were destroyed from the face of the earth. Quickly we can see how the division amongst man began to occur. Even in modern culture, we see how different people organize to similar social groups (arts, politics, music).

The divide in interest groups has fueled war since the banishment of Cain up until modern day. The banishment of the people of Cain can be said to be the first war that broke out between different interest groups. Cain's banishment allowed for primitive man to begin to expand their borders and realize that they no longer held an innocence and common interest with the majority. This is essentially the first exercise of law and punishment; many native cultures and animal cultures have used banishment as a form of punishment. Survival away from the whole was hard and harsh, thus again coming back to the lesson Cain was meant to learn.

It is not specified anywhere in the Bible that the generation of Cain is the spawn of Satan, or that Satan was in fact in Cain at the time of

Abel's murder. In fact Satan can be used as a metaphor to describe the evils of man. These are the evils that were in Cain at the time of the murder, as well as the evils that are in everyone when they commit crimes. So was Satan in these people at the time of their offence? Technically Yes..., but in a metaphorical sense only, not a literal one. The concept of the evil traits has been around since man developed consciousness; it is conscious that has given us reason. It is this reason that defines and separates us from others in the animal kingdom. It is the eternal struggle between our animal wants and needs (animal body), and our conscious sense of morality and virtue (soul) that represents the good and evil in man.

The story of Cain and Abel is not meant to be an eternal punishment for the ancestors of the tribe. It is meant to show how needless and senseless murder is, and what can happen between families when someone loses their virtue and is tempted with the wants of Satan. In this case Cain could not acknowledge Abel and his sacrifice, as well as respect the decision of the Lord. Jealousy, envy, and hate (covetous) began to take over Cain and we are left with the story as a result. This is the reason for many wars throughout time. Cain is an example of what can happen if people do not control their need for constant praise and acknowledgment; the result is murder out of jealousy and spite.

Birth of Seth

Descendants of the bloodline of Jesus Christ are the same as the bloodline of Adam, the first man. The pure generation of Seth was sent forth to help guide and shape the first tribes according to the ways of the father (Adam) and of God. After the death of Abel, Adam sought to find a replacement for himself and for his tribe.

AND ADAM KNEW HIS WIFE AGAIN, AND SHE BORE A SON AND NAMED HIM SETH. "FOR GOD HAS APPOINTED ANOTHER SEED FOR ME INSTEAD OF ABEL, WHOM CAIN KILLED."

GENESIS 4: 25 (NKJV)

Adam and Eve had many children; the children were later divided into tribes, which eventually led to the twelve tribes of Israel later on after the flood (thirteen tribes actually come from the Exodus in Moses' time). Seth was later assigned the tribe of Abel and Adam. Remember that the first people's evolutionary rate would evolve at a very high pace. It would take thousands of years for the people to gain enough knowl-

MY BELIEF

edge and skill in gardening and hunting to maintain large scale societies that would or could support thousands of people (civilizations).

Most of these people lived in tents and tepee-like dwellings like the natives. The generation of Seth is said to be brought to heaven with Jesus in the Gospel of Judas. Not all souls are deemed to go to heaven, but the pure generation of Seth will go, for Seth took after the ways of Adam and Abel; he later assimilated the bloodline and genealogy of Adam. After Seth and the time of Noah we begin to see how societies began to form large scale civilizations, such as Egypt.

Much can be considered when reading of the stories of Cain, Abel, and Seth; however, we can be sure that these men were tribe leaders and some sort of exodus around the year 55,000 BC did in fact take place. Remember that Genesis is speaking of a time so long ago that many of us have a hard time imagining what could or did happen. When we refer to the generation of Seth, we refer to the ancient tribes of Adam and Abel; the tribe of Seth is often the tribe or son that is modeled for us to be like. Seth represents the qualities of Adam and later took over the tribes of Eden.

The generation of Seth is often spoken as being the uncorrupt generation that was sent forth to help lead man on. Adam sought a worthy patriarch to replace him and carry on lawful and fair judgments. Seth was the selected son to do so and managed the tribes that were favorable to both God and the people. We must realize as a people that we do in fact all have the same father, and that is Adam; we are all in each other's likeness.

8. PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF GOD ~ NOAH

The story of Noah presents an excellent example of how God and man are connected as one. Believe it or not, Noah is also a prime example of how science is used to explain and prove through an unbiased lens the miracles and proof of God. Noah is also mentioned in the Qur'an as having an instrumental role in the proof of Allah or God. The story of Noah is an excellent example and illustration of the forces of God and karma, showing how the forces of nature can be used in aiding and punishing man.

Noah somehow knew through the signs of God that a great flood was going to occur. The people were transgressing the word of God and acting barbaric toward each other (greed, rape, murder), and functioning in the ways of Cain (covetous). Noah was sent down as one of the first messengers of God to warn the people of what was to come and to judge their actions according to God. God gave warning to Noah through spiritual means that many people today cannot comprehend. Through prayer Noah was given divine instruction on how to proceed with his life and his purpose.

Noah was continually persecuted by the people for building the ark; he was slandered, ridiculed, and deemed a fool by the people of his community for speaking of the Lord. Noah spoke to God and asked for mercy on their souls and asked for answers to such persecution. The people, being ignorant and tyrannical, had no reason for the persecution. God spoke to him and told him that the people were going to be punished because of their continual transgressions through means of extinction. Noah loved his sons and people dearly and pleaded with God to spare their lives, as well as the lives of the believers.

MY BELIEF

THEN THE LORD SAW THAT THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY INTENT OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY. AND THE LORD WAS SORRY THAT HE HAD MADE MAN ON THE EARTH, AND HE WAS GRIEVED IN HIS HEART.

SO THE LORD SAID, “I WILL DESTROY MAN WHOM I HAVE CREATED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH, BOTH MAN AND BEAST, CREEPING THING AND BIRDS OF THE AIR, FOR I AM SORRY THAT HAVE MADE THEM.”

BUT NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.

GENESIS 6: 5–8 (NKJV)

Noah was an honorable man and found favor in the eyes of God. He continually tried to do what was right and was persecuted for it constantly. Much like Joseph, the people scorned him continually for nothing and were envious of everything he did. Imagine trying to build and provide for your family while being persecuted, stolen from, assaulted, ridiculed, and having the safety of your family jeopardized the whole time. No wonder Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This was also during a time period when life was extremely tough (10,000 BC), and survival without ridicule and scorn was a challenge in itself.

Many question the authenticity of the story of Noah; however, if you research carefully and use logical reasoning and deduction, you will find a scientific explanation behind the story. The fact is that the hand of God did literally guide Noah to the events of his time. Much like when an elder or prophet writes the word of God, their hands can said to be guided by God. God did not in fact literally come down from heaven and begin to write, just like God did not come directly descend from heaven and cause a flood...let me explain.

As these events were going on Noah's side of the world, in North and South America a giant wildfire was beginning to form on that side of the world. In the continents of North America and South America many small fires began to spread and ignite into giant fires, eventually emitting massive amounts of fire, smoke, heat, and ash. Some of the heat waves from the smoke and fire waves levitated and pushed the weather system over to one side of the world. This is because the heat convection (like heat waves from pavement) from the wildfires pushed over the weather systems.

This natural phenomenon caused massive amounts of rain to fall on a single hemisphere of the world (Noah's). This would have caused massive flooding and rain for months (forty days and forty nights), until the forests completely burned. It would take a considerable amount of time for the fires to burn out completely. Once these fires were to stop burning, a large amount of ash would cause cloud-like formations. When the weather systems came back to North and South America, there would have been a nuclear winter type of effect. This ash cloud effect would have caused an ice age to occur and caused massive amounts of snow to descend. Interestingly, the last ice age known to humanity was roughly 10,000–12,000 years ago.

“FOR AFTER SEVEN MORE DAYS I WILL CAUSE IT TO RAIN ON THE EARTH FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS, AND I WILL DESTROY FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH ALL LIVING THINGS THAT I HAVE MADE.”

GENESIS 7:4 (NKJV)

Since God is the energy found in everything, it could be said that God, therefore, created the flood. The relationship between God, Noah, and the earth shows us the beautiful unity between all three (man, God, and earth). This helps illustrate the divinity, compassion, and comprehension of the prophets sent to us by God. This compassion, comprehension, and divinity pave the way for the foundations of law and morality that has helped shape and guide mankind. This connection and understanding of God is what gives the prophets their power and understanding of the universe. This perception and understanding also helps guide modern scientists to discoveries and advancements in modern medicine.

Other collaborating evidence that helps us prove the deluge myth or story of Noah is the collaborating evidence of other deluge stories in various cultures around the world. Since other cultures write in detail about great floods occurring, and virtually all civilizations have recorded accounts of this, we must use reasonable deduction to conclude that a great flood of epic proportions must have taken place at some point in history. Not only do we find historical accounts of floods occurring in every culture, we also find evidence in our environment, such as glaciers, rock markings (striations), and fresh water glacier lakes found in places in northern Canada.

MY BELIEF

A deluge did in fact occur in virtually every culture in the world. Whether or not the archaeological evidence and dates correspond, the legends, myths, and stories of that time in fact existed. Remember that just because the people in Noah's area were almost extinct as a result of the flood, did not mean that other tribes and people did not survive. Many of the mentioned flood stories are of a very controversial nature; the prime message in all the stories is to not "anger the God" again. We all have seen the fury of Mother Nature; imagine the wrath of the universe.

Remember that many of the deluge stories have similar backgrounds and dates that correspond with each other. For example, there is a Greek deluge myth in which the believed flood year is approximately 10,000–12,000 BC. This date corresponds with the last ice age known to man, and the biblical story told in Genesis. It is highly unlikely that so many cultures would share such deluge stories if there was not a massive flood that occurred.

Recognize that many stories contain the wrath of different gods and some of these mentioned floods may be different floods, other than the biblical one. Although this may be true to some extent, the common ground of the main theme of a deluge in all cultures can only indicate that, at one time, a great flood did in fact occur. The corroborating historical, geological, and scientific evidence suggests that a great flood and ice age occurred around the same time period as Noah and corresponds to time frames suggested by many other cultures.

Building a water vessel of such proportions in the year 10,000 BC would be quite a feat, especially for the people of Noah's time. The tools and primitive methods used made this feat improbable to complete within a few weeks. It is unknown whether or not Noah had help in constructing the ship. It would be kind of like not mentioning the campaign members in the presidency of Barack Obama; although they were there, they are not the main focus of history.

Noah built the first "ship" that was eventually used by Egyptian, Viking, Greek, and Roman civilizations. The later more evolved versions became the ships of the 1400–1800s, until the mighty steam engine and tankers took the seas, changing naval travel forever. Before the arrival of modern day boats, the ships like those that Noah built were much more primitive. The canoe or a form of a canoe was already cre-

ated at this time, and the ark was simply an evolution of the canoe and raft. How were the timbers harvested?

Tools out of whale jaws and shark jaws, as well as stones would be sufficient for cutting timber. There would be no need for metal for nails; the timbers would be sewn together out of hemp rope, vine, and perhaps interlaid or interlocked timbers. The holes or gaps in the wood would be filled with manure, sap, and animal skin (acting like a water-proof caulking). Different levels or areas on the boats would have been built for stalls (animals) and gardening (vegetation). There would be no need for a water source, as the rainwater from the sky would be sufficient if trapped and contained properly through aqueduct systems or simply accumulated in pails. Survival in these conditions could be quite probable if the boats or boat were constructed and planned properly.

The manpower of the believers in Noah's time would have been a lot more than just himself (meaning he had many helpers); these constructions were not built or manufactured solely by Noah. The extra time and labor required by the believers in his time would have been enormous, and it would be easy to see how he and the others would be ridiculed in performing such tasks "in the name of the Lord." Many of the people would have probably tried sabotaging the boats and raiding the supplies for them. Noah and his believers were not amused and took this great task to heart and soul. Imagine completing such a task on top of the daily chores needed to survive in a primitive time such as Noah.

Although there were many men and the axe was a tool used in the construction of the raft, the labor required to complete this task would still have been enormous. When considering this feat, think of the construction of the great pyramids. It is still speculated on how such workings were created and designed; however, we do know that they were constructed. The construction of the pyramids required thousands of slaves. Remember that the great pyramids are constructed of stone, whereas Noah's boat, along with possible others, were constructed of wood. The wooden ships would have dissolved and been destroyed thousands of years before the great pyramids.

Back in North and South America, the natural forests would be huge and covered in nothing but vegetation; these fires would take many months to burn. Since there would be no one around to fight these fires, the wildfire spread would be able to travel across the two

continents (North and South) quite easily. The result would be a catastrophic fire that would burn half the world and create astronomical climatic changes. The heat convection from these fires would be enough to push the weather cycle winds to one side of the world (Noah's), and cause rain there for a very long time (approximately 40–90 days).

Further evidence suggests there would have been a massive ice age would have occurred after the fires, since smoke convection from heat and wind would have caused a huge thick cloud of dust and ash to cover the Northern Hemisphere. This would cause the light rays to be blocked by the clouds and sub-zero temperatures would occur, causing a “nuclear winter” type of effect. Not only would the smoke take a long time to clear, but there would have been massive amounts of ash in the air, causing the barrier to even be further condensed. After about a week of these conditions, the fresh rainwater would begin to freeze, causing condensation, resulting in the formation of the glaciers of the north. Science also confirms that approximately 10,000 years BC there was an ice age that actually existed.

The evidence of glaciers having been in North America also suggests that massive amounts of snow began to fall. Contrary to popular belief, glaciers are not formed from rain and water freezing, but from massive amounts of snowfall, which eventually condenses to form glacier ice and glaciers. Since all rainfall would be in the form of snow because of the nuclear winter effect, hundreds and thousands of years of this accumulation would cause the formation of massive glaciers that are identical to the ones found in the Northern Hemisphere.

There have been multiple ice ages in the world because of various causes of fire, such as meteors, asteroids, and super-volcanoes, but there have not been many during the existence of man. We have little or no knowledge of exactly how, when, or why these ice ages formed. The only way I could logically provide scientific rationale for FRESH WATER glaciers being there is the fact that massive amounts of fresh water fell during a short period of time (Noah), and then the climate went into a “deep freeze” or ice age.

Since water rises no matter where its location (sea level), the water levels in North America would have risen to levels rivaling and matching the ice age glaciers that formed in the past. Remember that the glaciers are not formed solely by large amounts of water freezing rapidly; but they also formed from large amounts of snow falling and con-

densing into ice. This is proven through geological science and rocks found with striations (glacier marks) and erratics (oddly placed massive rocks) formed by glaciers melting or pushing the rocks forward.

The deposit of massive amounts of fresh water glacier lakes toward the north is indicative of glaciers existing. These lakes are commonly found in Northern Ontario and are some of the purest lakes in the world. Although some of these lakes are spring fed, a large percentage include remnants of past existing glaciers, which formed around Noah's time 12,000 years ago.

The glaciers would not form farther north because of temperature alone. South Africa would also have slight evidence of the existence of these lakes; although, they would have evaporated a long time ago (Northern Glacier Lakes are disappearing). The earth is at a higher elevation generally speaking at the equator, thus when the rain occurred it caused a rise in the water table and created glaciers in the extreme poles, which are not as elevated. The earth is compressed because it is under such intense pressure; the spin of the earth also affects the shape of it.

This pressure turns the earth into an egg shape or a turtle shape, oval in nature. This results in an expanding of the equator, giving a slope-like effect to the poles, meaning that the water levels would be higher at the poles, generally speaking. Remember that due to faulting, many exceptions to the rule exist on earth (the Rockies are higher than some places of the equator), although the highest place in the world is near the equator.

Here's the catcher though—how did Noah know from the other side of the world that a great flood was going to occur? Somehow the divine knowledge of Noah guided him to instruction and teaching about the fate that would consume the unbelievers. The people that have opposed the word of the prophets or messengers have faced severe repercussions in their days--disasters, floods, plagues, wars, etc. Every prophet mentioned throughout the Bible shows the rebuke of the word by the people and the punishment of God as a result.

You can plainly see evidence of karma or a form of spiritual governing that has taken place either good or bad throughout the history of any people. We all live and see the forces of the universe at play every day. Whether it is karma, irony, life or death, each force or power al-

MY BELIEF

lows us to gain further knowledge and experience in this existence we call life. These experiences create what is known as the life experience and are meant to help us learn and understand God.

Noah during his time would not be able to know what was going on with the land on the other side of the world unless he spoke to God or had a divine connection. Remember he did not have satellites, GPS, or the Weather Channel. Yes, there were boats back in his day; however, the majority of them were paper-like and became waterlogged after long periods of use in the water. The Egyptians had such boats; however, they were made out of such materials (spun papyrus) and primarily used for river travel, proving my hypothesis in regard to this matter.

Thus Noah must have spoken to God, or he just devoted his entire life to building a boat based on a hunch when he had a family to feed and defend; he gathered as many animals as he could (which would have been a near impossible task)...just because? Plus being ridiculed and scorned by the nonbelievers the whole way?

The above statement to some may sound completely illogical; however, the result was a flood that the people speak of even today (12,000 years after). The message was clear, and failure to adhere to it almost decimated the earth and cost most life to be wiped out forever. This was the beginning of God showing man that his existence is small and can be shattered in an instant. For there is no one thing more powerful than God almighty, yet even today men wish to challenge that fact...perhaps that is why we die? People do not believe now, even today...Imagine if they lived forever.

Noah and the believers would have drifted off to the north, landing in perfectly irrigated fields somewhere near to Egypt. Since they planned and brought seeds in the likeness of each other and an animal of every kind available to them, the families would then be able to settle and begin their multiplication.

Remember that one of every animal in the world was not needed as only a portion of the world flooded. God told Noah in essence to bring one of every animal that was in his surroundings and needed for him to survive. The words “clean” and “unclean” are used in the quote; this refers to animals that are deemed pure according to Jewish custom. The quote also tells Noah to take birds with him; this may make reference

to chickens, turkeys, and other type of domesticated birds that could not swim.

YOU SHALL TAKE WITH YOU SEVEN EACH OF EVERY CLEAN ANIMAL, A MALE AND HIS FEMALE; TWO EACH OF ANIMALS THAT ARE UNCLEAN, A MALE AND HIS FEMALE; ALSO SEVEN EACH OF BIRDS OF THE AIR, MALE AND FEMALE, TO KEEP THE SPECIES ALIVE ON THE FACE OF ALL THE EARTH.

GENESIS 7:2–3 (NKJV)

Many prophets and messengers have been ridiculed throughout the history of mankind. Even today many religious people are mocked by ignorant and unwise people. Imagine how many years ahead we would be if these messages were heard and obeyed. We as a people would perhaps be 3,000–10,000 years ahead of our time. That is not the way of man, and the lesson of the people must be harsh and fair, like the punishment of child—to learn from those mistakes so they never happen again.

ALL TOO QUICK WE FORGET THE MEANING OF LIFE AND THE REASON WHY WE ARE HERE. THAT IS FOR EACH OTHER...AMEN

9. EGYPTIAN BELIEF (MONOTHEISM)

Egypt has a long and ancient history of amazing craftsmanship and authority, as well as histories of atrocities and failures. Although Egypt had a religious system similar to that of the Greek and Roman mythological hierarchy, in truth they are one of the first civilizations that instilled the concept of monotheism (one God) into mankind.

The first pharaoh that instilled these religious monotheistic views was the first Egyptian ruler and founder, Ra. Although throughout time and over the aeons (vast amount of time), he became a mythological figure and part of the Egyptian pantheon. His teachings carried on and were eventually warped and changed over time, although the truth is still present in the scriptures.

Once his rule was over, the Egyptians later incorporated him into their mythological hierarchy (the New Kingdom). Until this occurred, Ra claimed to have come from heaven and been sent to guide man into a new era of leadership and construction. The myth is as follows:

**The Great pharaoh Ra emerged from the great Solar Disk in the heavens as a Great Eagle
And descended onto the Great Egg which was the world
From there life began and all things were created on earth.**

RA

(8000 BC)

The first pharaoh Ra ruled during the year approximately 8000 BC, following the foundations of Egypt, according to archeological evi-

dence. The evidence suggests a constructing time period of Egypt beginning earlier than 4000 BC. Ra formed the first “exodus” from Africa after the rebuilding of Noah. He was sickened and saddened at what the world had become again after 2,000 years.

He began an exodus of sorts into Egypt and restored the monotheistic view of God that Noah shared—the same visions and revelations of Adam, the first man, and Noah. The construction of the pyramids and other great Egyptian architecture shows a new way and era of civilization and culture. The Egyptian civilization and culture was far more advanced than any other civilization during that period in time (8000–2000 BC).

The monotheistic view shared is the concept of coming from one God (being everywhere and in all things), being a man (creation of God), and eventually bearing seed and returning to the creator (being a father). This view was handed down to the generations of Noah, at which time the great flood occurred because of the perversions of the law. This view was instilled again after the flood and later the people began to transgress again and Ra decided to migrate.

Prior to this, many of the Jewish ancestors were still in Africa and not part of the Egyptian society (as it was just forming); the Jewish people’s rise include Abram and Lot who ventured from Egypt into Canaan and the Jordan in approximately 1500 BC. This would indicate that the Jewish people would have been part Egyptian or Egyptian migrants from Egypt in approximately 6000 to 1500 BC. This means that the Egyptians and the Jewish people share the same ancestors, who became their enemies many thousands of years later. Because of the same blood root, a common ground was found among the people for many thousands of years. There was not war between the Jewish and Egyptian people until the time of Isaac and Moses.

Many of the Jewish descendants also came from areas near Egypt, or what could be called civilizations on the outside of Egypt. The monotheistic view of Ra was also extended into the rule of Akhenaton (who restored monotheism). Egyptians later went back to the old religion following the death of Akhenaton. He was later considered an evil ruler or enemy of the pagan Gods.

Ra claimed to have come down from a giant “solar disk” in space;

and descended down as an eagle to earth, which was in the form of an egg. He pictured the earth being as a large egg, with the eagle as a spirit to descend to it, both coming from the great Creator and solar disk in space. This led some of the pharaohs to later worship the sun. Remember that pharaoh Ra never said the sun, but the solar disk. The description of the disk largely resembles the same light or source that people have claimed to see when they die.

Some skeptics of the religion derive an alien theory from this solar disk, believing that it is a UFO that visited Egypt. I believe Ra was trying to describe and speak of a giant sun, similar to the Big Bang in which the creation of the entire universe originated and returns to. This is also known as the point of origin, a place where all of the energy of the universe collects and amasses for one point in time. This concept would be very hard to instill to the people of the time; relation and metaphors to eggs and birds would be commonplace to the people.

The unity of Ra was consistent with the Genesis legends and the same form of how God gave Adam or Aton (Egyptian Adam) life and placed a soul into him, making him different from the other animals. We can see how the metaphor of the eagle and the egg would be used, and the description does seem fitting. Ra considered himself the eagle (from the solar disk) and his wife, the earth (the egg), in which all of man was created from (two first people). This coincides with the monotheistic views of Judaism, Christianity, Hindu, Buddhism, Islam, and Sikhism. When considering the foundation of Egypt, Ra must be viewed as a prophet and founder of the Egyptian people.

Although Ra viewed himself as a God and founder of faith, he still acknowledged the fact that he did come from a greater power, and that power was in fact God. Since he could not describe that body in physical form, he entitled it the Great Solar Disk; which, if the point of origin could be described, it would in fact look like a solar disk. Remember that galaxies such as our Milky Way from a great distance resemble a solar disk. The galaxy is in fact shaped like a disk; they could in essence be called a solar disk (the center was a massive sun) instead of galaxies. The point of origin could be viewed as a giant galaxy or solar disk, although the pure energy found there cannot be given a name.

Akhenaton

(1350–1334 BC)

Akhenaton was ruler after Abram (Abraham) at a time when the pharaohs of Egypt embraced their pantheon of mythology and lost their monotheistic religion. This monotheistic view was later re-introduced into Egyptian society by Akhenaton, where the religion was revived for a short period of time (his rule). These views were incorporated from the pantheon of Ra, whose meaning was rediscovered. He stressed the view of one God and the concept of worshiping only that God.

Since relations with the Jewish people were important during the rule of Jacob, monotheism allowed both cultures to worship one God (prophets still existed). This view allowed the peace that once existed during the ancient dynasties. Ancient Egypt formed the first mass civilizations containing agriculture and primitive construction of cities. The construction later became more sophisticated (thousands of years later), where constructions such as the pyramids occurred as the populations increased.

The calf was a strong religious representation in Egypt during this time (calf worship is spoken of in the Bible during the time of Moses) and the people sometimes prayed to this image. This is unacceptable to God, as the calf is created from God and should not be worshiped, but respected as a form of food and clothing. Akhenaton restored the one God concept and reintroduced monotheism into Egyptian society.

This view was changed again after his rule, and the Egyptian pantheon was restored. This resulted in idol worship again and the monotheistic view held only in the Jewish teachings of one God. Later in the time of Jesus Christ, highly educated Essenes who preached and taught at the site of Qumran followed and worshiped the true religion, which was instilled by the monotheistic views of Ra (prior to Moses).

Jesus Christ also studied and taught at this site and shared many of these monotheistic views to the Egyptians during his time. When the Dead Sea Scrolls (600 BC–100 AD) at the site of Qumran were uncovered in the 1960s–70s, there was a Greek puzzle that was uncovered by scholars. The Greek puzzle led to the site and tomb of Akhenaton. Many thought this to be a buried treasure; however, it simply led to the dead pharaoh's tomb. This seemed useless to scholars and archaeolo-

MY BELIEF

gists; however, I believe that the Essenes led whoever was to uncover the meaning of the Greek puzzle to the origins and beginning of the monotheistic or true religion instilled by Ra, coming from Noah, tracing down to the roots of Adam. The trace lineage or history of Ra was found in Akhenaton's tomb.

10. FOUNDING FATHERS

Abraham

(approximately 1550–1450 BC)

After the descendants of Noah and the forefathers of Egypt had created and developed integrated societies, we saw the emergence of Abraham. It is believed that Abraham, who was originally called Abram, was a skilled trader and warrior. It was also believed (much like Noah) that he was a chosen man of God and a prophet to the people. In the accounts of Abraham it is said that he had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. He had a wife whose name was Sarah or Sarai, her name also changing halfway through the accounts. Abraham's father was a man by the name of Terah, and died early on in the recordings. Abram was also an "uncle" to the legendary Lot, who chose the opposite way of Abraham in the recorded scripture.

Abraham is an important figure in history as his two sons, Isaac and Ishmael, are forefathers of the Jewish and Islamic people. The people of Abraham were skilled warriors and hard workers, skilled in the trades and combat. The kingdom of Egypt was threatened by his people as they were the largest force at the time. Abraham's political influence in the land was great and he was respected among all people, which may be the reason for peace during his time.

After the death of his father Terah, God said to him,

GET OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY, FROM YOUR FAMILY AND FROM YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE, TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU. I WILL MAKE YOU A GREAT NATION; I WILL BLESS YOU AND MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT; AND YOU SHALL BE A BLESSING. I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU. AND I WILL CURSE HIM WHO CURSES YOU; AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.

GENESIS 12:1–3 (NKJV)

MY BELIEF

After this, Abraham went into the land of Egypt and dwelt there for a time. The land of Egypt was enduring a great famine at the time, and Abraham had grain and goods to offer the people. Since Abraham was a man of God and a prophet, he offered his goods to the people at fair prices and helped Egypt through this troubled time. Remember the men of Abraham were the chosen people of the time and were skilled in many trades.

ABRAM WAS VERY RICH IN LIVESTOCK, IN SILVER, AND IN GOLD.

GENESIS 13:2 (NKJV)

OR DO THEY ENVY MANKIND FOR WHAT ALLAH HATH GIVEN THEM OF HIS BOUNTY? BUT WE HAD ALREADY GIVEN THE PEOPLE OF ABRAHAM THE BOOK AND WISDOM, AND CONFERRED UPON THEM A GREAT KINGDOM.

SURAH 4:54 (AL NISA')¹

MENTION IN THE BOOK ABRAHAM: HE WAS A MAN OF TRUTH. A PROPHET.

SURAH 19:41 (MARYAM)²

The skills and trades of Abraham's people were recognized throughout the Egyptian lands and caught the attention of the pharaoh. Abraham was invited to go before the pharaoh and feast and drink with him. The wife of Abraham, Sarah was a woman of great beauty and intelligence; the princes and the pharaoh desired her greatly. Because the desire for Sarah was so great, the pharaoh took her back to his palace and attempted to court her. It is said that Abraham was treated well because he said that she was his "sister" at the time. Abraham was shown around the lands of Egypt and when he returned, Sarah had been taken to the palace of the pharaoh. Abraham grew extremely angry at this news and the lands of Egypt began to be cursed.

Pharaoh knew that he was cursed and returned Sarah with anger in his heart; he said that he believed that she was his sister. Sarah was Abraham's wife, and sister in faith, and may have even been cousins or half-siblings, as they would be the son and daughter of God, according to their faith. In essence because Abraham was guided by God, he and

1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

Sarah were essentially children of God. Perhaps the concept or saying of sister misled the Egyptians to misunderstand.

Lot was also a skilled man and a worthy trader and had established a relationship with the people of Egypt and the men of Abraham. Lot followed Abraham as he left Egypt and sought trade with other far and distant lands. Since Lot was a respected man also, he began to challenge the prophecies of Abraham and his decisions; Abraham not wanting strife between them two said,

PLEASE LET THERE BE NO STRIFE BETWEEN YOU AND ME, AND BETWEEN YOUR HERDSMEN AND MY HERDSMEN; FOR WE ARE BRETHREN. IS NOT THE WHOLE LAND BEFORE YOU? PLEASE SEPARATE FROM ME. IF YOU TAKE THE LEFT, THEN I WILL I WILL GO TO THE RIGHT; OR, IF YOU GO TO THE RIGHT, THEN I WILL GO TO THE LEFT.

GENESIS 13:8–9 (NKJV)

This passage also reinforces the statement that many men, women, and children traveled with Abraham and Lot at the time. References to herdsmen and brethren as being plural entities and not singular ones help prove this. Lot agreed and cast his gaze upon all the valley of Jordan and journeyed east. So Abraham took the north, south, and west and was told by God that his people would prosper and be strong, and stand as a chosen people among all the lands.

AND I WILL MAKE YOUR DESCENDANTS AS THE DUST OF THE EARTH; SO THAT IF A MAN COULD NUMBER THE DUST OF THE EARTH, THEN YOUR DESCENDANTS ALSO COULD BE NUMBERED.

GENESIS 13:16 (NKJV)

Time passed and eventually the colonies of Abraham and Lot grew to be the envy of all the surrounding kingdoms. The nearby kings grew jealous of this and planned an attack against the forces of Lot. The kings assembled their armies and raided the colonies of Lot and captured Lot himself in the raids. The recordings state that a runner or servant had escaped capture and told Abraham what fate had befallen his kin, Lot. Abraham heard this and raised his forces in pursuit of the enemies of Lot.

Abraham fought against the surrounding forces and retrieved the

MY BELIEF

stolen goods and captured prisoners from them. The surrounding kings who were defeated agreed to pay a tithe or a gratuity to Abraham's people, making them exceedingly wealthy in all the lands. Abraham led the battle personally and earned the respect of all the surrounding kings of the land. This may have eventually led to the persecution of Moses, as his culture was envied by the surrounding kings and people.

“BLESSED BE ABRAM OF GOD MOST HIGH, POSSESSOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH; AND BLESSED BE GOD MOST HIGH, WHO HAS DELIVERED YOUR ENEMIES INTO YOUR HAND.”

GENESIS 14:19–20 (NKJV)

Abraham then wished and longed for an heir to his empire, and consulted God on this. God came to him in a vision by saying,

“DO NOT BE AFRAID, ABRAM. I AM YOUR SHIELD, YOUR EXCEEDINGLY GREAT REWARD.”

GENESIS 15:1 (NKJV)

After a time, peace returned to the kingdom; the defeated kings offered a tithe of their possessions to Abraham and his people. Abraham began to prosper as his empire continued to expand. He was longing for an heir to his empire and to continue the lineage of his body. He prayed to the Lord, and the Lord responded that a child would come. Since Abram and Sarah were advanced in age, he doubted that this revelation would be true and that he and Sarah would bear children.

After a time, Sarah wanted to have and raise children; she told Abraham to impregnate her maidservant Hagar, who was an Egyptian. So Abraham slept with Hagar and they ended up conceiving and bearing forth a son. Political and socioeconomic factors played a huge part in maintaining order and peace among the people. If the son of the chosen prophet was not of same ancestry, division among the people would occur. Shortly after the birth of his son Ishmael, Sarah became jealous and wished to have a child herself. Abraham slept with Sarah and they also had a son by the name of Isaac.

Abraham had prophetic visions of Ishmael being the descendants of princes in what is known as Persia, and Isaac was to be a king to the people of Israel. Since Sarah was of a more direct descent both economically and politically, her offspring would be the chosen one to

take heir to the lands of the Jewish people. Ishmael was given the Persian lands as a gift to his descendants and generations where he was to dwell as a stranger among the lands, meaning only that he would not be king of Israel. Since the “promised land” was promised to Abraham and his descendants, we must acknowledge that this land also belongs to Ishmael and his descendants, who is also a descendant of Abraham.

FOR ALL THE LAND WHICH YOU SEE I GIVE TO YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS
FOREVER.

GENESIS 13:15 (NKJV)

Further adding evidence, and proving the prophetic prophecies of Abraham, are the two evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. During Abraham’s travels he and Lot went to these two cities; many corruptions and atrocities were taking place there. Acts like rape, murder, and mass corruption were present in these cities. It is also written that toward the end of the visit, Abraham and Lot were accosted by men there. Abraham warned the people of these cities to change their ways and avoid this path or a great devastation will fall upon the cities. Many people argued with Abraham asking, “Will he punish the innocent for the price of the wicked?”

“**BECAUSE THE OUTCRY AGAINST SODOM AND GOMORRAH IS GREAT,
AND BECAUSE THEIR SIN IS VERY GRAVE,...**”

GENESIS 18:20 (NKJV)

It is unclear to how these cities were destroyed, whether Abraham himself attacked these cities, or natural phenomena destroyed them. The Qur’an speaks of great earthquakes that occurred along with a possible volcanic eruption. This would cast down “great stones of fire” and decimate the populations of these two cities. Also recorded references to great stones of fire may be fiery boulders that were launched by catapult-type artillery. There is further evidence to suggest that a meteor type of impact that has occurred in Egypt before may have been the cause of the destruction of these cities.

FOR WE WILL DESTROY THIS PLACE, BECAUSE THE OUTCRY AGAINST THEM
HAS GROWN GREAT BEFORE THE FACE OF THE LORD, AND THE LORD HAS
SENT US TO DESTROY IT.

GENESIS 19:13 (NKJV)

The meteor would have super-exploded just above the earth's surface, causing a bomb-like explosion that would be the size of the atom bombs that were dropped on Japan in World War II. This would cause a huge sheet of glass (super-heated sand) to be present, which can still be seen in Egypt. This would have devastated the area for years and completely and utterly destroyed the entire landscape, leaving no evidence that the cities ever existed. This theory is improbable, but not impossible; this phenomenon has occurred on earth and can in fact occur again.

Whether war or natural phenomena was the cause for the destruction of these cities is not the issue; Abraham had a prophecy that war would occur with these cities, and that they were in fact a people corrupt and immoral. Abraham can be considered the first father of Israel. Although this term is usually given to Isaac and Jacob, Abrahamic law is considered to be the first governing laws of Israel, in which the original Jewish religion was created.

Since much of the ancient scripture is destroyed, Judaic scripture and law is said to have come from Moses. Remember that the word is an evolution of God, and the compilation of these texts comes from recognized prophets and leaders; therefore even Moses built off the teachings of Abraham and so forth. This is a main reason that ancient lineage and tradition was so important among family backgrounds. Many people of ancient cultures when stating their name would give a brief history of their lineage (Moses of Abraham, Augustus of Julius, etc.)

Abrahamic law is not derived from scripture, but instead comes from the ancient teachings of the forefathers of Abraham. Abrahamic law is derived from the concepts of karma and certain statutes that dictate morality. These statutes are called virtues, and virtue can be said to be the description of love. In essence the more virtuous you are, the more loving you are. Virtues are traits or characteristics that are moral and just, such as wisdom, kindness, truth, honor, understanding, compassion, and knowledge. These virtues are characteristics of a loving person or society. In essence, the more loving or virtuous you are, the more karma will favor you or your people.

**THE REASON FOR LIVING IS LOVE, OTHERWISE WHY
WOULD WE LEAVE PERFECTION?**

It is not just nature that dictates us to be virtuous, for we as a people have a choice whether or not to be moral. Morality is what gives us reason and establishes us as greater than animals. For we also have a choice to be immoral or nonvirtuous; love is also a choice. These virtues can only be described by words, and religion is the teachings that help us understand and achieve these virtues. Abrahamic law is the teaching of love and virtue, which are the founding principles of any true religion. These teachings were passed on to Abraham through the forefathers of mankind.

Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

(1525–1425 BC)

The pre-Egyptian tribes migrated from Central Africa and moved toward Egypt and spread through Jerusalem and Palestine, at which time the people migrated and divided according to conflict and interest groups. The Hindu people ventured more easterly and laid roots down in what is known as India today. Conflicts between the followers of one God and multiple gods arose; as a result the losing tribes would be forced into exodus or exile and start a community and build from there. Note that many defeated tribes were ethnically cleansed and their roots have been virtually annihilated.

Migration occurred with the descendants of the Orientals heading North, and the Arabic, and Indian descendants traveled through the mountain passes in Southern Pakistan. These people laid roots by a river, and later became known as the Sindhu people, Sindhu meaning large river. Later this term was pronounced “Hindu.” At this point the religion based on the traditions carried with them, formed what we know today as Hinduism, which is a variation of Abrahamic law along with the concept of karma.

These people are the descendants of the son of Abraham, whose name is Ishmael, considered to be a prince over all the land. Ishmael was the son of the Egyptian maidservant Hagar, who was a servant of Sarah, Abraham’s wife. As Abraham and Sarah were aging, Sarah wanted to have a child. Since she was unable to conceive, she asked Abraham to conceive with her maidservant Hagar.

BEHOLD, YOU ARE WITH CHILD, AND YOU SHALL BEAR A SON. YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME ISHMAEL, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS HEARD YOUR AFFLICTION.

MY BELIEF

HE SHALL BE A WILD MAN; HIS HAND SHALL BE AGAINST EVERY MAN, AND EVERY MAN'S HAND AGAINST HIM. AND HE SHALL DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL HIS BRETHREN.

GENESIS 16:11–12 (NKJV)

After the birth of Ishmael, political tensions began to arise. Ishmael was going to be the heir to Abraham's empire and Sarah began to grow extremely jealous of Hagar as she and her child had much of Abraham's attention. For this reason Abraham decided to offer Hagar and Ishmael land off toward the East of Jerusalem. Here Hagar and her servants could form an exodus with the supporting tribes and Ishmael could become a prince over the lands of Abraham. Abraham's power and influence extended to all parts of the known world at the time. After a short time God made a covenant with Abraham, saying,

AND I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU IN THEIR GENERATIONS, FOR AN EVERLASTING COVENANT, TO BE GOD TO YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU.

GENESIS 17:7 (NKJV)

Abraham was later informed by God that he and Sarah were going to bear another child, one who was to be heir of the generations of Israel. This child was going to be named the first king of Israel and the covenant was going to be carried on through his generations after. God said,

AND AS FOR ISHMAEL, I HAVE HEARD YOU. BEHOLD I HAVE BLESSED HIM, AND WILL MAKE HIM FRUITFUL, AND WILL MULTIPLY HIM EXCEEDINGLY. HE SHALL BEGET TWELVE PRINCES, AND I WILL MAKE HIM A GREAT NATION. BUT MY COVENANT I WILL ESTABLISH WITH ISAAC, WHOM SARAH SHALL BEAR TO YOU AT THIS SET TIME NEXT YEAR.

GENESIS 17: 20–21 (NKJV)

As was said, Isaac was born the following year and the kings of the areas began to grow envious and jealous of the people of Abraham. Sodom and Gomorrah were later destroyed before the birth of Isaac and the covenant of Abraham was then established. It is said in the histories that Abraham was going to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to the Lord. Much is speculated about what is meant by this, as many people think Abraham was going to kill Isaac in the name of God.

Abraham was going to offer a burnt offering to the Lord as he did on a regular basis and to go pray and be at one with God. This time he brought Isaac along with him and they went up to the mountain pass. Remember that Abraham and his people had many enemies that would attack at any chance. It became a custom of Israel and the people of Abraham to offer cattle or other forms of livestock for sacrifice to the Lord; they would sacrifice and feast. Also it was custom for the firstborn of every family to be ready to give their lives in the defense of the people, or in other words for the defense of Israel. Since the covenant was established with Isaac, he would be in essence the firstborn of Israel and Abraham would be compelled to set an example with the sacrifice or offering of Isaac as the first spear of Israel.

Isaac had some resistance to this fact, as he was a wealthy prince who was to become king of a people. As well, he was not the firstborn of Abraham, but instead Ishmael was. This may be a reason for Abraham to take Isaac up the mountain pass to offer a burnt offering to the Lord. It is not said how old Isaac was at this time; however, it would be clear that a dispute would arise between Abraham and Isaac in regards to this matter. It is the duty of the king of Israel to sacrifice for his people and defend them at all costs.

TAKE NOW YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON ISAAC, WHOM YOU LOVE, AND GO TO THE LAND OF MORIAH, AND OFFER HIM THERE AS A BURNT OFFERING ON ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS OF WHICH I SHALL TELL YOU.

GENESIS 22: 2 (NKJV)

Perhaps Abraham had no intention of killing his son, but by offering him as a sacrifice to the Lord in honor of the defense of Israel he intended to show him how to speak and pray to the Lord. The ways of the Lord are mysterious and his timing ironic. Many rumors may have started as they walked the mountain pass without a sacrifice; many may have thought that Abraham was going to kill Isaac as they were disputing over him serving as a soldier to Israel. If the Lord did not provide an offering, perhaps Abram would have thought of sacrificing Isaac. Abraham was putting faith in the ways of the Lord as to present an offering for them; as Abraham was preparing the fire for sacrifice, Isaac asked and Abraham responded,

MY BELIEF

“LOOK THE FIRE AND THE WOOD, BUT WHERE IS THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING?” AND ABRAHAM SAID, “MY SON, GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR HIMSELF THE LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING.”

GENESIS 22:7–8 (NKJV)

As they walked the mountain pass and prepared for an offering, they found an offering. A ram was stuck in the thickets of the mountain by his horns and it was prepared as a sacrifice. Abraham was preparing Isaac to become a king. In order for Isaac to be a strong spiritual leader, he would have to understand the ways of the Lord. They may have been disputing, but Abraham’s teachings were to let the Lord provide for them. Abraham told Isaac that the Lord will provide, which is why they climbed the mountain without a sacrifice.

Being a wealthy prince and a future king, Isaac would have to rely on the Lord to protect himself and his people. Lacking confidence in that, Abraham taught Isaac and showed with proof the happenings and teachings of the Lord. The offering provided by the Lord to Abraham and Isaac is testament to the fact that faith will guide him in his quest. Many may dispute the logic behind this thesis; however, it is highly plausible and more logical. Remember that the stories of Genesis have been translated many times, and the elders who made these translations have added and removed parts along the course of history.

THE BIBLE IS AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF HISTORY, NOT A PRECISE ONE

Remember that in many biblical depictions and illustrations Isaac is depicted as a child during this event. The Bible does not state the age of Isaac along with the reason behind the burnt offering to the Lord. Many interpretations of these quotes could be analyzed in various ways; however, we must also assume that Abraham may have been ready to sacrifice Isaac if need be. I believe that the goal of Abraham was to teach Isaac the ways of the Lord and to show him that sacrifice is needed in order to be a good leader. Since Isaac was going to inherit the largest kingdom of the time, it was a must for Abraham to have Isaac believe in God.

Birth of Jacob

(1425–1325 BC)

Jacob called himself Israel after his father Isaac was instructed by God

to do so. Below are the twelve tribes of Israel who supported Jacob and the expeditions to his kinship with God. These tribes also helped Moses in his journey into the wilderness away from the pharaoh. These tribes are the pre-Davidic and Hellenistic bloodlines found later in ancient Greece and Rome. Many followers and supporters of Alexander the Great were Hellenistic Jews. These roots trace into Egypt, Africa, and the very beginnings of man....which is why Numbers is so important in dating genealogy from this time period.

Jacob was going to be murdered by his brother Esau, who wanted to kill him and take the throne for himself. As Isaac was dying, Jacob deceived his father and stole a blessing from Esau. Jacob fled somewhere in the kingdom or on the outskirts of the area to avoid the wrath of Esau. I'm sure he was not alone and had quite a force with him. Since the kingdom was divided, Jacob fled and eventually returned with an army to face his brother in a potential battle. They later made peace and united again the tribes of Israel.

Since there was division among the people of Israel after the death of Isaac, many enemies laid siege to the people of Israel. Their influence began to dwindle along with their military power. This may have been a key factor in Esau and Jacob making peace with each other, since both of their powers were failing and an alliance was essential for survival.

Jacob helped fortify the kingdom of Israel and extended Abraham's empire for a time period. He came under attack from multiple kings and princes on several occasions and his people were severely weakened. Shortly after this, Egypt crushed the Israeli forces and invaded and enslaved the Jewish people under the rule of Ramses II. This occurred after the fall of the Pharaoh Akhenaton and the death of his son. Ramses I later held rule of Egypt and declared war with all surrounding cultures. This led to a new era of slavery and the eventual rise of Moses.

Birth of Joseph

(1325–1225 BC)

As Joseph was growing up, he was largely envied by the people and his brothers. He was favored by his father Jacob over his three brothers. He traveled and was a successful merchant whom women adored very much. In fact he was so admired by women of all ages and envied by

MY BELIEF

his lords that he was later put in jail, rather than to have conflict with his master.

Prior to this event, Joseph was traveling abroad and was considered a prophet by many across the lands. He interpreted dreams and other interpretations of God in his lifetime. His father Jacob knew that he was going to be betrayed and Joseph predicted that he would later become cup bearer to the czar and governor of Egypt, as well as become a high lord to the land. He told Jacob that he had dreams that his brothers would be before his throne one day negotiating to do business. Jacob understood; however, Joseph failed to understand that his complete betrayal would eventually lead to his success.

So Joseph traveled with his brothers along the trade routes with his colored tunic given to him by his father Jacob. Along the way his brothers decided to strip him of his tunic and push him in a pit and say to their father Jacob that Joseph was dead. His father was favoring him and showed him more love after all. The temptation was immense and the young men could not resist the temptation to betray their brother.

After the brothers ate a meal they decided to instead sell him to an Ishmaelite for a small profit. An Ishmaelite merchant was on a trade mission and encountered the young men and offered a price for Joseph, which was twenty shekels of silver. This alternative was better for the brothers as the blood of their brother would not be on their hands. The merchant then took Joseph to Egypt to serve him.

“WHAT PROFIT IS THERE IF WE KILL OUR BROTHER AND CONCEAL HIS BLOOD? COME LET US SELL HIM TO THE ISHMAELITES, AND LET NOT OUR HAND BE UPON HIM, FOR HE IS OUR BROTHER AND OUR FLESH.”

GENESIS 37: 26–27 (NKJV)

Joseph began to travel with this man and serve him as his servant and bodyguard into Egypt. He was later purchased from the Ishmaelites and sold to an Egyptian captain. Since Joseph was a holy man, the Lord was with him in everything that he did. The captain took notice of this and put him in charge as an overseer of his house and his affairs.

The brothers later returned home and told their father that Joseph had fallen to wolves or lions in the wilderness. They brought his father

his colored tunic, and immediately Jacob knew that ill fate had come upon his beloved son. After this, Jacob had a longing in his heart to find his son again; however, he trusted his son's interpretation of his dreams and the prophecy that would follow. He lamented for years, hoping that his faith in God would again extend his wishes across the land.

After a time of Joseph serving his Egyptian master, the master's wife did in fact covet Joseph. Joseph refused to sleep with her and her anger was aroused. While Joseph attempted to escape the wife and report this to his master, the master's wife was able to grab and tear one of his garments. Having evil in her heart she called for the men of her household and she made false testimony against Joseph. She claimed that Joseph was coveting her. In defense of himself Joseph said,

IT WAS SHE THAT SOUGHT TO SEDUCE ME FROM MY TRUE SELF. AND ONE OF HER HOUSEHOLD SAW THIS AND BORE WITNESS SAYING; IF IT BE THAT HIS SHIRT IS TORN FROM THE FRONT, THEN HER TALE IS TRUE, AND HE IS A LIAR! BUT IF IT BE THAT HIS SHIRT IS TORN FROM THE BACK, THEN IT IS SHE THE LIAR, AND HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH.

SURAH 12: 26–27 YUSUF³

BUT IT HAPPENED ABOUT THIS TIME, WHEN JOSEPH WENT INTO THE HOUSE TO DO HIS WORK, AND NONE OF THE MEN OF THE HOUSE WAS INSIDE, THAT SHE CAUGHT BY HIS GARMENT SAYING; “LIE WITH ME.” BUT HE LEFT HIS GARMENT IN HER HAND, AND FLED AND RAN OUTSIDE.

GENESIS 39:11–12 (NKJV)

Joseph later asked to be thrown in jail or was thrown in jail by his master. While Joseph was there he began to interpret dreams for the men in the prison. Joseph's interpretations began to become true and some of the prisoners were released; Joseph asked that he be remembered and asked that good favor of him should be told to the pharaoh on his behalf. A baker who later was released remembered this after a few years when pharaoh was having troubled dreams. He spoke of a Hebrew man in the royal prisons who interpreted dreams and was accurate, citing himself as testament to his prophecy.

Joseph was later asked to appear before the pharaoh and correctly interpret his dreams. After Joseph accurately did this he gained favor in the eyes of the pharaoh. His fame soon spread across the land, and he was later promoted to governor of Egypt and was in charge of administering the food reserves and dealing with trade. Later on in time

3 Ibid.

MY BELIEF

his brothers came to negotiate business on behalf of their father Jacob and the people of Israel; they sought grain from the land of Egypt, as Egypt was the only prospering people in a famine. During the meeting, Joseph recognized that these men were his brothers. Joseph later revealed himself to them and forgave them for the trespasses on the condition that they bring his father to him.

Jacob was advanced in his years and was sick. When he heard his son was alive and on one of thrones of Egypt, he could not believe it. He wept with joy and made the journey to Egypt. Jacob later died in the presence of Joseph, and peace was extended across the land until the death of Joseph. After this time, Ramses II took control of the land and enslaved the Hebrew people and half of the world. Moses made his appearance in the world to rescue the Jewish people from slavery and oppression.

The point of the historical account of Joseph is to recognize that Joseph did in fact have clairvoyance or prophecy granted to him. Not only is the purpose to illustrate prophecy, but also the struggles men of such virtue must endure. For the more virtuous one is, the more trials and persecution one must in fact face. It is these virtues that have led our teachings from our forefathers and been handed down to us. Also the tribulations of Joseph are testament to what the prophets must go through. Not all the time is the final result the same success that was met by Joseph; many times it is finished in tragedy, like in the story of Jesus Christ.

Moses

(1250–1150 BC)

The story of Moses begins with a Hebrew mother placing a baby by the reeds of the river while the Egyptian princess and her servants were out. While bathing and tending to chores by the river, a maidservant noticed a baby basket by the reeds. The maidservant asked if the princess would like to keep the child and have a midwife nurse it for her; she said “yes” and adopted the child as her own. The boy then became the honorary prince of Egypt.

Previous to this the Hebrew people were beginning to outnumber the Egyptian people and this caused great concern among the Egyptians. When the pharaoh saw that the Hebrew people were growing

strong in number and in power, he ordered the execution of every Hebrew boy to decimate their numbers. The Egyptian people were growing weak and the threat of their numbers was of grave concern for him. Since Moses' mother had great love for him she kept for three months instead of executing him as required by law of pharaoh.

BUT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE FRUITFUL AND INCREASED ABUNDANTLY, MULTIPLIED AND GREW EXCEEDINGLY MIGHTY; AND THE LAND WAS FILLED WITH THEM. NOW THERE AROSE A NEW KING OVER EGYPT, WHO DID NOT KNOW JOSEPH. AND HE SAID TO HIS PEOPLE, "LOOK, THE PEOPLE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ARE MORE MIGHTIER THAN WE; COME LET US DEAL SHREWDLY WITH THEM, LEST THEY MULTIPLY, AND IT HAPPEN, IN THE EVENT OF WAR, THAT THEY ALSO JOIN OUR ENEMIES AND FIGHT AGAINST US, AND SO GO UP OUT OF THE LAND."

EXODUS 1: 7-10 (NKJV)

As Moses grew up he was promoted to oversee the construction and day-to-day labor of the Hebrew people, along with their daily tasks. He was also a military commander for the armies of pharaoh and served as an ambassador between the Hebrew and Egyptian people. His position facilitated the ability for pharaoh to pass his orders to the Hebrew people.

After a time the work of the Hebrew people became difficult and intolerable. People were being beaten, bought, and sold. The people were not being fed or given water, and Moses was receiving tremendous pressure from both sides. Both the Egyptian and Hebrew people were growing impatient with each other and civil war was about to occur. Moses was divided on the issue of war, as he was prince of Egypt, yet also a Hebrew at the same time.

There came a point in time when Moses came across an Egyptian beating a Hebrew for "no reason." Moses got in a heated discussion with the Egyptian and a duel occurred with Moses being the victor. Since Egyptian law was eye for an eye with an Egyptian citizen, Moses was in trouble. Since Moses was frustrated with the sociopolitical situation, and the threat of being wanted for murder, he decided to leave to the land of Midian.

After spending some time in the land of Midian, Moses was given revelation by God and instructed on what to do with the Hebrew people in Egypt. He was instructed to appear to them and decree that he

MY BELIEF

was the divine prophet of God. He was instructed to go to the desert and worship God and tell the pharaoh that the Hebrew people are to be free to wander the lands be free of bondage and be able to worship God. Moses was instructed to warn the pharaoh of plagues and other curses that were to come if he did obey this order. Thus the covenant between God and Moses was made for the children of Israel and the rest of the world that was under bondage from Ramses.

AND GOD SAID TO MOSES, "I AM WHO I AM." AND HE SAID, "THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, "I AM HAS SENT ME TO YOU." MOREOVER GOD SAID TO MOSES, "THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: "THE LORD GOD OF YOUR FATHERS, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB, HAS SENT ME TO YOU. THIS IS MY NAME FOREVER, AND THIS IS MY MEMORIAL TO ALL GENERATIONS."

EXODUS 3:14–15 (NKJV)

AND REMEMBER WE GAVE MOSES THE SCRIPTURE AND THE CRITERION.

SURAH 2:53 AL BAQARAH⁴

WE GAVE MOSES THE BOOK, AND FOLLOWED HIM UP WITH A SUCCESSION OF MESSENGERS; WE GAVE JESUS, THE SON OF MARY, CLEAR SIGNS AND STRENGTHENED HIM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. IS IT THAT WHENEVER THERE COMES TO YOU A MESSENGER WITH WHAT YE YOURSELVES DESIRE NOT, YE ARE PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE? SOME YE CALL IMPOSTERS, AND OTHERS YE SLAY!

SURAH 2:87⁵

Moses took this revelation and his family that he had acquired in the Midian lands and proceeded to travel back to Egypt. During this time his friend and a priest named Aaron was instructed by God to meet Moses in the wilderness. Moses told Aaron everything that he had been given by God and the instruction he received. Moses and Aaron then summoned the elders of Israel and met with them; Moses spoke all the words he was instructed to say to the elders of Israel.

Because of the revelation that Moses shared with Aaron, Aaron had great authority in the eyes of God and acted as a priest to the chil-

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

dren of Israel. Later that week, Moses and Aaron went to the pharaoh and decreed all that he was instructed by God. He asked the pharaoh to let the people go to the desert and worship their God; the pharaoh grew angry at this and gave the people more work on top of their daily chores, demanding the same quotas.

AND YOU SHALL LAY ON THEM THE QUOTA OF BRICKS WHICH THEY MADE BEFORE. YOU SHALL NOT REDUCE IT. FOR THEY ARE IDLE; THEREFORE THEY CRY OUT, SAYING, “LET US GO AND SACRIFICE TO OUR GOD.”

EXODUS 5: 8 (NKJV)

Moses was distraught as he did what the Lord instructed, and the Hebrew people were being punished as a result. Their labors increased and their quotas remained the same, the bondage became great for the people. Moses became angered and was insulted that he came to do the work of the Lord and was treated that badly by pharaoh again. The Hebrew and Egyptian people were beginning to get angry with him now, so Moses and Aaron approached the pharaoh again.

This time Moses was angered and so was God; he approached the pharaoh and decreed that the people shall go to the desert and worship their God.

AND THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES, “GO TO THE PHARAOH AND SAY TO HIM. ‘THUS SAYS THE LORD: “LET MY PEOPLE GO THAT THEY MAY SERVE ME.”’

EXODUS 8:1 (NKJV)

Moses warned the pharaoh of Egypt against the plagues and other disasters that would fill the land if they did not let the Hebrew people free. The pharaoh was stubborn in his ways and the kingdom encountered plagues which threatened the people as a whole. The pharaoh’s heart was hard and he had a hate for Moses and the Hebrew people that grew with every passing day. Since the Lord knew that the pharaoh’s heart would be hardened and he would not heed the advice of God, plagues began to occur. Plagues of all sorts arose—locusts (bugs), frog infestations, fly infestations, and disease spreading between humans and cattle across the land. Still even with these wonders, the pharaoh was still hard of heart and refused to allow the Hebrew people to worship God.

THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD OF THE HEBREWS: “LET MY PEOPLE GO, THAT THEY MAY SERVE ME. FOR AT THIS TIME I WILL SEND MY PLAGUES TO YOUR

MY BELIEF

VERY HEART, AND ON YOUR SERVANTS AND ON YOUR PEOPLE, THAT YOU MAY KNOW THAT THERE IS NONE LIKE ME IN ALL THE EARTH.”

EXODUS 9: 13–14 (NKJV)

During many of the meetings with the pharaoh, he called for the sorcerers to come and perform miracles before them to prove that Moses was not divine and in fact like a sorcerer. When Moses was in the land of Midian, he was instructed to take his rod and perform miracles before the pharaoh. The sorcerers tried to perform illusions and match the miracles performed by Moses, but none could. Over time the sorcerers even told pharaoh that these are the works of the finger of God, but still the pharaoh had a hardened heart.

WE PUT INTO MOSES' MIND BY INSPIRATION: “THROW (NOW) THY ROD”: AND BEHOLD! IT SWALLOWS UP STRAIGHTWAY ALL THE FALSEHOODS WHICH THEY FAKE! THUS THE TRUTH WAS CONFIRMED. AND ALL THAT THEY DID WAS MADE OF NO EFFECT. SO THE GREAT ONES WERE VANQUISHED THERE AND THEN, AND WERE MADE TO LOOK SMALL. BUT THE SORCERERS FELL DOWN PROSTRATE IN ADORATION. SAYING: “WE BELIEVE IN THE LORD OF THE WORLDS. THE LORD OF MOSES AND AARON.”

SURAH 7: 117–122 AL A'RAF⁶

The Holy Spirit is in all living things and the spirit of God is found in everything material. The Holy Spirit is the energy surrounding the universe and consisting and constantly emitting the frequencies of existence. This existence later creates the world that we live in every day. This existence is governed by the Holy Spirit and God which surrounds us all and is found in everything. There is an ability and method to get in touch or at one with this entity. Moses had a contact with the creator or Holy Spirit far greater than anyone of his living time. Remember that although he could not speak well, that did not mean he could not write and he was extremely intelligent.

The pharaoh continued to be of hardened heart and the hardships on the land of Egypt and the Egyptian people continued to grow. Over time Moses continued to see the pharaoh, and the curses continued on the land. Crops began failing, locusts and frogs filled the land, and plagues of boils on men and cattle occurred. Eventually over time the pharaoh's kingdom began to suffer too much and the pharaoh agreed to let the people leave the land to worship their God.

6 Ibid

THEN PHARAOH CALLED TO MOSES AND SAID, “GO, SERVE THE LORD; ONLY LET YOUR FLOCKS AND YOUR HERDS BE KEPT BACK. LET YOUR LITTLE ONES GO WITH YOU.”

EXODUS 10:24 (NKJV)

Once the pharaoh allowed the children of Israel to go worship their God, Moses also asked if they can take their cattle and livestock with them to worship their Lord. Pharaoh became of hardened heart once more and did not allow the Hebrew people to take their livestock with them. Moses and the pharaoh got into an argument and the pharaoh threatened the life of Moses and Aaron. Then the pharaoh said to him,

“GET AWAY FROM ME! TAKE HEED TO YOURSELF AND SEE MY FACE NO MORE! FOR IN THE DAY YOU SEE MY FACE YOU SHALL DIE!”

EXODUS 10:28 (NKJV)

After the pharaoh decreed this, Moses became angered and threatened the life of every Egyptian and Hebrew that would not allow his people to exodus from oppression. The statement that pharaoh made was considered to be an act of war and this led to the establishment of the Passover. Since the armies and people of the pharaoh were weakened from the plagues and curses that filled the land, the Hebrew people were now in a position to exodus from the land of Egypt. Moses planned for the exodus to take place during the night when the moon was at its peak, as the desert is greatly illuminated by the moon.

When the pharaoh allowed the Hebrew people to pray in the desert, they began planning and preparing for the exodus as they went to pray. They began to cut lumber and create a dam like structure along the sea. Pharaoh knew that this was happening as building and timbering a dam would take a significant amount of work and people. Pharaoh's empire was weakening and he could not deny their worshiping their God and going out to the desert, which is why he denied the flocks and herds to leave with them; pharaoh knew that they were not planning on coming back.

After the dam was built, he went and told Pharaoh that he is taking all the people out to pray this time. The people did actually go out and pray, feast, and work. A dam was previously constructed for irrigation and salt collection along the Red Sea. Salt was used in the preservation

MY BELIEF

of meats, and has been used as a spice and preservative for millenniums. The dams were built to hold off the tide for longer mining hours and salt recovery. I believe Moses was sent a vision by God on how to conquer the pharaoh, and defeat his armies. Plagues and miraculous phenomena of nature helped destroy and weaken the hold of the pharaoh's dominion over the people.

Moses was now in a position to organize and gather all the people for a permanent exodus from Egypt. The Passover established a feast as a front for the Hebrew people to prepare for exodus. The idea was to prepare a midnight feast in the celebration of God and to pray for a successful exodus. The pharaoh previously declared war with Moses and Aaron, threatening their lives if they were to come back and see him. Moses ordered that every family who supported the exodus to put the blood of a lamb along the inside of their tent posts to mark their support; those that did not comply supported the Egyptians and would be destroyed.

AND THEY SHALL TAKE SOME OF THE BLOOD AND PUT IT ON THE TWO DOOR-
POSTS AND ON THE LINTEL OF THE HOUSES WHERE THEY EAT IT.

EXODUS 12:7 (NKJV)

Other evidence that suggests the Passover was created as a front to prepare for the exodus is the fact that Moses ordered the feast to take place with the people dressed for exodus. While they were roasting the lambs as a symbolic gesture to the lord, families were preparing to follow Moses out of Egypt.

AND THUS YOU SHALL EAT IT; WITH A BELT ON YOUR WAIST, YOUR SANDALS
ON YOUR FEET, AND YOUR STAFF IN YOUR HAND. SO SHALL YOU EAT IN
HASTE. IT IS THE LORD'S PASSOVER.

EXODUS 12:11(NKJV)

As the feasts were going on, Moses gathered all the Hebrew warriors and proceeded to check the houses that were marked with the blood of the lamb. It is said that all the firstborn of Egypt were slain that night, but remember that it was the firstborn of every family that was required to serve in the military. Moses and the warriors killed all the Egyptian firstborn in the kingdom and all those who did not mark the blood of the lamb in the doorway.

FOR THE LORD WILL PASS THROUGH TO STRIKE THE EGYPTIANS; AND WHEN HE SEES THE BLOOD ON THE TWO DOORPOSTS, THE LORD WILL PASS OVER THE DOOR AND NOT ALLOW THE DESTROYER TO COME INTO YOUR HOUSES TO STRIKE YOU.

EXODUS 12: 23 (NKJV)

Moses had amazing power and alliances throughout the surrounding lands; remember that as well as being the prince of Egypt, he was a warrior, general, master builder, and scholar. These political alliances formed huge pockets of control over the people, both militarily and politically.

When the people were in great doubt and did not believe that water and salvation would be upon them, Moses found and guided them to success and domination. It is said that Moses found water running in the mountains with the instruction God; this allowed the people of Israel to experience nourishment and fresh water in their exodus when their doubt in faith was at an all time high.

ONLY IN TIME OF NEED DOES GOD REVEAL ITSELF.

Pharaoh after realizing by the guards that the Hebrew slaves had left gathered his army and pursued the Hebrew people. While the pharaoh was coming across the dam barrier built by the slaves, he viewed Moses and his people reaching the other side of the sea. Being angered at being deceived and forced to submit to the will of God (miracles, plagues, etc.), Pharaoh pursued Moses in a stupid rage (according to Moses' plan), racing his top horsemen and chariot warriors toward them.

As they were crossing the sea, the Hebrew slaves released the dam in a plan to destroy Pharaoh's army. It is also said that the sea divided in two for Moses; however, the dam concept is also a plausible theory. Remember that miracles can happen, and Moses had divine abilities, initiating curses and plagues. The plan worked and the pharaoh's horsemen were defeated; the remainder of the pharaoh's army was forced to retreat back to Egypt or spend hours crossing around the river. This paved the way of the Hebrew exodus to Mount Sinai, and their dominance over the Ammonites and Hittites that led to the eventual governance of the Holy Land.

MY BELIEF

Moses then forged a community which was later to become what is known as Israel and Judea. In his exodus, however, he was heavily criticized for his action to leave Egypt, and the starvation of his people. Moses' faith carried him through these troubled times and he stumbled upon an oasis in the desert. It is there that he delivered his sermons and delivered the Ten Commandments to his people. He collected and distributed rations among his people, as well as settled large scale disputes among the member of his civilizations.

The proclamation by God to Moses to inscribe the law for his people was written on tablets and where the supreme law of the land for the Hebrews for 1,000 years and is still considered holy scripture even today. The modern laws of societies today can still be considered to have originated from the Ten Commandments, which originated from the law of Abraham.

Lawlessness was spreading among his people and Moses imposed the rule of his laws with scripture, and most of the time it was of verbal rule. Moses was the supreme consult for the Hebrew people. These great journeys, military feats, and peaceful times were quite the legacy to leave amongst his people. Moses led his people to prosper and was a religious high man and priest until his death.

He then anointed Joshua as the heir to the throne of Israel. Joshua later ruled, and King Saul, King David, and King Solomon also ruled later in this time. After the time of Moses and Joshua, judges were anointed over the people for trade and ruling of the law. They also administered ceremonies in the name of the Lord according to Moses and the tradition of the people prior to this. These are the creators of the Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim (along with parts of the Tanak). These laws have evolved up until the time of Rabbi Judah in the year approximately 60 AD.

Written Judaism, with the first writings being the Ten Commandments can be traced to the disciples of Abraham, Isaac, and Moses. The scripture of Abraham dates back to the trading and distributing of goods among the Hebrew and Egyptian people. Remember that although Abraham had many temples and palaces to refer to, he had control of a large amount of trade in the markets. He traded in other goods, as well as in cattle and livestock; he traded wine and other liveries (oil, incense, lamps) that the people of the time requested.

Remember that Egyptian law suppressed the Hebrew people only after the time of Joseph, when he became a largely influential figure in Egyptian history and wanted to distribute the wealth among the Hebrew and Egyptian people. Ramses II implied that he could offer better tributes and offerings to the people. Over time, the Egyptian hierarchy forgot the Hebrew alliance and began to extend strict rule over their people.

After the exodus was executed and the people were lacking faith, Moses went to look for a proper settlement to establish. When returning he found that the people began to take to worshipping the carved image of a golden calf. Moses after being given the miracles of God was furious at this desecration and blasphemy of the image of God.

THOSE WHO TOOK THE CALF FOR WORSHIP WILL INDEED BE OVERWHELMED WITH WRATH FROM THEIR LORD, AND WITH SHAME IN THIS LIFE: THUS WE RECOMPENSE THOSE WHO INVENT FALSEHOODS.

SURAH 7: 152 AL A'RAF⁷

The deviation from the worship of one God, to the worship of the calf and other mythological hierarchies was the reason for the Ten Commandments. The people needed law and a reason for living. They required ceremonies and other purpose for their life, along with reason for being and reason for existence. The people were easily manipulated and many times would deviate and begin such idol worship (calf); it is hard to believe, however, this did occur.

The Law

Here in Leviticus, we find the laws that Moses was sent to instill in the Jewish people. It speaks of tattoos, concubines, and other jurisprudence. This law was similar to other laws sent down to the prophets before Moses' time. Each messenger is instructed to issue decree and orders that will guide and shape mankind. Every messenger is sent to change and evolve the law according to how society wishes to be governed. For example, rules for children and rules for adults are completely different. As the child grows, more responsibilities as well as freedoms are given—much like the primitive cultures and tribes we come from. Now that is not to say we cannot go backwards (meaning returning to tribes) if we do not get along.

7 Ibid.

MY BELIEF

This evolution of the law is much like a “physical” evolution, only it involves the brain, our environment, and the space that surrounds us. As we evolve physically, we also evolve mentally. As we evolve mentally, rules and guidelines are sent to the messengers to warn, defend, and guide humanity along their paths in life. The laws that are sent down to messengers are time specific; the commandments are universal—meaning that “an eye for an eye,” “Do unto others...,” and “Turn the other cheek”...are all universal laws.

For example, if everybody treated everybody how they would like to be treated themselves, then only positive energy would continually be sent or emitted by the persona. If an eye for an eye applied, then neutrality, or love/hate relationships would ensue. Many blood feuds continue on because we have not turned the other cheek. To forgive is the greater deed; any religion can understand this.

In events of monetary nature, and other daily events, an eye for an eye is a great way to go.... “Do unto others...,” is just another way of saying, an eye for an eye. The only time for Jihad (Holy War) is when the people are being oppressed (many extremism activists misuse Jihad). This is the only time were it is legal to wage war. Opposed to this, the Qur’anic text follows the same commandments as the Christians and the Hebrew people.

The Qur’an also contains laws that exist for the people of that time, similar to the Bible and the time of Moses. The primary teachings of the Surah are the universal messages sent throughout all the religions—to love and help one another and defend each other against the hand of injustice. If everybody followed these rules, then we would have no problems. But there are always people who alter and distort the message, or do not believe...and the result is well...an imperfect account of history.

Moses was in a great power struggle during the creation of much of his law, and only God prevented him from being overthrown in the wilderness and the desert. There may have been secretive markings that only Moses used. Like the Blood of the Lamb mentioned earlier, the messenger may decree law that aids his mission sent by God. These rules are generally accepted and agreed upon by the majority of the people at the time; when rulings are unjust, the prophets or king, as seen in Kings, are overthrown.

Our laws in modern day society are based on the Ten Commandments, turning the other cheek (fines, probation), and an eye for an eye (life imprisonment, death penalty). We have also declared Jihad, the American Revolution, and other battles across the world for freedom and independence. We all are alike in nature, physical being, and to some extent...mentality.

Following some of the ancient traditions found in scripture would be unethical and frowned upon today. The sanctity of prayer, and the power it has, has been around since the beginnings of man. Unfortunately the powers of anger, hate, and betrayal have been seen also. The Word is a guide that helps us deal with these emotions, and include the universal laws that are not time specific, but in fact are universal... meaning they govern our universe...karma.

THINK, LOOK, SEE, AND BELIEVE.....IT IS ALL AROUND.

This universality is present in nature (food chain), the weather (seasons), and life and death, etc. Much like different mathematical laws apply to different mathematical equations, each life can be seen as an equation, each law a solution to smaller and similar equations.

IN ALL THAT YOU DO; DO NOT TRESPASS ANYONE AND DO ALL THINGS WITH
LOVE IN YOUR HEART

This is the universal message which allows us as modern individuals to get along as an international body of people, free in thought and spirit, mind, and body. There are many ways of life, and many ways to live it. We were not dealt someone else's cards, and do not know the story to their lives. We all share one thing though, and that is the will to live and not worry. Life is full of worry and sorrow.

The secular religious laws of the past are meant to be changed; however, the lessons and ways of the past help shape the future we are going to live. The prophecies that the messengers had, the laws they have made, and the societies they helped form are meant to be read and understood; however, we must remember that they are also meant to be progressed from. So will someone go to hell for having a tattoo? You be the judge...but I will not believe that, although I'm sure there were reasons and purposes for this rule in the past.

MY BELIEF

The teachings of religion are not meant to be hard-line religious rule; however, the teachings are meant to be of virtue. Different sayings and descriptions of these virtues are then preached by people who understand them. Although much of the Bible is recorded events, and prophecy to the Bible, it illustrates that God was with and helped these people of that time. Still we often forget that to live virtuously is the purpose to these stories, not simply the event that took place, but the virtue it took to accomplish them.

Numbers

Many tribes and people's bloodlines have been erased from the books because of quarrel or exile. I believe Moses kept track of the tribes that came out of Egypt with him during his time. These scrolls were later transcribed and transformed into scripture, known as Numbers (Some tampering may have occurred during the translation process); this indicates that the records are accurate and not precise.

The genealogy of Numbers comes from the thirteen tribes of Israel, written in Jacob's time. These records were taken by Moses who had the original copies from the Egyptian clergy and scribes. Although his speech was poor in Hebrew, he could write very well and kept track of the records of the progress of the kingdom (or his part <mining, agriculture, etc.>, any tasks being considered by the Hebrew slaves.) Remember that Joseph was held in high record amongst the Jewish and Egyptian kingdom.

Numbers also depicts and takes census of the people and tribes that went into the wilderness with Moses. To many, there are the twelve tribes of Israel; however, an amalgamation of two tribes occurred somewhere throughout history. The two tribes probably merged because of low numbers among their groups; uniting would cause an increase in power and influence. The thirteen tribes of Israel that proceeded in the Exodus with Moses are as follows:

1. Reuben
2. Simeon
3. Judah
4. Issachar
5. Zebulun
6. Joseph
7. Ephraim
8. Manasseh
9. Benjamin

10.Dan

11.Asher

12.Gas

13.Naphtali

The importance of including Numbers in the study of Moses is to try to illustrate the genealogy involved. Many people's heritages of ancient Rome and Greece are people who came from these tribes a long time ago. Remember that these ancient colonies were not formed until the first millennia BC. Many descendants of European civilizations stem from the founding tribes of Israel that are mentioned.

11. HINDUISM

Approximately 1500 BC

While the people of Abram were going into the desert and trading with Egypt, the people of India began to emerge and flourish around the same time. Trading began with the Egyptians and the Hebrew people, along with conflict and war. The Hindu people were at the time of their emergence a divided and tribal people. These people were like the Egyptians, migrants of Africa and the ancient Egyptian colonies. The varying arrangements of gods in the Hindu pantheon differ, because different tribes worshiped different gods.

The idol (gods) worshiping people of India warred with the Hebrew and Muslim people for many hundreds of years. These unorganized tribal divisions became more organized once the conquest of Alexander the Great took place. The defeat of the Aryan tribes caused the unorganized territories to band together into what is known as modern day India. This unification caused the creation of the Vedas and the Upanishads, along with the introduction and combination of the various Hindu gods.

The religion of Hinduism incorporates a wide array and plethora of gods. As stated previously, these gods arise out of the ancient tribal divisions found in the ancient history of India. As the religion became more organized, religious scripture and laws began to be combined over time. We can see their evolution from 1500 BC up until the mediaeval times. These compilations of scripture became known as the Vedas and the Upanishads. These are the foremost in authority, importance, and antiquity.

The Upanishads are laws and divisions separating the many different categories of life. Much like the Torah, and the Sunnah (Islam),

the Upanishads help govern the different categories of Hinduism. The beautiful thing about the Hindu religion is the use of hymn in the Vedas when explaining the Upanishads (through hymn). These hymns are similar to the psalms and hymns found in other religions throughout the world. We can all relate to music, and these hymns are recited songs in scripture, similar to any religious hymns and much like the musicians singing today about life and God. Song is one of the earliest forms of human expression, and one of the earliest ways to connect to the Creator or energy we arise and return to. This energy and spirit is known in Hinduism as Atman, and Maya is the illusion in which we live. Brahman is a duality of Maya (illusion) and Atman (which is spirit). Brahman is like the Jesus of Hinduism, or what the Lord is in Judaism. Brahman is the spirit that is found in everything living. It is from this that our thought/soul/spirit (Atman) can interact with the existence and illusion we know as life (Maya).

Maya: The life or result of creation; it is this result that we live in and can manipulate according to our needs and understanding. The greater influence or connection with this energy is through the teachings of various religious belief, whether spiritual or traditional. The origination of this created illusion (Maya) stems from the origin of all creation.

The first Hindus were a people who had a connection with God that represented itself through the mysteries of the mind and nature. Many a religious person's journey or soul searching is found when the person is in a complete state of euphoria and oneness, similar to Buddhism. In fact, Buddhists teachings have arisen from the Hindu religion along with the principles of the people from the Orient (Nepal/China).

Migration to the lands of India began around the year 2000 BC, possibly earlier. The roots of India are from African and Arabian (Ishmael) descent, and their lineage can be traced in the book of Genesis to the time of Noah. Migration to these areas in India may have occurred at different times, creating the reason for the varying tribal divisions throughout history. The descendants' migration through the generation of Ishmael may be the reason for the Aryan belief in one God existing in India; these tribes later became the allies of Alexander the Great.

The descendants of Hinduism came from the Indo-Iranian people, who migrated through the corridors of the mountain passes and into

the land now known as India. They descended from a group of people known as Aryans who believed in the existence of one God, much like the Jewish people. These people shared the same view as the father Abram, who made the original covenant with God, Israel, and Ishmael. These include the people of Indo-Iranian descent who come from India and Iran. This group of people also includes the descendants of the Armenians, Romans, Greeks, Germans, Balts, Celts, and Slavs. It is suggested that these people have a common root and tongue (perhaps Babel?).

Although many people think that Hinduism applies largely to only people of Indian descent, this is not true. In fact neither is the term “Aryan” only associated with Nazi Germany. The belief in the Aryan view is the fact that we have one root. Hinduism also acknowledges the existence of the Maya, Brahman, and Atman, all making the Aryan view of Hinduism acceptable. The concept of this trinity is actually the same view as the Hebrew, Muslim, and Christian view of God in that God is all around us, and forms and helps create the environment around us and the different trials we will experience in life. The trinity from the three founding principles of Hinduism is similar to the Christian version as stated earlier:

1) **Brahman:** This is seen as God similar to the father of all creation, the closest to the origin of the universe. Is a physical or physical image or view of our representation of God on this material plane? It can be said to be the consciousness of everything living, a greater atman. It is not really said that Brahman has a physical form; however, if he had one it would be that of a human being.

2) **Maya:** The illusion that we are created from the physical body of man, the illusion of our spiritual plane and material existence, the acknowledgment that even the Maya will fail and return to the point of origin.

3) **Atman:** The spirit found in the consciousness of man and all things living; this Atman is the gift giving to us by the eternal creator in the likeness of Brahman and God.

There are many forms of prayer and practice in the different Vedas and Upanishads, telling us how to achieve various forms of spiritual evolution and different degrees of Atman or consciousness.

Upasana

(Understanding the Vedas and Upanishads)

This is the way and method needed to think of God on multiple different planes of existence. The varying Vedas and Upanishads tell us how to achieve that connection as a Hindu; however, recognition of an eternal conscious greater than yourself is needed to achieve connection to that existence. This also coincides with the Qur'anic teachings, which define the existence of God on multiple different planes of existence, similar to the concept of Brahman, Atman, and the Maya. Hinduism speaks of understanding karma, and once that concept of karma is understood, the road to salvation can begin.

Karma is the belief that every action or deed needs a similar reaction. These laws are governed by laws of the universe; and in Judaic belief these laws are governed by God, and God enacts punishment for evil, and rewards good with good. In either belief the result is the same and the actions are governed. We also find in science that the universe is governed, and that governance is not yet completely understood; we might find that the answer may lie in quantum physics and mechanics, with the relation to thought and the environment we live in.

Hinduism does not speak of God, but simply the thought of God. It is that thought which propels the future of the universe (wanting to be and return to that energy.) Once the cycle of life, death, rebirth, and judgment is understood, then the path to enlightenment and constant recognition of God (salvation) can be understood. These principles and understandings apply to the applications and governance of karma, which is the originating law created from Brahman and the founding fathers. This understanding of the principles guides us on the path of salvation and oneness needed to achieve the full meaning to life. Religions from all faiths are guides to helping us achieve this goal.

These guides evolve over time and as the law evolves. A new prophet or lawmaker (guided through revelation) will devise a word that can better direct our lives toward God. What must be acknowledged is that the new lawmaker or prophet is guided by the founding principles of all religions. Remember that when overseeing and reading the Vedas, keep in mind that many of the traditions and rituals are similar in nature to the actions of the Old Testament performed by ancient priests and

MY BELIEF

scribes. The concept of ancient sacrifice is prevalent in ancient societies, and even Christians offer a sacrifice of bread, wine, and food to the creator God or in the name of Jesus. With this in consideration, no one guide is correct; however, one can quickly become wrong if the traits of God, or karma, are broken. Religion must be tolerant to all races and people, and Hinduism shows how the unity of many different beliefs can come together and form a unity that helps guide man to the path of salvation.

When studying the concept of gods, we must remember that they are representations of the Maya and have an origination or supreme governance. This governance gives rise to the gods, and the gods in Hindu are images represented by the views of man, or the main experience of the illusion at the time. These illusions may be aided by “hedonistic medicinals” and are meant to provide revelation, and insight. Each ancient Rishi or Rishka may have contributed to the pantheon, and recognition of these experiences by a whole collection of people may help guide them to traits needed to experience the similar divine interaction or outcome as the original. This is why the Vedas help guide us to that spiritual evolution, and they must be recognized as religious representations with divine meaning.

FOR THE EVOLUTION OF MAN CANNOT BE RESTRICTED TO SIMPLE LAW; BUT MUST BE ALLOWED TO EXPAND AND EVOLVE IN ORDER TO FULFILL ITS PURPOSE.

Our delving of Hinduism ends and the introduction to Taoism begins. We continue along the timeline of man and begin to see the evolution of the word that has guided man since the beginning of time. With this in mind, the worship of gods is not forbidden; however, recognizing their existence from a greater power is essential as to not worship idols... Remember that idols have no creation or creator, and that violates religious order and principle of faith and quantum mechanics.

12. TAOISM AND BUDDHISM

Tao: Meaning *way*, as in the *way* of the universe and the world we live in; the way to live in order to connect and respond to our spiritual surroundings. This *way* can only be explained through the written word, thus it can also mean that the way has been given by God.

Te: Virtues and characteristics (traits) that are needed in order to expand the mind and body; these virtues and traits when understood and adhered to create Tao, which creates the *way* of the universe or Hindu term known as karma.

Wu- Wei: Meaning non-reaction, or having none reaction. This term is familiar to the words of Christ in the way of “turning the other cheek”; sometimes the correct path is to not react. This is Wu-Wei.

Pu: The concept of wood that is unworked or uncut, ready and able to mould to the carpenter’s wishes. A man who is pu is virtuous and ready to be moulded to hands of life.

Taoism

The Legend of Lao Tzu

(1000–479 BC)

The founding father of Taoism can be seen as Lao Tzu; it is unclear when or if he actually existed. Some scholars believe that the philosopher existed during the time of Confucius (551–479 BC). Others believe that he may have predated the Chinese Confucius by a half century or so. There will be two versions (traditional and nontraditional) legends in regards to the philosopher Lao Tzu. The traditional version includes the accepted

legend among scholars handed down on hearsay evidence over the years. The nontraditional version includes the meeting of the Siddhartha Gautama (father of Buddhism), a prince of India who was rumored to have been on earth around 563–483 BC. This prince of India, whose date of emergence is also unknown and speculated to be around the same as Lao Tzu, had heavy influence on the northeastern parts of China (Nepal, Tibet, even Cambodia) where many spiritual leaders in Buddhism can be found. The inspiration and guidance of God has led me to include the nontraditional version (linking Taoism and Buddhism), that when regarded from a historical, political, and spiritual standpoint can be seen as having a quite reliable and collaborative perspective.

The teachings of Lao Tzu are still recognized today as spiritual insight and law all over the world; after the Bible, Lao Tzu works are some of the most translated writings in the world. There are numerous versions of Tao Te Ching; however, the general principles and guidelines are adhered to in most copies. Like his writings, the legend of Lao Tzu has been recorded, written, and rewritten many times. Over time it is not hard to see how the translations of the legend would lose validity over time and become distorted. It is also rumored in some historical writings that the descendants of Lao Tzu were military commanders (Si-ma Qian's writings).

Traditional Lao Tzu

There is a legend in ancient China that speaks of an ancient philosopher who was wise in the ages and history and all things that are spiritual and worldly. He was displeased with his current state and sought greater enlightenment in lands that the empire could not provide. As he was leaving the gates of the city, he was approached by some men...or one guard. They asked that he leave some scripture and writings for the people before he were to go; wisdom that could be handed down to all the people, and for future generations. So the man went back to his temple and began to write down his worldly thoughts in a compilation of translated writings called Tao Te Ching (the Way and virtue).

Lao Tzu completed his works and left to seek greater enlightenment elsewhere, far in the kingdom and in neighboring lands. It is not known if he left alone or with an army; however, he left. In his works he speaks of the “sage-king,” and how the likeness of the sage-king is to be imitated in order to achieve Tao, a harmony with the world we live in and the universe that governs us. It is unclear if Lao Tzu ever returned to the city or if he ever found the sage-king and the enlightenment he sought. His composi-

tion of approximately 5,000 words and his works have been translated and handed down for many generations and millennia. To date much is unknown of Lao Tzu or if he even existed; there is only the Tao Te Ching he left for our study. This is the legend of Lao Tzu and the mission or purpose he had in founding Taoism.

Nontraditional Lao Tzu

Much like the original or previous legend of Lao Tzu, this standpoint has some corroborative evidence to support its legend. The legend is that Lao Tzu was a wealthy philosopher and a great military commander. He created most of his works from his temples in China and was a well-respected man in society. It is rumoured that Lao Tzu was a disciple of Confucius; however, if this was true there would be greater mention of his presence and his works in the teachings of Confucius. The thoughts of Confucius stem from the teachings of Lao Tzu, as the path to the Tao leads us to Te, which is the guiding principle for the element of moral governance mentioned and stressed in the teachings of Confucius.

Much like the previous legend, Lao Tzu had revelations and a longing to seek greater enlightenment, as well as a potential military purpose to extend trade and border security with India. During this time, Siddhartha Gautama, or Buddha, was a prince of India and a sage of the Shayas (sage-king), a group of religious ideology, thought, and government formed in the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal. The prince who was also spiritually enlightened was tired of the suffering of his kingdom, and sought similar enlightenment and spiritual guidance as Lao Tzu. Ironically in the legend of Lao Tzu he is seeking the sage-king who is included in his writings. It may be that Lao Tzu had previous knowledge of the Shayas in Nepal, and viewed it as a potential threat to the empire.

Lao Tzu left his compilations of works with a guard named Yin Xi in the state of Zhou (1045–256 BC); it was rumoured that he was heading to the “frontier.” One can only assume that this location would be the frontier of the borderlands of the kingdoms that were ruled by Siddhartha Gautama and the Shayas. Ironically the dates given in history of Lao Tzu and Siddhartha Gautama are of a similar timeline and nature. Also, as stated previously, Lao Tzu had ancestry and lineage cited to be in the army. It is not far-fetched to conclude that Lao Tzu, who was a philosopher, may have also been a great general or commander.

His journey to the frontiers (if during the same time as Siddhartha

MY BELIEF

Gautama's rule in Nepal) would have logically led them to meet each other—the old master (Lao Tzu) who sought the sage-king and enlightenment from suffering, and the young prince, who sought the old master and enlightenment from suffering. This is the legend of Lao Tzu.

In the teachings of Taoism, there is the reference to a sage-king or philosopher king, which can be seen as a prophet most high, one who has understood the principles of Tao, Te, Pu, and Wu-wei. It is unsure to whom Lao Tzu is referring; however, himself or others in his likeness could be the suggestion and purpose of the sage-king. Lao Tzu would be too modest to use himself as a direct example, and instead uses the term. Remember that the legend of Lao Tzu includes him seeking exodus and greater being. Gautama also left his kingdoms according to legend to seek greater existence and the reason for such suffering in the world. I believe that this longing and desire to acquire the knowledge of each other is a guiding premise to the discovery of each other...

Since it is highly unlikely that both of these men's intelligence would not be recognized in their time, it can be assumed that they had positions of influence. During times of famine and hunger, perhaps Lao Tzu and Buddha met and carried out spiritual philosophy as well as diplomatic conversation. Realize that this is simply a possibility and that all avenues must be considered. Remember that according to legend Gautama was a prince from India who sought the reason for suffering in his lands. He carried his search into the Northern Orient and may have met Lao Tzu in his journeys, seeking the same enlightenment and purpose to the kingdom. This is the reason for the introduction of Tibetan Buddhism into the Orient. Either way, Gautama's Buddhism influenced these regions.

It must be recognized, however, that both of these men began to seek spiritual and holistic guidance in legend. The timelines for both men are similar, and both men preached similar beliefs and values, although coming from different cultural backgrounds.

This is the reason why Taoism and Buddhism are incorporated as one. Buddhism and Taoism preach the concepts of meditation and observation, key virtues (Te) which are needed in attaining spiritual guidance and enlightenment. Once the balance of the yin-yang, action-reaction, and the concept of pu (accepting one's position in life) are attained, the path of Tao will illustrate the governance of karma. When becoming nonreactive, holistic, observant, and comfortable in one's life, enlighten-

ment or a greater source of being can be achieved in Taoism; this principle is called Wu-Wei.

Taoism is the understanding of the endless cycle of our earth and universe, the yin-yang of all things. The good and the bad all have purpose in our existence; if we eliminate the suffering in our lives, and accept the path we are given or the paths that are given to us...then suffering will end. This term is to become like a piece of pu (unworked piece of wood); let life be the carpenter that guides you and shapes your destiny.

Embrace challenge and meet it with confidence in yourself, combined with the humility that will let you appreciate the simple things in life. The key principle is to react, without reacting—an oxymoron. If you thirst, you seek water; seeking water does not harm anything or interrupt anyone; you have reacted, without causing reaction. This principle is one of the leading principles of karma, to be able to respond without leaving an impact, or leaving a positive one.

Unbiased observation is critical in assessing any situation as well as your own. If you can look without bias at your world (including yourself) and your surroundings, then you are on your way to achieving Tao. In order to achieve Tao, you must first understand Te or gain virtues. Virtues are noble characteristics found in man and intelligible animals. They are qualities that help us understand Tao or “the way” of life. Sometimes it can take a lifetime to build or gain enough Te (virtue) to understand Tao (Way). This is the whole purpose of life, to find Tao and admire the life we are living in and are part of. We also must appreciate and understand suffering, as our path to salvation can be understood by a higher sense of being.

Remember when appreciating the works of Lao Tzu, that it has been translated many times, much like the Bible. Some works may vary from translation to translation; however, the principle of the works remains constant, along with the spiritual guidance they are meant to convey. Below are some works from the Tao Te Ching, the compilations of Lao Tzu; the works shown represent a unity of Buddhism and Taoism which is the intent of the chapter. Although Confucius’ works are considered sacred and scholarly in China, brief study will conclude that the principles of Confucius arise from the teachings of Lao Tzu and Buddha. The compilations of Lao Tzu are divided into two categories (Tao is part I, Te is part II).

MY BELIEF

Tao Te Ching

Book 1 (Tao):17th Quotation

The highest Ruler
Is the one not known to exist by those below.
Next to him is the ruler
The people relate to and praise.
Next to him is the ruler
The people fear.
Next to him is the ruler
Mocked by the people.
It is when one's faith is not adequate
That there are those who have no faith in him.
Cautious!
He prizes his words,
Accomplishes merit and orders affairs,
So the hundred names all say:
"We are like this by nature"

Book 1 (Tao): 33rd Quotation

He who knows men
Is wise.
He who knows himself
Is enlightened.
He who is victorious over men
Is brawny.
He who is victorious over himself
Is strong.
He who knows contentment
Is rich.
He who acts determinedly
Is successful.
He who does not lose his place
Endures.
He who does not his place
Endures.
He who dies yet does not perish
Lives forever.

Book 2 (Te): 42nd Quotation

“The mighty and fierce obtain no natural death.
This I shall use as a father to my teachings.”

Book 2 (Te): 50th Quotation

Man comes out into life
And enters into death.
The apprentices of life
Are ten and three.
The apprentices of death
Are ten and three.
Those who live life as movement toward death
Are also ten and three.
For what reason?

Book 2 (Te): 52nd Quotation

There was a genesis for all under Heaven,
And this genesis may be taken as
The Mother of all under Heaven.
He who has already found this Mother
May understand Her offspring,
And having understood Her offspring,
Return to preserve the Mother
And be unharmed to the end.
Block the apertures, shut the gates,
And to the end there will be no toil.
Open the apertures, heighten activity,
And to the end there will be no salvation.
To observe the small is called enlightenment.
To preserve the weak is called strong.
One uses brilliance
And returns to enlightenment
To bring no misfortune upon oneself.
This is called “practicing the eternal.”

Book 2 (Te): 72nd Quotation

When the people do not fear the awesome
Then something more awful obtains.
Their dwelling space should not be constricted,
Their life-styles should not be oppressed.
Only if the ruler does not oppress them
Do they not tire of the ruler.
Hence the sage knows himself
Yet does not show himself.
He loves himself
Yet does not esteem himself.
He therefore discards that and accepts this.

<p>YIN LIGHT LIFE EASTERN SUN FEMALE</p>	<p>YANG DARKNESS DEATH WESTERN SUN MALE</p>
<p>-New Awakening: acceptance of surroundings and position in life.</p> <p>-Hierarchy granted according to karma: realizing and accepting your position in life will lead to an awakening and greater sense of being, as your suffering will leave, allowing you to view life from a position of neutrality.</p> <p>-Equality at Birth: beings first brought into the life are innocent and do not understand their position in life immediately, making all beings equal.</p> <p>-New Birth: once the above concepts are understood a new awakening or greater sense of enlightenment can be attained, you have a peace with your creator and your surroundings.</p> <p>-The Path to Salvation: realize that everything is pure in the beginning, and elements of that purity remain visible in life; this is the path to salvation and love.</p>	<p>-Acceptance of death: realize that everything will perish and return to its original state.</p> <p>-Realize hierarchy: realize that not all things and beings are created equal; however, each has its own purpose and position in life. Each being is superior in separate ways.</p> <p>-Realization that human influence causes impurity: man's imprint on earth can be seen since our creation; we must realize that we are governing this reality, and that we cannot be purer than creation.</p> <p>-Recognition of evil in the world (animal and human): realize that all beings' instinct is to serve themselves instead of their surroundings; this leads to a sense of selfishness and control that, if not balanced, can cause impurity and evil in the world.</p> <p>-Punishment: realize that negative action causes consequence.</p> <p>-Pain and Anger: realize that pain and anger are the roots for suffering; understanding your pain and anger can lead us to embrace suffering and enjoy life on a day to day basis.</p>

Principles of Buddhism and Taoism

Some Eastern school philosophers believe that the Western sun or “setting sun” is the path of the coward; however, this is not true...the Western sun, if not fully understood, is not the path of the coward, but can create the coward. For we must understand the principles of the Western sun, to confront the fears and evils of the world, and in order to embrace the Eastern sun, in order to embrace fear, we must first understand fear.

That fear is the Western sun; the Eastern sun is the way of being that helps us awaken to a greater sense of being and understanding. Understanding both concepts allows us to embrace fear and live and accept your role in life; this is the concept of pu in Taoism. To become like an unworked piece of wood ready to be molded by the hand of the carpenter that is life; that is pu.

Understanding the Western and Eastern sun or rising and setting sun is key to achieving the understanding of Tao (Way), which guiding principles are that on yin and yang. This is key to attaining the principles of Wu-Wei (nonreaction), and becoming like a piece of pu (unworked piece of wood). Remember that we cannot fight life, instead we must embrace it and accept the path we are given; this is suffering. Some things in life we can control, and others we must allow happen; these are the principles of Wu-wei, and Tao. The only way that we embrace these concepts is if we are able to achieve the Te, which are guiding virtues that we must have to able to embrace our path and achieve higher levels of enlightenment; this enlightenment is what we strive to achieve in Buddhism and Taoism.

Buddhism

(1000–483 BC)

Although Buddhism and Taoism are very similar in nature, Buddhism does not focus on the duality present in Taoism. Although Buddhism acknowledges the duality of existence, its focus is more on inner enlightenment and inner peace. Taoism is included with Buddhism because the existence of duality in life creates the paradoxes that are in life. These paradoxes allow these seemingly conflicting dualities to have

a common or similar origin. Buddhism focuses on a spirit or energy that is always there, and began from one omnipotent and never-ending energy source, infinite in being and understanding, therefore, eliminating duality and creating a single state of oneness.

Focusing on only the good things in life and ignoring the bad things will not prepare you for the life you are going to live. That is also to say that focusing only on the bad will not allow you to appreciate the good. Buddhism attempts to teach us that there is no good or bad; there is just now. To embrace your situation and life in the state of oneness, be at complete peace with yourself, your environment, and others around you—understand what virtue is, and accept yourself as a being who belongs here. Once you do this; then all the negatives of the Western sun or setting sun can be faced with dignity, pride, and confidence. All the bad things in the world are no longer evil; they just simply need the help of those with virtue and enlightenment. Once this is understood, the need to be virtuous to yourself and others will help create a more peaceful and enlightened society; this is the goal of Buddhism.

Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

There are many forms of Buddhism in the world; however, the father of Buddhism can be seen as Siddhartha Gautama. Remember that the works and ways of the Buddha were not written down until about 400 years after his death. Much like the legends of Lao Tzu, much of the legend was from hearsay information passed on to disciples or other Buddhas over time. Because Buddha was a prince, bits and parts of the legend can be fitted together to form a legend according to My Belief. Like Lao Tzu there is much unknown information in regard to the life of the Buddha, yet the legend has never died, and like Lao Tzu, the philosophy of his teachings are still present in today's society.

Siddhartha Gautama can be viewed as the father of Buddhism in both modern and ancient forms of Buddhism. Much like the legends of Lao Tzu, there is much speculation of the time of birth of the Buddha and the events that occurred in his lifetime. We begin to notice now that in the lives of the prophets, much is speculated and recorded after their deaths. Because these figures are so controversial during their lifetimes, their lives are not imitated until their deaths. Even during the time of the Buddha, he was placed in a very unique sociopolitical situation.

The legends of the life of the Buddha consist of many compiled works on him. Much like the legends of Jesus, we do not start to see anything of his written works till after his death; and even after his death, these teachings are written works of disciples and not the Buddha himself. This translation and interpretation of the prophet's teachings are also present in the teachings of the Qur'an. After the prophet Muhammad died; his disciples began to write down the history and teachings of the prophet down. Like all writings and teachings, some of the interpretations and meanings are lost when the teacher dies.

The ancestry and lineage of the Buddha are carried through the descendants of the Indo-Iranian people; these are the descendants of Abraham and Sarah, and are of relation to the generation of Ishmael. India is built of two ancestries, those that migrated from Egypt and Africa, and those that migrated down the path or "corridor" of the mountains into the Sindhu valley, river valley of India, coming from the descendants of Abraham and Hagar (thus the term Indo-Iranian). Buddha is believed to be of Indo-Iranian descent and his belief differed slightly from the Hindu beliefs that the kingdom followed. These Buddhist beliefs may have stemmed from an Aryan concept of one God, coming from the teachings of Abraham.

Like Lao Tzu, there is evidence in the legend that Buddha had military training in combat and command. He was a Shakya prince who bordered the lands of the ancient Aryans, supporting the legends of the Vedic invasions. Nepal was a part of Northern India and bordered China and the Aryan lands. Buddha may have been a military commander and led many defences against invasion. Like the nontraditional version of Lao Tzu, an alliance may have been formed with China, neutralizing the tension with the Aryans and creating a peace in the frontier lands.

Buddhism is an enlightenment or higher sense of spiritual enlightenment that allows us to have a greater appreciation for the surroundings in the now, as well as seeing the moment from a third-person perspective. It is the ability to appreciate and love all things while understanding the principles of life (action-reaction), accepting suffering, and having the courage to embrace fear and use it as a strength in everyday life. When such an appreciation for life is understood (many of us experience this at some point in our lives) we achieve a form of enlightenment or higher spiritual being; this is the beginning of becoming like a Buddha.

Life is struggle and this struggle can be seen in the concepts of the Eastern and Western sun, a rising (Eastern) and a setting (Western), in essence a living and dying sun. Remember that all life is equal in the beginning, thus the preservation of innocence must be defended at all costs. A large part of Buddhism's focus is on the defence and protection of the innocent; this act is in defence of Eastern sun concepts. Unfortunately the Western sun mentality is needed to achieve the need for such defence. For example the martial arts of monks and the mastery of their weaponry is not an Eastern sun trait. The Western and Eastern sun concepts are a more modern concept of Buddhism; the primary concept of the Buddha was to love all things.

Although this may be a vague concept, it is hard to always love one's life; in fact it is impossible to never be angry. If your anger is in love, you are never really without love in your heart. This justifies the cause of righteous anger, sometimes warranted in life and particular situations, thus justifying the protection of the innocent by the Buddha. Remember that if everyone loved with the Eastern sun, such anger would not be justified; the path to enlightenment is to accept both good and evil. The Buddha's mission was to distinguish the boundaries of such lines and to aid the people on their path to salvation and peace.

The Legend of Buddha

It is said that Siddhartha Gautama the Buddha was born in a small town in Lumbini in the kingdom of Kipilvastu; today these places are located in Nepal. Buddha was born into royalty and was a royal prince at birth. During conception a wise prophet or Rishi was said to prophesy that the young prince would grow up to be a great king or a religious holy man.

The Buddha's father was king of the Shakyas, which was an organized colony found in the foothills of Nepal. This group was a part of the Kingdom of India during the Vedic years. The Vedic years are the years in which the forming of the Vedas in the Hindu religion, which are the governing scripture of the religion, were being founded. During the Vedic times, the people of India were rumoured to have endured attacks from the exiled Norseman of the Roman and Greek empires. These Vedic invaders became known as the Aryan people, comprised of Indo-Iranian people in India and those among the Persians (Iran, Iraq, Pakistan).

During Buddha's childhood he was schooled in the arts of politics and

war; spiritualism was a big part of the Hindu religion and the prophesied existence of young Siddhartha Gautama was just beginning to unfold. During the Vedic conflicts, the Buddha had attained significant victories and the frontier lands among his borders were secure for peace. After a time, Buddha was married to a cousin and the throne of the Shakyas was to be his. The young prince had everything he desired and peace amongst his lands, yet still he sought greater enlightenment elsewhere.

His father attempted to keep him sheltered from some of the evils of the kingdom; however, the young Buddha had a need to connect with the people. It is said that he came across an aging man, a decaying corpse, and a deceased man. These sufferings inspired him to learn more of his people. Because of Buddha's military training and political experience it is unlikely that these sufferings would be enough to cause enlightenment on their own. Instead the Buddha, who was well on his way to enlightenment, wanted to understand and suffer with the people.

After touring his kingdom and deciding that the only way to understand the people was to become like the people, Buddha packed and went in journey of enlightenment and spiritual guidance in order to become a better leader. Ironically during this same rumoured time period, Lao Tzu went on a similar mission, with a similar purpose. Remember that Lao Tzu sought the sage-king, and left the southern part of China in order to seek greater enlightenment elsewhere in the kingdom. It is possible that these men were driven by the same spiritual guidance and that they were great philosopher generals who met long ago and helped unite the kingdoms of India and China during the Vedic invasions.

The Vedic missions remain largely a mystery, and to some a myth of ancient battles and crusades fought in India. It is not that the Vedic invaders controlled and overthrew India and influenced scripture; it is in fact that India defended and overthrew invaders for many hundreds of years that these wars can be viewed as the Vedic invasions. Invasion from the Aryans can be seen as the countries of what are now considered Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. These ancestors are from the Indo-Iranian culture, the same culture in which some members migrated to Northern India. This ancient feud may have been a reason for the Vedic wars to start in the first place.

The Buddha left his palace and his queen in order to seek greater enlightenment elsewhere in the kingdom. He dressed like a poor man and

began to beg on the streets in order to better understand his people. The Buddha was able to hear and have greater understanding about the problems plaguing the people and the lands. Much like a king dressing as a commoner, Buddha sought to gain simple pleasure in life, a concept that is hard to achieve as a wealthy prince. Buddha's experience as a beggar and spiritual guide to the people served as a key path of enlightenment in establishing his beliefs.

It is said that the Buddha continued to live off of the people, seeking charity, shelter, and food from them. From a logical and enlightened position, we can see how this would not make much sense. A Buddhist monk's position is to provide for the people (poor, sick, elderly), not the other way around. It can be assumed that after the Buddha gained the enlightenment he sought, he returned to the kingdom as prince and distributed the wealth and funds to the people. This enlightened spirit and esteem would reflect the peaceful existence that the Buddha strove to attain for all, making him truly a Buddha. For whom would the Buddha be if he turned his back on the position given to him by God? Some may argue that his path to poverty, asceticism, and simplicity would be a more "correct" path; correct for whom?

Whether the Buddha chose to stay and live as a poor man amongst the people, or return to his throne to be a leader he was destined to be... it is up to the believer. This is a known fact when studying any text; remember that the difference in denomination is in the interpretation of the text. It is easy to see how people would not like to view the Buddha as having such traits like anger and military cunningness; however, how would he be able to protect his people and preserve enough peace to extend the message that he was given?

Remember that in history many great military leaders were peaceful men (Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon), so why not the Buddha? It is not certain how the Buddha died; however, it is said that he knew he was going to become ill. He ate his last meal (which he received from charity) and told the man who gave it to him not to worry about his death after. It should not be taken as his fault for the events about to take place. It is said that at about the age of eighty, the Buddha passed on and instructed his followers to adhere to the way of his teachings and follow no leader. It is uncertain how he died, or where he died, only that he did. It is said that a Buddha never really dies or grows old, that he just is... That is the legend of Siddhartha Gautama, the one known as Buddha.

Rise of India

The first Hindus were a people who had a connection with God that represented itself through the mysteries of the mind and nature. For example, many religious journeys or soul searching in which the person is at a complete state of euphoria and oneness, similar to Buddhism. In fact, Buddhists teachings may have arisen from the Hindu and Taoist religions. An amalgamation of both Hinduism and Taoism created the Buddhist belief that was adopted by Siddhartha Gautama.

Although there are many separate states of mind in Hinduism, there is reference to the concept of God and karma. The bondage we face or suffering and Mukti (spiritual connection) appears to set standards for a messenger or “one who is close to God” to come or attain a similar spiritual evolution. Mukti also speaks of the different elevations of consciousness needed to attain the spiritual connection with God, or to become a Buddha.

The views and spiritual attainments in Buddhism are similar to that of Guru Nanak Der and the Sikh belief. It is said that the meditation needed to be in connection with God all the time is great, and few have the ability to achieve this. This also coincides with Qur’anic teachings, which define the existence of God on multiple different planes of existence, as Allah is master and lord of all worlds. Hinduism speaks of understanding karma and the enlightenment and peace needed in meditation and attaining a connection with God on a variety of levels. Once the path to salvation or the domain of an individual is understood, then the road to salvation can begin.

Hinduism does not speak of God, but simply the thought of God. It is that thought which propels the future of the universe (wanting to be and return to that energy.) Once the cycle of life, death, rebirth, and judgment is understood, then the path to enlightenment or becoming a Buddha can begin; once you attain enlightenment, your road to salvation can then begin.

The Forms of Buddhas: In Buddhism there are three attainment methods to that of Buddha.!

1) **Sammasambuddhas:** attain buddhahood, then decide to teach

1 <http://schools-wikipedia.org/wp/b/Buddhahood.htm> (Accessed December 2011)

others the truth they have discovered. They led others to awakening by teaching the Dhamma in a time where it has been forgotten. Siddhartha Gautama is considered a sammasambuddha.

2) **Pacceka Buddhas:** sometimes called “silent Buddhas” are similar to sammasambuddhas in that they attain nirvana and acquire many of the same powers as a sammasambuddha, but are unable to teach what they have discovered. They are considered second to the sammasambuddhas in spiritual development. They do ordain others; their admonition is only in reference to good and proper conduct (abhisamacarikasikkha). In some texts, the pacceka Buddhas are described as those who understand the Dhamma through their own efforts, but do not obtain mastery over the ‘fruits’ (phalesu vasabhavam).

3) **Savaka Buddhas:** attain nirvana after hearing the teaching of a sammasambuddha (directly or indirectly). The disciple of a sammasambuddha is called a savaka (“hearer” or “follower”) or, once enlightened, an arahant. These terms have slightly varied meanings but can all be used to describe the enlightened disciple. Anubuddha is a rarely used term, but is used by the Buddha in the Khuddakapatha to refer to those who become Buddhas after being given instruction. Enlightened disciples attain nirvana and parinirvana as the two types of Buddha do. Arahant is the term most generally used for them, though it is also applicable to Buddhas.

The Three Principles of Buddhism²

Anicca (Sanskrit anitya) “inconstancy” or “impermanence.” This refers to the fact that all conditioned things (sankhara) are in a constant state of flux. In reality there is no thing that ultimately ceases to exist; only the appearance of a thing ceases as it changes from one form to another. Imagine a leaf that falls to the ground and decomposes. While the appearance and relative existence of the leaf ceases, the components that formed the leaf become particulate material that may go on to form new plants. Buddhism teaches a middle way, avoiding the extreme views of eternalism and nihilism.

Dukkha (Sanskrit dukkha) or “unsatisfactoriness” (or “dis-ease”; also often translated “suffering,” though this is somewhat misleading). Nothing found in the physical world or even the psychological realm can bring lasting deep satisfaction.

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_marks_of_existence (Accessed December 2011)

Anatta (Sanskrit anatman) or “non-self” is used in the suttas both as a noun and as a predicative adjective to denote that phenomena are not, or are without, a permanent self, to describe any and all composite, substantial, phenomenal and temporal things, from the macrocosmic to microcosmic, be it matter pertaining to the physical body or the cosmos at large, as well as any and all mental machinations, which are impermanent.

When the three principles of Buddhism are understood you begin to notice patterns and cycles in everything you do. The subconscious then becomes awakened and you become free of the need of possessions. Meaning you may still desire and acquire possessions, but the obsession with them is overcome; they are not essential in feeling whole. Many people after having children feel a greater peace or deeper meaning in their life; this is a form of nonpossessive love. An even higher connection is achieved when you can connect above any emotional connection to anything physical, and attain a meditative state in which you are almost asleep, but still awake.

Following Buddhism and attaining a form of enlightenment comes with great care and self-evaluation and discipline. There are other paths to salvation; however, when you consider a path to Buddhism you must incorporate a holistic approach and omega approach to all forms of life. Once this is achieved, you will notice a coincidence or a pattern in your life around you. Once that is achieved you awaken your subconscious and your greater conscious becomes a greater being; you are in essence awakened. When you achieve all these attainments you then become more self-aware and have attained salvation and a spiritual connection with the eternal energy that is life.

In essence that eternal energy and connection is in fact an energy that cannot be controlled, and never ceases to exist. Nothing is bad, everything is one, and since we are created from this energy, we are never-ending and are not bad. Once you attain peace with yourself, others, and your surroundings, then you can appreciate that connection and peace from within. There is usually always an inner struggle for most people to overcome; this inner struggle can often be confusing, scary, and cause much strife in life. That is why spirituality is so important in life, and why it is important to have proper direction. This is a main reason for such severe punishment of blasphemy in the past. Since religion defines the moral base, if the religion is corrupted, the morals of the people are corrupted.

13. JUDGES, KINGS, AND PROPHETS

After the Exodus of Moses and the reign of Joshua came to an end, an era of governance known as the prophets, kings, and elders began. The time of Judges was before Israel had a king, and the prophets are leaders throughout Israel's history. After the death of Joshua there was no appointed heir to lead the tribes of Israel. Judges were then appointed to oversee and perform priestly duties, according to the Torah and the Tanak. They were in charge of judgments, marriages, butchery, and other ceremonies according to the ways of the old scripture. Many things were judged by use of weight, such as grain, gold, cloth, and other spices and herbs throughout the land. The people were not that educated and the judges ensured fair distribution of these goods.

The judges arose from all the tribes and acted as chiefs or ambassadors of Israel; over time new prophets were sent to guide the people, such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Samuel. The prophet was seen as the high priest of Israel and acted and carried out judgments and orders of God and Israel. Over time the people grew covetous of the position of the prophet and a king was established over the people. This king was not a vessel to God, but an authority figure to the people; the people still followed the prophet in direction and matters of God. Affairs of the kingdom became represented by the king and members of the senate or high councils (aristocracy).

Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

SAMUEL 8:19–20 (NKJV)

King Saul and King David

(1000–900 BC)

The first Jewish kings descended from the ancestors of the first tribes of Israel, much like the ancient Celts and Scots, the people elected a king to represent and watch over the people. David is from the descendants mentioned in the book of Ruth, coming from his father Jesse. Many times a power struggle occurred, like the battle between Saul and David for the throne of Israel. The story of David and Goliath comes into mind; however, remember that Samuel told the people that they should elect a king because they were not following the word of the prophet and would prefer a king to lead the people. The election of Saul caused much controversy as the people were warned that the creation of a king would lead to division among the people, as a power struggle would occur to be king or to have influence over power.

SAMUEL ALSO SAID TO SAUL, “THE LORD SENT ME TO ANOINT YOU KING OVER HIS PEOPLE, OVER ISRAEL. NOW THEREFORE, HEED THE VOICE OF THE WORDS OF THE LORD.”

1 SAMUEL 15: 1–2 (NKJV)

As Saul was elected king over Israel he was instructed by God to wage war against Amalek.. His forces then warred with them and proceeded to rape and pillage the lands of the conquered king, Amalek. Samuel protested these actions and decreed that he shall no longer reign as king over the land, but that King David shall reign over the people. This caused division in the houses of Israel and caused the threat of war among the people according to prophecy.

BUT SAMUEL SAID TO SAUL, “I WILL NOT RETURN WITH YOU, FOR YOU HAVE REJECTED THE WORD OF THE LORD, AND THE LORD REJECTED YOU FROM BEING KING OVER ISRAEL.” AND AS SAMUEL TURNED TO GO AWAY, SAUL SEIZED THE EDGE OF HIS ROBE, AND IT TORE. SO SAMUEL SAID TO HIM, “THE LORD HAS TORN THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL FROM YOU TODAY, AND GIVEN IT TO A NEIGHBOR OF YOURS, WHO IS BETTER THAN YOU.”

1 SAMUEL 15:26–28 (NKJV)

After this conflict arose between Samuel and Saul and the divisions grew throughout the kingdom, Saul grew covetous of the power and admiration of David. He sought to kill David on many occasions, and David also forgave him on many occasions. For many years there was

great conflict between Saul and David; Saul could not deal with the loss of his position and the fact that he was no longer king. There was much strife and controversy throughout the history of the exact happenings of these events; there are many additional scriptures such as the scriptures of Solomon and other ancient Hebrew texts that are mentioned during that time period. Saul consulted mediums and seers of all the lands in order to retain his position amongst his people; however, he grew more pathetic and deceitful as time went on in his attempt to gain back his honor. The people eventually rose against Saul and surrounded his living quarters; they ordered him to come out.

THEN SAUL SAID TO HIS ARMORBEARER, “DRAW YOUR SWORD, AND THRUST ME THROUGH WITH IT, LEST THESE UNCIRCUMCISED MEN COME AND THRUST ME THROUGH AND ABUSE ME.” BUT HIS ARMORBEARER WOULD NOT, FOR HE WAS GREATLY AFRAID. THEREFORE SAUL TOOK A SWORD AND FELL ON IT.

1 SAMUEL 31: 4 (NKJV)

Remember that prior to this there were elders and judges that carried out the rulings and governance of the Hebrew people. The events that ensued after the introduction of a king are testament to the anger of god in needing a king to be over his people. Over time King David became old and announced the heir of the throne to be given to his successor, warrior, and honorary son named Solomon.

King Solomon

(950–850 BC)

The reign of King Solomon is much disputed in the histories of time; much like Alexander the Great, Solomon was a man of war, and a man of pleasure. Solomon was to said to have hundreds of wives and concubines during his reign. His reign was one of wealth and power and he had secured supreme dominance over the throne of Israel. Some paint Solomon as an evil war monger and tyrant like Alexander and Gaius Caesar; however, like all kings know, there is a price to the road of glory.

Like Alexander, Solomon was a high priest as well as a king. He believed in taking care of the people and having faith in God to provide and secure successful dominion over his enemies. Since the wealth of the kingdom was great, he was extremely generous to the people and viewed

MY BELIEF

almost as a God king to the people of Israel. A most famous note of the reign of Solomon is the creation of the temple of God or the Temple of Solomon. Solomon spent much of his free time there pondering on philosophical issues, judgments of the people, and helping the poor. His wives would accompany him many times and there is much envy for those that were allowed to enter the temple with his queens and trusted. This is the stem from many of the rumors of evil worship and other cult like customs that are tied to the Temple of Solomon.

The reign of Solomon saw great success to the people, and for the first time in many years the peace of King David held and was maintained through the rule of Solomon. After the death of Solomon the empire broke into war and the kingdom of Israel broke into two main divisions, the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Remember that the people of Israel were warned what would happen if they sought the election of king over the people. Samuel was wise and saw that the surrounding states and lands were always at war with themselves and each other. Over time he knew eventually that the power struggle to gain the throne would cause civil war and division among the people.

Kings I and II

(750–150 BC)

The time of Kings is ruled separately and during the time of the prophets, throughout much of the history of Israel we see the people rebelling against the word of God (Jeremiah and Ezekiel). During these time periods we see several wars take place and break out amongst the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah. There was not only struggle and battle, but alliances between them at times as well. This evidence in the Bible helps support the fact that there were numerous competing tribes, cultures, and societies that were attempting to flourish at the time. This is also relevant as the struggle between Greece and Rome was occurring at these times, as they were of exiled tribes that had made exodus during the wars between Israel long ago.

The cultures and philosophical thinking with the human mind and body began to flourish as rich and civilized cultures spread throughout the lands. These philosophies introduced the concepts of mythology that helped quell some of the old “blood” feuds that arose out of traditional scripture. Many gods, warriors, and figureheads were introduced into a form of religion. After this time period these religions would be consid-

ered blasphemous; practiced religion began embracing the body as a god or temple that is made from or originated from the Creator. This view coincides with all spiritual beliefs and all religions.

This enabled new possibilities for the mind and gave people and their heroes' legendary status. Many of the practices of mythology helped fuel printing, and other forms of writing appeared more frequently. As societies grew, writing became more and more important as a means of communication amongst "high" people. The people also had time to begin to be schooled and the first forms of modern day society occurred.

This era also gave us the first forms of democracy, as elite aristocracies began to have influence over the kings and their rulings. Many times the councils would have to rule in favor of a law in order for it to be passed. A similar event in modern times such as the high lords in England signing the Magna Carta (which still governs England and its colonies, such as Canada, Australia, South Africa), which was signed by King John in 1215 AD.

In fact much of the battles that France and England fought stemmed from the Greek and Roman division bloodlines as they settled and conquered more lands. These ancient families of Europe, Rome, and Greece came from the ancient bloodlines of Israel. The irony is the fact that this competition and hatred allowed technology and technological advancement to occur at a faster rate. Many of the feuds of Europe and the alliances made afterwards are similar situations and circumstances that faced the people in biblical times of the Kings. The ancient laws and religions mentioned in this book have helped create the prosperity and peace of these great empires.

There is much more to the histories of prophets and the kings; however, further reading of these biblical events is required on the reader's part. The laws of Abram and the covenant with Israel extended right up until modern day rule (queen of modern day England). This tradition first began in the empires of Israel and Egypt. Remember the reason for the exodus of Moses was because of a corrupt king (Ramses II), this is why God did not encourage another king to preside over the people. The people are intended to go through the prophet and be virtuous; this is the only way the people can be equal (ending feuding). Of course over time the evolution of government gave rise to democracy, which is the ultimate voice of the people, or so it is intended to be.

14. CHRISTIANITY

Christianity is one of the largest religions in the world and is the founding religion of many of the Westernized nations of the world. Christianity has evolved from the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ and evolved to what is modern-day Christianity. The Christian belief encompasses, like many other religions, a variety of denominations and sects, each claiming to be the correct pathway to salvation. Like each chapter, no one specific denomination will be focused on here, instead simply the life of Jesus and the mission and purpose of what he meant to achieve will be discussed and focused on.

Christianity, like many other religions, has evolved from the original words of the Old Testament. Although Jesus came to teach a new way, many of his core beliefs stem from the laws and ways of the prophets (such as Abram and Moses). Like many things, people began to take the old law and distort its meaning, along with perverting the way it was meant to be enforced. Many Jewish people began manipulating their own people, and the Roman people were still pagans or gentiles (believing in mythology). Many social and economic struggles faced the people of Christ's time; a big part of this struggle was for the rights of women and children. Jesus sought to achieve social and political equality for everyone, which remains the goal of Christians today.

There are many historical and recorded events that will further be discussed in Christianity. This chapter will attempt to explain the missions of Jesus Christ and his apostles, along with the message that is meant to be sent. The chapter will begin illustrating the timeline of the life of Jesus Christ from birth until death. The life of Jesus Christ varies among denominations; however, many forms of Christianity contain much unity. It is that unity that we will focus on in Christianity,

allowing for all branches of researched Christianity to tell a story of a movement that did in fact eventually sweep the world.

Many denominations and branches of Christianity dispute details in regard to the crucifixion and death of Jesus; but in all accounts they all agree that he lived, preached, and was the Son of God and the son of man. The account of the life or story of Jesus will include facts that are found through many years of religious study. Remember that much of the life of Jesus Christ was of an oral tradition and the New Testament was written after the death of Christ. Also much of the New Testament is created by the apostle Paul who claimed to have been directed to set “rules and guidelines” to the newly founded church. The life of Christ was to preach equality, love, and to not trespass anyone; these are the rules and guidelines of the Christian belief.

There is much controversy over the life of Jesus Christ; what he did and how he lived is still argued among historical and religious scholars. We know this for certain, that a man with this name did in fact come to the world to preach the word of God. There is much archaeological evidence to support the historical collaboration of his existence. Many of the places that were visited and seen in the gospels of the New Testament such as the Temple of King Herod, and the places such as Rome and Galilee are known to have been historical cultures and places; many of these sites and ancient ruins of these cultures are visible even today.

Jesus Christ

(approximately 33 BC)

The life of Jesus is said to have begun at his birth. Jesus Christ is believed to have been born of virgin birth, coming from his mother Mary. When he was born it is said the three wise men from faraway lands saw a star that guided them to a stable in Bethlehem. These shepherds brought presents of incense, myrrh, gold, and other fine things such as linens. These wise men said that they had traveled far and wide to see the birth of the boy. In other varying denominations of Christianity it is said that angels came from the heavens and rejoiced with glory over the birth of the boy king in the stable.

Remember that the Hebrew word for angel is angele, which simply means messenger. So the testaments claim that the angels proclaimed glories from the heavens; this can be seen as true as the messengers and believers of God who were present in Bethlehem would be able to feel the presence of the

MY BELIEF

boy and recognize the brilliance of the star shining in the East. This is the star that guided the wise men to find the boy in the manger. These angels or messengers were going to the people to speak to them and tell them that the king was coming, that something great had happened. His father Joseph and his mother Mary were forced to return to Bethlehem for a census ordered by Caesar Augustus, as Roman rule controlled Israel during the time of Jesus.

AND IT CAME TO PASS IN THOSE DAYS THAT A DECREE WENT OUT FROM CAESAR AUGUSTUS THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE REGISTERED. THIS CENSUS FIRST TOOK PLACE WHILE QUIRINIUS WAS GOVERNING SYRIA. SO ALL WENT TO BE REGISTERED, EVERYONE TO HIS OWN CITY.

LUKE 2:1–3 (NKJV)

Mary and Joseph could not find anywhere to stay as the numbers in Bethlehem were great, and people from all over the lands came for the census. Before Mary was with Joseph, she was a beautiful virgin and desired by all the men of the land. Remember that finding a virgin of “mature” age in modern day is hard; imagine finding one of such stature in a time period when women were married at the age of fourteen. Joseph was the father of Jesus and was believed to be a carpenter and mason of sorts; his skills were required throughout the land and work was easy to come by in times of high demand. This may be a reason for Jesus having later become a carpenter by trade later in his life.

Just prior to the wise men going to visit the young Jesus, they had visited King Herod, king of Judea. The wise men approached the king and began to ask questions of the newborn child. Since Herod had no knowledge of these things or the child, he received information from the wise men and called together his scribes and priests. Herod was troubled by what the wise men prophesied—visions of a king being born that would alter and change the course of humanity. Not simply any king however, but one who was also a prophet. Herod feared this prophecy as his priests and scribes agreed that the birthplace of the Christ was supposed to be in Bethlehem of Judea.

“BUT YOU, BETHLEHEM EMPHRATHAH, THOUGH YOU ARE LITTLE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF JUDAH, YET OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH TO ME THE ONE TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL, WHOSE GOINGS FORTH ARE FROM OF OLD, FROM EVER-LASTING.”

MICAH 5:2 (NKJV)

The king, having been giving all his information and council, told the

wise men to report back to him once they have found the boy. But once the wise men found the boy in the manger, with his parents, they had visions to not return to Herod. Joseph the father of Jesus also had visions to take his family away from Judea and into the land of Egypt. Once Herod found out that the wise men had left the lands and not reported back to him, he gathered the information he had received from them and ordered all male children two years and under to be put to death within Judea. Herod's heart was cold with jealousy, envy, hate, and lust for power. He could not bear the thought of a messiah being born and given authority over him.

THEN HEROD, WHEN HE SAW THAT HE WAS DECEIVED BY THE WISE MEN, WAS EXCEEDINGLY ANGRY; AND HE SENT FORTH AND PUT TO DEATH ALL THE MALE CHILDREN WHO WERE IN BETHLEHEM AND IN ALL ITS DISTRICTS, FROM TWO YEARS OLD AND UNDER, ACCORDING TO THE TIME WHICH HE HAD DETERMINED FROM THE WISE MEN.

MATTHEW 2:16 (NKJV)

There is little known about the childhood of Jesus Christ; it is believed he lived a fairly normal childhood and spent most of it in Egypt. The name Jesus was fairly common at the time, and his mother's name Mary was even more common. It is believed that Jesus was inspired or gifted since he was a child. He is believed to have known his destiny since he was a young boy and spoke of many things and had great knowledge. His parents used to go into Jerusalem once a year to celebrate the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old he went missing in Jerusalem for a few days. His parents later found him studying and preaching in a temple; all the people around the boy were astonished at his knowledge and wisdom for his age. When his parents asked why he left without asking permission, he replied,

AND HE SAID TO THEM, "WHY DID YOU SEEK ME? DID YOU NOT KNOW THAT I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS?"

LUKE 2:49 (NKJV)

This is one example of how Jesus was gifted from such a young age. There are not many more accounts of the life of Jesus at childhood; however, he must have been quite the child. In fact much of the record of Jesus' life only account for his adult life, when he began his ministry with his apostles. Once Jesus was around the age of twelve, his parents decided to move back to the land of Israel. His father Joseph had a dream of an angel telling him that it was now safe to return to Israel.

MY BELIEF

For not long after the order of executions did King Herod fall ill and die; the throne was later handed over to his son.

NOW WHEN HEROD WAS DEAD, BEHOLD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED IN A DREAM TO JOSEPH IN EGYPT, SAYING, “ARISE, TAKE THE YOUNG CHILD AND HIS MOTHER, AND GO TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL, FOR THOSE WHO SOUGHT THE YOUNG CHILD’S LIFE ARE DEAD.”

MATTHEW 2:19–20 (NKJV)

When Joseph was getting close to Judea he decided to turn toward the Galilee region and settle there. Once hearing that the son of Herod held the throne of Judea, Joseph felt that it would be best if he still steered clear of Judea. It is here that Jesus spent most of his childhood growing up and living a pretty average Jewish life. Jesus learned the trades of his father and began to do carpentry and construction. While learning these trades, he was interested in religion and philosophy, and began to theorize and preach to the people. Remember that since a very young age Jesus was said to be gifted and inspired by God.

As an adolescent, Jesus began to study various religions and was believed to be involved with a group called the Essenes. This group is an ancient Hebrew/Jewish sect that shared a different belief of Judaism than was common to the majority of the people at the time; the Essenes were fewer in number than the Pharisees and Sadducees. In fact archaeological evidence of their existence was found at the historical site of Qum’ran. The site of Qum’ran is a historical site found in the north-eastern part of Israel, located by the Galilee region and Nazareth. This may have been the same group that John the Baptist was a part of; they preached the word of the Old Testament, and claimed to know secrets of the lineages and bloodlines of Israel.

Many of them also abstained from having wives and advocated a life free of sin. They focused on puritanical lifestyle and advocated the repentance of sins; this is very common and similar to the teachings of John the Baptist. Focusing on such abstinence from materialism and fleshly desire was not common to the Pharisees and Sadducees at the time. The Essenes often helped the poor people of Israel, and their favor among the people was scorned upon by the Pharisees and Sadducees as they believed in different scripture. Jesus became involved

with this group and eventually took to wandering the lands and became known as Christ, messiah, Nazarene, and truth seeker.

The Essenes were the group trusted with the Dead Sea Scrolls that contain other writings of the Old Testament not mentioned in the modern Bible. These works are compiled of unknown authors, although they do in fact know which time periods the scrolls refer to. Whether or not Jesus was involved with the Essenes is debatable; however, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls within the possession of Essenes is a historical fact. The Essenes were located near the homes of both John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth during their lifetimes. The Dead Sea Scrolls contained other parts of the ancient Hebrew Bible that were not included and recognized by the other sects (Pharisees, Sadducees).

Along his path Jesus met various people whom he preached to and loved very much; these people later became known as disciples and apostles in his later years. Jesus worked as a tradesmen or carpenter in his twenties, traveling from land to land. He later became shunned in his trade as many people became envious and jealous of his skill with people and the trade. He was seen as competition by many people, and because of his poor status was the recipient of much ridicule and persecution. Along with the struggles in daily life, he also preached and faced the spiritual pressures of becoming the man to lead civilizations to a path of salvation and world peace.

During his time in the Galilee and while studying with the Essenes, Jesus found the longing to seek and wonder the lands, learning the ways of strange people and their beliefs along his path. It is believed that he traveled the tin and frankincense routes into Rome, India, Asia, and other foreign lands. As he traveled the lands, he began to gain notoriety and people began to speak of him as a great spiritual leader and teacher. He was a young man of a great knowledge and wisdom and began to teach and create his own scripture and teachings. His disciples and apostles varied from all ages and walks of life, and became known throughout all the land. They varied from rich tax collectors and nobles to prostitutes and criminals; this was one reason why Jesus was so persecuted among members of religious orders, such as the Sanhedrin (Supreme Jewish Council).

Since Rome had control of Jerusalem, the soldiers often caused much grief and strife for the common people. Jesus was a man of jus-

tice and honor and would not stand for any crimes such as rape, murder, and robbery from the guards. These encounters with the Roman guards resulted in him being wanted in Rome for acts or crimes against the guards. At the time, Israel was being controlled by Roman rule. The Essenes were also zealots, who were a group or sect against the oppression of Rome in Israel. This term is often associated with extremism; however, these groups of men wanted a united and free Israel. As Jesus began to become more popular among his own countrymen, Rome began to view him and his followers as a threat to their occupation of the area.

The Jewish Revolt which occurred in 66 AD is a direct result of the actions of these early groups that began to lay the foundations of a zealot revolt. Remember that the Sanhedrin, Pharisees, and Sadducees were subservient to the Roman Empire. Their jealousy and envy of Jesus was even greater than that of the Roman governors. Jesus was beginning to be a religious leader as well as a political leader to his countrymen. The Pharisees and Sadducees began to lose influence over the people and did not like Jesus and his followers. Later on in Jesus' life these groups rallied for extreme persecution against Jesus and his followers. In fact, Saul of Tarsus, after the death of Jesus, carried out execution orders against followers of Christianity for the Sanhedrin.

Christ was known across the land as a zealot (one who admires God). This group was led by Jesus and had plans to overthrow the Romans from ruling the lands of Israel. In the year 66 AD the Jewish zealots or rebels staged a rebellion that went horribly. This rebellion was supposed to be led by Jesus; however, his crucifixion and death delayed the timing of the revolt. As a result the rebels were poorly trained and armed, and were crushed by the experienced Roman centurions. It is said that the early groups of zealots were formed of "robbers and bandits" who would attack the rule of Herod. Remember that Herod's forces were the ones who executed the children under two years, attempting to kill Jesus at a young age. Were these "robbers and bandits" as recorded in history, or were they rebels soldiers fighting oppression?

Many people do not believe that Jesus was part of such a movement or act of war; however, remember that the crucifixion of Jesus was a Roman order. Many people do not believe that Jesus and his apostles would be men of war; however, there is recorded evidence of them in fact being so. Upon the arrest of Jesus later in the story; Simon Peter draws a sword and strikes a servant of a high priest.

THEN SIMON PETER, HAVING A SWORD, DREW IT AND STRUCK THE HIGH PRIEST'S SERVANT, AND CUT OFF HIS RIGHT EAR. THE SERVANT'S NAME WAS MALCHUS.

JOHN 18:10 (NKJV)

As Jesus gained fame and notoriety among the land, he also gained some unwanted attention from those who were covetous of him, as to betray him. He returned from the lands afar and went back to his homeland to see his family and friends. He began to be known in Jerusalem for his wisdom and insight also. He began to preach to the people, both poor and rich, as well as donating the funds he collected from doing work and preaching. Often when Jesus would be asked to teach to those of wealth, he asked for a fee so he could distribute the wealth among the less fortunate. Many may not believe that Jesus would do so; however, it is recorded that Jesus and the apostles distributed such wealth among the people.

NOW JESUS SAT OPPOSITE THE TREASURY AND SAW HOW PEOPLE PUT MONEY INTO THE TREASURY. AND MANY WHO WERE RICH PUT IN MUCH.

MARK 12:41 (NKJV)

It is also said that he began to perform miracles such as healing and other feats of wonder. He began to travel to Qum'ran and share knowledge that he discovered with those that helped guide him and theorize with him. As Jesus became more famous and recognized throughout the land, he began to be viewed as a threat to Rome and especially the Sanhedrin. The greater man that Jesus became, the more and more he was envied and despised.

His generosity and sincerity in his words and manner, and his charismatic nature were cause for much jealousy and envy, which would eventually led to his betrayal. Jesus was wise enough to understand this and tried to get his apostles and disciples to not fight amongst themselves and be honest with each other and their emotions, to be GENUINE with each other.

As Jesus was traveling the lands, there was a man by the name of John the Baptist who was preaching the word of God and baptizing people in the name of the Holy Spirit and God.

JOHN CAME BAPTIZING IN THE WILDERNESS AND PREACHING A BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSIONS OF SINS.

MARK 1: 4 (NKJV)

MY BELIEF

During this time the Pharisees and Sadducees challenged John and often tried to ridicule him. As they were with Jesus, the Pharisees and Sadducees began to grow envious and jealous of John's rising influence over the people. Many people came to John and his baptisms to remit sins and establish a spiritual connection with God and each other (Holy Spirit). Many times the Pharisees and Sadducees sat and watched these events and later reported to the Sanhedrin about the blasphemies being committed by John and his followers.

BUT WHEN HE SAW MANY OF THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES COMING TO HIS BAPTISM, HE SAID TO THEM, "BROOD OF VIPERS! WHO WARNED YOU TO FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME?"

MATTHEW 3:7 (NKJV)

As John the Baptist preached and baptized people, Jesus one day approached him and asked to be baptized. Jesus knew John and wanted to meet him and share the discoveries and knowledge gained over the years. Remember that John the Baptist was the prophesied messenger to be sent to the people, preparing the way for the teachings of Jesus. John's father was a priest named Zacharias and who had a vision sent to him of John's birth occurring.

BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO HIM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, ZACHARIAS, FOR YOUR PRAYER IS HEARD; AND YOUR WIFE ELIZABETH WILL BEAR YOU A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JOHN. AND YOU WILL HAVE JOY AND GLADNESS, AND MANY WILL REJOICE AT HIS BIRTH. FOR HE WILL BE GREAT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, AND SHALL DRINK NEITHER WINE NOR STRONG DRINK. HE WILL ALSO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, EVEN FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB. AND HE WILL TURN MANY OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TO THE LORD THEIR GOD."

LUKE 1: 13-16 (NKJV)

It is written that the mother of Jesus, Mary, knew John's mother Elizabeth. In fact she was with Elizabeth when revelation had been given to her about the coming birth of John. Since Mary and Elizabeth knew each other (were cousins) it would be proper to assume that John and Jesus would also know each other from a young age. The difference in age between John and Jesus was only a few years, and when Jesus moved back to Israel from Egypt, it is highly plausible that Jesus and John would meet and share their stories.

As Jesus came before John and asked to be baptized, a sign from the heavens was said to have been sent down. A sign in the form of a dove appeared before John the Baptist as he acknowledged Jesus and heard him speak. After lengthy conversation John the Baptist acknowledged him and his word and joined the causes that Jesus sought (peace, equality, love). Their cause began to grow even more when the fellowship of John the Baptist joined the movement of Jesus Christ. Christ's influence now extended over much of the Roman ruled lands and posed much political chaos and tension within the territories of Israel. The Pharisees and Sadducees considered John the Baptist and Jesus Christ outlaws, rebels, and blasphemers; this created much political and social tension among those supporting John and Jesus, and those supporting the Sanhedrin.

As Jesus' fame and notoriety spread across the land, he established a safe heaven and refuge in Gethsemane. This later became the famous garden of Gethsemane where the Last Supper was believed to have taken place. Gethsemane is a wooded area at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Israel; naturally the garden was filled with olive trees. Jesus would gather here and often pray and dine, to be alone and meditate and teach those close to him that wanted to learn. He drank wine and socialized with his dearest and closest friends and apostles. Gethsemane of the Bible is an historic site today and can be viewed by the public. This historical preservation helps illustrate the accuracy of the Bible; if the places in the Bible are accurate, the accounts mentioned in the Bible must be accurate also. The accounts of Jesus' life may not be precise; however, they are proven to be accurate.

Throughout the course of Jesus' life he continued to give, preach, and extend the values of his cause and belief. It is said that he continued to perform miracles of all kinds throughout the land. To learn of these miracles one must read about them; however, here are a few examples of some of the said miracles:

- STILLING THE STORM (MATTHEW 8:23, MARK 4:35, LUKE 8:22)
- FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND (MATTHEW 14:13, MARK 6:30, LUKE 9:10, JOHN 6:1)
- FEEDING THE FOUR THOUSAND (MATTHEW 15:32, MARK 8:1)
- HEALING TWO BLIND MEN (MATTHEW 20:30, MARK 10:46, LUKE 18:35)
- TURNING WATER TO WINE (JOHN 2:1)

MY BELIEF

As time went on, controversy and betrayal began to occur. The political tensions grew and eventually John the Baptist was arrested by King Herod of Antipas, another son of King Herod the Great (mentioned at the beginning of the story). King Herod married the wife of his brother, a woman by the name of Herodias. John the Baptist did not approve of the union and was arrested as a result. Since John was a respected and reputed member of society, his opinion in matters of holy ceremonies was highly regarded.

Although those in charge did not have affection for John and Jesus; the love for John and Jesus among the people of Israel was very great. Often times John, Jesus, and the apostles were able to preach and roam free, for those who wanted to arrest them feared the retribution of the people. On this occasion however, King Herod decided to personally arrest John to teach him a lesson on not blessing his marriage.

FOR HEROD HIMSELF HAD SENT AND LAID HOLD OF JOHN, AND BOUND HIM IN PRISON FOR THE SAKE OF HERODIAS, HIS BROTHER PHILLIP'S WIFE; FOR HE HAD MARRIED HER.

MARK 6:17 (NKJV)

Along with being upset about John not sanctifying his relationship with Herodias, Herod was nervous about the detainment of John. John had a great many followers, and Jesus was also a fan and supporter of John. Jesus had great influence among the people and Herod knew that John's detainment could cause unrest and upheaval in his lands. Jesus knew that eventually the guards would find cause to arrest him also. The Sanhedrin (Jewish council) was putting a great deal of pressure on the Roman officials to have Jesus and his followers arrested. John while being imprisoned often asked about his beloved friend Jesus and sent messengers to deliver correspondence between both of them in the form of letters.

AND THIS REPORT ABOUT HIM WENT THROUGHOUT ALL JUDEA AND ALL THE SURROUNDING REGION. THEN THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN REPORTED TO HIM CONCERNING ALL THESE THINGS. AND JOHN, CALLING TWO HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM SENT THEM TO JESUS, SAYING, "ARE YOU THE COMING ONE, OR DO WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER?" WHEN THE MEN HAD COME TO HIM, THEY SAID, "JOHN THE BAPTIST HAS SENT US TO YOU, SAYING, 'ARE YOU THE COMING ONE, OR DO WE LOOK FOR ANOTHER?'" AND THAT VERY HOUR HE CURED MANY OF INFIRMITIES, AFFLICTIONS, AND EVIL SPIRITS; AND TO MANY

JOE ISAAC GAUTHIER

BLIND HE GAVE SIGHT. JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, “GO AND TELL JOHN THE THINGS YOU HAVE SEEN AND HEARD: THAT THE BLIND SEE, THE LAME WALK, THE LEPERS ARE CLEANSED, THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED, THE POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. AND BLESSED IS HE WHO IS NOT OFFENDED BECAUSE OF ME.”

LUKE 7:17–23 (NKJV)

The apostles of John reported these things back to him and spoke of all the miracles that were occurring and the answers Jesus gave to them. News of John’s arrest made its way over all the land and people from all walks of life were talking about it. During this time King Herod’s birthday arrived and he had a feast and celebration. During the celebration his wife Herodias had her daughter dance for the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased everyone that was there and King Herod, wanting to show his power, offered her anything in his kingdom she desired.

HE ALSO SWORE TO HER, “WHATEVER YOU ASK ME, I WILL GIVE YOU, UP TO HALF MY KINGDOM.”

MARK 6:23 (NKJV)

Herodias, being covetous and angry with John the Baptist, sought to have him killed. She knew that the death of John would bring great news and a sense of fame to the land. She was insulted that John would not bless her adulterous ways and knew that the Sanhedrin would not object or interject to the execution of John the Baptist. After her daughter was done dancing she ran to see her mother Herodias to tell her what the king offered her. Herodias, having great influence over her daughter, told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter as an example to question her authority and character.

SO SHE WENT OUT AND SAID TO HER MOTHER, “WHAT SHALL I ASK?” AND SHE SAID, “THE HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST!”

MARK 6:24 (NKJV)

Once the execution was complete, news of the death of John spread throughout all the land quickly. Jesus heard the news and became extremely depressed and saddened at having lost his dear friend. Jesus decided to travel by boat to somewhere deserted to lament the death of John with his close friends and the disciples of John. People however

MY BELIEF

saw them leaving and a great “multitude” of people followed them to the deserted place. It is said that Jesus was not angered at this and decided to heal the sick and help the poor among them. Jesus knew that the controversy surrounding him would continue to grow and his death was coming soon also.

News spread throughout all the land and among the Essenes. (Remember that Jesus and John are thought to have been involved with this group.) During the time of Jesus and John, the Essenes began to grow in number and were found in parts of Palestine, Syria, and outside of the cities in Judea. The spread of their existence into Persia shows how the influence of the religion stretched across and encompassed the beliefs of many cultures.

Many people began to protest the death of John the Baptist and talk of rebellion began to occur among the land. Remember that Jesus was known across many lands and even into the heart of Rome, since John was a great follower of Jesus, unrest was beginning to occur in many places.

Jesus continued with his mission, preaching and performing miracles as he went along the way. He eventually made his way into Jerusalem for the Passover where his arrival was celebrated by the multitudes in the street; it was said that many people laid clothes and palms down for him to walk on. This is the fabled incident that is recorded of Jesus coming to Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey. The people celebrated his arrival and the Sadducees and Pharisees grew envious and jealous of the attention Jesus was receiving. Now that John the Baptist was dead, the Sanhedrin, Pharisees, and Sadducees wanted Jesus dead more than anything. With Jesus dead, they believed the movement and support he gained would perish with him. In fact much like John the Baptist, the Sanhedrin planned to arrest Jesus and have him put in jail.

AND THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE SCRIBES SOUGHT HOW THEY MIGHT TAKE HIM BY TRICKERY AND PUT HIM TO DEATH. BUT THEY SAID, “NOT DURING THE FEAST, LEST THERE BE AN UPROAR OF THE PEOPLE.”

MARK 14: 1–2 (NKJV)

Since unrest occurred with the death of John the Baptist, the Sanhedrin feared potential rebellion with the arrest of Jesus. Jesus knew his betrayal was coming and decided to go to the garden of Gethsemane to feast with his closest friends and apostles. In tradition this later became known as the “last supper”; the depiction in the well known painting by Leonardo

de Vinci of Jesus at a table feasting with his apostles. Jesus shared his revelation with his apostles and told them how he was going to be betrayed and arrested. Since the death of John the Baptist, Jesus knew his time was soon coming. He was faced with the choice to either launch full-scale rebellion and war against the oppressing state, or to give himself as a martyr to the people. Jesus thought that by sacrificing himself for the people, he would avoid causing the deaths of many of the people he loved.

Upon hearing the revelation given by Jesus, many of the apostles did not want to accept the message they were given. Jesus spoke of some denying his name, some betraying and scorning him, and eventually his death as a result of it all. Perhaps one of the most famous quotes from this revelation is the betrayal of Christ from the apostle Peter, for Jesus said that even Peter who was said to have loved him greatly would deny knowing him before the day was done.

THEN JESUS SAID TO THEM, "ALL OF YOU WILL BE MADE TO STUMBLE BECAUSE OF ME THIS NIGHT, FOR IT IS WRITTEN: 'I WILL STRIKE THE SHEPHERD, AND THEN THE SHEEP WILL BE SCATTERED.'" "BUT AFTER I HAVE BEEN RAISED, I WILL GO BEFORE YOU TO GALILEE." PETER SAID TO HIM, "EVEN IF ALL ARE MADE TO STUMBLE, YET I WILL NOT BE." JESUS SAID TO HIM, "ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU THAT TODAY, EVEN THIS NIGHT, BEFORE THE ROOSTER CROWS TWICE, YOU WILL DENY ME THREE TIMES."

MARK 14:27–30 (NKJV)

After Jesus shared his revelation and had a word with those he felt compelled to speak with the guards and priests soon showed up to the garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus. There are many different versions of how Jesus was betrayed. Some say Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for so many shekels of silver, that he led the guards to the garden and then gave them a sign to point out Jesus amongst the crowd. This is the infamous Judas "kiss" that is spoken of in the Bible. The sign that Judas said he would give is a kiss to Jesus, pointing him out amongst the crowd.

NOW HIS BETRAYER HAD GIVEN THEM A SIGNAL, SAYING, "WHOMEVER I KISS, HE IS THE ONE; SEIZE HIM AND LEAD HIM AWAY SAFELY." AS SOON AS HE HAD COME, IMMEDIATELY HE WENT UP TO HIM AND SAID TO HIM, "RABBI, RABBI!" AND KISSED HIM.

MARK 14: 44–45 (NKJV)

There is also other accounts in Nag Hammadi texts found in Egypt such as the Gospel of Judas (dated the same as the canonical scripture) that speaks of Jesus taking Judas aside and preaching to him. Jesus said

that the guards would come to take him after they were done speaking. Soon after Jesus was done teaching Judas, the guards knocked down the door of the room they were in, as there was a temple in the garden of Gethsemane. The guards knocked the door in and seized Jesus; a scuffle unfolded and a servant of one of the priests was struck. The guards threw the silver on the floor in front of Judas as there was a ransom of silver on the head of Jesus.

The rest of the apostles came in to see Judas picking up silver from the ground; he was labeled as betrayer and later persecuted because of it. When Jesus had taken Judas aside from the table, Judas told him of a dream he had where the rest of the apostles were stoning him to death. Jesus said because Judas rose at the table and declared himself as worthy or equal to the son of God, that he will now face the same persecution as the son of God.

[Let] any one of you who is [strong enough] among human beings bring out the perfect human and stand before my face.” They all said, “We have the strength.”

But their spirits did not dare to stand before [him], except for Judas Iscariot. He was able to stand before him, but he could not look him in the eyes, and he turned his face away.¹

Knowing that Judas was reflecting upon something that was exalted, Jesus said to him, “Step away from the others and I shall tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. It is possible for you to reach it, but you will grieve a great deal. [36] For someone else will replace you, in order that the twelve [disciples] may again come to completion with their god.”²

[...]Their high priests murmured because [he] had gone into the guest room for his prayer. But some scribes were there watching carefully in order to arrest him during the prayer, for they were afraid of the people, since he was regarded by all as a prophet. They approached Judas and said to him, “What are you doing here? You are Jesus’ disciple.” Judas answered them as they wished. And he received some money and handed him over to them.³

1 www.nationalgeographic.com/lostgospel/_pdf/GospelofJudas.pdf (Accessed February 14, 2007).

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

In all versions of the story, Judas betrayed Jesus in some form or another; however, many of the apostles also betrayed Jesus in some form or another. Jesus was later taken into custody and brought to prison to stand trial before the Sanhedrin (high priests and elders). When Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin, the high priest charged him with religious blasphemy. Many other people brought false testimony against Jesus; however, their stories did not coincide with each other. Throughout the proceedings Jesus kept silent and did not respond to the false allegations. The high priest then asked if he was the Christ, the son of the blessed. Jesus responded that he was, and immediately the council demanded that he be put to death for uttering such blasphemy.

THEN THE HIGH PRIEST TORE HIS CLOTHES AND SAID, "WHAT FURTHER NEED DO WE HAVE OF WITNESSES? YOU HAVE HEARD THE BLASPHEMY! WHAT DO YOU THINK?" AND THEY ALL CONDEMNED HIM TO BE DESERVING OF DEATH. THEN SOME BEGAN TO SPIT ON HIM, AND TO BLINDFOLD HIM, AND TO BEAT HIM, AND TO SAY TO HIM, "PROPHECY!" AND THE OFFICERS STRUCK HIM WITH THE PALMS OF THEIR HANDS.

MARK 14: 63–65 (NKJV)

After these events took place, Jesus was brought before the governor of Israel, a man by the name of Pontius Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus and could find no fault in his testimony. When Pilate asked him if he was king of the Jews, Jesus acknowledged that he was. Since Pilate could find no fault in him, he delivered Jesus to King Herod, as Herod was the ruling king of the people of Judea. King Herod had wanted to meet Jesus for a long time and feared the uprising of the people, so he also questioned Jesus. Jesus as he did previously, he did not speak and refused to perform miracles before King Herod. King Herod's religious scribes, priests, and men of war began to mock Him. They adorned Jesus in a robe and sent him back to Governor Pontius Pilate, finding no fault in his actions, saying simply he may be a mad man.

Pilate received Jesus and planned to release him on the final days of the Passover. It was Jewish custom to have a prisoner released on the Passover, and Pilate planned on releasing Jesus. Since the Sanhedrin demanded that Jesus be punished, he ordered his guards to take Jesus and to have him beaten (scourged). Before the arrest of Jesus, the people were planning on releasing a man named Barabbas who was accused of robbery, rebellion, and murder. During this time the priests and scribes of the Sanhedrin were gathering and inciting a crowd to have Jesus cruci-

fied. Although Jesus and his apostles were famous throughout the land, many people were covetous and had a hate in their hearts for them also. Those who were not in support of Jesus demanded that Jesus be put to death. Since the Sanhedrin, Pharisees, and Sadducees were very powerful and influential in the land, they had a great influence over the people.

Governor Pontius Pilate went before the people of Jerusalem and asked which prisoner should be released for the Passover. The people began to demand that Barabbas be released and that Jesus be crucified. While this was occurring much unrest began to ensue from the people in the crowd. For many supporters of Jesus began to make appearances and disputed amongst the crowd.

Pilate asked the people what should be done with Jesus, since the Sanhedrin wanted him crucified for his blasphemy. The governor had no choice but to release Barabbas to them and hand over Jesus to the council to be crucified because of the unrest it was causing amongst the people. Remember that Jesus' following were considered rebels by many who never met his group. The Sanhedrin's influence portrayed Jesus and his followers as great blasphemers who are corrupt and evil.

THE GOVERNOR ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, "WHICH OF THE TWO DO YOU WANT ME TO RELEASE TO YOU?" THEY SAID, "BARABBAS!" PILATE SAID TO THEM, "WHAT THEN SHALL I DO WITH JESUS WHO IS CALLED CHRIST?" THEY ALL SAID TO HIM, "LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED!"

MATTHEW 27: 21–22 (NKJV)

So Jesus was taken away by the governor's guards and led to the Praetorian where the garrison of soldiers beat him some more, adorned him in a robe, and placed a crown of thorns on his head, mocking him the entire time. He was then released to the high council's guard, and led away to be crucified. There is a variety of ways to crucify someone, including a cross, an X form, a Y form, and by simply using a straight stake. The most common form of crucifixion found among Roman culture was the use of the straight stake style, supported by a cross beam (cross). This is where the wrists or hands of the individual are nailed above the head, while the feet are nailed below. This position causes the weight of the body to be put on the diaphragm; this weight eventually causes breathing to become strenuous and suffocation to occur.

Jesus was then crucified before the people of Jerusalem. Many people watched the crucifixion of Jesus and unrest began to occur in the

crowds. He was forced to carry his own cross to the place of crucifixion after being beaten by the guards who had him in custody. Unrest broke out among the crowd; it is said that many people mocked him while he was crucified and offered things like sour wine and enticed him to call God to his aid. Jesus remained fixed upon the crucifix for many hours; the crowd grew more and more restless. Using the excuse of custom, the high priests and scribes asked that the shins of the crucified be broken so their deaths are sped up. They said that the death of Jesus on the Sabbath day would render that day unholy.

Jesus was crucified beside two men, both said to be convicted robbers. Much like the crowd that was before them, the robbers remained divided in their faith in Jesus. One man asked to be taken to heaven with Jesus and the other mocked him, saying if he is the son of God to have them saved from their fates. After many hours passed, Jesus let out a cry; it is said that prior to his cry, there was a great darkness that had descended upon the earth.

NOW FROM THE SIXTH HOUR UNTIL THE NINTH HOUR THERE WAS DARKNESS OVER ALL THE LAND. AND ABOUT THE NINTH HOUR JESUS CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, SAYING, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” THAT IS, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

MATTHEW 27:45-46 (NKJV)

NOW IT WAS ABOUT THE SIXTH HOUR, AND THERE WAS DARKNESS OVER ALL THE EARTH UNTIL THE NINTH HOUR. THEN THE SUN WAS DARKENED, AND THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO. AND WHEN JESUS HAD CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, HE SAID, “FATHER, ‘INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.’” HAVING SAID THIS, HE BREATHED HIS LAST.

LUKE 23:44-46 (NKJV)

Jesus knew that he was destined to save the Jewish people from oppression and that he was sent to guide not just the Jewish people, but humanity in general. Jesus was not completely certain how this was to happen as man has free will and choice. Jesus was guided by revelation from God, meaning that God instructed Jesus what to do through the course of his life. This occurred through signs, dreams, life events, and faith. In order for mankind to learn and evolve they must be given the freedom to choose their own destinies.

MY BELIEF

Although we are sometimes pushed or guided into a direction, it is still a choice to go in that direction. This is a reason why the lives of the prophets vary so much; although the message remains a constant variable among them, their lives are influenced by the actions of others. For example, sometimes the prophets are ordained as kings and are glorified throughout the lands (Solomon, Joseph). Other times they are ridiculed and scorned, and are often killed for their efforts in faith (Paul, Jesus).

Since the crowds began to give way to unrest, the guards went up to Jesus and the two men being crucified to break their shins and speed up their deaths. It is said that the shins of Jesus were not broken, as he was said to have died before the guards could do so. It is also written that one of the guards pierced the side of Jesus with a spear and water began to pour out of his side. It is a medical fact that the liquid or fluid in the lungs is clear and water like; if pierced, one may interpret that water gushed out or came out from his lungs. Shortly after this event, a man and disciple of Jesus by the name of Joseph of Arimathea came to collect the body of Jesus Christ. He asked Pilate if he could take the body and bury it in a proper tomb and give him a funeral according to custom.

AFTER THIS, JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS, BUT SECRETLY, FOR FEAR OF THE JEWS, ASKED PILATE THAT HE MIGHT TAKE AWAY THE BODY OF JESUS; AND PILATE GAVE HIM PERMISSION. SO HE CAME AND TOOK THE BODY OF JESUS.

JOHN 19:38 (NKJV)

NOW IN THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS CRUCIFIED THERE WAS A GARDEN, AND IN THE GARDEN A NEW TOMB IN WHICH NO ONE HAD YET BEEN LAID.

JOHN 19:41 (NKJV)

It is written that after the tomb was sealed with a boulder, the disciples and apostles of Jesus wept and lamented the death of Jesus. On the third day after the death of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus went to the tomb only to discover that the boulder was removed from the entrance. An angel chased the guards away that were guarding the tomb entrance; this angel also moved the boulder away from the tomb. There are different accounts of how Jesus appeared before Mary and the apostles and the truth is a combination of all accounts. Remember that each canon is someone's point of view.

Jesus appeared to his apostles and disciples; however, he appeared to each of them at different places and times, thus the reason for the varying accounts of how Jesus appeared before them. For example, you

may have seen me near a lake, and your friend may have seen me along a road. One story will say that I appeared to them before a lake, and the other account will say I appeared to them before a road. Both stories are different, however; both stories are true. This is the same for the canons; although the accounts vary in slight detail, they are accurate in their overall account.

So Jesus showed his wounds to some (Thomas) and to others he ate meals with (Simon Peter, and Peter); he showed his wounds to Thomas because Thomas would not believe that he had returned from the dead. When Jesus came before the apostle Thomas, he allowed Thomas to put his fingers in his wounds in his hands, feet, and side. Thomas having seen him and his wounds told Jesus that he believed; Jesus then said,

“THOMAS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, YOU HAVE BELIEVED. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.”

JOHN 20:29 (NKJV)

This is the basic premise behind the resurrection: that is to have faith. In the accounts of the New Testament it is said that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. Whether or not one believes in the resurrection is up to the personal faith and belief of the individual. One cannot deny however that Jesus did in fact live, preach, and help the sick and poor. There is also the fact that some may believe that Jesus managed to escape his resurrection. In fact there has been evidence of a tomb found in Israel with the Egyptian markings representing the Son of God on the seal of the tomb.

In this tomb they found the bodies of people by the name of Joseph, father of Jesus; Mary, mother of Jesus; Mary, wife of Jesus; Judah, son of Jesus; and a man by the name of Jesus son of Joseph marked on their ossuaries (burial chests). Some may not believe that this is the family of the Christ; however, this tomb was found in the 1980s.

Some believe that Jesus' son (Judah) was murdered by the Sanhedrin during the uprising of the people and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Jesus was believed to have had plans with Pilate to be crucified “lightly,” meaning nailed in the feet and hands, and having his wrists unbound and not nailed. As he was escaping the crucifixion, a guard attempted to stab him in the heart, missing him and hitting his side instead. He then escaped and retrieved the body of his son Judah, where he later lamented in his family's tomb for three days, mourning the loss of

MY BELIEF

his son. Jesus was then said to have escaped or made exodus to Egypt where many of the Nag Hammadi scriptures were hidden.

He appeared to his apostles and disciples before he left; explaining the wounds he showed Thomas. He was then later hung from a tree as he returned to his family's tomb on his son's birthday a year later. After his hanging; Joseph of Arimathea took his body and buried it in the tomb.

BUT PETER AND THE OTHER APOSTLES ANSWERED AND SAID: "WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN. THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS RAISED UP JESUS WHOM YOU MURDERED BY HANGING ON A TREE."

ACTS 5:29-30 (NKJV)

"AND WE ARE WITNESSES OF ALL THINGS WHICH HE DID BOTH IN THE LAND OF THE JEWS AND IN JERUSALEM, WHOM THEY KILLED BY HANGING ON A TREE."

ACTS 10:39 (NKJV)

Regardless of whether you believe in the resurrection of Jesus or the account of his escape, we cannot deny that he did live and in fact declared himself the Son of God. He helped the poor, sick, and lame, and was loved and cherished by many people all over the lands. The primary importance of the mission of Jesus Christ is not the resurrection; it is the mission of TRESPASS AND LOVE. That is to say that, in all that you do, do with love in your heart and try not to trespass or sin against the people around you, who are your neighbors. If the world adopted this philosophy, which is the main premise of all religions, then war, strife, pestilence, and famine would not ravage the land. This is the supreme message of Jesus Christ. Jesus preached the resurrection of the Holy Spirit, which is your soul. If you believe in God and the message of Jesus Christ, then your soul shall be saved regardless of the details of his life. The meaning of Christianity is that of love and unity.

IF ALL IS DONE WITH LOVE AND VIRTUE; THAN THE MISSION AND SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE MESSENGERS OF GOD IS NOT IN VAIN. BELIEVE IN GOD AND LOVE AND THE WORLD WILL BECOME A BETTER PLACE AND YOUR SPIRIT SHALL NEVER PERISH.

~ AMEN

15. THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD

(Approximately 600–650 AD)

The founding of Islam can be credited to the prophet Muhammad, who is said to have conquered and ruled what was known as Persia and spread the word of Islam across all his lands and to the world. Much like Jesus, Muhammad began as a poor tent maker and eventually rose to being a priest, warrior, politician, and spiritual teacher to the Arab people. Many times the prophet Muhammad was the sole commander of his army of believers and stood against armies many times the size of his. His faith, perseverance, and guidance by God/Allah were the claimed reasons for his success. He not only achieved feats militarily, but also now has the second largest religious following in the world, which is second only to Christianity.

The prophet Muhammad began as a poor boy or common boy growing up on the trade routes of the Arab lands. Not much is known about his infancy other than the fact he was a tent maker; some say he was raised by uncle. It is believed that Muhammad's parents were attacked and killed, which is the reason for his upbringing by his uncle. As he grew up, he began to have revelations of things to come and who he was going to be. As he become more literate and schooled he preached to people along his path, expressing the true faith in one God. At this time the Arab world was not united under one religion, and consisted of a seigniorial type of system divided among the aristocrats and warlords of the time. The Roman Empire had dominion over the holy lands and was waging crusades in the name of God.

Since many of the founding principles of Islam agree in accordance with the New and Old Testament, we must assume that Muhammad

was taught or studied the teachings of Judaism and Christianity. Since he grew up among merchants it could be assumed that he met others from varying faiths along the way. He had vast knowledge of many things at a young age and was also blessed athletically and gifted with intelligence.

He preached along his path and became known across the lands; over time there was opposition that grew toward him as people grew envious of his power and influence. Like in the time of Jesus, many people did not like what the prophet was preaching and had spitefulness and evil in their hearts. This opposition was a large reason for the military campaigns the prophet Muhammad carried out across the lands.

As Muhammad became a young man, he gained influence and power; he assembled an army of followers called believers and began to instill a belief among the people. He gave refuge to the poor, weak, and oppressed. This just cause led many to join his following and his influence over the Arab world began to grow. In essence Muhammad was a sort of freedom fighter, fighting for one God and one united people in the Arab world.

This unification later led to the world dominance of Persia up until the year 1200 AD. Great turmoil among the emerging British empires (barbarians) and the fall of the Holy Roman Empire into modern Europe allowed for Persia to emerge with little resistance from those that were unbelievers.

Although Muhammad waged war, he was also a man of peace, and love. He did not advocate war, but deemed it necessary to preserve a way of life and freedom for the people of the Arab world. Many times war was necessary for defence against the “unbelievers,” a group of people who at the time opposed and were aggressive toward the beliefs of Muhammad. These people also included a group of people called the Jinns, who are the people that are believed to be led by an evil entity called Iblis, a Satanic individual who engages in self-worship, raising himself to the status of God, therefore creating a false idol, false prophet, and false god out of himself. The chapter will later discuss the people that are believed to be the Jinns during the time of Muhammad.

As Muhammad moved into his later years he had more time to focus on writing and spiritual works, as his lands were peacefully se-

cured by the armies of the believers. Over the years he began to compile works and had a close following of believers who kept his word orally as well. Although parts of the Qur'an have been written by the elders after the death of the prophet, much of the Qur'an remains as true as possible to the original text and teachings of Muhammad. There are varying denominations which acknowledge variants of the text, much like the Bible in Christianity; however, a monotheistic message of one God Allah who is oft forgiving and most merciful is the theme of the Qur'an. Fundamentally the core teachings, values, and principles of the translations remain the same, much like the Bible. One example of a difference among Islam is the adherence of shariah law, laws which were written after the death of the prophet.

The prophet Muhammad was one of the most fortunate of God's messengers (angels) as he was said to have lived a long life, similar to that of Moses in the Old Testament. After his conquest and the spreading of Islam across the Arab lands, he settled down and maintained his lands as he continued to preach the word of God to the people. At the beginning of the prophet's life, much of the land was paganistic, acknowledging many gods, similar to that of ancient Greece and Rome. During his life, the Holy Roman Empire was spreading the beginnings of Christianity into the holy lands, and the empire was aggressive in attempting to secure the Arab lands. Many times great atrocities, such as genocide and rape, were committed by the invading armies of the unbelievers, or Jinns. The unification of Islam helped unify the Arab world, which was a key reason the previously divided lands did not fall to the Roman Empire.

Like many religions, Muhammad's version of Islam preached a monotheistic view of God in which adherence to one God or Supreme Energy is key to salvation. Many Christians fail to acknowledge the prophet because of the fear of denying Christ; accepting Muhammad as a prophet does not mean that Jesus is downplayed or any less holy. Contrary to popular belief there are many similarities about Jesus and Muhammad, each having a similar struggle and quest. Jesus, like Muhammad, was attempting to gather an army of followers and establish a unified Israel and Palestine free of Roman oppression. There have been many prophets with similar tasks in history; although the mission of these men were not simply to conquer, but to let the people have greater influence, equality, and freedom--in particular, women and children, as both Jesus and Muhammad did not like the mistreatment of women

and children in past times. Even in Western societies, women have not been acknowledged as equals until the 1900s. In ancient times women and children were raped many times by those who were unbelievers and had malice in their hearts.

Many believe the Qur'an was written in Arabic because it was the most evolved and expressive language at the time. Much like English is the most descriptive language in the world in the twenty-first century, Arabic was the most descriptive language in 580 AD and its societies were making huge breakthroughs in the areas of mathematics, particularly algebra.

Messengers tend to come down to the most culturally advanced and spiritually misguided societies in order to restore the concept of unity among all people. Generally speaking, the most influential society can bring the greatest change to the world as a whole. It is often the most influential societies that take what they have for granted, which is cause for great corruption and immorality among the people.

Arabic was founded in the 500s BC and is an evolution of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. Before European English came into being; Arabic was deemed to be one of the most poetic languages in the world. It was the newest language formed and during the Mason/Templar Era (600–1200 AD); the Middle Eastern empire was the most flourishing of all nations (Persia). The Persian empire later grew to be one of the strongest and most powerful empires in the world; this dominance lasted up until the 1800s. At this time hard-line regimes began to pervert the words of the prophet, and began to suppress the people's ideas and freedoms, the opposite goal of the prophet during his lifetime. The empire slowly began to lose its edge in the world and fell behind in the forefront of cultural evolution. The Qur'an is meant to be a guide not a punishment to the people; we are encouraged to learn and grow from it, not be suppressed by it.

Once Muhammad established his religion and had written much of the Qur'an, he carried a pilgrimage to the city of Medina; this later became known as Hijrah in the year 622 AD. Although this date is sometimes disputed, the significance of Hijrah is the emergence, acknowledgment, and founding of Islam. The significance of the pilgrimage is the importance of the bond between the prophet and the believers; this is a unification that the prophet adored as he had helped his people get closer to God. The significance of the pilgrimage is to unite all Muslims

and followers of the faith of Islam, sharing in the belief of one true God that will lead humanity to salvation and peace.

The purpose of Islam is to acknowledge the prophets, messengers, people, and the world; that our very existence originated from a power we serve and acknowledge as God. To deny that we originated from a greater power is to deny Islam, and every religion for that matter. In fact when you consider Islam without bias, you will find that it coincides with many beliefs, including Christianity, Judaism, and other monotheistic religions. Islam acknowledges that there is a supreme greater power/energy deemed to be Allah (God), and this greater power/energy is the most powerful entity in the universe. Islam deems that Muhammad the prophet is the last prophet sent to the people and, like Christianity, claims the Qur'an and following of Islam to be the path to salvation. All religions are a path to salvation when practiced in their purity.

Although Christianity and Islam follow much of the same doctrine, the main differences setting Christianity and Islam apart are the resurrection of Jesus and the acknowledgment of Muhammad as a prophet. For many hundreds of years there have been wars fought over this issue, especially for the battle of the holy land between the Persians and the Christians. Many of these raids later became known as the holy crusades. When careful study of both religions is done, you will find that the Jesus and Muhammad had amazingly similar and remarkable lives. There is even word that Muhammad was like the son of God also, as he was a divine messenger of God or angel of the Lord. A key difference between Muhammad and Jesus was the fact that the people of Muhammad embraced him as a prophet, whereas with Jesus Christ they betrayed and crucified him.

The similarities between all religions will be pointed out further in the text; however, it is logical to assume that if Jesus Christ were not betrayed, he would have built up a revolt and established an empire similar to that of the prophet Muhammad. Remember the intent of Jesus was to restore a united Israel free from Roman oppression. Although there are many other debated differences between the two religions, the similarities are great. In essence, Jesus was preaching the unity of one God (Father) and acted as a messenger sent forth to deliver the word of God. Islam also acknowledges John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and the Virgin Mary as some of the holiest messengers in the world.

MY BELIEF

BEHOLD! THE ANGELS SAID "O MARY! ALLAH GIVETH THEE GLAD TIDINGS OF A WORD FROM HIM: HIS NAME WILL BE CHRIST (MASEEH) JESUS THE SON OF MARY HELD IN HONOR IN THIS WORLD AND THE HEREAFTER AND OF (THE COMPANY OF) THOSE NEAREST TO ALLAH. "HE SHALL SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE IN CHILDHOOD AND IN MATURITY AND HE SHALL BE (OF THE COMPANY) OF THE RIGHTEOUS."

SHE SAID: "O MY LORD! HOW SHALL I HAVE A SON WHEN NO MAN HATH TOUCHED ME?" HE SAID: "EVEN SO: ALLAH CREATETH WHAT HE WILLETH; WHEN HE HATH DECREED A PLAN HE BUT SAITH TO IT 'BE' AND IT IS!" AND ALLAH WILL TEACH HIM THE BOOK AND WISDOM THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL. "AND (APPOINT HIM) AN APOSTLE TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL (WITH THIS MESSAGE): I HAVE COME TO YOU WITH A SIGN FROM YOUR LORD IN THAT I MAKE FOR YOU OUT OF CLAY AS IT WERE THE FIGURE OF A BIRD AND BREATHE INTO IT AND IT BECOMES A BIRD BY ALLAH'S LEAVE; AND I HEAL THOSE BORN BLIND AND THE LEPERS AND I QUICKEN THE DEAD BY ALLAH'S LEAVE; AND I DECLARE TO YOU WHAT YE EAT AND WHAT YE STORE IN YOUR HOUSES. SURELY THEREIN IS A SIGN FOR YOU IF YE DID BELIEVE.

"(I HAVE COME TO YOU) TO ATTEST THE LAW WHICH WAS BEFORE ME AND TO MAKE LAWFUL TO YOU PART OF WHAT WAS (BEFORE) FORBIDDEN TO YOU; I HAVE COME TO YOU WITH A SIGN FROM YOUR LORD. SO FEAR ALLAH AND OBEY ME. "IT IS ALLAH WHO IS MY LORD AND YOUR LORD; THEN WORSHIP HIM. THIS IS A WAY THAT IS STRAIGHT."

SURAH 3:45-51 ALE-'IMRAN¹

One founding reason for the creation of Islam was to diminish the praying or worship of men or worship of a man. Acknowledging Muhammad as prophet, or Jesus as the Son of God, is correct. Acknowledging them as God is not; verily they may be gods created in the image of God, but no man can be God.

For how can a man be a rock, the air, and a man at the same time? A man can think like everything at once, but cannot be everything at the same time.

By establishing and reinforcing the view of one God, there was opening to allow the expansion of their culture and scientific evolution. Allowing the fact that everything originates from one source or point of origin (Allah), this concept gave the Islamic people the insight to

1 Abdullah Yusuf Ali, The Meaning of The Holy Qur'an, Amana Publications, 1408 AH/1989.

explore and delve further into the reasons why we are one. This allowed the further advancement of technologies in mathematics, culture, and sociopolitical status. The restoration of the view of one God coincided with the belief of the Jewish God that was worshipped by Jesus Christ, and coincided with the Aryan belief of one God (Aryan being Indo-Iranian). Muhammad held onto this cause through his life, but this message later became lost through the creation of strict obedience to laws created after the prophet's death.

Once hard-line regimes began to gain influence and power over Persia, we can see an eventual decline of the Persian empire. The collapsed empire began to embrace different forms of Islam; these differences caused great division among the people and were the cause of many civil wars. These wars resulted in the eventual destruction of the Persian empire and resulted in the loss of the sociopolitical gains and influence they once had in the world. Although adherence to God is commanded, all that is required is that you believe in God, and the love God stands for.

The Qur'an largely coincides with Abrahamic law; although the Tanak and Torah differ from shariah law. This is the primary difference between Judaism and Islam, although dates such as Hanukah, and Hijrah are different, they share core principles of an originating one God. Common themes through both religions are having messengers or angels sent; the prophets are testament to this fact. Remember that the law of man must evolve with the people, for the greater we become as a people the more liberties will be given. Much of the old law is not current and does not deal with modern mechanics such as the Internet or computers. To understand the Qur'an is to appreciate why the law was created for the people of the time; an example of this is the hijab, nadd'iq, and the burka.

The garments many of the women used to wear, and still wear, had a very real purpose in the time of Muhammad. Many cultures used to travel in the cities and among the trade routes, including many Roman soldiers; attacks and rapes were common on these routes. When women appeared garbed in the burka, not only did it reduce temptation by way of not exposing vanity, but would-be assailants would not be able to tell if there were men or women underneath the garments.

Many times women were assaulted and sexually abused; one guard

walking amongst the women covered could have a surprise attack on any number of assailants. No man had the excuse that he was tempted by the woman purposefully, and this gave the women security to walk in the public amongst their guards.

Such examples of logic are many times misread and abused by preachers, scholars, and especially hard-line religious extremists. The prophets mission is guided by LOVE; this love is sometimes cause for great anger. Unfortunately this sometimes results in war. Muslims are encouraged to embrace and love everything, rising only to destroy those that are oppressive and shun those that do not believe the message, after attempting to teach them.

Forcing religion and compliance on someone is a form of oppression; we simply “cast away” those that do not believe in God, not wage war with them. Although the greatest trespass that one can do is to violate and oppress a people, and not believe in God at the same time, this is the way of the unbelievers. These people are sometimes referred to as infidels, although most Muslims call them nonbelievers. Since religion is a form of morality, to deny God in essence is to deny a conscious. If you have no conscious, you are capable of any crime without guilt, remorse, or fear. It is no question we must separate ourselves from these people who are unbelievers.

The Qur’an is comprised of many poetic and metaphoric writings called a Surah—a compilation of various thoughts in connection with each other, generally within the same time period and theme line. This series of poetic writings instructs and gives us understanding of how to follow and please Allah/God by way of virtue. These are sacred writings which helped shaped the people of their time with law, guidance, and revelation. Although the meanings of the Surah’s teachings are universal, the law was given to the people of their time as a means for living peacefully. The supreme acknowledgment of Allah/God is to show how the influence of karma and judgment has applied to the believers’ victory over the unbelievers in every case of the Bible and Old Testament.

Many prophets suffer similar trials and tribulations as the prophet Muhammad, and the Qur’an is an illustrative example of such trials and tribulations. The battles with the Thamud and Ad’ people are extremely similar to that of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Like Abraham, Muhammad tried to reason and make peace with these peo-

ple, but they did not turn and repent from their ways. These tribes were later defeated by Muhammad and the believers in his quest to eliminate the nonbelievers from the earth.

These people were forewarned by the prophet to turn back from their ways; however; they did not and were wiped off the face of the earth. These were ancient people, with the capital of Ad being Iram. The capital Iram may also be a reference to their hero of the time; it is said that the Ad people were very tall. They were an ignorant people who worshipped idols; they were destroyed as a result of their unbelief.

Another similarity that Muhammad and the prophets went through is the rejection of the word by their own people. In every other land Muhammad was recognized as a prophet, general, and religious leader, except in his homeland Makkah. Makkah was the original city where the prophet was born. The people of his city (like Moses, Jonah, and Jesus) refused to believe his word. As a result he was exiled to Madin'ah where the Muslim faith began to spread across the Arabian lands. When making reference to the Makkahn period in time, it refers to the point in time when the prophet was preaching in Makkah.

After his exile from Makkah, the teachings of Muhammad and the unity of one God grew in widespread masses. He returned to Makkah to overthrow the ruling aristocracy and proceeded to restore wealth to the entirety of its citizens. He was later hailed as hero and welcomed in his hometown. Once the ruling high councils were overthrown, Muhammad and the church gained control of the lands and peace held for a time.

Dhu al Hijjah is the sacred season of pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah. Muslims from around the world pay homage to Makkah in recognition of the struggle of the prophet. Muslims unite and gather here to signify the birth of Islam. It is meant to be a celebration of the people and time for prayer and festivity. The original liberation of the people and the overthrow of the high council allowed the people the freedom to do such. The people were treated as slaves and looked down on in society before the rise of Muhammad. Wealth was unevenly distributed and the views and beliefs of the people were somewhat pagan and suppressing.

Muhammad is one of the greatest prophets or messengers sent from God. To many Muslims, Muhammad is to Islam what Jesus is to Christianity. Although keep in mind that many people from both faiths believe in each other's prophets existing and preaching the true mes-

MY BELIEF

sage of God. Each messenger has been the son or daughter of God, as we all are. We are children of God and all are children that are made in the likeness and image of our Creator. Some men and women are more spiritually evolved than others. It is this attainment which the messengers and prophets possess. Not only are they more schooled in scripture, but true believers possess a morality and faith that cannot be taken away no matter what persecution is endured.

We all harness a piece of Allah in ourselves, as well as every living and nonliving thing. The messengers are able to reach into the energy and spirit of all living things and are able to understand the necessity and need for death, which in the natural animal kingdom is mercy. Once the understanding of death is comprehended, then and only then is the true value of life understood. The most fragile and priceless thing or entity on earth is life, yet in this world life is often regarded as the cheapest thing by those that do not believe.

Living things are the most advanced and blessed representations of Allah (God/Source), and look how many things must exist in this world for the representation of the entirety of God to be shown.

**WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL TO SIMPLY EXIST; IF WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THIS,
THEN THE GIFT OF RE-BIRTH SHALL BE GRANTED**

There are many Surahs in the Qur'an that describe this concept. To understand death is to come to grips with the will of the Creator, for all returns to Allah. Then you will realize that no matter what tribulation you face, Allah will help you persevere and guide you through it.

**GOD, ALLAH: THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE (SOURCE); THE ENERGY
IN WHICH WE ARE ALL CREATED FROM. ALLAH IS PRESENT IN EVERYBODY
AND EVERYTHING; THERE IS NO ESCAPING THE JUDGMENT OF THE SUPREME
POWER.**

Before the arrival of the prophet Muhammad, the pagans used oaths and affirmations without any regard. They did not fear the consequences of breaking that oath, thus resulting in a society built on lies. We see this even today as the divorce rate among the Western nations is fifty percent and rising. Why make a promise to Allah/God if you are not going to keep it? Then they suffer bad karma and wonder why. They ask, "For what actions do I deserve such consequences?"

In their hearts they know, for they are the ones who lied to Allah/God. There are some divorces which are legit, such as those where there was physical, sexual, and emotional torment. Most divorces, however, are not because of these conditions and are based on people not working together or helping each other grow.

There are many great writings in the Qur'an; however, to include them all would take days to write and weeks to read. That being said the following verses will be included in this text to help illustrate the divine message of the Qur'an and its divine concepts.

Battle of Uhud

(3 AH), approximately 625 AD

The believers (Muslims) were battling the nonbelievers (Meccans). The Muslims were winning the first part of the battle when they began to pillage and reap their earnings, but while pillaging they were later ambushed by the unbelievers. Because of their love for greed, the Muslims were defeated in an ambush by the Meccans. Muhammad later lectured his army of believers and demanded repentance for their sin against God. Their earthly desires overpowered their love for God and their mission that was to secure the city and protect the believers and citizens.

Although the Meccans technically won the battle at Uhud, the Muslims were still able to fend off the attack. Muhammad later investigated the occurrences of the heavy casualties. He discovered that the greed within his group nearly cost him and the entire Muslim movement the battle at Uhud. Realizing that heavy casualties would hurt the movement badly, a quick treaty was made. This is a prime example of karma in Qur'an.

Battle of Badr (

2 AH), approximately 624 AD

A great battle was fought between the believers and the nonbelievers at Uhud. The believers were outnumbered by a great multitude in numbers, but with the perseverance and through the grace and strength of Allah, the believers gained a huge and decisive victory.

This battle helps illustrate the karma of God when the Muslim armies banded together to defeat the nonbelievers. Because the armies focused on the mission at hand and not solely on pillaging riches, the believers had karma on their side. This battle is famous among Muslims because the final defeat of the Meccans was at hand and the rise of a new power of believers established themselves as a dominant force in the Persian lands.

Islam in its truest sense is one of the most peaceful religions in the world; however the misinterpretation of Islamic extremists and the West taking advantage of the people in these regions has caused these extremist Jihads to take control of some regions. For many decades, the Middle East, for example, has been exploited by Russian and American troops. This created chaos ensures cheap prospective oil markets to meet the needs of the industrialized world. Many of these battles are also strategic battles to stop or prevent “enemies” from obtaining this cheap oil.

Some teachings in Islam may seem outdated and obsolete; however, these laws were very practical to the people of the time. These teachings still promote and establish a peaceful life with God and the ability to be at peace with the Creator of the universe, Lord of the worlds, ALLAH.

O PROPHET, WHEN THE BELIEVING WOMEN COME TO YOU PLEDGING TO YOU THAT THEY WILL NOT ASSOCIATE ANYTHING WITH ALLAH, NOR WILL THEY STEAL, NOR WILL THEY COMMIT UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, NOR WILL THEY KILL THEIR CHILDREN, NOR WILL THEY BRING FORTH A SLANDER THEY HAVE INVENTED BETWEEN THEIR ARMS AND LEGS, NOR WILL THEY DISOBEY YOU IN WHAT IS RIGHT—THEN ACCEPT THEIR PLEDGE AND ASK FORGIVENESS FOR THEM OF ALLAH. INDEED, ALLAH IS FORGIVING AND MERCIFUL.

SURAH: 60:12 (AL-MUMTAHANAH)

This Surah states that women shall not kill their children, referring to times that were so hard back then, and people went so astray from morality that they killed their children on a semi-regular basis. Also in 60:12:9 and 60:12:10, there is mention of not committing fornication or adultery. Meaning that fornication is not sex in general, but a different word to describe adultery or sex without love, as in using sex for power and dominance, which is a form of harlotry.

O YOU WHO HAVE BELIEVED, BE SUPPORTERS OF ALLAH, AS WHEN JESUS, THE SON OF MARY, SAID TO THE DISCIPLES, “WHO ARE MY SUPPORTERS FOR ALLAH?” THE DISCIPLES SAID, “WE ARE SUPPORTERS OF ALLAH.” AND A FACTION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL BELIEVED AND A FACTION DISBELIEVED. SO WE SUPPORTED THOSE WHO BELIEVED AGAINST THEIR ENEMY, AND THEY BECAME DOMINANT.

SURAH 61:14 (AS-SAF)²

This Surah states that Moses and Jesus were sent down to the people and eventually their missions were completed—Moses through the liberation of the Jewish people and through the revelation and exodus out of Egypt; and Jesus through the defeat of the Roman Empire through Christianity, although the Roman Catholic Church then took dominance over Caesar in the 300–400 ADs. The point is that all the messengers or angels faced similar trials and tribulations before their goals were attained. All messengers face some sort of reward, both materially and most importantly spiritually, that aides them in their quest and journey.

Surah 61 emphasizes the importance of adherence to the messengers and their message as it is the divine inspiration of God. History shows how the messengers that have been sent, Noah, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, etc., faced trial and glory in their quests in attaining salvation and the way of life for the people. Society is based on the word of these messengers which forms the fundamental law and philosophy that are key in describing the greatness of Allah and the morality and salvation given to men.

Surah 65 deals with the concept of divorce. Although divorce is permitted by Allah, it is greatly frowned upon. The Qur’an speaks of not abandoning your wife if divorce is necessary; never once does it endorse abusing your spouse. It speaks of each man only giving what they can with what they have. If you give in good charity, reward will be sure to find you. You can strive and strive and never find spiritual harmony until you can appreciate the joy of making someone else happy. Surah 65 outlines the rights of women in the Qur’an, saying they are to be treated with dignity and respect instead of scorn and hate. Many people believe that the Qur’an does not support the rights of women; however, the prophet adored his wives and treated them as equals to an extent with himself.

THE PROPHET FROWNED AND TURNED AWAY, BECAUSE THERE CAME TO HIM

2 Ibid.

MY BELIEF

THE BLIND MAN, [INTERRUPTING]. BUT WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU PERCEIVE,
[O MUHAMMAD], THAT PERHAPS HE MIGHT BE PURIFIED.

SURAH 80:1–2 (‘ABASA)³

This Surah tells of a blind man asking to find and learn the Qur’an. Muhammad became impatient with the man and brushed him off. Later the old man shared a revelation with him and the prophet held him in high regard. This event later inspired Qur’anic scripture to be written about unity, and for the message to be preached to all regardless of social standing.

This Surah also demonstrates the human aspect of the messengers and the mercy of Allah. For although the prophet made an error, the result was peace and progression in spreading the word of Allah. Since the prophet strove in the way and forgot not the mercy of the Lord, he was blessed in being able to initiate the blind man into the brotherhood and unity established under the word of the Qur’an.

WHILE THE HEREAFTER IS BETTER AND MORE ENDURING. INDEED, THIS IS
IN THE FORMER SCRIPTURES, THE SCRIPTURES OF ABRAHAM AND MOSES.

SURAH 87: 17–19 (AL-‘A`LA)⁴

Surah 87 gives mention to acknowledging Jewish scripture, such as the covenant with Abraham and the scriptures of Moses. There should be no division among the Jewish and Muslim people. They share the same message of unity to one God, as well as the same religious origin. Both acknowledge the concept of one God, and both have ancestry linked and rooted back to Abraham. Abraham is the patriarch of the Islamic family also; Muslims have direct lineage with Ishmael, the brother of Isaac who has direct lineage to the Jewish people. Isaac later declared his bloodline as Israel.

BY TIME , VERILY MAN IS IN LOSS, EXCEPT SUCH AS HAVE FAITH AND DO
RIGHTEOUS DEEDS, AND JOIN TOGETHER IN THE MUTUAL TEACHING OF
TRUTH AND PATIENCE AND CONSTANCY.

SURAH 103: 1-3 (AL-‘ASR)⁵

This speaks of the importance of believers caring and understanding each other, displaying love and virtue toward each other. For with-

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

out the love and virtue of the believers, the hearts of the unbelievers and the immorality they spread will grow across the land. Before the prophet was sent to the Arab people they were in a great loss and moral corruption with each other. The prophet helps illustrate and guide humanity along with the Arab people to the path of belief and salvation, stressing the importance of the belief in God and the belief in morality and virtue.

Companions of the Right and Left

Many similes between the right and left side are made in the Qur'an; this refers to those who are believers and those who are nonbelievers. This analogy is a way of metaphorically interpreting the right and left sides of God. This concept is also found in Taoism as the dragon sits on the left and the tiger sits on the right. In many religions this is a way of explaining the different mentalities of people displaying different virtues, either positive or negative.

Right Side

The companions of the right side are said to be the strongest and truest representations of the eternal harmony of Allah. Companions of the right not only understand and comprehend the cycles and way of life, but they also stand up for God at whatever cost. The companions of the right will not only stand up for God, but will stand up for others who are weaker and less gifted with knowledge. They will not kill innocent at will; they will not be condescending to people, nor will they injure wilfully or knowingly the status of a man, spiritually, emotionally, or physically.

These companions are promised flowing gifts of water and blessed people like themselves when their time is complete. The companions of the right are promised entry into a garden of paradise where no harm or affliction can be done to them. Those that have "true" faith, as all companions of the right do regardless of religion or creed, will know each other when they see each other. These companions may have never met, but there is a bond there that cannot be explained; it can be said that the common ground is God supreme. The companions of the right are called believers.

The companions of the right are not completely free of sin, for even the companions of the right falter in their steps (all man is born in sin). What makes these companions right, however, is the fact that

they will acknowledge their imperfections and strive to correct them and seek forgiveness from God/Allah. They will redeem themselves in the eyes of their creator Allah (God), and strive to rise even above the level they have already attained, not leaving behind anyone who wants to learn the ways.

The companions of the right are not only found among the people of Islam. For even the people of the book, Jews, Christians, and the Sabians (mythology) have right and left criteria. There is an unspoken unity among the people of the right (believers); that is an acknowledgment of the hereafter and the recompense of our lives and deeds after death. The fact that God supreme or Allah alone is the sole creator of the entire workings of the universe is common ground among the companions of the right who are believers.

Even though they will endure suffering and strife together, the companions of the right will always have each other for council. They will find shelter and refuge amongst each other, for even in the toughest times and conditions they will find light, unity, and salvation amongst each other. That strength and courage given to them is from the spirit of Allah and the strength of his messengers. The spirit of God fills the believers; this is the reason why the unbelievers cower before their glory.

For it is said in prophecy that the unity and strength of the right will overcome the left, that once the final day of judgment arrives, united will these people stand. Everyone of the world is born on the right; it is venturing to the left that places you on the left. The right requires courage, strength (inner), and guidance through Allah; most importantly is the ability to always tell the truth. Companions of the right will always speak truth, for if truth is spoken, lies cannot overrule truth and no one can be betrayed. It is not always that the right shall succeed at all times; however, it is the right that will succeed in the end.

THEN (THERE WILL BE) THE COMPANIONS OF THE RIGHT
HAND—WHAT WILL BE THE COMPANIONS OF THE RIGHT
HAND? AND THE COMPANIONS OF THE LEFT HAND—
WHAT WILL BE THE COMPANIONS OF THE LEFT HAND?
SURAH 56:8–9 (AL WAQI ‘AH)⁶

SAY: IT HAS BEEN REVEALED TO ME THAT A COMPANY OF JINNS LISTENED

6 Ibid.

(TO THE QUR'AN). THEY SAID, "WE HAVE REALLY HEARD RECITAL! IT GIVES GUIDANCE TO THE RIGHT, AND WE HAVE BELIEVED THEREIN; WE SHALL NOT JOIN (IN WORSHIP) ANY (GODS) WITH OUR LORD.

SURAH 72: 1-2⁷

BUT ON THIS DAY, THE BELIEVERS WILL LAUGH AT THE UNBELIEVERS: ON THRONES (OF DIGNITY) THEY WILL COMMAND (A SIGHT) (OF ALL THINGS) WILL NOT THE UNBELIEVERS HAVE BEEN PAID BACK FOR WHAT THEY DID?

SURAH 83: 34-36 (AL MUTAFFIFIN)⁸

AND THEY WITNESSED THAT THEY WERE DOING AGAINST THE BELIEVERS. AND THEY ILL-TREATED THEM FOR NO OTHER THAN THAT THEY BELIEVED IN ALLAH, EXALTED IN POWER, WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE! HIM TO WHOM BELONGS THE DOMINION OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH! AND ALLAH IS WITNESS TO ALL THINGS.

SURAH 85: 8-9 (AL BURUJ)⁹

Left Side

The companions of the left are the group of liars, cowards, and traitors. You do not have to be a "big" liar, coward, or traitor. There are many people who lie on a daily basis, who do not stand for what's right, and who betray someone they care about; those are all qualities of the companions of the left. A small lie will lead to a big lie, leading someone to be betrayed, then making someone a traitor. You can quickly see where the path of the left leads, the never-ending circle of lies and deceit.

In a circle such as the one mentioned above, where will the companions of the left seek refuge? When the Day of Judgment comes, what will they say? They will not be able to hide, and they will not be able to speak without sounding stupid and ignorant. For it will be a lie over a lie; eventually there will be no unity in their speech. Their denial of God and the creation of things will be mundane and useless. They will have no answer to the truth except a lie....or no answer at all. The truth will explain all! For they do not believe in love and virtue.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

MY BELIEF

When the Day of Judgment comes, there will be no one or thing to turn to. They will seek shelter and consultation amongst each other, but where will they be able to go. For example; they will only try to lie and deceive each other for survival. They will have no one to trust, and betrayal will be their only outcome; they will all be betrayers of each other and become traitors of themselves, each other, and most importantly Allah (God). “Their abode shall be in hell.” They will not be able to bear the weight of judgment. It is for this reason that the unbelievers want the world to disappear into nothingness and darkness.

We can use numbers to describe the surroundings of the world and the universe that surrounds us, but the wholeness of Allah (God) and the Spirit that surrounds everything can only be described by words.

FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF GOD IS ENDLESS; NOTHING IS CREATED THAT
DOESN'T STEM FROM THE POINT OF ORIGIN.

The point of origin in this case is the Divine Spirit in everything,
known as Allah/God.

16. MY BELIEF

In this chapter we incorporate the beliefs of all religious structures. Since the monotheistic view is maintained through all paradigms, we find that this provides a unity throughout all religions. *My Belief* incorporates and stresses unity and the belief in one God as being the paramount and central concept. This God is energy supreme and creator of all things and is found in all things. Everything comes from and originates from this God, known also as the point of origin. *My Belief* takes the religious paradigms of all these religions and incorporates their domains within a larger whole to create a unifying theory uniting all domains.

This movement and school of thought propels quantum mechanics, which enables the moral fabric of society to function. Without morality or a state of governance the function of man and the universe would fall to chaos. Without a moral base, the fabric of society (morality) fails, and man becomes destructive, parasitic, and unproductive. This is comparable to the organs working against each other, as opposed to working with each other.

As illustrated, there are many different beliefs/religions in the world. The text so far has attempted to show/portray a unity found in most all the religions; that is a monotheistic view of “one God.” The theme of the book has shown the evolution of religion coinciding with the evolution of man. As stated before, the prophets or messengers/angels sent down to guide man have continually changed over time. The constant, however, is the message that is brought to the people.

From tribalism to Islam we see the beginning of the life cycle described to us through metaphoric interpretation. Even the biblical sto-

ry told to us in Genesis is an oral tradition that has been handed down to us since the days of tribalism. *My Belief* has shown the evolution of the word since the beginning of man. Although Muhammad may be considered the “last true prophet” by many religious scholars, there are other prophets that have come after him. Some are as follows: Joan of Arc, Isaac Newton, Guru Nanak Der (founder of Sikhism), Jacob Hutter (Hutterites), Frisian Menno Simons (founder of the Mennonites), and Joseph Smith of the Mormons—we may view these people as minor prophets or modern prophets as we do in *My Belief*, for they are similar in nature to that of St. Paul or Saul of Tarsus who founded the laws of many modern Christian churches. Although the laws of many of these men are no longer followed, we accept their scriptures and missions to have been inspired by God.

Now that we have touched on the religious views of every major religion in the world, we now approach the scientific paradigm called *My Belief*. *My Belief* includes the written word of these religions as written in the text. *My Belief* also takes a scientific approach in explaining the concepts of rebirth, salvation, and the Holy Spirit. These concepts can all be explained through scientific rationale; however, the written word is needed to understand it.

Much like the concepts found in religion of “light and darkness,” everything is essentially composed of that. Everything is made up of atoms, which are essentially light. Atoms absorb different wavelengths of light, thus enabling us to see the world we live in. This world of light is not simply a visible world, but is a physical world, showing us that this world of light is also a world of touch, taste, smell, and beyond that, spirit and matter.

There are phenomena smaller than the atom that are dictated by mathematical probability. These are things like electrons, quarks, bosons, and other forms of matter much smaller than these. Each one has an equal and opposite, such as: an up-quark has a down-quark, if one spins right the other spins left, etc. The soul or conscious of man is essentially the smallest piece of light or matter.

Since light moves in different wavelengths (the wavelengths are essentially different frequencies of light), we must accept that they have defined parameters according to the laws of physics. Einstein proved that light must continually travel forward. Since time is linear (meaning

continually moving forward) this is the reason the universe is expanding and is always moving forward. This is also the reason we age and die; since light moves forward, so does time. Since we are pieces of light, we must adhere to the laws of the physical realm.

Modern day science has shown us that there are pieces of light called matter, such as “electrons” that are (smaller than atoms) that do not adhere to the laws of physics. The smallest piece of this light or subatomic particulate/matter is in fact the conscious or spirit/soul. This light or matter does not travel in wavelengths and do not adhere to the laws of physics.

This energy or matter is always moving around like the black-and-white fuzz found on a television showing static. Their movement is like a foam or static that is continuous. This matter is found in all parts of the universe; at a snap of the finger this matter can appear on earth or on the other side of the universe, defying essentially the laws of physics and the laws of time. This matter defies the laws of time because it moves faster than the speed of light.

What is faster—the speed of thought or the speed of light?

Since we believe the soul or conscious is the smallest piece of matter, we must assume that it is the fastest moving pieces of light, traveling faster than the speed of light. Einstein theorized that matter or objects that move faster than the speed of light will essentially go back in time. In essence since time is linear, you would essentially be where time is going (future) and where time has been (past).

IF YOU GO FAR ENOUGH INTO THE FUTURE, YOU WILL ENCOUNTER THE END;
IF YOU GO FAR ENOUGH INTO THE PAST, YOU WILL ENCOUNTER THE BEGINNING. THIS MEANS THAT THE BEGINNING IS THE END, AND THE END IS THE BEGINNING, AN ALPHA-OMEGA CONCEPT.

In essence what *My Belief* is saying is that the conscious is the smallest piece of matter, and it is all that matters when you die. Since this matter defies physics and the laws of time, when you die, you essentially return to the beginning of the universe or the end, which is the same place and where the collective conscious of everything living is found (Holy Spirit). Essentially the Big Bang is the collective conscious of everything living, including the spirit or soul of animals and to a lesser

degree plants and organisms. This energy is the founding creation of everything in the universe, and the universe responds to it.

All living things, from human beings to microbes have varying degrees of spirit or conscious. Inanimate objects, however, return to the earth and over time burn out in the universe as spent carbon atoms or theorized “dark matter.” Since all matter can never be destroyed, it is re-created in one form or another. There is a catch, however; if you do not believe that your energy or soul will go anywhere (belief in God or supreme energy) you will essentially be “deleted” or consumed by the blackness and nothingness. People who believe in God continue to live forever in the light or heaven.

Remember that even our souls or consciousnesses have an origination. We are created intelligent; therefore, we must accept that the energy that created us is intelligent also. Just because we group together as a collective conscious, does not mean there is no God. For when we are all together, we are God, and this energy we live in and are created from is also that same entity at the beginning of time. The importance of being a believer in *My Belief* is to live forever; an unbeliever will get exactly what he wants, which is blackness and nothingness.

Imagine what kind of energy a belief in nothing promotes and creates. Along with believing, you acknowledge a collective attachment with every living thing and an entity that is greater than any man or the universe in its entity; this is called GOD. In order to be purified and forgiven (guilt free), you must feel the pain of everything you have caused to the creations you encountered. Some people will go through this earth to truly feel forgiven and to have felt the pain they have caused.

There are many different ways to name where we go: heaven, point of origin, supreme energy, source, etc. There is essentially no hell; hell is the pain you will go through in order to purify your soul. You will feel a great sorrow and sadness that will make you suffer. Remember many people will go through this sorrow and pain on earth and will not suffer this in heaven. In varying degrees of heaven or conscious, the attainment of the final peace with your creator and the collective, you will then be whole. You must approach God and the collective in blameless purity, which is the reason to be purified for the pain you have caused others.

My Belief also acknowledges the fact that we are reborn and have

lived past lives. This is where the concept of speaking in tongues may have originated—to speak in tongues you have spoken before. When we are young we pretend to be animals, play house, pretend to wage war, cops and robbers, etc. This is essentially the evolution of man, to be like an animal and evolve into modern man. This why many boys pretend to be soldiers, as mankind's history is filled with wars. Chances are if you are a male, you would have fought in a war of some sort before.

Remember that the human brain has evolved with the body and has grown over time. This is also the reason our brains absorb more of our conscious over time, becoming less animal and more human or like God. Early man's mind was at one point the size of the medulla only. This is a nut-sized part of the brain that controls autonomous responses of the cardiac, respiratory, and vomiting responses. This is run by the subconscious, and when man was animal our brain was the size of the medulla only. Over time our brains began to grow like cauliflower over the medulla; man began to absorb a conscious/spirit/soul and became alive. Similar beings on earth began to be filled the spirit also and life as we know it began to emerge. Over time we will eventually become like our true selves in heaven.

We become less dependent on our emotions and primal instincts and more like our true selves, learning how to control our feelings and emotions, which are sometimes primal urges given to us from our animal bodies. Meditation is a concept to achieve a connection with ourselves at the point of origin, or heaven. Since time is linear, when we are dead we have gone back to the creator or point of origin (0, 0, 0) the supreme number.

To return to the earth, we must once again become living light on earth. To do this we must come back on earth in the future as time and light travel forward. A belief in God is the key to immortal life as we are forever. One day when the earth is perfect, we will attain our true conscious and remember all the lives that we have lived; this will help us understand and show us how we became the people we are today, and will become in the future.

My Belief incorporates the views of all major religions on earth and believes that the supreme energy or point of origin is an intellectual being that governs the world with a sense of karma. This concept of karma originated from Africa, which is where the beginnings of man are said to have originated.

MY BELIEF

The application of karma is ruled by the laws of love and virtue. The definition of love or to be loving cannot be given, and can simply be summed up as one who lives with virtue. Virtue is love; virtue cannot be given one simple definition. Examples of virtues are loving, kindness, truthfulness, compassion, caring, knowledgeable, honor, justice, justice, honor, friendship. Karma favors the most loving people, and love cannot be manipulated.

For the reason we live again is to love each other, else what would be the reason be for living.

Some may ask why innocent and loving people die. Like Jesus, we are put on earth as a sacrifice. The world is growing continually; so we must assume that each death somehow contributes to the wellness of the whole. The death of that person will cause a chain reaction that will somehow help more people to survive; in essence no life is in vain. This concept is called chaos theory. We all are connected to each other and the entity called God which governs the earth by a principle of karma based on love and virtue. This is the supreme law of every religion on earth.

In short, *My Belief* encompasses the belief that the earth was formed according to the metaphoric interpretation found in the Bible, which is a handed down oral tradition given to us from tribalism. The world began to shape according to atomic density that is visible in our physical world. The lightest atoms and gases are found in the stratosphere, and the densest atoms are found in the center of the earth.

We believe that the densest natural elements found on earth are plutonium and uranium. Plutonium and uranium put under the pressure of the earth will cause an atomic nuclear reaction (fusion and fission); this reaction will cause the core to soften the mantle and the crust will begin to move, causing tectonic plate movement. This would cause the striated layers to fault, which is why various minerals are found in all layers of the crust, contrary to atomic density.

The planets are also layered according to atomic density, although they have different atoms and number of atoms that have formed according to atomic density. The basic structure of elements grouping on earth can be assumed to be maintained on every planet, creating gravity and the oval shape of all planets and suns. The sun is also grouped and layered according to atomic density; however, it is comprised of most-

ly uranium and plutonium, which is why the sun emits such a powerful energy and is so dense. The weight of the sun compressing such a huge amount of uranium and plutonium would cause a nuclear reaction so powerful that the reaction would last for billions of years.

To prove that the center of each of planet and star is formed with “reactides” (nuclear atoms): each planet and sun emits gamma radiation which is caused by a nuclear reaction. In fact the core of our earth reacts and emits the same frequencies of radiation as the sun. The earth’s mantle and crust filters most of the radiation; the earth’s electromagnetic field filters the radiation from the sun and universe.

Over time the reaction and faulting of the earth will evaporate the water (H₂O) encompassing the surface of the earth. The evaporating water would create a breathable atmosphere (oxygen), as the vapor would combine and cause a bonding with the existing oxygen and nitrogen in the air. This would cause a probable oxygen content of twenty-one percent; nitrogen and oxygen would already be present in the atmosphere and the evaporating water would cause a reaction with the air, bringing about a breathable habitat. Once the moisture content reached a certain index, precipitation (rain) would occur.

Eventually over time plants and amoeba-like cells would begin to form in the water/ocean. Adverse reactions with the sun and earth would cause these events. It is a proven scientific fact that underground volcanoes caused by faulting, and a rock formation called serpentine mixing with the super heated water, causes amino acids to form, which are the basic building blocks of life.

These reactions would eventually cause chromosomes and chromatin to form, which would give rise to RNA and DNA, giving rise to the formation of celled organisms (plant and animal cells). Eventually evolution will give rise to the first animals coming out of the sea, made after the earth and plants. Evolution would cause like cells to group, creating the physical beings that are on earth today. When thinking of the possibilities of the exact chemistry occurring on earth and the balance of the universe around us, it is improbable that life exists elsewhere. Much like it took hundreds of millions of cells to form you (eggs and sperm), only one of you exists. The galaxy is comprised of hundreds of millions of stars and planets, but the mathematical probability of complete universal symmetry is improbable once; to expect it

MY BELIEF

to occur again is even less probable.

The first humans would later evolve and receive consciousness, which is considered the first rise of man being blessed with the Holy Spirit in the likeness of God. Man would no longer function with animalistic intentions and give rise to ingenuity, morality, and wonder. Man would develop systems of morality in the likeness of our spirit and this would give rise to the first concepts of religion or spiritual belief which is the foundation of morality.

My Belief acknowledges the fact that a belief in the energy, spirit, or entity that created us and the universe we live in will bring us rest and salvation at the end of our lives. A belief in this makes you a believer and you are entitled to be reborn and live forever. A belief in nothing will propel a negative energy and will cause your ultimate deletion into blackness and nothingness, as you believe you will receive that upon death. This is the recompense of the unbelievers.

Much like the darkness of space, the blackness and nothingness that surrounds the light are trying to consume it. Much like a black hole in the middle of galaxies absorbing light, if you believe in nothing, your soul (conscious) will be consumed eventually by blackness and nothingness. People who believe in nothing and blackness worship what is solely the world of man. These “worldly,” or “earthly,” things hold power and wealth as supreme and are without a moral base as they do not believe in God. Since man is a creation, worshipping earthly things will in essence create an idol out of it.

The most powerful people on earth are generally the politicians of the world. They are the Caesar, or Caesars, of the people. Ancient Esenes used to represent a number in scripture on the walls to represent the mark of Caesar, which is 666. There is also speculation that the number was originally 616, a number used to represent Emperor Nero. If one was heard talking ill of Caesar, one could be crucified and suffer the extreme punishment. Many times people marked themselves with the numbers “616” or “666” to represent the Caesar so that they weren’t suspected of thinking or talking poorly of the Caesar.

Since the head of state, or Caesar, is put on every coin and paper bill, we can therefore say that the mark of the beast is in every hand of man and in their heads. Those that are antichrists believe that they stand in the place of the Christ and are more supreme than God. Many

times these people worship money solely (the mark of the beast) and have no moral values.

AND THAT NO ONE MAY BUY OR SELL, EXCEPT ONE WHO HAS THE MARK OR THE NAME OF THE BEAST, OR THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME. HERE IS WISDOM. LET HIM WHO HAS UNDERSTANDING CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST, FOR IT IS THE NUMBER OF MAN: HIS NUMBER IS 666.

Revelation 13:17–18 (NKJV)

Remember that believing in money ruling the earth instead of love will result in an evil propulsion of negative energy. A belief in God, which is proven, dictates a moral base of good, love, and virtue that propels positive energy. This is why believing in a greater being or entity is so important; it propels hope, love, and joy, which is the supreme governance of faith.

Our lives, along with the guidance of law and virtue, will enable us to become the perfect beings we will eventually evolve into. Much like how we grow in a lifetime, multiple lifetimes enable us to grow as a soul. Eventually the goal is through revelation of God and the messenger that humanity will save itself from disaster and unite as one people, resulting in a caring and compassionate international community. Then we can make way for the next era of space colonization and exploration, learning more about the universe we created.

Remember that it is proven that thought affects the molecular structure of water. Human organs are comprised of eighty percent water (brain 75 percent, heart 75 percent, lungs 86 percent, muscle 75 percent, liver 85 percent, blood 83 percent). This is how we sense “vibes” when someone loves or hates you. You can feel the emotion being put out by the people around you. When you have chills or shivers run down your spine, it is the change in the molecular structure of your cells. Since we are a collective, negative and positive energy is propelled through the whole. When the world becomes more negative than positive, then the earth will be on a course for destruction.

If the world is more positive and loving, then it will continue to evolve into a higher state of being and understanding—a state that is higher in morality and spiritual being, one where we are all accepting

MY BELIEF

of each other. Religion and spirituality are intended to guide humanity positively, and the doctrine mentioned in this text demonstrates the unity of all religions under the rule of one true God and religion—that is LOVE.

To live and love is the reason for our existence on earth.

DEFINITIONS

Atom: The basic unit of life. The arranging and weight of atoms have been developed and included in the periodic table of elements. This is the common and most accepted way to arrange the atoms. Many of us had to learn this system in high school.

Big Bang: The post result of the grouping of all energy in the universe. We are caught in a perfect “convection” or “balance” of push and pull forces enabling the universe to produce life in our galaxy. These forces are comprehended by the smartest physicists on earth, and are explained by complex mathematical calculation. The result of the Big Bang is the universe we now live in.

Electron: The tiniest particle visible to man through the use of high-powered microscopes. Electrons are found circling around atoms and are placed in “shells,” meaning that only so many electrons are able to fit in one shell at one time. The atom (chlorine, oxygen, carbon etc.) is the dependent factor in how many electrons will be in each shell. For example, oxygen has four electrons in the first shell, eight in the second, four in the third, etc. This affects the way atoms attract and bond to each other, creating the “things” and objects in the world and universe. Electrons play a huge role in quantum theory as their position is unpredictable and not governed by Newtonian theory/law.

Macro: Large. The term macro in this text means the world that our five senses can pick up (sight, smell, touch, sound, taste).

Man: Meaning Homo sapiens. In the text I refer to “man” as meaning both male and female. While some people may find this offensive, I urge you to replace it with whatever word is proper to you. Please to not have a bias against this use of the term man.

Matter: The energy contained on all levels (both macro and micro) of life. This is ranging from entire galaxies to single atoms; all things are compromised of and contain matter. Atoms are matter. Since things are

atoms; things are therefore matter.

Micro: Small or mini. The term micro in this text means anything visible through the aid of a microscope—the world of molecules, atoms, and electrons.

Molecule: An arranging/joining of atoms which stick together to form a structure. For example, the molecule H₂O is the bonding of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. Together these atoms form a molecule; many of these molecules placed together form the substance water. Molecules arranged together form the macroscopic world we see with our senses.

Example: 2 (hydrogen) + 1 (oxygen) = H₂O (water); 1 (carbon) + 2 (oxygen) = CO₂ (carbon dioxide)

CO₂ and H₂O are called molecules because they are a group of atoms bonded together, forming a structure. These molecules form the world around us; no single atom can be considered a molecule.

Newtonian Theory: A paradigm that has been proven to explain our “macro” surroundings. Developed from Sir Isaac Newton’s school of thought, this is where the development of physics originated (the apple). This school of thought is proven through the physics that is applied in everyday life (the creation of buildings, planets rotation, gravity, etc.) and has been around for the last 400 years, continuing to evolve and expand, although almost all of the laws and theories remain the same.

Paradigm: A school of thought applied to the workings of everyday life, a collection of thoughts, beliefs, and laws governing and explaining how life functions. It is possible; however, to have a paradigm as a religion. Paradigms are generally “bulletproof” theories that make up the majority of mathematical law in the universe.

Point of Origin: The originating energy of the universe. The collective grouping of all the energy from every single atom in the universe combined and joined together before the initiation of the Big Bang. The origination of this energy is unknown, and its collective ordering still remains somewhat of a mystery.

Quantum Theory: A theory used to help/attempt to explain electron and other subatomic particle movement, and the link of consciousness to the environment that surrounds us. There are many sub-theories involved in quantum physics to help explain the “link” between consciousness and the

reality that surrounds us (some mathematical formulas have been derived); however, for the purpose of definition they will be included in the broad definition of quantum theory. Quantum theory is used to attempt to explain electron movement; however, no math is able to explain electron movement; it can simply give a probability of where an electron will show up.

Religion: A collection of ideas, beliefs, laws, and values shared and accepted by a group of people. These beliefs, values, and laws are deemed to be the word/thought of God. Similar to a paradigm however, the primary difference between a paradigm and a religion is a belief in God. A scientist who believes in God explained through science would have science as a religion. Therefore, this would make science a religion, and not a paradigm. Atheists for example, who say they believe in science and not God, would have a paradigm (school of thought) and not a religion. However; as stated earlier, a belief in science through God, or God through science would make science a religion and not a paradigm. With this thought in mind, many atheists are religious through the beliefs of science. This concept will play a large role later on in the text.

An argument for inherent unity in all religious thought “Proving” the existence of God

In *My Belief*, Joe Isaac Gauthier draws parallels between the facts of science and the historical records and myths associated with the major religions of the world. Endeavoring to speak from a “neutral” platform, he points out the common ground within all monotheistic traditions, providing logical explanations to stories in the Bible, Qur’an, and other historical documents, and also interpreting the universal phenomena that human beings encounter in their search for meaning within theology or anthropology. *My Belief* is a message of unity in spite of the vast differences human beings all have in the understanding of our experiences.

Gauthier’s suggestion is that by applying scientific and logical reasoning to the history and content of all religions (even the religion of science), a harmonious evolution can be seen that can serve as a form of “proof” to the modern-day seeker who demands evidence of God. This marriage of science and religion is an attempt to provide some context for understanding the mysteries of the universe.

Thinkers and seekers of all ages are challenged to consider the “proof” in *My Belief* and the appeal of the “Oneness” of a supreme energy that we are created by, exist within, and remain a part of.

