

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

GOD AND MAN – THE ACCOUNT UP TO NOW...THE NEXT STEP

- In the beginning God creates the world and everything in it – man, animals, plants. He gives man dominion over the entire earth and declares that everything is “very good”.
- The original couple, Eve and Adam, sin by eating fruit forbidden by God, in essence shifting allegiance to the devil and turning over dominion of the earth to the devil. Humans are now separated from God.
- God begins working on a plan to reconcile lost humans to himself. He picks Abraham and establishes him as father of a line of people he will bless. Abraham’s physical descendants are the Jews and his spiritual descendants are all who believe in God.
- God works through numerous people called prophets to teach and lead his people - Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, many more, as well as godly rulers who have their eyes on him – David, Solomon, Hezekiah, and more.
- Finally about 2000 years ago Jesus comes to earth as a human being – Son of Man and Son of God. He leaves behind his heavenly glory to come as a man. At age 30 Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit at time of baptism and enters into a ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing.
- In the wilderness the devil tempts Jesus by offering him the kingdoms of the world (Remember, Adam and Eve had turned over dominion of the world to the devil.). Jesus declines the offer.
- At the outset Jesus states he has come to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God. That’s it - he came to restore the Kingdom of God on earth. Those who truly believe and accept him indeed are in that Kingdom even though the world at large is not in the Kingdom then or now.
- For three years Jesus performs many healings and miracles as well as teaching and preaching. He calls twelve specific disciples, and numerous others come to him. He is an itinerant minister traveling around with a big following.
- Religious leaders of the day do not recognize Jesus. Focusing on their rules and procedures, only some of which came from Scripture, they seek to get rid of Jesus.
- Most people of Jesus’ day do not recognize who he is. As Jesus says, his sheep know his voice. You do not believe because you are not my sheep, he says pointedly to a group.

- Eventually Jesus is arrested and crucified, though the ruling Roman government finds no fault in him. In the process he takes upon himself and overcomes not only the sins of all but also the sicknesses and diseases and pains, and by his stripes, his wounds, we are healed and made whole (those who believe). In fact, Jesus takes care of anything that separates lost humans from God. His last words on the cross make this point – “It is finished.” Implicitly the next statement is that now it’s up to people. Now they have to decide whether to accept Jesus and to receive all he’s done...or not.
- The extraordinary actions, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ opened the way back to God for men. There is only one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ.
- Today the challenge is the same. Most have not accepted Jesus. Some have accepted him intellectually but do not know him. The great majority of those who say they believe do not know how to receive what he has done for them. Most churches don’t even teach the full gospel or anything close to that.
- After Jesus returned to heaven, he and the Father sent believers the Holy Spirit. Regarding this, he had said: I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. - Do you know the Holy Spirit?
- Before Jesus’ crucifixion Jesus said that those who believe in him will do the same things he did on earth, even greater things. Do you see believers doing those things where you are?
- Jesus mentioned things that would happen within one generation before he returns to earth. One event he noted was the retaking of Jerusalem by the Jews after others being in charge of that city for so long. That happened in the six day war in 1967. Other great prophecies of his return have also been fulfilled, such as the reestablishment of the country of Israel.
- It has been forty years since 1967. The things Jesus prophesied about his return happen within one generation. How long is a generation? 40, 70, 80, 120 years? There is some basis for each of these in the Bible. And when did the generation begin – 1967, or perhaps 1948 when Israel was reestablished? Regardless of which number you pick, it is obvious the time is close.
- The Bible makes the point more than once that true believers are not appointed to suffer wrath. True believers will not suffer through the terrible days of the seven-year tribulation that precedes Jesus’ beginning to rule from Jerusalem. Jesus is coming before that to call out his Church, the body of believers on earth. Membership in the Church has nothing to do with denomination, nationality, race, gender, or anything else – only with belief. God is all about the heart. It is not an intellectual thing. It is not a common sense thing. It is about knowing God.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

- There is no other event that has to happen before Jesus comes to call out his Church. He could show up while you're reading this newsletter.
- The believers Jesus calls out are those people who know him, who as Paul said confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead. Jesus himself said no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the spirit. God is spirit and he must be worshipped in spirit.
- God so loved the world that he sent his only son that whosoever believes in him will not perish but will have everlasting life. And what is everlasting life, or eternal life? Jesus answered that – it's to know God and the one he sent, Jesus Christ. Eternal life is actually knowing them. Not an intellectual book knowledge but heart knowledge. Someone else asked Jesus what people must do to do the work of God. Jesus answered that the work of God is to believe the one God has sent. In other words, to know Jesus.
- Do you know Jesus like that? Do you know God? God says that you will find him when you seek him with all your heart. You seek by reading and searching and meditating on the Scriptures. You seek by prayer and private quiet time with God. You seek by persistence. No one can do it for you.
- One other point of note – Jesus says no one can come to him unless the Father draws that person. Later he adds unless the Father enables him. Are you listening to hear the Father calling? Have you answered that call? It's only your life.
- Words like belief and confess are much more than most people think. An example of belief: you believe there is enough oxygen where you are as you read this to keep you alive. If you don't believe that you'd quickly leave. Confess is acknowledging and lining yourself up with Jesus, acknowledging he is your Lord, like the centurion did. Lord is owner, boss, master – your superior in all things. King, in other words.
- Jesus Christ is coming any moment now to call out his church. That will happen in the next few years – whether one or two or ten or twenty or thirty or so. After that happens the seven year tribulation on earth will begin. Some people will make it to heaven during that time – with lots of suffering. Lots of heads lost. You do not want to be on earth during that seven year period.
- There is more to be written about what happens at the end of the seven years when Jesus sets up his rule from Jerusalem. But right now you just have the decision of your life to make – to accept and believe Jesus. God is a gentleman. He will respect your decision. But if you choose not to, your future is not at all good.

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