

# THE RECORD GOD GAVE



I was in a desperate search for the answer for the sin problem that is in the heart and nature of everyone who is born into this world. After three years of prayerful study of the Scriptures, I found the answer in these words of Paul to the Hebrews.

*"If the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: **How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9:13-14.***

If the blood of animals could ceremonially purify the outward flesh of a person, so much more would the blood of Christ purify the heart of everyone who would believe and trust in Him! My research of the Scripture revealed the definition of "conscience" in this verse to be "the innermost thoughts and imaginations of a person." I almost shouted, "That's my problem; not what I am doing, but what is in my thoughts and imaginations." The light of why Christ shed His precious blood on the cross burst through the darkness of my mind into my heart, and the filthiness of my imaginations turned off like a faucet. My heart was purified in a moment of time that day over twenty-five years ago.

I made a lot of people angry with my testimony; "God doesn't do that," was a common response. "No one can be 'free' from sin." The first time I said to a good friend and man of God, "Jesus didn't take the penalty for our sins," I thought he would pass out. It's true, Jesus did not take our penalty, punishment, or pay our debt. Instead, He died on the cross "to take away our sin" John 1:29, and thus "purify our heart" Acts 15:9. Yet in spite of all the scriptural evidence, I found myself in a continual argument against over five hundred years of traditional teaching in the church. Finally one day I understood the Scripture where the apostle John spoke of "the record God gave:"

*"He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." I John 3:10*

It's one thing to argue with another person about why Christ died for us. Most people have no problem even disputing the record of Paul, who spoke of "crucified with Christ" and "freed from sin" Romans 6:6-7, 18, 22, or the apostle John, who gave his record of Christ, "... He was manifested to take away our sins ... whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not..." I John 3:5-6. Jesus told the Jews in His day, "Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me" John 5:46. I understand very well that if the people do not believe the apostles Paul and John, they will never believe me. Today I understand that my job is to preach "the record that God gave of His Son," and let God deal with those who hear.

*"I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and*

*there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." Isaiah 46:9-10*

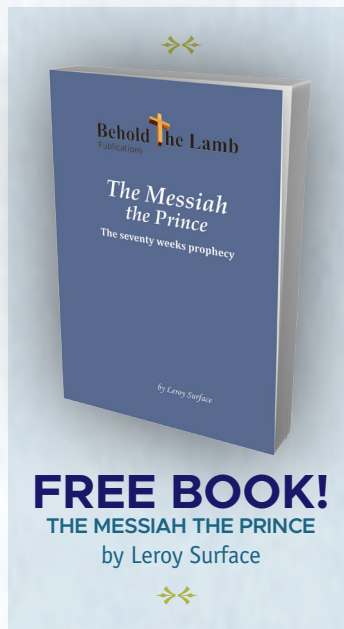
God does not wait until after the fact to tell us what has happened; instead, He tells the entire world what He will do, and He does it in due time. For example, "the record of His Son" began the first day sin entered into the world through the disobedience of Adam, when God spoke of "the seed of the Woman," who would "bruise the head of the serpent" Genesis 3:15. About thirty-three hundred years later, God revealed a little more about this "seed of the woman," saying, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us)" Isaiah 7:14. The "seed of the woman" would also be "the Son of God" Luke 1:35, and would be "born of a virgin" Matthew 1:23.

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace..." Isaiah 9:6.*

Isaiah speaks of the birth of Immanuel. He later speaks of His death; "His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: So shall he sprinkle many nations..." Isaiah 52:14-15. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" Isaiah 53:5.

The angel Gabriel told Joseph, "thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" Matthew 1:21. To the shepherds in the field, Gabriel said, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" Luke 2:11. "Immanuel," which

means "God with us," is more commonly known as "Christ, the Lord." Over five hundred years before the birth of Christ, God sent the angel Gabriel to foretell His coming into the world. The wonderful good news to Daniel was, Christ would "... make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness ..." Daniel 9:24-25. We know Christ died on the cross to make reconciliation for lost humanity. It was through His death on the cross that He also "bruised the head of the serpent" Genesis 3:15, "destroyed the devil" Hebrews 2:15, "destroyed the works of the devil" I John 3:8, "took away the sin of the world" John 1:29, I John 3:5, and "made an end of sins" Daniel 9:24. All the things Christ did through His death on the cross could never be contained in books written by man John 21:25, but Jesus rose again the third day and sits at the right hand of His Father in heaven to freely give these things to those who "believe the truth" and "trust in Him." The "truth" we must believe is "the record that God gave of His Son." It makes those who believe it "free from sin," and "free indeed" John 8:32-36.



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