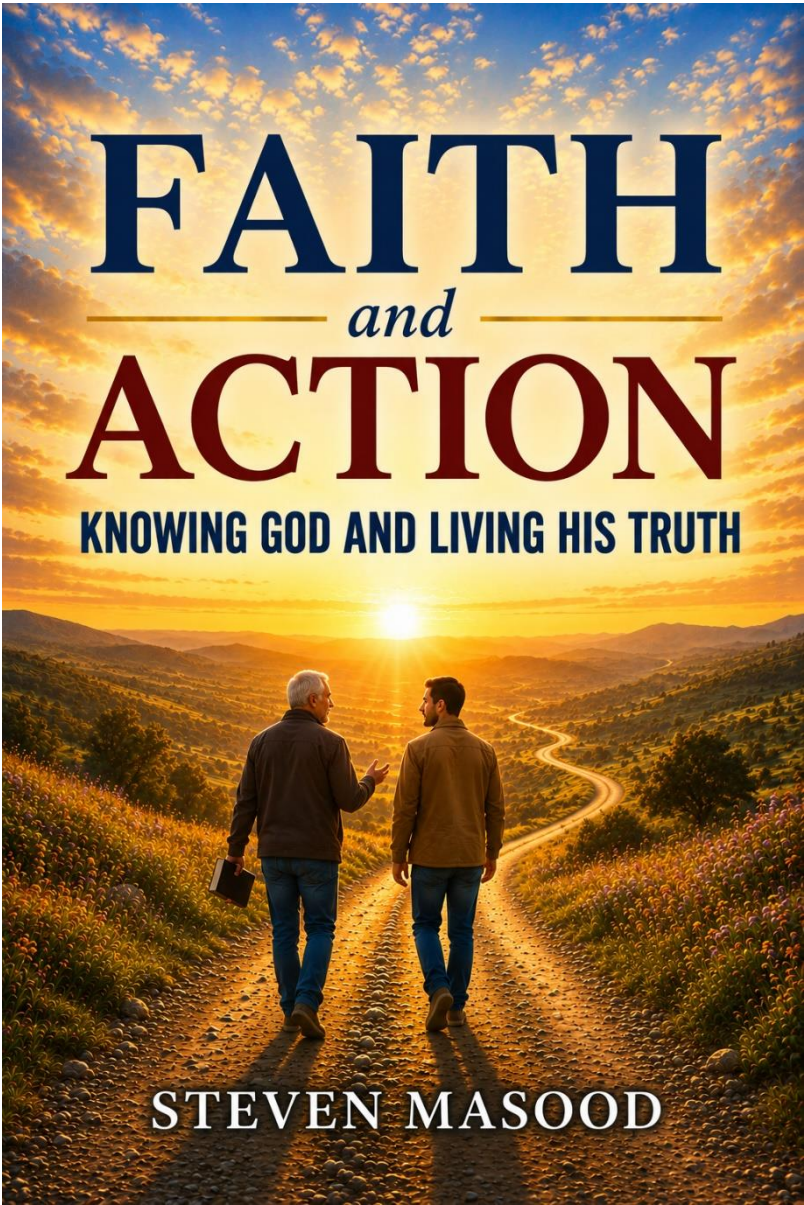




FAITH *and* ACTION

KNOWING GOD AND LIVING HIS TRUTH

STEVEN MASOOD

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and
ACTION

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and
Living His Truth

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Introduction

Millions of people around the world call themselves Christians. Some sincerely follow Jesus Christ and seek to live according to His teachings. Others may identify as Christians because they were born into a Christian family, grew up in a Christian culture, or inherited a religious tradition. This raises an important question—one that many thoughtful people, especially non-Christians, often ask:

What does it really mean to be a Christian?

And if someone truly wants to understand Christianity – not its stereotypes, politics, or cultural expressions, but its original message – where should they begin?

This book is written for anyone who has asked those questions. Perhaps you are curious. Perhaps you are searching. Perhaps you simply want to understand what Christians believe and why.

The purpose of this book is to explain, in simple language, the central message of the Bible. It explores who God is, why humanity needs His forgiveness, who Jesus Christ is, why He came into the world, and what it means to know

and follow Him. It also examines prayer, worship, Christian living, the Church, the future, and the hope of eternal life.

Above all, this book is an invitation—an invitation to explore God’s truth for yourself. It is not intended to pressure you, but to encourage you to consider what the Bible says and to examine its message with an open mind and heart.

Whether you come from a Christian, Muslim, or secular background, you are welcome on this journey. The God who created you knows you, loves you, and invites you to seek Him.

Let us begin by asking the most important question of all: **Who is God?**

Chapter 1

Who is God?

A young mother holds her newborn for the first time, filled with awe. An elderly man watches a sunset that paints the sky in unfamiliar colors. A scientist looks through a telescope at distant galaxies. In these moments, we sense something greater, suggesting deeper meaning and purpose.

Throughout history, this stirring has led people to ask: Can God be known? If He exists, who is He? Is He distant and unknowable, or does He desire a relationship with us?

Many sincere seekers, including our non-Christian friends, ask, “What is the divine reality in Christianity? Who is God, and how do Christians recognize Him as the Lord of all?”

Who Is God?

Every religion’s core teaching revolves around its understanding of God. Unfortunately, some people mistakenly accuse Christians of believing in three gods or of worshipping the cross or idols. These claims are misguided and false.

The Bible opens with an explicit declaration of God's existence: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). This God – the Creator of the universe – is supreme, all-knowing, all-powerful, and eternal. He declares: "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God... It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts" (Isaiah 45:5, 12).

The Nearness of God

Regarding God's presence and companionship, Scripture assures us: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

Without God's revelation, we cannot truly know Him. Our understanding is limited to what He chooses to disclose, and we rely on His guidance to grasp both His nature and our purpose in life.

God reveals His glory through creation and has spoken through His prophets, sharing instructions and prophecies about the Messiah, the Last Days, and the renewal of all things. These revelations are preserved in the Bible.

Someone once asked the Messiah, Jesus, "Which is the greatest commandment?" He answered, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:29-30).

Who is God?

This commandment reveals something profound: knowing God and loving God cannot be separated. To truly know Him is to love Him; to love Him is to seek to know Him more deeply.

Knowing Him: The Attributes of God

God is eternal and everlasting, with neither a beginning nor an end. According to the Holy Scriptures, He is the Lord of all, the Master of the universe, the Almighty, and the All-Knowing One. He is the Creator of both the visible and the unseen. Everything was made through His Word (John 1:10).

God reveals His power, wisdom, and beauty through creation. When you gaze up at the sun, moon, and stars, or appreciate the stunning details of the world around you, you witness His handiwork. As King David said, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (Psalm 19:1).

The Scriptures further teach: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

God’s knowledge is infinite, and His power is wondrous. He sustains the sun in the sky and gives life to tiny flowers and insects on Earth. His creation reveals His brilliant design and divine purpose.

Unlike the gods of ancient Greece and Rome, who were depicted as deceitful, immoral, and unpredictable, the God of the Bible is entirely different. He is perfectly pure, morally flawless, and utterly trustworthy.

In a heavenly vision, the apostle John saw living beings worshiping God and crying out, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty” (Revelation 4:8). This threefold declaration emphasizes God’s complete separation from all that is impure or corrupt. He is sacred, set apart, perfect in every way.

Although He is all-powerful, God cannot act contrary to His pure and righteous nature. He does not lie, is never unjust, and is not limited as humans are. He has no physical form and is not constrained by time. He is present everywhere.

Sometimes the Bible uses human language—such as “hands,” “eyes,” or “heart”—to help us understand His actions and care. These are metaphors that convey divine truths in a way we can comprehend. Just as we might say “time flies” without meaning that time has wings, or “the sun rises” without believing the sun actually moves, Scripture uses familiar images to describe the infinite God. When the Bible speaks of God’s “strong arm,” it means His power to save; when it mentions His “eyes,” it refers to His watchful care.

God Expresses His Love

Even though He is glorious and exalted, God is also very close to us. This is why we say that He watches over us, supports us, and loves us. While all of God’s attributes are deeply

Who is God?

meaningful, one stands above the rest in its beauty and significance: “God is love” (1 John 4:8).

This is not merely one quality among many – it reflects the very character of God. His love is not like human love, which can be uncertain or conditional. God’s love is perfect, faithful, and enduring. It flows from His nature and is seen throughout His dealings with humanity.

We see God’s love expressed in countless ways. He demonstrates it through daily gifts such as sunlight, rain, food, and clothing—provisions that sustain life itself. Jesus taught that God “causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matthew 5:45). Every breath we take, every meal we enjoy, and every moment of beauty we experience is a gift from His gracious hand.

But God’s love goes far deeper than physical provision. Throughout history, He has spoken to humanity through His prophets, warning people of danger, calling them to repentance, and guiding them in the way of truth. He could have remained distant and silent, leaving humanity to wander in darkness. Instead, He revealed His will and continually invited people into fellowship with Himself.

The Bible teaches that God is living and all-knowing. He knows us completely (Psalm 139:1–4; Hebrews 4:13). Scripture describes Him as Light (1 John 1:5), Spirit (John 4:24), and Righteous (Romans 3:26). He created humanity for His

glory (Isaiah 43:7). He does not need us, yet we continually depend upon Him (Acts 17:24–25).

God's love is seen not only in what He provides but also in His patience, mercy, guidance, and faithfulness toward those He has created.

God Desires to Be Known

The Bible shows that the majestic and exalted God wants to be known. Though unseen, He loves His creation and works for their good. He sent prophets to guide humanity and, ultimately, the Messiah for our salvation. King David captured God's care beautifully:

The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters; he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake (Psalm 23:1-3).

These words paint a picture of an intimate relationship—a God who knows His people personally, who provides for their needs, who leads them with gentle care. This is not a distant deity unconcerned with human affairs, but a loving shepherd who knows each of His sheep by name.

Throughout Scripture, we see this pattern repeated: God revealing Himself, drawing near, and inviting people into relationship with Him. He walked with Adam in the garden. He spoke to Moses. He guided His people through the prophets. Again and again, God made Himself known and called people to follow Him.

Who is God?

This raises a profound question that we must now consider: Yes, God guides and blesses the righteous, but is He also the God of sinners? Does He love them as well? If God is perfectly pure and we are flawed, how can there be a relationship between us? In the chapters that follow, we will explore this question and examine God's relationship with humanity more deeply.

Conclusion

This chapter emphasizes that Christianity is founded on belief in one Supreme, Eternal God – the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Christians do not worship three gods or idols. The Bible portrays God as holy, all-powerful, and all-knowing, accessible to those who seek Him, and reveals His character through creation and His prophets.

God is majestic, sovereign, loving, and compassionate. He provides for His creation and desires to be known by all, as shown in His daily blessings and teachings. If God is holy and loving, how should we respond to Him? What does true faith in such a God look like? These questions lead us to the next chapter.

Chapter 2

Faith and Our Response to God

In the previous chapter, we explored an important question: Can God be known? We discovered that the God of the Bible is not distant or indifferent. He is the Creator of all things, holy, loving, and worthy of worship. He desires to be known by those who sincerely seek Him.

This leads to another important question: If God can be known, how should we respond to Him?

Many people think faith is simply belonging to a religion, following traditions, or performing religious rituals. The Bible presents faith differently. True faith is a living trust in the one true God—a trust that shapes how we think, live, worship, and relate to Him.

Faith begins when we recognize who God is and place our confidence in Him. It means trusting His wisdom above our own, believing His promises, obeying His commands, and relying on His care even when we do not fully understand our circumstances.

The Bible repeatedly calls people to such faith. Abraham trusted God's promises even when their fulfillment

seemed impossible. The prophets trusted God in times of hardship and opposition. Throughout Scripture, faith is not merely believing that God exists; it is responding to Him with trust, obedience, and devotion. **Yet an important question remains.**

If God is holy and righteous, how can sinful people approach Him? If He is the Judge of all the earth, can He truly welcome those who have failed and gone astray? Does He love only those who obey Him, or does He also seek those who have wandered from Him?

These questions bring us to one of the most beautiful truths revealed in the Bible.

God's Love and Holiness — Justice and Compassion

God is perfectly holy. He loves what is good and opposes all evil. His command is clear: "Be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

Because God is righteous, He cannot ignore sin or pretend that evil does not matter. Scripture teaches that "righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne" (Psalm 97:2). He is the Creator, Sustainer, and righteous Judge of all people.

Yet God's holiness does not make Him distant from sinners. Throughout history, He has called people to repentance and offered them mercy. Although God hates sin, He still desires to save sinners.

The Problem of Sin – What Went Wrong?

The Bible teaches that God is both just and compassionate. He does not compromise His holiness, yet He continually reaches out to those who have strayed. Like a loving father searching for a lost child, He seeks those who are far from Him and invites them to return.

The Parable of the Lost Son – A Picture of God's Forgiveness

How can God be perfectly holy and just, yet also deeply compassionate toward sinners? How can He hate sin while loving those who sin? Jesus answered this profound question not merely with an explanation, but with a story—one that reveals the heart of God more clearly than any theological discussion could.

In the parable of the lost son, we see God's justice and mercy working together in perfect harmony, showing us that His holiness and His love are not in conflict, but rather two expressions of His perfect character.

A man had two sons. The younger demanded his share of the inheritance and left for a distant land, where he wasted everything in reckless living. When a severe famine came, he found himself starving and alone. In desperation, he took work feeding pigs—longing even to eat their food.

Coming to his senses, he said, “My father's servants have food to spare, and here I am starving! I will return and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and

against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

But while he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to him, embraced him, and kissed him. The son confessed his sin, but the father quickly called for the best robe, a ring, and sandals. He ordered a feast, saying, “This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (Luke 15:11-24).

What wonderful news for sinners like us! God loves us and welcomes all who repent and return to Him. Through Christ, He forgives our sins and grants us new life.

God as a Loving Father — Biblical Understanding

The Bible uses many names for God: Almighty, Yahweh, Eternal, Holy, King, Judge, Creator, Savior, and Shepherd. But Christians love to call Him Heavenly Father.

Jesus Himself often addressed God as Father and taught His disciples to pray, “Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name” (Matthew 6:9 KJV).

What greater honor could there be than for the Almighty Creator to become our loving Father? This privilege belongs to all who receive Jesus Christ, believe in Him with all their hearts, and follow Him (John 1:12; 8:12; 14:15).

Conclusion

Christian faith is not a tradition or a set of rituals but a living trust in the one true, eternal, and all-powerful God. The Bible declares that God alone is the Creator, Sustainer, and righteous Judge of all.

Yet here is the mystery that changes everything: this God—so holy that He cannot look upon sin and so powerful that all creation bends to His will. Yet He sees you and me as His special creation, worthy of His compassion and care. He runs toward us, just as the father ran toward his lost son.

The question becomes personal: What does it mean for your life that this God wants a relationship with you? How might your faith deepen as you truly grasp that you are known and loved by the One who holds all things in His hands? As you reflect on these chapters, consider what it means to respond to His invitation—not out of obligation, but out of the joy of being found. To understand why this invitation is so remarkable, we must first understand ourselves— who we are, why humanity has become separated from God, and why every person needs His grace.

Chapter 3

Human Beings in the Light of the Holy Scriptures

You've likely noticed something troubling about our world: we're fractured. Relationships break. People hurt one another. We struggle with who we are and why we're here. If you've talked with friends outside the Christian faith—or wrestled with these questions yourself—you've probably heard them ask: "Who is man, really?" "What does Christianity actually teach about human nature?" These aren't merely academic questions. They cut to the heart of everything: Why do we act the way we do? What are we capable of becoming? What's our true purpose? The answers shape how we think, live, relate to others, and find meaning. Understanding who we are—according to Scripture—is just as vital as understanding who God is. In fact, it's impossible to know one without the other truly.

Humanity's Honored Position and Free Will

In the opening verses of the Bible, we read that after God created the heavens, the earth, plants, and animals, He created human

beings “in His image.” Scripture states: “Male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27; 5:2).

This does not mean that God has a physical body or that human beings resemble Him physically. Being made in God’s image means we share His spiritual likeness. God gave human beings a mind to think, a heart to love, a conscience to distinguish right from wrong, a will to choose, a tongue to speak, and a soul to enjoy fellowship with Him.

Though physically small compared with the sun, moon, and stars, humanity holds a unique and honored place in creation. This is evident in the very first command He gave:

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Genesis 1:28).

So, we see how human beings became God’s representatives on earth, entrusted with authority over all creation.

God’s Desire for a Loving Relationship With Humanity

Because we were created in God’s image, we can know Him and enjoy fellowship with Him. Humans are not divine, but they were created pure and close to God. Unlike machines, they were given free will and could choose to obey, love, and serve God.

Human Beings in the Light of the Holy Scriptures

God was pleased with his work and harmony. This is beautifully expressed in the words: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

God desired that people know Him, love Him, and willingly walk in fellowship with Him. Humanity was created with everything needed to live in harmony with its Creator. Love, obedience, and worship were not forced but freely offered from the heart.

Yet when we look at the world today, something is clearly wrong. The harmony that once existed between humanity and God has been broken. Although all people share a common humanity, our world is marked by division, conflict, injustice, and broken relationships.

The Bible teaches that this tragedy began when human beings chose disobedience rather than trust. Instead of following God’s will, people chose their own way.

That first act of rebellion changed the course of human history. The relationship between God and humanity was damaged, and its consequences continue to affect every generation. Even so, the Bible never loses sight of humanity’s original value and purpose. Men and women remain bearers of God’s image and objects of His care.

At the same time, Scripture is realistic. It explains why the world we experience today falls so far short of the world God intended.

To understand that reality, we must examine one of the Bible's most important teachings: the nature of sin and its consequences.

Even so, humanity's story does not fail. The God who created men and women in His image has not abandoned them. The Scriptures reveal that He has a purpose and a restoration plan—a theme we will explore in the chapters ahead.

Conclusion

The Bible presents a balanced picture of humanity. On the one hand, we are created in God's image and possess great dignity and worth. On the other hand, the world around us—and within us—reveals that something has gone terribly wrong.

Human beings were created for fellowship with God, yet that fellowship has been damaged by disobedience. To understand why humanity struggles as it does, we must now examine the Bible's teaching about sin, its consequences, and humanity's need for restoration.

Chapter 4

The Problem of Sin – What Went Wrong?

In the previous chapter, we saw that humanity was created in God's image and designed to live in fellowship with Him. Yet when we look at the world today, we see conflict, suffering, injustice, and broken relationships everywhere.

What happened?

The Bible's answer is both simple and profound: sin entered the human story.

Many of our Muslim and other non-Christian friends ask, "What exactly is sin according to Christianity?" This is a vital question because unless we understand sin, we cannot understand humanity's condition, our need for salvation, or why God has acted in history to rescue us.

In the Bible, sin is more than wrongdoing. It is any thought, attitude, desire, word, or action that falls short of God's holy character and perfect will. Scripture describes sin as lawlessness (1 John 3:4), rebellion against God (Isaiah 63:10),

and failing to do the good we know we should do (James 4:17). At its heart, sin is choosing our own way rather than God's way.

The First Act of Disobedience – The Fall of Man

In Genesis chapters 2 and 3, we read that God gave Adam and Eve a clear command: "You shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die."

The serpent deceived Eve. She ate the forbidden fruit and gave some to Adam. This was not an innocent mistake. They knowingly disobeyed, rejecting God's authority and choosing their own desires instead.

Because of this rebellion, God rebuked them and expelled them from the Garden. But even more tragic than losing Eden was losing the intimate relationship they had enjoyed with God. Their pure nature became corrupt, and what was once holy was now sinful. From that moment onward, instead of loving righteousness, human beings developed a tendency toward sin. Scripture calls this rebellion "sin," and the penalty for sin is death.

The Consequences of Sin – Broken Fellowship With God

Adam and Eve's sin affected all humanity. They could no longer pass down the purity they once had. Instead, they passed down a corrupted nature. Instead of naturally moving toward God, human beings began to move away from Him.

The Problem of Sin – What Went Wrong?

The tendency toward selfishness, pride, and disobedience became part of the human condition.

We do not need to look to others to see this truth. If we examine our own hearts honestly, we see it clearly.

We know love is better than hate, yet we still choose hatred. We know truth is better than falsehood, yet we still lie. Why? Because we have inherited a sinful inclination from our first parents.

The Sinful Tendency

A child may appear innocent, yet before long, signs of selfishness, disobedience, and wrongdoing begin to appear. King Solomon observed: “Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.” (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

God’s Word describes the human heart as “the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9 NLT). Even our best deeds fall short of God’s standard: “All our righteousness *are* like filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6 NKJV).

Jesus Himself taught that evil does not come from outside but from within: “Out of the heart come evil thoughts... these defile a person” (Mark 7:21-23, NLT).

No One Is Righteous Before God

Humanity’s condition is serious. Scripture declares, “There is no one righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10). Through disobedience, fellowship with God was broken. Like sheep

that have wandered from their shepherd, people have gone their own way (Isaiah 53:6). The result is spiritual separation from the God who created them.

The Universal Reality of Sin

Without God, humanity is lost. Scripture attests to this universal condition in unmistakable terms. The ancient king Solomon acknowledged, “There is no one who does not sin” (1 Kings 8:46)—a truth echoed throughout Scripture. The psalmist declared, “All have turned aside... no one does good” (Romans 3:12; Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 53:1-3), a sobering assessment of humanity’s spiritual state.

The apostle Paul reinforced this reality when he wrote, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). John, writing to believers, warned them: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves” (1 John 1:8).

From the wisdom literature of ancient kings to the apostles’ letters, the message is consistent and clear. This is the human condition as described in the Holy Scriptures.

Who Can Escape the Trap of Sin?

The Bible’s diagnosis is sobering. Sin is not confined to a few individuals or a particular group of people. It affects all humanity.

Every culture, every nation, and every generation bears witness to the same reality. We know what is right, yet we fail to do it. We long for goodness, yet we struggle to live consistently according to God’s standard.

The Problem of Sin – What Went Wrong?

The problem is deeper than outward behavior. Sin affects the human heart itself.

This raises an unavoidable question: If all have sinned, and if sin separates us from God, who can rescue us? Where can forgiveness be found? How can the broken relationship between God and humanity be restored?

The Bible does not leave these questions unanswered. The chapters that follow will lead us to God's answer.

Chapter 5

God's Messengers – Prophets and Apostles

A young man sits in a library, surrounded by books from different religions, seeking answers about life's meaning. An elderly man kneels in prayer, asking God to show him the right path. A father watches his children play and wonders: How can I teach them the truth when the world offers so many conflicting voices?

Throughout history, people have asked: "How can I know what God wants from me? How can I hear His voice? If my sin has separated me from Him, how can I find my way back?" These questions are not new. They are as old as humanity itself.

In the previous chapter, we discovered a sobering truth: God gave the Law through Moses to reveal His perfect standard. Yet instead of saving us, the Law exposed our inability to meet that standard. It served as a mirror, revealing our spiritual condition—our universal need for rescue.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). The Law made this painfully clear. No one

could keep it perfectly, and even one failure rendered one guilty before a holy God.

So here is the question that naturally follows: If the Law cannot save us and sin has separated us from God, did God abandon humanity to stumble in darkness? Did He leave us without guidance, without hope, and without a way back to Him? The answer is a resounding no.

Throughout history, God has never been silent. Even after humanity's rebellion and after the Law revealed our desperate condition, God continued to reach out. He did not leave people to wander alone.

God Sent Prophets and Messengers

From the beginning, God spoke to humanity. He walked with Adam in the garden. He called Noah to build an ark. He appeared to Abraham and made promises that would shape all of history. He spoke to Moses from the burning bush and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai.

But God did not stop there. Generation after generation, He raised prophets – men and women who would speak His words, call people back to Him, warn them of danger, and point them to the coming Savior.

These prophets were not perfect. They were human, with weaknesses and failures. Yet God chose them, spoke through them, and used them to sustain His relationship with humanity, even when people had turned away from Him.

Some friends ask: “Do Christians believe in prophets?” Some assume that Christians reject the prophets or consider them unimportant. Yet others think that Christians have prophets everywhere.

These are two extreme assumptions. Christians deeply believe in the prophets God sent throughout history. We study their lives, read their writings, and recognize their vital role in God’s plan. The Bible itself is filled with their messages, struggles, faith, and prophecies about the Messiah who would come to save humanity.

In this chapter, we will explore what Christians believe about prophets and messengers. We will see how God used them to guide humanity, prepare the way for salvation, and reveal His character and purposes across the centuries.

Understanding the prophets is essential because they all point to something greater. They prepare us for someone greater. And that someone is the answer to humanity’s deepest need.

Belief in Prophets and Messengers

So let us be absolutely clear: Christians firmly believe that God sent prophets and messengers to guide people throughout history. Our knowledge of these prophets comes from the Bible, which carefully records their lives, messages, and writings.

The Bible names many prophets. Among them are Abraham, Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Samuel, David, Nathan,

Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Jonah, Zechariah, and Malachi. In the New Testament, we encounter John the Baptist – the final prophet before Christ came.

Each of these men and women played a unique role in God's unfolding plan. Some led nations. Others confronted kings. Some wrote under inspiration. Others spoke God's word but left no written record. Some prophesied future events and performed dramatic miracles. Others ministered quietly, faithfully delivering God's message to their generation.

What united them all was this: God chose them, spoke through them, and used them to keep His promises alive in His people's hearts.

But here's something important to understand: while Christians honor and study the prophets, we also recognize that they were preparing the way for someone far greater than themselves. They were like signposts along a road – valuable and necessary, but not the destination itself.

The Role of Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim)

Among all the prophets, Abraham holds a special place. Scripture calls him "the friend of God" (James 2:23) and "the father of the faithful" (Romans 4:11-12). God chose him and promised that through his descendants all nations would be blessed.

Abraham demonstrated remarkable faith when God tested him by asking him to offer his son Isaac. Trusting God's

promises, Abraham obeyed. At the last moment, God provided a substitute sacrifice and renewed His covenant promises.

Biblical Perspective on Prophets

Because Christian beliefs about prophets differ in important ways from those in other religions, we want to clarify a few crucial points. These distinctions matter because they help us understand both the prophets' role and humanity's need for a Savior.

1. Prophets Were Not Sinless

First, and perhaps most importantly, Scripture openly records the prophets' weaknesses and failures. They were human beings, and like all humans (except Jesus), they sinned.

Moses, the great lawgiver, lost his temper and struck the rock in disobedience (Numbers 20:11-12). David, called a man after God's own heart, committed adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11). Peter, the bold apostle, denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-75). Even Abraham, the friend of God, lied about his wife out of fear (Genesis 12:10-20).

The Bible does not hide these failures. It records them honestly. Why? Because the prophets were not meant to be perfect examples of sinless humanity. They were meant to point us to the One who is perfect—Jesus Christ, the only sinless person who ever lived.

When the prophets fell into sin, they repented and sought God's forgiveness. Their lives revealed both human weakness and God's gracious mercy. They showed us that even God's chosen servants need a Savior.

2. Some Wrote Scripture; Others Did Not

Not all prophets wrote books of the Bible. Some, such as Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, left written records of God's messages. In the New Testament, apostles such as Matthew, John, Peter, and Paul wrote books that became part of Scripture.

But other prophets — equally important in their time — did not write books. Elijah performed mighty miracles but left no written record. John the Baptist, whom Jesus called the greatest prophet born of women (Matthew 11:11), wrote nothing. Yet their ministries were crucial to God's plan.

What mattered was not whether they wrote, but whether they faithfully delivered God's message to their generation.

3. How God Spoke Through Them

God communicated with His prophets in various ways, and the Bible clearly describes these methods:

- **By an audible voice:** God spoke directly to Moses "as one speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11).
- **Through angels:** Angels brought messages to Abraham, Daniel, Zechariah, and Mary.

- **Through visions and dreams:** God revealed future events to prophets like Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel through vivid visions
- **By placing His message in their hearts:** The Holy Spirit moved prophets to speak and write God's words (2 Peter 1:21).

Because the prophets were convinced their message came directly from God—not from their own thoughts or imagination—they boldly declared: “Thus says the Lord.” They spoke with authority, knowing they were delivering God's own words.

Miracles Confirmed God's Message

Some prophets performed miracles to confirm that their message truly came from God. Moses turned his staff into a serpent and parted the Red Sea. Elijah called down fire from heaven and raised a widow's son from the dead. Elisha healed Naaman of leprosy. Peter and Paul healed the sick and even raised the dead.

These miracles served as God's seal of approval for their ministry. They demonstrated that God was truly with these messengers and that their words should be believed.

Yet not all prophets performed miracles. John the Baptist, despite his crucial role in preparing the way for Jesus, “performed no sign” (John 10:41). His authority came not from

miracles but from the truth of his message and the power of his preaching, which God gave him.

The Purpose of the Law

Finally, we must understand the Law's true purpose. God gave the Law through Moses at Mount Sinai. It contained the Ten Commandments and many other instructions on how God's people should live. Later prophets continually urged people to obey this Law.

But here is what many people miss: the Law was never meant to save humanity by obedience. Why? Because of human weakness and sin. Because no one—except Jesus—could keep the Law perfectly.

Instead of saving people, the Law served as a mirror, exposing their sins, revealing their failures, and showing them their desperate need for a Savior.

The apostle Paul explained it this way that through the law we become conscious of our sin (Romans 3:20). He also wrote: "The law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).

So the Law was like a teacher preparing students for something greater. It was like a signpost pointing down the road. It revealed people's condition and prepared their hearts to receive the Savior when He came.

And this is exactly what the prophets did. They called people to obey God's Law, yes. But more importantly, they foretold the coming of the Savior—the One who would

God's Messengers – Prophets and Apostles

perfectly fulfill the Law and provide the righteousness the Law demanded but humanity could never achieve on its own.

The prophets prepared the way, kept hope alive, and pointed forward to the day when God would fulfill His promises. Their messages created an expectation that the promised Savior would one day come.

Epilogue

Closing Thoughts

Dear reader, your journey through these pages is no accident. If you have read this far, perhaps God is stirring something deep within your heart, inviting you to consider His truth. He does not call you to blind belief or empty ritual. He calls you to Himself – through His Word, His Spirit, and His Son.

The message of the Bible is not a man-made philosophy. It is God's voice breaking into human history out of love for you.

You may still carry questions, uncertainties, or fears. Bring them to God. In the quiet of your heart, ask Him: "O God, guide me to Your truth."

A sincere prayer like this has never gone unanswered. If you seek Him, He will draw near to you. If you knock, He will open the door. If you desire truth, He will not leave you to wander.

Jesus Christ: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

As you move beyond this section of the book, may you continue to explore the beauty of knowing God personally – walking with Christ daily, being strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and living as part of His family, the Church.

The God who made you invites you not only to understand Him but also to walk with Him. If you have never done so, begin by reading one of the Gospels – especially the Gospel of John – and ask God to reveal His truth to you.

May His peace lead you. May His Truth guide you. May His love surround you – today, tomorrow, and forever.

Other Books by the Author

- *Into the Light*
- *More than Conqueror*
- *The Bible and the Qur'an: A Question of Integrity*
- *Jesus or Muhammad: A Question of Assurance*
- *One God, One Mediator, One People*
- *Jesus, the Bible, and Islam: Abiding In Truth*
- *Can God's Word Change? – Naskh (Abrogation) in the Qur'an and the Bible*

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