

God's Amazing
LOVE

Stephen Ellis

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God's Amazing Love

The single word “love” can conjure within us a lot of different emotions. It is a word that is often abused and misunderstood. Comprehending God’s amazing love, can at times be difficult for us to grasp. Why does God love me so? Why did He send His Son to this world to take on my sin? I could have never deserved such a gift, the exchange of my Lord’s perfect life, a sacrifice offered for my guilt and sin.

“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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

[\(John 3:16, 17\)](#)

The apostle John, so many years ago penned words full of great truth, hope, and love. Words that are still true today. Through this short booklet, I hope we can better understand God’s amazing love together.

Chapter 1

The Messiah Has Come

You may remember the hymn “Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?”, written by J. G. Dailey in 1892.^[1] Have you ever stopped for a moment to consider this very question?

We live in a time that seems so divided, a generation where there seems to be so much pain and hurt. Where so many seem to be filled with doubt and confusion. Where the question is asked, “Who can be trusted?” I don’t know if this time is much different than times past. It seems if we are not careful, each generation can lose direction and purpose. How about us? Do we struggle with purpose, do we have times of doubt? Have we experienced pain and hurt? Why did my Savior come to earth? As Mr. Dailey recorded “Why did my Savior come to earth? Why to the humble go? Why choose a lowly birth?” The chorus, as he penned, says, “Because He loved me so.” This simple truth is difficult to understand but it is one we desperately need to know today.

As the Old Testament closes, it does so with a promise and hope of expectation. “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.” ([Malachi 3:1](#)). The Old Testament closes with the expectation of a prophet who would come to prepare the way of the Lord.

It closes with the expectation and hope of a Messiah who was promised. It would be 400 years from these words, that God would bring them to fulfillment through the voice of “one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said.” (ref. [John 1:23](#)). As we step into this moment in time through God’s Word, we step on a stage prepared for the coming Messiah. The expectation has been building as people were searching for the Messiah.

In the Gospel of Luke, we pick up the story of Jesus at His baptism. The Bible tells us that when Jesus was baptized by John the Immerser, heaven itself was opened (ref. [Luke 3:21](#)). “And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”” ([Luke 3:22](#)). Shortly following His baptism, Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit, (ref. [Luke 4:1](#)) returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. He returns from the wilderness to Galilee in the power of the Spirit (ref. [Luke 4:14](#)), where Jesus begins teaching in the synagogues. Typically, this is the time in which we understand the “public ministry” of Jesus to have begun.

[Luke 4:16-22](#)

"So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?””

Why did our Lord come to earth? He came to preach the gospel. He came to heal the brokenhearted. He came to set free the captives. He came to provide recovery of sight to the blind, and He came to proclaim the year of the Lord.

Jesus the Messiah has come to proclaim the Good News!

He came to those who are poor, those who understand their need. Pride will hinder us from seeing and understanding our need for a Savior. Pride blinds us to our sins. Jesus said in ([Matthew 5:3](#)), “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Opening the door to the kingdom of heaven begins with understanding our need for a Savior. Faith is opposed to pride. The faith of a small child is a faith that is dependent upon others. It is a faith that trusts in what they cannot do for themselves. This is the faith that the Lord desires; a faith that understands our need and looks to Jesus the Messiah to supply what we are lacking and cannot supply.

Jesus has come to release the captives. The language in Luke's gospel suggests we have been taken captive as a "prisoner of war". Sin holds us captive, and God's Anointed has come to release us from the bondage and captivity of sin. The apostle Paul recorded in ([Romans 6:16](#)) "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" The inspired words of the apostle teach us that we are held captive by sin and we are slaves of sin leading to death. He continued in ([6:17,18](#)) "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." Having been slaves to sin, we are made free when we faithfully obey from the heart the gospel of Christ. We are delivered from captivity and become servants of righteousness. The Messiah has come to release us from sin that holds us captive.

Jesus has come to rescue those who are crushed in spirit. In Jesus, we have the hope of heaven. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ([Revelation 21:4](#)).

Jesus has come to provide recovery of sight to the blind, to lead us out of our prisons of darkness. (ref. [Isaiah 42:7](#)).

This is Good News! The Messiah has come!

It would seem that as we step on this stage in time, when the long-awaited Messiah has come, that all would rejoice. Who would not desire to receive this good news?

As the gospel writer Luke recorded, not all received the message of Christ with joy. Some who heard Jesus “were filled with wrath” and just wanted Him away from their presence (ref. [Luke 4: 28, 29](#)). It is difficult for me to imagine that after witnessing the ministry of John the Immerser in preparing the way of the Lord, after seeing the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove at His baptism, some would reject His message. But they did.

Today, we have this same choice: the choice to receive or reject the Messiah. It is a choice to receive His message of good news. A message that supplies what we are lacking and cannot do. A message that sets us free from our captivity to sin and a message that provides us with light to lead us from darkness.

Why did my Savior come to earth? As J. G. Dailey recorded, because He loved me so.

Chapter 2

Access

"Why did He drink the bitter cup of sorrow, pain, and woe? Why on the cross be lifted up? Because He loved me so!"

[1]

In the first chapter, we noticed that Jesus came to earth to preach the gospel to the poor, to set the captives free, to heal the brokenhearted, and to provide recovery of sight to the blind. As we continue to explore this song and the importance of the question it asks, verse two directs our thoughts to the cross, "Why on the cross be lifted up? Because He loved me so!"

*It is a good thing to sit down for a few moments
and consider the cross of Jesus.*

How can the importance of the cross be summed up in just a few words? How can the gift of grace and the love outpoured there be described in a few short paragraphs? It seems to almost be an overwhelming task. However, answering the question of why our Savior came to earth is an important question to consider.

In Matthew chapter 27, several miracles are described as Jesus yielded up His spirit on the cross. "Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the

graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.” ([Matthew 27:51-53](#))

Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead were events that had tremendous effects on everything we know. At this time, let us spend some time exploring just one of the things mentioned in Matthew 27. Let us consider the temple veil as we think about the access we have through Christ.

In Exodus 26, we find a description of the veil of the tabernacle.

“You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.” ([Exodus 26:31-33](#))

How wonderful it would be to see this beautiful and ornate veil! Besides the beauty of the fine yarns, the acacia wood with overlaid gold, and the bases of silver, the veil served a very important function of dividing the tabernacle into two parts: the holy place and the Most Holy.

Inside the Most Holy place was the ark of the covenant with the golden pot of manna inside, Aaron’s rod and the tables of the covenant God had made with Israel (ref. [Hebrews 9:4](#)). This was the place where God would meet and give instructions to the Children of Israel (ref. [Exodus](#)

[25:22](#)). Once a year, the high priest went behind the veil into the Most Holy place and offered blood for his sins and the sins of the people. It was a special place and the access to it was very limited.

What does the veil have to do with why our Savior came to earth?

Remember in Matthew it is recorded that the temple veil was torn from top to bottom at the time of Jesus' death. This event marked a new beginning, a new covenant—a covenant set in the blood of Christ. The author of Hebrews records these words, ““This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”” ([Hebrews 10:16-17](#))

Why did my Savior come to earth? He came so we could have access to the Father!

Before—the temple veil limited access to the Father (only the high priest was allowed in once a year).

After—Christ came as High Priest with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands. (ref. [Hebrews 9:11](#))

Before—the high priest took the blood of animals once a year to offer for forgiveness of sins.

After—Christ entered, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His blood (ref. Hebrews 9:12). His was a

sacrifice that did not need to be repeated year after year. His sacrifice was “once for all.” (ref. [Hebrews 9:12](#)).

We now have access to the Father through the sacrifice of our Lord and Christ who is our High Priest and who serves continually. Jesus serves as Mediator to the Father on our behalf. We can now “...come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (ref. [Hebrews 4:16](#)) Whereas in times past people were limited to the presence of God, today through Christ we gain access to His presence!

Why did my Savior come to earth? Why on the cross be lifted up?

So that through Him we can have access to the Father, because He loved me so!

It is important to understand that former things such as the temple and the priestly sacrifices were just copies of the things in heaven. In [Hebrews 9:23-25](#) we read, “Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another”.

The Hebrews author explains for us the things in time past, the vessels of ministry, the sacrifices, these were a pattern of better things that were to come in Christ. These

were given as a guide to point to a better covenant, a greater sacrifice, a holy place not made with human hands but into heaven itself where Christ now appears in the presence of God.

Yes, Christ came so that we can have access to the Father.

The access He provides is for all people.

Christ came so that all people could have the forgiveness of their sins through the sacrifice of our Lord offered once for all time. His access to the Father is not limited to any one people group, any one continent, or any one language. His access to the Father is for all people.

I wonder today if we try to limit this access? Do we limit the gospel to only those who are like ourselves? His sacrifice is not limited. It is for the unrighteous, the fornicator, the idolater, the adulteress, the homosexual, the thieves, the covetous, the drunkard, the reviler, the extortioners as the apostle Paul wrote. The inspired apostle continued in [1 Corinthians 6:11](#), "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." His access is not limited and His sacrifice is greater than our sin. As we have received His gift of grace, His mercy, His forgiveness and love, we must remember that His sacrifice was not only for us.

Jesus came to earth to be lifted up on the cross because He loved us so. He came to provide access to the Father for all.

Hebrews 9:8-14

“the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience — concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

The patterns of times past could not perfect people, they were limited.

They were symbolic of the fulfillment that is Christ. There are no limits to Christ's service. There are no limits to His sacrifice. He alone is the only acceptable sacrifice without spot (without blemish), who cleanses the conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

In Him alone is the ability to tear the curtain of separation between the Holy (God) and the unrighteous (us). In Him, we come and we can stand in the presence of God. Why did my Savior come to earth? Because He loved me so.

Jesus came to this earth to be lifted up on a cross. He came to this earth so that we could have access to the Father. He came to this earth so that He would be the Mediator of a new and better covenant.

He came to this earth because He loved us so.

Chapter 3

Hope

Hope is very powerful. Without hope we will often lose our purpose. In the song, "Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?", the final verse speaks about the great hope we have in Christ. It speaks of the hope of our salvation.

“Till Jesus comes I’ll sing His praise, And then to glory go, And reign with Him thru endless days, Because He loved me so!” [1]

Have you ever experienced disappointment? A time in which your hope was let down? It could have been that your trust or confidence in someone was betrayed. Perhaps it was a certain expectation that you had, an expectation that was unrealized. This led to disappointment, discouragement, confusion, pain, possibly even doubt. At some point, I imagine we have all experienced times of disappointment, times when our hope was let down or our expectations crushed.

I have heard it said or I have read, although I don't remember where now, *as we read the Gospel and letters of John, we could say John is the apostle of love. Reading through the writings of the apostle Paul, we may see the importance of faith. Peter we could describe as the apostle of hope.*

Looking back on Peter's life, could we understand why God may have chose Peter to write about hope? Peter, at one point in his life had lost hope--even denying he knew Jesus at all! He was a person tossed into a sea of doubt and confusion that more than likely filled his mind and filled him with discouragement. Suddenly unsure of the call of Christ, the fisherman returned to what he knew - fishing (ref. [John. 21:1-3](#)). Hope was gone - that is until the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Yet as we read the words of Peter in our New Testament, we do not read the writing of a man filled with doubt and discouragement. We read the words of a man who was filled with a living hope.

[1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."

This text is not filled with words of despair. We are not reading the words of a person who is full of disappointment or discouragement. Instead, we read the words of a person who is filled with excitement and hope. Notice again his words as he writes to the Church of our Lord and Savior:

1 Peter 1:3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Can you hear the excitement, the joy in Peter because of the hope he has? This hope has filled him because of God's abundant goodness.

It is a living hope that has been born again in the life of Peter through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Put this in the context of Peter's story. Upon the death of our Lord, his life had lost hope. When Jesus was laid in the tomb - Peter's hope was extinguished, it was gone. But now, the hope Peter has is because death could not hold Jesus. It is a new and living hope, alive in Peter because Jesus was raised from the dead!

This hope is not just for Peter. The Lord has begotten us again to a living hope. The application is of a living hope based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and it is for all who have a new birth in Christ.

In [1 Peter 1:13](#), he speaks about the hope that we are to rest fully upon; grace brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Peter continued to write:

[1 Peter 1: 22-23](#)

"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever"

We are born again through the word of God. God's Word is living. It is active. It is incorruptible. It is not like our physical birth, a birth that ultimately leads to decay and death. Christians are born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, the word of God. This life, the life of new birth, does not decay with the passing of the years. We are born again through the word preached, believed, and obeyed as we are those who have been added to His church (ref. [Acts 2:47](#)).

Through new birth, Christians are born again into a living hope. It is a hope that does not disappoint or let us down.

We are born to a new inheritance.

[1 Peter 1:4](#)

"to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"

The inheritance which awaits faithful children of God is incorruptible. It's not affected by the passage of time.

Unlike the things of this earth, this inheritance is eternal. It's an inheritance that is undefiled. It does not partake in, nor is it contaminated with the characteristics that so often define this world. It's an inheritance that is unfading. It will not wither. The beauty of our inheritance is like that of a flower in constant bloom, it never fails.

Peter is describing for us the rich treasure of our hope, it is an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading. The hope that we have in the resurrection of Christ from the dead, as Peter is describing for us, is unlike anything we know here on this earth. It is a hope that is only found in Christ and only in a new birth.

The hope that we have in Christ is a hope reserved and kept for those who are faithful in Christ.

1 Peter 1:4-5

"to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

The hope that we have cannot be found in the things of this earth. It is in heaven and found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is the hope of eternal life and it is a hope that is guarded carefully. It is kept careful watch or custody over.

John 14:1-4

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. 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. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

The hope we have as Christians is guarded, it is watched over by Christ who has gone to prepare a place for us.

“Till Jesus comes I’ll sing His praise, And then to glory go,
And reign with Him thru endless days, Because He loved me so!” [1]

Is there a greater hope than the hope we have in Christ? The promise of this life is not that we will be exempt from experiencing discouragement, doubts, or disappointments. We live in a world affected by sin and decay and we certainly will experience times of discouragement in our lives. However, the hope of Christ is received in new birth and lifts us beyond this earth. It lifts us to the heavenly places where Christ is seated at the right hand of God (ref. [Ephesians 1:20](#)). It is a hope that inspires us to more than the offerings of this world. It is a hope that causes us to look beyond this earth to the living hope found in Christ.

Peter was a follower of Jesus who, upon the death of Jesus, returned to what he knew: fishing (ref. [John 21:1-12](#)). Yet he could no longer be content with the things of this world after the resurrection of Jesus. The hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead

raises us to a new life in Him. It is a life filled with new and living hope.

notes:

[1] Dailey, J. G. (1892). "Why Did My Savior Come To Earth?" Songs of Faith and Praise, Shape Note Edition. Howard Books. Copyright 1994. West Monroe, LA. 382

What must I do to be saved?

Hear the Word of God
([Matthew 13: 9](#); [Romans 10: 17](#))

Believe That Jesus Is The Son of God
([John 8: 24](#); [Hebrews 11: 6](#))

Repent Of Your Past Sins
([Luke 13: 3, 5](#); [Acts 17: 30](#))

Confess Your Faith In Christ
([Acts 8: 37](#); [Romans 10: 9, 10](#))

Be Baptized Into Christ
([Mark 16: 16](#); [Acts 2: 38](#); [1 Peter 3: 21](#))

Serve The Lord Faithfully
([Romans 6: 17](#); [Revelation 2: 10](#))

Have you considered what the Bible teaches us about salvation? Have you followed the Word of God?

If you have questions about salvation or what the Bible teaches us concerning our salvation, please [contact us](#) at SimplyRevised.

Thank You!

I want to thank you personally for your time in considering these lessons and materials. It is my prayer that this study has been an encouragement to you as you desire to grow in the Lord.

We at simplyrevised.org are dedicated to growing, strengthening, encouraging and equipping Christians in the Lord. It is also our desire to share the good news of Christ with others. We pray our efforts assist in accomplishing this goal.

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