

The Greatest News

*The News Everyone
Should Hear*

*That is the day when I come like a thief!
Happy the man who stays awake...*

Christ (Rev. 16:15)

Hushidar Hugh Motlagh



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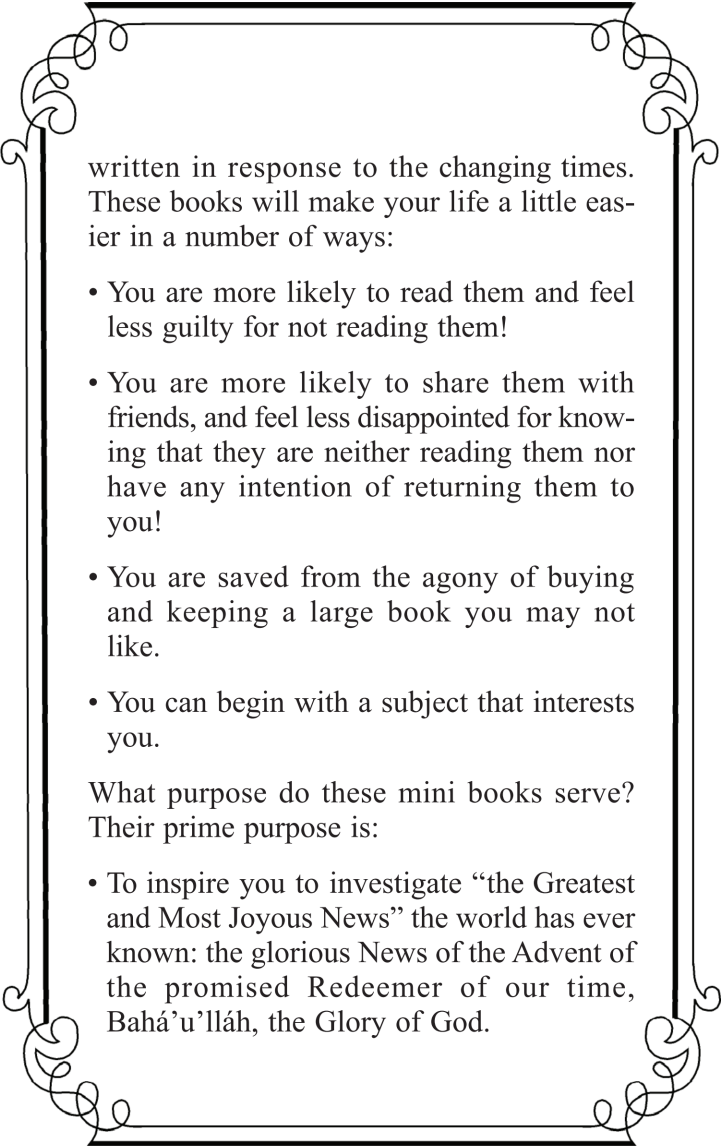
**A New Series
of Mini-Books
for Busy Readers**

“Blazon-His-Name” Series

Dear Seeker of Knowledge:

This is the state of the western world: “There is so much to do and so little time to do it.” Many people fail to spare enough time for their families, let alone for reading a whole book on impractical and elusive subjects, such as who are we, why are we here, and what on earth are we doing? Life is too short to spend it in search of answers that may never be found.

This volume is written for those who can find a little time for their soul. It is one of a series of mini books on human purpose and destiny,



written in response to the changing times. These books will make your life a little easier in a number of ways:

- You are more likely to read them and feel less guilty for not reading them!
- You are more likely to share them with friends, and feel less disappointed for knowing that they are neither reading them nor have any intention of returning them to you!
- You are saved from the agony of buying and keeping a large book you may not like.
- You can begin with a subject that interests you.

What purpose do these mini books serve? Their prime purpose is:

- To inspire you to investigate “the Greatest and Most Joyous News” the world has ever known: the glorious News of the Advent of the promised Redeemer of our time, Bahá’u’lláh, the Glory of God.

- To give you a taste of some of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings and to describe briefly God's plan for each of us and for the world.

Since this copy may be the first and the last one you may ever receive, a brief introduction to Bahá'u'lláh's life and a list of suggested readings, are included at the end of most volumes. Please send your comments and suggestions to the author:

hugh@globalperspective.org



Time does not wait for anyone. We must choose our destiny, or “the relentless course of events” will make all the choices for us.

True wisdom lies in gathering the precious things out of each day as it goes by.

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Knowing and Loving God

1. ***Do You Really Know Who You Are?*** The glory and the joy of knowing yourself
2. ***God's 19 Great Little Tranquilizers.*** Heaven's prescription for peace and tranquility
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9. ***Who Needs Religion?***

Bahá'u'lláh and the Bahá'í Faith

10. ***Bahá'u'lláh: A New Name Everyone Should Know***

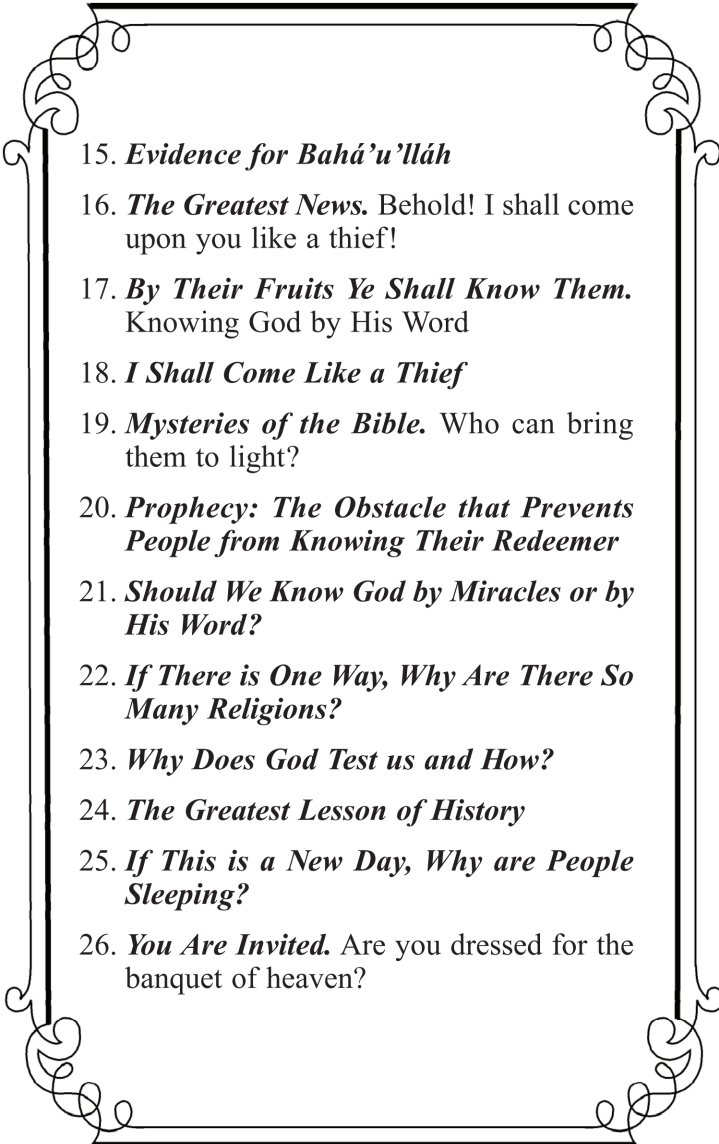
11. ***Bahá'u'lláh: the One Promised in all Scriptures***

12. ***Bahá'í Faith: God's Greatest Gift to Humankind***

13. ***Thy Kingdom Come!*** God's plan for a Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven

Evidence for Bahá'u'lláh and the Bahá'í Faith

14. ***Hath the Hour Come?*** Bahá'u'lláh's Epistle to Christians

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15. *Evidence for Bahá'u'lláh*
 16. *The Greatest News.* Behold! I shall come upon you like a thief!
 17. *By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them.* Knowing God by His Word
 18. *I Shall Come Like a Thief*
 19. *Mysteries of the Bible.* Who can bring them to light?
 20. *Prophecy: The Obstacle that Prevents People from Knowing Their Redeemer*
 21. *Should We Know God by Miracles or by His Word?*
 22. *If There is One Way, Why Are There So Many Religions?*
 23. *Why Does God Test us and How?*
 24. *The Greatest Lesson of History*
 25. *If This is a New Day, Why are People Sleeping?*
 26. *You Are Invited.* Are you dressed for the banquet of heaven?

Preface

You are Invited to Know

Blessed are those who are invited...

Christ (Rev. 19:9 NIV)

A New Season and a New Garden

In the Scriptures, religion is likened to a vineyard or a garden; God to the gardener (Matt. 5:13); His Messengers or Redeemers to trees (Matt. 13:1-23; 5:13); and their lives, teachings, and influence to fruits (Matt. 7:15). In each age or season, God creates a new garden and plants a new tree—the Tree of Life—that bears fresh fruit for the soul.

Why does the supreme Gardener create the garden? His goal is to offer spiritual nourishment to all those who thirst and hunger for the fruits of heaven.

*Blessed are those who **hunger** and **thirst** for
righteousness, for they will be filled.*

Christ (Matt. 5:6 NIV)

But at the beginning of the new season, most people refuse to visit the new garden. Some of them are afraid to even look at its wondrous fruits.

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Christ (Luke 12:32 NIV)

History shows that people have always rejected their Redeemers:

The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony.

Christ (John 3: 32 NIV)

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard ...Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third.

Christ (Matt. 21:33-35 NIV)

This book presents conclusive evidence to show that once again God has created a new vineyard in the utmost beauty and splendor. We have received the honor of being invited to visit this vineyard and still the greater honor of being chosen by the Gardener:

For many are invited, but few are chosen.

Christ (Matt. 22:14 NIV)

The Greatest News is an invitation to all those hungry for truth and knowledge to come for a short

walk through this beautiful vineyard of joy and peace. The invitation takes the form of a brief dialogue between two friends.

One friend wants to share with the other the news of the coming of a new Messenger or Redeemer from God—known as Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God. Since this is a sensitive subject, he tries to break the news gently. He cherishes his friend and does not want to alienate him. This book is a record of his daydreams. If you were in his place, how would you break this news? What would be your daydream?

Part I

**The Greatest
News**

*A Dialogue Between
Two Friends*

The News Everyone Should Hear



*Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears My voice and opens
the door, I will come in to him.*

Christ (Rev. 3:20)

- ♥ Have you heard of Bahá'u'lláh?
- ♦ No, I have not.
- ♥ I believe everyone should know Him. He is one of the most significant figures in history.
- ♦ Who is He? Why is He so significant?
- ♥ All sacred Scriptures predict the dawning of a new day and the coming of a supreme Messenger or

Redeemer from God who will establish a global civilization ruled by justice, who will make all things new: “*I am making everything new*” (Rev. 21:5 NIV). Those Scriptures declare that the promised Messenger will come:

- To change the world without, to turn our planet into a place of peace and harmony.
- And to change the world within, to raise the human race to the loftiest levels of nobility, to manifest the hidden image of God in every soul.

Bahá'u'lláh declares to be that supreme Messenger or Redeemer. He claims to be “the Glory of God.” That is what “Bahá'u'lláh” means. I believe everyone should learn about the advent of such a great Teacher from God and investigate the evidence for His Mission.

♦ Why?

- ♥ For many reasons. Let me start with this statement from Jesus about “fruits:”

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down

and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Christ (Matt. 7:15-20 NKJ)

Why did Jesus give us those guiding words?

- ◆ He wanted to teach us to be careful and critical. He did not want us to be gullible, to fall for every claim.
- ♥ Yes, but He also wanted to give us a standard by which we can separate a good tree from a bad tree, a flower from a weed, a true Messenger from a false messenger.
- ◆ I agree. We should pay attention to all of Jesus' instructions, not just to a part of what He said. What message does Bahá'u'lláh bring for us?
- ♥ Bahá'u'lláh declares that His Word is from God, that He is the Tree of Life with celestial fruits for every soul—fruits that provide all the spiritual nourishment we need for a thousand years and more:

Verily He is the Tree of Life that bringeth forth the fruits of God, the Exalted, the Powerful, the Great.¹

Bahá'u'lláh

What should we do? Test Bahá'u'lláh's fruits or ignore them?

- ◆ It would be reasonable to test them. The Scripture says, "*Test the spirits to see whether they are from God*" (I John 4:1). And if we are asked to judge a tree by its fruits, how can we do this without tasting its fruits?

- ♥ Judging without testing is unfair and unreasonable. There are *means* and there are *ends*. To get from the first floor to the second, we must climb the stairs. In the same way, to test Bahá'u'lláh's fruits, we must climb the Tree of Life and reach out for its fruits. Would you like to do that?
- ♦ I can't see how any harm will come to me from doing what Jesus has asked me to do. I find many people quick to judge. They seldom consider instructions such as:

Does our law...permit us to pass judgment on a man unless we have first given him a hearing and learned the facts? John 7:51 NEB

I think we believers carry the idea of fearing false prophets to the extreme. If we don't keep this fear under control, it may turn into a phobia—an emotional disorder that will grip and suffocate our souls. According to sacred Scriptures, a believer should be adventurous (Ps. 27:14; Deut. 1:17; Isa. 35:4), open minded, and curious. As Christian scholar Dr. Barry Chant notes:

[Jesus] intimates that His servants are not to be passive in their waiting [for His return]. They must show enterprise and investment, to use initiative with what has been given them (even perhaps to take calculated risk)...²

Jesus asked us to be truth seekers. He said, “*Seek and ye shall find*” (Matt. 7:7). He taught us to be *alert* and *watchful*.

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.

Christ (Luke 12:37 NIV)

Jesus threatened, with the harshest words, the fearful, the negligent, the self righteous, and the apathetic (Rev. 3:1-6; Luke 21:34-36). The Scripture clearly shows that unjustified fear is a grave sin (Rev. 21:6-8). I do not want to commit this sin.

I am willing to test Bahá'u'lláh's fruits, but I don't have enough confidence in myself to judge Him, because I don't have any training in biblical studies.

- ♥ Many believers respond in this way. But is it reasonable? Let me ask you a question. Suppose you invited a friend to learn about Jesus, and he said that he didn't have enough Bible training. Suppose you met that friend ten years later, and he gave you the same answer. Suppose you offered him the same invitation at his deathbed, and he still gave the same answer. How would you respond to him?
- ♦ I think the real reason many of us think about the need for Bible studies is our subconscious fear that anyone with different beliefs wants to convert us or deceive us, wants to show us that we are wrong. We see ourselves on a battleground. In response to this threat, we take a defensive posture by saying that we are not qualified to defend our beliefs.

- ♥ The need to be defensive has resulted from the abuse of religion. Many zealous believers try to open our mouths and force feed us as if we are anorexics. This action has destroyed our appetite for new ideas. I believe in the freedom of each individual to choose his or her destiny. Trying to drag an unwilling soul to heaven is a sin. It destroys the honor and the dignity of faith. Note how strongly Jesus discouraged this practice:

Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. Matt. 7:6 NIV

- ◆ Now that I know your intentions, I feel comfortable to come to the new garden and taste the new fruits.
- ♥ Before going to the garden, let me explain a little more the supreme significance of honoring people's spiritual freedom. I firmly believe that no one has the right or the authority to change a person's religion. Our beliefs are personal, between us and God. ***We don't have the right to "convert" anyone. The only right we have is to share knowledge.*** It is by sharing that we grow. Just as light reveals the nature of material objects, so does the light of knowledge reveal spiritual mysteries. The Scripture repeatedly confirms this principle:

A wise man will hear and increase learning (Prov. 1:5 NKJ). Through knowledge the righteous will be delivered (Prov. 11:9 NKJ). The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge

(Prov. 18:15 NKJ). My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6 NKJ).

Sharing knowledge is wonderful, but trying to “convert” others is against God’s Will. Our job is to inform and invite. Only “the Bridegroom” has the right and the authority to choose guests for His banquet:

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...

Christ (John 6:44 NIV)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

Christ (John 15:16 NIV)

See also John 3:27; 6:65; James 4:10

Trying to convert a person is like cutting a flower from one garden to plant it in another. I consider this contrary to God’s design of creation. It is disregarding the Wisdom of the great Gardener. It is trying to assume God’s role. This is a classic example of abuse of beliefs. It is an act of spiritual violence.

But sharing knowledge is enjoyable. It is allowing each flower to be free, to show its beauty, and to share its fragrance with other flowers. Every tree should be allowed to enjoy its freedom to grow in its own garden. Only God has the authority and the power to transplant a tree.

As long as we respect people’s spiritual freedom, there is a deep joy in our fellowship. The desire to use pressure to prove that we are right and

everyone else is wrong spoils the joy. Like a ravaging storm, it shakes the tree and shatters the flowers.

- ◆ Thank you for clarifying the question of spiritual rights and responsibilities that God has given us. Today many people try to win converts as if people are a piece of a broken branch with no spiritual roots, as if they have no freedom to choose their destiny. I find our discussion of spiritual freedom quite enlightening. We seldom talk about this critical issue. Earlier you said that Bahá'u'lláh declares to be a Teacher and Redeemer from God. What evidence does He present to show that He speaks the Word of God?
- ♥ There are three ways or standards by which we can test those who claim to speak the Word of God:
 - By their fruits
 - By their fulfillment of prophecies
 - By their miracles

Let us now examine the value and relevance of each of those standards. Consider miracles. Many people put excessive and unreasonable emphasis on this standard. Are they justified? Sacred Scripture show that miracles are totally unreliable as evidence. In fact, God has always condemned the testing of His Redeemers by miracles:

Do not test the Lord your God...

Deut. 6:16 NIV

A wicked and adulterous [disloyal] generation asks for a miraculous sign!

Christ (Matt. 12:39 NIV)

Ponder these questions:

- To prove the validity of the claim of His Messengers and Redeemers, would God use an evidence that He Himself condemns?
- If miracles were the true evidence, how could we separate a true Redeemer from the thousands of cult leaders and deceivers who have always thrived on using miracles as proof of their claims?
- Do you believe in your religion by the report of miracles you have not seen? If you do, how could you object to someone else who uses the same kind of evidence to believe in a cult leader or deceiver?

God's great Messengers and Redeemers perform many miracles, but they do not use them as an evidence of who they are.

- ◆ I never thought that basing one's beliefs on miracles would be so risky. What about the "fruits"?
- ♥ Fruits are one of the two sets of evidence that God has declared to be reliable.
- ◆ As I mentioned, I do not know enough about the Bible to judge Bahá'u'lláh's fruits.
- ♥ Earlier we covered this issue. It may be helpful to discuss it again. Let me ask you several

questions and invite you to respond to them in your heart:

- When Jesus promised that “By their fruits you *will* know them” (Matt. 7:20 NKJ), did He set any condition, such as “Provided you have several years of biblical training?”
- Would God make a false promise?
- If we doubt God’s firm promise that we “will recognize them,” what does that indicate?
- Would it be fair if God made the discovery of truth dependent on mental abilities and degrees in theology?
- If biblical studies and experience were the reliable basis of knowing the truth, why were Jesus’ apostles ordinary people, mostly fishermen and peasants?
- What would have happened if in response to Jesus, those apostles had said, “We don’t know enough about the Hebrew Scriptures. Talk to our Rabbis!”?
- If biblical studies were assets, why did the greatest theologians of Jesus’ times—Annas and Caiaphas—condemn their Redeemer to death?
- The majority of people, whether they are Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhist, or atheists, do not have “adequate” biblical training. Are such people *not* responsible for their spiritual choices?

- How much biblical studies are “adequate”? How many books should you read and how many lectures should you attend to be able to judge the fruits?
- Did you have “adequate” biblical studies before accepting *your* religion?
- Do you believe in your Redeemer by the evidence that God Himself has established: *fruits*? If you do, what are those fruits?
- Finally, why did Jesus make this statement:

I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and wise, and revealing them to the simple. Yes, Father, such was thy choice.

Christ (Matt. 11:25-26 NEB)

- ◆ These are wonderful questions. I should take the time and try to answer every one of them.
- ♥ Questions of this kind are seldom asked. Those in positions of power would like to create the impression that because of the extra information they have stored in their brains, they should have the sole authority to be the spiritual leaders. They expect the lay people to trust them and to put their everlasting destiny in their hands. Should we listen to God or to leaders? According to the Scripture, information by itself offers no advantage. It may even be a disadvantage.

Who can discern the truth? Who can discover the glory of God? A “pure, kindly, and radiant

heart” or a brain crammed with “book learning” and theological theories?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matt. 5:8 NKJ

Examine the entire Bible to see if you can find a single verse that even remotely resembles any of the following:

Blessed are the scholars, for they shall see God.

Blessed are those with Ph.D’s, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the professors of theology, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the popes, the bishops, the priests, the pastors, and the rabbis, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the famous authors of books of prophecy and books of Christian or Jewish doctrine, for they shall see God.

Not once are educational or intellectual achievements mentioned in the Bible as a means of receiving salvation, as a means of achieving nearness to God, as a means of being loved by God, or as a means of finding the truth. The Scripture always points to the heart. Yet people abandon God’s glorious home—their *hearts*—and look after someone else’s *mind*. Who is that person? A scholar with a degree in theology, a famous author, someone persuasive who attracts

large crowds, or someone charming, who smiles and tells people what they like to hear:

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of [Bible] teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

II Tim. 4:3 NIV

In most cases, when people get a degree in theology or write best sellers on Christian issues, they feel confident and proud of their wisdom and their achievements. That sense of pride serves as a veil between them and God. They become even less worthy of being saved.

Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

I Cor. 8:1

The Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.

Psalms 149:4

Note also this verse among many others:

...the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, **because their deeds were evil.** Christ (John 3:19 NKJ)

Have you ever seen a verse like this: “The light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, *because people did not have enough Bible studies*”?

- ◆ The questions that you raise are critical. They relate to our everlasting destiny. They make us

think about the issues we seldom talk about. At the beginning of our discussion I had some concerns. You removed all my fears of entering a new garden and tasting its fruits. What can I lose by obeying God and testing Bahá'u'lláh's fruits? What is the best way to know Bahá'u'lláh and His fruits?

- ♥ I think the best way to know Him is to read His Writings. Bahá'u'lláh has revealed a vast store of knowledge in Writings equal to a hundred volumes. *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh* is a good choice. It presents a cross section of His works. I will be delighted to lend you or give you a copy.
- ♦ What about the prophecies? Our traditional beliefs indicate that Jesus will come from the sky. He will be visible like the sun to every eye.
- ♥ God has always used prophecies to prepare people for the advent of His Redeemers, but He has never authorized people to interpret them by *human* standards. Consider these verses:

Therefore **judge nothing** before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness...

I Cor. 4:5 NIV

...no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation.

II Peter 1:20 NEB

See also Deut. 29:29; Isa. 29:5, 9-14

Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll? But **no one** in heaven or on earth

or under the earth **could open the scroll or even look inside it.** Revelation 5:2-3 NIV

Once again let me ask you a few questions:

- Were you aware of these verses before?
- Do they authorize anyone to interpret the prophecies?
- If we do not have the right to interpret, who has that right?
- If we ignore the preceding verses, what does that indicate?
- Was not Jesus rejected for the same reason: misunderstanding the prophecies?
- Are the people of our generation wiser than Jesus' generation? Are they more discerning, more enlightened?

If we set, or insist on, any condition concerning the return of Christ, we have ***already*** tried to “open the scroll” and to “look inside it.” If we decide in advance how the Lord must come, then we have “judged” ***before*** giving our Redeemer a chance “to bring to light what is hidden in darkness.” Is this not an act of disobedience?

No biblical evidence gives the people of this age any credit for their wisdom. In fact, prophecies portray a gloomy picture of the people of our time. They predict that, “*People will be...always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth*” (II Tim. 3:2,7 NIV).

- ◆ But Jesus tells us in plain literal language that He will come from the sky and we will all see Him.
- ♥ Do you realize that Jesus used the same “plain literal language” to claim that in His first advent He also came from the sky?
- ◆ I do not recall such a verse.
- ♥ There are several references with such a message. Here they are:

...I have come down from heaven...

Christ (John 6:38 NKJ)

And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

John 6:42 NKJ

But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. **You judge by human standards...**

Christ (John 8:14-15 NIV)

See also John 3:13; 3:31-32

As we know, Jesus did not come from the sky. He was born as a baby in Bethlehem. Have you ever heard any Christian ask, “Why did Jesus claim that He came from the sky, when everyone knew He didn’t?”

- ◆ No, I have never heard anyone ask this question.
- ♥ Why is this question not raised?
- ◆ I do not know.
- ♥ Raising this question is extremely critical.

- ◆ Why?
- ♥ Because it discloses the very reason for which Jesus was rejected.
- ◆ What was that reason?
- ♥ By far the most significant issue in Bible prophecy is knowing which prophecies are literal, which prophecies are symbolic. Every question in Biblical prophecy revolves around this question.

The Jews did not have the wisdom to know which prophecies were symbolic. To them everything looked literal. Consider the word “king.” Hebrew prophecies indicate again and again that the expected Redeemer will be a king. But not once do they say that He will be a *spiritual* king. Have you wondered why?

- ◆ Perhaps God wanted to make the Jews humble, because they were too confident in their own wisdom. He wanted to test them.
- ♥ Yes, pride prevented them from seeing the glory of God in Jesus. Only Jesus knew the true meaning of “king.” But when He disclosed it, they refused to accept His judgment. They had eyes to see but could not see. Only by being humble can we see the light of truth:

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;
He will beautify **the humble** with salvation.
Psalms 149:4 NKJ

Jesus was the Tree of Life with the most wonderful fruits. He also fulfilled all the prophecies *in His own way*, not the traditional way.

- ◆ What you are implying is that we have not yet learned our lessons. We still have that sense of pride that we are superior to the Jews, that we have the wisdom they did not have.
- ♥ Spiritually, human beings are slow learners. Once again let me ask you a few questions:
 - Why did Jesus say that He came from the sky, when people knew He was born to Mary?
 - Could He not make the same claim at His Second Advent?
 - If He meant His Spirit came from the sky, why did He not say so?
 - If He were present today, and if in response to people's objection to His interpretation, He said that only *He* knew the meaning of prophecies, what then would be a reasonable objection to His claim? Would it be fair to say that He was wrong because the Bible scholars disagreed with Him?
 - Would it be fair to ignore the numerous literal prophecies that He *has* fulfilled simply because He has *not* fulfilled a few of them according to traditional interpretation?
 - By what authority could any interpreter of the Scriptures claim to be right?
 - Is any authority given to anyone to interpret the prophecies?
 - Why are such serious questions ignored by religious leaders and scholars?

Most believers—both Jews and Christians—have surrounded themselves with the clouds of theories, assumptions, and speculations based on a few *metaphoric* prophecies. No wonder Jesus said that He will come in the clouds and every eye shall see Him (Rev. 1:7). Ponder for a moment. What purpose do clouds serve? They conceal, they cover up. What does seeing require? A lack of clouds. Even a large plane is invisible when surrounded by clouds. With a little thought, the inner meaning of Jesus' prophecy becomes clear. Jesus will appear in the clouds of misconceptions among His followers, but those with inner eyes can break through those clouds and see Him in all His glory.

The prime purpose of asking you all these questions is to help you break through those clouds. What can any believer lose from doing this? They are the kind of questions that threaten prevailing theories. Therefore, most scholars and religious leaders cope with them in the best way they know: they simply ignore them.

Once you hear the unwelcomed questions, you begin to think and to reason. You find the massive clouds around you unpleasant.

Let me conclude this discussion with one final point. Let me mention the most significant lesson that history can teach us. That lesson can come from a response to the following questions:

- Why did the Jews pray so fervently for the advent of Jesus, and then crucified Him?

- What makes the people of this age different from those who lived in the past?
- Every generation has the illusion of being different. The illusion keeps that generation in its comfort zone of negligence and denial:

Woe to you, teachers of the [religious] law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, "If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets."

Christ (Matt. 23:29-30 NIV)

Ponder also upon this statement from Jesus:

And He [Jesus] opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

Luke 24:45 NKJ

Can any Christian claim that the Jews' sense of understanding was **closed** but that of Christians is **open**—that they really know the true meaning of prophecies?

The right to interpret the meaning of prophecies is given only to the Redeemer of the age. That was the rule at the time of Jesus:

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

John 4:25-26 NIV

Has that rule been changed? Who changed it and by what authority?

- ◆ Thank you for raising these critical questions. I never heard them in my church nor did I ever think about them. I got most of my beliefs from my parents, who in turn got their beliefs from *their* parents. The same holds true with Bible scholars and Christian leaders. They are also children of tradition. Catholic scholars as a rule come from Catholic families, Baptist scholars come from Baptist families, Mormon scholars come from Mormon families, Muslim scholars come from Muslim families, and Jewish scholars come from Jewish families.

- ♥ The problem that we, the people of this age, share with the Jews is this: We seldom notice the verses that fail to fit our traditional expectations. Many believers get only a one-sided view of the Scriptures in their churches and synagogues. I suppose this happens among the followers of all religions.

Unfortunately, in religion, unlike in science, most people imitate rather than investigate their beliefs. But don't our beliefs deserve more attention? Our everlasting destiny depends on our spiritual choices. And our religion determines many of those choices.

- ◆ If we do not have the wisdom to know which prophecies are literal and which prophecies are symbolic, and if biblical expertise is not required for knowing the truth, what then is required?

- ♥ To make the truth reachable to every human being, God in His infinite Wisdom, has provided and offered to every truth seeker a ***Three Eyed Truthstone***.
- ♦ What do you mean by that?
- ♥ A touchstone tests the purity of gold and silver. It separates the genuine from the counterfeit. To separate truth from falsehood, we need something like it—let us call it a ***Truthstone***. This precious stone lies within the reach of every human being. To obtain it, we need no degrees, no courses, no expertise. What makes this stone unique is that it is designed by God. To do its job, a ***Truthstone*** must have three watchful eyes:



Let us explore each of them:

The Eye of the Mind: Suppose you are driving a car. Would you let someone else see for you? Why then would you let someone else think for you, and choose your beliefs for you? The first essential rule for seeking and finding true knowledge is to attain a state of absolute independence

from every other human being: our parents, pastors, friends, and unknown ancestors who are usually the ones who long ago chose the religion we follow today. Unless we set aside everything we have heard or learned from others, we cannot be just in our judgment. What others have told us may prejudice our mind, may block our view and distort our vision. We will act like a judge who fails to be present in his court to hear and see the evidence firsthand. Could such a judge decide justly? God invites every seeker of truth to attend the court to receive firsthand information.

The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide in thee. By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbor. Ponder this in thy heart; how it behooveth thee to be. Verily justice is My gift to thee and the sign of My loving-kindness. Set it then before thine eyes.³ Bahá'u'lláh

In God's court you cannot say, "I believe because my parents told me to believe or because a famous scholar or evangelist supports this interpretation."

...every man shall bear his own burden.

Galatians 6:5

Depending on other people's judgment is denying that God has given us a mind. Not seeing

with our own mind is as irrational as blindfolding ourselves and depending on someone else. This is a grave sin and a sign of spiritual immaturity and ingratitude. Thus using the ***Eye of the Mind*** is the first requirement for finding true knowledge.

- ◆ What is the second requirement?
- ♥ The second requirement is using the ***Eye of the Heart***. Human beings are not merely intellectual beings; they are also emotional beings. Seldom can we find a person without emotional weaknesses. When I stand on a balcony looking down from a high rise building, I experience fear. I know I am well protected, yet I see myself falling down. I can't explain why. Consider people who have racial prejudice. Can you change their minds by mere logic? Why not? Because a racist has mostly a ***heart*** problem. Many conflicts persist in the world for the same reason. Only when our hearts are pure from selfish concerns can we see the truth, can we see God and discern His glory in His supreme Redeemers:

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall
see God. Christ (Matt. 5:8)

...your sins have hidden His face from
you... Isaiah 59:2 NKJ

I counsel you to buy from me...salve [ointment] to put on your eyes, so you can **see**.
Christ (Rev. 3:18 NIV)

You may look and look, but you will never
see.

Acts 28:26 NEB

...without holiness no one will **see** the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14 NIV

The eyes that can **see** will not be clouded...
Isaiah 32:3 NEB

Thus the second requirement for discovering true knowledge is seeing through the ***Eye of the Heart*** as God created that Eye, ***free from emotional distortions or weaknesses.***

- ◆ What is the third eye?
- ♥ It is the ***Eye of God.***
- ◆ How can we see through God's eyes?
- ♥ We can see through His eyes only if we use ***His Standards***, not our own. As we noted earlier, Jesus told the Jews that He came down from the sky. When the Jews rejected His claim, He gave them this reason for failing to understand Him:

You judge by ***human standards...***

John 8:15 NIV

Like an optometrist, God prescribes a special lens for us. He promises that we will find Him and see Him only by using that special lens: ***His*** standards of separating truth from falsehood. He promises to disclose Himself ***only*** to those who are faithful to ***His*** rules and standards, only to those who obey ***His*** commands:

If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...**Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.** He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I too will love him and show myself to him.** John 14:15-21 NIV

God shows His glory only to those who show Him their obedience—by using ***His standards.*** Someone with 20/20 eyesight and a dozen Ph.D's and many high positions in his church or synagogue may be blind to God's glory, but an uneducated peasant born blind may see His glory as clearly as the sun. This is the meaning of "*Every eye shall see Him*" (Rev. 1:7).

The Jews living at the time of Jesus refused to look through God's eye. They wanted miracles, not "Fruits." They did not care for "living bread." They asked for loaves of edible bread from the sky. Their vision was so distorted, their minds and hearts were so closed that even miracles—the rise of a dead person from the grave—could not convince them:

If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.

Christ (Luke 16:31 NIV)

Consider also this verse:

The man **without the Spirit** does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God,

for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are **spiritually** discerned. I Cor. 2:14 NIV

Have you ever seen a statement like the following in the Bible?

The man without a Ph.D. in biblical studies does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are mentally discerned.

No! Such a statement is the exact opposite of what the Bible teaches. Only *the Spirit of God* can help us see the truth. Only *that Spirit* can give us the wisdom to know Him, only *His “ointment”* can heal the diseased eye of our soul (Rev. 3:18). Our relationship with God has always been, and will always be, spiritual.

- ◆ You indicate that we must see through God’s Eye, and that we can do this only if we use *His* standard. What is His standard?
- ♥ God’s first and foremost standard is expressed clearly in this verse: “*By their fruits ye shall know them*” (Matt. 7:20).

If we fail to use God’s “*Truthstone*” we can never find the truth. Every Messenger and Redeemer from God has been denied because people:

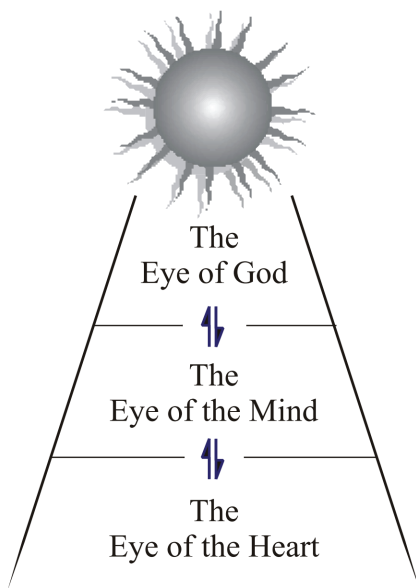
- Looked with someone else’s eyes, usually those of their parents, relatives, religious leaders, or friends.

- Looked with an “eye heart” that was afflicted with defects—such as unjustified fear, worldliness, apathy, prejudice, pride, lack of faith, negligence, and self-righteousness. They lacked the desire or the commitment to devote time to their spiritual destiny.
- Depended on their own eyes, not God’s. They failed to include “God’s eyes”—**His** established standards—in their search for truth. They looked for what they wanted to see—something physical, glamorous, and spectacular. They waited for a mighty miracle, a gentle but powerful hand that would suddenly lift them to heaven. And if there were verses that told them otherwise or asked them not to depend on their personal interpretation of prophecies, somehow their eyes “missed” those verses.

To test this last point, make a survey among Bible teachers in your church to find out how many of them remember reading the verses that disqualify every believer from claiming to be an authority on the meaning of prophecies.

- ◆ Your description of **the three eyes** makes perfect sense. It is obvious, if any of these eyes is missing, we are spiritually handicapped and unable to see the truth. How can we gain these eyes, if we don’t already have them?
- ♥ Each of us must discover which of the three eyes is absent in our “Truthstone,” and then pray to God—even plead with Him—to provide it. As

soon as all the eyes begin to function, the glory of God in His new Redeemer becomes as evident to us as the sun.



*Truth becomes visible only if
the Three Eyes are connected*

We plead with God to bring us back alive from heart surgery. We beg him to heal our cancer. Why not beg Him and plead with Him to show us the way and give us the gift of knowing His Redeemer of the Age?

We should pray tearfully to God to grant us the honor and the joy of recognizing His Redeemer:

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Psalms 126:5

The honor of knowing the Redeemer of the Age is infinitely more glorious and sacred than any other achievement. At death, we leave everything behind except our soul. Note the following passages from Christ and Bahá'u'lláh about the destiny of those who deny or ignore the Redeemer of the Age:

But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Christ (Luke 12:9 NKJ)

God will verily do unto them that which they themselves are doing, and will forget them even as they have ignored His Presence in His day. Such is His decree unto those that have denied Him, and such will it be unto them that have rejected His signs.⁴

Bahá'u'lláh

Let me repeat once again that no human being has the power or the authority to “convert” others. Both the authority and the power are in God’s hand. Without His help, we can do nothing. With His help, we can move mountains of illusions, misconceptions, prejudice, fear, and unworthiness.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Christ (John 15:5 NKJ)

A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9 NKJ

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...

Christ (John 6:44 NIV)

- ◆ Thank you for clarifying this point, that only God can convert us. This is one of the best kept secrets.

Since my destiny is in God's hand, only by obeying Him can I be certain of eternal life. I am willing to use all those three eyes that God has given me. I can't see how anyone can be certain of his salvation except by obeying God.

Knowing a Redeemer by His fruits and by His fulfillment of prophecies makes sense. I would like to explore these topics further. The promise of finding the truth is given only to those who seek.

- ♥ Let me encourage you to read two small volumes. The first volume presents the fruits of Jesus; the second compares Jesus' fruits with those of Bahá'u'lláh. It also presents many prophecies—from both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures—fulfilled by Bahá'u'lláh:
 - *The Glory of the Son* (the fruits of Jesus), about 120 pages. Before knowing the true evidence for another religion, we should know the true evidence for our own—the one on which we base our everlasting destiny. If we don't know

why we believe in our own Faith, how can we know why we should believe in another Faith? *The Glory of the Son* offers a brief summary of all the reasons Jesus gave to substantiate His claim. This is a book every Christian should read. It is also of value to the Jews who have a desire to know the evidence for their promised Messiah.

- *The Glory of the Father* (the fruits of Bahá'u'lláh), 312 pages. This is the sequel to *The Glory of the Son*. It applies the same standards to Bahá'u'lláh as *The Glory of the Son* applies to Jesus Christ.

If you are interested and are willing to take the time to read those two small volumes, I will be delighted to lend you or to give you a free copy. The publisher is also offering free copies to all interested seekers of truth. The offer will continue as long as there are true seekers and as long as it is financially feasible.



Say: Is there any doubt concerning God? Behold how He hath come down from the heaven of His grace, girded with power and invested with sovereignty. Is there any doubt concerning His signs? Open ye your eyes, and consider His clear evidence.⁵

Bahá'u'lláh

Look not, O people, at the things ye possess.
Look rather at the things God hath sent down

unto you. This, surely, will be better for you than the whole of creation, could ye but perceive it. Repeat the gaze, O people, and consider the testimony of God and His proof which are in your possession, and compare them unto the Revelation sent down unto you in this Day, that the truth, the infallible truth, may be indubitably manifested unto you. Follow not, O people, the steps of the Evil One; follow ye the Faith of the All-Merciful, and be ye of them that truly believe. What would it profit man, if he were to fail to recognize the Revelation of God? Nothing whatever. To this Mine own Self, the Omnipotent, the Omniscient, the All-Wise, will testify.⁶

Bahá'u'lláh

This Cause is too evident to be obscured, and too conspicuous to be concealed. It shineth as the sun in its meridian glory.⁷

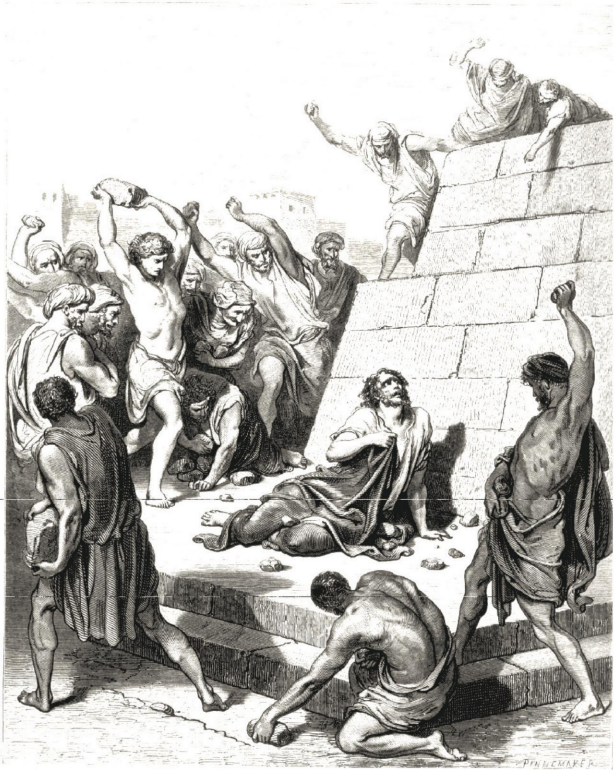
Bahá'u'lláh

I bear witness, O friends! that the favor is complete, the argument fulfilled, the proof manifest and the evidence established. Let it now be seen what your endeavors in the path of detachment will reveal. In this wise hath the divine favor been fully vouchsafed unto you and unto them that are in heaven and on earth. All praise to God, the Lord of all Worlds.⁸

Bahá'u'lláh

Parting Words

Consider the Martyrdom of Stephen:



What kinds of people are throwing stones at Stephen? What would you do if you were in their place? These few Pharisees were acting according to their conscience. They wanted to destroy a deceiver before he had a chance to deceive others. They thought they were defending the truth. Were

they evil? No, by today's standards, most of them were wonderful people. It is believed St. Paul was one of them. Before becoming a Christian, he was a meticulous follower of the Laws of Moses, yet he persecuted Christians to protect his Jewish heritage. He saw them as deceivers and destroyers.

If these people were law abiding believers, why then did they throw stones? Because they wanted to obey the laws of Moses. They were as faithful to their beliefs as the religious people of our time. Why then did they engage in such cruel act? Because of *a few spiritual weaknesses, such as a mind molded and closed by centuries-old traditions.*

When the Bahá'í Faith appeared people did what they have always done: they killed thousands of its new followers with the utmost cruelty. But today in many countries that is not allowed. In place of stone, people can "throw" widely-accepted words, assumptions, and traditions molded and made as solid as stone through the passage of centuries. Many do not realize that those "stony" assumptions and traditions did not come from heaven. They came out of the minds of fallible people, with every weakness imaginable, and then passed from generation to generation as a heritage.

May we invite you to postpone verdict, to withhold your "stones" until you have fully investigated the message of the new Redeemer—*Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God*—the One sent by God to save us and lead us to our divine destiny.



A Story that is Repeated in Every Age

The following true story clarifies and confirms the message of Jesus' parable of the talents (Matt. 25:15-30). It demonstrates the resistance that many Christians display today to the call of their Master and Redeemer—the Son come in the glory of His Father—the One who has now completed His long journey and returned once again to His heavenly Kingdom.

A young couple were separated during World War II. While the father was gone, the mother gave birth to a baby girl. The months passed and the mother kept a large picture of her husband on the desk so that the little girl would grow up knowing what her daddy looked like. She learned to say “Daddy” and associated the name with the picture on the desk.

Finally the day came when her father returned home from the war. The whole family gathered to watch the little girl when she saw her father for the first time. Imagine their disappointment when she would have nothing whatever to do with him. Instead, she ran to the photograph on the desk, saying, “That’s my daddy.” Day after day the family had to blink back the tears as they saw the young father on his knees trying his best to get acquainted with his little daughter, explaining as simply as he could that he was her daddy. But each time she would shake her head, then run to the picture on the desk and exclaim,

“That’s my daddy.” This went on for some time, but one day something happened. The little girl, having gone repeatedly to the picture on the desk, returned to her father and looked carefully into his face. Then she went back to the picture on the desk and studied it. The family held their breath. After several trips the little face lit up as the child exclaimed excitedly, **“They’re both the same daddy!”**⁹

How long will Christians continue to look at the drawings of Jesus Christ, the Anointed One of God, upon the walls of their homes and houses of worship before turning their faces to their King and their Master who has now returned from His long journey with His new name, ***Bahá’u’lláh, the Glory of God***? How long before they will open their hearts and their souls to the most glorious gift that awaits them? How long before they will ***hear His Voice***?

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone ***hears My voice*** and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes [misconceptions] I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Christ (Rev. 3:20-22)

Open the doors of your hearts...We, in truth, have opened unto you the gates of the Kingdom...He Who is the Desired One is come in His transcendent majesty. Say, Lo! The Father is come, and that which ye were promised in the Kingdom is fulfilled!¹⁰ Bahá’u’lláh

Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves *be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately*. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

Christ (Luke 12:35-37)

Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; *the glory of the Lord* [Bahá'u'lláh] shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, "Here I am."

Isaiah 58:8-9

When the Lord...shall appear in *his glory*.

Psalms 102:16

The Lord is come in *his great glory*!¹¹

Bahá'u'lláh

It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and *they shall come and see My glory* [glory of God].

Isaiah 66:18

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of *the glory of the Lord* [Bahá'u'lláh], as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

And *the glory of the Lord* will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.

Isaiah 40:5

...as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with ***the glory of the Lord***. Numbers 14:21

...let ***your*** [God's] ***glory*** be over all the earth. Psalms 57:11

The world is illumined with the effulgent ***glory*** of His countenance.¹² Bahá'u'lláh

This is the Day in which ***the earth shineth with the effulgent light of thy Lord***, but the people are lost in error and have been shut out as by a veil.¹³ Bahá'u'lláh

I will set ***My glory*** [glory of God] among the nations...***I will not hide My face*** from them any-more... Ezekiel 39:21, 29 NKJV

He that was hidden from mortal eyes is come! His all-conquering sovereignty is manifest; ***His all-encompassing splendor is revealed. Beware lest thou hesitate or halt.***¹⁴ Bahá'u'lláh

I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. Christ (Rev. 3:8)

Part II

Bahá'u'lláh

The Glory of God

As stated in the introduction, a purpose of “Blazon-His-Name” series is to introduce *Bahá'u'lláh—the Glory of God*—to the western world. He is the One promised in all Scriptures. He has come to establish the heavenly Kingdom both within our soul and without. Only once in a thousand years a spiritual Figure, a Messenger and Redeemer from God, such as Bahá'u'lláh appears upon the earth. You now have a chance to know Him, to get a glimpse of His glory—a glory that will in time fill the earth:

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of *the glory of the Lord*, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14 NIV

...all the earth shall be filled with *the glory of the Lord*.

Numbers 14:21

Who Was Bahá'u'lláh?

In examining the evidence for the One who has claimed to speak the Word of God, the most vital questions are these: Who was He? What was He like? How did He live? What happened to Him? Here are a few features of Bahá'u'lláh's life, adapted mostly from a book entitled *Some Answered Questions*:

Bahá'u'lláh was born in 1817, in Persia, to a rich and noble family. He died in 1892, as a prisoner and exile in the Holy Land. As an infant, He astonished His parents by His uniqueness and distinctions. His father related that He would never cry or scream. "You don't know," he said, "what a potential He has, how intelligent He is! He is like a flame of fire, and in His tender years superior to young people."¹ Bahá'u'lláh's father was so captivated by Him that he wrote a piece of poetry in his son's honor, inscribed it on a plaque, and hung it on the wall of a summer mansion in which Bahá'u'lláh lived. The

content of the poetry shows that the father sensed the divine destiny of his Son:

When thou interest the sacred abode of the Beloved say:

“I am at thy command.

This is the home of love; enter with reverence.

This is holy ground; remove thy shoes when thou interest here.”²

People were attracted by Bahá'u'lláh's many distinctions. He did not attend any school, yet astonished people by His wisdom and knowledge. Even His enemies testified to His greatness. Great thinkers flocked to His presence, asking Him their most difficult questions. They said, “This man is unique in all perfections.”

He had an extraordinary power of attraction, which was felt by all. People always crowded around Him. Ministers and people of the Court would surround Him, and the children also were devoted to Him. When He was only thirteen or fourteen years old He became renowned for His learning. He would converse on any subject and solve any problem presented to Him. In large gatherings He would...explain intricate religious questions. All of them used to listen to Him with the greatest interest.³

He showed no interest in politics:

When Bahá'u'lláh was twenty two years old, His father died, and the Government wished

Him to succeed to His father's position in the Ministry...but Bahá'u'lláh did not accept the offer. Then the Prime Minister said: "Leave him to himself. Such a position is unworthy of him. He has some higher aim in view. I cannot understand him, but I am convinced that he is destined for some lofty career. His thoughts are not like ours. Let him alone."⁴

Bahá'u'lláh was known especially for His generosity and love for the poor:

He was most generous, giving abundantly to the poor. None who came to Him were turned away. The doors of His house were open to all.⁵

One day Bahá'u'lláh sent 'Abdu'l-Bahá, His eldest Son, to inspect the work of the shepherds who were taking care of His sheep. 'Abdu'l-Bahá was a small child at the time, and the persecutions against Bahá'u'lláh and His family had not yet started. Bahá'u'lláh then had a good deal of land in the mountains and owned large herds of sheep. When the inspection was finished and 'Abdu'l-Bahá was ready to leave, the man who had accompanied Him said, "It is your father's custom to leave a gift for each shepherd." 'Abdu'l-Bahá became silent for a while, because He did not have anything to give them. The man, however, insisted that the shepherds were expecting something. Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá had an idea that made Him very happy! He would give the shepherds the sheep they were taking care of! Bahá'u'lláh was very much pleased when He heard about

‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s generous thoughts towards the shepherds. He humorously remarked that everyone had better take good care of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá because someday He would give Himself away. Of course, this is exactly what ‘Abdu’l-Bahá did for the rest of His life. He gave everything He had, each and every moment of His life, to humanity, to unite us and bring us true happiness.⁶

Bahá’u’lláh was also known for His courage to stand against the powerful who would abuse their power:

All classes of men marveled at His miraculous success in emerging unscathed from the most perilous encounters. Nothing short of Divine protection, they thought, could have ensured His safety on such occasions...In His constant association, during those days, with the highest dignitaries of the realm...He was never content simply to accede to the views they expressed or the claims they advanced. He would, at their gatherings, fearlessly champion the cause of truth, would assert the rights of the downtrodden, defending the weak and protecting the innocent.⁷

Bahá’u’lláh spent the early part of His life in the utmost joy and happiness. But He later became a target of prejudice and persecution. Thousands of fanatical believers rose against Him. Religious leaders were terrified of losing their power. They said, “This man intends to destroy religion, law, the nation, and the empire.” (People made the same accusations against Jesus.) He faced His enemies with the utmost courage, showing no weakness or fear.

Bahá'u'lláh endured nearly 40 years of imprisonment and exile, yet He never complained. No human being can imagine the extent of His sufferings. Among His sufferings was imprisonment in an infamous dungeon in Tíhrán, known as the Black Pit or Black Dungeon, where He was kept for four months. In that dungeon He endured every conceivable pain and anguish:

- ***Total darkness:*** The underground prison had neither lights nor windows.
- ***A terrible stench:*** About 150 of the worst criminals were thrown in that dark, deep, and damp dungeon with no air circulation or sanitary facilities. The ground was covered with several inches of filthy mud and mire.
- ***Hunger and thirst:*** For the first three days and nights Bahá'u'lláh received neither food nor water.
- ***Severe pain and lack of mobility:*** Bahá'u'lláh's feet were put in stocks, and on His neck was placed a chain so heavy that He was unable to hold Himself upright. To hold the weight of the chain, Bahá'u'lláh had to press His hands against the ground covered with slime up to His wrists. From the weight of the harsh metal, His neck became inflamed and injured.
- ***Little if any sleep:*** Bahá'u'lláh could hardly sleep under those horrible conditions.
- ***Lack of clothes:*** His outer garments were stripped away on His way to the prison.

- ***Illness***: Because of the unsanitary conditions, Bahá'u'lláh suffered grave illness.
- ***Being poisoned***: He also suffered pain from consuming poison placed in His food.
- ***Homelessness***: All His properties were confiscated.
- ***Loneliness***: “During this time none of His friends were able to get access to Him.”⁸
- ***Being surrounded by the worst criminals*** who had little if any hope of survival or freedom.
- ***Anxiety about His family***: Bahá'u'lláh's family members, including His young children, were left at the mercy of fanatical mobs, filled with rage and incited to seek revenge. (His Son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, was then 9 years old.)
- ***Deep grief and concern for His devoted and distinguished disciples***, who were being hunted down, tortured, and killed by enraged mobs outside the prison.
- ***Concern about the future***: From that prison Bahá'u'lláh was banished to strange lands. As foretold in a prophecy (Matt. 25:41-46), He became a stranger (an exile). Never again did He see His homeland.
- ***Deep sorrow*** for those who were rejecting God's choicest blessings and bounties.*

* The Bible contains numerous prophecies that predict suffering for Jesus in His Second Advent. For a review of such prophecies, see *King of Kings*.

It was in this dungeon that Bahá'u'lláh expressed the first intimations of His Divine Mission:

One night, in a dream, these exalted words were heard on every side: “Verily, We shall render Thee victorious by Thyself and by Thy Pen. Grieve Thou not for that which hath befallen Thee, neither be Thou afraid, for Thou art in safety. Erelong will God raise up the treasures of the earth—men who will aid Thee through Thyself and through Thy Name...”⁹

Bahá'u'lláh repeatedly stated that He spoke only by God's command, and not of His own choosing. He declared:

Think ye, O people, that I hold within My grasp the control of God's ultimate Will and Purpose? ...Had the ultimate destiny of God's Faith been in Mine hands, I would have never consented, even though for one moment, to manifest Myself unto you, nor would I have allowed one word to fall from My lips. Of this God Himself is, verily, a witness.¹⁰

This is but a leaf which the winds of the will of thy Lord, the Almighty, the All-Praised, have stirred. Can it be still when the tempestuous winds are blowing? Nay, by Him Who is the Lord of all Names and Attributes!¹¹

Bahá'u'lláh's arrest and imprisonment in that dungeon give us only a glimpse of the sufferings He endured for nearly 40 years in three different countries. How could anyone survive the scourge of such

unrelenting pressures? How much pain can a human being endure? Why would God allow the One He loved the most to go through so much suffering? Did not Jesus endure similar ordeals?

Worldly friends, seeking their own good, appear to love one the other, whereas the true Friend [Bahá'u'lláh] hath loved and doth love you for your own sakes; indeed He hath suffered for your guidance countless afflictions. Be not disloyal to such a Friend, nay rather hasten unto Him.¹²

Bahá'u'lláh

The religious leaders feared Bahá'u'lláh's influence, so they had Him exiled to another land. They thought in a strange land His influence would die out. But the result was that His charm captivated many more disciples. They exiled Him again and again. The results were the same—a spreading of His influence. Finally, they sent Him to the worst place they could find: a prison for murderers and thieves, located in a remote city ('Akká) with a dreadful climate and foul water. The sufferings Bahá'u'lláh endured in 'Akká surpassed even those He experienced in the Black Dungeon.

Bahá'u'lláh was placed in a barren, filthy room, while His followers were crowded into another, the floor of which was covered with mud. Ten soldiers were posted to stand guard over them. To add further to their misery, the exiles, parched from a long day in the hot sun, soon found that the only water available to them was unfit for consumption. Mothers were unable to feed their babies, and infants cried for hours...

Under these conditions, all but ‘Abdu’l-Bahá [Bahá’u’lláh’s Son] and one other, fell ill. Within a matter of days three men died. The officials denied the prisoners permission to leave the citadel to bury them, and the guards demanded payment before removing the bodies. Bahá’u’lláh ordered that His prayer rug, the only item of any value that He possessed, be sold to cover the cost of the burial. The guards pocketed the money and buried the men in the clothes in which they died...

Three days after the exiles’ arrival, the Sultán’s edict was read aloud in the mosque. It sentenced Bahá’u’lláh, His family, and His companions to life imprisonment and expressly forbade the exiles to associate with one another or with local inhabitants.¹³

During Bahá’u’lláh’s imprisonment in ‘Akká, His young son was pacing the roof of the prison, “wrapped in devotions, when he fell through a skylight. Mortally wounded, his dying wish to his Father was that his life might be a ransom for those who were prevented from attaining Bahá’u’lláh’s presence.”¹⁴ In a prayer, Bahá’u’lláh speaks of the sacrifice of His son:

I have, O my Lord, offered up that which Thou hast given Me, that Thy servants may be quickened, and all that dwell on earth be united.¹⁵

Here Bahá’u’lláh explains why He accepted so much pain and suffering:

The Ancient Beauty [Bahá'u'lláh] hath consented to be bound with chains that mankind may be released from its bondage, and hath accepted to be made a prisoner...that the whole world may attain unto true liberty. He hath drained to its dregs the cup of sorrow, that all the peoples of the earth may attain unto abiding joy, and be filled with gladness. This is of the mercy of your Lord, the Compassionate, the Most Merciful. We have accepted to be abased...that ye may be exalted, and have suffered manifold afflictions, that ye might prosper and flourish. He Who hath come to build anew the whole world, behold, how they...have forced Him to dwell within the most desolate of cities!¹⁶

Despite this severe repression, Bahá'u'lláh's influence continued to spread, His glory became more evident. From behind prison walls, He triumphed over all His enemies.

For if this idea...is of human origin, it will collapse; but if it is from God, you will never be able to put them [the believers] down, and you risk finding yourself at war with God.

Acts 5:38-39

When Bahá'u'lláh was exiled to the Holy Land, those aware of biblical prophecies suddenly realized what had happened: Bahá'u'lláh's enemies had, unknowingly, become the very instruments for the fulfillment of prophecies about Him because the Bible predicts repeatedly that the Redeemer of the Last Days will come to the Holy Land. Those who

had wished to destroy Him became the means of His triumph. (For a review of these prophecies and many others, see *I Shall Come Again, Lord of Lords*, and *King of Kings*.)

In 1868, while under arrest, Bahá'u'lláh addressed the kings and rulers of the earth, asking them to act with justice and to work for peace. With the exception of Queen Victoria, they ignored His call. He predicted their downfall and His own triumph.

Among these sovereigns was Napoleon III. Bahá'u'lláh asked him to investigate the reason for His imprisonment. The sovereign did not respond. Bahá'u'lláh sent a second letter, predicting his downfall. Soon thereafter, in 1870, war between Germany and France broke out. Everything seemed to be in Napoleon's favor, yet he was defeated, dishonored, and debased. According to *The Fall of Paris*:

History knows of perhaps no more startling instance of what the Greeks called peripateia, the terrible fall from prideful heights. Certainly no nation in modern times, so replete with apparent grandeur and opulent in material achievement, has ever been subjected to a worse humiliation in so short a time.¹⁷

Other sovereigns addressed by Bahá'u'lláh encountered similar fates. Every prediction that Bahá'u'lláh made was fulfilled. These are discussed in a book titled *The Prisoner and the King*, by William Sears.

Bahá'u'lláh's greatness touched even those who did not follow Him. They wrote about His knowledge,

His kindness, and His patience. They flocked to His presence and marveled at His wondrous works.

How often would one of His bitter enemies say to himself, “When I see Him, I will argue with Him and defeat Him in this way...” But when faced with Bahá’u’lláh, he would find himself speechless—unable to utter a word.

Bahá’u’lláh declared His willingness to be tested. To leave the religious leaders with no excuse, Bahá’u’lláh said that He was willing to perform any miracle that they requested. The only condition He set was that, after the miracle was performed, they would acknowledge the validity of His claim. The religious leaders declined to accept the condition. (God has always refused requests to perform miracles to prove His power, see Matt. 4:7. We cannot be sure why Bahá’u’lláh accepted this request. Perhaps one reason was that He knew it would be rejected.)

Bahá’u’lláh demonstrated His dependence on the divine and detachment from worldly desires by associating with the poor and the humble and avoiding the powerful and the pompous.¹⁸ A famous figure wanted to meet Bahá’u’lláh. But to be seen with Bahá’u’lláh meant danger. He sent a message asking to meet with Him secretly. In response, Bahá’u’lláh sent him a piece of poetry to this effect: “Unless you have a desire to sacrifice your life, don’t come here. This is the way if you wish to meet Bahá. If you are unprepared for this journey, don’t come,

and don't bring trouble." The man dared not take the risk of endangering his life and declined.

For nearly 50 years Bahá'u'lláh faced bitter enemies who killed thousands of His followers yet failed to destroy Him. Repeatedly they planned and plotted against Him, but to no avail.

Are these marks of distinction not similar to those found in the life of Jesus?

We must be just and acknowledge what an Educator this Glorious Being was, what marvelous signs were manifested by Him, and what power and might have been realized in the world through Him.¹⁹

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

My deeds done in my Father's name are my credentials.

Christ (John 10:25)

Accept the evidence of my deeds.

Christ (John 10:38)

Part III

The Hour of His Judgment Has Come

Revelation 14:7

I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt
not know what *hour* I will come upon thee.

Christ (Rev. 3:3)

The *Hour* which We had concealed from
the knowledge of the peoples of the earth
...hath come to pass.¹

Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'u'lláh's Epistle to Christians

Bahá'u'lláh wrote an Epistle containing His strongest and most urgent appeals to Christians to investigate His claim. This chapter contains most of Bahá'u'lláh's Epistle—called *The Most Holy Tablet*—along with biblical references offered by the present author in the footnotes. You may wish to read the Epistle twice, once without looking at the footnotes and again with the footnotes.

As you read it, see if you can remember anyone who has spoken with the power and authority with which Bahá'u'lláh speaks. Look through any sacred Scripture and see if you can find any epistle like it. It is endowed with an unprecedented power and authority. Only God speaks in this language.

Fear, emotionalism, and attachment to names and numbers cause two short-circuits; one in the heart, the other in the mind. The short-circuit in our hearts prevents us from responding with our “spiritual instinct” to the Word of God. The short-circuit in our minds prevents us from reasoning or thinking in a rational way. Mending these short-circuits are the two challenges every seeker of truth faces.

The Word of God is so supreme, so distinguished, that it shines as brightly as the sun. Can anyone with good eyes fail to see the sun? Bahá'u'lláh testifies to the distinction of divine Word:

Behold, how lofty is the station, and how consummate the virtue, of these verses which He hath declared to be His surest testimony, His infallible proof, the evidence of His all-subduing power, and a revelation of the potency of His will. He, the divine King, hath proclaimed the undisputed supremacy of the verses of His Book over all things that testify to His truth. For compared with all other proofs and tokens, the divinely-revealed verses shine as the sun, whilst all others are as stars. To the peoples of the world they are the abiding testimony, the incontrovertible proof, the shining light of the ideal King. Their excellence is unrivaled, their virtue nothing can surpass. They are the treasury of the divine pearls and the depository of the divine mysteries...Through them floweth the river of

divine knowledge, and gloweth the fire of His ancient and consummate wisdom.²

Bahá'u'lláh did not attend school, yet He wrote the equivalent of a hundred volumes, without hesitation or a change of mind! This is not a secret or private miracle, but one visible for all to see for all time.

Once again, Bahá'u'lláh points to the Word of God as the ultimate evidence:

Therefore, should a person arise and bring forth a myriad verses, discourses, epistles, and prayers, none of which have been acquired through learning, what conceivable excuse could justify those that reject them, and deprive themselves of the potency of their grace? What answer could they give when once their soul hath ascended and departed from its gloomy temple? Could they seek to justify themselves by saying: “We have clung to a certain tradition, and not having beheld the literal fulfillment thereof, we have therefore...kept remote from the law of God?”³

Read the following Epistle from Bahá'u'lláh with your heart and soul. Ponder its meaning. Allow your “spiritual instinct” to respond. Let your soul bask in its beauty, power, and uniqueness. Try to remember if you have ever heard or seen any human being speak in this language.

The Most Holy Tablet❖

In the name of the Lord, the Lord of great glory.

...Say, O followers of the Son!⁴ Have ye shut out yourselves from Me by reason of My Name? Wherefore ponder ye not in your hearts? Day and night ye have been calling upon your Lord, the Omnipotent, but when He [Bahá'u'lláh] came from the heaven of eternity in His great glory, ye turned aside from him...

Consider those who rejected the Spirit⁵ when He came unto them with manifest dominion. How numerous the Pharisees who had secluded themselves in synagogues in His name, lamenting over their separation from Him, and yet

❖ The footnotes do not belong to the original text. They are added by this author as an aid to those who may wish to study the links between Bahá'u'lláh's Words and the Bible.

4. Perhaps a reference to the passage: "No one knows *the Son* [Jesus] except the Father..." (Matt. 11:27).
5. The Spirit of God, a title bestowed on Christ, in both the Islamic and the Bahá'í Scriptures.

when the portals of reunion were flung open... they disbelieved in God, the Exalted, the Mighty. They failed to attain His presence, notwithstanding that His advent had been promised them in the Book of Isaiah as well as in the Books of the Prophets and the Messengers. No one from among them turned his face towards the Dayspring of divine bounty except such as were destitute of any power amongst men. And yet, today, every man endowed with power and invested with sovereignty prideth himself on His Name. Moreover, call thou to mind the one who sentenced Jesus to death. He was the most learned of His age in His own country,⁶ whilst he who was only a fisherman⁷ believed in Him. Take good heed and be of them that observe the warning.

...We, verily, have come for your sakes, and have borne the misfortunes of the world for your salvation. Flee ye the One Who hath sacrificed His life that ye may be quickened? Fear God, O followers of the Spirit, and walk not in the footsteps of every divine [religious leader] that hath

6. Most likely Bahá'u'lláh refers to Annas, who was the most prestigious, influential, and learned religious leader among the Jews at the time of Jesus. He served as the high priest and had several sons who also occupied that position. His son-in-law (Caiaphas) was the presiding high priest at the trial of Jesus. Because of Annas' prestige, Jesus was *first* led to him for a preliminary trial and *then* to Caiaphas. Annas and Caiaphas pronounced the same verdict: death. Caiaphas said: "it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish" (John 11:50).

7. Peter.

gone far astray. Do ye imagine that He seeketh His own interests, when He hath, at all times, been threatened by the swords of the enemies; or that He seeketh the vanities of the world, after He hath been imprisoned in the most desolate of cities? Be fair in your judgment and follow not the footsteps of the unjust.

...Say: We, in truth, have opened unto you the gates of the Kingdom. Will ye bar the doors of your houses in My face? This indeed is naught but a grievous error. He, verily, hath again come down from heaven, even as He came down from it the first time.⁸ Beware lest ye dispute that which He proclaimeth, even as the people before you disputed His utterances. Thus instructeth you the True One, could ye but perceive it.

...the Burning Bush calleth aloud: "He Who is the Desired One is come in His transcendent majesty." Say, Lo! The Father is come,⁹ and that which ye were promised in the Kingdom is fulfilled! This is the Word which the Son concealed, when to those around Him He said: "Ye cannot bear it now."¹⁰ And when the appointed time was

8. Most likely Bahá'u'lláh refers to these verses:

I [Jesus] have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me...They [the Jews] said, "Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph; we know his father and mother. How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" (John 6:38, 42).

9. "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father..." (Matthew 16:27).

10. "I [Jesus] have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (John 16:12).

fulfilled and the Hour had struck, the Word shone forth above the horizon of the Will of God. Beware, O followers of the Son, that ye cast it not behind your backs. Take ye fast hold of it. Better is this for you than all that ye possess. Verily He is nigh unto them that do good. The Hour which We had concealed from the knowledge of the peoples of the earth and of the favored angels hath come to pass.¹¹ Say, verily, He hath testified of Me, and I do testify of Him.¹² Indeed, He hath purposed no one other than Me. Unto this beareth witness every fair-minded and understanding soul.

Though beset with countless afflictions, We summon the people unto God, the Lord of names. Say, strive ye to attain that which ye have been promised in the Books of God, and walk not in the way of the ignorant. My body hath endured imprisonment that ye may be released from the bondage of self. Set your faces then towards His countenance and follow not the

11. "I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Revelation 3:3, Also Mark 13:32).

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matthew 24:36).

12. "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15:26).

footsteps of every hostile oppressor. Verily, He hath consented to be sorely abased that ye may attain unto glory, and yet, ye are disporting yourselves in the vale of heedlessness. He, in truth, liveth in the most desolate of abodes for your sakes, whilst ye dwell in your palaces.

...Lo! He is come in the sheltering shadow of Testimony, invested with conclusive proof and evidence, and those who truly believe in Him regard His presence as the embodiment of the Kingdom of God. Blessed is the man who turneth towards Him, and woe betide such as deny or doubt Him.

Announce thou unto the priests: Lo! He Who is the Ruler is come. Step out from behind the veil in the name of thy Lord, He Who layeth low the necks of all men. Proclaim then unto all mankind the glad-tidings of this mighty, this glorious Revelation. Verily, He Who is the Spirit of Truth is come to guide you unto all truth. He speaketh not as prompted by His own self, but as bidden by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.¹³

13. "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak..." (John 16:13).

Say, this is the One Who hath glorified the Son¹⁴ and hath exalted His Cause. Cast away, O peoples of the earth, that which ye have and take fast hold of that which ye are bidden by the All-Powerful, He Who is the Bearer of the Trust of God. Purge ye your ears and set your hearts towards Him that ye may hearken to the most wondrous Call which hath been raised from Sinai...

O concourse of priests! Leave the bells, and come forth, then, from your churches. It becometh you, in this day, to proclaim aloud the Most Great Name among the nations. Prefer ye to be silent, whilst every stone and every tree shouteth aloud: "The Lord¹⁵ is come in His great glory!"? Well is it with the man who hasteneth unto Him. Verily, he is numbered among them

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14. "...when he, the Spirit of truth, comes...He will bring glory to me [Christ]..." (John 16:13-14).

The deepest wisdom which the sages have uttered, the profoundest learning which any mind hath unfolded, the arts which the ablest hands have produced, the influence exerted by the most potent of rulers, are but manifestations of the quickening power released by His [Jesus'] transcendent, His all-pervasive, and resplendent Spirit.

We testify that when He came into the world, He shed the splendor of His glory upon all created things.

Bahá'u'lláh (*Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 85-86).

15. "Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'" (Luke 13:35).

whose names will be eternally recorded¹⁶ and who will be mentioned by the Concourse on High. Thus hath it been decreed by the Spirit in this wondrous Tablet. He that summoneth men in My name is, verily, of Me, and he will show forth that which is beyond the power of all that are on earth. Follow ye the Way of the Lord and walk not in the footsteps of them that are sunk in heedlessness. Well is it with the slumberer who is stirred by the Breeze of God and ariseth from amongst the dead, directing his steps towards the Way of the Lord. Verily, such a man is regarded, in the sight of God, the True One, as a jewel amongst men and is reckoned with the blissful.

Say: In the East the light of His Revelation hath broken; in the West have appeared the signs of His dominion.¹⁷ Ponder this in your hearts, O people, and be not of those who have turned a deaf ear to the admonitions of Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Praised. Let the Breeze of God awaken you. Verily, it hath wafted over the world. Well is it with him that hath discovered the fragrance thereof and been accounted among the well-assured.

O concourse of bishops! Ye are the stars of the heaven of My knowledge. My mercy desireth

16. Revelation 2:15; 21:27.

17. "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:27).

not that ye should fall upon the earth. My justice, however, declareth: “This is that which the Son hath decreed.” And whatsoever hath proceeded out of His blameless, His truth-speaking, trustworthy mouth, can never be altered.¹⁸ The bells, verily, peal out My Name, and lament over Me, but My spirit rejoiceth with evident gladness. The body of the Loved One yearneth for the cross, and His head is eager for the spear in the path of the All-Merciful. The ascendancy of the oppressor can in no wise deter Him from His purpose. We have summoned all created things to attain the presence of thy Lord, the King of all names. Blessed is the man that hath set his face towards God, the Lord of the Day of Reckoning.

O concourse of monks! If ye choose to follow Me, I will make you heirs of My kingdom; and if ye transgress against Me, I will, in My long-suffering, endure it patiently, and I, verily, am the Ever-forgiving, the All-Merciful...

I never passed a tree but Mine heart addressed it saying: “O would that thou wert cut down in My Name, and My body crucified upon thee.”...

18. Most likely Bahá'u'lláh refers to this prophecy: “...and the stars shall fall from heaven...” (Matthew 24:29).

Bahá'u'lláh states that *stars* symbolize religious leaders. They “fall” when they fail to turn to the new Source of Light. For biblical evidence, see *In the Clouds of Glory*.

Say: Blessed the slumberer who is awakened by My Breeze.¹⁹ Blessed the lifeless one who is quickened through My reviving breaths. Blessed the eye that is solaced by gazing at My beauty. Blessed the wayfarer who directeth his steps towards the Tabernacle of My glory and majesty. Blessed the distressed one who seeketh refuge beneath the shadow of My canopy. Blessed the sore athirst who hasteneth to the soft-flowing waters of My loving-kindness. Blessed the insatiate soul who casteth away his selfish desires for love of Me and taketh his place at the banquet table²⁰ which I have sent down from the

19. "Be alert, be wakeful. You do not know when the moment comes. It is like a man away from home: he has left his house and put his servants in charge, each with his own work to do, and he has ordered the doorkeeper to stay awake. Keep awake, then, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming. Evening or midnight, cock-crow or early dawn—if he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep awake" (Mark 13:33-37).

20. "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, "Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet." But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them" (Matthew 22:2-6, see also Matthew 25:1-13).

"Blessed is the man who will sit at the feast in the kingdom of God" (Luke 14:15).

heaven of divine bounty for My chosen ones. Blessed the abased one who layeth fast hold on the cord of My glory; and the needy one who entereth beneath the shadow of the Tabernacle of My wealth. Blessed the ignorant one who seeketh the fountain of My knowledge; and the heedless one who cleaveth to the cord of My remembrance. Blessed the soul that hath been raised to life through My quickening breath and hath gained admittance into My heavenly Kingdom. Blessed the man whom the sweet savors of reunion with Me have stirred and caused to draw nigh unto the Dayspring of My Revelation. Blessed the ear that hath heard and the tongue that hath borne witness and the eye that hath seen and recognized the Lord Himself, in His great glory and majesty, invested with grandeur and dominion...Upon him rest My mercy, My loving-kindness, My bounty and My glory.

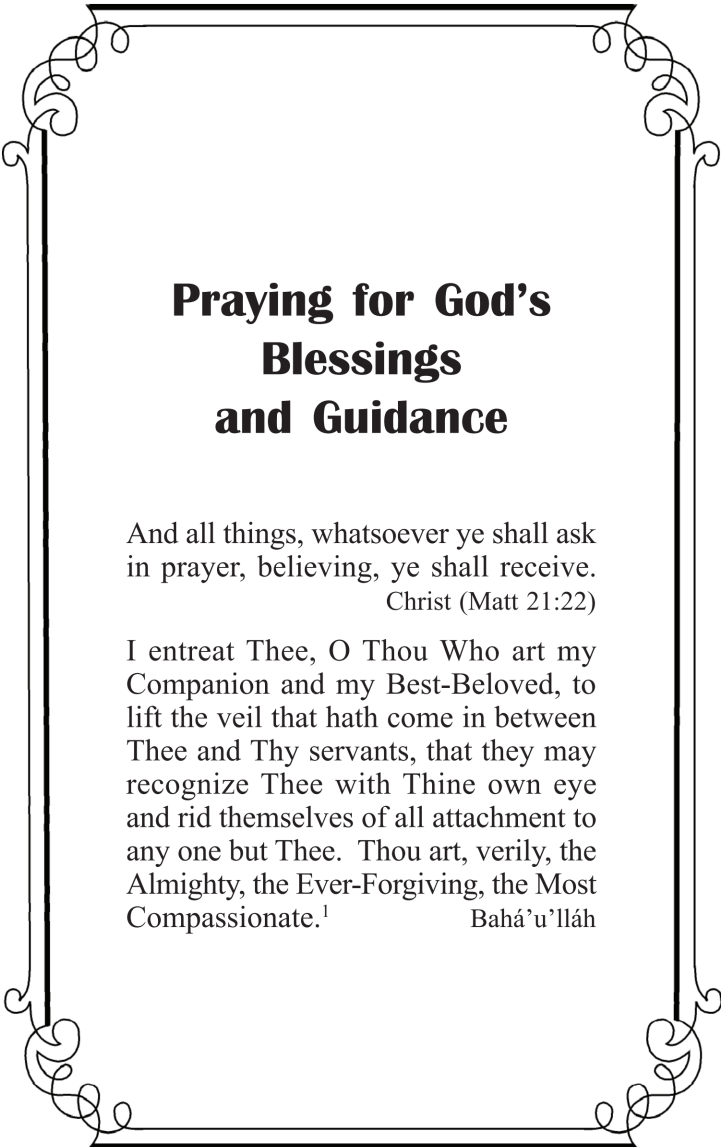
Bahá'u'lláh

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 9-17

Part IV

Prayers from
Bahá'u'lláh





Praying for God's Blessings and Guidance

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask
in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Christ (Matt 21:22)

I entreat Thee, O Thou Who art my
Companion and my Best-Beloved, to
lift the veil that hath come in between
Thee and Thy servants, that they may
recognize Thee with Thine own eye
and rid themselves of all attachment to
any one but Thee. Thou art, verily, the
Almighty, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most
Compassionate.¹

Bahá'u'lláh



O Thou Whose face is the object of my adoration, Whose beauty is my sanctuary, Whose habitation is my goal, Whose praise is my hope, Whose providence is my companion, Whose love is the cause of my being, Whose mention is my solace, Whose nearness is my desire, Whose presence is my dearest wish and highest aspiration, I entreat Thee not to withhold from me the things Thou didst ordain for the chosen ones among Thy servants. Supply me, then, with the good of this world and of the next.

Thou, truly, art the King of all men. There is no God but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Generous.²



Suffer me not, O my Lord, to be deprived of the knowledge of Thee in Thy days, and divest me not of the robe of Thy guidance. Give me to drink of the river that is life indeed...that mine eyes may be opened, and my face be illumined, and my heart

be assured, and my soul be enlightened,
and my steps be made firm.³



Magnified be Thy name, O Lord my God!
Thou art He Whom all things worship and
Who worshipeth no one...I implore Thee
...to enable me to drink deep of the living
waters through which Thou hast vivified
the hearts of Thy chosen ones and quick-
ened the souls of them that love Thee, that
I may, at all times and under all condi-
tions, turn my face wholly towards Thee.

Thou art the God of power, of glory and
bounty. No God is there beside Thee, the
Supreme Ruler, the All-Glorious, the Om-
niscient.⁴



I beseech Thee, O my Lord...to rend
asunder the veils that have hindered me
from appearing before the throne of Thy
majesty, and from standing at the door of
Thy gate. Do Thou ordain for me, O my
Lord, every good thing Thou didst send
down in Thy Book, and suffer me not to
be far removed from the shelter of Thy
mercy.

Powerful art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. Thou art, verily, the All-Powerful, the Most Generous.⁵



I beseech Thee, O Thou Who art my Companion in my lowliness, to rain down upon Thy loved ones from the clouds of Thy mercy that which will cause them to be satisfied with Thy pleasure, and will enable them to turn unto Thee and to be detached from all else except Thee. Ordain, then, for them every good conceived by Thee and predestined in Thy Book. Thou art, verily, the All-Powerful, He Whom nothing whatsoever can frustrate.⁶



Since Thou hast revealed Thy grace, O my God, deter not Thy servants from directing their eyes towards it. Consider not, O my God, their estate, and their concerns and their works. Consider the greatness of Thy glory, and the plenteousness of Thy gifts, and the power of Thy might, and the excellence of Thy favors. I swear by Thy glory! Wert Thou to look upon them with

the eye of justice, all would deserve Thy wrath and the rod of Thine anger. Hold Thou Thy creatures, O my God, with the hands of Thy grace, and make Thou known unto them what is best for them of all the things that have been created in the kingdom of Thine invention.⁷



Blessed is he that hath set himself towards Thee...Blessed is he who with all his affections hath turned to the Dawning-Place of Thy Revelation and the Fountain-Head of Thine inspiration. Blessed is he that hath expended in Thy path what Thou didst bestow upon him through Thy bounty and favor. Blessed is he who, in his sore longing after Thee, hath cast away all else except Thyself. Blessed is he who hath enjoyed intimate communion with Thee, and rid himself of all attachment to any one save Thee.⁸



Lauded be Thy name, O my God! I entreat Thee...to blot out from my heart all idle fancies and vain imaginings, that with all

my affections I may turn unto Thee, O
Thou Lord of all mankind!

I am Thy servant...O my God! I have laid
hold on the handle of Thy grace, and
clung to the cord of Thy tender mercy.
Ordain for me the good things that are
with Thee, and nourish me from the Table
Thou didst send down out of the clouds of
Thy bounty and the heaven of Thy favor.

Thou, in very truth, art the Lord of the
worlds, and the God of all that are in
heaven and all that are on earth.⁹



Happy is the man who hath recognized
Thee, and discovered the sweetness of
Thy fragrance, and set himself towards
Thy kingdom...Great is the blessedness
of him who hath acknowledged Thy most
excellent majesty, and whom the veils that
have shut out the nations from Thee have
not hindered from directing his eyes to-
wards Thee, O Thou Who art the King of
eternity...Blessed, moreover, be the man
that hath turned unto Thee, and woe betide
him that hath turned his back upon Thee.

Praised be Thou, the Lord of the worlds!¹⁰



Glory be to Thee, O King of eternity...I pray Thee...to number me with such as have rid themselves from everything except Thyself, and have set themselves towards Thee...¹¹



I have laid hold, O my Lord, on the handle of Thy bounty, and clung steadfastly to the hem of the robe of Thy favor. Send down, then, upon me, out of the clouds of Thy generosity, what will purge out from me the remembrance of any one except Thee, and make me able to turn unto Him Who is the Object of the adoration of all mankind...¹²



Suffer me, O my God, to draw nigh unto Thee, and to abide within the precincts of Thy court, for remoteness from Thee hath well-nigh consumed me. Cause me to rest under the shadow of the wings of Thy grace, for the flame of my separation from Thee hath melted my heart within me. Draw me nearer unto the river that is life

indeed, for my soul burneth with thirst in its ceaseless search after Thee. My sighs, O my God, proclaim the bitterness of mine anguish, and the tears I shed attest my love for Thee.¹³



I beseech Thee...to grant that we may be numbered among them that have recognized Thee and acknowledged Thy sovereignty in Thy days. Help us then to quaff, O my God, from the fingers of mercy the living waters of Thy loving-kindness, that we may utterly forget all else except Thee, and be occupied only with Thy Self. Powerful art Thou to do what Thou willest. No God is there beside Thee, the Mighty, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

Glorified be Thy name, O Thou Who art the King of all Kings!¹⁴



Cast me not out, I implore Thee, of the presence of Thy grace, neither do Thou withhold from me the outpourings of Thy generosity and bounty. Ordain for me, O my Lord, what Thou hast ordained for

them that love Thee, and write down for me what Thou hast written down for Thy chosen ones. My gaze hath, at all times, been fixed on the horizon of Thy gracious providence, and mine eyes bent upon the court of Thy tender mercies. Do with me as beseemeth Thee. No God is there but Thee, the God of power, the God of glory, Whose help is implored by all men.¹⁵



Deny me not, O my Lord, what is with Thee, and suffer me not to be forgetful of what Thou didst desire in Thy days. Thou art, verily, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, the All-Wise.¹⁶



Hold Thou the hand of this seeker who hath set his face towards Thee, O my Lord, and draw him out of the depths of his vain imaginations, that the light of certainty may shine brightly above the horizon of his heart...¹⁷



Praise be to Thee, O Lord my God!...I beseech Thee, by Him Who is the Fountain-Head of Thy Revelation and the Day-Spring of Thy signs, to make my heart to be a receptacle of Thy love and of remembrance of Thee. Knit it, then, to Thy most great Ocean, that from it may flow out the living waters of Thy wisdom and the crystal streams of Thy glorification and praise.¹⁸



I beg of Thee, O my God, by Thy most exalted Word...to ordain that my choice be conformed to Thy choice and my wish to Thy wish, that I may be entirely content with that which Thou didst desire, and be wholly satisfied with what Thou didst destine for me by Thy bounteousness and favor. Potent art Thou to do as Thou willest. Thou, in very truth, art the All-Glorious, the All-Wise.¹⁹



I implore Thee, by Thy name which Thou hast raised up above every other name, and hast caused to overshadow all that are in heaven and all that are on earth, to cast not away him that hath turned towards

Thee, and to deny him not the wonders of Thy grace and the hidden evidences of Thy mercy. Let the hands of Thine omnipotence kindle in his heart a lamp that will enable him to shine brightly in Thy days... that Thou mayest behold him sanctified as Thou wishest and as beseemeth Thy majesty and glory.²⁰



Lauded be Thy name, O my God and the God of all things, my Glory and the Glory of all things, my Desire and the Desire of all things, my Strength and the Strength of all things, my King and the King of all things, my Possessor and the Possessor of all things, my Aim and the Aim of all things, my Mover and the Mover of all things! Suffer me not, I implore Thee, to be kept back from the ocean of Thy tender mercies, nor to be far removed from the shores of nearness to Thee.²¹



O God!...the remembrance of Thee is a healing medicine to the hearts of such as have drawn nigh unto Thy court; nearness to Thee is the true life of them who are

Thy lovers; Thy presence is the ardent desire of such as yearn to behold Thy face; remoteness from Thee is a torment to those that have acknowledged Thy oneness, and separation from Thee is death unto them that have recognized Thy truth!²²



Glory be to Thee, O my God! Thou hearest Thine ardent lovers lamenting in their separation from Thee...Open Thou outwardly to their faces, O my Lord, the gates of Thy grace, that they may enter them by Thy leave and in conformity with Thy will, and may stand before the throne of Thy majesty, and catch the accents of Thy voice, and be illumined with the splendors of the light of Thy face.

Potent art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. None can withstand the power of Thy sovereign might.²³



Have mercy, then, upon Thy servants by Thy grace and bounty, and suffer them not to be kept back from the shores of the ocean of Thy nearness. If Thou abandonest them, who is there to befriend them; and

if Thou putttest them far from Thee, who is he that can favor them? They have none other Lord beside Thee, none to adore except Thyself. Deal Thou generously with them by Thy bountiful grace.

Thou, in truth, art the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate.²⁴



I pray Thee, O Thou Who causeth the dawn to appear...that Thou wilt grant that we may draw near unto what Thou didst destine for us by Thy favor and bounty, and to be far removed from whatsoever may be repugnant unto Thee. Give us, then, to drink from the hands of Thy grace every day and every moment of our lives of the waters that are life indeed, O Thou Who art the Most Merciful!²⁵



I am he who is sore athirst, O my Lord! Give me to drink of the living waters of Thy grace. I am but a poor creature; reveal unto me the tokens of Thy riches...

I beseech Thee, O my Lord, by Thy mercy that hath surpassed the entire creation, and

Thy generosity that hath embraced all created things, to cause me to turn my face wholly towards Thee, and to seek Thy shelter, and to be steadfast in my love for Thee. Write down, then, for me what Thou didst ordain for them who love Thee. Powerful art Thou to do what Thou pleasest. No God is there beside Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Bountiful.

Praised be God, the Lord of the worlds!²⁶



Part V

**Bahá'u'lláh's
Meditations and
Prayers to God**



I yield Thee thanks, O my God, for that Thou hast offered me up as a sacrifice in Thy path, and made me a target for the arrows of afflictions as a token of Thy love for Thy servants, and singled me out for all manner of tribulation for the regeneration of Thy people.

How sweet to my taste is the savor of woes sent by Thee, and how dear to my heart the dispositions of Thy providence!...I swear by Thy glory! Whoso hath quaffed the living waters of Thy favors can fear no trouble in Thy path, neither can he be deterred by any tribulation from remembering Thee or from celebrating Thy praise.¹



Cleanse Thou their hearts and their eyes, O my Lord, that they may see with their eyes and understand with their hearts, that haply they may be attracted by Thine

utterances to the Day-Spring of Thine inspiration, and draw nigh unto the soft-flowing stream of Thy knowledge.²



Raise them up, O my God, to such heights that they will recognize in all things the tokens of the power of Him Who is the Manifestation of Thy most august and all-glorious Self.³



I am the one, O my God, who for love of Thee hath forsaken the world and all its benefits, and willingly accepted every tribulation for the sake of Thy remembrance.⁴



But for the adversities that befall me in Thy path, how could I ever taste the divine sweetness of Thy tenderness and love?⁵



Glorified art Thou, O my God! Thou knowest that in my love for Thee I have

not sought any rest, that in proclaiming Thy Cause I have denied myself every manner of tranquility, and that in the observance of whatever Thou hast prescribed in Thy Tablets I have not delayed to do Thy bidding. I have, for this reason, suffered what no man among all the inhabitants of Thy realm hath suffered.

Thy glory beareth me witness! Nothing whatsoever can withhold me from remembering Thee, though all the tribulations of the earth were to assault me from every direction. All the limbs and members of my body proclaim their readiness to be torn asunder in Thy path and for the sake of Thy pleasure, and they yearn to be scattered in the dust before Thee. O would that they who serve Thee could taste what I have tasted of the sweetness of Thy love!

I implore Thee to supply whosoever hath sought Thee with the living waters of Thy bounty, that they may rid him of all attachment to any one but Thee. Thou art, verily, the Omniscient, the All-Glorious, the Almighty.⁶

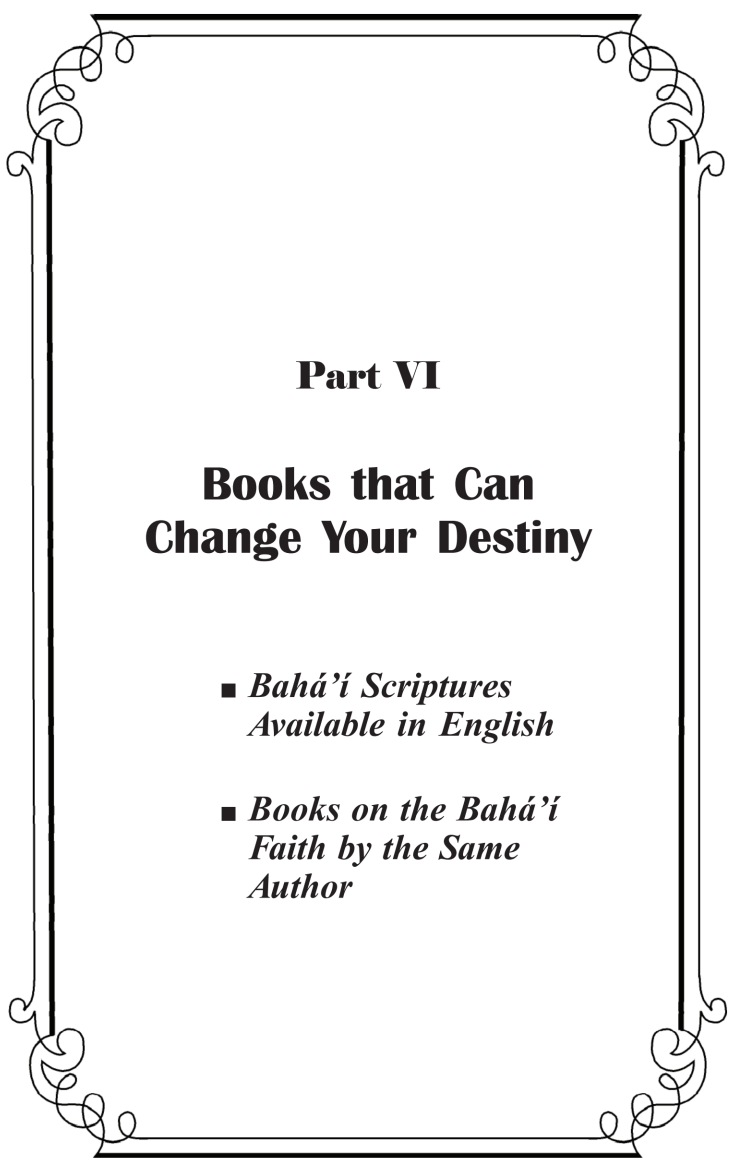


I swear by Thy glory! I have accepted to be tried by manifold adversities for no

purpose except to regenerate all that are in Thy heaven and on Thy earth. Whoso hath loved Thee, can never feel attached to his own self, except for the purpose of furthering Thy Cause; and whoso hath recognized Thee can recognize naught else except Thee, and can turn to no one save Thee.⁷



Thou art well aware, O my God, that throughout my life I have sought no advantage for myself. I have offered up my spirit and my whole being for the exaltation of Thy word amidst Thy creatures and the glorification of Thy name among Thy servants.⁸



Part VI

Books that Can Change Your Destiny

- *Bahá'í Scriptures
Available in English*
- *Books on the Bahá'í
Faith by the Same
Author*



**Bahá'í Scriptures
Available in English**

Bahá'u'lláh's Works

Seek ye out the book of Jehovah and read...

Isaiah 34:16

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh

The most complete and comprehensive reference on Bahá'u'lláh's Works available in English. This book, which is a compilation from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, covers a wide spectrum of precepts ranging from the purpose of man's creation, his duty and destiny, to the manifold mysteries of divine Wisdom.

Prayers and Meditations By Bahá'u'lláh

Bahá'u'lláh has left a rich repository of prayers pertaining to every human hope and aspiration, dream or desire. Thus, in this dispensation, the seekers of serenity, guidance, and inspiration can select and recite prayers and meditations revealed and blessed by the Pen of the Redeemer of the age, the revealer of divine Purpose.

Bahá'u'lláh has also written many prayers expressing His own supplication and servitude before God. Such prayers offer an intimate knowledge of Bahá'u'lláh's own self—His indomitable spirit, His unswerving love for the Creator and for humanity, His steadfastness in His claim, His determination before the onrush of adversities, His absolute trust in God, and His loving counsel to all those athirst for truth.

The Hidden Words of Bahá'u'lláh

No other of Bahá'u'lláh's works so succinctly offers the reader as complete and as representative a sample of the ethical fruits of the new Revelation as *The Hidden Words*. It is a small book filled with gems, a treasure-house of celestial Wisdom, a divine guide to the unfoldment and ennoblement of the human spirit.

All the requirements for attaining purity and self-fulfillment are stated in the most exquisite and lofty language. Everything that the soul must seek or surrender, everything that a spiritual seeker must know or must do to direct the course of his or her spiritual destiny is concisely and clearly revealed and set forth by the pen of the Supreme Messenger—the Revealer of hidden wisdom and divine mysteries.

The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys

Perhaps the most mystical of Bahá'u'lláh's works available in English. It unfolds and enumerates the stages of seeker's journey towards God; revealing, in a language at once poetic and perplexing, his potential for attaining perfection and nobility, and his sublime and celestial destiny, if he but turns to the light instead of darkness, seeks the gems of divine wisdom instead of the perishable joys of flesh, and undertakes to tread the long but wondrous and enchanting path of purification and illumination.

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

Addressed to a cruel and cunning Muslim clergyman who, along with his father, inflicted death, distress, and torment on some of Bahá'u'lláh's most beloved and most distinguished disciples. Though addressed to a symbol of denial, it is a call to humanity as a whole. This weighty volume covers and clarifies many illuminating and inspiring arrays of precepts.

The Summons of the Lord of Hosts

Contains some of Bahá'u'lláh's Epistles or Tablets addressed to the kings and rulers of the world, to its religious leaders, and to humanity in general. These Tablets comprise Bahá'u'lláh's most emphatic words on His claim and on His station as the supreme Savior of humankind, the King of Kings,

the Glory of the Lord, the Desire of the Nations, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, the Lord of the Vineyard, Christ returned in the Glory of the Father, the Inaugurator of the Cycle of Fulfillment, and the Promised One of all ages and religions.

***The Book of Certitude*✧**

This book responds to questions raised by a seeker of truth. It unseals “the sealed Wine of mysteries,” and unveils the symbolism and the essence of all the scriptures of the past, indicates how the seeker of truth can rise above the prevailing perplexity and confusion, how he or she can move from doubt to certitude, and from unbelief to belief.

It offers proofs of divine Revelation, portrays in a moving language man’s refusal to accept and acknowledge, in every age, the gift of divine Guidance, and conveys in a unique tone and style the dramatic story of the unfoldment of the perennial Faith of God, the unveiling of the eternal Truth.

✧Also known as *The Kitáb-i-Íqán*.

Other Bahá'í Writings Available in English

By Bahá'u'lláh:

The Most Holy Book
Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh
Gems of Divine Mysteries
Tabernacle of Unity



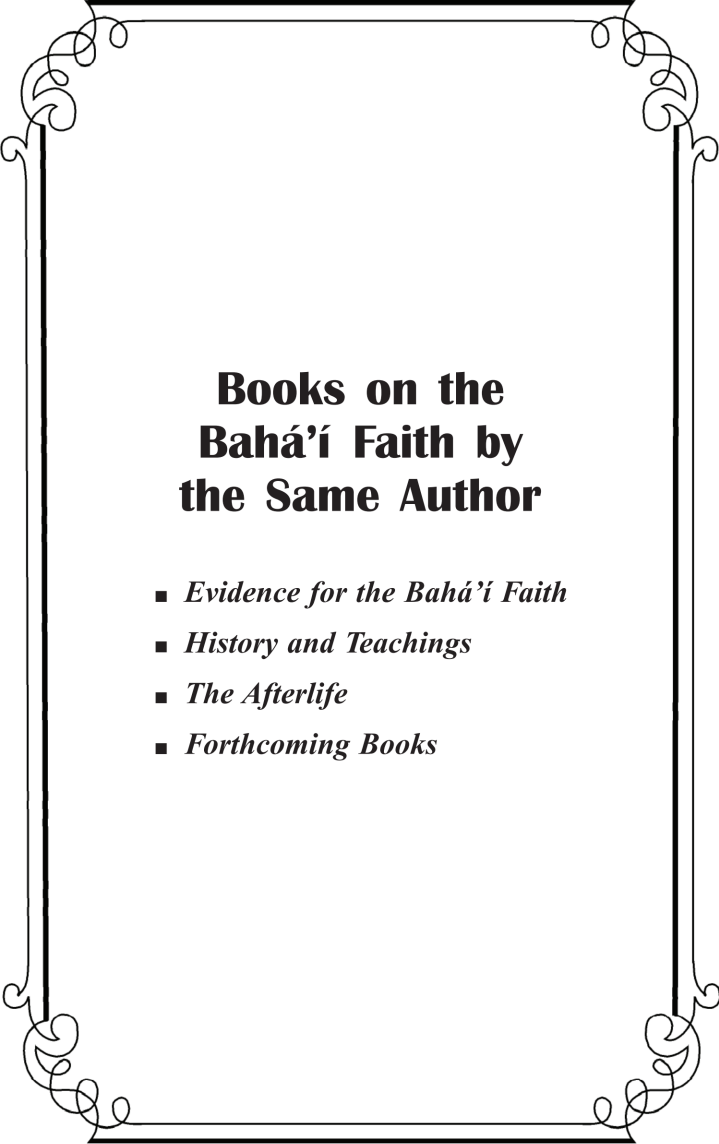
By the Báb:

Selections from the Writings of the Báb



By 'Abdu'l-Bahá:

Some Answered Questions
Foundations of World Unity
The Secret of Divine Civilization
Paris Talks
Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá
The Promulgation of Universal Peace
A Traveller's Narrative



Books on the Bahá'í Faith by the Same Author

- *Evidence for the Bahá'í Faith*
- *History and Teachings*
- *The Afterlife*
- *Forthcoming Books*

Evidence for the Bahá'í Faith



I Shall Come Again

522 Pages
Volume I

*That is the day when I come like a thief.
Happy the man who stays awake.
Christ (Rev. 16:15)*

*Do not let Him find you sleeping. What I
say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"
Christ (Mark 13:36)*

Did you know that the Bible contains 16 time prophecies concerning the year of the Second Advent? No wonder so many scholars discovered the same date. Did you also know that all those 16 prophecies point to the same year: 1844? ***Bahá'ís believe that the promise of the Second Advent has***

already been fulfilled, precisely as predicted. Christ did return in 1844, “*like a thief,*” in a way that *the News of His coming did not draw much attention.* And as the Book of Revelation predicts, God gave Him a new name: *Bahá’u’lláh*, meaning *the Glory of God.*

Obviously *we expect you to be very skeptical*, but we invite you *to stay spiritually awake, to “watch,” to pay close attention, and to investigate this most glorious News.* How can you do this? Start your search by examining the evidence presented in *I Shall Come Again*, the first of a six-volume series on the fulfillment of biblical prophecies by *Bahá’u’lláh, the Glory of God.*

I Shall Come Again, written after three decades of research, takes you step by step through 16 prophecies that point to 1844, and hundreds of other prophecies, concerning the return of Christ. It proves how these prophecies, without exception, were fulfilled by *Bahá’u’lláh (the Glory of God)* and His martyred Herald, *the Báb (the Gate)*, who appeared in 1844. *I Shall Come Again* is one of the most fascinating books of our time. If you have faith in God’s promises and a desire to know the truth, you will receive incomparable joy and hope from reading it.

History shows that no false prophet has ever been able to prove his claim by the evidence of fulfilled prophecies. Christian scholars often regard Hebrew prophecies as the most conclusive and convincing evidence of Jesus’ divine Mission.

Let us consider a statement from Dr. Norman Geisler, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary, “who has published countless articles in academic journals and has authored over fifty books, including *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*.” Dr. Geisler makes the following statement concerning the prophecies that point to the First Advent of Jesus:

Some have suggested...that the prophecies were accidentally fulfilled in Jesus. In other words, he happened to be in the right place at the right time...If there is a God who is in control of the universe, as we have said, then chance is ruled out. Furthermore, it is unlikely that these events would have converged in the life of one man. Mathematicians have calculated the probability of 16 predictions being fulfilled in one man at 1 in 10^{45} ...

But it is not just a logical improbability that rules out this theory [of chance]; it is the moral implausibility of an all-powerful and all-knowing God letting things get out of control so that all his plans for prophetic fulfillment are ruined by someone who just happened to be in the right place at the right time. God cannot lie, nor can he break a promise (Heb. 6:18). So we must conclude that he did not allow his prophetic promises to be thwarted by chance. All the evidence points to Jesus as the divinely appointed fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies. He was God’s man confirmed by God’s signs. In brief, if God made the predictions to be fulfilled in the

life of Christ, then he would not allow them to be fulfilled in the life of any other. The God of truth would not allow a lie to be confirmed as true.

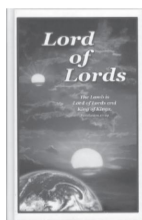
Imagine if the News of the Return of Jesus is true and you choose not to investigate and not to know Him! Imagine also if the News of His Return is true and your investigation leads you to recognize Him!

I shall come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

Christ (John 14:3)

“He, verily, is come with His Kingdom, and all the atoms cry aloud: ‘Lo! The Lord is come in His great majesty!’” “Behold how He hath come down from the heaven of His grace, girded with power and invested with sovereignty. Is there any doubt concerning His signs?”

Bahá’u’lláh (the Glory of God)



Lord of Lords

634 Pages

Volume II

This volume presents hundreds of biblical prophecies concerning the Central Figures of the Bahá’í Faith—the Báb, Bahá’u’lláh, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá—as well as Shoghi Effendi (the Guardian of the Bahá’í

Faith), the Universal House of Justice (the supreme administrative body in the Bahá'í Faith), the Bahá'ís (the followers of Bahá'u'lláh), the Bahá'í teachings, and the Book of Bahá'í Laws (*The Kitáb-i-Aqdas*).

Lord of Lords presents six fulfillments for Daniel's prophecy of 1335, and shows their connection to the Bahá'í Faith. The book also presents **86 similarities between Jesus and the Báb**, who is called "***One like a Son of Man.***"

Christian scholars often apply the statistical laws to the prophecies of Hebrew Scriptures to prove the divine station of Jesus. ***Lord of Lords*** applies the same laws to the prophecies of both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures to prove the divine station of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.

Lord of Lords shows that the probability of biblical prophecies coming true in the Bahá'í Faith by chance alone is about 1 in 10^{80} . The number 10^{80} is equal to the number of atoms in the known universe! What does this evidence indicate? ***It indicates that if anyone could pick a specific atom in the universe by chance, he could then claim that the biblical prophecies fulfilled in the Bahá'í Faith also happened by chance!*** The proof presented in this volume is so compelling it can convince even the most skeptic seeker!

...the desire of all nations shall come...

Haggai 2:7

He who is the Desired One is come in His transcendent majesty...Better is this for you than all ye possess. Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God)

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father...
Christ (Matt. 16:27)

I have come in the shadows of the clouds of glory, and am invested by God with invincible sovereignty.
Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God)



King of Kings

510 Pages

Volume III

This is the third of the six-volume series. This volume also presents hundreds of biblical prophecies concerning the advent of the Bahá'í Faith. Four of its chapters show that, contrary to what most people—both Christians and Jews—believe, ***the Bible predicts suffering and severe persecution for the Redeemer of our time. King of Kings*** also presents many prophecies, in the course of two chapters, to show that according to both Testaments, the title of the Redeemer of our age (known to Christians as the Second Coming of Christ and to the Jews as the Messiah) is “***the Glory of God***,” the English translation of the original title “***Bahá'u'lláh***.”

A chapter discusses the many reasons why people deny and persecute their promised Messenger and Redeemer in every age, and then later claim that if they had lived at the time of His Advent they would not be among the deniers!

Many Christians expect the coming of the Anti-christ. **King of Kings** presents two chapters to show the fulfillment of this expectation by two deceptive figures who opposed **Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God**, with all their might, and tried in vain to destroy Him and establish themselves as the Central Figures of the Bahá'í Faith.

I Shall Come Again, Lord of Lords, and King of Kings prove that once again God has spoken to humanity, that He has fulfilled His promises, and has manifested His great glory and power by sending two supreme Messengers and Redeemers—***Bahá'u'lláh, and His martyred Herald, the Báb***—to guide our bewildered world to unity, peace, and justice, and to lead our wandering souls to His heavenly Mansions. Not investigating this Message of hope and fulfillment is to deprive yourself of the very source of all wisdom and the very purpose of coming to this world.

I have come down from heaven...

Christ (John 6:38)

Say, God is my witness! The Promised One Himself [Bahá'u'lláh] hath come down from heaven...with the hosts of revelation on His right, and the angels of inspiration on His left...

Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God)

Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake...

Christ (Rev. 16:15)

***Blessed the slumberer who is awakened...
Blessed the ear that hath heard, and the eye***

*that hath seen, and the heart that hath turned
unto Him... Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God)*

What do others say about:

I Shall Come Again, Lord of Lords,
King of Kings?

A scholarly work of meticulous research. Appealing to reason and applying the scientific method to prophetic scripture, it demonstrates that God has once again revealed Himself to humankind and has provided hope for unity and peace on this planet.

John Paul Vader, M.D.

Author of: *For the Good of Mankind*

A book with a message of hope and fulfillment, a message that can transform our planet into a place of peace, into a kingdom that has been the dream and hope of humanity since the dawn of history...a scholarly, comprehensive, and fascinating work that has been long overdue. No wonder it took over three decades to complete it.

Hon. Dorothy W. Nelson

Judge, U. S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit

A story with an incredible ending that is made credible by the sheer weight of evidence. It is a must for anyone interested in the proofs of the advent of the Promised One of all ages.

John Huddleston

Former Chief of Budget and Planning
Division, International Monetary Fund,
Author of *The Earth Is But One Country*

...a treasure house of great value for both Bahá'ís and seekers.

Adib Taherzadeh
Author and Scholar

I am in awe at the extent of research you have undertaken!

Waldo Boyd
Writer and Editor

Your work never fails to astound me. The effort and breadth of your knowledge both of the Bible and other literature as well as the depth of your understanding of Bahá'í Scripture is truly amazing. Also, a hallmark of your work is your thoroughness. Anyone who believes in biblical prophecy, and reads these volumes with an open mind, cannot fail to be convinced.

Dr. Tom Rowe
Professor of Psychology

Your work is the best I've seen on biblical prophecies and proofs of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation. You offer so much information in relatively few pages. Your many references prove clearly the book's central claim. Your language is simple and exciting. You take the reader through a complete spiritual and prophetic adventure. Your approach is modest, yet dynamic. I pray it will excite all your readers as it has excited me.

Joe Killeen
Bible Scholar, Former Minister

There are few works by a single author that can rival Dr. Motlagh's in their sheer scope, depth and thoroughness of scholarship. Without

doubt, future Bahá'ís will thank Dr. Motlagh for his achievements, that are, in my opinion, not only astonishing—they are heroic.

An important work that will be referenced by future Bahá'í scholars for millennia to come.

Robert F. Riggs

Aerospace and Marine Scientist, Inventor,
Author of *The Apocalypse Unsealed*

By writing these volumes Dr. Motlagh has made a momentous contribution to our understanding of biblical prophecy. As a former Baptist minister, I urge all Christians to investigate the news of the return of our Lord as presented in I Shall Come Again, Lord of Lords, and King of Kings. “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you” (Isa. 60:1).

Mel Campbell

Former Baptist Minister

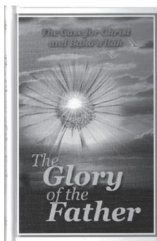


Come Now, Let Us Reason Together

286 Pages

This book is written in response to the objections raised by a pastor against the Bahá'í Faith. It removes all the main obstacles that prevent Christians from recognizing the return of the Son in the glory of the Father, from acknowledging the promised

Redeemer of our time—***Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God***. Once you start reading this book, you will find it hard to put down.



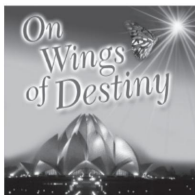
The Glory of The Father

329 pages

One way to prove that Bahá'u'lláh fulfills the promise of the Second Advent is to compare Him with Jesus Christ. ***The Glory of the Father: The Case for Christ and Bahá'u'lláh***, does exactly that. It compares Jesus and Bahá'u'lláh in 35 different ways. A fair-minded, even a skeptical, reader cannot escape this conclusion: If Jesus is the One He claims to be, so must be Bahá'u'lláh. A sincere Christian cannot in good faith accept One and reject the other. It will be like having twin children, but loving only one of them!

In addition, ***The Glory of the Father*** offers a summary of some of the most significant prophecies presented in ***I Shall Come Again, Lord of Lords***, and ***King of Kings***.

History and Teachings



On Wings of Destiny

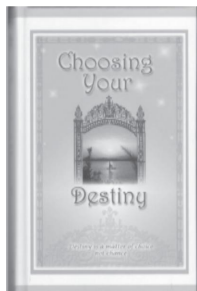
274 Pages

On Wings of Destiny is based on a dialogue between two friends. Reading it is like joining a circle of friends and participating in a “fireside chat.”

The prime purpose of the book is to inspire you—and anyone else who values his soul and spiritual life—to recognize that *in this world you have an awesome responsibility: you must choose your everlasting destiny. That choice has unimaginable consequences that will endure beyond death for all eternity.* Failing to make a choice is also a choice. This book invites you to make every effort to discover God’s plan for you and to follow that plan.

On Wings of Destiny shows that the only way you can attain true joy and happiness in all the worlds of God is to cultivate your spiritual potential and to draw nearer and nearer to God. If you value your soul and wish to choose your destiny in the light of knowledge and freedom, take the time to listen to this inspiring “fireside chat” to discover how the Bahá’í teachings can help you attain contentment,

fulfill your life's purpose, and discover your divine destiny: Heaven's most glorious gift to you.

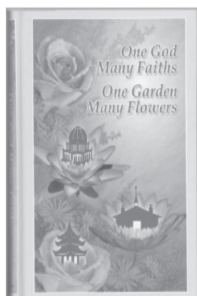


Choosing Your Destiny

375 Pages

Most people leave their destiny to “chance.” Whatever their parents happen to believe, they believe. This book shows that our “destiny” is God’s most precious gift to us. Should we throw this gift to the wind? Should we allow “chance” rather than “choice” determine our destiny?

The Bahá’í Faith has come to give us spiritual insight and to help us choose our destiny in the light of reason and true knowledge, rather than in the darkness of tradition and conformity. The knowledge contained in ***Choosing Your Destiny*** can liberate us from past prejudices and illusions and set our souls free. It can help us become spiritual by developing “the divine image” in our soul.



***One God, Many
Faiths; One Garden,
Many Flowers***

290 Pages

One God, Many Faiths; One Garden, Many Flowers shows that in God's garden there are many fragrant flowers, planted and nourished by the same Gardener. The Bahá'í Faith has come to help us recognize the beauty of the garden, the harmony of the flowers, and the oneness of the Gardener.

When we realize that we are all one people, on one planet, under one God, with one common destiny, the walls of prejudice that divide God's beautiful garden will crumble. Only true knowledge and love can reveal this beauty and bring about this wonder. The Bahá'í Faith is that knowledge and that love. It penetrates the hearts and souls of humankind to dispel all shadows of prejudice and separation. It connects our hearts and reveals the beauty and splendor of our souls in the light of oneness. ***One God, Many Faiths, One Garden, Many Flowers*** offers you the knowledge that can change your destiny.

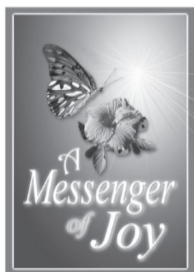
The Afterlife



Unto God Shall We Return

164 pages

This is a compilation from the Bahá'í Scriptures on the afterlife. It brings together the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá on the purpose of human life and the continuation of that purpose into the mysterious realms beyond. ***Unto God Shall We Return*** is compiled and arranged to portray a clear vision of the meaning of life—both here and hereafter—and to offer guidance about how we can prepare our soul for God's "many mansions in heaven."



A Messenger of Joy

112 Pages

A Messenger of Joy is the most comforting and positive book ever written on death and the afterlife. In consoling and uplifting the souls of the grieving,

it sets a standard that is not likely to be surpassed for a long time.

This book portrays death as a message of joy and hope, and not as the news of sorrow and despair. It lifts the veil to show that death is not the end of life, but the beginning of an everlasting and most glorious journey toward God.

A Glimpse of Paradise

A Near-Death Vision of the Next Life

This DVD (also video) contains a talk given by Reinee Pasarow about one of her near death visions. This is a state in which the individual shows no vital signs of life, yet experiences life to its fullest. What makes this story unique is this: Reinee's vision guided her to become a Bahá'í. She was given several clues by a spiritual being about the Bahá'í Faith. For instance, one of the titles of Bahá'u'lláh—the Blessed Beauty—was revealed to her. She was also told the word “justice” and shown the seat of the Universal House of Justice, exactly as it is built. Reinee had many unusual dreams as a child, and three near death visions.

We have added an introduction and a conclusion to this DVD to make it more attractive and meaningful to all viewers, especially to seekers. The introduction and conclusion present Biblical and Bahá'í references to the many clues that Mrs. Pasarow received while in the presence of the Being of Light.

Forthcoming Books

The Glory of the Son

It is absolutely essential to know why we believe in Jesus. Where can we find the answer? Only in the Words of Jesus Himself. ***The Glory of the Son*** offers a brief summary of all the reasons Jesus—not His followers—gave to substantiate His claim. This is a book that every Christian should read. It will also be of great value to those of the Jewish faith who have a desire to know the evidence for their glorious King and Redeemer: Jesus Christ.

Will Jesus Come from the Sky or as a Thief?

Be always on the watch! Luke 21:36

***The day of the Lord will come like a thief
in the night. I Thess. 5:2***

In the mid-19th century many Christian scholars had discovered that, according to numerous biblical prophecies and promises, Christ would return in 1844. Thousands of Christians around the world expected His Return in that year. Why did so many discover the same date? And what piece of “the prophetic puzzle” did they miss? Let us explore this critical question.

Jesus declared that He would return ***“like a thief.”*** He also repeatedly warned us to ***“Watch!”*** How does a thief come? Secretly. A thief does not want to draw attention to himself. This is his foremost concern. How can we catch a thief? By being awake and ***“watchful,”*** by ***“paying attention”*** to his coming. Jesus’ warning that He would return ***“like a thief,”*** and His recommended strategy for recognizing Him by staying ***awake*** and by ***“watching”*** for Him, are complementary:

The warning: I shall come like a thief!

The way to recognize me: Watch, pay close attention! Do not be complacent!

What, then, did Jesus mean by warning us repeatedly and emphatically to ***“Watch!”***? He meant: ***“Pay close attention to the news of My coming!”***

How did Jesus come the first time? Like a thief. He walked among the Jews. He knew every one of them, but with a few exceptions, they did not know Him. Jesus concealed His supreme glory from “the strangers,” from all those who were unworthy of seeing the Spirit of God in Him (John 12:40), from all those who ***“may look and look but see nothing”*** (Mark 10:12). ***Only the spiritually-sighted paid close attention to Him,*** only they “watched” with their hearts and souls, and only they saw the glory of God in Him. Jesus did not allow the spiritually blind to witness His divine glory.

By the vivid expression “*like a thief*” Jesus instructs us to expect a repetition of the way He came the first time. He further confirms this fact by predicting that *people will respond to the News of His coming the same way that they responded to the News of the coming of Noah*. They will be complacent, non-attentive, negligent, and spiritually asleep!

What piece of “the prophetic puzzle” did Christians (who expected the Return of Christ in 1844) miss? The same “piece” that the Jews had missed 18 centuries earlier and are still missing! That piece is the word “**SPIRIT**:”

The “missing piece” for Jews:

He will come as a “*king*” means: “*His Spirit* will come as a king.”

The “missing piece” for Christians:

He will come from *heaven* means: “*His Spirit* will come from heaven.”

Jesus Himself decoded the word “sky” or “heaven” several times. Compare the following two verses, one from *Jesus Christ, the Anointed One of God*; the other from *Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God*:

I [the Spirit of God, Christ] have come down from heaven. Christ (John 6:38)

He [the Spirit of God, Bahá'u'lláh], verily, hath again come down from heaven, even as He came down from it the first time.

Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God)

Muhammad: the Spirit Who Glorified Jesus

This book introduces Islam from a Bahá'í perspective. It demonstrates a remarkable harmony between the Bible and the Qur'án. It also responds to the objections raised against Islam.

Does Your Fish Bowl Need Fresh Water?

This book is written to refresh the life of the soul. Its prime purpose is to advance the “knowledge of God,” so that we may know our Creator as He really is, not as we may wish Him to be!

A poet once said: “God is closer to me than I am to myself. Why, then, am I so far from Him?” How can this be possible? The distance between our spirit and the Spirit of God can be measured by the difference between God as He really is, and the God that we have created in our mind. The purpose of acquiring the “knowledge of God” is to diminish the distance. The more we know God as He really is, the closer we draw to Him.

Our purpose in coming to this world is spiritual transformation, which can be attained only by knowing and loving God. ***Does Your Fish Bowl Need Fresh Water?*** will help you attain this Most Glorious Purpose. It appeals both to the mind and to the heart. It satisfies the mind by presenting the latest scientific evidence for the existence of God

and the afterlife. It inspires and transforms the heart by showing the everlasting honors and rewards in store for those who cultivate their spiritual potential and the unimaginable losses for those who fail in this endeavor.

How would you feel if you traveled for 70 years toward a destination, and then at the end of this journey, you suddenly discovered that you had traveled in the wrong direction? This is the way many people squander the precious days of their lives. Imagine their disappointment at the end of their spiritual journey! Should we not then learn a lesson from their lives? Should we not take a little time for our soul while we still have a chance?

Appendix

A Letter for New Seekers

The following is a copy of a letter that I give to many of those with whom I share the news of the Advent of Bahá'u'lláh. Please feel free to reproduce copies.

Brighten our hearts, O my Lord, with the splendor of Thy knowledge, and illumine our sight with the light of such eyes as are fixed upon the horizon of Thy grace and the Day-Spring of Thy glory.¹

Bahá'u'lláh

Dear Friend:

You should feel honored to be among those who have heard the news of the Advent of Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God. I pray that your knowledge will lead you to His Presence. The first requirement for success is removing “the veils of idle fancies” or “unverified and false assumptions” that surround us:

...free thyself from ***the veils of idle fancies*** and enter into My court, that thou mayest be fit for everlasting life and worthy to meet Me.² Bahá'u'lláh

Only by removing “the veils” can the light of knowledge reach us and lead us to ***true faith***. Only then can we attain the honor of ***seeing the glory of God***.

Did I not tell you that if you have ***faith***, you will ***see the glory of God***?”

Christ (John 11:40 NEB)

Prophecies declare that among the many who are “called” only ***a few*** will succeed in freeing their souls from “the veils.” Only ***a few*** will be able to join the ranks of the ones chosen by God:

...*many* are called, but *few* chosen.

Christ (Matt. 20:16 NKJ)

In this letter I wish to share with you some insight about the choices you will make. Over the years I have noticed that those who are called to know Bahá'u'lláh fall into one of these groups:

- Many of them fail to investigate His message beyond their first exposure.
- Some of them investigate His message for a while—perhaps for a few weeks or months—and then stop.
- A few of them continue their investigation until they arrive at a conclusion.

Do you belong to the first, the second, or the third group? You will soon discover for yourself. You have, of course, full freedom to join the ranks of any group that you wish. I hope and pray that you will choose to join the ranks of the third group by continuing your investigation. To help you make the best choice, let me remind you of a universal law found in all the sacred Scriptures. It is *the Law of Reciprocity*. According to this Law, God will treat us the way we treat Him:

For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Christ (Luke 6:38 NKJ)

Let us now apply ***the Law of Reciprocity*** to the consequence of accepting or rejecting God's invitation to investigate the news of the Advent of His great Messengers and Redeemers. Only God has the authority to set these laws, to speak in this language, and to give such warnings:

But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Christ (Luke 12:9)

God will verily do unto them that which they themselves are doing, and will forget them even as they have ignored His Presence in His day. Such is His decree unto those that have denied Him, and such will it be unto them that have rejected His signs.³ Bahá'u'lláh

Recognition of ***the Law of Reciprocity*** will empower our soul with "fear of God"—an awareness of His awesome authority—and then it will lead us to wisdom, the most precious of all virtues:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of wisdom... Psalms 111:10

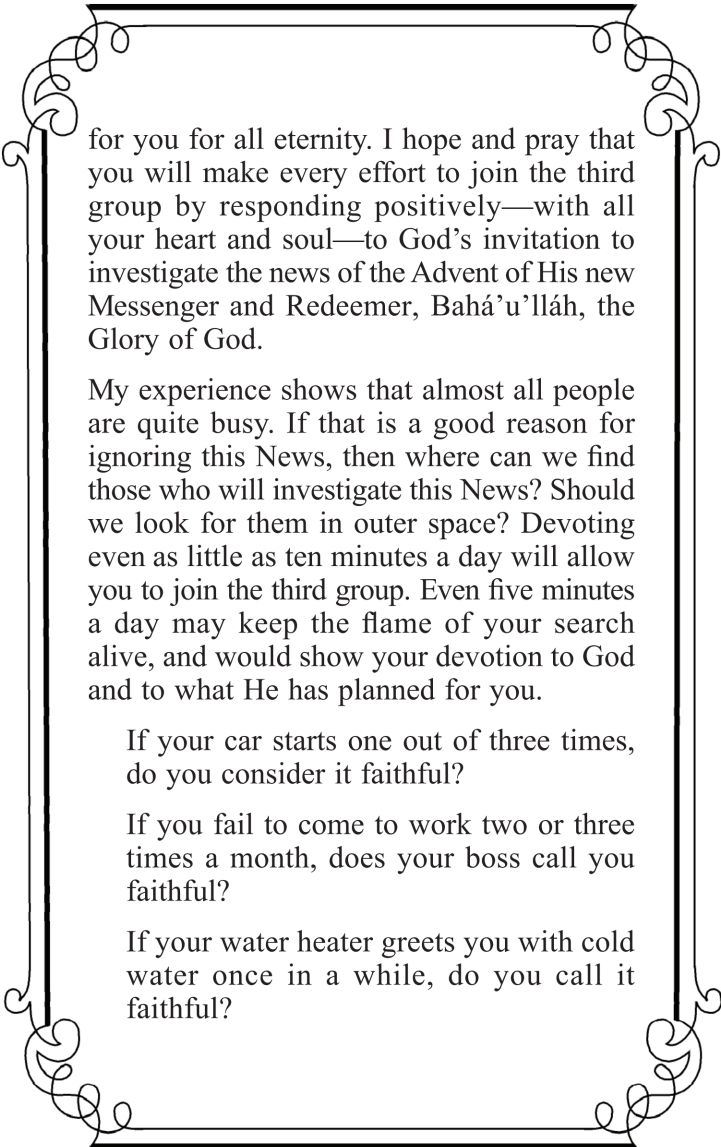
The essence of wisdom is the fear of
God...and the apprehension of His justice
and decree.⁴ Bahá'u'lláh

Hearing about the News of the Advent of Bahá'u'lláh not only offers you a chance to attain the greatest glory and honor, it also places a special responsibility on your conscience. This is because after you hear the News, a second law takes effect. It is *the Law of Justice*, expressed in these words:

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Christ (Luke 12:48 NIV)

This letter expresses my love for all those seekers with whom I share this Greatest and most Glorious News: the Advent of the Glory of God—the One for whom the world has been awaiting for thousands of years. Its purpose is to help you recognize the great honor of hearing about Bahá'u'lláh and the heavenly fruits that this knowledge can bear



for you for all eternity. I hope and pray that you will make every effort to join the third group by responding positively—with all your heart and soul—to God’s invitation to investigate the news of the Advent of His new Messenger and Redeemer, Bahá’u’lláh, the Glory of God.

My experience shows that almost all people are quite busy. If that is a good reason for ignoring this News, then where can we find those who will investigate this News? Should we look for them in outer space? Devoting even as little as ten minutes a day will allow you to join the third group. Even five minutes a day may keep the flame of your search alive, and would show your devotion to God and to what He has planned for you.

If your car starts one out of three times, do you consider it faithful?

If you fail to come to work two or three times a month, does your boss call you faithful?

If your water heater greets you with cold water once in a while, do you call it faithful?

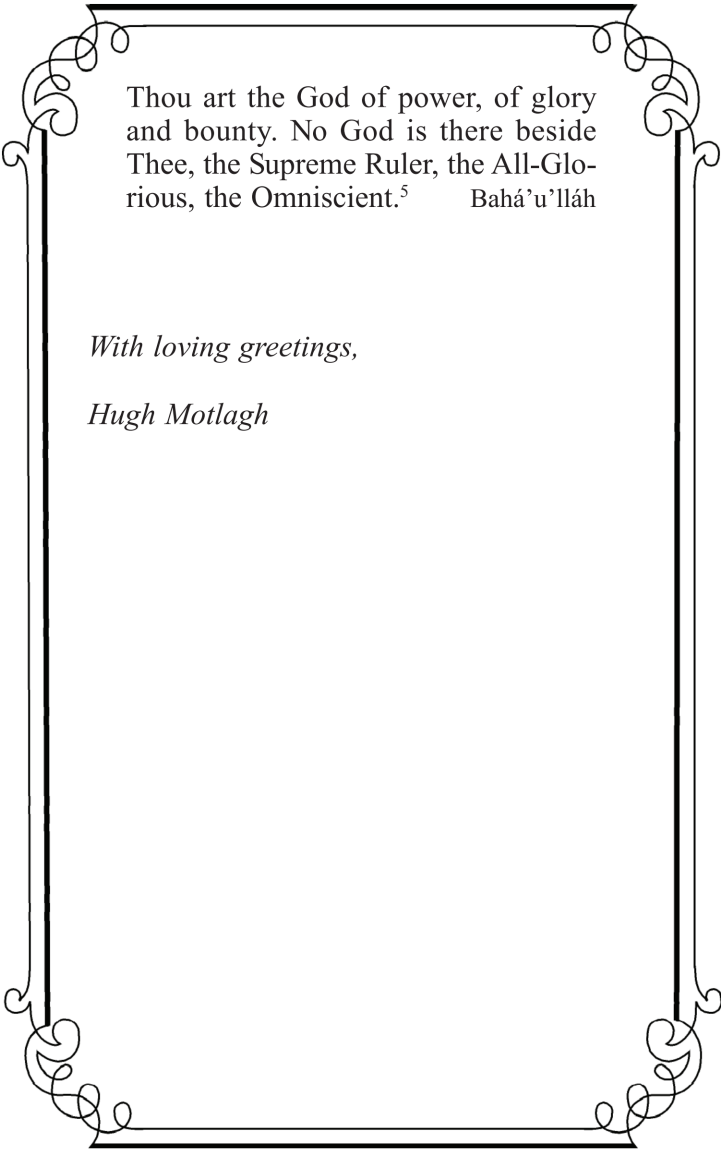
If you miss a couple of mortgage payments a year, does the loan company say, “Oh, well, 10 out of 12 is not too bad”?

If we expect faithfulness from other people and things, does not God expect the same—if not more—from us?

If at this point in your life, even five minutes a day is too much for you to devote to your everlasting destiny, then you may wish to keep this letter as a reminder to do in the future what you cannot do now.

May God give you plenty of time to investigate the news of the Advent of Bahá’u’lláh—the most awesome revelation of Knowledge from God—before your share of time has come to an end. May God bless you and aid you in all your endeavors.

Magnified be Thy name, O Lord my God! Thou art He Whom all things worship and Who worshipeth no one... I implore Thee...to enable me to drink deep of the living waters through which Thou hast vivified the hearts of Thy chosen ones and quickened the souls of them that love Thee, that I may, at all times and under all conditions, turn my face wholly towards Thee.



Thou art the God of power, of glory
and bounty. No God is there beside
Thee, the Supreme Ruler, the All-Glo-
rious, the Omniscient.⁵ Bahá'u'lláh

With loving greetings,

Hugh Motlagh

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