

Latest Articles

Here are the most recent articles and changes that have taken place on this web site

The following article in the book "Bible Notes Volume Two" has replaced "130 Canon of Scripture" which has now been incorporated into "The Apocrypha" in the book "The Bible."

130. Tarshish

Tarshish was a place, with kings:

Psalm 72:10

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Isaiah 66:19

And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

Tarshish was a port, similar to Tyre:

Isaiah 23:6

Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle.

Isaiah 23:10

Pass through thy land as a river, O daughter of Tarshish: there is no more strength.

Tarshish was to the West on the Mediterranean Sea:

Jonah 1:3

But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah 4:2

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

But there must also have been a place in the East called Tarshish as well, near Ophir, because they tried to go there from Eziongeber:

1 Kings 22:48

Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber.

This could refer to the type of ship, but we are specifically told they were due to go to a place called Tarshish:

2 Chronicles 20:36,37

And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber. Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

1 Kings 10:22

For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

2 Chronicles 9:21

For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

Apes could have come from Gibraltar, but ivory and peacocks must have come from the East.

Notice it was also a place of gold, silver and other metals:

Jeremiah 10:9

Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz [Ophir], the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

Ezekiel 27:12

Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs.

Ezekiel 38:13

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

Tarshish was a son of Javan, a son of Japheth:

Genesis 10:2-4

The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

1 Chronicles 1:7

And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

Tharshish was a son of Jediel, a son of Benjamin:

1 Chronicles 7:6,10

The sons of Benjamin; Bela, and Becher, and Jediael, three....The sons also of Jediael; Bilhan: and the sons of Bilhan; Jeush, and Benjamin, and Ehud, and Chenaanah, and Zethan, and Tharshish, and Ahishahar.

Tarshish was one of the seven princes of Persia and Media in Esther's day:

Esther 1:14

And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)

Ships of Tarshish:

This is a particular type of ship, rather than referring to where it came from:

Psalm 48:7

Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.

Isaiah 2:16

And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.

Isaiah 23:1

The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them.

Isaiah 23:14

Howl, ye ships of Tarshish: for your strength is laid waste.

Isaiah 60:9

Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

Ezekiel 27:25

The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas.

The following article in the book "Bible Notes Volume Two" has replaced "136. Mistakes in the Authorised Version" which has now been incorporated into "Loving the Authorised Version," in the book "The Bible."

136. Satan's Creation and Fall

We know that Satan was originally created as an angel, but he fell, taking one third of the angels with him:

Revelation 12:4,7-9

And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.... And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

2 Peter 2:4

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment....

Jude 1:6

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

When Satan manifests himself on earth, it is as a serpent:

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:13-15

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:14-15

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time,

from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Revelation 20:2

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years....

This was not Satan “possessing” a serpent, because we’re told he *is* the serpent. And it doesn’t say Satan was more subtle than any angel, although that’s true, but “*the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.*” So this could not have been simply an ordinary snake being possessed for a time by Satan. In any case, this serpent is always mentioned in the singular, so there was only ever one of them. Ordinary snakes reproduce, angels do not:

Matthew 22:30

For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Mark 12:25

For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.

We are told that the serpent was one of the “*beasts of the field,*” and it could speak:

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

The “*beasts of the field*” were created on the sixth day of Creation, just before man:

Genesis 1:24-26, 28

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.... And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Therefore, Satan, and presumably the rest of the angels, were created on the sixth day of Creation, just before man. There would have been no need of them before that, because they were created for no other purpose but to serve man:

Hebrews 1:13-14

But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

And they would have served man before Adam fell as well as after, because we read of Christ, who was sinless, being supported by them in His human form:

Matthew 4:11

Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Luke 22:43

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

The angels that fell, including Satan, must have fallen sometime between their creation on the sixth day and the serpent tempting Eve.

The following article has been added to the book "The Bible."

Loving The Authorised Version

I love the Authorised Version of the Bible, also known as the King James Version. I believe it's still the best translation into English today, which is why I use it. The New King James Bible is also good, as it's simply an updated version of the King James into a more modern English, the main difference being that it gets rid of the rather antiquated "Thee" and "Thou," replacing these words with "You" instead. We might think that's an improvement, but it does away with the fundamental difference between the two: "Thee" and "Thou" being singular, and "You" plural. Nevertheless, what I am about to say refers to both these versions, as opposed to other more modern ones.

There are two main reasons why I prefer these versions:

(1.) Firstly, they're translated from a "received text" - a text that the Lord has providentially preserved and kept pure throughout all generations:

Psalm 119:89

For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Most modern translators since 1881 have challenged this idea. No longer do they believe God has preserved and kept one text throughout the ages, but, instead, they take all the Biblical manuscripts they have available at the time of translation, and from them, decide for themselves what the original text was. So this manufactured "original" will change through time as new manuscripts are discovered and others rejected. In other words, the Bible is no longer fixed, but changes as and when scholars decide it should be changed.

The text in use at the present time for most modern translations, misses out a lot of the original received text, and some passages are translated completely differently.

For example, I once preached on Acts 26, a pivotal verse of which was:

Acts 26:28

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

The word “almost” clearly implies that he nearly became a Christian, but not quite. And I would say this was true, because Agrippa was “*expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews*” (v.3), and he also believed the Scriptures:

Acts 26:27

King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

So he “almost” became a Christian but not quite, the thing stopping him being his too strong attachment to this world, loving the “*great pomp*” (25:23), and rather preferring his worldly relationship with Festus, the governor, who thought that Paul was mad (v.24) and that the Jewish religion was merely “*superstition*” (25:19).

However, the day after speaking on this passage, I found out (from a television programme actually) that the modern versions say something completely different:

Acts 26:28 (ESV)

And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”

Acts 26:28 (NIV)

Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

This gives an altogether different meaning to the text. There’s no “almost” here at all. Just a disparaging comment which doesn’t seem to relate to Agrippa’s background knowledge and belief of the Scriptures at all. Those in the congregation using newer versions of the Bible must have been wondering what on earth I was going on about.

On another occasion, I once heard a sermon on Psalm 110:3, which in the Authorised Version reads:

Psalm 110:3

Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power...

The preacher quite rightly interpreted this to mean that when we become a Christian, the Lord not only shows us the truth, but also changes our wills in order to embrace it. Naturally, we’re not willing to come to Him. He has to change our wills in order for us to even begin to believe:

Philippians 2:13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Jeremiah 31:18

...turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God.

However, most of the congregation I was in were using the New International Version, which reads altogether differently:

Psalm 110:3 (NIV)

Your troops will be willing on your day of battle....

What's that all about?

Even the same English "version" of the Bible can say two different things. A few years ago, I was speaking to Chinese young people learning English. They all had in front of them an interlinear New International Version (NIV) and Chinese Union Version Bible, so rather than confuse them further by insisting on using my King James Bible, I used the NIV myself. To prepare, I used my wife's 1980 edition. But I found out afterwards that the version everybody else was using was the 2010 edition, which was significantly different, even though both were supposed to be the same NIV. I may as well have used my King James Bible after all.

And it's embarrassing to see how many versions of the Bible there are in English. I don't know the exact number, but just to give an idea of the situation, take a look at biblegateway.com. It's a useful resource. Amongst other things, it contains the Bible in many different languages. English tops the list for versions with 59. Next in line is Spanish with 19, followed by Chinese with 13 (although that's really 7 because 12 of those are 6 versions split between use of simplified or traditional characters). All other languages have 7 or less, which is now getting down to a reasonably sensible number. (Maybe English and Spanish are highlighted because it's an American website. In any case, there are far too many translations in these languages).

Modern Bibles are constantly being changed, and they're all being copyrighted. There could be no other reason for doing that apart from monetary gain. This does not bring clarity, but confusion.

2 Timothy 2:9

....but the word of God is not bound.

(2.) My second reason for preferring the King James and New King James versions, is that they are "word for word" translations, as much as it's possible to keep the meaning. It is not possible to translate perfectly between any two languages, so in these Bibles some words are printed in italics, which indicate words that are not in the original but have been added to make plainer sense in English. So we can easily distinguish between what the original says, and what has been added to aid our understanding. Most modern translations don't do that and translate "idea for idea" instead, which by definition is less accurate. Some are a lot less accurate. Some even vulgar:

1 Kings 18:27 (Living Bible)

....Perhaps he is talking to someone, or is out sitting on the toilet....

This lack of accuracy means that many modern Bibles are not only translations of an original text, but also interpretations of it. They become, no longer Bibles, but commentaries. Translators should stick to translation. Interpretation is the work of the Holy Spirit in each believer:

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Only the text in the original languages is inspired of God:

2 Peter 1:21

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Indeed, every word in the original languages is important, because they're the exact words God wanted to use:

Matthew 5:18

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

So to translate "word for word" as much as we can, is important. It's not "nit-picking," as I once heard someone call it.

Even though it's not possible for a translation to be perfect, God can still use whatever truth that's still there. I was converted through reading a Revised Standard Version. This is one of the modern versions, and I'd never recommend that translation now, but God used it to save me. Jesus Christ Himself used a translation. When quoting Scripture, He uses Greek, which would have been the most common translation of His day. But the Greek Septuagint version contains what we now call the Apocrypha, which isn't inspired by God at all. But Christ never quoted from that part, He only quoted from the inspired books. So it's perfectly all right to use translations, which by definition are imperfect, as long as we realise these things. If we come across a problem, or don't quite understand something, we must always refer to the original languages, which is easy enough, in this day of word searches and online Bibles.

Mistakes in the Authorised Version

As the Authorised Version is only an English translation from the original Hebrew and Greek, and as no translation from one language to another can be perfect, and as men can make mistakes, therefore the Authorised Version cannot be perfect. I want to look here at some examples of where I believe the Authorised Version has got it wrong.

Lucifer

If I mentioned the word "*Lucifer*," what would that mean to you? To most Christians, they would automatically assume without thinking that it's another name for Satan. But I can't see for the life of me where that comes from at all.

I've come across countless examples in Christian books and sermons where the two names are used interchangeably. It's often suggested that "*Lucifer*" was Satan's name before he fell. But I can't see that from the Scriptures. Please, please, please, if I'm wrong, show me from Scripture where my mistake is, I'm willing to change. Maybe there's something obvious I'm not seeing. But until someone can show me, I have to continue to disagree with that idea.

The name “*Lucifer*” occurs in the Bible once, and it’s only found today in the King James and New King James versions, in the following passage:

Isaiah 14:12-15

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Surely that’s a clear reference to Satan and his fall from heaven, isn’t it? Well, the Hebrew word translated “*Lucifer*” is “*heylel*,” which is not a proper name. It means “*morning star*” or “*day star*.” Nearly all modern translations correct this. It’s a reference to the planet Venus, which is known as the “*morning star*” because it’s very bright, and often comes up before the sun in the morning. It leads the sun up before the dawn.

In context, Isaiah 14 is primarily a reference to the king of Babylon. The gist of what’s being said here is: “You, king of Babylon, call yourself the “*morning star*,” but you’ll be cast down into hell.” This text can also legitimately be used as a reference to Satan’s fall, because his fall was similar to that of the king of Babylon, but we don’t need the proper name “*Lucifer*” in there to see that.

“*Lucifer*” is in fact Latin. I don’t understand why Latin is in the Bible at all. It must have been carried over from the old Latin Vulgate Bible. (That’s why I’m not so keen on the word “*Calvary*” either, but that’s another issue). The Latin is from two words: “*Luci*” meaning “light” and “*fer*” meaning “to carry.” “*Lucifer*” is literally “light-carrier,” which can also reasonably refer to the “*morning star*” or “*day star*,” because Venus “carries” the light of the sun into the sky, as it were.

But Satan is the prince of darkness. He’s “*the prince of this world*”:

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

He deceives the whole world:

Revelation 12:9

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Satan has no light in him at all, He is all darkness. And he tries to keep men in darkness.

John 8:44

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

So, Satan is not a “light-carrier” in any sense. There is only one source of spiritual light anywhere. Who is the real “light-carrier,” the real “*Lucifer*”? We know the answer:

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Christ is the only light there is. There's no light to be found anywhere else in the world:

John 1:4-5

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Only Jesus Christ can save us from the power of Satan:

Acts 26:18

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

And the Bible actually tells us He is the "light-carrier," the "morning star," or, if you prefer the Latin, "Lucifer":

Revelation 22:16

I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Christ is the "light-carrier," and He carries light down to men. We can receive of this light for ourselves:

Revelation 2:28

And I will give him the morning star.

The Lord has given us two witnesses of this light:

The first witness the Lord has given us are the Scriptures, which give us a window into the light of heavenly things. They shine in an otherwise dark place:

2 Peter 1:19

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts....

And the second witness is the Holy Spirit, the "day star" which arises in the hearts of all those who put their trust in the "light-carrier." Yes, this light can truly be living in us. When we become Christians, we receive an earnest of the Spirit, a foretaste of heaven. A "morning star," if you like, which guarantees that the dawn will surely come soon enough:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

What hope a Christian has! But we need to come to the light. We need to repent of our sin and call on Jesus Christ, the true light-carrier, in this life, to save us from where otherwise we deserve to go. Then we can know for sure we're not going to be following Satan there:

Matthew 25:41

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels....

2 Peter 3:7

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

All those who put their trust in Christ, the “light-carrier,” inherit a far better place. A place Christ has reserved for all His people in heaven:

1 Peter 1:4-5

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Let’s make sure we come to the light, and worship Jesus Christ, the real “*Lucifer*”:

John 3:19-21

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Easter

This word occurs in the Authorised Version once:

Acts 12:4

And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

The Greek word is “*pascha*” which is translated in every other place in the Bible as “*Passover*,” and should be translated here as such too.

Calvary

This word occurs in the Authorised Version (and other translations) once:

Luke 23:33

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

This word is Latin. The original language is Greek. In Greek the word is “*kraneon*,” which means “a skull.” In Matthew, Mark and John the Hebrew “*Golgotha*” is used, together with an explanation that this means “*the place of a skull*.” Therefore here in Luke it should just be “*the place, which is called a skull*,” and the word “*Calvary*” should not be used.

Touch Me Not

Christ told Mary Magdalene not to touch Him because He hadn't ascended yet:

John 20:17

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

But Matthew tells us that the women (including Mary Magdalene) themselves held Him by His feet:

Matthew 28:9

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Christ allowed this. Therefore, "Touch me not" must mean, as modern translations have it, "Do not cling on to me."

Diana

In Acts 19, the false goddess Diana is mentioned: vv. 24,27,28,34,35. In the Greek, this is actually the word "Artemis."

God Forbid

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew is "*chaliylah*," which is literally "*far be it*."

References: Genesis 44:17; Joshua 22:29, 24:16; 1 Samuel 12:23, 14:45, 20:2; 1 Chronicles 11:19 (this is "*Elohim chaliylah*"); Job 27:5.

In the New Testament, the Greek is "*me ginomai*," which is literally "*not be*."

References: Luke 20:16; Romans 3:4,6,31, 6:2,15, 7:7,13, 9:14, 11:1,11; 1 Corinthians 6:15; Galatians 2:17, 3:21, 6:14.

Only in one place (1 Chronicles 11:19) is God actually mentioned.

The Spirit Itself

The Holy Spirit is a "*He*" not an "*it*."

Romans 8:16

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

“Red Sea” in Deuteronomy 1:1

Deuteronomy 1:1

These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

This cannot be the Red Sea. The word is “*Suph*.” Everywhere else when Red Sea is meant, it is “*Yam Suph*.”

The Red Sea is not “*on this side Jordan*” (v.1), as the Jordan river ends in the Dead Sea. The Red Sea is further south.

(v.5) We’re told that the speech was given “*On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab*.”

“Rahel” in Jeremiah 31:15

Jeremiah 31:15

Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

The Hebrew is the name “*Rachel*.” This is the only place where it is translated with a different spelling. It is spelt correctly in Matthew 2:17, where this verse is quoted.

“Numbered” in 2 Samuel 18:1

2 Samuel 18:1

And David numbered the people that were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

The word here is “*paqad*” which means “mustered,” not “numbered.” No figures are given. This is in contrast to David’s sin of numbering the people later, which uses a different word “*manah*”:

2 Samuel 24:1

And again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.

1 Chronicles 21:1

And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

“Sabbaths” in Lamentations 1:7

Lamentations 1:7

Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her sabbaths.

The word is not “*shabbat*,” but “*mishbath*,” which means “*cessation*.” That could imply their weekly cessation on the Sabbath day, but the more natural meaning would be that it was the “*downfall*” of Jerusalem that the enemies were mocking.

Infinite

The word “*infinite*” occurs three times in the Authorised Version of the Bible, but is a translation of three different words in Hebrew:

Qets = *without end*:

Job 22:5

Is not thy wickedness great? and thine iniquities infinite?

Mispar = *innumerable*:

Psalms 147:5

Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

Ayin Qatseh = *without extremity*:

Nahum 3:9

Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers.

The Brother of Goliath

2 Samuel 21:19

And there was again a battle in Gath with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

The words “*the brother of*” are in italics in the Authorised Version, which mean they aren't in the original language. The original says “*Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew Goliath.*” But 1 Samuel 17 tells us that David slew Goliath.

This is the third in a list of four battles, the other three of which describe the slaying of three of Goliath's four sons. At the end of this list we have the statement:

2 Samuel 21:22

These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

So this has been a list of the battles in which the four sons of Goliath were slain. Modern translations therefore add “*the son of*,” not “*the brother of*” in v.19, so it reads, “*Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the son of Goliath.*” Verse 22 would then make sense.

Jesus

This is not really a mistake because in the New Testament the Greek spelling of Hebrew names is routinely used. However, when referring to Old Testament Joshua, it is at least confusing:

Acts 7:45

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David....

Hebrews 4:8

For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

God Save....

This is literally “(Long) Live....”

2 Samuel 16:16

And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king.

1 Kings 1:34

And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

1 Kings 1:39

And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.

2 Kings 11:12

And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.

2 Chronicles 23:11

Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king.

“Their Mourning” in Job 3:8

Job 3:8

Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning.

The phrase “*their mourning*” is the word “*Leviathan*.”

The following articles are the latest additions to the forthcoming book "Bible Notes Volume Three"

264. Zeal of the Lord

2 Kings 19:30-31

And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

Isaiah 9:7

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 37:32

For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

Isaiah 59:17

For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

Ezekiel 5:13

Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the LORD have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them.

Zeal of Thine House

Psalms 69:9

For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

John 2:17

And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

263. Worshipping God in Hell

God is in Hell:

Amos 9:2

Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down:

All in hell will be worshipping Him for evermore:

Philippians 2:10-11

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 5:13

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

The following article from the book "Bible Notes Volume One" has recently been edited

61. Image of God

Man was originally made in the image of God:

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 5:1

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him.

Genesis 9:6

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

1 Corinthians 11:7

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

James 3:9

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Man in his fallen state has lost this image:

Genesis 5:3

*And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son **in his own likeness, after his image**; and called his name Seth.*

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ephesians 4:18,19

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

We are told that after Adam fell, man became “as gods, knowing good and evil”:

Genesis 3:5

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:22

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil....

So, being “as gods, knowing good and evil” is not the image of God.

We are told that Christ is the image of God:

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Colossians 1:15

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

We are told that the image of God is restored in the regenerate:

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 Corinthians 15:49

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Colossians 1:27

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 3:10

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

We are told that this image consists in knowledge, righteousness and holiness:

Ephesians 4:24

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 5:9

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

Colossians 3:10

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

However, this is still not all that the image of God is, because the angels were also created with these characteristics. Neither is the image of God simply rationality or responsibility, because the angels had these attributes too.

The only thing that man was given at Creation that the angels were not given, is a ruling capacity. In this world we were to have dominion over the creatures:

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

At present we are made a little lower than the angels, but will have a higher place than them in heaven:

Psalms 8:5

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Hebrews 2:7-9

Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a

little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Angels are only ministering spirits to serve us:

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

We shall judge angels:

1 Corinthians 6:3

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

We shall rule over cities:

Luke 19:11-27

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

The following article has recently been added to the book "Basic Christianity"

The Bondage of the Will

We seem to be able to make many free choices in our lives. For example, we can freely choose what colour socks to put on. But, thinking about it, is that really a “free” choice? We “decide” which colour clothes to wear out of pure vanity, which is sin. That’s not a “free” choice at all. There are always reasons for every “choice” we make, most of which are purely self-centred.

And there’s one thing for sure that none of us can choose. Man has not, and never has had, a free will with regards being pleasing to God. Man has only ever been in one of two states: either a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness.

Before Adam and Eve fell, they were given the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This implies that, before they ate of it, they would not have had this knowledge of good and evil within themselves. They could only do good. They didn’t know what evil was. The idea of stealing or lying or being in any way displeasing to God never entered their thoughts. And they would not have had a conscience either, because it would have been unnecessary. The law was written on their hearts. Their will was only ever to do good. They were slaves to righteousness, as it were.

But God gave them one external law, the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This external law was not part of the moral law, so God can never be accused of being the author of sin by giving them such an extra, external law:

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

This is the only time God has ever given to man a law and some kind of freedom of choice as to whether he kept it or not. But even then, was it really a “free” choice? God knew all along that man wouldn’t keep it. God giving just one external law and any kind of “free will choice” to man, in itself introduces the possibility of sin entering into the world, because the possibility of disobedience is always present:

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 24. *What is sin?*

A. *Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature.*

God knew full well that, given any kind of choice at all, it was inevitable that Adam and Eve would disobey. And we know this because God had already prepared a plan of salvation from sin from before the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:34

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world....

Luke 11:50

That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation....

John 17:24

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love....

Hebrews 4:3

For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

1 Peter 1:20

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you....

Revelation 13:8

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 17:8

The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

After Adam fell, we are all now as little gods, knowing good and evil:

Genesis 3:5

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:22

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil....

The law is no longer written on our hearts. God has now instead given us a conscience:

Genesis 3:7-8

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Our conscience can be pricked to know the law, and be condemned by it, but has no power to make us keep it:

Psalms 73:21

Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

Acts 2:37

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 9:5

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Our conscience can be seared:

1 Timothy 4:2

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron....

Our conscience can be hardened or even taken away by God as a punishment for our sins:

Exodus 7:13-14

And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.

Exodus 7:22

And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exodus 8:19

Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exodus 10:20

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go.

Exodus 10:27

But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

Exodus 11:10

And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

Romans 1:24

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves....

Romans 1:26

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature....

Romans 1:28

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient....

Romans 9:17-18

For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

Since Adam fell, we now only have God's moral law externally. It is no longer written on the heart. So none of us can now please God by nature, we are all born into this world slaves to sin:

Psalms 14:2-3

The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Psalms 51:5

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Ecclesiastes 7:29

Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Romans 8:7-8

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

If, however, we are born again by the Spirit of God, we can be freed from this bondage and become slaves to righteousness again. That is the good news of the gospel. In the following passage the word "servant" in all cases is "doulos" which means "slave":

Romans 6:16-23

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's moral law is now given to us externally, not to see whether we would keep it or not, but as a schoolmaster to show us our inability to keep it and to bring us to Christ:

Galatians 3:24-25

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

When we are born again by the Spirit of God, our hearts are completely changed:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Galatians 6:15

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

We now love God's law:

Psalms 119:97

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

John 8:34-36

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Romans 8:5

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:14-15

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

And we now have God's moral law written on our hearts again, just as Adam and Eve had before they fell:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

But the Christian still sins. Despite the fact that the law is now written on our hearts, we still remain as little gods, knowing good and evil. We are still in possession of our fallen nature, and we can never get rid of that in this life. But the law written on our hearts now makes us hate the evil. That's the difference:

Psalm 97:10

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Amos 5:15

Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

There is now a battle going on within the Christian which wasn't there before. We are slaves to sin in our sinful bodies, and can't help sinning; but this battles against our minds which are slaves to righteousness, which makes us hate being like this:

Romans 7:14-25

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

2 Peter 2:8

For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds....

When Christ came into this world, He was sinless. He was like Adam before he fell. He had the law written on His heart, and could not sin, or even think about sinning:

Psalm 40:7-8

Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Christ had a separate will from the Father, which proves that He went to the cross voluntarily:

John 10:17-18

Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Matthew 26:39,42

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.... He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

But He never thought for a moment about disobeying, even when tempted by the devil:

Matthew 4:3-10

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Christians have the law written on their hearts, and also have a conscience to guide them:

Romans 2:14-15

*For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience **also** bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another....*

This verse is not speaking about all Gentiles, but only those who “do by nature the things contained in the law”, i.e. believers. This is confirmed by the word “also.” Believers have the law written on their hearts and *also* a conscience. Adam, before he fell, only had the law written on his heart, a conscience wasn’t necessary for him. Unbelievers only have a conscience and not the law written on their hearts.

When Christians get to heaven they shall finally be free from their sinful natures, and will not be able to sin any more:

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Even those in hell will not be able to sin any more:

Philippians 2:10-11

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

But, unlike Christians, they'll be hating every minute of it:

Luke 16:23-24

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
