

The **LAMB**

Big News for Little People

John R. Cross

THE LAMB

BIG NEWS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE

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Acknowledgements

The word *expert* is used very freely in our day and age. I don't think any of those who consulted with me on this project would apply that label to themselves. Whether being a parent or a professional educator, young children have a way of making even the most 'expert' individual feel inadequate. However, from my perspective, those who lent me their advice certainly had much to say that was worthwhile. The fact that I did not implement every suggestion is my responsibility alone.

Of all those who were so helpful, Heather Holdsworth deserves special mention. Heather is not only a multi-talented individual, she is unusually gifted in her ability to communicate to young folk. She freely gave of her time, working long hours as a wordsmith, beating the original manuscript on the creative anvil of our collective minds, labouring with me to put biblical concepts into words that children could grasp. Heather, to you, my many thanks.

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Finally, I wish to thank the GOODSEED staff who made such a project possible.



**Let the little children
come to me, and do
not hinder them . . .**

spoken by Jesus

How to get the best from this book

FITTING IT TOGETHER

The Bible's most important message is understandable at a very young age. In some ways, it's like a puzzle. If the pieces are fitted together properly, piece by piece, it makes sense. The key is understanding each piece.

BUILDING ON BASICS

To learn any new concept, the most effective way is to build from the foundation up—to move from the known to the unknown. In mathematics, you don't start children in school by teaching them: $w(z) = w_0 \left[1 + \left(\frac{\lambda z}{\pi w_0} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2}$. Rather, you begin with: 1 apple + 1 apple = 2 apples, and move from the simple to the complex. If you skip fundamentals, even simple arithmetic will be confusing.

It's the same with the Bible. Careful attention needs to be given to laying solid foundations for every new concept taught. Don't rush. Strive for clarity of understanding and everything else will fall in place.

THE MESSAGE

This AudioBook presents the Bible's core message without watering it down or avoiding issues. Even subjects such as sin and death are taught in an honest, head-on manner. At the same time, the child is not left hanging. Even the lesson dealing with death ends with hope.

The Bible is quite direct about what it has to say, so every effort has been given to avoid vagueness. Where the Bible demands a choice, that choice is clearly stated. In keeping with this, political correctness at the expense of the message has been avoided. Traditional use of the word 'man,' for collective humanity has been used as a simple step to clarity.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

To keep the narrative simple, the central teachings found in the Old Testament part of the Bible are clustered around two people, Adam and Eve. It was felt that to introduce many individuals would unnecessarily complicate the message for little children.

PLANNING YOUR TIME

This AudioBook is designed for ten sittings. I suggest that you listen with your child to a different chapter each night, three times a week. Any less could reduce the importance of the material in the child's mind and break up the continuity of the message.

No advance preparation is required—a review is built in at the beginning of each lesson and questions are included at the end. The review is part of the lesson and is recorded on tape. The questions are found in this booklet under the chapter headings. Listening time for each chapter runs four to six minutes. It will take an additional five to ten minutes to quiz your child. **Total time per chapter for listening and quizzing is ten to fifteen minutes.**

The ten lessons end with an additional two sections (page 48 and 50) that are to be used with the child per the instructions on those pages.

HANDLING QUESTIONS

Children like quizzes. Though some will be happy to simply answer the questions at the end of each chapter, others may ask more. If you are unsure of an answer, don't guess. Be honest. Tell the child that you do not know but that you will find out.

In such a situation we would suggest you obtain a copy of the book, *THE STRANGER ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS*. This book covers the Bible in greater detail and is written for those who have little or no previous Bible knowledge. (See page 53 on how to obtain a copy.) The progression used in *THE LAMB* links it very naturally to this more detailed book and the endnote section of *THE LAMB* is keyed to *THE STRANGER*. *THE STRANGER* will answer most questions that a child would pose.

TWO CASSETTES

Cassette ONE should be used first, as it is broken into Ten Chapters and includes a review section at the beginning of each lesson. Once the child has the entire story clear in his or her mind, and has been able to answer the questions correctly on a consistent basis, then they can enjoy listening to Cassette TWO—the whole story told without reviews or breaks.

God Made It All

— chapter one —

THE BIBLE

The Bible is a very important letter¹ from God and is written directly to each one of us. That's right. The Bible says that God sent a very special message just to you.

Although the letter was written many years ago, what it has to say is just as important today as when it was first written.

Every boy and girl needs to know what the Bible says to them.

ONE ETERNAL GOD

The first pages in the Bible tell us that God was never born and he will never die.² His life had no beginning and it will never end. God has always been and will always be.

The Bible says that in the beginning, there was only God. There were no plants, animals or people. There was no earth, moon or sun. There were no other gods. Nothing!

Only God was alive in the beginning.

GOD CREATED EVERYTHING

The Bible says that God made all the things we can see and all the things we cannot see.

One of the first things God did was to make angels. We cannot see angels, just like we cannot see God. Both angels and God are what we call *spirits*. They're like people,³ but they don't have bodies of muscle and bone.

The angels were made to be God's special messengers. They were to do what God asked.

All the angels watched and sang as God made the world.

GOD SPOKE

The Bible tells us that when God made the world he did it in a very special way. When we make things we need pencils, paper and scissors. Sometimes we make things using wood, nails and glue. At other times we use a needle and thread.

But the Bible says that when God made the world, he didn't use any tools at all. God just spoke—and there it was!

GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL

God said, "Let there be light!" And do you know what? Just like that, light appeared in the darkness.

The Bible says that God made everything we see simply by speaking words out of his mouth. God has so much power—he can do anything!

GOD IS EVERYWHERE AT ONE TIME

The Bible tells us that God made the sun, moon and stars. He placed them in the sky exactly where he wanted them. God could do that because he is everywhere.

We should be happy to know that God is everywhere. This means he can be with you, and at the same time he can be with your family and friends no matter how far away they go or where they live.

That is just how big and great God is.

GOD MADE THE WORLD

The Bible says that God made the world in six days. Only God could do that.

He made the food we eat, the air we breathe and the water we drink. He made the rivers, oceans and mountains. God made all the trees and flowers.

GOD MADE THE FISH

God made the fish that swim in the sea. He made minnows and whales, crabs and seahorses.

GOD MADE THE BIRDS

God made the birds that fly in the sky. Whether big or small, he made them all.

GOD MADE THE ANIMALS

God made the animals that slither and crawl, walk and hop. Tiny or tall, fast or slow, the Bible tells us that God created them all.

GOD CREATED MAN AND WOMAN

Last of all, God made people, both man and woman. Their names were Adam and Eve. God loved them and cared for them. He made a perfect garden full of all sorts of trees, flowers and tame animals—just for them—so that they could enjoy all that he had made.

God would come and visit Adam and Eve. They would walk together in the garden. They were very close friends. Can you imagine that? Walking and talking with the Creator.

What do you think they talked about?

Questions and Answers

1. The Bible is a very important letter sent to us. Who is it from? *[God]*
2. The Bible says God was never born. Will he ever die? *[No]*
3. Was there anyone else living with God in the beginning? *[No]*
4. Who created the angels? *[God]*
5. What does the word *create* mean? *[To make something]*
6. You cannot see God. You cannot see angels. They do not have bodies of muscle and bone. What are they called? *[Spirits]*
7. What special job were the angels given? *[God's messengers]*
8. We need a hammer and nails to make something, but when God made the world, how did he do it? *[He just spoke.]*
9. God made everything simply by speaking. What does this tell us about God? *[He is very, very powerful.]*
10. God made the world in how many days? *[Six]*
11. Who made Adam and Eve? *[God]*
12. If God can be with you, your family, and your friends all at the same time, what does that mean? *[God is everywhere at the same time.]*

What God is Like

— chapter two —

REVIEW

When we look at the wonderful world God made, we can see that God is very powerful and knows how to do everything. Only such a God could make the amazing world we live in.

The Bible says that God is everywhere at the same time.

God knows and understands all things—God even knows the thoughts we think.

GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

Because God made everything, he owns everything.

When you draw a picture, it belongs to you. Whether you make something out of wood, paper or cloth—you own it because you made it. It's the same way with God. Because God made everything, it all belongs to him. This is why God is also called *Lord*. It means that he is the *King* or *Owner* of all that he has made.

God created it, so he owns it.

GOD IS LOVING

The Bible tells us that God is good and very kind.

Just look at all the beautiful things that the Lord created. God could have made all flowers to be black and white, but instead he made them in pretty colors. God could have made all food taste horrible, but instead he made it good to eat and it smells wonderful. He made all sorts of fruits and flowers, bugs and butterflies, colors and sounds—just so that we could enjoy them.

God did this because he cares for us. God loves us.

GOD IS ORDERLY

The Bible also tells us that the Lord likes things done in a right way.

Wouldn't it be confusing if one day the sun set in the middle of the morning and didn't rise again for three days? Think how long you'd have to stay in bed! That's why God made rules. He made a rule for the sun—it was to rise in the morning and go down in the evening. It was to do that every day without changing.

God made rules or laws so that everything would fit together and the world would work in the right way.

GOD MADE RULES

God made rules for people too, so that we could live happy lives.

Sometimes we don't like rules, but just stop and think for a moment what the world would be like without them. If there were no traffic lights, no stop signs and no speed limits, you wouldn't know when it was safe to cross the street. Everyone would be confused and upset. Without rules or laws, life would be difficult and dangerous.

God made rules because he knows what is best for us. He knows that when things are done in a right way, we are happy.

God cares for us.

GOD IS PERFECT

Everything God made was perfect. When we say something is perfect, we mean that there is nothing wrong with it. It is good in every way. God created a perfect world because that's the way he is. He is perfect.⁴

God never does anything wrong.

HEAVEN

God's home is perfect. It's called Heaven.

The Bible tells us that Heaven is very beautiful. It's like a huge park with trees and a river. Right in the middle of this park is a wonderful, clean, safe city where nothing is broken or ever wears out. This city is so amazing even the streets are paved with gold.

In Heaven, there is no sickness, sadness or death. There are no weeds, thorns or thistles. No bad or unkind people live there. Everyone is always very, very happy. Heaven is full of beautiful music. The animals are tame and friendly. You never have to sleep in Heaven. There's no darkness or night—it is always day.

Heaven is a perfect place, where perfect people and perfect angels live with a perfect God. It is so wonderful, it's hard to describe.

Imagine being able to take a peek into Heaven.

What do you think it would be like to live there?

Questions and Answers

1. When you look around the world and see all that was made, you can see that God is very powerful. How much does God know? *[Everything]*
2. To whom does the world belong? *[God]*
3. Why does the world belong to God? *[He made it.]*
4. God could have made the world very ugly, but he made it beautiful. Why did God make such a beautiful world? *[He loves us. He wanted us to enjoy it.]*
5. God made rules so that the world would work in the right way. What sort of place would the world be without any rules? *[Unhappy, confused, upset, unsafe]*
6. What do we call something that has nothing wrong with it and is good in every way? *[Perfect]*
7. Why was God only able to create a perfect world? *[He is perfect.]*
8. God lives in a perfect home. What is it called? *[Heaven]*
9. Name three things the Bible tells us about Heaven? *[See page 12.]*

The Bad Angels

— chapter three —

REVIEW

The Bible says that God is very powerful. He knows everything. Just by speaking, he created the whole world and everything in it. God made it perfect.

God gave rules so that everything would know how to work in the right way. The sun knew when to get up and when to go to bed. Even the angels and the people were given rules so that they would know how to live and what to do. God gave rules so that everyone could be happy.

God likes everything to be pure, clean and safe because he is perfect. Heaven is a perfect place because God lives there. That is how God wants everything to be.

LUCIFER REBELS

After God had finished making his perfect earth, something terrible happened.

God's most important angel became unhappy. This angel's name was Lucifer. God had created him to do a very special job, but Lucifer began to think that he deserved something better.

Lucifer decided that he didn't want to be an angel anymore. He wouldn't follow God's rules. He'd make his own rules. He'd be in charge. He'd be the boss. Lucifer decided that he deserved to be God!

He talked many other angels into fighting against the Lord. Lucifer and his disobedient angels hated God and wanted to ruin everything.

They made Heaven a very unhappy place.

SIN

The Bible uses a special word to describe Lucifer's choice to disobey God and be a bad angel. It is called *sin*.

To sin means to decide not to live God's perfect way.

Bad thoughts and doing wrong things are ways of telling the Lord that you think you know better than him—that you're smarter than God. That is sin.

Sin always spoils things.

GOD IS FAIR

When a person does something wrong, he shouldn't get away with it. He should expect to be punished. That is the way life should be—it's only fair.

It's not fair when someone is cruel and is never punished. It's not right that people get away with being mean or nasty. God doesn't like that. He punishes all wrong, with just the right amount of punishment. It's never too little and never too much.

He is always fair.

BAD ANGELS

Because God is perfect, he could not have these bad angels living with him in his perfect home. They were spoiling Heaven. So God threw them out and told them never to come back.⁵ God changed Lucifer's name to *Satan*, which means *enemy*.

Satan was now an enemy of God.

A TERRIBLE HOME

God made a new home for these bad angels. This home was created just for them and it fitted them perfectly. Because these angels were being terrible and bad, this new home was terrible and bad. Because these angels were being hurtful and unhappy, this new home was a place of hurt and unhappiness. This new home was an awful place called the *Lake of Fire*.

Those who live in this home live there forever and ever. It is a place of punishment for Satan and his very bad angels.⁶

GOOD ANGELS

Many angels followed Satan in disobeying God, but a lot more angels kept on obeying God and being his special messengers. These good angels live and serve God in Heaven.

What sort of jobs do you think God asks these good angels to do?

Questions and Answers

1. What was the name of God's most important angel? [*Lucifer*]
2. Did God give Lucifer a special job? [*Yes*]
3. Was Lucifer happy with the job God gave him? [*No*]
4. What did Lucifer want? [*He wanted to be God.*]
5. The Bible uses a special word to describe Lucifer's choice to disobey God. What is that word? [*Sin*]
6. Why did Lucifer want to be God? [*He thought he was smarter than God, that he knew better than God.*]
7. What are bad thoughts and doing wrong things called? [*Sin*]
8. When someone does something bad and gets away with it, is it right? [*No*]
9. Why isn't it right for someone to get away with doing bad things? [*It's not fair. All wrong should be punished.*]
10. Is God fair all the time or just some of the time? [*All the time*]
11. Because God is perfect, he could not have the bad angels living in his perfect home. What did he do with them? [*He threw them out of Heaven.*]
12. God changed Lucifer's name to Satan. What does the name *Satan* mean? [*Enemy*]
13. What is the name of the home that God made for Satan and the bad angels? [*The Lake of Fire*]
14. Is Satan's new home a happy place to live? [*No*]
15. Many angels still obeyed God. Where do these good angels live? [*Heaven*]

A Wrong Choice

— chapter four —

REVIEW

When God first made the world, it was just like Heaven. There was no crying, hurting or being afraid. There were no bad or unkind people. No one stole, lied or killed. There was no sin of any kind. Above all, nothing ever died.

The world God made was a wonderful place to live. It was the way God wanted things to be. It was perfect.

A PERFECT WORLD

The people God created were also perfect. Only perfect people can live with a perfect God.

The first man was named Adam, and his wife was called Eve. The Lord loved them and made a beautiful garden for them to enjoy. It was full of animals and birds, rivers and streams, flowers and trees. Many of the trees were loaded with tasty fruit.

God allowed Adam and Eve to go anywhere they wanted, and eat anything they liked, except for one thing.

TRUST ME

God told them not to eat the fruit from one special tree. If Adam and Eve disobeyed that one rule, and ate fruit from that one tree, then they would die.

Not being allowed to eat from that special tree wasn't hard for Adam and Eve. There were lots and lots of fruit trees in the garden. But by obeying God, Adam and Eve showed the Lord that they believed him. They were trusting that he knew what was best. That's all God wanted them to do—just believe what he said. It was like God was saying, *Trust Me*.

So that's the way it was in the beginning—perfect people trusting a perfect God and enjoying a perfect world.⁷

GOD OR SATAN

But then Satan, that very bad and cruel angel, visited Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden. He told Adam and Eve that God was hiding something good from them. Satan said that if they ate the fruit from the special tree, then they would be just like God.

What should Adam and Eve do? Was Satan telling the truth or was he lying to them? If they believed Satan, they'd eat the fruit. But if they believed God, they wouldn't. Who should they believe—God or Satan? Who should they trust?

DISOBEDIENCE

Do you know what? Adam and Eve began to think that being perfect people in God's perfect garden wasn't such a great thing after all. They wanted more. They wanted to be like God. So they did the one thing that God told them not to do—they ate the fruit.

Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie. They felt that Satan knew better than God what was good for them. They broke God's one simple rule. They took sides with Satan against God.

Isn't that sad? When people don't do what God asks them to do, it always brings sadness.

NO LONGER PERFECT

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's one rule, the whole world changed. It was no longer safe and perfect. Weeds and thorns grew out of the ground. The animals started to kill each other. The world became a scary place, full of selfishness, sickness and sadness—a place of death.

Sin always spoils things—it ruined God's perfect world. It destroyed the special friendship God had with Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve thought that they were choosing what was best, but their choice to disobey God ruined everything.

DEATH

God told Adam and Eve that because they had sinned, their bodies would someday stop working. They would die.

Have you ever wondered why people die? The Bible says that death came into the world because of Adam and Eve's sin.

Death is a horrible thing. When someone dies, it means that the real them no longer lives on earth. They have gone, never to return. That's why when you go to a funeral, people are sad. Their friend has gone. They feel all alone. They cry and really hurt inside. That is what the Bible means when it talks about death. It means you are separated from a friend.

A SECOND DEATH

When Adam and Eve joined Satan's side, they were separated from their friend. They were separated from God. The friendship was over. It was gone. They felt all alone. They must have cried and hurt inside. It was very, very sad. Adam and Eve were separated from their best friend.

But as if that wasn't bad enough, because they had joined Satan, when their bodies died, they would have to go and live in his terrible home. Adam and Eve would be separated from God forever! This was such sad news, it was like a second death. Adam and Eve must have felt terrible.

GOOD NEWS

But then God told Adam and Eve some really good news. The Bible says that God loved them so much that he made a way for them to be perfect again. If they came to God his way, God would allow them to live in Heaven.

So Adam and Eve had a choice. They could come God's way and live forever in God's perfect home in Heaven, or they could ignore God's way and live forever in Satan's terrible home. There were no other choices—only perfect people can live with a perfect God.

Which home do you think Adam and Eve wanted to live in?

Questions and Answers

1. Because God loved and cared for Adam and Eve, what special place did he make for them to live in? [*A garden*]
2. How many rules did God give Adam and Eve? [*One*]
3. What rule did God give Adam and Eve? [*He told them not to eat the fruit from one tree.*]
4. What did God say would happen to Adam and Eve if they disobeyed this one rule? [*They would die.*]
5. Who did Satan say Adam and Eve would be like if they ate the fruit from that one tree? [*They would be like God.*]
6. Was Satan telling Adam and Eve the truth or a lie? [*A lie*]
7. Did Adam and Eve obey God's one rule? [*No*]
8. The Bible uses a word to describe Adam and Eve's disobedience. What is that word? [*Sin*]
9. What came into the world because of sin? [*Death*]
10. When the Bible talks about death, does it mean you've become a star in the sky or that you are separated from a friend forever? [*You are separated from a friend forever.*]
11. God didn't want Adam and Eve to live with Satan. God said he would make a way for them to be perfect again. Why? [*He loved them.*]

Who to Trust

— chapter five —

REVIEW

When God first made the world, it was a perfect place, just like Heaven. The people God made were also perfect because only perfect people can live with a perfect God. God loved Adam and Eve. He was their closest friend.

THE SECOND DEATH

But then Satan visited Adam and Eve in the garden. He told them a lie. He said they could be just like God. Adam and Eve believed Satan—they joined his side against God. They sinned.

The Bible says that sin brings death. Adam and Eve's bodies would grow old and die. After they died, they would go and live with Satan and his angels in their terrible home. This is so awful—it's like another death. The Bible calls it the *Second Death*.

Sin always brings lots of sadness.

GOD HAD A PLAN

God didn't want Adam and Eve to go and live with Satan. He loved Adam and Eve. But they couldn't live in Heaven—they weren't perfect anymore. They had chosen to be sinners by believing Satan. What could God do?

God wasn't stuck! He had a plan. He told Adam and Eve just a little of his plan—and what they heard was very good news.

God promised to send a special man to earth. This man would be able to save Adam and Eve from being punished for their sin—he could save them from the *Second Death*. He'd be called a *Savior*.

How the Savior would rescue Adam and Eve and make them perfect again, God didn't say. But he had promised. Would Adam and Eve believe God this time? Would they trust him?

JUST TRUST ME

Do you know what the word *trust* means? Let me tell you a story.

One day John was walking beside the river with his Grandpa. He got a little too close to the riverbank. All of a sudden, his feet slipped out from underneath him and—SPLASH!—into the water he went. He spluttered to the surface and struggled as the water swept him downstream. He was really scared. The water was freezing cold. Because his clothes were wet, they were heavy—he felt himself sinking.

But then John's Grandpa waded into the water. He was a strong man and his feet were firmly planted on the bottom of the river. With his long arms reaching out to John, his Grandpa called out, "Here! Grab my hand. I'll save you. Just trust me."

GRANDPA AND JOHN

What should John do?

If he believed his Grandpa, then he would grab his hand. If he didn't believe his Grandpa, then he would have to struggle on his own. It was Grandpa or himself.

Who should he trust?

A RIGHT CHOICE

John reached out and took his Grandpa's hand. He believed that his Grandpa would save him from drowning. John trusted him. He made the right choice.

This is the sort of choice God wanted Adam and Eve to make. He wanted them to trust him, believing that he would rescue them from Satan's terrible home. Yes, God had a rescue plan. Would Adam and Eve trust him?⁸

The Lord hadn't told them everything about his plan or everything about the Savior—but he had made a promise. If people trusted God, believing his promise, when they died he would make them perfect again.⁹ Perfect people can live with God. All they needed to do was to trust him. It was that simple.

This was such good news that people began to look forward to the day when the Savior would come.

Who do you think that Savior would be?

Questions and Answers

1. Because Adam and Eve joined Satan, when they died they would be separated from God forever in Satan's terrible home. What sort of death does the Bible call this?
[The Second Death]
2. God wanted them to live with him in his perfect home. Why wasn't God stuck? *[God had a plan.]*
3. Did God tell Adam and Eve all of his plan? *[No]*
4. God promised that he would send a special man to save them from the *Second Death*. What would this man be called?
[A Savior]
5. Should Adam and Eve believe what God promised? *[Yes]*
6. Did John trust Grandpa because he believed Grandpa could help him or because Grandpa was wearing waterproof boots?
[He believed Grandpa could help him.]
7. Did John trust Grandpa because he believed Grandpa cared for him or because Grandpa had nothing else to do?
[He believed Grandpa cared for him.]
8. When John was struggling in the water, did he have to promise to be a good boy before Grandpa would save him?
[No]
9. Did Adam and Eve have to promise that they would never do one bad thing again, before God told them he would save them? *[No]*
10. Did John's Grandpa mean it when he said, "Just trust me?"
[Yes]
11. Did God mean it when he told people, "Trust me, and I will make you perfect when you die?" *[Yes]*
12. Why do people need to be made perfect to live in Heaven?
[Only perfect people can live with a perfect God]

The Rescue Plan

— chapter six —

REVIEW

God created the world to be a perfect place, but when Adam and Eve decided that they didn't want to trust God anymore, the perfect world was spoiled. It became a place of sin.

The Bible says that sin is what causes death. Sin always brings a lot of sadness.

But then God told Adam and Eve some really good news. He had a rescue plan. One day, he would send a Savior to save people from all the bad things that happened because of sin. He would free people from being on Satan's side—people could be on God's side again. God said that the Savior would even save people from the *Second Death*.

If people believed God, trusting what he said was true, then he would make them perfect.

Only perfect people can live in a perfect Heaven.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

But there was still one big problem.

God couldn't make Adam and Eve perfect and let them go to Heaven without doing something about their sin. God cannot leave sin unpunished.

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. They had joined Satan's side. Adam and Eve had sinned. God couldn't pretend that this had never happened. He couldn't ignore it. That would not be right or fair. All wrong must be punished.

But how could God punish Adam and Eve's sin and not punish them?

That's a very important question. You see, just as Adam and Eve had sin that needed to be punished, so we all do. All boys and girls, all moms and dads—everyone who's born into this world does wrong things. We all sin. We're just like Adam and Eve.

Everyone needs to know how God can punish sin without punishing people.

A PERFECT LAMB

So God explained a little bit more of his plan.

Because people didn't understand just how bad sin was—God asked them to do something that would help them understand. This would show them how sin could be punished without punishing people.

God told them to find an animal—a lamb. The lamb had to be a male lamb, which is a boy lamb. It could have nothing wrong with it. It could not be sick or crippled—its wool could not be falling out. It had to be perfect.

They were to bring the lamb to an altar, a special place of death. The one bringing the lamb was to put his hand on its head. God said that if he did this, God would look at it as if all the man's sin was being placed on the lamb.

A SUBSTITUTE

But now something very sad had to happen.

Remember how death came into the world because of sin? Well, because the lamb now had the man's sin, it had to die. The man who brought the lamb had to kill it. This helped people to see that it was the man's sin which put the lamb to death.

God asked people to do this, so that they could understand his plan—how he would punish sin without punishing people. The lamb was punished instead of the man.

The man did what God said because he trusted God. He believed that the lamb was punished in his place. When the man died, God would make him perfect and he could live in Heaven.

Aren't you glad that God had a plan? It's just one way of showing us that he loves us.

Questions and Answers

1. Why didn't God want to punish Adam and Eve?
[He loved them.]
2. Could God pretend Adam and Eve had never sinned? *[No]*
3. God showed people how he would punish sin without punishing them. What sort of animal were they told to bring? *[A lamb]*
4. Did the lamb have to be a boy or girl lamb? *[A boy lamb]*
5. Could the lamb have a broken leg, be sick or have wool falling out? *[No]* What sort of lamb did it have to be? *[Perfect]*
6. To what special place of death were they to bring the lamb?
[An altar]
7. Where on the lamb was the man to place his hand?
[On the head]
8. What happened to the man's sin when he put his hand on the head of the lamb? *[The man's sin was moved on to the lamb.]*
9. What had to happen to the lamb because it carried the man's sin? *[It had to die.]*
10. The lamb didn't do anything wrong. Did it deserve to be punished? *[No]*
11. The Bible says that death is the punishment for sin. In whose place did the lamb die? *[The man's place]*
12. Why was the lamb punished if it hadn't done anything wrong? *[It carried the man's sin.]*
13. The man did what God told him to do—he brought a lamb. Did he do this because he thought God didn't like lambs or because he trusted what God had said?
[He trusted God.]
14. If people trust God, they go to Heaven when they die. How does God change them so they can live there?
[He makes them perfect.]

Right and Wrong

— chapter seven —

REVIEW

When God first created the world, it was a perfect place.

But then Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They joined Satan's side. The world changed and became a place of sin and death. The Bible says that death happened because of sin.

But God loved Adam and Eve—he loves all people. He didn't want people to be punished for their sin. So God promised that one day he would send a Savior. Anyone who wanted to be saved from the sadness that sin brings could be rescued. The Savior could even save them from the *Second Death*. All they needed to do was trust God. Then he would make them perfect so that they could live forever in Heaven.

This was very good news.

PERFECT

But God couldn't ignore people's sin and pretend it had never happened. All wrong still had to be punished. So God asked them to do something that would help them understand his plan—how he would punish sin without punishing people.

God asked people to bring a perfect male lamb to an altar. The one bringing the lamb put his hand on its head—showing that his sin was being placed on the lamb. It was as if all the sin was being moved from the man—onto the lamb. Because the lamb now carried all the man's sin—the man had no sin left. It was as if he was perfect. And do you know what? Perfect people can live with a perfect God in his perfect home.

IN MAN'S PLACE

But remember how all sin must be punished?

Well, because the lamb now had the man's sin, it had to die—that's because death is the punishment for sin. The lamb died in man's place. The lamb was punished instead of the man.

TOO SIMPLE

But some people didn't believe God's plan. They even told others that God's plan could not be right. The idea of trusting God to be made perfect—that was just too simple. They felt that they needed to do something more. So they came up with their own plan—they made their own rules.

They said that if they did more good things than bad things, then God would be happy. If they were kind, and did right—then they'd be good enough to live in Heaven.

But do you know what? These people didn't understand how good they would have to be to live with God in his perfect Heaven.

SOME RULES

So God explained some things.

He said that if they stole something, no matter how little—they weren't good enough for Heaven.

God told them that if they loved stuff like money or things more than him—then they weren't perfect.

He said that if they ever lost their temper—that was sin.

If they ever told a lie, even just a little lie—then they weren't perfect. It was a sin to tell lies.

God said that if they talked back to their mother or father, even just once—they were no longer perfect.

Only perfect people can live with a perfect God.

THEY NEEDED A LAMB

Everyone needed to understand that no matter how hard they tried, they could never be good enough to live with God. They were sinners. They couldn't save themselves from the punishment their sin deserved.

They needed a Savior—they needed a lamb.

Questions and Answers

1. When people sin, can God pretend that it never happened? *[No]*
2. God asked people to do something that would help them understand how sin would be punished without punishing people. What did he ask them to bring? *[A lamb]*
3. The man bringing the lamb put his hand on its head. What did this show? *[His sin was being placed on the lamb.]*
4. Because the lamb now carried the man's sin, what had to happen to it? *[It had to die.]*
5. The Bible says that death is the punishment for sin. In whose place did the lamb die? *[The man's place]*
6. Some people didn't believe God's plan. They made their own rules. What did they think they could do to make God happy? *[Do more good things than bad things.]*
7. How many things could people steal before they stopped being perfect? *[One]*
8. If people love money more than God, what does the Bible call it? *[Sin]*
9. Is it okay to tell a lie, as long as it is a little lie? *[No]*
10. Does telling just *one little lie* make a person a sinner? *[Yes]*
11. If people lose their temper, what does the Bible call it? *[Sin]*
12. What does the Bible say children are doing when they talk back to their mother or father? *[They are sinning.]*
13. Other people don't know what we are thinking inside our heads, but how much does God know? *[Everything]*
14. If we try to be very good, and not do or think bad things, will we be perfect enough to live in Heaven? *[No]*

The Promised Savior

— chapter eight —

REVIEW

The Bible says that only perfect people can live with a perfect God. But people aren't perfect. Whether boy or girl, mom or dad, we all do wrong. Since it is only right that all sin is punished, it means that we have a problem. Because we sin, we too must be punished. This is terrible news.

But remember how God had some good news? Remember his plan? The Bible says that God would provide a Savior who would one day come to earth.

This Savior would rescue anyone who wanted to be saved from the punishment for their sin.

A LOVING SAVIOR

For years, the people looked forward to the day when the Savior would arrive. While they waited, God told them to do something that would help them to see how sin could be punished without punishing them.

God asked them to bring a perfect lamb to an altar. The one bringing the lamb put his hand on its head—showing that his sin was being moved onto the lamb. The lamb then had to die—as death is the punishment for sin.

The lamb died in the man's place. This showed people how God could punish sin without punishing them.

So that's the way it was. For many long years, people looked forward to the coming Savior. They wondered who he might be. What was his name? How would he come? How would he save them?

GOD HIMSELF

Finally, the day arrived. The Savior came to earth! And do you know what? It turned out that the Savior was God Himself. That's right, God came to earth. Isn't that amazing?

To be the Savior, God became a man. This doesn't mean that he stopped being God, but the Lord knew that the only way to save us, was to become like us. So he came as a little baby, just like any other boy or girl arrives on earth.

He was born into a very ordinary family. His mother was called Mary and her husband's name was Joseph. Though the family was ordinary, the baby was not. The baby was God Himself.

JESUS

The Lord was not born as a baby in a hospital. He was born in a stable—a place where sheep and little lambs are sheltered.

His first visitors were shepherds—men who care for lambs and make sure that they come to no harm.

When God came to earth, he was called *Jesus*. The name Jesus means *God is the one who saves*.

Jesus was the Savior that God had promised to Adam and Eve long ago. He came to save us from the punishment our sin deserves.

AMAZING GRACE

Jesus did many wonderful things while he was on earth—amazing things that don't normally happen.

He made blind men see, so that they wouldn't stumble and fall. He healed those who could not walk, so that they could run and play. Jesus brought a little girl back to life, so that all her friends would be happy again. He fed a huge crowd with a small boy's lunch, so that no one would be hungry.

Jesus did all these things so that people would know that he was God. He loved people.

DON'T BE AFRAID

One night when some of Jesus' friends were traveling by boat across a big lake, they were caught in an awful storm. The wind was fierce and huge waves crashed against the side of the boat.

All night long the men tried to row the boat to shore, but the wind was too strong. It was almost morning when the men saw someone walking on top of the water. They thought it was a ghost! They were very scared.

Then a voice called out to them, "It's me, don't be afraid." It was Jesus!

Peter, one of the men in the boat, shouted to Jesus, "If it's you, tell me to come to you on top of the water."

Jesus said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk to Jesus.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

But when Peter saw the wind and waves, he became afraid and began to sink. What should he do? He could struggle on his own or he could call out to Jesus to save him. Who should he trust?

Peter saw that he couldn't save himself—Jesus was the only one who could rescue him. He cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus reached out his hand, and caught Peter. Peter made the right choice.

Just as Peter could not save himself from drowning, so we can't save ourselves from being punished for our sin. We need a savior.

Jesus is our Savior. We need to trust him.

Questions and Answers

1. Who left Heaven to become the Savior? [*God*]
2. To be the Savior, God became a man. Did this mean he stopped being God? [*No*]
3. The Lord knew that the only way to save us was to become like us. How did he come to earth? [*He came as a baby.*]
4. The Lord was born as a baby in a stable—a place where sheep and little lambs are sheltered. Who were his first visitors? [*Shepherds*]
5. What name was God given when he came to earth? [Jesus]
6. The name Jesus means, *God is the one who saves*. What else was Jesus called? [*A Savior*]
7. Why did Jesus make blind men see, heal those who could not walk and bring dead people back to life? [*So people would know that he was God.*]
8. Who did Peter and his friends see walking on the water? [*Jesus*]
9. When Peter began to look around at the wind and waves, what happened? [*He began to sink.*]
10. Peter could struggle on his own or he could call out to Jesus to save him. What did he do? [*He called out to Jesus to save him.*]

Our Perfect Lamb

— chapter nine —

REVIEW

Back at the beginning of time when Adam and Eve first sinned, God promised that one day he would send a special man, called *a Savior*. The Savior would save people from the *Second Death* and the sadness that sin brings.

When the time came for the Savior to arrive, God Himself left Heaven to come to earth. The Creator God was the Savior. His name was Jesus, which means, *God is the one who saves*.

THE PERFECT JESUS

Jesus lived on the earth—visiting friends, working, eating food, sleeping, travelling to many places—just like any other man. But Jesus was also very different from you and me. Jesus never did anything wrong.

All the time he lived on earth, even as a little boy, he never did one bad thing, not even the smallest thing. Jesus was the only man who ever lived a perfect life—who never sinned.

Because Jesus lived a perfect life, he had no sin to be punished. He did not need to die. People only die because of sin and Jesus never sinned.

GOD'S PLAN

Although Jesus didn't have to die, he told people that one day men would take him, beat him and nail him to a wooden cross to kill him. Jesus would die. After being dead for three days, he would come back to life.

Those who heard him say this didn't believe it. They told him not to talk that way.

But what Jesus was saying was true. He was telling his friends the rest of God's plan—he was telling them good news.

THE LAMB OF GOD

It was all about God's promise—it was all about the lamb.

Do you remember the lamb? How people had to bring one?

*Now, Jesus was being called **the Lamb of God**.*

Remember how the lamb had to be a male lamb?

Well, Jesus was a man.

Do you remember how the lamb had to be perfect?

Well Jesus was perfect. He never sinned.

OUR LAMB

Remember how the lamb was to be brought to an altar, a special place of death?

Well, after Jesus had been on earth for a while, he allowed men to bring him to a cross, a special place of death.

And do you remember how the one bringing the lamb put his hand on its head—showing that his sin was being placed on the lamb?

The Bible says that when Jesus was nailed to the cross, all our sin was taken off us and placed on him. He took everybody's sin—from the best people to the very worst men and women—the sin of every boy, girl, mom and dad was moved on to Jesus.

All the nasty things that had ever been said, he heard. All the terrible things that had ever been done, he knew. All the anger that had ever been shown, he saw. All the hurt that had ever been caused, he felt. All of sin's horrible dirtiness was placed on the perfect Jesus. He felt it all, he knew it all, he took it all. It must have been terrible.

Yes, it all had to do with a lamb.

Jesus was the Lamb—our Lamb.

THE FINAL LAMB

But think back to the rest of the story. Do you remember what happened to the lamb? Because sin must be punished, and death is the punishment for sin—the lamb had to die.

It was the same way with Jesus.

Because all our sin had been moved onto him, he had to be punished—Jesus had to die.

The Bible says that Jesus died in our place. He took all the punishment our sin deserved, so that we would never need to suffer the *Second Death*.

Jesus was the final lamb—no more lambs needed to be brought to an altar. Jesus had done it all.

God had kept his promise.

Questions and Answers

1. Jesus lived on the earth just like any other man. But Jesus was also very different. What did Jesus never do? *[He never sinned.]*
2. Death only came into the world because of sin. Because Jesus never sinned, did Jesus have to die? *[No]*
3. Jesus said that men would beat him and nail him to a wooden cross to kill him. After being dead for three days, he would come back to life. How could Jesus know these things before they happened? *[He was God. God knows everything.]*
4. The Bible says that Jesus was like the lambs that were brought to the altar. What was Jesus called that reminded people of those lambs? *[He was called **the Lamb of God.**]*
5. The lambs had to be perfect. How was Jesus perfect? *[He never sinned.]*
6. The lambs were brought to an altar, a special place of death. To what special place of death was Jesus taken? *[A wooden cross]*
7. Because all our sin had been moved onto Jesus, what had to happen to him? *[He had to die.]*
8. The Bible says Jesus took all the punishment our sin deserved. How much sin is left that still has to be punished? *[None]*
9. Why don't we bring lambs to an altar? *[Jesus was the final lamb.]*

Alive Forever

— chapter ten —

REVIEW

Many, many years ago, God promised a Savior who would come to save people from the punishment that sin brings. He would save people from the *Second Death*.

God told people to bring a lamb, so that he could show them how sin could be punished without punishing them.

THE LAMB OF GOD

Now let's think. The people back then had to have a lamb. Do we have a lamb?

Yes, we do. Our lamb was Jesus. He was called "the Lamb of God."

The lamb the people brought was perfect. Okay, listen. Who was the only person that ever lived a perfect life—that never sinned once?

That's right. It was Jesus. He's our perfect Lamb.

The people were to bring their lamb to an altar, a special place of death. What special place of death was Jesus taken to? Do you remember?

It was a wooden cross.

Now this is very important. Do you remember how all the sin of the people was placed on the lamb? Think carefully. Whose sin was placed on Jesus?

You're right. It was our sin.

Because the lamb now carried the people's sin, it had to die. Who died in our place?

Yes, it was Jesus. He died for us.

OUR SAVIOR

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, all the sin of every boy, girl, mom and dad was moved from them onto him. Because Jesus had no sin of his own to die for, he could die for someone else—he could die for us.

Our sin put Jesus to death.

He chose to be punished in our place, so he could save us from the punishment our sin deserved.

Jesus is our Savior.

DEAD

Now, if the story ended with Jesus dead on the cross, it would be terribly sad.

But the Bible tells us more. It says that after Jesus died, his friends carefully took his body down from the cross. They must have been broken-hearted. They put him in a special grave called a tomb. Slowly, they rolled a big stone across the door. Then, sadly they turned and went home.

The next day, the men who had killed Jesus told soldiers to guard the tomb. They had heard that Jesus had said that he would come back to life after three days. They didn't want anyone coming and taking Jesus' body away and pretending he was alive. They wanted to make sure Jesus stayed dead in the tomb.

ALIVE

But the soldiers couldn't stop God. The big stone couldn't stop God. Nothing could stop God's plan. Just as he had said, after three days Jesus came back to life! He was alive!

The guards fell down in fear. An angel rolled back the stone—everyone could see that Jesus was no longer in the grave. For forty days, he met with his friends and large groups of people. Everyone was excited. He was with them again—talking, eating and traveling. It was wonderful!

Jesus was alive!

A PROMISE

People could hardly believe it. No one had ever done this before. No one had died and brought himself back to life. What amazing power!

Jesus was showing them that because he was stronger than death, people didn't need to be afraid of dying and going to be with Satan in his horrible home. They didn't need to be afraid of the *Second Death*.

Jesus was strong enough to bring them back to life. But he wouldn't bring them back to life on earth—a place that has been spoiled by sin. He would bring them back to life in Heaven—a place that is perfect and full of happiness.

Jesus was promising to do this for anyone who believed that he was their Lamb.

JUST THAT SIMPLE

Now this is very important. Did you hear what Jesus was saying? Do you understand?

He was saying that if a boy, girl, mom or dad—if anyone believed that Jesus died in their place, then they could go and live with him in Heaven.

It was just that simple.

All they needed to do was believe that Jesus was their Lamb—that he had been punished for their sin. If they trusted him, believing that what he said was true, then when that boy, girl, mom or dad—when they finished living here on earth—Jesus would make them perfect so that they could live with him in Heaven.

LETTER FULL OF LOVE

The people listened excitedly. This was news everyone needed to hear. They talked for long hours with Jesus about the plan. And then, at the end of forty days, Jesus said goodbye and returned to Heaven. That is where he lives now, in his perfect home.

And that's what the Bible is all about. It's a letter from God—full of love—and it's all about the Lamb.

Questions and Answers

1. Many, many years ago, people had to have a lamb. Who is our lamb? *[Jesus]*
2. The lamb the people brought was perfect. Who was the only person that ever lived a perfect life—who never sinned once? *[Jesus]*
3. The people were to bring their lamb to an altar, a special place of death. What special place of death was Jesus taken to? *[A cross]*
4. Remember how all the sin of the people was placed on the lamb? Whose sin was placed on Jesus? *[Our sin]*
5. Because the lamb now carried the people's sin, it had to die. Who died in our place? *[Jesus]*
6. The lamb died in the place of the man. In whose place did Jesus die? *[Our place]*
7. After Jesus died, his body was put in a special grave. They rolled a big stone across the door. What was this type of grave called? *[A tomb]*
8. What happened after Jesus had been dead three days? *[Jesus came back to life.]*
9. When Jesus came back to life, he showed people that he could bring them back to life too. Where would he bring them back to life? *[In Heaven]*
10. When Jesus said that he would bring people back to life in Heaven, what did they need to do so that they could live in his perfect home? *[Trust him or believe him.]*
11. Did they have to promise never to do wrong again? *[No]*
Did they have to trust Jesus as the one who would save them? *[Yes]*
Did they have to promise to do more good things than bad things? *[No]*
Did they have to believe that Jesus died in their place? *[Yes]*
12. God said that if anyone believed that Jesus died like a Lamb in their place, then they could go to Heaven. Did God really mean this? *[Yes]*

Do you understand God's letter?

God's letter is so important that you need to make sure you understand it clearly. Here are a few questions. You will be able to tell for yourself just how well you know God's rescue plan. If you get some of them wrong, keep listening to the story until you have them straight in your mind.

1. God made everything simply by speaking. What does this tell us about God? *[He is very, very powerful.]*
2. Why was only God able to create a perfect world? *[He is perfect.]*
3. The Bible uses a special word to describe Lucifer's choice to disobey God. What is that word? *[Sin]*
4. Why isn't it right for someone to get away with doing bad things? *[It's not fair. All wrong should be punished.]*
5. What is the name of the home that God made for Satan and the bad angels? *[The Lake of Fire]*
6. The Bible uses a word to describe Adam and Eve's disobedience. What is that word? *[Sin]*
7. What came into the world because of sin? *[Death]*
8. Because Adam and Eve were no longer perfect, when they died they would go and live with Satan in his terrible home. What sort of death does the Bible call this? *[The Second Death]*
9. God promised that he would send a special man to rescue all people from the *Second Death*. What would this man be called? *[A Savior]*
10. Why do people need to be made perfect to live in Heaven? *[Only perfect people can live with a perfect God.]*
11. Could God pretend that Adam and Eve had never sinned? *[No]*
12. God showed people how he would punish sin without punishing them. What sort of animal were they told to bring? *[A lamb]*
13. What happened to the man's sin when he put his hand on the head of the lamb? *[The man's sin was moved onto the lamb.]*
14. In whose place did the lamb die? *[The man's place]*
15. Why was the lamb punished if it hadn't done anything wrong? *[It carried the man's sin.]*
16. If people trust God—when they die, they go to Heaven. How does God change them so that they are able to live in his perfect home? *[He makes them perfect.]*
17. If we try to be very good, and never do or think bad things, will we be perfect enough to live in Heaven? *[No]*
18. Who left Heaven to become the Savior? *[God, Jesus]*
19. Because Jesus never sinned, did Jesus have to die? *[No]*
20. The Bible says that Jesus was like the lambs that were brought to the altar. What was Jesus called that reminded people of those lambs? *[He was called **the Lamb of God.**]*
21. Remember how all the sin of the people was placed on the lamb? Whose sin was placed on Jesus? *[Our sin]*
22. The lamb died in the place of the man. In whose place did Jesus die? *[Our place]*
23. When Jesus said that he would bring people back to life in Heaven, what did they need to do so that they could live in his perfect home? *[Trust him or believe him.]*

Do you believe God's letter?

If you have answered all the questions correctly, it means you understand God's plan. It means you know what God's letter is saying. That is very important. Many people live until they are very old and still do not understand what the Bible is all about.

To understand God's letter is a very good thing, but there is one big question you need to answer. The big question is this: *Do you believe what God said is true?*

You see, it's one thing to understand the Bible, it's another thing to believe it.

Try answering these questions. They will help you to know if you believe God's letter.

- Who do you believe Jesus is? Is he just a nice man, or is he more than that? *[He is God.]*
- What about you—do you believe you're good enough for Heaven, or that you are a sinner? *[I am a sinner.]*
- Do you believe that God will ignore your sin, or that your sin needs to be punished? *[It needs to be punished.]*
- Who was punished in your place? *[Jesus]*
- Who do you believe is your Lamb? *[Jesus]*
- After Jesus died, he came back to life and now he lives forever. Do you believe that? *[Yes]*

If you have answered these questions correctly and believe them to be true, the punishment for your sin is all gone. It is just that simple. You will never have to be afraid of the *Second Death* or the *Lake of Fire*. Because you have believed what God said is true, you are trusting him—you are now on God's side. He promises never to leave you. He will always be with you, no matter where you go or what you do.

When you finish living here on earth, God says he will make you perfect for Heaven—you will live forever with Him.⁹ That's what God says. Do you think God really means that?

This is something you can be very happy about right now. It is something you can know for sure because God said it, and God does not tell lies.

Perhaps this book has answered questions you've wondered about. God has written lots of things to help us. You can discover more in his letter to us. The Bible is full of answers.

When someone does something special for you, you thank him. The Bible says that we can talk to the Lord anytime just like one friend talks to another. Here are some words to say *thank you* to Jesus for what he did for you. Listen to them a couple times and then in your own words, you thank him. Remember God is everywhere. He is listening.

Dear Jesus, I trust you. You are the only one who can save me. I am a sinner. I believe you took my punishment. You died in my place. Thank you for loving me so much. I know you will keep your promise to take me to Heaven to be with you.

Jesus is a wonderful Savior.

Some Bible verses to read.

Romans 3:23; James 2:10; Matthew 16:13-17
John 3:16; John 15:13; Romans 5:8; John 14:6
Acts 4:12; Romans 3:19-22; Romans 6:23

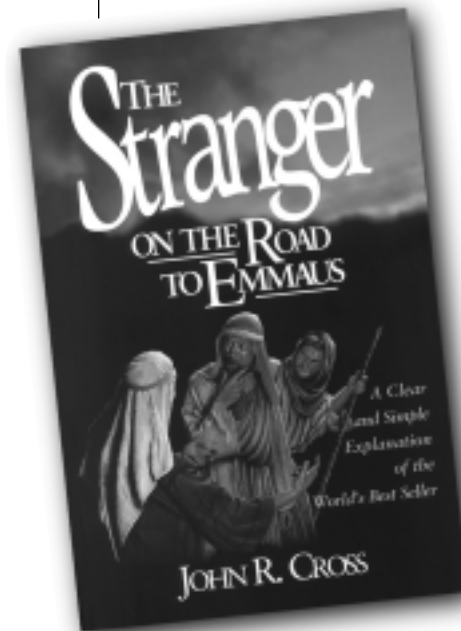
Endnotes: Keyed to the book, *THE STRANGER ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS*

1. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 1) For the sake of simplicity we used the word 'letter' in the sense of 'communication from' rather than trying to define how God made the written scripture available to us.
2. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 2) As in the sense of 'God is eternal.'
3. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 2) In the sense that they are 'beings,' as opposed to being a 'force.'
4. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 3) 'Perfect' is being used both in its normal sense, and the fuller sense of God being holy and righteous, without sin.
5. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 4) 'Never come back' in the sense of 'for eternity.' Satan has access to Heaven to accuse believers before God, however without success.
6. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 4) The Bible is clear that Satan and his angels are not presently in this new home, but at a future date, they will be confined there. (Revelation 20:10). This book is not comprehensive enough to explain these facts. We felt more detail would open the door to questions that could sidetrack one from the purpose of this book.
7. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 4) This could be understood as being 'like God' as in the sense of possessing all His attributes, or being 'like God' but limited to only 'knowing good and evil.' The Scriptures do not explain whether Satan was offering specific information on a general temptation 'to be like God' or if his lie was limited to being like God in just one area ('be like God knowing good and evil'). Since to try and explain the concept of being 'like God knowing good and evil' would involve a lot of explanation not pertinent to the story, we left the option open as to what Satan was implying. Whatever the case, it was a lie.
8. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 6) In most cases, the conversations attributed to occurring between God and Adam and Eve, are found in the biblical text. However, in certain situations, we have 'read back' into the story certain truths that we find in the scripture, which are clearly articulated as applying to humanity in general. For example, the Bible says in reference to another Old Testament figure, that "Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6) Since the Scripture is amply clear that 'faith' or 'trust' was the only way one could ever be 'righteous' before God, we have felt free to state those truths in the context of Adam and Eve without the complicating factor of introducing other biblical figures.
9. *THE STRANGER* (Chapter 4) 'When they died' only states the conditional side of the biblical teaching known as 'justification.' The full teaching of 'justification' involves much more. When we put our trust in the Lord to be our Saviour, God credits righteousness to our account immediately, and looks upon us as being perfect even in the here and now. Because it is hard for children to understand how we can be considered perfect by God, when they know they are still being 'bad,' we have only endeavored to communicate the 'conditional' side of the teaching.

**How well do you understand the Bible?**

When you read *THE LAMB*, do you find yourself thinking, "I am learning as much as the children!" At times do you feel you are barely keeping ahead of them? Then we recommend *THE STRANGER ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS*, a book similar to *THE LAMB*, but written for adults who have little or no previous Bible background.

THE STRANGER is written for those who wish to investigate the Bible without feeling pressured. As a narrative, the Bible is explained chronologically from the beginning to the end, using the Scripture itself to explain the story. The goal of this *more detailed* book is to make the Bible's message clear and logical. Men and women from many diverse backgrounds have appreciated *THE STRANGER'S* objective explanation of the Bible's core message.



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"... well worth one's investment of time and money." Singapore

"Incredible, it all makes so much sense." USA

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