

The Evidence of Prophecy and God's Great Love

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References: **John 3**, John 3:16; John 17:17; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 14:1-3; Joshua 6:20; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Psalm 16:10; Acts 3:15; Psalm 22:1; Psalm 22:16; Psalm 22:18; Luke 23:34; John 20:27; Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Genesis 26:4; Deuteronomy 28:65-66; Jeremiah 31:35-36; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 3:15-19; John 14:6; 1 Timothy 1:15

Learning the Bible in Miniature: John 3:16

Well, good morning, everyone. I just want to get this set up for a second, and then we'll get into our—how many have memorized their verse for today? Wonderful. How many stars do you have? Four? Four stars. Four. Or smiley faces. Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. Good to see each one memorizing the verse.

Today's verse is a little long, but a lot of you know it. You said the worst thing of this song, of this one. Oh, did you do tomorrow too? No? No, okay, just today. Well, that's good. You're way ahead. Today's one, tomorrow, I'm like, gone, gone. Okay. I'm not going to do it. Okay, good. Okay.

Well, we're all going to learn this verse, and it is called the Bible in miniature because it's got almost everything that is very important about the Bible. So this is probably the most famous verse of the Bible that anybody learns in the world: John 3:16. So we are going to learn this verse. So what we want to do first is we want to read it all together nice and loud, nice and clear. We want to read it together and then we'll start to erase some of the words. And then we're going to see how you can learn it. Okay. Ready? Say it with me. Ready? John 3:16:

[John 3:16 NKJV] - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

That's pretty fantastic. Everlasting life. What does that mean? Eternal life, yeah. Life that never ends, but especially life in heaven that never ends.

Now, God so loved us, He gave His only Son. Okay, let's have someone come up from the front row. We've got some others here. We've got, is it Harrison? Harris? Harris, you want to erase one of the words? We'll get Wilson. Wilson, you want to? No, I'm sorry. You can erase three words.

— Of course.

Three words. I always like doing the biggest word. Jonathan does the G-tip. The end of the word. That's one. That's your three. Oh, "begotten." That's a big word. Good, good, good. It's squeaky, isn't it? Okay, one more. Okay. Oh, okay. There you go. Good, good, good. Okay, very good.

Okay, we've got to say it again, though. We've got to say it again. Ready? John 3:16: "For God so loved"—

— Hello, hello.

—"that He gave His only Son, Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have ever life."

Second row. Anybody from this second row, Eleanor or Elise or these two young—you want to go? Teddy wants to go. Teddy wants to go. Bring Teddy up. Here, you hold that, Teddy. That saves you guys. Okay, you can do three words. Oh, good, good. Teddy, good. Okay. That's right. Good, good, good. Okay. Yeah, get the "any" part. Is that three? No? Okay. I'm going to the last part. Okay. Yeah, that's it. Good. Good. All right. Good job. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Good, good, good.

Okay, let's say it again, okay? John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have mercy." Good, good, good.

Third row. Who didn't do it yesterday? Did anyone do it yesterday? Did Jaden do it yesterday? He did. Who's Bruce? Kaylee. Kaylee. Kaylee, want to do it? Bruce and Kaylee can come together. Kaylee's going to do it? Okay. Three words, Kaylee. These two? Okay, one more. Okay. Good job. Thank you. Thank you.

Okay, let's say it again. Ready? John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Okay. Okay. Let's see. Anybody else? Anywhere? Anybody in the fourth row? Line tip, you went over here. Missing anybody? Well, let's go—let's go and get Jaden. No, Jaden has done earlier in the week, but let's get Jaden. Three words, Jaden. Three words. You know, you do your choice anywhere you want. Okay, good job, good job.

Okay, let's say it again. Ready? John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Now, Jaden Dale, we're going to go to the second row. There's one of these two. Choose. Elise? Eleanor? Elise or Eleanor? No, not today. Okay, so Jonathan. Or does anybody want to? Does Harris want to? Well, you do it first. Okay, you do three words. Jonathan, three words. Okay, good, good. Oh, you're tough. You want me to lift you up? No. Okay. Okay. Good, good. You're doing good. Okay, one more, one more. One more. Which one, which one? Amen. One more. One more. Okay. That's good. Okay. That was good. That was good.

Okay, let's say it all together. Ready? Everybody in the room. John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, and He gave His only Son, that he ever will be to Him, he should not perish, but have everlasting life." Good.

Anybody from this—these three. You want to do it, Emma? Okay. You do three words, Emma. One, two, three.

Three. Oh, it's getting harder. Can we say it? Let's give it a try. Let's say it. Ready? John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Now, a quick question. Quick question: there's a big word here that we had before, "begotten." That word means His only, His very only Son. His very special only Son. Okay. Okay. Not me. Yeah, you can use the rest. Oh, yeah. Yeah. Okay. You can use the rest of it. You know, you can erase all the words because we are late on time. Late on time. Okay, okay, wonderful, wonderful, wonderful.

Okay, let's put our papers down. Let's all say the verse. Ready? John 3:16. Okay, that's good.

Okay, if you are seven years old or younger, you go upstairs with Miss Faith. She has a really good lesson this morning.

Evidences That the Bible Is True

Now, I told you before that every morning we will have a verse from the Bible that says that the Bible is true. How many verses in the whole Bible? I'm not sure. Four or five? There's thousands of verses in the Bible. But this one is John 17:17, very easy to remember: John 17:17. And it goes like this:

[John 17:17 NKJV] - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

"Thy word is true." John 17:17: "Your word is true."

Now, we have to do a few things here for just a moment. Just a moment, get something done here. Okay.

Now, we have been looking at evidence, evidences that the Bible is true. And we are going to look at prophecy this morning. The Bible is 27% prophecy. That's a lot of the Bible! They say there's 30,000 verses in the Bible, maybe 31, maybe 32 or 33,000 verses in the Bible, and 27% is prophecy about things that will happen in the future.

What's going to happen to you tomorrow? You probably don't know what's going to happen to you tomorrow. Hopefully you come to Vacation Bible School in the morning. You don't know. But the Bible can tell things that will happen in the future.

Now, how is that possible? How is it possible? Who is the only person in the world who knows the future? Now, if anybody tells you they know the future, you know they're lying. There's no human being who knows the future. Listen to this verse:

[Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV] - ⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, "My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,"

God knows the future, right? That's why He could put in His book prophecy—things that are going to happen and that have come to pass, things that will come to pass but haven't come to pass yet.

There's a beautiful verse in John 14, verses 1 through 3. It says:

[John 14:1-3 NKJV] - ¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

That's a prophecy. That's a promise. You know, prophecies are also promises, a personal promise to you: "Where I am, you may be." It's personal: "You may be also." And that's it. And that's something that's going to happen in the future.

Archaeology and the Walls of Jericho

But before we go into some of those things, there's just a couple of other facts that I want to tell you about. Now, do you have a Bible? I want you to go to Joshua chapter 6 just for a moment. This is what Harold was talking about, and I wanted to do a little follow-up because I have something very interesting.

Do you remember what Harold said? He said he went to Israel, and when he was in Israel, there was a great archaeologist who said that the walls did not come tumbling down. Now, this is an old picture, a picture of what ancient Jericho looked like. Thick walls, see them? Thick walls. Now, in the ancient world, when a city had walls and an enemy was fighting against it, the enemy would do two things: they would try to take what they would call siege towers, and they would try to knock the wall down. Take the wall and knock it down from outside. They had battering rams and they had siege towers. They would try to knock down the walls and push them in, and even push them in on top of people and defeat a city that way. Sometimes walls were built in such a way, as a last resort, that some of the stone could be pushed down on top of people on the other side of the walls.

But the Bible is so specific! The Bible is so specific that notice what it says. If you were in Joshua chapter 6, verse 20, what does it say? When God knocked these walls down, when God brought these walls down, they didn't fall outward. These walls didn't fall outward. These walls did not fall inward. In fact, twice it says, verse 20—let me read it to you:

[Joshua 6:20 NKJV] - So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

So what they did, they collapsed. They came crumbling down, straight down. The walls fell down flat.

Now, Harold said some of these scientists, they said it never happened. But the problem is there's these people called archaeologists, and you can't keep a lie quiet for too long. Now, I have here an article. You know, there's a thing called the newspaper. You have a few in museums today; they don't really exist that much. This is from The New York Times. Now, The New York Times was at one time the largest newspaper maybe in the world. It was considered the most accurate newspaper. And can you read that? Can you read that?

"Jericho's walls did tumble down, the studies say." New York Times. The newspaper, scientists, archaeologists say the walls came down.

A little bit later in my own newspaper, they did a big article: "Science supports faith in Bible stories." It mentioned not just one—it did mention Jericho and the walls, but it mentioned many other accounts. So I say that to say you can trust the Bible. You can trust the Bible for what it says.

Historical Witnesses to Jesus Christ

Now, I want to mention just a couple of other things. We'll get into prophecy. I have a couple of quotes here, and I think these quotes are important, so that's why I read them to you.

Does anybody know who Napoleon was? Napoleon: he was a great warrior, he was a great political leader, and he stretched the kingdom of France almost all the way to Russia. But he speaks about Jesus Christ. He says:

I know men, and I tell you that Jesus Christ was no ordinary man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and founders of great empires, gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. Between Christianity and other religions, there's the distance of infinity. There's nothing to compare with Christianity. I know men, and I can tell you that Jesus Christ was no mere man. Between Him and every person in the world, there's no possible term of comparison. Alexander the Great, Caesar, Charlemagne have founded empires. But upon what do we rest creations of our genius? Force. Jesus founded His empire upon love. And at this hour, millions of men would die for Him.

That's pretty fantastic what Napoleon had to say.

Now, this is another little historical fact. This man is a Jewish historian that lived about 66 A.D. He wrote this in 66 A.D. He lived when the Lord Jesus Christ lived, and he is writing a history, and part of that history has the Lord Jesus. He writes—he's more or less an eyewitness of Jesus. Here's what he says:

About that time lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed we ought to call Him a man. For He's one who performs surprising deeds, and He taught people truth gladly. He won over many Greeks and Jews. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the

accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned Him to a cross, those who loved Him did not cease. He appeared to them, spending the third day restored to life.

So He resurrected after the third day.

Well, the prophets had foretold such things, a thousand and other marvels about it. And the Christians, who are so called after Him, still appear unto this day.

So some great quotations.

Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled

Okay, let's think about prophecy. Let's think about prophecy. First of all, there's about a hundred references, about a hundred references to the first coming of the Lord Jesus when He came as a baby. There's about 33 references about how He died on the cross. There's 500 references to His coming again. There's many, many Bible references about prophecy.

Now, I want to think about a couple of these with you. Now, we have them on the overhead because to turn to each one of these would take too much time, take too much time. But in your own time, you can look up some of these verses.

One is in the Old Testament book of Micah: Micah chapter 5, verse 2. It tells the exact place where Jesus was going to be born. It says:

[Micah 5:2 NKJV] - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Thank you. But notice what it says: "Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." So this is a pretty fantastic prophecy. So it says there will be someone who will be born in Bethlehem, someone who will be born in Bethlehem. He would be a ruler, but He would have existed from eternity past.

Now, how many people—we had a whole line of people—how many people in this world who could fit that description? How many could fit that description?

Now, I had a class when I was in college. I don't think they have this class anymore; it was on religion. It was actually on Christianity. And they asked me, because I was a Christian, and I raised my hand, if I would give reasons why Christianity is true for my class. And so this is what I did: I put a couple of prophecies on the board, and I said, "Who could ever fulfill these prophecies that are foretold thousands of years ago?" That's a pretty fantastic evidence. That's a great evidence for the Bible. Only God knows the past; only God knows the future.

Here's something written 700 years before Jesus was born, and it foretells about how He was born. Now, if you went to the New Testament, Matthew chapter 2 and verse 1:

[Matthew 2:1 NKJV] - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

And you know what they said when they came to the East? You know what they said? "We're looking for someone who is what?" The King of the Jews. Now, when He came, He wasn't a King yet, but He would be a King. He would be a King that will reign for many years. 700 years before something happened, it's fulfilled in the life of the Lord Jesus.

Now, so that was the birth of the Lord Jesus. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament. In Psalm 16:10, it says:

[Psalm 16:10 NKJV]
For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

In the grave—that's a Hebrew word for the grave or for hell. When you're in the grave for a short period of time, even three days, if you were to leave a body three days without being buried, what would happen? It would begin to corrupt. Ever go in a certain area and there's an animal that dies? It's a smell, isn't there? It begins to smell, a very bad smell, beginning to corrupt. In this psalm it says: "You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor Your Holy One to see corruption." It says in Acts chapter 3, verse 15:

[Acts 3:15 NKJV] - and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

A thousand years before, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was foretold. Actually, it was foretold in a couple of places, but this is just one of them: the Lord Jesus Christ would be in the grave three days and three nights, and then He would be resurrected. Even His own disciples didn't believe this! A thousand years before the death of Christ or the resurrection, it was foretold that He would be resurrected from the dead.

Now, a thousand years ago, the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus was foretold. Now, I'm told that even a thousand years ago, the way the Romans crucified someone wasn't even invented yet. It wasn't even there yet. Can you imagine somebody foretelling space travel 300 years ago? People would be, "How could you even have space travel? We've never heard of space travel." How can you foretell something that didn't even exist?

So it says in Psalm 22—in fact, if you have your Bibles, let's turn to that for a moment: Psalm 22. Psalm 22 is a psalm full of prophecies. I encourage you, if you haven't read it before as a young person, just read it, because you almost think you're reading from the New Testament. It's all about Jesus. Psalm 22: the first words in Psalm 22 are, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani."

[Psalm 22:1 NKJV]

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Why are You so far from helping Me,
And from the words of My groaning?

Those are the exact words the Lord Jesus spoke on the cross. He was on the cross, He said with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani," which is Aramaic for "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" And here in verse 1: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

But look down with me: verse 18:

[Psalm 22:18 NKJV]

They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.

This is 1,000 years before the Lord Jesus was crucified, and that's the exact thing that they did! The Romans took His clothing, and they gambled for it to see which soldier would get

this garment of the Lord Jesus. 1,000 years before He was crucified, they said what would happen with His garments.

It says also a thousand years before, it says in verse 16:

[Psalm 22:16 NKJV]

For dogs have surrounded Me;

The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.

They pierced My hands and My feet;

They took nails and nailed My hands and My feet to the cross.

Now, do you know how they would do that? They didn't put the cross up first and then hold Jesus up and then nail Him to the cross. I don't know how you thought they would nail Him to the cross, but they dig a hole in the ground first, a deep hole. And then they would lay the cross on the ground, and they would lay Jesus on that cross. And while He's laying on that cross and they hold His arms out and His feet out, then when it's on the ground, they nail His hands and feet into that wooden cross with big steel nails.

And as they're doing that, the Bible says the first thing Jesus said—this is amazing to me, first thing He said, He didn't say, "Stop nailing Me to the cross." First thing He said is in Luke chapter 23, verse 34:

[Luke 23:34 NKJV] - Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

He's asking for forgiveness for the people who are nailing Him to the cross! That's the first words out of the voice of the Lord Jesus. It says here: they nailed, they pierced His hands and His feet. In John chapter 20, verse 27, He said to Thomas:

[John 20:27 NKJV] - Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

"My feet. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

Another one: Isaiah 53, another great chapter to read. Sometimes I read it to somebody who's not a believer, not a Christian, and I ask them, "Is this in the Old Testament or the New Testament?" If they say it's in the New Testament, I say, "Do you know it was written 750 years before Jesus was even born?" It sounds like Jesus' crucifixion because it is, but it's a prophecy. And how could someone write something unless it was divinely inspired of God, who knows the end from the beginning? It says He was numbered with the transgressors:

[Isaiah 53:12 NKJV] - Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

We know that Jesus had two thieves on either side of Him. They pierced His hands and His feet. They recorded what He said on the cross, who was resurrected after three days, who was numbered with transgressors. And it says in Matthew:

[Matthew 27:38 NKJV] - Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

All of these prophecies! There's 33 different prophecies.

Now, there was a man—there was a man called Peter Stoner. He was a statistician, and he had a book called Science Speaks. I had this book years ago. In his book, he says this: the probability of eight prophecies—and there's many more than eight, but eight prophecies regarding Christ coming to pass in one man was 10 to the 17th power. Who can say that number, one in 100? Maybe somebody very mathematically minded could even tell me what that number is, but it's almost impossible. The probability of it being anyone else but Jesus Christ is impossible. Prophecy is amazing.

Prophecies Concerning Israel and Christ's Return

Now, in the time we have, we'll take a little bit more time. I want to look at some other prophecies in the Bible. I mentioned some prophecies about the Lord Jesus Christ coming back. There's another prophecy I want to quote to you. This is in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4. It says:

[1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NKJV] - ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The Lord's going to come back for us. That's a pretty fantastic promise.

But here, about the Jewish people: 2,000 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, 4,000-plus years ago, it says in Genesis chapter 26:

[Genesis 26:4 NKJV] - And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

I don't know how many Jewish people have been on this earth since that was prophesied, but it would be millions upon millions upon millions upon millions, even while many of them were being killed through the Holocaust. Today, roughly 25 to 50 million Jews are in the world today.

Jews will be uprooted and scattered. It says they will be wanderers and scattered among all nations of the world. Deuteronomy: it speaks about them being a persecuted people:

[Deuteronomy 28:65-66 NKJV] - ⁶⁵ And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. ⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.

That's true. It's come to pass many, many, many times. Sometimes they've lived in safety, but over the history of the Jewish people, they've been attacked and imprisoned and taken captive and made slaves and killed—Nazi Germany and other times in their history.

Jeremiah 31:35-36. I used to work with a man who was a Jewish man. He was a conservative Jewish man, and he said, "My people will one day be no longer. It won't ever exist again. So many of them are dying. The population of the Jewish people is getting smaller and smaller."

It wasn't actually true; it would get bigger and bigger. But I used to quote this verse to him. I actually used to have a little Bible with me, and it said:

[Jeremiah 31:35-36 NKJV] - ³⁵ Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): ³⁶ "If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever."

This is the fixed order. It says if this ever departs from before Me, then shall the offspring of Israel cease from being a nation before Me. When the stars stop shining, when the waves stop hitting the shore, then will Israel cease to be a nation before Me forever. While the stars still shine and the waves—everywhere I go, whether it's the ocean or a lake, the waves still roll.

The Greatest Love: John 3:16

Now I want to close—our time is finished—but I want to end with this little thing about John 3:16. What was our verse today? Our verse was John 3:16:

[John 3:16 NKJV] - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Wow. I just love someone who put this together:

God, the greatest Person.

So loved, the greatest measure—He so loved. That word "so" means it's very vast. The love that He had was a vast love, the greatest force. You know, love is almost the greatest force in the world. People do extraordinary things because of love. They'll go to extraordinary measures for their children or for their parents or for their spouse or for their nation. It's a great force.

The world, the greatest number: the world.

That He gave, the greatest gift.

His only Son, the greatest sacrifice.

Whosoever, the greatest invitation. And He says to you, "Whosoever." You're part of the "whosoever."

Would believe on Him, the greatest opportunity: to believe. That's all we have to do: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Say, "Lord, I believe You love me, You died for me, You extend that gift of salvation to me. I want to receive it, and I want to be Your child. I want to be a child of God forever. I want to be in Your family forever. I want to be Your child forever. I want my sins removed from me as far as the east is from the west."

In Him, the greatest object.

Should not perish, the greatest deliverance. It's a sad thing that there are many people that will perish because they never believed on the Lord Jesus. I know some people like that.

Have everlasting life, the greatest blessing.

I want to extend that to you.

Here we see some great miracles of how the Bible is true through prophecy: the prophecies about the Lord Jesus, prophecies about Israel, prophecies about the Lord coming back for us—some that are fulfilled already, some that are not fulfilled yet. The Bible is true in what it says, and the Bible is true about John 3:16, and extends to you this tremendous gift: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, have your sins forgiven and a home in heaven and a Savior in your heart.

So I'm going to close in prayer and turn it over to Mr. Harold, and I think Trevor will be coming on shortly.

Our God and Father, we thank You for this time this morning. We thank You for these proofs through prophecy of the accuracy of the Word of God. There's no book ever like it. How is it possible that such future events could be prophesied so exactly and all these things come to pass? The Lord Jesus, His birth and His coming, His death, all what is said about Israel, all that's said about the future. And so, Father, we thank You for this incredible book, without error, without fault, teaching us about incredible truths about salvation and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I just ask You, Father, if there's anyone here that doesn't know You as Savior, that You would work in their hearts, the Spirit of God would speak to them. Father, if there's anyone here, may they just come up to an altar and say, "I want to know Jesus Christ as my Savior. I want to do it today. I know today is the day of salvation. Today is the day. Father, I want to make this day the day I become a Christian at 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel." So we pray this and we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Wordless Book: A Message of Salvation

We've heard about the greatest prophecy, and it's this one on the wall behind me. It says you don't need to perish; it says you can have everlasting life. Who gets to have their sins forgiven and have everlasting life? Who gets that? Answer: whosoever. Did you ask the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Savior? You're the "who," and who would get it? The one who ever said it. Did you ever say it? Many years ago when I was just a little boy, seven years old, I said, "Lord Jesus, I'm one of the 'whos,' and I want to get to have my sins forgiven." And it was on that time that I did it. Have you ever done it? And if you've never done it, you get cursed; but if you have done it, you get everlasting life. It's a marvelous story.

Thank you. For the children who've just come in, Mr. Trevor, are you there? Could you please tell us another story today?

Well, hello, everybody! It's nice to see you in stamp-size form on my screen. I've had a busy morning: I've been working around my parents' house, and a bear came by and was sticking his paw through the window trying to break in! And so I was frightening off a bear, and I thought to myself that bear could really hurt me. I yelled and screamed and locked all the doors and went back about hiding so the bear couldn't find me.

Thank you. But this is something called a wordless bag. You can see it's just a normal bag. Well, it's not a normal bag because it tells a story, and this is the story of how God created you and I to be with Him and have fellowship with Him. And so this first outer cover of the bag is gold, which reminds us of God's deity and how He wants us to be with Him and have fellowship with Him.

But unfortunately, something happened. And as I reach into the bag and I pull it around, there were a couple of people on the face of the earth, one named Adam and one named Eve. And they didn't think having fellowship with God was very important, and they disobeyed God. And as Romans would tell us, sin entered the world:

[Romans 5:12 NKJV] - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

Death by sin through the disobedience of one man. But God still wanted to have fellowship with us. So despite our sin, despite our rejection of Him, God's a God of fellowship and God's a God of love—the greatest love David was just saying. And He loved the world so much that

He gave His only begotten Son to shed His blood on the cross of Calvary to pay the price of our sin. You see:

[Romans 6:23 NKJV] - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And Jesus died a death that we all should suffer, but He shed His blood. But He was innocent, you see, right?

And if I reach my hand in this bag and I pull it out again, it's no longer red, but it's white, because Jesus is the pure one. Jesus is the holy one. Jesus is the one that knew no sin:

[2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV] - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

And He's able to take the blackness of our sin with the blood of His Son and wash it white as snow because Jesus could be our substitute. As Jesus is white as snow, He could transfer that to you and to me to make our sins white like snow.

And when we trust in Jesus and He makes our sin white like snow and I reach into the bag again, He gives us the greatest life like we were just thinking about. I think if I did the calculations correctly, Mr. Summers made that decision almost 80 years ago. That's a long time ago, and he's proved it over and over again that this is the best life for us to live. I didn't do it that long ago, but I did it almost 40 years ago. And He gives us life, but not just any kind of life: He gives us eternal life.

And how do you get that eternal life?

[John 3:15-19 NKJV] - ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has

come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

That's us: our deeds were evil. But if we believe in Him as our Savior, He takes us from death into life, because Jesus is the perfect substitute and He paid the price for our sins.

This is the best story—sorry, the greatest story. As we read the Bible and we hear about the greatest, well, He's not only the greatest Savior, He's the only Savior:

[John 14:6 NKJV] - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

And this morning, again, we invite you, just like Uncle Harold did a minute ago, that you believe in Him and have everlasting life. The Lord bless you today. Amen.

Houdini and the Resurrected Savior

Thank you, Trevor.

I'm going to tell you one more story. There was a man, he was very famous. He could do things that Trevor does, only he did it much bigger. He was the kind of man, actually, sometimes they would put chains around him and then they would drop him into the ocean, and he'd break the chains and come up and he wouldn't drown. His name was Houdini, and he was very, very famous all over the world because of the great tricks he could do.

And before he died, this is what he said. He said, "You know, I get free from the chains, and I can get free from being in a prison, and I can get out of all kinds of things. You know what I'm going to do? I'm going to get out of death." So he said to his family and he said to his children, he said, "After I die, I'm going to meet you." And he told them the time and the place and the day and the month. And he said, "You be there and we'll get together, because I'm going to do that too."

And so when that day and hour arrived, his friends were there and everybody was there—with one exception. What was the exception? Mr. Houdini never showed up.

Jesus rose from the dead! He said you and I will rise from the dead, but it'll be on His schedule and it'll be for your judgment. He's got it all worked out. Jesus is the author of prophecy. He knows your future; He knows my future. And Houdini said, "I'm going to go my way." God said, "No, you're not."

So, Trevor, thank you. And David, thank you for all those good stories. I've got lots of stories I'd like to tell you too, but there's no time, and some of you would like a snack. So we're going to say, "Thanks, Lord, for the snack," and then you can go. Yeah, son. Son, we're going to pray. You sit down. Very good.

Now, Lord, we want to thank You for all that You've done for us. We thank You that You fulfilled the prophecies, and the Bible says:

[1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV] - This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

And that's what He did, and we're so thankful that He came to save sinners. And many of us are thankful that He has actually saved me. And we thank You for the prophecy that said that He can save anyone: whoever, whosoever will come to Him, they will not perish, but they will have everlasting life. And Lord, that's what we all want. Help us to say, "I'm a whosoever, and I want to come not later; I want to come now." We pray that they will say that.

Thanks for the snack. Thanks for David and Faith. Thanks for all our leaders. Thanks for everyone who's come. Bless us today, we pray. We give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.