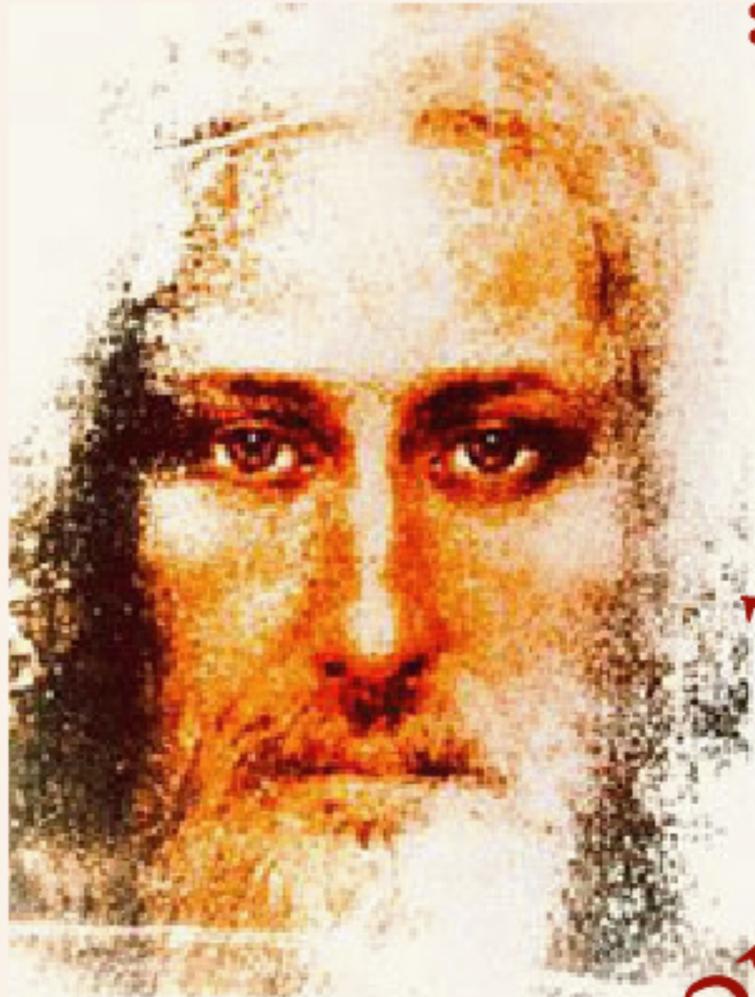


# The Gospel of John ~ Part Two:

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*"Who do you say that I am?"*

*"Who do you say that I am?"*

Meeting  
Jesus Christ  
through  
His signs  
and ministry  
~ John 1:19-12:50

# The pinnacle of all of history is coming in just a few days

## John 12:30-33

<sup>30</sup>Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine.

<sup>31</sup>Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

**What a minute?!?! You mean you are going to die?!?! What's that about?!?!**

**John 12:34**

<sup>34</sup>The crowd spoke up, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain for ever, so how can you say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this ‘Son of Man’?”

**The time for asking questions is over - now is  
the time for decision... light or darkness,  
chose now!**

**John 12:35-36a**

<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup>Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light."

# Jesus hid himself

**John 12:36b**

When he had finished speaking,  
Jesus left and hid himself from them.

# The Rejection of Jesus

## John 1:11, 12

<sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own,  
but his own did not receive him.

<sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him,  
to those who believed in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God.

# What would it take for the crowd to believe?

**John 12:37**

<sup>37</sup>Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

# The fulfillment of a sobering prophecy

## John 12:38-41

<sup>38</sup>This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” <sup>39</sup>For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: <sup>40</sup>“He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn — and I would heal them.” <sup>41</sup>Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him.

# The fulfillment of a sobering prophecy ~Isaiah's Vision of Christ

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# The fulfillment of a sobering prophecy ~Isaiah's Vision of Christ

## Isaiah 53:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup>He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

# The fulfillment of a sobering prophecy ~They “could not” believe - a Judicial Hardening

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# The fulfillment of a sobering prophecy ~They “could not” believe - a Judicial Hardening

## Isaiah 6:8-10

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” <sup>9</sup>He said, “Go and tell this people: “‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ <sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

**Praise from men**  
**Vrs.**  
**Praise from God**

**John 12:42-43**

<sup>42</sup>Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;  
<sup>43</sup>for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

# A final plea for all to believe

## John 12:44-50

<sup>44</sup>Then Jesus cried out, “When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. <sup>45</sup>When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. <sup>46</sup>I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

<sup>47</sup>“ As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. <sup>48</sup>There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. <sup>49</sup>For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. <sup>50</sup>I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.”

**Wait a minute!**

**Why don't people believe?**

**Doubt vrs Unbelief**

# **A look at the sin of unbelief**

# A look at the sin of unbelief

## Genesis 2:16, 17

<sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

# A look at the sin of unbelief

## Genesis 3:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup>“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

# A look at the sin of unbelief

## Genesis 3:1-8

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

# A look at the sin of unbelief

## Romans 1:16-25

<sup>16</sup>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup>For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

# A look at the sin of unbelief

## Romans 1:16-25

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup>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 men are without excuse.

# A look at the sin of unbelief

## Romans 1:16-25

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.

I affirm, and the Word declares it, *unbelief is a sin*. Surely with rational and unprejudiced persons, it cannot require any reasoning to prove it. Is it not a sin for a creature to doubt the word of its Maker? Is it not a crime and an insult to the Divinity, for me, an atom, a particle of dust, to dare to deny his words? Is it not the very summit of arrogance and extremity of pride for a son of Adam to say, even in his heart, "God I doubt thy grace; God I doubt

er?"  
Oh! sirs believe me, could ye roll all sins into one mass,—could you take murder, and blasphemy, and lust, adultery, and fornication, and everything that is vile and unite them all into one vast globe of black corruption, they would not equal even then the sin of unbelief. This is the monarch sin, the quintessence of guilt; the mixture of the venom of all crimes; the dregs of the wine of Gomorrah; it is the A1 sin, the master-piece of Satan, the chief work of the devil.

~Charles Spurgeon, *The Sin of Unbelief*