



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

April 2019

FROM US TO YOU

It's the season of Easter, a holy holiday for us! It's the time when we remember the great sacrifice of God. *“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”* (John 3:16 KJV). How joyful it must be to have a son you love so much work with you in achieving your goals. Any father would be blessed with such a gift! To create something wonderful together, with joyful anticipation. To make a totally new type of intelligent life. Then to have it turn on you and embrace your enemy, and to feel the pain of rejection. That's what God experienced for us! *“The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that He had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain”* (Genesis 6:5-6 NIV).

Even so, God knew that, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...”* (Isaiah 53:6 KJV). *“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags [to the Lord]; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away”* (Isaiah 64:6 NIV). Our Creator saw how stupid the human race had become, and the misery we had brought upon ourselves. He knew that we had become slaves (John 8:34) to someone who doesn't love us, and only wants to destroy any hope we have of peace and happiness. He hates God, therefore he hates all that God loves. He is the devil, Satan. And he has a whole lot of demons that aid him with his evil agenda. Worse still, he wants to make our existence agony throughout eternity (Matthew 13:49-50). However, God still loved us, in spite of the pain of rejection. *“For He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust”* (Psalms 103:14 NIV). Only God could have so much love! Moreover, He put us before His own Son and allowed Him to suffer and die a horrible death, in order to give us a way out. Anne goes into more detail of this in this month's article, “The Lamb Of God.”

Therefore, if you're a Christian, Easter should not be about parades, fancy hats, and chocolate bunnies. It should be about the love of God and His great sacrifice for us! And we have found that the older we get, the better our perspective is on life. It's so sad to see people in the media who were once young and successful, and now they are old and living in the past. We have heard of many mature movie stars who watch old videos of themselves when they were in their prime. They have nothing left to hope for. They have had it all, and now it's gone, and in the past. They just watch themselves get older as their health deteriorates. And they see younger, healthier people get all the attention they once had. They have nothing to look forward to, just death. They will never be young and energetic again like they once were.

By contrast, those who love the Lord have much to look forward to! For collectively, we form a city of believers, who have confessed our sins to God, asked for His forgiveness, and accepted Christ as our Savior and Lord. Spiritually speaking, since He paid for our sins, we

have become His Bride. As such, God is eagerly waiting to be united with His loved ones. Like any wealthy husband, He has prepared a home for us to live in. But this one will be throughout eternity! That city of believers is called, “New Jerusalem,” and we are its citizens. All that needs to happen is for Satan's time of rule over the earth to end. Then our Holy Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will come back to Earth with His bride, and rule it with us. He will defeat the powers of evil and destroy all the strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4) that Satan has set up in this world. What a celebration there will be in Heaven! How beautiful that will be! Like any bride, we will be dressed in white.

As the Apostle John recalls in his prophecy, *“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear’* (Fine linen stands

for the righteous acts of the saints)” (Revelation 19:6-8 NIV). *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying*



or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!..’” (Revelation 21:1-5 NIV).

In this world royal brides often arrive at their wedding in a limousine or horse drawn carriage. However, we who love Christ, will be returning to a new earth in style. We will be descending out of Heaven through the clouds in a beautiful new city. Like the people who will live there, that city will be called New Jerusalem. In the meantime, we wait patiently. For, like Abraham, we are *“...looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God”* (Hebrews 11:10 NIV). Do you remember when you were a child, seeing story books with beautiful, shiny cities sitting on a puff of clouds? The stories would end with the phrase, “And they lived happily ever after.” There may not be a prince charming in this world. But, in the next, there is a King who is waiting in anticipation for His beloved bride. In this world, we all know that fairy tales aren't real. However, our holy King of Kings and Lord of Lords (see Revelation 19:16) is a reality. And for those of us who stay true to Him (John 14:4-6), it will be a happy eternal ending. For we will live happily ever after!

Your prayers, contributions, and donations of paperback Bibles or New Testaments will help us spread this happy news. Till we meet again next month, we remain, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*

THE LAMB OF GOD

By Anne Kaestner

Every time I hear the beautiful hymn, "[Lamb Of God](#)," it affects me emotionally. The words are so poignant that I often tear up. I think about the words of John the Baptist when He saw Jesus coming down to the river to be baptized, "...*Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29 NIV). What did John mean by "the lamb of God"? In Old Testament times, the only people on earth who worshipped the one and only true God, were the Jewish race and those who married into their faith, like Ruth (see Ruth 1:1-4). Unfortunately, even the Jews did not always stay faithful (Nehemiah chapter 10). But many did. The pagan nations all around them worshipped demons, and thought of them as gods. One thing the pagans all had in common was human sacrifice. However, Jewish law was against that. Instead, animals were sacrificed, such as a bull, sheep, goat, dove, or pigeon.

Lambs were one of the most frequent animals to be sacrificed (Numbers 7:17-88). Thousands of sweet little baby lambs, innocent and all trusting, were slaughtered by godly men in Old Testament days. The poor little lamb never committed any sin of its own. In fact sheep are vegetarians. And they are so trusting of the people who take care of them! Yet those innocent sheep were sacrificed as an I.O.U. for the sins of mankind, according to the laws of God. Animal sacrifices were so that the humans could experience forgiveness of sin. The animal served as a substitute. It died in place of the human sinner, but only temporarily, which is why the sacrifices needed to be offered over and over. The thought seems so incongruous with the words of Christ, who said, "*Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep'*" (Luke 15:4-6 NIV).

So we wonder if God loves one little lost sheep so much how can He mandate a law that requires that sweet little baby lambs be tied to an altar, have their throats cut and their blood spilled out for mankind? The very thought is repugnant to anyone who loves animals. Yet we are told that "...*God is love*" (1 John 4:8 NIV)? The answer is that God loves the animal, but He loves us more! It is our sin that is repugnant to God! In fact the Lord created us because He has so much love to give that He wanted children. So He breathed His own breath into the lifeless body of a man He had created out of dust (see Genesis 2:7) and made him an eternal being. "*For our 'God is a consuming fire'*" (Hebrews 12:29 NIV). Fire has the uncommon ability to reproduce itself without diminishing the original flame. So the life that our Creator breathed into the man, called Adam, would never cease to exist even after his body turned back into the dust from which it was made (Psalm 103:14). "*And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it*" (Ecclesiastes 12:7 NIV).

Actually, Adam's body was never supposed to die. It was designed to live forever. We were made in such an amazing way that the human body has a way of repairing itself. Each individual has antibodies inside of them that fight infection. It is a spiritual disease called sin that kills it. The flame of life that God put into you will never die. Only your body dies. And that's why we are so much more valuable to our Creator than animals. It really annoys me when I hear people call humans animals, and animals people. The Lord created animals **for** mankind (see Genesis 1:26-27). Animals are not eternal.

Only the angels and mankind were created to have eternal life. That's why we are of such enormous value to God.

Now I want you to notice the terms God uses, "...*Let Us make man in **Our** image, in **Our** likeness...*" (Genesis 1:26 NIV). People think of God as just one person because the pagans considered each of their idols as a separate god. But God our Creator, is not just one person, but a family of three. "*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one*" (1 John 5:7 KJV). I mentioned earlier that God breathed His own breath into Adam and gave him eternal life. But it wasn't God the Father, or the Holy Spirit, who did that. It was the Holy Word of God Himself. "*In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was with God in the beginning. **Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men***" (John 1:1-4 NIV).

The Word of God is the one who came into this world in human flesh. "*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*" (John 1:14 KJV). I love the old hymn "[And Can It Be?](#)" by Charles Wesley. There's a section in it that says, "He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace. Emptied

Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race: 'Tis mercy all, Immense and free, For, O my God, it found out me!" So why would anyone leave an eternal place of joy and privilege to enter a world where they would be persecuted, beaten severely with a whip, stripped naked, and nailed to a cross in front of His enemies? To the human mind it seems incredible.

When I was about five years old my mother took me to church one day when I was in England. The message was so beautiful that I had lots of questions. With a child's mind, being nailed to a cross and left to die there, sounded so terrible that I had a hard

time wrapping my thoughts around it. I was told it was because Jesus loves us so much. In those days I always felt love and security from my mother. So I asked her, "Mommy, would you die for me that way?" Her answer was an honest one. "No. Because it's such a horrible way to die, isn't it?" I wondered how someone I had heard about in church, but didn't really know, could love me that much. My mother didn't live in a perfect world with prestige and comfort either. It seemed incredible that someone who had never known physical pain, would leave a place of joy and serenity and come into a world knowing that He would die in such agony for people who sneered and laughed at Him as He died (Psalm 22:7).

Years later I would read the section in Proverbs where Christ, the Word of God, spoke of the great love He and the Father have for each other and how much excitement They had planning a beautiful world for us. He said, "*The LORD brought Me forth as the first of His works, before His deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before He made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when He set the heavens in place, when He marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when He gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep His*



command, and when He marked out the foundations of the earth. **Then I was the craftsman at His side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in His presence, rejoicing in His whole world and delighting in mankind**" (Proverbs 8:22-31 NIV).

Every detail was important. Even the birds and fish were given many lovely colors. Don't ever assume that you are not important to your Creator. There was great anticipation between Them, planning for us, Their prized creation. God the Father was the architect and God the Son was the builder. Even our DNA was designed with great detail. However, there was one problem that presented itself. God had only created one other form of intelligent life before us. They were the angelic realm. They had a civilization which the Bible hints was right here on earth. Yet it was not the same earth that we live on today.

Creationists theorize that based on biblical genealogies, the earth is only six thousand years old. However science tells us that this world is 4.5 billion years old. This is a stumbling block for many people. But let's take a look at what the Bible actually says. *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1 KJV). Now we know God is perfect, and that everything He creates is perfect in its original state. The Lord said, *"...I am the light of the world"* (John 9:5 NIV). Jesus Christ, the Word of God, *"...was with God [the Father] in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it"* (John 1:2-5 NIV).

God is the very essence of light. However, before God started the six days of creation, the Bible says, *"...the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light"* (Genesis 1:2-3 NIV). So we know that the earth actually existed before the Lord started His six days of work. However it was a mess of darkness and chaos! We know that everything God creates is perfect in its original state. So, how did it get in such a terrible condition? And what about the dinosaurs? Even they could not live in a world that was dark, formless, and empty, with no distinction between the water, sky, and earth. The conclusion seems to be that a civilization once existed on this earth before God remade it for us. So the Lord used recycled material from the previous world to create a perfect new world for us. Scripture tells us that the only intelligent life God made other than mankind was the angelic race (Revelation 5:13). We don't know how long angels existed before humans. But *"...there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven"* (Revelation 12:7-8 NIV). Obviously, this was a mutiny against God. So what led up to it? It started with an angel named "Lucifer." The name means "light bearer" or "morning star" and I believe it is more of a title than a name.

Lucifer was probably the most blessed of all angels. The Bible says of him, *"... 'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you"* (Ezekiel 28:12-15 NIV). Yet the blessings of God went to his head. For a long time he served God perfectly. But there came a day when Lucifer was no longer content with the luxury and

prestige God had given him. He wanted all that God had as well. As a result of his jealousy, Lucifer was able to persuade one third of God's heavenly angels (called stars) to mutiny with him. *"His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth..."* (Revelation 12:4 NIV).

Apparently, the previous world also had a place called "Eden, the garden of God." So it must have been a beautiful place. However, Lucifer's sin, and the subsequent war in heaven changed all that. For one thing, Lucifer was no longer a "light bearer" or "morning star." He had become sinful and sin creates darkness, not light (John 3:20-21). God has a habit of changing people's names when their spiritual position changes. He changed Abram's name to Abraham (Genesis 17:5), and Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32:28). So as a result of Lucifer's fall into sin, God changed his name to Satan which means *"...deceiver of the whole world..."* (Revelation 12:9 ASV). And his position was changed from "guardian cherub" and "morning star" to the "Devil" or the "dragon." The position of those who chose to mutiny with him was changed from "angels" to "demons."

The Lord said to Satan, *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit"* (Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV).

After that, there was a trial in Heaven. One of the blessings God had given to Satan was his good looks, which made him vain (Ezekiel 28:17). Like us, the bodies of the angels were supposed to be holy sanctuaries to honor God. So God cremated Satan's body as he stood before Him. The same thing happened to the bodies of the fallen angels who had mutinied with him. God said, *"By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the*

sight of all who were watching" (Ezekiel 28:18 NIV). Apparently Lucifer had created many problems with trade in the world he lived in prior to God remaking it. There were nations of angels there, just as there are nations here on earth (Isaiah 14:12). I suspect that Lucifer, at that time, was a ruler over the original world that existed before God remade it. And God destroyed his world as part of the punishment of him and his demons. It's as if the Lord was saying, "If you think you're so smart, put this planet back to its original state." Obviously he couldn't. Only God is the Creator!

No longer did Satan and his demons have access to Heaven. After their mutiny *"...they lost their place in heaven"* (Revelation 12:8 NIV). However they would be allowed back there, by invitation only, after the fall of mankind (see Genesis 3:1-24) when God has a purpose in it such as in Job 1:6 and 2 Chronicles 18:18-22. A final punishment was planned for Satan and his demons. At that time, the Lord was probably planning to create mankind, and remake the earth for us. Therefore, a place of misery and agony was then prepared for the mutineers. It is called Hell. There is also a Lake of Fire there (Revelation 20:14-15). Hell is like the county jail and the Lake of Fire can be compared to a federal penitentiary. It is a place that was expressly designed for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). God never intended for mankind to ever go there (2 Peter 3:9).

Then the Lord decided to make a new race of people, humans. However, He wanted to be loved and revered for who He is. Therefore, our Creator didn't want a race

(Continued On Page 4)



of robots with no choice in the matter. That's why we humans were created with free choice. However, in order to give us free choice, we had to be given the option to rebel against God. How else could He know that we would love and follow Him out of our own free will, not because we were programmed to? That's where the devil came in. We were to reign joyfully on the surface of the earth or water. Satan and his demons would know that we were given all the beauty and majesty that they once had. And Satan was no doubt jealous enough to plot a way of getting it away from us. Therefore, God allowed Satan to test our loyalty by tempting us to rebel from Him. What if we should be gullible enough to believe Satan's lies and sin against our Creator? We would no longer be God's children, as Adam was originally (Luke 3:38).

Consequently, we would not have access to Heaven and could not be with God. Because "...everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever" (John 8:34-35 NIV). The most awful thing would happen. This prized creation that God was planning such great things for would become children of the Devil. Satan would be our master throughout all eternity "...For a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him" (2 Peter 2:19 NIV). And we were designed to be eternal creatures. Therefore, a plan was developed where God Himself, God the Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity, would pay the debt for our sin. He would suffer the most horrendous, torturous death ever to be conceived by the human race. He would die in our place, for our sin. God's Son knew ahead of time what that would mean. He foretold, through the prophets, what that would entail.

His would be ridiculed, humiliated, and stripped of His clothes. Part of His beard would be pulled out (Isaiah 50:6). "Then they spit in His face and struck Him with their fists. Others slapped Him and said, 'Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?'" (Matthew 26:67-68 NIV). His kind face would be swollen and bloodied so many times that He would be barely recognizable. "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:3-5 NIV).

All His disciples would leave Him for fear of being treated the same way. Even Peter, who had told Jesus he would die for Him, denied Him three times (Mark 14:66-72). Jesus would be flogged with an extra painful whip called a cat o' nine tails till His back was raw and bleeding. He was told to carry His own cross until He was so weak from His wounds that He couldn't carry it anymore. A man from Cyrene, who was nearby, was enlisted to carry it for Him. He was then stripped and nailed to a cross. The nails went through the sensitive part of His wrists. Then He would be suspended upward hanging on two agonizing wounds and set between two thieves. He was jeered at and gloated over by those who hated Him. God the Son knew ahead of time all that would happen. He prophesied through the writings of David, "...I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see Me mock Me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD

rescue Him. Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him'" (Psalms 22:6-8 NIV).

Jesus would no longer feel the comforting Holy Spirit upon Him. God the Father and the Holy Spirit could not even look at Him because He took your sin and mine upon Himself. In desperation, He would call out "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, so far from the words of My groaning?" (Psalms 22:1 NIV. Also, see Mark 15:34). His feet too would be pierced. Our Savior knew of the depth of the agony He would suffer. He prophesied, "I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to the roof of My mouth; you lay Me in the dust of death. Dogs have surrounded Me; a band of evil men has encircled Me, they have pierced My hands and My feet. I can count all My bones; people stare and gloat over Me. They divide My garments among them and cast lots for My clothing. But you, O LORD, be not far off; O My Strength, come quickly to help Me" (Psalms 22:14-19 NIV).

God the Son knew that His Own Jewish race would reject and hate Him. "He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right

to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:10-13 NIV). "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His Own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8 NIV).



The Apostle John, who was exiled on the Isle of Patmos until His death, was "in the spirit" when He wrote the book of Revelation. That means his human spirit left his body and entered the spirit

world. However, his silver cord (Ecclesiastes 12:6) was still attached when he entered back into his own body to write what he had seen. He wrote, "...I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?' But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.' **Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne...** He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. And when He had taken it... the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth'" (Revelation 5:1-10 NIV).