



The unabridged writings of Fred Morris, Manna Publications

History in the Bible CREATION



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MANNA FOR ALL

To the reader: Have your Bible open as you study these notes. Remember that they have not been edited by the UK editorial team but are part of Fred's legacy of Bible teaching literature he wrote after his retirement to the USA in 1990. These notes also serve as the legacy of the late Jim Norman, Manna Publications UK, who checked and formatted and archived Fred's writings for him. Invite a friend to study with you. You will be blessed.



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Read: Genesis 1:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-6

BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

The Bible does not try to prove that there is one God. "Those that come to God must believe that **HE IS** and that He rewards those who seek Him" (Heb 11:6). Every man who wants to understand God must begin with faith! Not 'blind faith,' but faith that rests on truth, history and personal experience.

God is sovereign. "The Lord does whatever pleases Him, in the heavens and on the earth...He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from His storehouse" (Psalm 134:6-7; Psalm 19:1-6).

In a vast universe, far beyond our ability to comprehend, our earth revolves around the sun like a tiny speck of dust. Its rotations are made with great accuracy. Time technicians at the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST), formerly the National Bureau of Standards, set a new level of precision. In 1949 they invented the atomic clock. It counted the oscillations of the nitrogen atom in an ammonia molecule--and kept time accurately to within one second in three years.

More recently, NIST switched to an atomic clock based on the vibrations of cesium atoms. It will need 300, 000 years to gain or lose a single second. This should make any reasoning person wonder and consider God, the only creator of the universe. He spoke creation and this degree of accuracy into being.

ONE GOD AND ONLY ONE

God is One eternal, absolute Spirit, all knowing, all seeing and everywhere at once, "dwelling in light that no man can approach" (1 Tim 6:16 KJV). He revealed Himself to man as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three persons yet one God (Deut 6:5).

Because God is Spirit no material creation can contain Him. He created everything and can use the natural forces as He wills. God is not in the trees or the rivers. He is above and beyond all the things He created. He is Sovereign, yet He is a Person who listens to our heart's cry and answers, revealing His purposes for us.

God spoke a perfect order into creation. He called to the atoms and they came together. He set the stars to follow a path; the seasons of earth come and go! (Gen 8:22). Each kind of creature and plant brings forth after its own kind. Men can and do depend on this order in the universe to send out space probes.

God owns what He created. David wrote, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it" (Psalm 24:1 NASB).



TALK ABOUT

1. How has God revealed Himself to mankind?
2. How can a man get faith?
3. Do you believe that God created man?

EVERYTHING HAD A BEGINNING



Read: John 1:1-4; Col 1:15-17

Everything had a beginning – except God! John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life...” (John 1:1-4).

Before He created the earth and everything in it. Jesus Christ was “the Word” (John 1:1). The Son of God “was before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Col 1:17). After each creative act, He declared, “it was very good” (Gen 1:31). The earth and everything in it, including the climate, was created perfect. Adam could find no fault or omission in what God had done.

When Adam and Eve sinned against God, Satan took control. Sin spoiled the perfect creation. But God promised One who would redeem mankind and creation. To redeem something means to buy it back. God promised a Redeemer who would break Satan’s power and redeem all that He had created (Gen 3:15).

On the night the Son of God was born into the world, the hosts of heaven sang with joy (Luke 2:13-14). Jesus was the Promised Redeemer, born of a woman, born to die on the cross to crush the Serpent’s head (Gen 3:15). The Serpent is Satan, the great enemy of God and His people.

Paul tells us, “He (Jesus Christ, the Word) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Col 1:15-17).

The Scripture puts Jesus Christ at the head of creation, the source of its life and stability. Jesus Christ is outside creation, before it, distinct from it and sovereign over all. This includes invisible powers, authorities and principalities. These are spirit powers (Rom 8:38; Eph 121; 6:10-12).

In the future, pristine glory will be restored to the creation which was dragged down into death and decay by Adam’s rebellion.

The Holy Spirit assures the believer that he is included. He, the Spirit, is the first fruits of a glorious future inheritance in glory (Eph 1:13-14), “a specimen sheaf cut and brought as sure evidence that a whole field of such sheaves is waiting to be harvested” (Rom 8:19-23).



TALK ABOUT

1. Jesus Christ was with God before He created this world.
2. John called Jesus "the Word" (John 1:1).
3. Who is "the prince of this world" (John 12:31)?
4. Who comes to live in us when we believe in Jesus Christ (Eph 1:13)?

WHERE DID I COME FROM?

If we are to understand where the earth came from and how we come to be here, we must start with God. People who do not believe in a living, personal God do not stand a chance. They get mixed up in a theory called Evolution which robs them of all reason and purpose for life.

So just as there are people who believe in God and trust His word, the Bible, so there are people who do not believe there is a living personal God.

If you do not believe what God has told you in His Word, you will not know what to believe. You may believe evolution. Many famous scientists believe that the earth began with a tiny piece of matter. The tiny piece of matter grew and changed and grew larger. They cannot prove what they believe to be true, but they hold on to it anyway.

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

These same people say, "You cannot prove there is a supreme being. Therefore there is no God." Yet they cannot explain why the Bible has survived thousands of years, nor why it changes the people who believe its truth and keep its commands.

The Bible is the most amazing book and it sells more copies every year than any other book. It has a historical foundation and names people who actually lived in history. This cannot be said of any other religion.

IN THE BEGINNING...

All life begins with God. He is the giver of life. Scientists have tried for years to produce life, but all attempts have failed. All truth begins with God. Without God man's attempt to describe his origin reads like a fairy tale. The first words in the Bible tell us the truth. Before there was anything else, God....He existed from eternity and will continue forever.

God is not a force in the cosmos of this world, but a living, sovereign spirit. He spoke and He created matter. He separated the elements and created mankind.

In the first chapters of the Bible, God tells us how He created, in six days, all that we can see and know of this world and its inhabitants. If you do not believe the Bible record, you have nothing firm on which to base your reasoning.

I believe the Bible is true and that God has preserved it. Many times, in history, men have tried to destroy every Bible. But God has not let this happen. Even if Bibles were destroyed, it is said that all the verses could be assembled again to make a complete Bible.

GOD REVEALED HIMSELF

Man could not know God without God revealing who He is! God revealed to us that "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth..." (Job 15:30).

It takes faith to believe that God spoke and this world was created out of nothing. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God..." (Heb 11:3).

How can men know God if He had not revealed Himself? God revealed Himself:

- through creation - the marvelous universe we see around us, teeming with life, the universe of space man desperately tries to explore
- through conscience - God means us to know right from wrong and do the right
- through the Scriptures and through prophecy
- through the history of Israel - God gave us an amazing record of His providence

ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD BREATHED

Paul wrote to Timothy: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Scriptures have come to us from the hand of God. He breathed the message into the minds of His servants. They used words of their own language to write God's message. The Scriptures are God's words to us. He will honor His word and He will bless those who honor it. The Holy Spirit teaches God's word to those whose hearts are open to the truth.

God is a speaking God! The Word speaks to us. It has the power to change lives. God never stops speaking. His voice fills the universe. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands," David wrote (Psalm 19:1).



TALK ABOUT

1. If you do not believe the God of the Bible, how do you know what to believe?
2. Why did God reveal Himself?
3. Does God speak to men now?
4. How would you know if God spoke to you?

5. What are some of the ways god revealed Himself?



Read: Genesis 1:1 – Genesis 2:1

DID GOD CREATE THE WORLD IN SIX DAYS?

A lot of people have trouble with the “six days of creation.” They say that the earth has been forming gradually over millions of years. Of course He may have created the world in a long period of time and told Adam about it in six days.

No one knows the answer to this question. However the Bible makes it clear that God is talking about six days of 24 hours each. This is shown to us by God taking the seventh day and making it “a Sabbath,” or a holy day for man to rest and worship.

When God gave the law to Moses on Mt Sinai, He referred back to his words spoken to Adam and Eve and said that 7th – day Sabbath would be memorialized in a specific commandment. It read, “Remember the Sabbath day (a day of 24 hours) by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work...For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day...” (Exodus 20:8-11).

THE EVIDENCE FOR “God Created...”

Many years ago, when animals died, they sometimes sank to the bottom of a river or lake. Their bodies were slowly covered by silt. The same thing happened to leaves and seed pods. The silt was heavy and pressed all the moisture out of the layers below it until all became hard like rock. In fact it is called sedimentary rock. The creatures which were trapped and had their form or shape preserved, are called fossils.

People who believe in evolution and not in the Bible record of Creation, pay a lot of attention to fossils. But the fossil evidence that is available – and it is everywhere in abundance – does not support the theory of evolution. In fact it is quite disappointing. The fossils in the older rock are very similar to those in the last rock layers to be formed.

If animals developed into different animals, you would expect to find fossils of some animals that were only partly changed, or species in transition. Nothing like this has ever been found among the millions of fossils that have been collected.

A curator at a famous museum said, “As is now well known, most fossil species appear instantly in the record, persist for some millions of years virtually unchanged, only to disappear abruptly.”

AN UNFRIENDLY EARTH

From every part of our world we hear of natural disasters claiming the lives of thousands. For many, the year 2005 seemed to be worse than all the years that had passed into history.

The day before Christmas, the South Pacific Tsunami followed an earthquake off Sumatra. No greater natural disaster had ever touched so many countries and killed so many people. The Tsunami crashed onto the shoreline of countries from Somalia on the east coast of Africa to the Philippines and all places in between. Earthquakes in Iran and Pakistan destroyed thousand of homes and killed their occupants and deadly hurricanes "Katrina" and "Rita" hit the southern shores of America.

"Why?" people asked. There is no other explanation than the one Jesus gave when He spoke to the Pharisees and said, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these things are the beginnings of birth pains" for the earth (Matt 24:7-8).



TALK ABOUT

1. Does it matter to you how long it took God to create the heavens and the earth? Why not?
2. What turned a beautiful world into an ugly place to live?
3. Can man 'fix' the climate changes that have occurred over the centuries?
4. How were animals and plants that lived long ago turned into fossils?

ALL NATURE WRITHS IN AGONY



Read: 1 Kings 19:11-13

Hurricanes lash our shores. Tsunamis roll across sea and land carrying death and destruction before them. Tornadoes topping 200 mph leave behind paths of twisted wreckage, people and animals lie dead and many are injured.

When words come to their lips, people ask, "Who sends all this evil upon us? God or Satan, or do they just happen naturally?"

We believe God does not send disasters, but He allows them to occur. When they come, He speaks to men and women who would not otherwise heed His voice.

To those who would listen, God speaks in the stillness. But to those who are careless and refuse to listen, He has to shout!

Wicked Queen Jezebel threatened to kill Elijah, so he hid in a cave. God had not forgotten His prophet so He came to the cave. "A great and powerful wind tore at the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but God was not in the wind (1 Kings 19:11-13). After the great wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then God spoke to Elijah.

God did not need the fury of nature to speak to His prophet and He does not need it to speak to men and women today, but He does use it.

Elijah was familiar with God's voice. And it came quietly, after the storm, earthquake and fire had passed. God asked His servant, "what are you doing here Elijah?"

Perhaps it is the same today. After the storms of life pass by, God is there to speak to us. He may have the same question for you, "What are you doing here _____?" You can put your own name in the blank space.



TALK ABOUT

1. Who created all things?
2. How was the world and everything in it created?
3. What did God say about the creation (Gen 1:31)?
4. Why Was Elijah hiding in a cave (1 Kings 19:11-13)?
5. How did God speak to Elijah?
6. Do you believe God sends natural disasters to kill people?



Read: Romans 8:18-25

ALL NATURE IS WAITING

God will transform the world of nature. At the Fall, "God enslaved nature to frustration and decay, not by some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it; with the hope (Eccl 1:2) that nature itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption (and gain an entrance) into the glorious freedom of God's children" (Rom 8:20-21 Amp. Bible). For "we know that the whole creation (of irrational creatures) has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now" (Rom 8:22; Jer 12:4, 11).

As the rest of creation was dragged down by man (Gen 3:17), so it will be restored with him at the coming again of Jesus Christ.

Nature is waiting for God to glorify His Church. It is in eager expectation – "is on tiptoe" (Philips) – awaiting the signal for its own restoration. It is universal law that suffering marks the road to glory.

All believers, in so far as they are part and parcel of the material universe, share the pains of nature in their mortal bodies. They also look forward to being released from their infirmities into resurrected bodies like the body of the risen and ascended Son of God (Phil 3:21).

As we wait for this glorious fulfillment, the Spirit intercedes for us, that life might be bearable. The Spirit does not despise our groaning, but makes it the theme of His pleading before the throne of the Father.

We likewise are told to “approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).



Read: John 1:1-14

ALL CREATURES WORSHIP HIM

John opened his gospel with the words, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning, and through Him all things were made...” (John 1:1-2).

In a vision, John looked into heaven. Eight hundred years before this, Isaiah the prophet had a vision of the Son of God, seated on His throne (Isaiah 6:1-4). John knew the prophet’s writings well.

When John looked into heaven, he said, “Then I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals” (Rev 5:1-3).

This scroll or book was of great interest to John.

- It was held in God’s right hand, the hand of authority and strength (Psalm 44:3).
- It was written on front and back – nothing more could be added (Rev 22:18).
- It was sealed with seven seals to show its importance.
- No one in heaven or earth could break open the scroll or even look inside it. The Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, took the scroll and opened it.

Two mighty works of Christ are in view – Creation and Redemption. In heaven they are celebrated in the two anthems of praise (Rev 4:11 and 5:9-10). May all creation join in praise to the Lord Christ for His great works. We are His by right of creation and by purchase in redemption (1 Peter 2:24).



TALK ABOUT

1. Was nature changed when Adam sinned?
2. Who supports and prays for Christians (Rom 8:26)?
3. Who did John call “the Word” (John 1:1)?
4. What two mighty works did Jesus Christ accomplish?



Read: Isaiah 6:1-8

ALL NATURE SHOWS FORTH GOD'S GLORY

All nature responded when the redeemed of God worshipped the Lamb. For John heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever!' (Rev 5:13).

Perhaps for the first time, John understood that all nature worships Him (God) who sits on the throne and the Lamb. In writing his gospel John had been fully occupied with the Logos, the living Word and Wisdom of God (John 1:1-3).

Isaiah was troubled by the death of King Uzziah of Judah. One day he went to the great temple in Jerusalem and stood looking in. He saw bright light and he heard the angels calling, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isa 6:3). God has filled all the universe with His own life and vitality, the Word, the Wisdom of God. Now John heard every creature responding to the Word.

God's voice and that of His creatures goes out into all the earth, "their words to the end of the world" (Psalm 19:1-5). The voices of all His creatures worship Him. "In Him was life" – He is the source of their life. He is the reason for their being, and they worship Him.



Read: Colossians 1:13-20

JESUS HAS THE ANSWER

God does not send evil upon us. The bad things that happen in our world are the result of sin in men's hearts. There can be no peace between nations until there is peace between men. And only Jesus Christ can put that peace into our hearts (John 14:27).

Faith in Jesus Christ comes to us by God's Spirit. He fills our hearts with the love of God and love of our brother. Where there is no love, selfishness and greed take over.

Man will build and invent. Cities will rise and fall, but only what is of God will stand the tests of the evil that is in the world. This evil is Satan's work. He is trying to destroy everything that is of God. Paul said, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil..." (Eph 6:12).

We are to "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power" (Eph 6:10). Every morning arise to put on Christ, to be clothed in Him, which Paul calls "the armor of God." God is greater and His power is more abundant than Satan's,

and it can be yours for the asking. Do you feel weak and unable to resist Satan's attacks? God said, "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him" (Luke 11:13).



TALK ABOUT

1. Does God speak through His creation?
2. Who looked into the temple and saw a vision of God's angels (Isaiah 6:1-4)?
3. Can we ask for more of God's power (Luke 11:13)?



Read: Acts 17:24-31

WILL MEN LIVE IN SPACE?

The Bible clearly states, "From one man He (God) made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live" (Acts 17:26).

Man is very busy exploring space, but just the space near to this earth. There is space beyond that space and more space beyond that, so that men do not know where the space ends. Indeed, there seems to be no end to it!

We must agree that space is not very hospitable. There is no oxygen in space and man cannot live without oxygen. This is enough to tell any reasonable person that God did not intend for man to live in space.

This is also true of water. Our Mars rovers have been exploring tiny sections of the planet Mars for more than two years looking for signs of water. It is said that, if we find water on Mars, it somehow proves that life as we know it could have existed there at some time in the past.

Even if we find water on Mars, the atmosphere and terrain are so unfriendly that man could not survive there.



Read: Malachi 3:1-5

HE SITS AS A REFINER OF SILVER

God uses all the circumstances of life, even the natural disasters that come upon us, to make our faith stronger. God is like the refiner of silver (Malachi 3:3).

A visitor watched the silversmith at his work. He held a piece of silver over the fire and let it get very hot. He explained that to refine silver, it had to be held in the middle of the fire where the flames are hottest to burn away all the impurities.

The visitor thought about God holding us in some of the 'hot spots' in life. Then he thought again about the Bible verse: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

Did the silversmith have to sit and watch the silver all the time it was being refined? The silversmith answered "yes." He had to keep his eyes on the silver all the time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The visitor asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined? "

He smiled and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my face in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His steady hand on you. He watches to see His 'image' recreated in you.

Paul wrote to Christians, "And we....are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory..." (2 Corinthians 3:18).



TALK ABOUT

1. Will men ever live in space? Why not?
2. Will it make any difference if we find water on Mars?
3. What does it mean when God refines His people?
4. Do we like God to refine us? Why?



Read: Romans 1:18-32

HOW CAN THE HEATHEN KNOW GOD?

The questions always arise in Bible studies: How can the heathen know God? And what will happen to those who do not hear the gospel?

No one wants to play God and answer these questions with final authority. But God has not left the reader in doubt. Paul said, "Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Rom 1:20).

A great deal about God cannot be known by man, but that which can be known is clearly shown to us in the creation. The invisible, infinite God cannot be understood by the finite human mind.

God has given man a wonderful mind. He can understand that the universe was created by an intelligent being. God has planted this knowledge in man. We cannot see His power and person, but we can see what He has created – its beauty, its vast array and its usefulness to man.

Mankind had sufficient knowledge of God to worship Him and not the objects He had created. "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that all men are without excuse" (Rom 1:20-25).



TALK ABOUT

1. Peter wrote to remind the Christians of which two things (2 Peter 3:1-2)?
2. Why does Christ delay His coming again (3:9, 15; Matt 24:14)?
3. Name some of the things that will happen on “the Day of the Lord” (3:10-13)?

THEY KNEW GOD BUT REFUSED TO WORSHIP HIM

Men saw what God had made, things which they could not make themselves. There had to be a first cause, who created such wonderful things and, most important of all, who gave them life.

Despite their knowledge of a Creator-God, they turned to idols. And they were not thankful. “They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

“Therefore, God gave them over to a depraved mind...and they became filled with every kind of wickedness” (Rom 1:28-29). They thought they were wise, but God said they were fools. They thought the works of their own hands were superior to the works of God. Pride left them with nothing but their own thought and devices.

So God “gave them over” to their natural lusts. He stepped back and let them go their own way. He did not try to stop them. But He held them accountable; and they paid the consequences for their sin which was death – the death of being cut off from God forever (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2).



TALK ABOUT

1. How are we being made like Jesus (2 Cor 3:18)?
2. Who is the Refiner and what tools does He use?
3. What did God “give them over” to do?

JESUS CHRIST WILL COME IN THE CLOUDS

Jesus Christ used the Greek word ‘parousia’ for His second coming. He will come again “and every eye will see Him” (Rev 1:7; 1 Thess 4:16-18). There will not be a ‘silent rapture’ as some teach. Jesus delays His parousia so that more people can be saved. God said, “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish...” (2 Peter 3:9, 15).

Jesus also said, “And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, then the end will come” (Matt 24:14).

When Jesus comes again, “every knee will, bow....and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:10:11).

If you don’t bow the knee now, you will then.

If you are not sure that you are saved from your sins, believe the promise Jesus gave us: "Whoever hears My word and believes...has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). Believe God's promise and be saved!

DOES GOD CURSE AND KILL MEN?

God does not take away a man's life. Whenever God decreed that the appropriate judgment was death, He allowed man to "cast the first stone," or He sent a destroying angel to judge men.

To say that God kills people is against His nature and just the opposite to the teaching of the Bible. The Bible teaches that God gives physical life and, when a person is born again, new life in Christ. God is "a life-giving spirit" (1 Cor 15:45).

It is true that God has prepared a place of everlasting punishment for Satan and his angels. But it is not God's intent that men and women should go to hell. Peter said, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God sent two angels to destroy the cities of the plain (Gen 19:13). On the night of the Passover, the destroying angel passed over Egypt (Ex 12:23). The Israelites who grumbled against God were destroyed by the destroying angel (1 Cor 10:10). David saw the destroying angel "with his sword in his hand" (1 Chron 21:16). And the angel of the Lord went out against the armies of Assyria and destroyed them (Isaiah 37:36).

It is true that God allows natural disasters to kill men. He controls the elements and may use them as judgments in His hand. He may use nations to punish other nations (Joshua 7:25; Jer 51:1). But Jesus said many natural disasters are not related in any to man's sin and that all men need to repent (Luke 13:1-5).

DID GOD KILL ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA?

Some say God killed Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).

I believe the shock of being confronted with their sin killed them. The conviction of the Holy Spirit was so strong among the early followers of Jesus, that the least sin was seen as heinous and dealt with immediately.

The Holy Spirit came to "convict the world of guilt because of sin" (John 18:8). If Ananias and Sapphira were believers, the Holy Spirit would have convicted them long before they reached Peter and the other apostles.

The problem is clearly stated. Satan was in charge of their lives (Acts 5:3). We cannot blame Satan for the wrong things we do, but he certainly has a big influence, even in the Christian Church. And he "blinds the minds of those who do not believe" (2 Cor 4:4). Satan, not God, is the ultimate destroyer of mankind.

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