

The Big Flash!!

The 2021 Relationship

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind."

Matthew 22.37

Where are we?

Cosmic Eye

a state-of-the-art view of the universe

version 2.0

Danail Obreschkow



Was Jesus at The Big Flash?

*In the beginning God said, “Let there be **light**” and there was **light**. And God saw that the **light** was good.*

1 Genesis 1:1, 3-4

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world...** all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we have seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:1-5, 9, 12, 14



Jesus in the Nicene Creed

*We/I believe in one **God**, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one **Lord Jesus Christ**, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, **God from God, Light from Light**, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. **Through him all things were made.** For us and for our salvation **he came down from heaven**; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. **The third day he rose again**, according to the Scriptures. He **ascended to heaven** and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He **will come again** with glory to judge the living and the dead. **His Kingdom will never end.***

*And **we/I** believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the Lord, the giver of life...*



Who else was at **The Big Flash**

Krishna

Zoroaster

Buddha

Confucius

Nicodemus/Cornelius, etc.



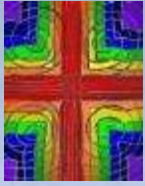
Where were
you when I laid
the foundation of
the earth? Who laid its
cornerstone, when the
morning stars sang together
and all the **sons of God**
shouted for joy?

Muhammed

Bahá'u'lláh

Trump

Biden



Who will be resurrected to life when Jesus returns

Krishna

Zoroaster

Buddha

Confucius

Nicodemus/Cornelius, etc.

Muhammed

Bahá'u'lláh

You?

Trump

Biden


Jesus





Sweeping home plate





I THINK I'D RATHER
MANAGE A LARGE SOFTWARE
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

THE QUESTION IS:
CAN YOU TEACH
OLD CATS NEW
TRICKS?

MANY ARE CALLED, BUT
FEW ARE CHOSEN...
IT'S EASIER FOR A
CAMEL TO FIT THROUGH
THE EYE OF A NEEDLE...



So, we're deformed – now what?

As an adult, does your Christian faith exhort and inspire you to be **conformed**, **reformed**, or **transformed**?

*No longer be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1 Corinthians 2:11-13

So conformed is old and transformed is new, but some of us are **reformed**. Doesn't that mean that God designed his church as a reform school or correctional facility to improve us and show us how to live better, nicer, more godly lives?

Not really. "Reformed" here applies primarily to doctrine.



Playing ball – three definitions

Conformed

- ❖ Comply with rules, standards, or laws.
- ❖ Behave according to socially acceptable **conventions** or standards.

Reformed

- ❖ Make changes in things (like personal, social, political, or economic policies or **practices**) to improve them.

Transformed

- ❖ Make a thorough or dramatic change in the appearance, form, or **character** of something.

Common grace for all

Amazing Grace!

The World

Luther, Wesley

Jesus



What about being born again?

Catholics and Protestants agree that to be saved, you have to be born again. Jesus said so: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* **John 3:3**

However, when **Catholics** say they've been "born again" they're referring to an inner transformation that God's grace supposedly accomplished in them when they were baptized. **Anglican** theology continues the Catholic view, as does **Reformed** when it says that "regeneration precedes faith."

For **Evangelicals**, the new birth precedes Biblical baptism in accordance with **Romans 10:9**, *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"* and **Acts 2:38**, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

What do thoughtful Presbyterians believe?



Can our minds be renewed?

John Winthrop quoted Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount as the *Arbella* was about to embark on its 1630 voyage to establish a Puritan society in Massachusetts:

*“You are the **light** of the world. **A city set on a hill** cannot be hidden. Nor do people **light** a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives **light** to all in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:14-16

A contemporary perspective in *The Atlantic* on 1/1/21:

“Modern minds cannot think like Winthrop’s.” David Frum

Why not? Was Winthrop “reformed” or “transformed”?



Home plate

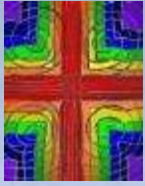


Now we know that **the law is good**, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, **enslavers**, liars, perjurers, and **whatever else*** is contrary to sound doctrine, **in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God** with which I have been entrusted.

1 Timothy 1:8-11

* i.e., “a **gospel contrary to the one we preached to you**”

Galatians 1:8



BLM and “social justice”

“Wait a minute... don’t all lives matter? I mean, what about mine, don’t I matter? I have troubles, too.”

“Well, yes, but we’re talking about people who’ve been put down, marginalized, and discriminated against. You need to have been enslaved or oppressed for your life to count. We need to lift these victims up, and some of you need to be taken down a notch or two.”

OK, but first let’s look at Paul’s list we just read about in 1 Timothy and consider “**whatever else** is contrary to sound doctrine” that might accompany the “**enslavers**” noted there...

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.”

John 8:34



Who are the *enslavers*?

The term certainly includes all the **misguided people** who have kidnapped, bought, sold, and enslaved their fellow human beings over the millennia and right here in America. But speaking even more inclusively than that we need to add those captivated by:

The World – With all its captivating ideas, notions, practices, and teachings that are **contrary** to the sound doctrine of the Gospel.

The Flesh – With all its carnal desires, urges, and practices that are **contrary** to the sound doctrine of the Gospel.

The Devil – With all his deceptive enticements, thoughts, and rationalizations, every one of which is **contrary** to the sound doctrine of the Gospel.



All are both *enslaved* and *enslavers*

“Hurt people hurt people”

*We have already charged that **all**, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “**None is righteous, no, not one... all have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one...**” For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 3:9-12, 23

By our very nature every one of us has fallen short, gotten put down, and become not only oppressed but oppressors of others. And we keep on...

Do you know anyone who has led a perfect life?



Awakened or “woke”?

All of us start as human beings born into the family of mankind.

	Conformed	Awakened	“Woke”
Designation	“Normal”	“Born Again”	“I’m out!”
Agent	Self-willed	Holy Spirit	Worldly spirits
Embrace	World	Christ	Self
Reaction	Adaptation	Repentance	Justification
Life	Valuable	Sacred	It depends
Sex	Assigned	Male/Female	Personal choice
Sexuality	Personal	Biblical	Spectrum
Race	Heritage	Human	Ethnic tribe
Identity	Obvious	Child of God	Self-defined
Justice	Fairness	Biblical	Social/Marxist
Motivation	Self->Other	God->Self->Other	Self->Other
Attitude	Can do	Humble	Proud

Which way? Saved or deeper into slavery to self and sin?



Jesus, our messenger bringing Good News from heaven

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those who were under the law, so that we might receive **adoption** as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are **no longer a slave**, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

Galatians 4:4-7

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal life**.*

John 3:16

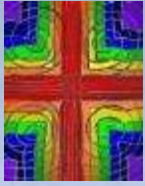
Jesus, God’s Redeemer and Adoption Agent.



Good News of a New King!

We can be reborn into freedom!

1. **Jesus is the King and Lord** of the Universe who came to convict and free us of the burden of sin, give us eternal life, and raise our hearts up to him and those around us.
2. **He calls us out of the world** [*ekklesia*], forgives us, cleanses us from the stain of sin, and presents us to his Father as spotless candidates for adoption into his family.
3. **He sends his Holy Spirit** who fills our lives with faith, hope, and love, frees us to say “Yes” to righteousness and “No” to sin, and empowers us to lead godly lives in this world.
4. **The Holy Spirit authorizes us to** let go of our unfulfilled expectations of others, **say “Yes” to being adopted** as children into the family of our Heavenly Father, and be raised up as spiritual brothers and sisters.



and it keeps getting better...

5. **At home in the family of God** we learn to accept, love, and walk in unity together, even as we speak the truth in love, become cleansed from our sin, and wash one another's feet.
6. **We continue learning about God's Kingdom** authority, vision, and plans for us in his Kingdom and in the world so that we can work with and tell others about him.
7. **He keeps** surrounding us with and pouring his love into us, **equipping and sending us out** to make disciples of the nations as redeemed ambassadors and messengers of the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

How good can it get? As beautiful as this?



What would Jesus do?

His Keys to Success in this life:

1. *Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant.*

Philippians 5:5-7

2. *"I can do nothing on my own... because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."*

John 5:30

3. *"...not my will, but yours, be done."*

Luke 22:42



What do we need to do?

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter** the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again.**’”*

John 3:5-7

How does a person get “born again”?

- ❑ Believe all religions teach the same thing.
- ❑ Go to church and always try to be a good person.
- ❑ **Enter** the Kingdom of God by *believing* in **Jesus**; *inviting* him into your heart as your Savior; *giving* your life to him as your Lord; and then *becoming* his disciple by *emptying* yourself and *taking* the form of a servant.



Our “saved” identity

*But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in **Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:25-29





The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father** in heaven, hallowed be your name.*

***Your kingdom come, your will be done**, on earth as it is in heaven.*

***Give us** this day our daily bread, and **forgive us** our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And **lead us** not into temptation, but **deliver us** from evil.*

*For **yours is the kingdom** and the **power** and the **glory**, forever.*

Amen!

Matthew 6:9-13



Let us consider...

*Therefore, **brothers**, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of **Jesus**... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:19-25

First, a brief visit to the Alps...











Who are we? Sons of God!

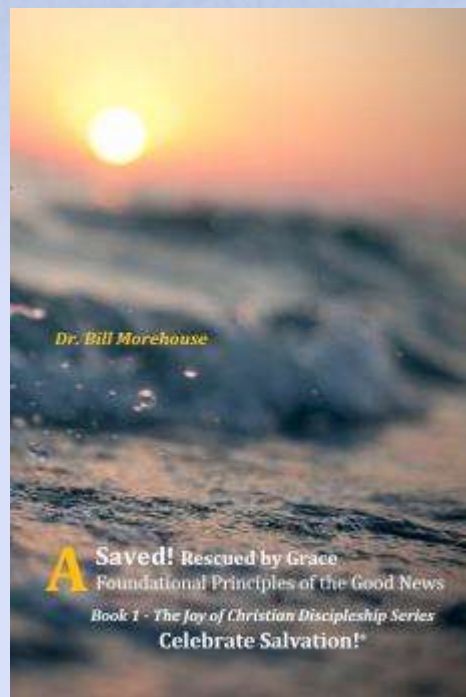


Then let's go tell it on the mountain!



Celebrate Salvation study series

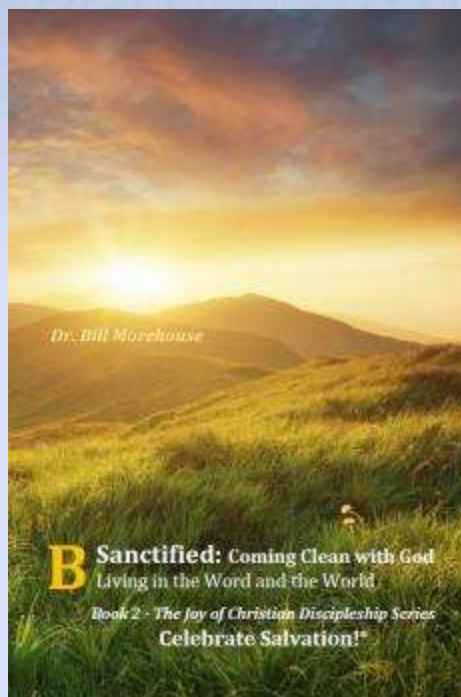
*this is the will of God, your sanctification**



A – Saved!

Rescued by Grace

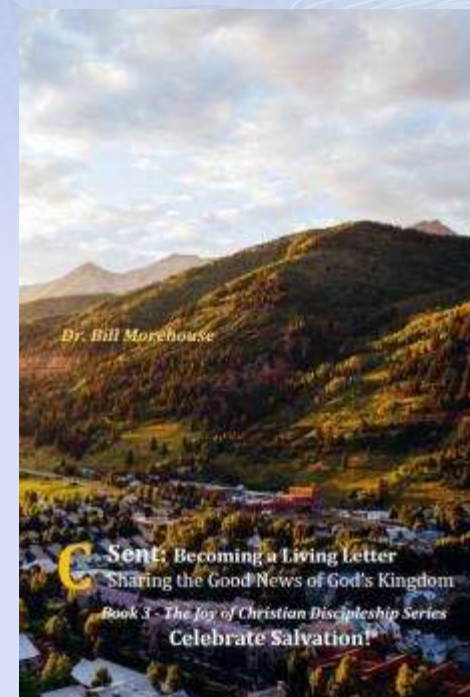
**Foundational principles
of the Good News**



B - Sanctified

*Coming Clean with God**

**Living in the Word and
the World**



C - Sent

Becoming a Living Letter

**Sharing the Good News
of God's Kingdom**

*** 1 Thessalonians 4:3**



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

- ❖ **Pray, read and review course material and recommit to Him.** Personal and group revival are coming with broader awakening in the wings.
- ❖ **Go back to your church and introduce the idea to your pastor and leadership.** Get enthused about the Caleb call on your life and watch it become contagious.
- ❖ **Get discipleship going in your congregation** and follow up to keep it growing. Instruction sheet available.
- ❖ **Host and lead a group yourself.** You will love it and be energized. Leadership guidelines available.
- ❖ **Call for assistance as needed.** Our website and handouts are very helpful, and I'm personally available. Remember, I've graduated into retirement...



Will you help me?

- ❖ ***Celebrate Salvation***
www.celebratesalvation.org

*Full discipleship course work
Leadership assistance please!*

- ❖ ***His Kingdom and Us***
www.hiskingdom.us
*Biblical worldview/ideology
Help editing, **α** Alpha to **Ω** Omega*



Let's roll up our sleeves and get it done!

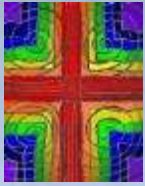
My thanks to all of you!



Jesus and Nicodemus (Leader)

“Rabbi, you are a teacher come from God.”





Jesus and Caiaphas (Chief Priest)

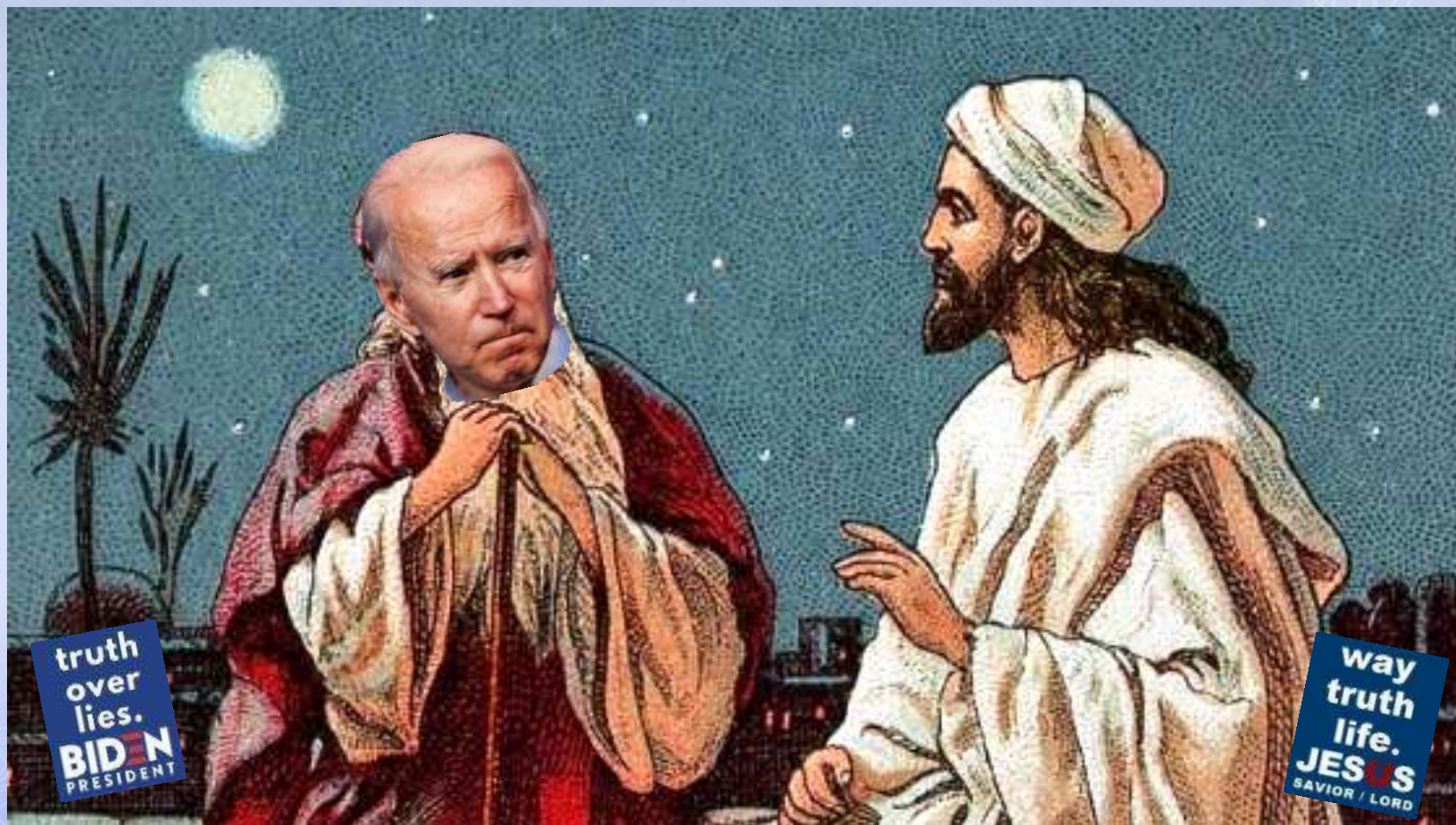
“It is expedient that one man should die.”





Jesus and Joe Biden (American)

“I know what I’m doing.”





Jesus and Us... (Good Guys)

"I'm OK, you're OK. We've got it together."





Nicodemus in John 3 and 19

Now there was *a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews*. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” *Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” *Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”*

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “*Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?*”

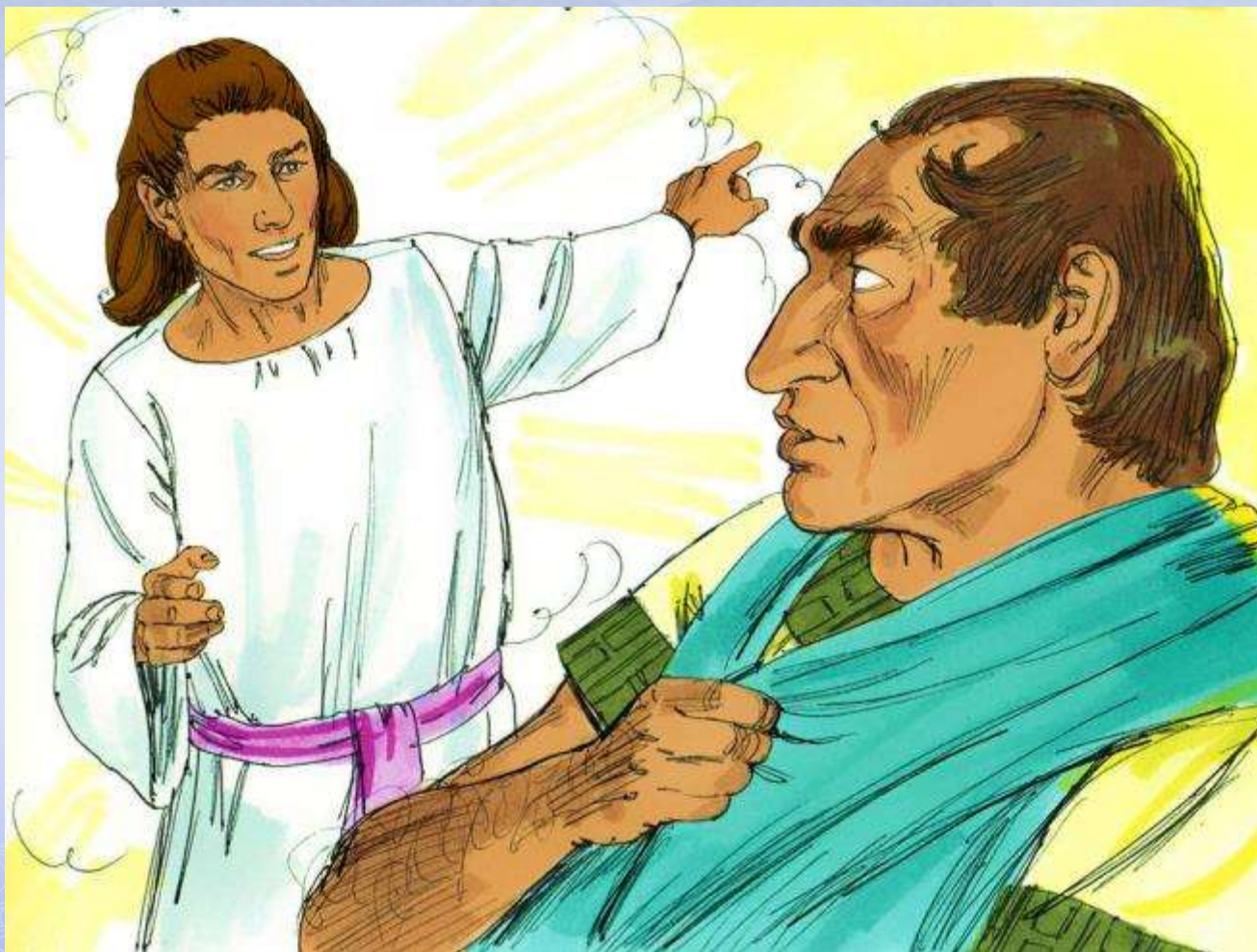
John 3:1-5, 9-10

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. *Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.*

John 19:38-39



Peter and Cornelius (Gentile)





Cornelius in Acts 10

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, *a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.* About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius... your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter...”

And Cornelius said, “So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come... *So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality... all the prophets bear witness [to Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

While Peter was still saying these things, *the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.* And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because *the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.* Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

And he *commanded them to be baptized* in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Acts 10:1-6, 33...48