

### Seven End-Times Messages From God

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### **The Message**

Jesus said: "Seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand." Many say Jesus is your only way to get to heaven. Yet, this is not what Jesus taught. My mind is open to God and HIS truth, so I listen when God speaks. Hearing HIM, I understand. My eyes are open to God so when I read the Bible, I perceive God and HE speaks to me through HIS Word. What about you? Are your ears, eyes and mind open to God's message? Or, do these words of Jesus in Matthew apply to you?

**Apostle Edward** 

Bible Reference: Matthew 13:13

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### **Spiritual Communications**

In "The Messenger", you learned that Jesus often spoke to his disciples using spiritual metaphors.

"It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." John 6:63-64

Did people gasp for air when Jesus said they had to eat his flesh and drink his blood? Jesus went on to clarify that he was only talking in spiritual terms. Jesus used "spirit words" and a spiritual metaphor. Keep this in mind as you seek to understand the Bible. Jesus also said:

> "In that day you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the FATHER in my name HE will give you."

John 16:23-24

### **Go Directly To God**

Speaking with God used to be a restricted affair. Only the High Priest was allowed. However, Christ changed all of that and taught us to "go direct" to our FATHER [God] with our prayers and petitions. Jesus also said we would no longer have any need to ask of him *for anything*.

"And in that day you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the FATHER in my name HE will give you." John 16:24

The New Living Translation (NLT) is as follows:

Jesus said: "At the time [when I leave], you won't need to ask me for anything. The truth is, you can go directly to the FATHER and ask HIM, and HE will grant your request because you use my name." John 16:23-24 (NLT)

Jesus destroyed all of the religious restrictions when it comes to communicating with God. Jesus also gave us the ability to go into God's Holy of Holies if we have given our hearts to God. Ergo, you do not need a priest, a bishop, a cardinal or a pope to talk directly with God. IF you've truly accepted Christ, the Holy Spirit will reside in you and give you the courage to go directly to God.

### **Enter The Holiest**

#### "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest [of Holies] by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way ... [to talk directly with our God and Heavenly FATHER]." Hebrews 9:19-20

Those who have accepted the sacrifice of God's only human begotten Son, Jesus, and who have received the teachings of Jesus, have returned back to God Almighty. They now communicate directly with God and they ask of God in Jesus' name to honor Jesus. God's people can now enter into HIS Holy of Holies to fellowship with God at any time they desire, day or night.

To understand "The Message", you must have fully surrendered your heart to God as I discussed in "The Invitation" and in "The Messenger." Having done that, your ears, eyes and mind are now fully open to God and HIS ways. You are obedient to the teachings of Christ. You are now a slave to righteousness, to God's ways.

### **Reticular Activating System**

Only when your mind is fully open, can you understand that Christ destroyed all religious systems. Given this fact, you are free to go directly to God without having to go through a religious organization that seeks to control or limit your access to God. I would add that since Christ's death, the organized religious Church has reestablished itself with various orthodox doctrines for the explicit purpose of controlling God's people. **Caution ...** 

Your church should be a place to learn God's Word. It should also be a place of fellowship, support and, above all, a place of worship and prayer. You may find that a home church as described in the New Testament is the best. In a home church, everyone provides inputs and thoughts and together discern God's Word. Interactive, spiritually dynamic, small group Bible study replaces one-way sermons and the typical doctrinal programming found in churches.

**IF** you belong to a big church, you should participate in a small Bible study group to make sure you grow in God's Word. Then, there is our "Reticular Activating System."

**IF** you have not had your mind opened as I have described, it may be because it is either partially or fully shut down by your Reticular Activating System or RAS. God provided us with an information gatekeeper in our minds to help us manage our information intake.

**The RAS** is located in our brain stem and is used to either accept or reject ideas and input. Ideas and inputs are automatically accepted or ignored as affirming or conflicting with a prior held belief. The RAS operates on the level of the subconscious, but we consciously control it.

If we have an idea or belief that we hold as absolutely solid, then the RAS automatically rejects anything that conflicts with that belief. Conversely, it allows in anything affirming it.

Ideas come from many different sources into our brains. Some of them become like seeds in the garden called our belief system. Belief seeds planted into our minds grow stronger when they gain a root structure containing references that support the belief. A strongly held belief has deep reference roots that may include people or even a pastor or a church you have come to respect over many years; perhaps a church you've attended over four decades.

Belief roots can include a family history of supporting one religion over another. The root structure can also become strong as the result of repeated mental programming.

Once ingrained into our minds, such strong beliefs are managed subconsciously by our RAS. It is because our brains have a limited amount of mental real estate we are willing to devote to different issues. The RAS, as a gatekeeper, reinforces what we believe is true and rejects what we believe are lies. Yet, each one of us decides what we believe.

As an adult, many will have to challenge the beliefs passed down from our parents and prior generations. I myself have asked the question: "How did I come to believe this or that was true?" If you are still with me and I haven't lost you, these words from God may have a poignant meaning.

# God said HE visits "the iniquity [sins] of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation." Exodus 34:7

Parents, families, friends, schools, churches and various fellowship groups will pass down beliefs that are corrupt.

God holds each one of us accountable to discern truth. However, if you never challenge your beliefs, how do you know they are true?

As a Christian, you must test your teachers and discern whether what you are being taught lines up with the word of God. This is how you will come to know what truth is.

### **The Bereans Tested Paul**

[The Bereans] "Were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word [of God] with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures [O.T.] daily to find out whether these things were so." Acts 17:11

The people of Berea opened their minds to the Apostle Paul's teachings. However, they THEN searched Scriptures daily to verify that what Paul taught them was God's truth.

This is your test of a teacher of God's Word. That they teach Scripture in context and that you can verify their teachings with your own eyes. When the Bereans searched Scripture, it was the Old Testament. References in the New Testament to Scripture all refer to the Old Testament. You cannot understand the New Testament if you do not understand the Old Testament. And at all times you must stay within the contextual meaning of Scripture.

Are you starting to get a picture? "Seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand!" Could it be that the people Jesus tried to teach were so programmed by an existing religious culture that their minds just automatically rejected any attempt by Jesus to impart God's Word? Yes, that could have been one explanation. **TODAY**, we face a similar situation. For two thousand years, the Orthodox Church has programmed people with doctrines that are not supported by the word of God found in the Holy Bible.

Some Christians now have a difficult time trying to understand very simple Scripture. Why? Their minds have shut down dialog. Only when you love the truth are you able to reopen or examine an ingrained belief of the mind. The Apostle Paul warned us that we would perish if we did not love the truth.

> "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

### Have You Received The Love Of The Truth?

If you have truly given your whole heart to God, either by finding HIM directly or by finding God through HIS begotten human Son Jesus -- THEN you will have received the love of the truth. Without being a lover of the truth, you will have no eternal life.

You know you are a lover of the truth by exhibiting one attribute of your faith. What is that attribute? It's a love for God's Word.

You love God's Word more than anything else in life. More than your parents, spouse, children, friends, pastor and church. You love God's Word more than anything and anyone. And, if you find anyone's teachings in opposition to God's Word, you bring that Scripture to that person's attention.

### Matthew 13:10-19

And the disciples came and said to [Jesus], "Why do you speak to [these people] in parables?" [Jesus] answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you [disciples] to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him [or her].

#### Therefore I speak to [these people] in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull.

Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

# Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that [God] should heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:10-19

#### Are your ears, eyes and mind now open?

It is important for your understanding of God's Word that your ears, eyes, and mind are now fully open to God. I want you to understand God's Word and to be fruitful for HIM. Listen to this...

### Parable of the Sower

"Therefore hear parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received [God's Word] by the wayside." Matthew 13:20

"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles." Matthew 13:20-21

"Now he who received the seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful." Matthew 13:22

"But he [or she] who received the seed on good ground is he [or she] who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." Matthew 13:23

### The Four Receivers Of God's Word

- 1. **Those who do not understand** will have the Word taken [or reasoned] away.
- 2. **Those who suffer trouble** *because of the Word* will stumble [and stop listening].
- 3. Those concerned about the cares of this world and riches will become unfruitful and will have the Word rendered useless.
- 4. **Those who understand** the Word will become fruitful servants of God.

Which category do you fall into as you hear God's Word? Will someone take the Word away from you? Will you stop listening? Will the Word become useless to you? Or, will you understand the Word and become a fruitful servant of God?

### The Truth Of Scripture

Before the above teaching, Jesus had said in Matthew 11:15 and in Matthew 13:9 the following:

#### "He who has ears to hear let him <u>HEAR</u>!"

*I tell you the same thing, right now!* I am about to share some teachings of Jesus that may conflict with what you strongly believe is absolute truth. These may be strongly held beliefs in your mind reinforced by years and maybe decades of Church orthodox programming. Can you accept the simple truth of God's Word?

Think you can accept truth? If so, then let's start with Jesus' statement about returning to his God *and our God*.

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my FATHER; but go to my brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to my FATHER and your FATHER, and to my God and your God.' "John 20:17

The unambiguous and clear meaning of John 20:17 is that Jesus states that he has a God he is returning to. Jesus identifies his God as the FATHER. Jesus states clearly that his God is also our God and also our FATHER.

#### Do you acknowledge that Jesus had a God?

If not, stop here. This chapter seeks to impart Scriptural truth to you, but it is meaningless if you mentally cannot accept the simple language of Scripture. If you cannot acknowledge mentally that Jesus had a God from his very own teachings, it means that your mind is programmed with a strong orthodox trinity belief. It means that your RAS may be automatically rejecting any information that contradicts those orthodox teachings. It also means that you are not saved, because you reject and cannot accept this simple truth from Jesus found in Scripture. In 100% of all bibles, you will find the very same language from Jesus. Before going on, you will need to surrender your whole heart to God and HIS Word. Pray about it!

The words in John 20:17 are easily understood, but I have found that many orthodox Christians are "programmed" and unable to digest its simple truth. Instead, this verse leaves them with a blank stare in their eyes and causes them to shut down mentally and to then reject all further attempts at communications. For me, it is like showing the "Tithe Law" in Deuteronomy 14:22-29 to a Christian programmed to tithe to their church. Ergo, you get the same blank stare and mental shutdown. It's the RAS at work in our brains.

Let's try one more verse before getting into some Scriptures on salvation, including some things Jesus had to say about salvation.

"Therefore, in all things [Jesus] had to be MADE like his brethren [other humans], that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For that [since] he himself has suffered, being tempted, he [Jesus] is able to aid those who are tempted." Hebrews 2:17-18

### Hebrews 2:17-18 Raises Questions

- 1. Do you believe Jesus was MADE just like us?
- 2. Do you believe Jesus is God's High Priest?
- 3. Do you believe Jesus was a male human like all males?
- 4. Do you believe Jesus suffered temptation like all humans?

These four attributes of Christ cannot be applied to God. They could be applied to another human, but the High Priest attribute is because God chose Christ for that role. Christ wasn't chosen to be "God the Son." That is an attribute the Church assigns to Jesus.

In *The Invitation* and *The Messenger* you were presented with similar Scriptures, which directly contradicted Orthodox Church teachings. So, fundamentally, you have a serious choice to make. Exactly whom will you choose to believe? Who is lying to us? Someone is! Is it the Church? God's Word? Jesus? Who?

The idea that somehow Jesus was both man and God is facetious on its face. Even worse though are the clear teachings from God's Word that speak directly against such a lie. If you want to study more about why the trinity doctrine is simply Church dogma, go to http://www.trinitydogma.com and get a copy of *Trinity Dogma*.

### **Don't Forget Free Will**

I won't lose any sleep over people rejecting God's Word. I understand that not everyone is supposed to receive God's Word. Not everyone is headed to Heaven. Listen, we are NOT called to forcibly change people.

Which brings me to this final thought before actually moving into some Scriptures about salvation: "The Message" from God. Many believe that you must mentally beat people into accepting Jesus or that they will be lost to Hell. However, all God asks is to simply present HIS Word and let the people choose. To *respect* the free will God gave all people.

> "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11

### John 14:6 Exegesis

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the FATHER except *through* me." John 14:6

The Church has long held John 14:6 as proof there is no eternal life or salvation unless you accept Jesus as savior. However, if this were true, there would be no Bible verses contradicting such a doctrine.

The explanation for this verse is simpler. Jesus spoke and did what God told him to say and do. Jesus said that if you believed in him, you really believed in the God who sent him.

Ergo, "The way, the truth, and the life" refer to God's Word. It is God's Word that leads you home to Heaven. The phrase "no one comes to the FATHER except *through* me" literally reflects the fact that heaven's judgment line forms to the right of Jesus.

Since Christ will judge souls for God and he sits at God's right hand, and the judgment line forms to the right of Christ – *It means that every soul will literally go through or by Christ before they get to the FATHER.* 



# Judgment line starts at "X" to the left of Christ as you face the throne of God!

John 14:6 is that easy to understand. While this exegesis may be unsettling to some, it does not require that you check your brain in at the front door of the church and ignore many Scripture verses that oppose the Orthodox interpretation of the verse.

In Malachi 3:6 God says, "For I am the LORD, I do not change." With that in mind, fully consider Ezekiel 18 in which God gives us the criteria HE uses for salvation. Nothing has changed in the criteria God has established. It is a repentant heart and a righteous lifestyle. Christ confirms this in the New Testament. So, to claim John 14:6 means Jesus is the *only way*, literally makes God a liar in Ezekiel chapter 18. Also, calling on God [Yahweh] leads to salvation in Joel 2:32. It isn't the Word that lies; it is the Church!

Let me point out a few other Scriptures to consider. A detailed discussion of this subject is also found in the *Book of Edward*.

### **Four Salvation Truths**

- 1. YAHWEH [God Almighty] said: "Before ME there was no God formed, nor shall there be after ME. I *even* I, am the LORD, and besides ME there is no SAVIOR." Isaiah 43:10-11
- 2. Jesus said: "For as the FATHER [God] has life [salvation] in HIMSELF, so HE [God] has granted the Son [Jesus] to have life in himself." John 5:26
- 3. "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, *and* to the Lamb [Christ who sits at the right hand of God]." Revelation 7:10
- 4. "Having been *born again*, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, *through the Word of God*, which lives and abides forever." 1 Peter 1:23

These four Scriptures and many others refute the idea that there is no salvation outside of Jesus. Such teachings reflect ignorance of God's Holy Word.

### **More Salvation Truths**

- 1. King David said salvation belongs to YAHWEH. Psalms 3:8
- 2. Apostle John said salvation belongs to YAHWEH. Revelation 7:10

- 3. Jesus said salvation belongs to YAHWEH in John 5:26.
- 4. YAHWEH said that whoever praises HIM has salvation. Psalms 50:23
- 5. YAHWEH said that whoever orders his conduct aright has salvation. Psalms 50:23
- 6. Jesus said that whoever believes in YAHWEH has salvation. John 5:24
- 7. YAHWEH said that whoever calls on HIM has salvation. Joel 2:32
- 8. Paul said we believe with our hearts unto righteousness [salvation]. Romans 10:10
- 9. Hebrews teaches that whoever obeys Jesus' teachings has salvation. Hebrews 5:9
- 10. Paul said that whoever is awake to righteousness has salvation. 1 Corinthians 15:34
- Paul said whoever does not sin has salvation. Romans 4:8
- 12. Paul said whoever is set free from sin has salvation. Romans 6:22
- John said that whoever believes in Jesus and believes what Jesus taught has salvation. John 3:16, 3:36
- 14. YAHWEH said whoever is faithful to HIM has salvation. Ezekiel 18:9

- 15. YAHWEH said whoever turns away from wickedness has salvation. Ezekiel 18:21
- 16. YAHWEH said whoever gets a new heart has salvation. Ezekiel 18:31
- 17. YAHWEH said righteous people, will see HIS salvation. Ezekiel 14:14
- 18. Jesus said benefactors of an apostle's forgiveness have salvation. John 20:23
- Jesus said those who obey the Ten Commandments of God have salvation. Matthew 19:17
- 20. Jesus said a minimum righteousness level means salvation. Matthew 5:20
- 21. Solomon said righteous people would see salvation. Wisdom 5:2
- 22. Jesus said righteous people would see salvation. Matthew 13:43

### <u>YAHWEH</u> is the God Jesus served!

Given the above teachings from the Bible regarding salvation, Jesus is not the only way to heaven. It is obvious God had much more in HIS mind when it comes to granting humans eternal life or what we now call salvation, even if it is granted through our belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior. Yes, there are some strings attached to our behavior on this earth and it's not simply a matter of mouthing Jesus as our Lord.

Jesus rejects some Christians who claim him [and mouth him] as their Lord. Therefore, even Jesus says there is more to salvation than just claiming him as Lord, savior and master of our lives. It's obedience to God's Word!

#### Jesus said: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he or she who does the will of my FATHER in heaven." Matthew 7:21

So, we can see that "calling on the name of Jesus" is not a guarantee of salvation. One of the reasons for the confusion in Christianity is a misinterpretation of Apostle Paul in Romans.

# For "whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved." Romans 10:13

The word LORD in this verse, when properly translated refers to YAHWEH or God. And, Paul is actually citing Scripture from Joel. Paul is not stating that you can call on the name of Jesus and you "shall be saved."

#### "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD, shall be saved." Joel 2:32

Jesus confirms that those who believe in YAHWEH or "the God who sent him" *have* passed from death into life in John 5:24. It is these people who "**shall be saved**." This is consistent with the *last day pickup plan* of God disclosed in *The Messenger* chapter.

"He [or she] who practices righteousness is righteous, just as [Jesus] is righteous."

1 John 3:7

Real faith leads us into a love affair with the God Jesus served. We then strive to obey God's Word and to emulate Jesus. This doesn't make us perfect, but it means we *do* practice God's righteousness.

### What Did Jesus Say?

"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' " Matthew 4:17

Jesus said: "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Matthew 9:13

The Gospel of Jesus was not to mouth him as savior. The Gospel of Jesus was *"repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* And what about those who received John's water baptism for repentance and the remission of their sins. Are they saved? Eternal life?

Jesus clearly states that those who received John's water baptism will enter the kingdom.

"I say to you that tax collectors and harlots *enter the kingdom of God before you*. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but tax collectors and harlots believed him and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe [John]." Matthew 21:31-32

Is this a problem for the doctrinal church? It should be. Here we have the situation where Jesus wasn't even involved. However, even though the people did not receive Jesus, they repented to God and received John's water baptism for the remission of their sins.

Jesus said: "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Luke 13:3

Repentance will get you home to Heaven!

Many preach that righteous people do not exist, but this is also ignorance of God's Word.

"And [Zacharias and Elizabeth] were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the LORD blameless." Luke 1:6

### Peter Sums Up The Message!

Peter sums up "The Message" that God wanted you to hear. Open your heart to the word of God and accept this teaching of Peter.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the LORD our God will call." Acts 2:38-39

Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus!

## This *is* The Message!

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