

## 2012 : “A New Beginning”

I am the owner of a Bible given to me when I was in high school. It is small in size as well as print. When I think back to those times there was never a question about the size of that Bible or the print. Younger eyes see small print quite clearly. Today, some fifty plus years later that small print is no longer easy to read even with glasses. Time does pass by and that small Bible was a part of a high school graduation, college years and graduation from college. It was with me into my professional career as well as my marriage. One day the eyes had more difficulty reading the small print and with Christmas drawing near my wife bought me a new Bible, larger in size as well as print. It was the NIV version and my first thought was simple.....I do not need this. I have a Bible and I can read..... No, I can't read the small print anymore. The body was changing and I had to change as well. So, the NIV version became the Bible of choice for me.

I can imagine that you might be a person with another version of the Bible and that you are completely satisfied with how it reads for you. I know there are many versions out there and I know there can be some controversy with some of those versions. What is most important to me when people speak about another version of the Bible is to listen carefully and try to determine if, for that person, the Bible stands alone. The scriptures have always been able to stand by themselves as the inspired word of God. What distresses me are those who will add another book to be used with their Bible. One more time.....the Bible stands on its own and needs no other book to aid or assist to make that Bible more complete. It is, one more time, the inspired word of God and needs no other assistance. Please understand. I am not speaking about commentaries. They have a wonderful place in a persons study life. When one deals with others who need to add or detract from the Bible, be cautious. I would even imagine there is a segment of society that would not accept any of those versions because they are not written in Hebrew. I had the pleasure of meeting a person once and had a wonderful conversation with him. My original Bible, the little one with the small print was King James . I thought the formality of the use of thees and thou were quite interesting reading. I especially liked the “**Verily, verily I say unto you...**” With the red print I knew these were God's words and so I paid very careful attention to those words when I came across them. I have never let that wander from my mind. When I changed over to the NIV version and the Bible that my wife bought for me the red print was still there but the translation was changed some. And then one day a few words just smacked me real good across the back of my head and I thought.....why have I not seen that before? I know at times I am slow but I am talking about years going by when suddenly I realized a change of words and it was a WOW factor for me.

“**Verily, verily I say unto you...**” And the translation change was “**I tell you the truth...**” Then, I really started thinking about this translation change. How could Jesus not tell the truth? He was in human form but he was still God. He was still the Messiah, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords and the great I AM. No question about it. No discussion necessary unless you did not believe. From His incarnation to His ascension He never lied, fibbed, cheated, stole, or failed to keep a promise. Impossible you think. Of course, it is for all of us but for Jesus.....Perfection was, is and always will be.

Think about it. **"I Tell you the Truth"**. With a statement like that there must be evidence, especially for those who do not believe.

Seven hundred years before the birth of Christ prophets spoke of Him:

***"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*** (Isaiah 9:6)

Early Childhood of Jesus:

***Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."***

***"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"*** (Luke 2: 41-49)

John the Baptist. Clothed himself in camel's hair. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached repentance and a kingdom of heaven. He spoke harshly to the Pharisees and Sadducees that came to hear him but he continued to preach. Then, one day :

***Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*** (Matthew 3: 13-17)

Divine healing:

***"Sir," returned the official, "please come down before my boy dies! "You can go home," returned Jesus, "your son is alive and well."*** (John 4: 43-54, complete passage)

*Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”*

*“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. (Mark 1: 21-27, complete passage)*

*Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” (Luke 7: 11-16 is the complete passage that is most worthy of your reading. )*

Other evidence:

Matthew 8

John 5: 1-14

Matthew 9: 18-23

Mark 9: 14-32

Luke 17: 11-19

John 11: 1-44

Yes, there was a betrayal and an execution, but.....

*Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.*

*They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”*

*“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.*

*He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”*

*Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”*

*Jesus said to her, “Mary.”*

*She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).*

*Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20, complete passage)*

And eventually a very special blessing to his disciples:

***When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. (Luke 24:50)***

***They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1: 10-11)***

A new beginning in 2012 is already in place for you. Jesus ***is*** (my emphasis) coming back. We have already been told this as we have been told many other things that have come to pass. Yes, there are many events yet to unfold as we have been told by the prophets but they will occur. Rapture, yes. Jesus' return, most certainly. He will ***"come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*** The events following this return will be most difficult for many people for a period of time but eventually:

***"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."***

***He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21: 1-5)***

Do you really want a new beginning in 2012? A new beginning that will affect your eternity?

***Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)***

I know this for sure because of a few words that I read in the scripture and the tremendous amount of evidence made available to me also in the scriptures. Those few words were spoken by Jesus 78 times in the New Testament. Those few words are ***"I tell you the truth."*** (NIV version of the Bible) It is my sincere hope that you have a wonderful

new year and a blessed new beginning to this year. Our time is passing by and soon, very soon our Lord is returning.

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