

Have you ever tried to assemble a puzzle - a 3000 piece puzzle – *when they hide the box?*

“Wise sayings” about **the Big Picture**

- *Definition* - The overall or long-range view of a situation. This phrase, which implies that details will be omitted in favor of presenting a bird’s-eye view, dates from the second half of the 20th century...
- Spread Eagle speech ... marked by bombast and boastful exaggeration especially of the greatness of the U.S.
- When it comes to politics today, the devils' not in the details; the devil's in the big picture, more often than not just hiding in plain sight.
- *Opposite* – “Tunnel Vision” - A tendency, habit, or conscious decision to only focus one's energy or attention on a single particular thing or aspect, without regard for anything or anyone else.
- Can't see the forest for the trees ...
- Majoring in the minors ...
- In the weeds ...

1. The Worldview “Big Picture” ... One way to explore “Big Picture” thinking is to explore “Worldviews” ... A worldview is a belief system that shapes our perceptions, values, and actions. It is an anchor upon which we can live out our lives so that it’s

- consistent with our underlying belief system.

Types: Political – Capitalist, Socialist
 Religious – Theistic, Atheistic,
 Muslim, Jewish, Christian
 etc

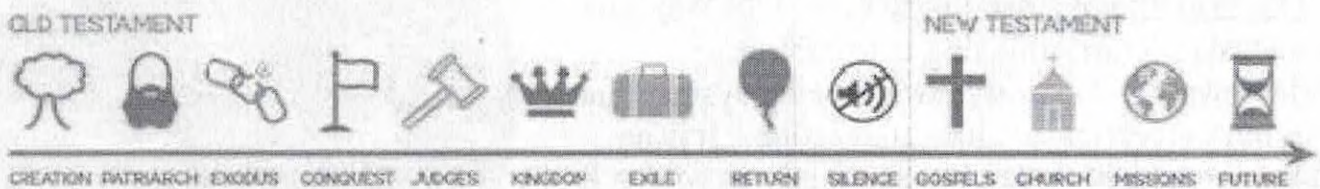


We here ... likely share what I might call a “Christian Worldview” (sometimes called Biblical Worldview) ... It is about using all the resources of Scripture to illuminate the whole range of thinking about history & science & physical & spiritual, ethics and more!

Some scriptures that focus on the Big picture of a Christian Worldview

- **Gen 1:1** In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.
- **Psa 14:1** (*only*) **The fool** hath said in his heart, There is no God...
- **Deu 10:12** "And now, Israel, **what does the LORD your God require of you**, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, & to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"
- **Ecc 12:13-14** Let us hear **the conclusion of the whole matter**: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for **this is the whole duty of man**. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.
- **Mic 6:8** He has shown you, O man, what is good; And **what does the LORD require of you** But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?
- **Luk 23:39-43** Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise."

BIBLE TIMELINE



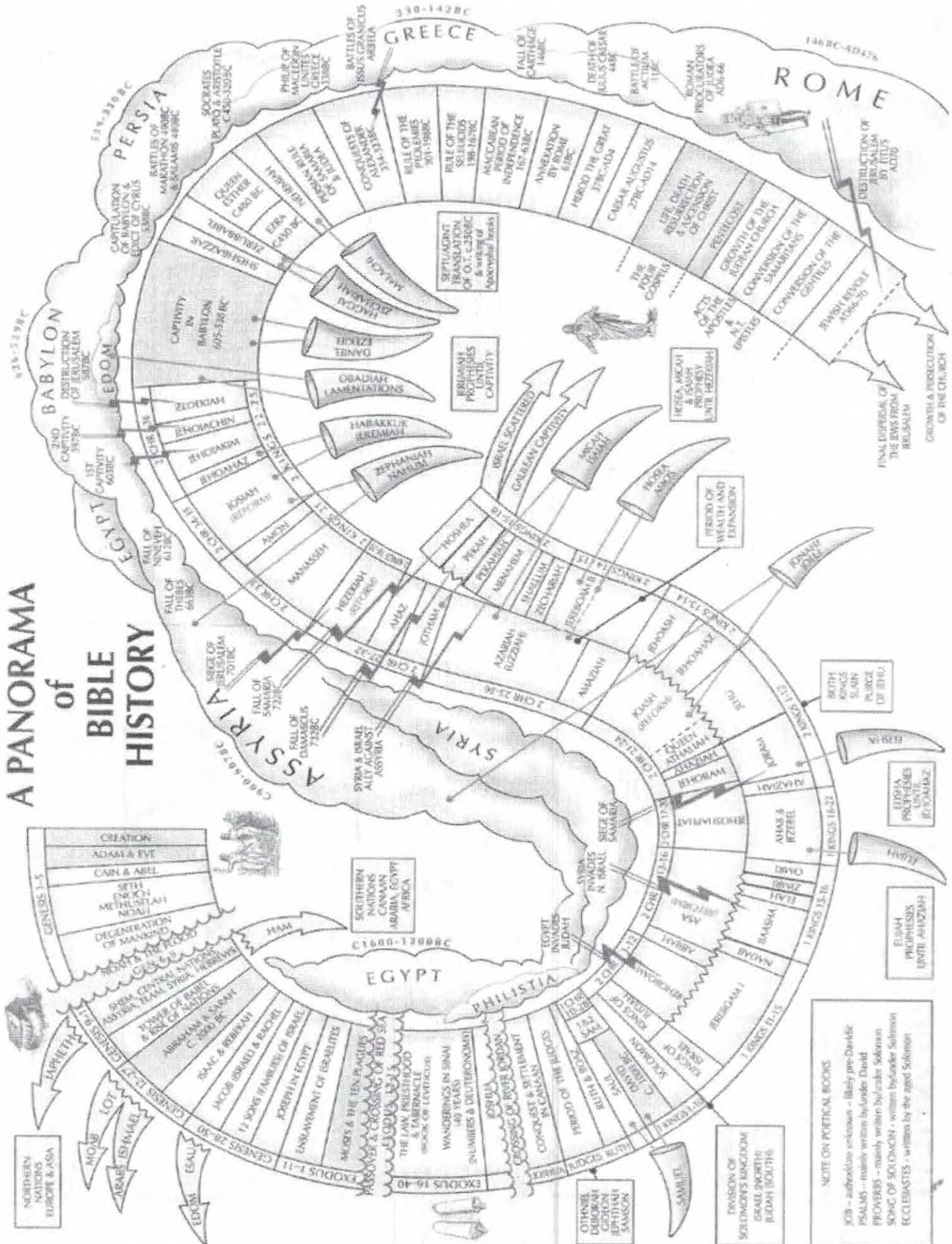
2. The Chronology "Big Picture"

The above image here is so simple (but powerful) in helping us know the order of the Bible!

The next page image, seeks to put the whole history of Creation on a more detailed timeline

- **Dan 2:28** But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. (*the 4 world ruling empires to come*)
- **Joh 21:25** And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.
..... However, a Harmony of the Gospels lets you see the **384 events** in Jesus life

A PANORAMA of BIBLE HISTORY



GENESIS 1-5

- CREATION
- ADAM & EVE
- CAIN & ABEL
- SETH
- METHUSALAH
- NOAH
- DEGENERATION OF MANKIND
- NOAH & THE FLOOD

GENESIS 6-11

- SHIM, CHAM, SHAMIR, JAPHETH
- NOAH'S ARK
- ABRAHAM & SARAH
- ISAAC & REBEKAH
- JACOB (ISRAEL) & RACHEL
- 12 SONS (TRIBE) OF ISRAEL
- POWER OF MAGICK
- ABRAHAM & SARAH
- ISAAC & REBEKAH
- JACOB (ISRAEL) & RACHEL
- 12 SONS (TRIBE) OF ISRAEL
- POWER OF MAGICK

EXODUS 1-11

- MOAB
- LOD
- ABRAM ISRAEL
- ESAU
- GENESIS 28-30
- GENESIS 37-50
- GENESIS 12-27
- GENESIS 1-11

EXODUS 12-30

- MOAB
- LOD
- ABRAM ISRAEL
- ESAU
- GENESIS 28-30
- GENESIS 37-50
- GENESIS 12-27
- GENESIS 1-11

EXODUS 16-40

- THE LAW (TABERNACLE)
- WANDERINGS IN SINAI (40 YEARS)
- NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY
- THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA
- THE LAW (TABERNACLE)
- WANDERINGS IN SINAI (40 YEARS)
- NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY
- THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA

JOSHUA 1-12

- CONQUEST OF CANAN
- CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM
- CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM
- CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM
- CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM
- CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM
- CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM
- CONQUEST OF JERUSALEM

JUDGES 1-16

- OPPRESSION BY PHILISTINES
- OPPRESSION BY PHILISTINES
- OPPRESSION BY PHILISTINES
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RUTH 1-4

- RUTH & BOAZ
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NOTE ON PORTAL BOOKS

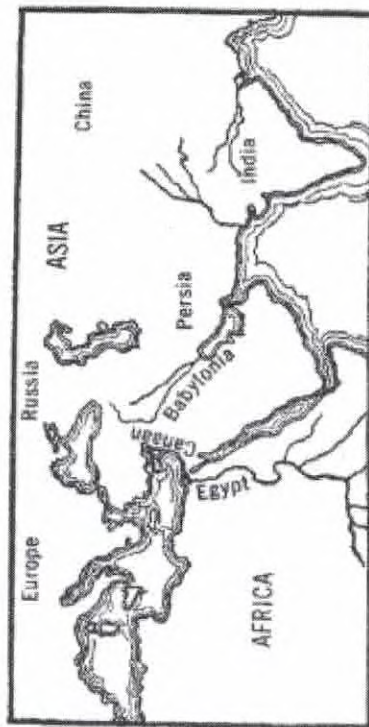
JOB - author/Date unknown - likely pre-Davidic
 PSALMS - mainly written by David
 PROVERBS - mainly written by Solomon
 SONG OF SOLOMON - written by Solomon
 ECCLESIASTES - written by Solomon

God created Man, and placed him in the Garden of Eden, in southwest Asia, the approximate Geographic Center of the largest land portion of the earth's surface, indicated by the Black Square on Map 1.



Map 1.

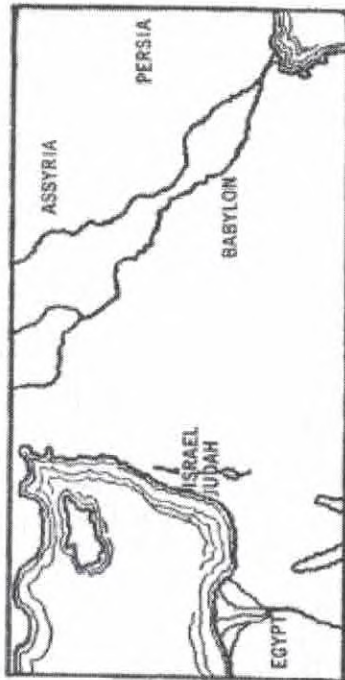
Man sinned, and fell from what God designed him to be. Then God inaugurated a Plan for Man's ultimate Redemption and Re-Creation, by calling Abraham to found a Nation through whom this would be accomplished. God let Abraham out of Babylonia into the land of Canaan. Abraham's descendants migrated to Egypt, and there grew to be a Nation.



Map 2.

After 400 years, they were led out of Egypt, under the direction of Moses, back into the Promised Land of Canaan. And there, in the course of some four or five hundred years, under the reigns of David and Solomon, the Nation became a Great and Mighty Kingdom.

Then, at the close of Solomon's reign, the Kingdom divided. The North part, Ten Tribes, called "Israel," lasted about 200 years, and was taken captive by Assyria, 721 B.C. The South part, called "Judah," lasted a little over 100 years longer, and about 600 B.C., was carried away captive by Babylon. A Remnant of the Captive Nation, 536 B.C., Returned to their own land, and re-established their national life.



Map 3.

Soon thereafter the Old Testament closed. Four hundred years later, JESUS, the Messiah of Old Testament prophecy through Whom man was to be Redeemed and Re-Created, appeared, and did His work: Died for Human Sin; and Rose from the Dead; and commanded His disciples to carry the Story of His Life, with its Redemptive Power, to All Nations.



Map 4.

They went in every direction with the Glad News: mainly, westward, through Asia Minor and Greece, to Rome, along what was the backbone of the Roman Empire, which then comprised the known civilized world. With the work of Human Redemption thus launched, the New Testament closes.

4. The Big Picture of God's *True* Doctrines

- **Jude 1:3-4** Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting** you to **contend earnestly** for the **faith which was once for all delivered to the saints**. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Eph 4:14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting

Statement of Beliefs of The Church of God International

INTRODUCTION

The doctrinal tenets, practices, teachings, and beliefs of the Church of God International are based on the Word of God, the Holy Bible. God's people believe that they are in love by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 9:5).

1. GOD

God is the eternal, all-powerful, supreme creator and sustainer of the entire universe. God is one, consisting of spirit and comprising a family generally consisting of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. God is a being, God, material being who wants to share His magnificent existence by appointing Himself through men.

Isaiah 44:24; 48:12-13; Isaiah 45:1; Jeremiah 1:10; 23:18; 31:34; 48:1; 51:16; 52:1; 54:17; 55:11; 60:10; 65:17; 66:22; 67:19; 68:11; 69:19; 70:1; 71:10; 72:17; 73:15; 74:15; 78:17; 81:10; 86:1; 88:11; 91:1; 92:4; 93:2; 94:1; 95:1; 96:13; 97:1; 98:17; 99:6; 104:29; 111:3; 112:1; 113:16; 114:7; 115:1; 116:19; 117:9; 118:8; 119:112; 124:2; 132:17; 138:12; 141:1; 142:1; 143:8; 144:3; 145:18; 146:5; 147:5; 148:8; 149:4; 150:1; 45:1; 55:11; 60:10; 65:17; 66:22; 67:19; 68:11; 69:19; 70:1; 71:10; 72:17; 73:15; 74:15; 78:17; 81:10; 86:1; 88:11; 91:1; 92:4; 93:2; 94:1; 95:1; 96:13; 97:1; 98:17; 99:6; 104:29; 111:3; 112:1; 113:16; 114:7; 115:1; 116:19; 117:9; 118:8; 119:112; 124:2; 132:17; 138:12; 141:1; 142:1; 143:8; 144:3; 145:18; 146:5; 147:5; 148:8; 149:4; 150:1.

2. BIBLE

The whole Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God containing His plan of salvation, and the record of His participation in history. The Bible is God's revelation of knowledge that man cannot discover for himself. It is the foundation of knowledge, and the fulfillment of His Word. The Old and New Testaments comprise God's written Word, which forms the basis of Christianity as taught by the church and so practiced by the Christian.

Deuteronomy 32:2; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; John 10:35; Romans 7:12; 1 Corinthians 2:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20

3. JESUS CHRIST

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, and the Son of Man. He was the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament, and is described in the New Testament as being fully human and fully divine. As the second

member of the God family, He has existed throughout eternity as the "Word." He divested Himself of His power and His equality, and became a human being to die for the sins of all mankind as our loving and merciful Savior. He was then resurrected, and ascended to heaven to become our High Priest. Jesus Christ shall return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, and rule as King of Kings with His Father forever.

Matthew 28:18; Mark 16:7; Luke 24:46; John 1:1-14; 1:29; Acts 1:22-23; Romans 8:2; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 4:14-15; Revelation 1:13-16

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the eternal, ever-present, and spiritual presence of God. God begets Christians as His sons and daughters through His Spirit. It empowers a Christian spiritually, converts his mind, and serves as an assurance of eternal life.

John 1:9; 2:20; Romans 8:9; 14; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Galatians 2:13-14

5. MANKIND

Humans are physical beings, with an inherent immortality, but they can receive eternal life as a free gift from God. Man was created by God to be wholly good and blessed, yet in God's image, and with a special component added to his brain to empower the human mind.

Genesis 1:26-27; Job 31:6; 1 Corinthians 2:11; 1 John 5:17-18

6. SPIRIT IN MAN

When God breathed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into him the breath of life, man became a living being. Man, even after man given a spirit that made him far superior to the animal world, which operates solely on instinct and greed.



SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY PROJECT

Topics covered ...

1. Primary Doctrines: God, The Father, Bible, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Mankind, Angelic Realm;
2. Salvation: Salvation, Faith, Repentance, Baptism, Laying on of Hands;
3. Kingdom of God: Kingdom of God, Resurrections, Prophecy, Gospel, Judgment;
4. Law of God: Law of God, Biblical Covenants, Ten Commandments, Sabbath, Annual Holy Days, Tithing and Giving, Biblical Dietary Laws, The Hebrew Calendar, Sin;
5. The Christian: The Christian, The Christian's Relationship with God, The Christian's Relationship with Fellow Man, The Christian Family, Healing;
6. The Church of God: The Church of God, Ministry of the Church, Fellowship of the Brethren;
7. Traditional Christian Doctrines: Statements on almost thirty traditional doctrines, such as immortal soul, heaven, hell, trinity, Sunday, Christmas, Easter, rapture, etc., presenting the theological viewpoint of the Church of God International.

- **"doctrine divides ... love unites"** It is not a scripture ... but a correct understanding can be valuable ... **Joh 4:23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit & truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

5. The Big Picture – God’s Plan of Salvation – Revealed in the Holy Days

GOD'S Holy Days

Steps in God’s Plan of Salvation

“The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts” (Leviticus 23:2)



1 The Passover Why Jesus Christ Had to Die

The Passover teaches us that Jesus Christ was sinless and, as the true Lamb of God, gave His life so that the sins of humanity could be forgiven and the death penalty removed (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:8-20; Romans 3:25). Passover, although not observed on a holy day, is the first festival of the year.



2 The Feast of Unleavened Bread Replacing Sin With The Bread of Life

The Feast of Unleavened Bread teaches us that we have been called to reject leanness and reject sin. We are to live by every word of God and according to the teachings of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 5:8; Matthew 4:4). During this festival, leaven symbolizes sin and, as such, is removed from our homes for the seven days of the Festival (1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Exodus 12:18). By eating unleavened bread we picture living a life of sincerity and truth, free from sin.



3 The Feast of Pentecost The First Fruits of God’s Harvest

The Feast of Pentecost, or Firstfruits, teaches us that Jesus Christ came to build His Church. This festival pictures the coming of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the Church. The firstfruits are those who will be given salvation at the return of Christ. They have been empowered with the Holy Spirit, which enables us to live by the heart and nature to live by the commandments of God (Exodus 23:18; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 2:37-39; Acts 5:32; James 1:18).



4 The Feast Of Trumpets A Turning Point in History

The Feast of Trumpets teaches us that Jesus Christ will visibly return to the earth at the end of this age. At that time He will resurrect the saints who are no longer living and instantly change these saints into spirit beings (Matthew 24:29; 1 Corinthians 15:52-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). That festival commemorates the blowing of the trumpets that will precede His return. Seven angels with seven trumpets are described in Revelation 8-10. Christ will return with the blowing of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15).



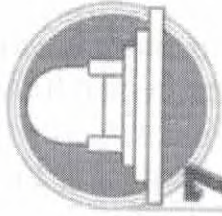
5 The Day of Atonement Removal of Sin’s Cause

This Holy Day pictures our High Priest, Jesus Christ, making atonement for the sins of all mankind, which allows us to be reconciled to God and enter into the “holiest of all” (Leviticus 16:29-30; Leviticus 16:20-22; Hebrews 9:8-14; Hebrews 10:19-20). It also points to the time when Satan will be bound for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3). By fasting on this day, we draw closer to God and picture the reconciliation of mankind to God. Christ is essential in this process as our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-15; Hebrews 5:4-5; Hebrews 5:10) and as our eternal sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 9:26-28).



6 The Feast of Tabernacles Jesus Christ Reigns Over Earth

The Feast of Tabernacles teaches us that when Jesus Christ returns, a new society will be established with Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Christ, assisted by the resurrected saints, will set up His government on the earth for 1,000 years (Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:4; Leviticus 23:39-43; Matthew 17:1-4; Hebrews 12:8-9). While under His laws will spread from Jerusalem throughout the world to usher in an unprecedented period of peace and prosperity (Isaiah 2:2-4; Daniel 2:35; Daniel 2:44; Daniel 7:13-14).



7 The Eighth Day Salvation Extended to All of Humanity

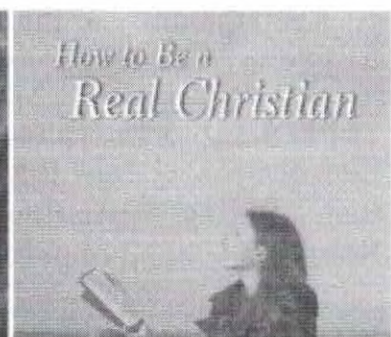
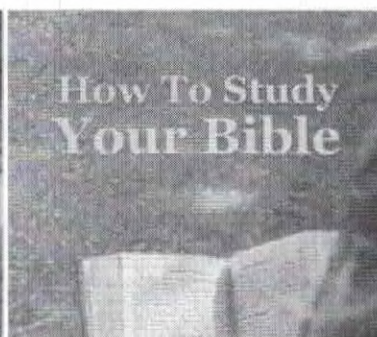
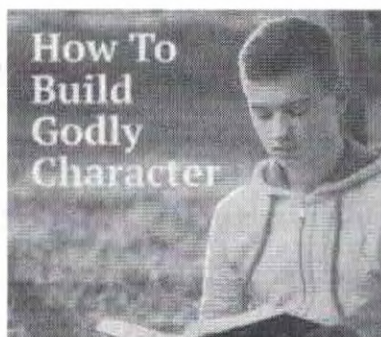
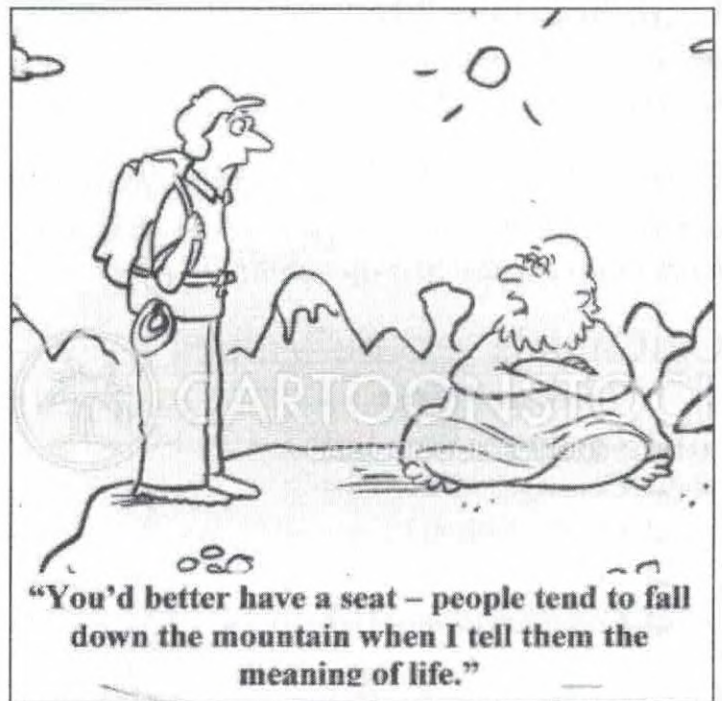
The Eighth Day teaches us that Jesus Christ will complete His harvest of humans by raising from the dead and extending salvation to all human beings who have died in the past and have never been given a full opportunity for salvation (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 11:25-27; Luke 11:31-32; Revelation 20:11-15).

6. The Big Picture ... of ANSWERS to the big questions of Life!

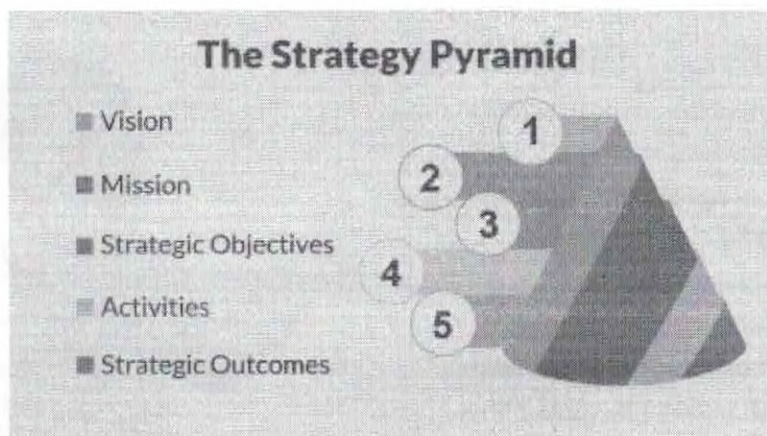
- 1 Does God Exist?
- 2 Has God Said Anything?
- 3 What must God be like?
- 4 Who is Jesus of Nazareth?
- 5 What does Jesus offer us today?
- 6 What happens when we die?
- 7 Why Is there Evil in the World?
- 8 Are All religions the same idea just expressed differently?
- 9 How Can I be sure where I will spend Life after Death?
- 10 Are Humans unique or just another Specie Among a cast of Thousands.



- **Luke 18:18** “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”
Act 16:30 ... "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
- **Job 14:14** “If a man die, shall he live again?”
- **Genesis 18:25** “Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
- **Mark 8:36** “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”
- **Jer 12:1** ... Why does the way of the wicked prosper?



7. The Big Picture of mission, vision, purpose for the Ottawa congregation



Ottawa Vision 2025 ...

CgiCanada – Mission - *To preach the good news of the Kingdom to all peoples, primarily within Canada, as a witness and a warning; and to nurture and prepare disciples to reign with Jesus Christ.*

CgiCanada – Vision – *By 2025, we will have a reputation for being a healthy Church of God organization - with a ministry that is respected and easy to approach due to our servant leadership culture and our ability to effectively proclaim and teach the Word of God.*

CgiCanada – Core Values –

“I foresee” (I4C)

- Integrity* – Rom 12:9; Jos 24:14
- Courage* – Prov 28:1
- Care* – Eph 4:32
- Courtesy* – Gal 5:13-14
- Consideration* – Heb 10:24

Values to Light Your Way

Accuracy	Compassion	Friendship	Loyalty
Achievement	Courage	Happiness	Passion
Adventure	Creativity	Harmony	Power
Authenticity	Discipline	Health	Security
Balance	Excellence	Humor	Stability
Bravery	Ethics	Integrity	Time
Collaboration	Faith	Justice	Transformation
Connection	Freedom	Learning	Wealth

CgiCanada – 5 yr Objective 1 – To help God’s people:

- a. Walk worthy of our vocation;
- b. Maintain humility while forbearing one another in charity;
- c. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;
- d. Discover, develop & use their gifts towards being active members of the body of Christ

“**Eph. 4.1-3** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

CgiCanada – 5 yr Objective 2 - To have an evangelism program

- a. That is robust and uncompromising in its Biblical content and ability to address current affairs; and
- b. That leverages technology and word of mouth.

External Forces acting against us

Political Winds

Government Legislation
Societal Changes
Negative Economic Factors
Political Schisms
Fake news
Influence of Socialism
Environmental Movement
Continuing growth of the conflict between Nationalism / Globalism
Identity Politics (e.g., Reverse Racism)
Global Instability and dangers of terrorism

Moral Redefinition

Demonization of Christianity
Education and Indoctrination
Exaltation of Islam and Transgenderism
Normalization of sexual immorality and murder
Increasing syncretism – all religions are equal

Social Unrest

Erosion of respect through easy access to knowledge
Growing confusion
Continuing growth of violent social unrest and erosion of civility
Loss of trust and increase in suspicion over authority figures
Open borders and changing demographics
Addictions and mental disorders

Internal Challenges that may obstruct us

Division

Political schisms seeping into the Church
Not understanding the church is a family
Distance between scattered brethren
Little regard for the need to gather and fellowship
Holding onto our youth
Lack of understanding of the impact of social media/Internet in the lives of our youth

Disrespect

Disrespect for the ministry
Connected audiences that fact check/challenge our statements in real time
Lack of effectiveness in counselling
Lack of recognition of the ministry as a source of counselling
Lack of recognition of the importance of the sanctity of marriage
Mental illness
Maintaining privacy

Growing Weakness

Lack of closure re funerals/death
Lack of support in the operations of the congregations
Dedication and devotion of membership
Fatigue – expressed in how we can accept teachings
Aging congregations
Cycle of diminishing revival in succeeding generations
Small ministry and small budget
Economic challenges within the church
To be relevant and remain rooted

Our Six Critical Success Factors +1 = 7 !

1. Personal Health

- Personal Health Maintenance
 - Diet
 - Weight Management
 - Sleep
 - Exercise
 - Stress Management
 - Supplements

2. Healthy Congregations

- Healthy Congregations
 - Speaking to the issues of Family, Marriage, Conflict Resolution
 - Strong and Healthy families in our congregations
 - Encourage active engagement by, and mutual respect for, all members
 - Discourage gossip and disrespect of Christ's body

3. Staying Relevant

- Staying Relevant (with the Changing Times)
 - Staying above the Party Politics
 - Teaching meat in due season
 - Preaching about current topics evangelically
 - Incorporating current language into our teachings
 - Teaching against both sides of extremes

4. Biblical Fluency

- Biblical competence and fluency in both the ministry and the brethren

5. Leading By Example

- Leading by Example
 - Personally
 - How we interact in the ministry
 - § Encouraging each other to discover, develop and use our gifts
 - § How we publicly interact with each other
 - How we interact with the congregation

6. Communication

- Improving our Communication Skills
 - Speaking skills
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Counselling skills

7. Spiritual Well-Being

To improve in our prayer, Bible study, fasting, meditation & fellowship