

God's Blue print for Man's Salvation

Introduction

God's Holy Bible says in the Book of Genesis that **God created Adam & Eve** and they lived in the Garden of Eden. At the time of their creation they were sinless and innocent. (Genesis 2:16-17), *"And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for you eat of it you will surely die.'"* (Genesis 3:1-7), Serpent (Satan) tricked them and they disobeyed God and sinned against Him and **they carried with them the death penalty for their sin.**

God immediately cursed Satan saying (Genesis 3:15-19), "v.15, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and **between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.** ...". This is interpreted as a promise from God to send a Savior (Messiah) to save the human race from Satan, sin and death sometime in the future. Then He banished them from the Garden to prevent them from populating the earth and live eternally in this sinful state by eating the fruit of the **Tree of Life**. If they were to live in that state, even the promised Messiah would not be able to save the human race from Satan, sin and death because they would be eternally dead beyond rescue (Genesis 3:21-24). "As a **temporary measure** God introduced the animal sacrifice for various sins people committed during the Old Testament time. (Leviticus 1:1-7:21), 4:27, *"If a member of the community sins ... he must bring as his offering for the sin he committed, a female goat without defect. He is to lay his hands on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place of the burnt offering. Then the priest is to take some blood with his fingure and put it in the horns of the altar of the burnt offering ... v31, He shall remove all the fat, ... and priest shall burn it on the altar as an aroma pleasing to the Lord. In this way the priest will make an atonement for him, and he will be forgiven."* **This had to be repeated year after year proving its temporary nature till a perfect sacrifice was offered once and for all by the seed of the woman God will provide. Anything temporary is not perfect and eternal.**

Therefore, God set in motion His eternal plan to bring the promised Savior. The Omniscient God in His Sovereign Authority chose God-fearing and faithful persons from each generation to fulfill this promise of a Savior. He made covenants with those whom He chose and gave specific commands to guide them from time to time. He continued choosing faithful ones from among their descendants, until the time was ripe for the Savior's triumphant entry into this world as a seed of a woman.

Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Sheelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuseiah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of

Adam, the son of
God.

Luke 3: 34b-38

Matthew 1:1-17

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

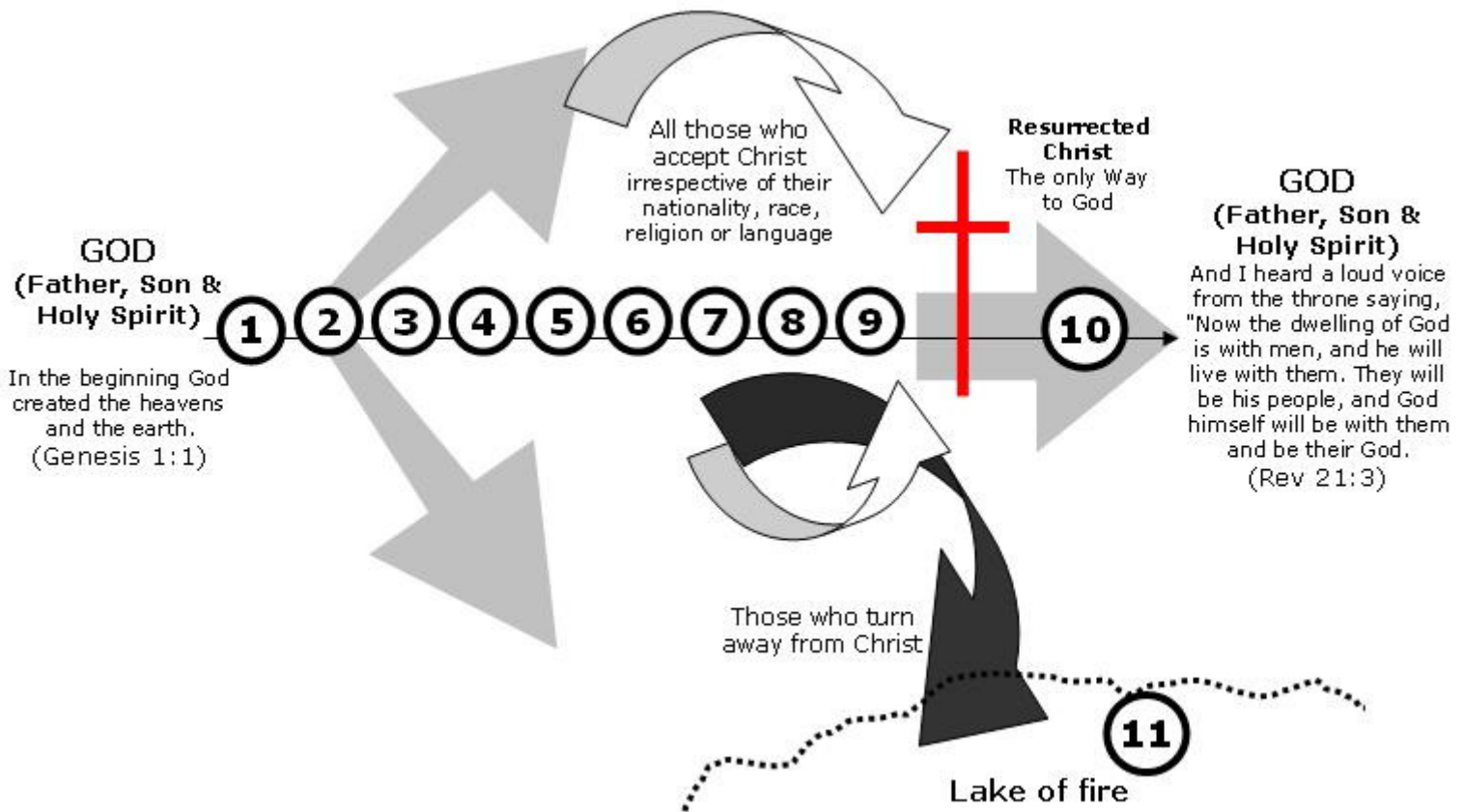
David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of

Joseph, the husband of **Mary**, of whom was born

Jesus, who is called Christ. Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman

The insert in the previous page **shows the Genealogy** of individuals from **Adam to the seed of the woman**, God chose to prepare the way for His personal entry into this world. He also ordained prophets to prophesy from time to time to prepare His chosen people to accept what was happening as the workings of the Sovereign God who made the promise. So that they will believe in Him when He arrives through the miraculous Virgin birth. The Prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 7:14, "*The Lord Himself will choose the sign – a child shall be born to a virgin! And she shall call him Immanuel meaning, 'God is with us'*" (Living Bible).



1. Noah and the great Flood
2. God confused their language and scattered them around the world
3. God called Abram
4. God re-confirmed Isaac and his descendants as the covenant recipients
5. Isaac passed on God's covenant blessings to Jacob
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7. Joseph, Virgin Mary's betrothed husband was from the line of David and Judah according to the genealogy of Jesus
8. Virgin Mary gave birth to a son (seed of a woman)
9. God confirmed Jesus as His beloved Son and the Lamb of God
10. God's plan is to bring everyone in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ
11. Those who reject Jesus will have no eternal life

Highlights of God's Blue Print for Man's salvation

1. Noah and the great Flood

After the creation of the world and the first man Adam and his mate Eve, this was the first time God in His anger had to destroy the human race (except Noah and his family) through the great flood. (Genesis 6:1-9), v.5 *"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. v.7...and I am grieved that I have made them ...v.8, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."*

2. God confused their language and scattered them around the world.

After the great flood, Noah and his family multiplied and filled the earth. His descendants too became proud, evil and powerful. (Genesis 11:1-9), v.1 *"Now the whole earth had one language and a common speech. ...v.6, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ...v.8, So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city."* **This shows that God is concerned about His creations and He knows what is happening here on earth and our hearts' intentions.**

3. God called Abram

Abram was a descendant of Noah and his son Shem. He chose him to set the stage for fulfilling His promise to crush Satan's head and rescue mankind from him and save them from sin and death. Abram was not a perfect man, but God knew that he had a God fearing heart and would be faithful to Him. God appeared to him from time to time and gave specific instructions to guide him. (Genesis 12:1-5), "The Lord said to Abram, *"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. So Abram left, as the Lord had told him..."* This does not mean that God does not love all other people except Abram.

God made a covenant with Abram: (Genesis 15:1-21), v.18, *"On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abraham and said, 'To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates ...'"*

(Gen. 16:1-6), But Abram and Sarai were barren. Sarai was beyond childbearing age. v.1, *"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; so she said to Abram, 'the Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.' Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ...v.4, He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ...Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her."*

God blessed Hagar and Ishmael: (Gen. 16:7-16), *"The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert;" ... v.9-12, "Then the angel of the Lord told her, 'Go back to your mistress and submit to her.' The angel added, 'I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count.' The angel of the Lord also said to her: 'You are now with a child, and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael (a God-given name), for the Lord has heard of your misery. ... his hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility*

toward all his brothers. ... v.16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.”

God reconfirmed His original covenant with Abram: (Genesis 17:1-19), “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; Walk before Me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between Me and you; ...v.4-6, You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will **be Abraham**, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful ... kings will come from you. v.8, **The whole land of Canaan, where you are an alien**, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. ... v.15, God also said to Abraham “As for your wife Sarai, **Sarah** shall be her name. And I will bless her, and **indeed I will give you a son by her**. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her. ... v.17, Abraham fell face down and laughed and said to himself, ‘Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah bear a child at ninety?’ And Abraham said to God, ‘**If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!**’ Then God said, “Yes, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and **you will call him Isaac** (God given name). I will establish My covenant with him as an **everlasting covenant** for his descendants after him.”

God also blessed Ishmael: (Genesis 17:20), “And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation”. ...vv.21-22, “**But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear** to you by this time next year.’ When He had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him. ...”. Genesis 18:1-15, “... v.10, “Then the Lord said, ‘I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son. ... vv.13-14, ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ **Is anything too hard for the Lord?**” I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son. Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, ‘I did not laugh.’ But He said, ‘Yes, you did laugh.’ ...”

Contention in Abraham’s home:

(Gen. 21:1-14), v.2, “Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. **Abraham gave the name Isaac** (a God-given name) **to the son Sarah bore him**. ... v.9-11, Sarah saw that the son of whom Hagar the Egyptian had born to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, ‘get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac. The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.”

God intervened to settle the matter:

(Gen. 21:12-13), “But God said to him, ‘Do not be distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is **through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned**. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”

Abraham Obeyed God’s Instructions to hold on to Isaac:

(Gen. 21:14), “Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba.”

God tested Abraham’s faith and obedience:

(Gen. 22:1-14), "Some time later, God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. **"Take your son, your only son, Isaac,** whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.v.10 Then he (Abraham) reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, 'Abraham!, Abraham!' "Here I am." he replied. 'Do not lay a hand on the boy, he said. "Do not do anything to him. **Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.** Abraham looked up and there in the thicket he saw a ram caught by his horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place **The Lord will Provide.** And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." **God was pleased with Abraham's faith and obedience.**

4. God re-confirmed Isaac and his descendants as the covenant recipients

(Gen. 22:15-18), "The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, 'I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me.**"

(Genesis 25:1-6), v.5, "**Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac.** But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east." This shows that Abraham lived love and in harmony with all his children even though they lived far apart.

5. Jacob received Isaac's blessing

Genesis 27:1-40, "... vv.27-29, "So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac got the smell of his clothes he blessed him and said, v.29, 'May nations serve you and people bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. ...'"

(Genesis 28:13-22), and **God confirmed His covenant blessing with Jacob,** "vv.12-15, He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and He said, "'I am the Lord, the **God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.** I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All people on earth will be blessed through you and your offsprings. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and **will bring you back to this land.** I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. ..."

(Genesis 32:22-31), and **God changed Jacob's name to Israel and blessed him.** "...vv.26-28, Then the man said, 'Let me go, for it is daybreak.' But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me. The man asked him, 'what is your name?' "Jacob," he answered. '...v.28 Then the man said, 'Your name will no **longer be Jacob', but Israel,** because you have **struggled with God** and with men and have

overcome.' **Israel (Jacob) had 12 children. They and their descendants were called Israelites to this day.**

6. Jacob passed on the covenant blessing to Judah

(Genesis 49:1-28), v.1, "Then Jacob (**Israel**) called for his sons and said: 'Gather around so I can tell you what will happen to you in the days to come.'" He blessed them one by one and **Jacob gave Judah the covenant blessing.**" v.8, "**Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you.** v.10, **The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,** until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his. V.28, "All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, giving each the blessing appropriate to him."

David was the seventh son of Jesse from the tribe of Judah (1 Chronicles 2:3-15), v.3, "The sons of Judah:" v.13, "Jesse was the father of .. sixth Ozem and the seventh David." (Samuel 16:1-13), v.13, "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the **Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.**"

7. Joseph, Virgin Mary's betrothed husband **was from the line of David** according to the genealogy of Jesus. (Luke 2:1-5), vv.4-5, "So **Joseph** also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, **because he belonged to the house and line of David.** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child."

8. Virgin Mary gave birth to a son

According to the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: 'The virgin will be with a child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.' (meaning, "God is with us.")" 2000 years ago when Virgin Mary gave birth to a son, **the long awaited seed of a woman to crush Satan's head had finally arrived.**

(Matthew 1:18:25, ...vv.20-25, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is **conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit**; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. **All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel' (which means, God with us).** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus."

9. God confirmed Jesus as His beloved Son and the Lamb of God

Jesus was thirty years old when He began His preaching ministry. **Jesus was the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice prepared by God before the foundation of the world according to His eternal plan.** John 1:26-34, v.29, "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, '**Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**'" Matthew 3:11-17, "...vv.16-17, And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "**This is my beloved Son,** with whom I am well pleased."

The animal sacrifice God introduced temporarily during the Old Testament time was not perfect, because it needed to be repeated year after year. Hebrews 10:4, *"because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. v.8-10, 'First He said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them' (although the law required them to be made). Then He said, 'Here I am' I have come to do your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, **we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.**" v.14, "...because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."*

10. God's plan is to bring everyone in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-14, *"...For **He chose us in Him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will – to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And He made known to us **the mystery of His will** according to His good pleasure, which He proposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – **to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.**"*

*"In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. **And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of His glory."*

Jesus began His ministry when He was thirty years old. He was accredited by God. Acts 2:22, *"Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know."* Jesus openly claimed to be the Son of God, the messiah. Towards the end of three years of His ministry, He was betrayed into the hands of His enemies and they crucified Him to death. They buried Him in a borrowed tomb. Three days later He rose from the dead triumphantly defeating Satan, sin and death and appeared to His disciples and His followers many times over a period of 40 days before He was taken up into Heaven, Acts 1:1-11. *"... He will appear a second time, not to bear sin but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."* Hebrews 9:28.

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sins; He is the only person who came to die for the sins of the whole humanity. 1 John 2:2, *"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only ours **but also the sins of the whole world.**"* This includes the whole human race; men, women and children of all nationalities, languages, color, creed, and people of all religions. They all belong to Him because He is our loving Creator God of the whole human race.

Jesus is the Saviour of the whole humanity. Christians are part of that humanity; He is not our exclusive Savior. If you receive Him, you will also belong to Him.

God is waiting for all people everywhere to come to Him through Jesus Christ, because He does not want anyone to perish. God does not have an alternate plan for any one or any group of people.

God did not exclude any one from His plan from coming to Him. But we could exclude ourselves by our choice. Acts 2:21, "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." John 3:37, "...whoever comes to me I will never drive away." Galatians 3:26-29 say, "You are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who are baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**" 1 John 2:23, "**No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.**" Because, John 1:1 in the Bible says, "Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is Himself God. v.14, And Christ became a human being and lived here on earth among us and was full of loving kindness and truth. And some of us have seen his glory – the glory of the only Son of the heavenly Father!" Again Jesus said in John 10:30, "I and the Father are One." John 14:6, "He who has seen Me, has seen the Father."

11. How can we be sure that God's plan is to gather all nationalities and races into His kingdom only through Jesus Christ.

A. Before He ascended into Heaven, **Jesus commanded** His disciples saying, in Matthew 28:18-20, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

B. **After His ascension into Heaven, on the Day of Pentecost, God poured out His Holy Spirit upon all ethnic groups**, the Jews, the Samaritans, the Gentiles, and the Free with the same **signs and wonders**. He did this in **Four separate occasions** as His seal of acceptance of each group into His everlasting Kingdom, merely on the basis of their faith in Jesus. Before each of them lived segregated and in hostility with one another. On that day, God formed His first Church on earth with various ethnic groups.

□ **First Wave: The Jews received the gift of the Holy Spirit** (Acts 2:1-41).

v.1-4, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.** ...v.5, Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. vv.11-13, **...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean? ...'**

Apostle Peter preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. vv.36-41, "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God had made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, **'Brothers, what shall we do?'** Peter replied, **'Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.'** With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, **'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.'** **Those who accepted his message were**

baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."
"...vv.42-43, They devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles."

□ **Second Wave: The Samaritans received the gift of the Holy Spirit**

Samaritans, a mixed race of Jews and Gentiles who lived in hostility with one another (Acts 8:4-25), "...v.5, Philip went down to a **city in Samaria** and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. ...v.12, But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ...v.14, When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. **Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.**" V.18, When Simon saw this—that the Holy Spirit was given when the apostles placed their hands upon the people's head—he offered money to buy this power. ...")

□ **Third Wave: The Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Spirit**

Gentiles are considered unclean people according to the Jews (Acts 10:1-33).

God brought Apostle Peter, (a Jewish believer in Christ) and Cornelius, (a Gentile), together through visions and dreams " ...v.28, He said to them: 'You are aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But **God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.** So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?' Cornelius explained his vision to Peter. ...v.33, Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.'

Acts 10:44-48 (LB), "Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those listening! The Jews who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the **Holy Spirit would be given to the Gentiles too! But there could be no doubt about it, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.** Peter asked, '**Can anyone object to my baptizing them, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?**' So he did, baptizing them in the name of Jesus, the Messiah. ..."

□ **Fourth Wave: Those who unheard of the Holy Spirit received the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 19:1-6, "While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' So Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?' They answered, 'John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. ...v.5, On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. **When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.**"

Thus God proved that He is gathering people from all nationalities, races and tongues into His eternal Kingdom by pouring His Holy Spirit upon them all when they believe in Jesus.

In summary

In the beginning God **scattered** the human race around the world to prevent them from becoming united, powerful and bent on doing evil. After Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world with His sinless blood by dying on the cross. He rose from the dead defeating Satan, sin and death and forgave us all our sins past, present and future.

Now He is **gathering** the whole human race back to Himself through His Son, Jesus. Colossians 1:12, *"giving thanks to the father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

God has proved this to the world by **pouring out His Holy Spirit on four different occasions, on various ethnic groups, baptizing them into the body of Christ with the same Signs and Wonders, that all people groups are welcome into the Great family of God merely on the basis of their faith in Christ Jesus as their Savior and Lord.** Ephesians 2:8, *"For it by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."*

All of us are descendants of one of the above ethnic groups. Thus God has opened the door to His Kingdom for anyone who wants to come to Him in repentance. God has already done His part.

Now it is our part, whether we like to enter through that '**Door**' or not. Jesus said in John 10:9, *"**I am the door** if **anyone** enters through Me, he shall be saved, ..."*

I am an Indian by birth, Singaporean by Nationality, and was a Hindu by religion, I speak both my native tongue and English. One day on hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ I opened my heart to receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Just as He promised He came into my life in the form of the Holy Spirit, forgave my sins, and gave me eternal life. My life began to change as I trusted and obeyed Him. I had dislike for other religions and races. But now Jesus helps me to love them and accept them as they are.

God loves you and you can also become His child by receiving Jesus as your Savior and Lord. He will forgive all your sins, will give you peace and purpose for your life and eternal life in Heaven. Romans 5:16, *"Adam's one sin brought the penalty of death to many, while Christ freely takes away many sins and gives glorious life instead."* (LB)

Church is the body of Christ on earth which belong to God. Christians are all members of that body. Christians were all like you before, belonging to other believes and Nationalities and races and languages. In Jesus Christ we are all one big family of God.

I hope you now clearly understand **God's blue print for man's salvation.**

I encourage you to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord today. No matter who you are, come to Jesus as individuals and families, by ethnic groups and of languages. Come and join the Great family of God. Time is running short. Don't put it off for another day.

You may be saying, I want to be included in God's Family. I want to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. How do I receive Him?

If that is your desire, Here is how you can receive Christ.