

THE PROPHET

There have been many religious leaders and founders of various faiths, who have made the claim that they have been called of God by revelation to bring forth a new religion and all of them claim their faith to be the true faith. There are scores of independent preachers that use the Christian faith to fill their pockets with wealth. Their purpose is not to enlighten the individual's mind in understanding as to who we are as human beings in comparison with all other living creatures, nor to know the will of God. Such preachers prey on the feeble, novices of the faith, and the elderly who are often searching for a spiritual fulfillment to their life, or might have reached the closing years of their lives and are searching for inner comfort.

Then there are the clerics of many religions who attend their faith's seminaries and colleges, learning to be well-versed in their particular denomination's doctrines. Most of those clerics, do not of their own freewill, search and compare the teachings of Jesus and his apostles to that of their faith's prescribed interpretations based on selected texts, for if they had searched out the scriptures diligently, they would see it would have conflicted with their faith's dogma. The truth of the matter is that these types of clergymen are not really concerned in what the real truth is. These clerics are more concerned about authority, power, position and money and not in the truth as spoken by the Christ of God.

Jesus of Nazareth came into the world as a man of peace. Jesus knew that a man who is warlike is not part of God's plan. His people, the Jews, who were expecting the coming of a Messiah, were not looking for a Messiah of peace, but a warrior Messiah, a man who would free them from the yoke of the Roman occupiers; they were looking for another warrior like King David. But this was not what God was looking for in the man that he had chosen to be the Messiah, for God created mankind to be in his image. The Creator is not a God of war but a God of peace and mercy. This is what Jesus was: a man of peace and compassion being after the likeness of his Father. A sad fact about the professed Jesus followers of today is that the vast majority of them, who call themselves after him – Christian – do not even know Jesus' character and status. Many of these people follow fabled stories about Jesus due to ignorance about the life and teachings of Jesus. It may also be because of their laxity in accepting every thing they are told by their local clerics as truth, wanting to

believe that those who sit in the high seats of authority of the church hierarchy is unquestionable. This is when we come to a most important part of any subject and that is to find the truth to the things that we search for and those things which are preached to us. ***"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."*** Acts 17:11. Notice how the Jews of Berea were interested in finding the truth of those things which Paul spoke about concerning the Christ. We know that Paul always used the scriptures to prove his teachings of Jesus being the Christ of God, and always encouraged his listeners to search out those scriptural statements he made to determine whether they were true or not.

The Jews of Berea were not like those of Thessalonica as the Jews of Thessalonica were not concerned if what they believed was true or not. They followed the traditions of their faith, that is, the law of Moses, not paying heed as they had been told to by the prophet Isaiah in chapter 28, verses 9 and 10: ***"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."*** A true Christian will not ask you just to believe what they have told you; it's not that they are liars but he or she knows that salvation of the individual can only come to him or her by their own works of faith. Prove to yourself that your belief in God and his Christ are grounded by your own works and not in another by blind faith. What is being said here is your elder may have the scriptural knowledge and wisdom to be able to quote and prove a particular Biblical verse to you by verifying it by quoting other verses, but is it good enough for you to know a subject through the spoken explanation of another, or should you search it out and convince your own mind that it is Christ's word? The latter is what you must do; wisdom comes to the individual when they understand and absorb something into their own mind by their own conviction, even if they were shown by another at the beginning. Just as the old saying goes: "Don't believe everything you hear."

As one that is reborn in the Christian sense, an individual should not only have belief in a faith, but that they should also be able to prove by scripture the meaning of a particular text, not just through the repetitiousness of blindly repeating what someone else has

quoted. The individual Christian should be able to prove their points of subject by being able to quote comparable verses, even if by paraphrasing, or provide an answer to a question initiated by others. This is the only way one can earn the gift of eternal life: through his or her acceptance and understanding of those words as taught by the Christ of God, who is the living Word. Remember that salvation is by your own works of faith and you cannot be saved by relying on works of others. You can have the assurance that God will open your mind to better understanding if you study the Scriptures with an open mind. *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."* Matthew 7:7, 8; *"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."* John 10:3 to 5; *"Young men likewise exhort to be sober [discreet] minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."* Titus 2:6 to 8.

If we follow the good advice of searching the scriptures then we will come to the truth, which flowed from the mouth of Jesus of Nazareth, the chosen Christ of God. And because of the truth he spoke, we also live through him. Jesus showed and taught us the truth, which is expected of us from the Father. It is that truth that Jesus showed to us that will lead us to eternal life, and it is only through one prophet that we can receive the truth from and that is the man, Jesus of Nazareth.

We know from scriptures that false prophets will arise after Jesus and they will make the false claims that they are God's last day prophets. *"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."* Matthew 24:23 to 26; *"It is the Spirit that*

quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life". John 6:63; "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." John 12:46 to 50.

As already mentioned, Jesus speaks the Word or Will of God. What is the Will of God? It is the keeping of the Ten Commandments (or Ten Sayings) of God (see Exodus 20:1 to 17). It is the Sayings of God that Jesus tells us holds the key to eternal life. Jesus held to all of these Ten Sayings. When we earnestly read them one by one, we soon see that the Sayings pertain to our relationship with God, our Father, and our neighbour. Notice that the first four Sayings pertain to love towards the Father, and the last six commandments pertain to love towards our neighbour. What a beautiful world this would be if we all lived by those loving Words.

With respect to the Ten Sayings, there are certain theologians who make the mistake of saying that mankind has been given the power to eliminate or change certain laws of the Ten Commandments. This is not true as no one has the authority to change the everlasting Words of God our Father. Jesus, who possesses the Father's Word, says this about the Ten Commandments: *"And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail."* Luke 16:17. Thus, the Commandments will exist to the end of time. Those religions that preach otherwise will have to stand before God on Judgment Day.

The Father's last six Commandments pertain to love towards our neighbour: *"And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? ... Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother."* Mark 10:17, 19. These are the laws of life, and Jesus had expounded these laws of love and peace in their full meaning to us.

Through Jesus' lifestyle of love and peace to all, he showed himself to be the true Prophet that would come into the world by which you and I, through his teachings, may inherit eternal life. The moment is now to awaken to the truth of God's Word. Jesus the Prophet (or Christ) of God, was not prophesied to come as one with a new commandment or with a new sacred book in one hand and a sword in the other. Jesus did not bring a new law from God; he preached of the laws that were there from the beginning of creation, but he expounded and clarified them as they were meant to be understood. Many of the prophets that came before Jesus had attempted to show their Jewish brethren the errors they were making and they died for declaring those truths.

We should try to understand more about the childhood of Jesus. The gospels do not have much on the background of Jesus, although what we do have, gives us a good understanding of him. When he was twelve years old, we see the young Jesus was an extraordinary child. We notice he must have listened very intensely to what was being said by his elders, for he questioned their teachings, which tells us that in his mind, he was processing and analyzing the doctors' teachings -- this shows that even as a young boy, he did not accept their answers as truth without scriptural evidence. Following is the story of the young Jesus in discussion with the doctors of Jewish law: *“And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature [age], and in favour with God and man.”* Luke 2:42 to

52. Note that it was the common populace and the doctors of Jewish theology which were astonished upon hearing the questions and the answers from the mouth of a twelve year-old boy. This boy did not blindly accept the Jewish religion without questioning the doctrines of his ancestral faith of Judaism. The preceding verses end by informing us that as Jesus grew in age, he also advanced in the wisdom of God's love and mercy.

A miraculous event happened to Jesus when he reached around the age of thirty years. The Old Testament spoke much about the coming of a Messiah (or the Prophet – see Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19) from out of the children of Israel who would speak the words (or Will) of God and of the many circumstances of this man's life and of his ending. Following are prophecies from the Old Testament about the coming of the Christ, Jesus: *"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."* Isaiah 11:1 to 4; *"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him ... He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."* Isaiah 53:2, 7; *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* John 1:29. From the preceding verses, we see that the man who's character fit those traits mentioned, was Jesus of Nazareth, who became the Christ, or the Anointed One of God. Notice that there is nothing outstanding of this prophet's physical features to make him attractive to others, except the words of wisdom which he spoke.

Let's step back for a moment and ask ourselves: "Who is the Christ of God?" To start to answer this question, take a few verses from the New Testament: *"He [Jesus] saith unto them, But whom*

say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Matthew 16:15, 16; "The woman saith unto him [Jesus], I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he." John 4:25, 26; "He [Andrew] first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ." John 1:41; "For he [Paul] mightily convinced the Jews, and that publikly, showing by the scripture that Jesus was Christ." Acts 18:28. We are told from these verses that Jesus is God's Christ. But there is one who bore witness of him who became God's Christ. That was John the Baptist, the man who baptized Jesus and was sent as a witness of the Christ. To understand about John's story, we will present most of it as pertaining to the witness of Jesus' baptism: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth ... And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Spirit. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God." John 1:6 to 8, 14, 32 to 34.

We are told from scripture that Jesus is the Son of God, and this was evidenced by the fact that he received the Spirit (Word of God) at his baptism. Notice Jesus had not become the "Anointed One" of God until his baptism. And John the Baptist was the witness of God's anointing of Jesus by the Holy Spirit. The proof that Jesus only became the Son of God at his baptism was that Jesus had no extraordinary power before that time. The day of Jesus' baptism was the same day that God chose Jesus to be His Word on earth. Continue to read and see when Jesus became the Son of God: "*For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" Hebrews 1:5; "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying,*

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16, 17; ***"For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*** II Peter 1:17. See also Psalm 2:7.

When the true Christian speaks of Jesus being the Christ, he or she is saying that he was the first man to be accepted by God because of his total obedience to God; we ourselves can also become the sons and daughters of God. If you believe in the resurrection, think this statement over: no man or woman has been resurrected from the grave by the power of God, before or after Jesus. Only Jesus has been raised from the dead by the power of God. If the world had not fallen into such decadence, we could all consider ourselves as the spiritual children of God, for God is the creator of all mankind. Jesus was chosen by the Spirit of God to be His Son: ***"Behold my servant [Jesus], whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles."*** Matthew 12:18; ***"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious."*** I Peter 2:4. The scriptures, including the Old Testament, tell us that God the Father chose Jesus to be His voice (Word) upon earth for all mankind. God chose Jesus as His Anointed One because he was the only one with those characteristics that God had intended to be in the man and woman which He had created in His image in the very beginning before sin entered the world.

Even when God had bestowed glory upon Jesus, he (ie. Jesus) still did not put his position of glory above other men, even though Jesus knew he was chosen by God to be mankind's Savior, Lord and Master. Jesus showed himself to be a servant to others, for he was a man of peace to all people of the world. He was humble, meek, patient, merciful and full of truth – not the truth of man's ideology and religions, but the truth of God, being the Christ of God: ***"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."*** Romans 5:19; ***"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness [habit] of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."*** Philippians 2:7 to 9.

A false statement made by non-Christians is that "*Christianity is a European religion*". Christianity arose out of Judaism, which is why you so often hear the term Judean-Christianity being used. The earliest persons of the Christian sect were all Jews, including the Christ Jesus, all of his twelve disciples, his seventy disciples and even the multitudes that followed while Jesus evangelized on earth. These were all Jews and these people are still the foundation of the Christian church. Christianity first came to the Gentile nations in numbers by the works of Jewish-born evangelists such as Paul, Barnabas, Peter and John. Hence, the term Judean-Christianity.

Many Jews were driven back to their religion due to anti-Judaism, which even existed back in the early days of the Christian faith by certain groups of people. We should make sure that we understand that Jesus did not bring into existence a new religion. It was faith based on the Ten Commandments, as was the Jewish faith, BUT it was no longer guided by the book of the Law of Moses. Jesus explained the Ten Words of God in their true fullness, as they were intended from the beginning of Creation. Christianity is **NOT** a European religion, nor did Jesus start a new religion. The Jewish faith had laws of curses and death and rituals, but Jesus did away with those laws and rituals, and even most Jews of today have discarded many of those old laws. Under the Christ of God, all non-salvational things were done away with, and the door was open for each follower to appear before God individually, praying directly to him as often as one was inspired to and not simply because of obligations dictated by traditional customs.

The faith of the Christ did not begin with the Jewish people who were called out by God: Abraham and his descendants were to expound the truth and way of life to all the nations of the world, but that truth of God was from the beginning, when the first man and woman were created. We know that the Jews failed in their appointed task to bring us unto God, but Jesus said to us the teachings that he spoke were there from the beginning. For a discussion of the existence of the Ten Sayings of God from Creation, feel free to download our booklet, "*Two Laws & One Testimony*".

The subject of truth is one that is very important for all mankind. ***"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall***

know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31, 32. From these words spoken by Jesus, we should not fool ourselves; if we claim to be Jesus' disciples, yet do not abide in his teachings, then we do not know the truth of God, and have not freed ourselves from the yoke of worldliness. ***"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him."*** John 14:6, 7. It is Jesus' teachings that will show us the way to God. And if we analyze those words of God's Christ, we will get to know what God wants from the men and women He created. Jesus knew what God expected from mankind, and Jesus followed those principles of loving God and his neighbour. If you know that Will of God, you will FIRST have love towards your Creator and then towards your neighbour, these two being the great commandments of God.

If we wish to live by the truth of God and His Word, which was manifested in Jesus of Nazareth, we need to put aside those corruptible sins and be reborn again as righteous individuals by the Word of truth, thereby becoming the sons and daughters of God. The salvation of eternal life is from God, and only through His Son, the Christ Jesus. ***"Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit with unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*** I Peter 1:22, 23. Are you willing to follow the teachings of God's Prophet?