

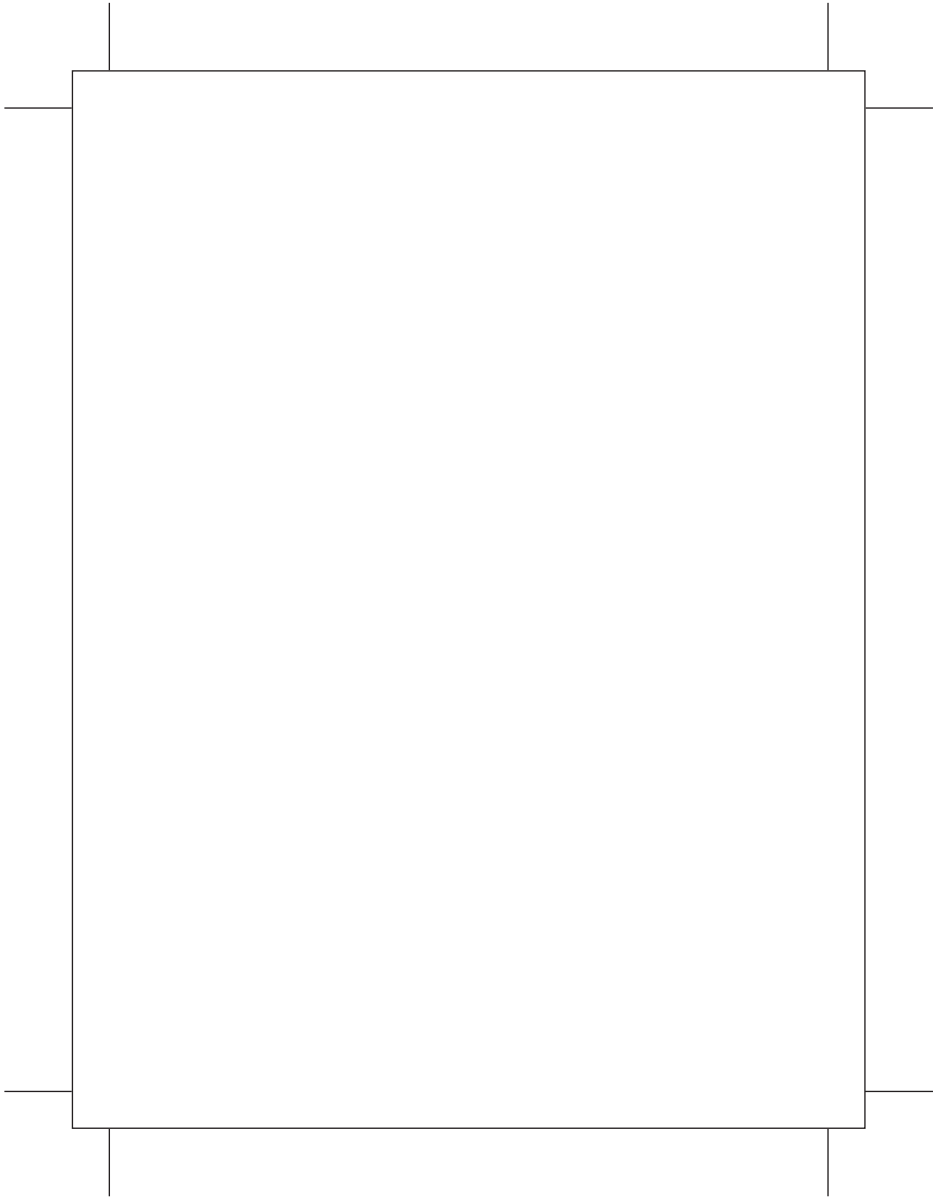


FOUNDATION SERIES

*Jesus
Christ*

Who is HE?

James Niles



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Christ*

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JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS HE?

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JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Some 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, the prophet Isaiah prophesied:

- **“The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His Name Immanuel [meaning GOD with us]”**
[Isaiah 7:14]
- **“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, Counselor, the Mighty GOD, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”** [Isaiah 9:6]

GOD is love. And, GOD so loved us that He gave His only Son Jesus Christ to pay the price for our sin. GOD vindicated Jesus Christ by raising Him from the dead.

And so, through the Testimony of Jesus opened in our hearts – in our *free will* acceptance of Him *through* His Testimony - we are set free from sin by GOD.

In being set free from sin, we are changed *progressively* and, opened to the immensity of GOD’s promises in the

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Bible. In developing the many propositions of Scripture *in us* and *through us*, GOD is inviting us to discover the reality and wonder of Him.

GOD's love is packaged in Jesus Christ for personal revelation into our heart; and, from our heart into a personal call, purpose and destiny – in GOD - in eternity.

Through Jesus Christ, GOD has set His desire on creating a *new man* in the image [Romans 8:29] and fullness [John 1:16-17] of Jesus Christ. And, this is because Jesus Christ is *the exclusive* blueprint for a *new* man – having overcome sin and death on behalf of all mankind. No one else has overcome death.

Through Jesus Christ GOD has purposed to create a people who will *progressively become* a people after GOD's own heart, who will do GOD's will *because they want to*.

The Bible declares that such an outcome is entirely based on Jesus Christ's Testimony being revealed *into our hearts* through understanding of the Scripture.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

In receiving the Testimony of Jesus, we are meant to be created in the ***image*** [*Romans 8:29*] and ***fullness*** [*John 1:16-17*] of Jesus Christ through a process of ***salvation*** [*Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17*].

This is why Jesus Christ proclaimed that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He declared that no one could come to the Father except ***through*** Him [*John 14:6*].

This booklet is written to introduce Jesus Christ to you. This booklet is written to proclaim His mission and His essential importance to each and every one of us.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

History testifies to Jesus Christ in no uncertain terms. Dr. William R. Bright wrote: “Visit any part of the world today. Talk to people of any religion. No matter how committed they are to their particular religion, if they know anything about history, they will have to admit that there has never been a man like Jesus of Nazareth.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

He is the most unique personality of all time. Jesus changed the direction of history. Even the date of your morning newspaper testifies to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth lived on earth nearly 2,000 years ago. B.C. means 'before Christ'; A.D. Anno Domino, 'the year of our Lord'."

GOD announces the gift of His Son Jesus Christ through the prophet Isaiah, in the midst of judgment over the nation of Israel for failure to adhere to the Law, GOD had given through the prophet Moses.

"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, Counselor, the Mighty GOD, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. 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 forever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will perform this." [Isaiah 9:6-7]

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

To understand who Jesus Christ is, we need to examine the Bible in greater detail. The Bible proclaims itself to be the written Word of GOD.

The pages of the Bible (the Scriptures as it is also called) record GOD's Words spoken through chosen human vessels at appointed times in history. The Bible written over some 1500 years of human history bears witness to **GOD's Testimony to man.**

How does one write a book over 1500 years? How does one communicate a unified and compelling message that **proclaims the power of GOD** as *the basis of its outcomes* in human life and the outcomes of history - in a set of writings made over 1500 years!

Today we are looking at Scripture some 1900 years after its writing.

Today we can see that the Bible predicts itself in terms of events in history (past, present and future), its spiritual contents and, its future outcomes through prophecy.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Bible proclaims the sovereign power of GOD to be expressed **in its every outcome** – personal, corporate and even cosmic (as impacting the creation)!

The Scriptures therefore declare that: **“All Scripture is inspired by GOD and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of GOD may be adequate, *equipped for every good deed.*”** [2 Timothy 3:16-17]

The Psalmist [Psalm 138:2] proclaims that GOD has magnified His Word in accordance with all of His Name.

The Scripture also testifies that: **“GOD, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (Jesus Christ the Messiah) ... with a view to an administration (by government) suitable to the fullness of the times, that is the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth ...”** [Hebrews 1:1-2; Ephesians 1:10]

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Except for a diversity of predicted future events, all of the Bible's prophetic outcomes are dependent on Jesus Christ and His Testimony being communicated into humanity in personal, corporate and cosmic terms!

In Scripture, GOD speaks to us by His Son, by Testament unfolded in personal, corporate and cosmic terms: **“For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. ... (GOD sent His Son) that the world should be saved through Him.”** [John 3:16-17]

“GOD demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (to pay the price of our sin under the Law).” [Romans 5:8]

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of GOD is eternal life in Christ Jesus.” [Romans 6:23]

In the fulfillment of the Law – by Jesus Christ - GOD proclaims a future for man *through* the Testimony of Jesus.

The Testimony of Jesus is thus proclaimed to be the Spirit of Prophecy [Revelation 19:10].

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Spirit of Prophecy is the *spiritual ingredient* to the **fulfillment of every promise** contained in the pages of the Bible – from the beginning of creation to its redemption [Romans 8:19-22; Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:8-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Revelation 5].

The Spirit of Prophecy is the *life-giving Spirit of Jesus Christ* [1 Corinthians 15:45; Philipians 1:19]. The life-giving Spirit of Jesus Christ is the spiritual genetic ingredient for a new man [Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17]. This life-giving Spirit of Jesus Christ has the capacity to manifest the righteousness of GOD *into* man.

The Bible Testifies Of Jesus Christ

The wonder of Scripture is that Words written independently – *over one thousand five hundred years* - by more than 40 authors have a unified message of hope through Jesus the Messiah. The Scriptures proclaim a future crafted by GOD's grace revealed *in* and *by* and *through* Jesus Christ. **The spiritual heart of the Bible is the Testimony of Jesus.**

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

In Scripture, Jesus is proclaimed to be the Messiah, the Savior of mankind. The Scriptures speak of Him **centuries before** His coming into the pages of history. Jesus Christ did not pen one word in the Bible. But, men inspired by GOD wrote of Him - **before** His time on earth and **after** His time on earth - in astonishing *detail*.

Those who communed with Him, during His time on earth, wrote of what He taught. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of GOD, these men explained the awesome meaning and wonder of Jesus Christ, His life, ministry and teachings. They proclaimed the profound implications of His death and resurrection to us - personally.

It is fascinating that all of what Jesus' disciples wrote of Him in terms of the profound implications of His death and resurrection - its spirituality - is coded in symbols in the Law that GOD gave Israel through the prophet Moses (circa 1400 BC).

In fact, the design and contents of the Tabernacle, its sacrifices and the Tabernacle Feasts, explained in detail in the Law that GOD gave Moses, carry in them the spiritual meaning of the New Testament [*Luke 24:44-45*].

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Scriptures written *before* and *after* His sojourn on earth give meaning to Jesus Christ and His Testimony. The Scriptures written *before* and *after* His sojourn on earth proclaim that *anyone* of us who will – in our **free will** - receive His Words will actualize the **life-changing** power of His Words. This is how GOD testifies of Himself to the believer.

Jesus Christ Himself declared that His Words were **eternal** [Luke 21:33], able to impact us, by communicating *into* us realities that are *of His Spirit* and **His Life** [John 6:63; 1 Corinthians 15:45]. Jesus Christ declared that all that spoke of Him **must be fulfilled** [Luke 24:44-45]!

What is written in Scripture unveils itself in breath taking terms through the Witness and Testimony of Jesus Christ – brought to life in each one of us uniquely.

For example: Scripture proposes the actual transformation of man in the character and nature of Jesus Christ. Scripture also explains in great detail the actual outcome of human history – in the context of Jesus Christ and His second coming to earth.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

In fact, the scenarios described in Scripture, leading to His second coming, are being seen all around the world today testifying to Scriptures divine inspiration.

In the pages of the Bible, it is written that John the Apostle was actually caught up into heaven – before GOD on His throne, and the witness of millions of angels - to describe the cosmic realities of the Testimony of Jesus and His role in the outcome of human history [*Revelation: chapters 4, 5, 20, 21*]!

So, what exactly is the Bible and what is its core message?

The Bible is a compendium of 66 books, written over a period of some 1500 years (circa 1400 BC to 100 AD). The Bible is divided into two portions called the Old Testament (written *before* Christ) and the New Testament (written *after* Christ).

Centered on the Jewish nation of Israel, descendants of Abraham through his sons Isaac and Jacob, the Scriptures reveal a Gospel message of salvation – revealed through the Testimony of Jesus - to people of *all nations*.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

And, this Gospel of salvation is based on the **fulfillment** of the Old Testament Law and the Prophets [*Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 5:17-18*] in the person of Jesus Christ [*John 14:6*]. The fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets is proclaimed through the **actual** communication of the Testimony of Jesus into human hearts [*2 Corinthians 3:3; 4:6-7; 1 John 5:10*].

And, this fulfillment is available to people of **all nations** – through a **willingness** to receive the Testimony of Jesus. The result will be a growing manifestation of change in our inward parts and, the reality of a relationship with the living GOD!

In the biblical narrative, Abraham (circa 2200 BC) is unveiled as a unique man in history, who heard GOD and responded to GOD. Abraham leaves his family and moves to a land where GOD would through Abraham's generations, unfold a nation called Israel.

The Old Testament narrative is centered on Israel.

Israel's highest purpose would be to proclaim the Law and the Prophets and to establish the lineage of Jesus Christ

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

[*Matthew 1:1-17*]. Israel's highest purpose was also to become the ***nucleus*** of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The principal goal of Jesus Christ's ministry would be the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets for all humanity, through the revelation of **His** Life and Testimony *into* our hearts and our lives, resulting in actual change expressed in thought, word and deed.

The essential goal of Scripture is that we will do all things in word and deed in the Name of the Lord Jesus - with thanksgiving to GOD **our Father** [*Colossians 3:17*].

It is in this reality of impacting all nations, through Jesus Christ the descendant of Abraham, that GOD by promise in the Scriptures, declared Abraham to be the spiritual father of nations [*Genesis 22:18, 1-18*].

And, through Jesus Christ the descendent of Abraham, after 2,000 years, the Scripture, and the subsequent spread of the Gospel, illustrate how Abraham has become the father of nations - today! This was never a reality when the Scriptures were being penned over 1500 years!

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Imagine picking one man in human history and declaring that through him the nations would be blessed in eternity by Blood Covenant **with GOD** written into human hearts [*Genesis 17:7; Jeremiah 31:33-34*]!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has impacted the life of people from many nations. Jesus declared that His Gospel would be proclaimed in every nation of the world before the end of this age [*Matthew 24:14*]. This will come about in spite of persecution of the Church in all nations.

The impact of the Gospel of Jesus Christ fulfills GOD's promise to Abraham that in the seed of Abraham all the nations of the earth will be blessed [*Genesis 22:18, 15-18; Galatians 3:16*]. The Gospel of Jesus Christ unveils a message of salvation to the **human soul**.

Salvation is the spiritual process by which all nations will be blessed – by GOD.

Salvation proposes the creation of a **new man** – in Jesus Christ - from the hidden inward parts of the human being [*Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 3:3*].

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Salvation proposes the creation of a ***new man*** in the ***image*** [Romans 8:29, 28-30] and ***fullness*** [John 1:16-17] of Jesus Christ!

In the light of the fulfillment of GOD's blessings through salvation in the nations, Scripture described Abraham as GOD's friend. Abraham was also called GOD's friend because Abraham believed GOD, left his father's household and moved into unknown places, to establish what history reveals as the lineage of the Messiah.

Remarkably, the lineage of Jesus Christ (Christ meaning Messiah) is preserved and described in Scripture over more than 2,000 years – from Abraham - on both His foster father, Joseph's side and His mother Mary's side [Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38]!

The Structure Of The Bible

The Bible is divided into two parts – the Old Testament and the New Testament - separated in their writing by some 500 years (circa 400 BC to 100 AD).

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Old Testament is the first two-thirds of the Bible primarily consisting of the Law and the Prophets, with the history of Israel as the backdrop. The Old Testament was written and completed some 400 years before Jesus Christ came into the pages of human history. The Old Testament was translated by Jewish scholars from Hebrew into Greek some 200 years before Jesus' time on earth.

This is an important fact because the prophetic pronouncements on Jesus Christ: His identity, His lineage, His mission, specifics related to His birth including His birth through a virgin, His ministry, His death and His resurrection, His being referred to as the Son and the Messiah, were all written in both Hebrew and Greek by Jewish scribes and scholars centuries before His advent!

The New Testament is the last one-third of the Bible. The New Testament records the Gospel (meaning the Good News) of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Gospel of the Kingdom of GOD [Matthew 4:23-25; Luke 8:1] declaring that GOD will establish His Kingdom on earth as prophesied by the prophet Daniel [Daniel 2:26-49; 7:13-14 – circa 550 BC].

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Through the Gospel of the Kingdom of GOD, the yoke of sin and death will be destroyed – ultimately, in cosmic terms [*Romans 8:18-22; Revelation 21:1-2; 22:1-3*].

Salvation will unfold a new man in the *image* [*Romans 8:29*] and ***fullness of Jesus Christ*** [*John 1:16-17*]. This is a new man who will function by actual communion with GOD!

In this light of the Gospel of the Kingdom of GOD, the New Testament (in tandem with many, many prophecies in the Old Testament) also predicts the outcome of human history which culminates with the second coming of Jesus Christ on earth [*Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28*].

The biblical composite of the Law, the Prophets and, the Gospel of Jesus Christ that proclaims the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, represent **GOD's Testimony** to the human race.

And, GOD's Testimony to mankind is profound and an amazing expression of His goodness and, **His willingness to work His goodness into man** and into creation.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

GOD's Testimony to the human race has its ***actual fulfillment*** in personal, corporate and cosmic terms! The Bible is a book written – in profound detail - for actual fulfillment!

The ***personal fulfillment*** proposed to each one of us – **by the hand of GOD** - is the blessing GOD proposes to us and our families ***in eternity***. It is through this fulfillment that GOD enables us to see Him, so as to come to know Him and to love Him. Amen!

Prophecy Actually Fulfilled

Hundreds of predictive prophecies in the Law, the Prophets and the Gospel of Jesus Christ – **actually fulfilled in the flow of history and, during the writing of the Scriptures themselves, over 1500 years of human history** – proclaim the clear hand of GOD in the biblical narrative.

No single human being or any organization was responsible for the writing of the manuscripts of Scripture or the message of the Scriptures. Israel and the Church were used by GOD to compile and preserve the Scriptures.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Individuals were moved by GOD to dedicate their lives to writing, copying and preserving thousands of manuscripts in spite of countless attempts to destroy the writings in the course of human history. The Bible in our hands is in itself a miracle.

Untold thousands have given their lives for the preservation and communication of the Scriptures.

The Scriptures stand as the *exclusive* narrative of GOD's Testimony of love to mankind. It also stands as a warning that GOD will ultimately destroy evil in all of its forms.

Today, Biblical prophecy is continuing to speak of events unfolding **in our time**. The signs of our times, described generically, as the period of **the last days**, are dramatically described in the pages of Scripture in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Jesus Christ himself emphasized and clarified what the Old Testament prophets had written. Jesus, in describing the events in history that would unfold the time of the great tribulation, prophesied by the prophet Daniel (circa 550 BC), declared that His second coming to earth would come

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

about only after the events of the great tribulation [*Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27*]. The great tribulation is described in detail in the book of Revelation.

We are presently in the last days of this age.

The Bible Carries The Testament Of GOD

The Bible is far more than a book of predictive prophecy. GOD's primary Testimony in the Scriptures, explain the reality of GOD's willingness to deal with man's sin nature and reveal Himself to the human heart so that man will come to know Him and love Him.

GOD declares His willingness to deal with man's **deliberate** and **habitual** sins against GOD – **by unfolding the Testimony of Jesus Christ in the inward parts of man**. [*2 Corinthians 3:3; Exodus 31:18; 32:16; Jeremiah 31:31-34*].

Through the pages of Scripture, GOD **in His faith and love for us all**, expressed through the words of Scripture,

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

calls us each *into being* – from our inward parts - as a **new man created in the image and the fullness of Jesus Christ** [*Romans 8:29; John 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:10*].

This spiritual expression of **GOD's faith and love for us** personally, is described in the Scripture as the Testimony of Jesus. The Testimony of Jesus is the communicative medium of GOD's own faith and love for us.

GOD uses the Testimony of Jesus to transform us through a creative process of salvation in our inward parts [*Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17*]. Our outer man dies but our *inner man* is proclaimed to be transformed from glory to glory [*2 Corinthians 4:16*].

Words of Scripture that describe the Testimony of Jesus are declared to communicate the Spirit of Prophecy [*Revelation 19:10*]. The Spirit of Prophecy is the Spirit (the spiritual medium that carries the spiritual dynamic) that brings the Words of the Testimony of Jesus **to fulfillment into us** and also *through us*.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Spirit of Prophecy is the life-giving Spirit of Jesus Christ that is the spiritual genetic blueprint for a new man [*1 Corinthians 15:45; Philippians 1:19*].

The Testimony of Jesus describes how GOD will save us, **by bringing into us - all** - that is of Jesus Christ [*John 1:16-17; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 2:10*].

All that is of Jesus Christ involves the actual communication of **the substance** of His Character, His Nature, His Witness and Testimony in faith and love into us - **by** GOD.

The Testimony of Jesus is the spiritual heartbeat of the Bible.

In order to give credence to the spiritual realities of the Testimony of JESUS, the Scripture also records the historic details of Jesus Christ's birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection in four Gospels of the New Testament. The Testament of Jesus – described in the four Gospels and expounded by His Apostles in the Epistles that make up the New Testament - is the basis of salvation. The Testament of Jesus is the basis for salvation, simply

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

because He fulfilled the demands of the Law that GOD gave Moses (circa 1400 BC) [*Matthew 5:17-18*].

In the fulfillment of the Law, the Testament of Jesus becomes the spiritual blueprint for the fulfillment of the Prophets [*Matthew 5:17*]. The Prophets comprise GOD's every promise and blessing, as well as GOD's judgment and destruction of evil.

Salvation – communicated into us through the understanding and acceptance of the Testimony of Jesus - is the ***progressive*** spiritual process by which the spiritual yoke of sin and death is actually broken.

The breaking of the spiritual yoke of sin and death is not only over us personally but, also in the heavenly places that stand over the spiritual atmosphere of the earth and all mankind.

Jesus Christ lived on earth for a mere 33 years. Astonishingly however, the biblical narrative unveils Jesus Christ as the **central character** to the Bible's spiritual content – in terms of its **understanding** as well as its **fulfillment** in and as GOD's plan for humanity.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

For example, in Matthew 5:17-18, JESUS CHRIST declares that He had come (from GOD as the Messiah, the Anointed One) to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. The Law and the Prophets represent the heart and soul of the Old Testament narrative completed some 400 years before CHRIST.

The Law was a complex of more than 600 laws, centered on daily animal sacrifices and, a calendar of feasts that involved more animal sacrifices. The Law clearly declared through these blood sacrifices that the wages of sin is death [*Romans 6:23*].

The Law – given by GOD to Moses (circa 1400 BC) - pointed to the fact that only in blood sacrifice could the sin of man be *atoned* for. The blood of animals was used daily, in the morning and the evening, to commemorate the atonement of Israel's sin – the sin of her priesthood, her leaders and her people.

Even infants were dedicated to GOD through blood sacrifice signifying the need to atone for the nature of sin they were born with, because of the sin of their generations, originating from the fall of Adam, the first man [*Genesis 1-3*].

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Law pointed to the fact that we all have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD. **Since our life is in our blood, the Law is proclaiming that it would take the witness of blood – in a life *without* the blemish of sin - to atone for our sin.** The Law addressed through blood sacrifice, the sin we carry by nature, as well as the deliberate (called transgression) and habitual forms of our sin (called iniquity).

The reality of blood sacrifice – through an animal ***without defect*** - required by Law [*Leviticus 1:3; 3:1; 4:3; 5:15*], foreshadowed the fact that ultimately, for the yoke of sin to be broken over man, there would need to be an actual Testament without blemish or defect for the overcoming of death. **Only such a Testament could fulfill the Law.**

The Law of GOD given to Moses (circa 1400 BC) – **by blood sacrifice** [*Exodus 24:3-8*] - clearly proclaimed two things: (i) that the wages of sin is death; and, (ii) that only through the shedding of blood can sin be atoned for or be covered.

Atonement simply means that GOD covers our sinfulness **while working His solutions of change and**

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

transformation into us – through the processes of salvation.

And, this is what the Testimony of Jesus fulfills.

On the cross Jesus Christ satisfied the righteous requirement of GOD's Law through the shedding of His blood. And, this shedding of His blood is the penalty He paid for the sin of the whole world.

It is the triumph of Jesus Christ over death – after fulfilling the requirements of the Law through the shedding of His blood – that would be the legal basis for salvation.

It is in the progressive communication of the Testimony of Jesus, including all that is of His nature and character tested through the cross, into us, that salvation finds its progressive fulfillment in us.

The Prophets explained the Law's requirements being met, by declaring that only the death of the Messiah would *atone* (or, *cover*) for the sin of mankind [*Isaiah 53 – circa 700 BC*]. The Prophets also proclaimed the resurrection of the Messiah

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

from death [*Psalms 16:10; 68:18; 110:1 – circa 1000BC*] **that would prove the fact of the yoke of sin being actually broken!**

In Isaiah 53:11, which is part of the Prophets, GOD tells us how the Testimony of Jesus would fulfill the requirements of the Law: **“By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many.”**

The Prophets also predicted that because of the Messiah’s accomplishments: **“All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. Posterity will serve Him.”** [*Psalms 22:29-30*]

Jesus Christ Himself would proclaim:

- **“I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the FATHER, but through Me.”** [*John 14:6*]
- **“I AM the Bread of Life.”** [*John 6:48*]
- **“I AM the Resurrection and the Life.”** [*John 11:25*]

To understand the significance of Jesus Christ one has to understand biblical prophecy concerning Him.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Biblical prophecy carefully and meticulously predicts the **identity** of GOD's Messiah – proclaiming both His divinity and His humanity – so that the legal basis of GOD's Law will be brought to fulfillment in and through the Testimony of Jesus.

The Testimony of Jesus in fulfilling the Law would become the spiritual basis for the creation of a new man - **in** and **from** our inward parts of spirit, soul and heart [*Isaiah 53:11; Matthew 5:17-18; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17*].

The Testimony of Jesus in fulfilling the Law becomes the basis for the fulfillment of the Prophets in terms of both **the promises** and **the judgments** of GOD.

2 Corinthians 1:20 declares: “**For as many as may be the promises of GOD, in Him (Jesus the Messiah) they are yes ...**”

The final judgment of earth is witnessed by the Apostle John in heaven when he witnesses the foreshadowing of Jesus Christ breaking the seals that **commence** the events of judgment that bring closure to this age of human history [*Revelation chapters 5:1 to 8:5*].

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The culmination of this present age involves GOD's judgment of evil on earth in the great tribulation, and the consequent reality of the unfolding of the government of the Kingdom of GOD on earth through the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth with His angels and saints.

Ultimately the fulfillment of the Prophets results in a new earth and a new heaven [*Revelation 21*] as GOD's love is *creatively* showered into a new beginning.

This new beginning proclaims the cosmic implications of the Testimony of Jesus. Amen [*Revelation 3:14; 2 Corinthians 1:20*]!

Biblical Prophecy Concerning Jesus Christ

Approximately 330 prophecies predicted the first coming of Jesus the Messiah (or, Christ). The level of detail with which the first coming of Jesus Christ was predicted is simply astonishing.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Below are some examples from the Old Testament. Corresponding New Testament passages are also given as a record of the fulfillment.

These prophecies and their fulfillment are important because they testify of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ revealed through the actual pages of human history. There is **no other** equivalent narrative of predictive prophecy relating to *anyone else* in human history.

The prophecies of Scripture point to the fact that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, was exclusively GOD's vessel for the future of all humanity.

The prophecies of Scripture also point to the fact that Jesus Christ was not the product of human endeavor.

For example the lineage of the Messiah was predicted. Jesus Christ the Messiah was predicted to be **the seed of a woman** [*Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4*]. He was the seed of Abraham that would unveil the blessing given to Abraham to be a blessing to all nations [*Genesis 22:18; Matthew 1:1*]. No one else in human history (past and in the future) can ever even begin to fulfill these prophecies.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Abraham had seven sons and more than thirty grandsons; Jesus Christ was predicted to be descended in the specific lineage of Abraham through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob [*Genesis 17:19; Numbers 24:17; Luke 3:34; Matthew 1:2*]. There are 12 tribes of Israel; the Messiah was predicted to be of the tribe of Judah [*Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:33*]. Again, no one else in human history (past and in the future) can fulfill these prophecies.

The Messiah was declared to be GOD [*Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; John 8:58; John 10:30; John 17:6, 26; John 20:28*]. **The Messiah was proclaimed as GOD in human form** [*Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-2, 14*].

The Messiah was declared as the One who would establish the Government of GOD as a descendant of King David (circa 1000 BC) [*Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33*].

Jesus Christ announced the Kingdom of GOD and gave clarity to the Kingdom of GOD through His teachings and His miracles [*Matthew 4:23; Matthew 13; 24:14; 28:18-20*].

The Kingdom of GOD and its significance was prophetically predicted to be an everlasting dominion that

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

will not be destroyed, by the prophet Daniel (circa 550 BC) [*Daniel 2:44-45, 1-45; 7:9-14, 15-28*].

Jesus the Messiah declared that He would come again - after His death and resurrection and ascension into heaven - to fully establish the Kingdom of GOD on earth [*Matthew 24:3, 27-31; 25:31-46; 28:18-20; Revelation 22:7, 12-13*].

Scripture declares that Jesus Christ was anointed to be the Messiah - in His Eternal Authority, as King and Creator GOD [*Psalms 45:6-7; 102:25-27; Hebrews 1:8-12*].

Scripture also predicted specific aspects of the Messiah's Life and Testimony.

Jesus Christ was predicted to be born in Bethlehem [*Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7*]. Jesus the Messiah was also predicted to be born of a **virgin** [*Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-30*].

The timing of the Messiah's coming was predicted by the prophet Daniel (circa 550 BC) from the date the decree to restore Jerusalem was issued in 444 BC [*Daniel 9:25; Luke 2:1-2*]. Centuries later, King Herod knowing the timing for the Messiah's coming decided to eliminate Him by

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

ordering the killing of infants below two years old [*Matthew 2:13-18*].

This slaughter of the infants was also predicted [*Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18*].

[In the two paragraphs above we also see prophecy that can never be fulfilled by any other person in history – past, present and future!]

The coming of Jesus Christ as Messiah was testified to, and prepared for, by another prophet called John the Baptist who would be His forerunner [*Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; 4:5; Luke 3:3-6; 7:24, 27; Matthew 11:13-14*].

John the Baptist would declare Jesus Christ as the Messiah, who would baptize by the Holy Spirit of GOD [*Matthew 3:11; John 1:26-34*].

John the Baptist after recognizing Jesus Christ as the Messiah would testify to this by releasing his own disciples to Jesus Christ. [*John 1:35-37*]

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Scripture also addresses the Messiah as the Son of GOD with authority over all nations [*Psalm 2:7-8; 110:1-2; Proverbs 30:3-4; Matthew 3:17; 28:18-20*].

The ministry of Jesus Christ the Messiah was also predicted and described:

- (i) That He would minister in Galilee [*Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:13-16*]
- (ii) That He would speak in parables [*Psalm 78:2-4; Matthew 13:34*]
- (iii) That He would minister to the down trodden and the broken hearted, to those in spiritual bondage and captivity [*Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18-19*]
- (iv) That He would minister healing [*Isaiah 29:18; 35:5-6; 42:7; Matthew 4:23-24*]
- (v) That He would minister as a Prophet [*Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:20,22*]
- (vi) That He would be rejected by His own people [*Isaiah 53:3; John 1:11; Luke 23:18*]
- (vii) That He would minister as a Priest of the **eternal** Order of Melchizedek [*Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 5:5; Genesis 14:18; Luke 22:14-20*]
- (viii) That He would in Himself be a Covenant to the people [*Isaiah 49:8; 42:6; Luke 22:20*]

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

- (ix) That the ministry of Jesus Christ would be vindicated before GOD and the heavenly hosts [*Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 5:1-14*]
- (x) That He would take upon Himself our sins. He would be pierced through for our transgressions (our deliberate sins). He would be crushed for our iniquities (our habitual sins). The chastening for our well-being would fall upon Him, and by His scourging we would be healed. [*Isaiah 53:5; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Peter 2:24*].
- (xi) That He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver [*Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15*]. That this betrayal would be by a close friend [*Psalms 41:9; Luke 22:47-48*].
- (xii) That none of His bones will be broken through His crucifixion [*Psalms 34:20; John 19:32-33, 36*].
- (xiii) That His side would be pierced in His crucifixion [*Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34*].
- (xiv) That He would be rejected by His own people the Jews [*Isaiah 53:3; John 1:11; Luke 23:18*]. His message would also be dismissed by humanity in general [*Isaiah 53:1; John 12:37-38*].

There is more prophecy to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ than what is mentioned above. For example: the

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

prophetic meaning to the Tabernacle of Moses, the sacrifices of the Tabernacle and the Feasts that were celebrated in the Tabernacle at their appointed times – all, refer to Jesus Christ and His redemptive work on the cross.

The Tabernacle that king David raised (and the testimony of David in his Psalms) and, the temple of Solomon also have very deep prophetic significance vis a vis the testimony of Jesus.

The ultimate testimony to Jesus Christ is declared in the following:

- Jesus Christ rose from the dead and was witnessed to - in His risen state - by well over **500** men and women in several encounters with Him at *different times* and in *different locations* over a **40** day period. [Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-31; 21:1-25; Acts 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8].
- After His resurrection, His disciples were able to touch Him, watch Him prepare a meal for them, talk and fellowship with Him, eat with Him and, be taught and instructed by Him.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

- His disciples witnessed His ascension into heaven 40 days after His resurrection. Angels appeared to the disciples to proclaim that Jesus Christ would once again return to the earth.
- It is a historical fact that many, many of His disciples were martyred because they refused to deny the Testimony of Jesus.
- The disciples were instructed by Jesus Christ to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit of GOD [Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-47] who would empower them to bear witness to the Testimony of Jesus. And, when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit had occurred 50 days after His resurrection (10 days after His ascension) the disciples were empowered by GOD in the Name of the Lord Jesus:
 - i. To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - ii. To have courage and strength to withstand persecution and suffering [2 Corinthians 11:23-33; Acts 5:12-41; 11:19; Revelation 1:9]; many of them paying the ultimate price of giving their lives in martyrdom for the Testimony of Jesus [Acts 7:54-60; 12:1-2] - a fact documented in history. Martyrdom has been and

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

continues to be the testimony of the church ***today*** in many countries of the world.

- iii. To perform thousands of miracles through the Name of Jesus by proclaiming His Testimony. The blind, the lame, the sick, the demonized and the dead were raised from the dead as evidence of the continuing ministry of Jesus Christ through His disciples [*Mark 16:15-20; Acts 5:12-16; 6:8; 8:5-8; 9:36-43; 19:11-12; 28:8-9*]. These miracles continue ***today*** through the present day disciples of Jesus Christ.
- iv. To make disciples for Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit brought the realities of the Testimony of Jesus into human hearts [*2 Corinthians 3:3*]. Today that reality comprises hundreds of millions of lives. Countless numbers of books and ***millions*** of verbal testimonies of Jesus Christ's continuing ministry of salvation have been and are being proclaimed across the nations of the world. In 1988, I myself came to Jesus Christ when I heard His loud commanding voice rebuke the hardness of my heart. From being an alcoholic GOD gave me the privilege of becoming a pastor and teacher of His Word. He continues to persevere with my weaknesses even today.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

- Paul the persecutor of the Church would have a supernatural encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus [Acts 9]. The resulting transformation of the apostle Paul would result in him becoming the apostle who would bring the Gospel to Asia Minor and the Mediterranean. Paul would become GOD's instrument to pen two-thirds of the New Testament. Paul would testify of being caught up to heaven and experiencing heavenly realities [2 Corinthians 12:1-5].
- And, finally the most dramatic and extraordinary testimony to Jesus Christ would come through the apostle John. **The apostle John is actually taken to heaven to see the exalted position of Jesus Christ before GOD and His angels** [Revelation 5]. In his extraordinary encounters with Jesus, the angels and the elders who stood before GOD, John records the cosmic realities that stand in the Testimony of Jesus. John sees all creation in heaven, on earth and under the earth being brought into subjection to the Name of Jesus - **by GOD**. This fulfills what the Psalmist proclaims in Psalm 110:1 in the Old Testament: **“The LORD (GOD Himself) says to my Lord (the Messiah); ‘Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.’”**

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

The Spiritual Pronouncements Of Biblical Prophecy

The Prophets describe with great clarity the salvation through which GOD would give man a *new spirit* and a *new heart* and, would cause man to walk in His ways [Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 3:3-5]. This reality Jesus describes as being born-again [John 3:3-5].

The Prophets describe how **GOD** would *develop* man by writing His Laws into the heart of man and *enable* man to come to know GOD [Jeremiah 31:31-34; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Hebrews 10:15-20].

From what GOD writes into the heart of man, there will arise a functional witness – *unique to each individual* – that would position them each before GOD [1 John 5:10, 7-8, NKJV]. The New Testament describes all these as realities that arise from the processes of salvation. [Please write in for our free CD on Foundations to understand this.]

The Prophets announce that GOD will in Jesus Christ write His Covenant – *in personal terms* - into the hearts of

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

man, enabling each man to ***become*** a minister of the New Covenant [Ex 31:18; 32:16; 2 Corinthians 3:3-6].

Through Covenant specifically written into the hearts of individuals, Scripture declares that we will become ministers of the New Covenant, servants (or, ministers) of Christ, **stewards of the Mysteries of GOD** [2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 4:1]. All that is written into our hearts will be **personally engineered by GOD into us** [Ex 31:18; 32:16; 2 Corinthians 3:3-6].

In new and unique capacities made alive in us through the Testimony of Jesus, we will progressively become the leadership of the Kingdom of GOD [Ephesians 2:4-10; 1:17-23].

In Jesus Christ the Son of GOD, we will each at the appointed time of GOD be changed to put on the imperishable [1 Corinthians 15:51-54]. This will come into being because we are each being created and positioned in Christ Jesus by GOD ***in our inward parts*** of spirit, heart and soul [Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 4:16-17].

In Summary

The Prophets are a complex narrative of Scriptures that have been, are being and will be, brought to fulfillment - in the course of human history. Much has been fulfilled, much more is to be fulfilled in a ***spiritual progression*** that will fill all-in-all [*Ephesians 1:22-23*]!

The Prophets *do* many things. As declared earlier, the Prophets predicted the first coming of the Jesus Christ, giving accurate details of His birth, His ministry, His death and His resurrection. As stated earlier, some 330 prophecies were fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus Christ.

The prophets also predict events in history – many of which have been fulfilled and, many of which are being and will be fulfilled before the second coming of Jesus Christ on earth.

Through the book of Daniel, the Gospel narrative and the book of Revelation (amongst portions in many other prophetic declarations in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the minor prophetic books of the Old Testament and the

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

narrative in the New Testament) the Bible proclaims the second coming of Jesus Christ and the events that will herald His coming in no uncertain terms.

The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is the culmination of the prophetic Words of Scripture. The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ was written by the apostle John while being imprisoned on the island of Patmos for his faith in Jesus Christ (circa 90 AD). By this time all the other original apostles of Jesus Christ had been martyred for the Testimony of Jesus.

As the last of the original apostles of Jesus Christ, John pens the book of Revelation in the reality of being caught up into heaven and having heavenly experiences (visions and words spoken) of Jesus Christ, His angels and, elders who sat on thrones surrounding the throne of GOD. John bears witness to GOD on His throne.

John bears witness to the authority and power of GOD the Judge of all mankind.

The outcome of history, of the age in which we live, unveils as John sees Jesus break the seals that will herald

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

the period of the great tribulation and the *specific judgments* of the great tribulation. The apostle John also bears witness to the fact that **the outcome of history stands in the Testimony of Jesus.**

John bears testimony to this as he sees the second coming of Jesus Christ on the earth after the great tribulation is ended.

Also, the destruction of evil and the destruction of the earth and heaven are declared in Revelation. Finally, the creation of a new heaven and earth is also declared by Jesus Christ to the Apostle John.

The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ declares that the future of humanity is exclusively in Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation sees Jesus Christ proclaim Himself as **the Amen** - the true and faithful Witness, the **exclusive** basis for the Beginning of the creation of GOD [Revelation 3:14]!

The Prophets also proclaim entry **into** the true and faithful Witness that brings the reality of a future in GOD **into being in us.** The true and faithful Witness of the Testimony of Jesus opens in a process of salvation [1 John

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

5:10; Romans 10:8-11]. Salvation opens to our inward parts of spirit, heart and soul when we are born again.

In salvation, **by the many fold promises of GOD in Christ, Jesus**, the Scriptures also point to cosmic realities being opened to us as sons of GOD.

However, for all this to open to us we must be born again in order to personally actualize the true and faithful Witness of GOD in our heart.

How can we be born again?

The Bible, the Word of GOD explains:

- **For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish** (from the disease of sin) **but have eternal life.** [John 3:16] [*Man perishes because of the disease of sin. Sin is the spiritual basis for the growing manifestation of human chaos.*]
- **For while we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. GOD demonstrates His**

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [*Romans 5:6-8*]

- **If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that GOD raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For whoever believes in Jesus Christ will not be disappointed.** [*Romans 10:9-11*]
- **The one who believes in the Son of GOD has the witness in himself ...** [*1 John 5:10*]

The following prayer to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior will facilitate your entry into the Kingdom of GOD, through the witness of the new birth. Please pray this aloud with sincerity from your heart.

The Prayer For Salvation

“Almighty GOD, I know that You are speaking to me. In your mercy You have enabled me to know that You are speaking to me.

I am thankful that this is your moment in my life.

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

Father of Creation, open my heart to the reality of Jesus Christ, so that I can receive Him in true conviction by your grace.

Father GOD, I know that I need You in my life. I know that I need your salvation.

Father GOD, I know that I am bound by sin. I know that only You can give me the assurance of eternal life in my heart.

Father GOD, I have heard your Word. I know that the Lord Jesus Christ is my salvation. Open my heart - now - dear GOD, to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

And, please open my heart in a witness to You in Jesus' Name.

I acknowledge O GOD my Father that I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed – in the wrong that I have done and in the right that I have failed to do.

I understand that the Lord Jesus gave Himself for me on the cross. I understand that Jesus Christ paid the price for my sins. With my heart, I receive Jesus' prayer to You on

JESUS CHRIST *Who is HE?*

my behalf: **‘Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.’** [Luke 23:34]

Father, forgive me for my sins.

Father GOD, I commit to pursuing the changes necessary in my nature, character and lifestyle through the power that You supply to me through Jesus Christ.

Father GOD, in the reality of Jesus Christ’s love and forgiveness, I receive the Lord Jesus as my Lord and Savior, so that I can belong to You in His merits. Father, enable me to receive your salvation by planting into my heart the witness of the seed of Christ.

Father, I also ask for a new heart and a new spirit, so that I can see your Kingdom and enter into it as your Spirit gives meaning to your Word in my heart – in the Name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen!

Welcome to the Kingdom of GOD!

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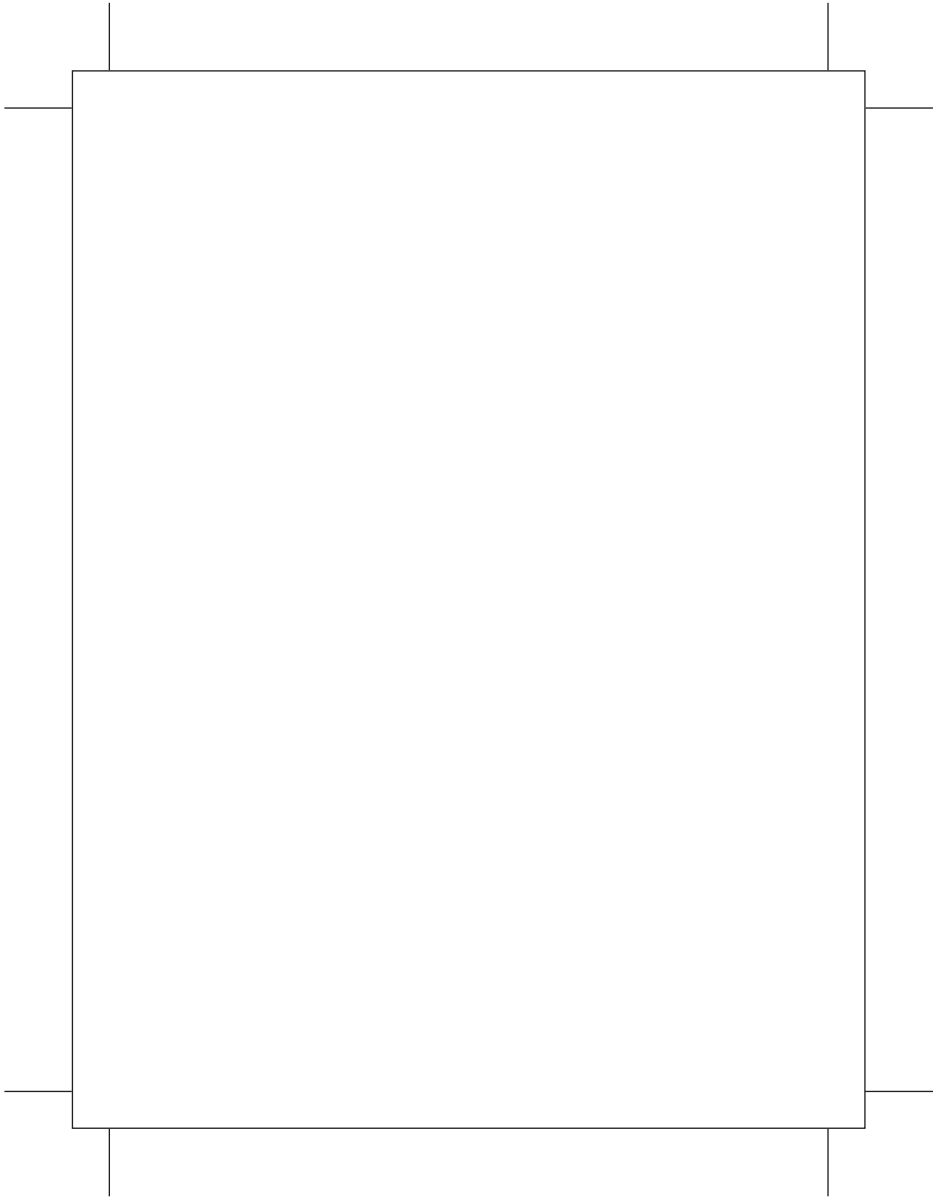
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