Lord*

John 1:1-5 (1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
(2) The same was in the beginning with God.
(3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
(4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
(5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
Verses 10-14 (10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
(11) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
(12) But as many as received him, to them gave he **power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name:
(13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
(14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
The miracle of His virgin birth, His sinless life, His mighty works, His incomparable teachings, His conscious choice of death as the necessary and sufficient sacrifice to redeem us from sin and death, and then His glorious bodily resurrection from the grave and ascension back to heaven are true facts of history which can only be explained by the revealed truth that He is the eternal Word made flesh. He was indeed the virgin-born babe but He was more, He is the Christ, the Word made flesh, to continue let's turn to;
Hebrews 10:4-5 (4) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.
(5) Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Now, Who or What is the Me that a body is prepared for? Me is the word. God prepared a body for the word so that it could fulfill the office and function God intended. Mary was chosen to be the maternal parent of the Lord, but instead of God through man fulfilling the role of paternal parent, God through the Holy Spirit fulfilled that role. We know the spirit cannot die, so therefore a fleshly body was required so that Christ could die for the sake of humanity. There are amazing claims about the future effects His ministry would have on the world! The evidences do not end with His return to heaven, but continue to pour forth year after year in the ongoing fulfillment of His remarkable prophecy claims. For example, consider the humanly incredible words of the Lord Jesus in the following prophecy. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). *One must then pause and consider these words of Jesus that will outlast heaven and earth. As far as human credentials were concerned, He seemingly had none. His adopted father was an ordinary carpenter, He had no formal education and had never held any kind of office; He had not written books or any other writings so far as we know. He lived in the despised village of Nazareth and had never traveled to other lands. He had a few disciples, but they were unlearned and unimpressive. It seems absurd for such a man as this Jesus, from Nazareth, to presume His teachings would survive His own short life-span, let alone outlast heaven and earth. But His words have, indeed, endured for over twenty centuries because He is the word of God made flesh,* And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest (Hebrews 8.11). *This is nothing less than an amazingly fulfilled prophecy, for it would be rare indeed not to have heard of Christ. The words of Christ have not diminished and are as powerful as ever. The apostle Paul admitted;* For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power of**

God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16). *Christ, in His wonderful wisdom, accepted the character of the Old law of ordinances nailing it to His cross (Col 2:12-14), but then He had the audacity, it would seem, to give His own words more authority, could any prophecy have ever seemed so foolish and impossible as this?,* My words shall not pass away. *Just a few days after He made that claim, He was executed as a blasphemer. His Jewish countrymen rejected His words; the Greeks and Romans ridiculed them and killed His disciples who tried to preach them. However, within a few decades after His death and resurrection, the abomination of desolation left Jerusalem and the temple in ruins just as He had said. Then, centuries later, Mohammad distorted them and wedged some of them into his own militant religion, conquering with the sword much of the known world. Another major group, the church of men alienated from Christ, had forbade all but their clergy even to possess or read His words, and eventually the intellectual pretensions of the evolutionary humanists attempted to destroy them altogether by explaining them away. Yet despite all the bloody persecutions, Bible burnings, and evolutionary dissimulations through the ages, the words of the Lord Jesus in particular and the Judeo-Christian Scriptures in general have been more widely known and distributed around the world than any other book in history.* "My words shall not pass away," *He said, and this amazing prophecy has been and is still being wonderfully fulfilled. That fact is in itself proof of His omniscient deity. And He made another amazing prophecy that will be revealed on the last day,* "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." *Every person will entertain, saved or damned at the last day, then it will be to late for an unbeliever to become a baptized believer. Turn with me to;* **Mark 16:14-20** (14) Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and

hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.
(15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
(16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
(17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
(18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
(19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
(20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
Not only did He make what seemed an impossible demand, but then followed it up with a correspondingly incredibleprophecy. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). *These fearful, uneducated, provincial Jews were thus expected to take the gospel of their internationally unknown and locally hated leader to "every creature" and "unto the uttermost part of the earth." **Impossible! Ridiculous!** It could never happen. Surely in just a few months, their whole movement was bound to collapse and soon be forgotten! Yet, today, all over the world His gospel is indeed being preached. Eleven of the original twelve, plus Matthias selected by lot, and Paul whom He called have multiple converts; out of every nation and every tribe and tongue calling Jesus Christ their Savior and Lord. This impossible prophecy has, like the others, been wonderfully fulfilled. Now all these Christian believers called out of every nation and every walk of life obviously come with many*

different interests and backgrounds, as well as languages and customs. But they all have one vital motivating purpose in common. They have all become obedient believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Redeemer and Savior. They have all become doers of His word and not hearers only, being baptized into His death, redeemed by His blood. As such, they belong; To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Heb 12:23). *This wonderful body of believers is now all over the world, with some passing daily into the heavenly assembly while others are being added to its numbers here on Earth.* Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish (Eph 5:25-27). *And, as this growing assembly is seeking to preach the gospel to every creature, even to the uttermost part of the earth, they are perpetually encountering all kinds of opposition, orchestrated and energized by Satan, who would destroy them all if he could.* ***But he cannot!*** *The Lord Jesus has made yet another amazing prophecy in:*

Matthew 16:16-18 (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the **gates of hell shall not prevail against it**.

Hades was unable to keep Jesus Christ a prisoner. He was triumphant over death and broke the bands that held Him there. He rose on the third day, was seen of many, and now sits on the right hand of God. The true deity of Christ and the Father/Son relationship that He shares with God the Father have been opposed bitterly right from the beginning.

The Jewish and Roman persecutors failed to stop it as well as the Muslim hordes. Transforming the word by deceitful religious leaders, and even the rationalism of intellectual pretensions of the evolutionist have not prevailed against it. But who could have imagined that those unimpressive first disciples could possibly be the vanguard of a great army that would eventually prevail over the very gates of hell itself? They would deliver one by one, multitudes of souls who were plucked out of hell's gates and into the beautiful light of God's redeemed world. The true church of the true Christ has indeed been victorious time after time in its battle with Satan over the souls of men, and Christ's unlikely prophecy has indeed been fulfilled. These prophecies, seemingly so impossible and even foolish when uttered, have become an amazing testimony to the omnipotence of the full and unique deity of the One who made them two thousand years ago--as we watch them all being fulfilled today, before our very eyes. When the end does come the words of Jesus will not end, we shall be judged by them. The Church that Christ built has and will continue to be blasted and battered by unbelievers and people will continue to live as tho the earth will endure well past their lifetime. But will it? These last days in which we live are filled with violence, lovers of pleasures more that lovers of God, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, and despiser's of those that are good. But of the "last day" no one knows but the Father. Let's turn to;

2Peter 3:10-12 (10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

(11) Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be** in all holy conversation and godliness,

(12) Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,

wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
Today is the day of preparation! Listen, the Bible defines "death" as "separation"—not "extinction." Physical death occurs when the spirit exits the body. James 2:26 *notes*: "For as the body without the spirit is dead." *Spiritual death, on the other hand, entails separation from God due to sin, but the spirit itself does not die. This is the reason one should consider what manner of person one ought to be, because; Lifted up was He to die, but now in heaven exalted high! And all who are drawn to Him in obedient faith and who then look upon Him as their Prince and Savior shall never perish but have everlasting life. The cross has become a symbol of love and caring, not merely of sin and death. It adorns church steeples and ladies neck chains and humanitarian organizations everywhere. It still does speak of sorrow, even marking many grave-sites, but also of hope, for the testimony of the cross is also one of ultimate victory over death. Although Christ was lifted up to die on the cross, it is empty now, and so is the tomb where they buried Him, for He is alive for evermore at the right hand of our Father in heaven. Yet this strange prophecy has also been remarkably fulfilled. The old, old story of Jesus on the cross has become, not an ugly tale of a dying criminal, but a love story, a story of God so loving the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and a story of Christ so commending His love toward us that, while we were yet guilty sinners, He died for us. Turn with me to;*
John 3:14-17 (14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
(15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
(16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
(17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the

world; but that the world through him might be saved.
The old old story of the cross has drawn men and women of every nation to Him, just as He prophesied.
Christianity is based on the claim that Jesus died and arose from the dead. Is there any actual evidence to support such a claim? Yes there is! Turn your Bibles to;
1Corinthians 15:3-6 (3) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
(4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
(5) And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:
(6) After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.
Thursday, *Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem with His friends.*
Friday*, He was dead. His battered, lifeless body was removed from the cross and carried away. That night it was there—undisturbed.*
Saturday *It was there—under guard.*
Sunday *The third day, still under guard, the tomb became empty. That is what Paul had said, that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day. When Peter stood up to preach on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ, the crux of his sermon rested on the fact(s) that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again on the third day. In order to silence Peter, and stop a mass conversion, the Jewish leaders needed simply to produce the body of Christ. Why did the Jewish leaders not take the short walk to the garden and produce the body? Simply because they could not! The tomb was empty. The Priests knew it and tried to explain it away, the guards knew it and accepted the bribe of forgery, the apostles knew it and preached it boldly in the city of Jerusalem, and thousands of the inhabitants and visitors of*

Jerusalem knew it and converted to Christianity. It passes the bounds of credibility that the early Christians could have manufactured such a tale and then preached it among those who might easily have refuted it simply by producing the body of Jesus. The tomb of Jesus was empty, and that is a fact. Turn to;

Matthew 28:11-15 (11) Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.
(12) And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,
(13) Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.
(14) And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.
(15) So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

How could sleeping soldiers have known who took the body of Jesus? But they were not asleep and for fear the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. All parties involved recognized the fact that Christ's tomb was empty on the third day. Feeling compelled to give reasons for this unexpected vacancy, the Jewish authorities apparently concocted several different theories to explain the body's disappearance. The most commonly accepted one seems to be that the disciples of Jesus stole His body away by night while the guards slept. Yet, how could the soldiers identify any thieves while they slept? And why were the sentinels not punished with death for sleeping on the job and thereby losing their charge. Death was the punishment imposed in such cases, turn to;

Acts 12:18-19 (18) Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.
(19) And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and

there abode.
Jesus previously predicted that His death and entrance into the grave would not prevent Him from accomplishing His divine purposes. Though He would die on the cross, though His body would be placed in the tomb, nevertheless, the gates of hell would not prevent His resurrection and setting up His kingdom. But satan is walking about seeking whom he may devour. The eternal implications for those rejecting the truth regarding the only moral and spiritual reality, the Christian system, will hear these words, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matthew 25:41). *In the USA there is debate on securing her borders. There is no debate on heavens borders, they are secure, protected, and there will be no unlawful passage allowed therein. By contrast, hells borders are open, unsecured, and all lawlessness will be swallowed up through its wide gate. By obedient faith, there is promise of entrance into that heavenly city. But what is faith? Faith in Christ is the effect of belief in God's word, and baptism is the effect of faith; those who first believe the testimony of God and in faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus is the Son of God, and are baptized into Him for remission of sins will receive all heavenly blessings in Christ. They will be allowed entrance through the strait gate into heaven provided they remain in the true vine. This is the gospel. Do you have faith? If so, why not come repenting, confess Jesus Christ and be baptized for remission of sins. Or if needing prayer for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

***Ref**. The Amazing Prophetic Claims of the Lord Jesus Christ by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. Instutite of Creation Research*

Ref. *Apologetics Press :: Alleged Discrepancies "Three Days and Three Nights" by Eric Lyons, M.Min*
The message 'Lord' presented to;WestvilleOk-Dec2018/ PineMtAr.-Dec2018/PleasentViewOk-Dec2018/