

*The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent
called the Devil who deceiveth the whole world.*

Revelation 12:9

The Day Of God

America & Islam

In Prophecy

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Chapter 1 – THE FOUNDATION OF TRUTH



“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” -**Matthew 7:15** For centuries, mankind has been led to believe that God is a wrathful judge. Those called by God throughout history have been awaiting the full restoration of the heavens and the earth while false prophets teach guilt, sin, and a hopeless eternity.

My early days with God

I wasn't introduced to the Bible until my third year in college. I grew up in a Roman Catholic family. My faith consisted of Catechism classes in grade school and as most children, I believed what I was taught without question. I was baptized as a baby, received my first communion when I was 6 and was confirmed at age 12. According to the doctrine of the Church, I was a consummate sinner and the possibility of hell was as real and as frightening as spending the night in the convent with the nuns if I misbehaved in school. I remember Mother Superior holding up the clothes of a child who was sentenced to overnight hell. She showed everyone his socks and underwear and we all sat there in utter fear.

Every Saturday afternoon, I had to show up for confession and memorize all the sins I had committed during the week. I really did not understand sin but managed to tell the priest enough to survive another week and got to start over fresh the next day.

Once I became a teenager, I wondered why they heard confession on a Saturday afternoon to prepare you for communion on Sunday, when it was Saturday night that was the toughest time to avoid sin. As a teenager, seeking God was the furthest thing from my mind until my junior year at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida.

I met and fell in love with a girl who attended a Southern Baptist Church in Melbourne near the University. I remembered my grand mother telling me about a Baptist Church down the street from my house. She called it the Church of the Devil. Back then in Providence, Rhode Island, we didn't pay much attention to other Churches. There were mostly Catholic Churches there and like sheep, we grazed in our own fields.

One day this newfound love of mine, Karen, invited me to her Church. I was hesitant but then again it was Saturday night and still early so I thought it best to accept her invitation. Besides, she told me that Baptist Churches didn't have confession.

The Baptist Church was different than the Roman Catholic Church. The dress code was more casual and they were quite friendly. What surprised me was they taught from the Bible and this was unusual. I had never opened a Bible. My grand mother had a huge family Bible at home but I don't think it was ever opened. It was like the couch in her back parlor. It had a plastic cover over it so it would never get dirty.

The pastor shook my hand after Church and asked if I liked to play basketball. When I said yes he invited me to join the Church's fun night with other boys and play some basketball at the church gym. Again I thought it wise to keep up appearances for my gal.

After about 3 weeks, the Church started to grow on me and I liked the fellowship. The pastor gave me my first Bible and invited me to Sunday school. This was the beginning of my searching years.

I ended up marrying Karen and after about a year it was over. I didn't quite fess up to the expectations of the pastor. I had too many questions and a lot of new friends from different Churches, who all had conflicting answers. They all quoted verses from the bible and who was I to question God?

Over the next 4 years, I visited 5 different denominational churches but I was still hungry and no one had what I thought I was looking for. I read every book I could find on comparative religion and followed anyone who claimed they had all the answers. I based all my faith on my experiences and trusted in other people to lead me in the right direction as I searched for spiritual enlightenment.

God had a plan

I finally left Florida in 1977 and moved to New Jersey. I was in need of a break from God and I thought a new area would fit the bill. New Jersey was the perfect place to go and get away from God. The people were not religious and they were pretty friendly. I met a gal named Janet who was pretty wild but she had a lot of self-confidence and knew just about everyone. I remember our first date. It was a Saturday in 1977 and the movie Star Wars was opening at the Garden State Theaters in Paramus.

On the way to the movie, she asked me to make a quick stop at a gas station so she could pick up something from a friend. We stopped and she went into the store and returned in a few minutes. When she got back in the car, she had 5 pills in her hand. She offered me one and she dropped the other four like aspirin. I asked her what it was and she told me to trust her. I don't know what it is with Saturdays but I took a chance. For the next 5 hours I felt like Luke Skywalker in space.

This was the beginning of new religious experiences for me over the next year or so.

I lost track of time and one day in August of 1978 I woke up from a coma after undergoing brain surgery. I was told that I had been hit by a car while crossing a street and the doctors told me I had died and was resuscitated twice before they could get me into surgery. This experience changed my life. Once I got out of the hospital I moved to Ramsey, New Jersey and got a job at a small Donut shop. It was in Ramsey where I first met God.

She was about 20 years old and worked as a server in the shop. Whenever I took a break, I would sit at the counter and she would share her life with me. Like me, she had been searching for God and just never could find answers. She was so lost because she trusted everyone but really had no real reference for truth to discern truth from error.

She then told me she met a group of people who had moved to her hometown for a year to set up a home church and teach people how to study the bible.

She took a class called Power For Abundant Living and decided to dedicate a year of helping others learn the bible themselves. This was how she ended up in Ramsey but her year was almost up and she was going back to the ministry headquarters in another week. I didn't know what to do but God had a plan.

I lost touch with her but met several other people from a local church in the donut shop who used to come in and talk about what they had learned in their bible class. I was curious and asked them where they fellowshiped and they invited me to their local church, which was affiliated with The Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. I made the decision to go the following Sunday.

I arrived at the Church early that morning and it was huge. The pastor was walking in the parking lot and as he greeted me, he invited me to walk with him.

We sort of hit it off right from the start. I had questions and he was happy to take me to the bible and show me the answers.

Within a month I was involved in everything from Sunday school to midweek prayer fellowships and connected to one of their home fellowship teams. I felt like God had given me a second chance.

I stayed with that church for 2 years and had enrolled in college extension courses, which certified me as a Sunday school teacher and eventually I earned enough credits to work for the church as a youth pastor. I eventually was offered a scholarship for graduate studies at Moody Bible Institute, but God had a different plan. I was offered a great job running a donut shop in West New York, New Jersey. It was about an hour from the Church. I was torn between a scholarship and the job but the money was too good to give up so I decided to take the job and look at the opportunity again in a year.

I loved the new job. I met so many interesting people and then Saturday showed up again. She was a knockout. She was Latino and we instantly liked each other. Her mom worked for me in the shop so we played it cool.

I loved witnessing and talking about God and then one day Michael pulled up on a motorcycle. God had sent him to change my life again.

He used to work in the shop a year before I got there but he left and decided to move when he got involved with a Christian ministry in Ohio and they sent him to Kentucky to witness and teach people about the bible for a year. I did not realize it at the time but this was the same ministry program that I learned about from the young girl in the Dunkin Donuts shop in Ramsey two years earlier.

We hit it off and became friends but he had a knack of irritating me whenever I talked about God. I would start talking about the bible and he would laugh and told me what I believed did not line

up with the word. He began telling me things I had never heard before but he always backed up what he said with the bible. He began showing me how the bible interprets itself and if I really wanted to know God; I needed to know his word. More importantly he showed me how the whole bible was not written to me. He showed me how to know what was written to me, and what was written to people in other ages.

He told me I could learn a lot from that which is written to others but if I wanted to rightly apply God's word in my life, I needed to understand the sections of the bible that are written to me. I remembered that was exactly what the girl in Ramsey had shared with me and I now knew that God was calling me to this ministry.

Michael invited me to my first fellowship in Jersey City. I then started fellowshipping with believers in Weehawken and signed up to take the class on Power For Abundant Living. I sat next to a New Jersey wise guy named Bert. We've been friends now for 37 years. I began taking every class they offered. By the end of the year, I decided to take a year and go wherever the ministry would send me. In August of 1981, I started an amazing year in Fulton, Missouri. My experiences from that year still affect many of the things I do today. I was faithful to the ministry for the next 7 years and traveled around the country sharing the word of God with many people.

In 1987/88 the mustard tree virus hit the ministry. In Chapter seven I speak a little bit more about the ministry but as you read this book you'll see what the virus is, how it gets started and how it devours all Christian Ministries that are affected by it.

I returned to school and continued the training I started in College with Mickey Belantonio. I was certified in Neuromuscular Therapy. My clients have included Hollywood celebrities like Bob Hope and Andy Williams, professional athletes like George Blanda and John Brody, the US Ambassador to Belgium Leonard Firestone and Gerald Ford the President of the United States.

For over 30 years I followed mainstream religion, standing upon the sandy foundation of the theology of men. I studied every possible work available looking for answers that would satisfy my soul but I have always been found wanting more.

I thought much about my legacy. People have asked me to put my life's experiences into a book but somehow I knew this was not what I wanted to leave the world. I was not interested in history recording what I accomplished as a natural man and yes I have accomplished much and been in the presence of some of history's most famous people but I wanted to leave this world knowing I had fulfilled my purpose as planned by God and leave my experiences for others who are seeking truth and help them shorten their learning curve.

In 2006 I published my first book based on hundreds of books and teachings of others. I was still unfulfilled.

Yes God still had a plan.

For the next 10 years, I returned to a different school. It was not a school run by a ministry or corporation but it was a school run by God.

I decided if the bible was truly God's word and if the bible says that all understanding comes by way of the spirit of God then I said, "I'm down." I did not realize when I made that decision that for the next 10 years I would face more trials than I have ever faced my whole life.

I asked God to show me the foundation of Truth so I could teach others. I asked for God to teach me the love of the truth. I wanted to know the true Gospel of God.

I cried out like a child to a father asking him to teach me about grace and the body of Christ. God is always faithful. His plan works all the time. He planned your life long before you were born. I was now ready. He introduced me to his teachers, men like Martin Zender and Clyde Pilkington who would help me fulfill my journey in understanding the Gospel of God.

This book is the product of all that God has taught me over the last 10 years.

Once I looked away from the traditions of men, God enlightened the eyes of my understanding and I now know what is the hope of his calling, and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. -Ephesians 1: 16-23

I would like to now introduce the underline theme of this book by sharing the following by **William R. Newell**.

“There are two great writers of Divine Truth in the Bible—Moses in the Old Testament and Paul in the New. Someone may say, ‘Is not Christ the Great Teacher?’ In a sense this is true; but in a real sense Christ is the Person taught about, rather than teaching in the Gospels. The Law and the Prophets pointed to Christ; the Epistles point back to Him; and the Book of Revelation points to His Second Coming, and those things connected with it. The Four Gospels tell the story how He was revealed to men and rejected by them. Christ, Himself, therefore is the theme of the Bible. Moses reveals God’s holiness, and thus by means of the Law reveals the utter hopelessness and helplessness of man. Paul in his great Epistles reveals Christ as our righteousness, sanctification and redemption.

The Apostles were "witnesses" -Acts 1:22 of Christ’s resurrection. It was not the will of God that they would unfold the fullness of the doctrine of the resurrection as Paul was. The twelve were with Jesus personally and knew him as a man, and when he died they saw it. When he was buried, they knew it personally as eyewitnesses. And when he was raised, they found it out by

visiting his actual tomb and seeing that it was empty. They were also to see and handle the physical, risen body of our Lord. And it was with them that our Lord abode on earth forty days after His resurrection, ‘shewing Himself alive by many infallible proofs.’ - Acts 1:3

This great fact that the person whom the Jews themselves had crucified and buried, was risen from the dead and ascended to Heaven—this tremendous fact the twelve Apostles witnessed to Israel at Jerusalem and everywhere else. Thus we find the opening chapters of the Book of Acts filled with the single testimony that Jesus of Nazareth had risen from the dead and that remission of sins was through Him.

But unto none of these twelve Apostles did God reveal the great body of doctrine for this Age. Just as God chose Moses to be the revelator to Israel for the Ten Commandments and all connected with the Law dispensation, so God chose Saul of Tarsus to be the revelator and unfolders of those mighty truths connected with our Lord’s death, burial, and resurrection and his ascended person. Paul reveals all the “mysteries” or “secrets” to God’s people in this dispensation. Finally, Paul is the unfolders of the great company of God’s elect, called the Church, the Body of Christ, the individuals of which Body are called members of the Body of Christ.

No other Apostle speaks of these things. Peter himself had to learn them from Paul. -2 Pet. 3:15-16 When Paul finishes his thirteen great Epistles (Romans to Philemon) those, which belong to the Church; God permits him to give a message to the Hebrews. This is not part of the Church’s doctrine, but is simply explaining to Hebrews the character, the real application, the typical meaning, of their Levitical system—that is, how it pointed forward to Christ.

Paul is the declarer and revealer of the Gospel to us. Take Romans to Philemon out of the Bible and you are bereft of Christian doctrine.

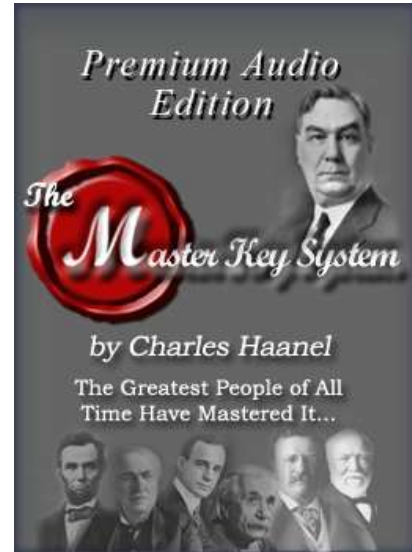
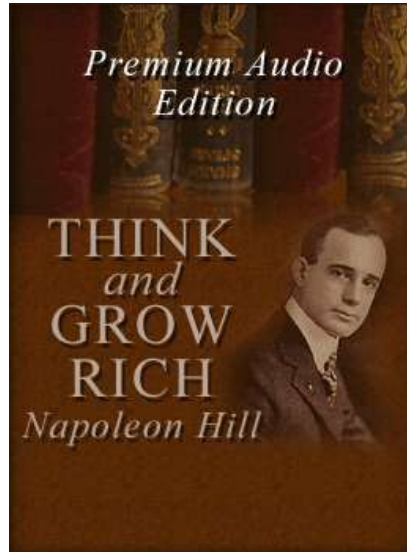
If you were to take Paul's Epistles out of the Bible, you cannot find anything about the Church, the Body of Christ, for no other Apostle mentions the Body of Christ. The failure or refusal to discern Paul's gospel as a separate and new revelation and not a "development from Judaism," accounts for two-thirds of the confusion in many people's minds today regarding the Love of the truth and the gospel of God.

The end of man is where God begins in Romans 3, at what might be called the opening of the Pauline revelation.

Most unsaved people today believe in their hearts that the reason they are not saved is because of something they have not yet done, some step that remains for them to take before God will accept them. But this is absolutely untrue. When Christ said, "It is finished" -John 19:30, He meant that He had, then and there, paid the debt for the whole human race. 'He gave Himself a ransom for all.' -1 Tim. 2:6

Would that we had grace to defend his great message today from those who do not see it clearly as yet; or who, like Peter, through fear of others are ready to compromise and tone down the Gospel of God." -*William R. Newell (1868-1956), pastor, long-time associate of the Moody Bible Institute, evangelist and author.

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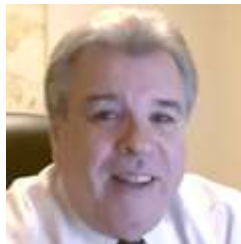


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