

WHEN A MAN FROM SPACE VISITED EARTH...

Proof exists that earth has been visited by Beings from outer space! Absolute, irrefutable proof is available that this earth has been the scene of titanic struggles between powerful forces who reside in space. Read, in this article, of that proof—and of the secret so well kept that God the Father never revealed it to His own Son in advance!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Once this good, green earth was absolutely teeming with billions upon billions of strange creatures that are now restricted to solid stone monuments or skeletal representations and paintings in museums of natural history. Towering lizards reared up on their hind legs with giant jaws about as big as a grand piano. Some had huge “armor-plated” tails capable of swinging to and fro with incredible brute power.

The visible world was like a subtropical swamp with luxuriant, verdant foliage stretching over the continents like a carpet. Then, without warning, all this tranquility was rudely interrupted! Suddenly there was an ominous rumbling deep in the bowels of the earth. A huge, great, titanic, gargantuan earthquake rapidly began to rend the earth’s surface; then black volcanic ash spewed into the air. The sun still shone bright and red in the sky, but the atmosphere was rapidly being blighted by this smog-like dark ash. Everywhere dinosaur-like creatures were crazed with fear—grunting and squealing with terrible fright as billions of gallons of water began to gush out of the depths of the earth.

Soon came a gigantic tidal wave—a muddy wall of water over 120 feet tall, replete with the twisted bodies

of millions of animal-like creatures whirling crazily with multiple tons of ferns, tree trunks, and every type of green vegetable matter.

Each time these ravaging tidal waves raced back and forth across the continents, the less there was to impede them. Finally, even the tallest mountains were sunk beneath the water. “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”

From Outer Space. And then a great Being sped through several galaxies in an instant and came to the corner of the Milky Way. (He may have been seated in a strange-appearing apparatus that moved in defiance of all the known laws of aerodynamics.) He searched out a tiny little speck lost in the shadow of one bright orange star. Not a sign of life was visible! What He saw was an earth covered with a huge, thick Venusian fogbank of clouds—completely and totally shutting out the light of the sun, moon and stars—and beneath that nothing but a giant, black, heaving sea. Thunderous tidal waves continued to flow and sway unimpeded—constantly ravaging and digging ever deeper into the underwater surface.

This great Visitor from the further reaches of outer space commanded the light to shine out of total, thick,

black darkness. Then, no more than 24 hours later, the earth once again began to shudder and shake. Huge volcanoes began to spew forth from beneath the seabed. Hot lava and magma began to erupt from gigantic cracks and cleavages in the underwater crust of the earth. Molten rock began to flow above the surface of the sea. Large continents appeared in the midst of the oceans.

Best for Last. Perhaps in a matter of hours, like giant submarines porpoising with the water cascading off into the sea—North and South America, Asia, Africa and Europe were simultaneously glistening with waterfalls, inland seas, basins and giant riverbeds.

Another command and trees, plants, lichens, moss, and all types of ferns began to dot the earth. Then the last vestiges of a thin cloud cover were suddenly stripped away and the precious life-giving light of the sun shone through unimpeded. The earth was once again a beautiful, shimmering jewel in a minute corner of the universe.

Another command and many types of animals suddenly appeared on the earth. Some were hanging upside down from tree branches; others stood around with horns sticking out of the most unlikely places, seeming to impede their vi-

sion; still others had little creatures tucked away in funny-looking pouches. But our all-powerful Visitor had saved the best for last.

This great spirit Being knew that the scene before Him was incomplete. Something vital was missing: there was no human being to rule over and govern the earth and its newfound flora and fauna.

Our Visitor then knelt down in the dust of the earth—perhaps by a streambed packed with red clay on both sides—and began to fashion and mold the supreme masterpiece of His creation. Soon the Master Sculptor was ready for the finishing touches. He breathed into this new creature's nostrils the breath of life. The first man had been created!

But who was this great Architect from the further reaches of outer space? Who hung the earth on nothing? Who fixed the bounds of the ocean so that the waves of the sea suddenly stop at the beaches? Who made the Milky Way? Who made man?

Christ the Creator! "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God [the Father], and *the Word was God*. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. . . . And *the Word was made flesh*, and dwelt among us. . ." (John 1:1-3, 14).

These first few verses in the beginning chapter of John tell us plainly *who* it was that got down into the dust of this earth and formed the first man. It was the very same Personality in the God family who became Jesus Christ of Nazareth a few thousand years later.

"And the Word was made flesh." Our Creator actually became a tiny germ of life in the womb of the virgin Mary. When the Holy Spirit, by a divine miracle from God the Father, united with a female ovum in the body of Mary, another tiny human life was on its way to parturition.

Jesus Christ's human fetal development was no different than yours. The fetus went through all the various stages that comparative embryologists seem to think prove evolution—but instead show the functional similarities of the same

great Designer. Nine months after conception, a little baby boy was born in Bethlehem just a few miles outside of Jerusalem.

God became a human being! The God-life of another dimension, the Traveler in outer space, the great Being who made this vast universe, who made Adam and Eve, who ate with Abraham, who parted the Red Sea, who had visited this earth many times for millennia—had been changed into a tiny spark of life: a baby in His mother's arms, as apparently helpless as any other newborn infant. At day one, He knew no more than you did.

What a risky, humbling experience for One who had inhabited eternity with all the glory of being the great God! But Jesus Christ of Nazareth was more than willing to take this great risk for the sake of the human beings He had created.

Another Dimension. As He grew up, Joseph and Mary began to make Jesus aware of another dimension not shared with a single other human being. "I'm not your real father." Joseph would tell Him. "Your father is God in heaven; you were divinely conceived."

As Jesus Christ developed into a young teenager, He began to become conscious of another world. He pictured in His mind's eye whole thought processes privy to a spirit dimension He had enjoyed with the Father throughout eternity. Years later, He prayed: "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you *before the world began*" (John 17:5, NIV). He once "shocked the socks off" the Pharisees by saying: ". . . *Before Abraham was, I am*" (John 8:58).

You've seen your share of flashbacks in the movies. How many times Jesus Christ's mind flashed back to the countless instances when He had previously zipped down to this earth, we have no way of knowing. He must have remembered the expression on Adam's face when he first laid his eyes on Eve; the curious experience of hearing Adam name the various animals; His many conversations with Abraham; wrestling around in the dirt with Jacob; "arguing" with Moses about his vocal abilities, and letting him be the only human being ever to get

a glimpse of God in His glorified form; talking to the young child Samuel in his bedroom; speaking to a sorely discouraged Elijah in a still small voice; etc.; etc.

Jesus must have been almost like a man who was recovering from amnesia. An eternity of experiences returned to His mind as He grew into manhood and prepared for His three-and-one-half-years' ministry. Jesus Christ was much more attuned to that extra dimension of the spiritual world than we are. He was instantly aware of both sides of it.

The First Severe Test. He met both sides of the spirit world just before His ministry began. Physically, Jesus must have been very near the point of death. He was terribly dehydrated from fasting forty days and forty nights without a drop of water or a morsel of food passing His lips. He was readying Himself *spiritually* for terrific mental combat—a titanic struggle with Satan the devil. The stakes were infinite!

Satan tempted Jesus to misuse His office to procure food at the devil's behest. He tried to puncture Jesus' ego (there was none—it was nonexistent) and tempted Him to misuse God's promises of supernatural protection. Satan tried to get Him to grab world rulership the quick, easy way.

But though physically weak and emaciated, Jesus, by quoting scriptures in the Word of God, *countered* every temptation this evil creature was throwing at him. He had to call on the other side of this spiritual dimension in order to *completely resist* this evil, powerful, magnetic influence that was trying to tug away at His mind, at His appetite, at any possible little ego or vanity.

After that exhausting conflict with the devil, "angels came and ministered unto him" (Matt. 4:11). So Jesus Christ of Nazareth experienced both sides of a completely different dimension that humanly (limited to our five senses, apart from revealed knowledge) we can know nothing of. But Jesus had *instant access* to help from the positive side of this other world.

The Humanity of Jesus. Prior to that time, Jesus had been becoming increasingly aware of the immediacy

of His last great trial. Earlier He had told His disciples: "Let these sayings *sink down into your ears*: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men" (Luke 9:44). Jesus really wanted these men—His closest friends—to deeply understand what He was about to go through. However, though they had continually seen and heard clear and irrefutable evidence of the extra spiritual dimension, they simply didn't share in it to anywhere near the same degree that Jesus did. "But they [the disciples] *understood not this saying*, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying" (verse 45).

Just hours prior to Judas' betrayal, Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray. Now this great Being—who had often visited this earth from outer space; who had actually been born later of a virgin—was faced with fulfilling, in just a few short hours, the most important purpose that He came to accomplish as a human being—having all the sins of mankind heaped upon His shoulders.

Words could not describe *the terrible agony of anticipation!* Jesus desperately needed, first of all, help from His heavenly Father; secondly, the comfort and loyalty of His very closest friends. The account is well worth quoting: "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be *sorrowful and very heavy* [troubled]. Then he said to them, My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and *watch with me*. And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:36-39).

Jesus possessed the same physical flesh, sinew, bone and tissue that we do; He felt the same physical pulls and fleshly appetites tugging at Him. It wasn't easy to live day by day the sinless life that He did! "Therefore he had to be made *like his brethren in every respect*, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins

of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted" (Heb. 2:17-18).

Jesus was not somehow exempt from the severest of temptations. Here He was face to face with the greatest trial of His life—and with precious little help from His uncomprehending disciples. After about one hour of earnest prayer, He returned and found them *sleeping* (Matt. 26:40). Jesus told them: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, *but the flesh is weak*" (verse 41). Here Jesus was referring every bit as much to *His flesh* as He was to that of His disciples.

"He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them *asleep again*: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words" (verses 42-44).

Luke's companion account adds something else that occurred while Jesus was yet praying: "And there appeared an *angel* unto him from heaven, strengthening him" (Luke 22:43). Though His disciples were rapidly waning in their resolve (eventually they all forsook Him and fled), Jesus was still, at this point, *asking for and receiving* help from His heavenly Father.

What Made Forgiveness Possible. After Jesus had prayed earnestly and intensely for several hours, and had received added strength as a result of angelic help. He told His disciples: "Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me" (Matt. 26:46).

What followed shouldn't happen to any human being, but it was *the only way* our rotten, putrid, filthy sins could disappear forever into the depths of the sea—never to be remembered again! God reveals, in His perfect plan, that *only by the shedding of blood* is there remission of sins!

To begin with, Jesus was betrayed by a kiss from one of His closest friends. Then, in the hours that followed, He was beaten intermittently by a cat-o'-nine-tails. He had to suf-

fer merciless beatings which tore into His flesh, disfiguring Him, causing Him to bleed from dozens of open cuts and gashes! He was also beaten and whipped with a "scourge," which was a whip of many leather thongs with bits of lead and metal tied in the ends of them.

Finally, dragging and gasping for breath, with open raw wounds livid with caked blood, perhaps an eye ripped and part of the lid laid back, and great rents in His scalp, Jesus was led to His own execution *like a dirty criminal!* His body dripping with blood, falling and stumbling, Jesus was made to carry His own stake until He fell under the weight of it. People along His path were jeering and spitting on Him—throwing rocks and sticks and dirt in the air.

Then He screamed with pain when He felt huge spikes being pounded mercilessly through the flesh, pinning His hands and feet to the wood. He felt Himself being hauled roughly up as His tormentors reared that great stake upright and jammed it into the ground, causing Him to scream again with unbearable pain! On the stake every breath of air brought Him sharp spasms of still more pain. Without any relief whatever, He had to feel His own body weight ripping and tearing at the flesh where the nails had been driven through. Here Jesus was left to die a *slow, wretched, hideous, merciless death*—almost as if someone was gradually pulling a great dark veil over His eyes as His bodily strength ebbed away.

He was thinking the thoughts of the 22nd and 23rd Psalms. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of *the shadow of death*, I will fear no evil: FOR THOU ART WITH ME." There had never been a single time in Jesus' life when He had been unable to call on God the Father and actually feel the strength and vitality of the response. Always the courage, the faith and the help came.

The Secret Revealed. Then Jesus was shocked by something He never remotely expected! He saw, as it were, the back of God walking away from Him out into the nothingness of eternity! He knew it and He felt

it. His Father had left Him *absolutely alone!* And He didn't understand it—then.

"Jesus cried with a loud voice . . . My God, my God, *why hast thou forsaken me?*" (Matt. 27:46.) Jesus never said a word He didn't mean! Jesus didn't cheat with words; He meant it with all of His being. There was *no more help!* *Jesus was utterly by Himself!*

Now do you understand why the Bible says: "When he had BY HIMSELF *purged our sins*, [He] sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3). Jesus had to endure those final moments *alone*—with horrible agony of spirit, mind and body!

But *He had the spiritual reserve* and the character to do it!

Finally Jesus felt nothing. He was dead!

Three days and three nights later Jesus stepped triumphantly through a solid rock wall, having been transformed instantaneously back into spirit life to become the glorified Son of God sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven with all the power in the universe in His capable hands. Power not only to rule this earth, but to save humankind from itself. Once again He was able to step out into space itself.

Shortly after His resurrection to that humanly indescribable dimension of spirit life, Jesus sped through the universe all the way to the third heaven—His first space flight in over thirty years. Suddenly, He appeared on a gorgeous, translucent sea of glass. Directly in front of Him, quite a distance away, was the Person and throne of the greatest Being in all of this universe—the Ancient of Days, God the Father! Seated on each side were twelve elders, the wisdom of antiquity obvious in their faces. A beautiful multi-colored rainbow shimmered over the scene in sunbeam hues. Lightning flashed and thunder clapped. Millions of angels were in attendance— anxiously awaiting the great event to follow. It was a fabulous sight to behold! I like to envision the scene that followed this way.

The Coronation Ceremony. A bedraggled figure, livid with visible wounds, began to walk down the line between those twenty-four

elders. He came closer and closer to a great blazing light shining just like the sun in its full strength and sat down at the right hand of God the Father. Then with all the angels applauding, smiling and bowing down, God the Father reached to get a crown and placed it on Jesus' head, proclaiming Him King of the universe and King of this earth. (Remember, Jesus told His disciples some forty days later: "All power is *given unto me* in heaven and in earth.")

I imagine the angels were saying something like this: "Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain, to receive all power and wealth, wisdom and might, honor and glory and praise. . . . Praise and honor, glory and might, to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb for ever and ever!" (Rev. 5:12-13, *The New English Bible*.)

Then Jesus may well have asked His Father: "Why didn't you tell me I was going to have to do it alone?" "I couldn't, Son," came the reply. "I couldn't let you know in advance. It would have been too cruel a blow. You probably couldn't have made it if you ever had to expect there would be an instant in your whole life when you couldn't reach out and take me by the hand. But you did it, and you can't know how pleased and proud I am."

Jesus probably turned to Him and said: "How great was your plan and how thankful I am!"

There was emotion between those two great superhuman, divine, holy Beings that is far beyond our imaginations. I can't envision a God that I can worship and an older Brother that I can adore—before whom I can come on my knees and say "forgive me"; who gave me the capacity to laugh and love and to experience life—without emotion that is boundlessly greater than my own.

Our Fantastic Savior! What a fantastic Savior we have! He says you too can have it all—incredible, unimaginable spirit life for all eternity! You too can reach out and step into a much greater dimension of life. "At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

And you don't have to do it alone. He made that first great big step for you! He said: "*And I*, if I be lifted

up from the earth, *will draw all men unto me*" (John 12:32).

Jesus is the *firstborn of many brethren*, the Captain of our salvation—the One who has gone on before. While He was a human being—the Son of man—He was only a prayer away, a thought away, just a moment from stepping into another dimension and actually seeing angelic beings, dealing with them, eating their food, letting them care for Him.

There is spirit life both on this earth and out in the universe. It is life of a completely different dimension. It doesn't depend on beets, carrots, celery and water, the flesh of animals, or grains of wheat. It is life that is self-perpetuating, self-existent. "For as the Father hath *life in himself*; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26).

One of the members of the God family died so that you, too, could have self-perpetuating, self-existent life! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have *everlasting life*" (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ of Nazareth gave His true followers this fantastic promise: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: *And I give unto them eternal life*; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-29).

Where Are the Words of Eternal Life Now? The vast majority of the population of this world has never heard these promises of an extra dimension of eternal spirit life. And most of the few who have, never remotely understood them. Our Western Christianity has long preached of a foggily understood retirement plan in heaven. But that's not what God promises. You can prove that for yourself by writing for the two free booklets entitled *What Is the Reward of the Saved?* and *Where Are Enoch and Elijah?*

There is a Work on this earth that actually understands the words of eternal life. God is currently interfering and intervening in the affairs of men through a small cadre of

imperfect human beings. They are carrying the words of God as a warning and a witness to the teeming millions who are making a trip through the blackness of space on this jewel-like spaceship we call planet earth.

One of the members of the very God family—Jesus Christ—is going to *revisit this earth* before mankind would otherwise blast itself out of existence. He is, however, laying the groundwork for His coming space trip through His Church *now!*

When Jesus Christ of Nazareth does come again, He will not come alone. A vast army of angelic beings will make the trip with Him. Jesus will not come again as the humble carpenter of Nazareth, but next time as a powerful, war-making and conquering King taking His rightful office on this earth. John foresaw it all in vision: “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war” (Rev. 19:11).

But before this mind-boggling event occurs, Jesus is giving the inhabitants of this earth ample warning through His Work *and* promising those who take an *active part in it* rulership and eternal life in the world tomorrow.

Your Moment on Center Stage. If you repent of your sins, asking God for total forgiveness, and you *endure to the end* (either to the end of your life or to Christ’s coming—which ever comes first)—then you, too, will have your “hour in the sun”—your moment on center stage. Someday Jesus will call your name and all heads will turn, and you will take that same walk that He did! Then He will pick up your crown and say: “This one has your name on it.” Angels will be singing and applauding at the moment when you are crowned in another life of a completely different dimension.

You are a spark of life in the midst of the blackness of the universe. God is offering you the greatest bargain that could ever come to

a human being. He’s offering you eternal life!

All you have to do is *really* repent and really believe that He is the Son of God. Adore Jesus Christ! Grab Him by the feet spiritually and say, “I really love you! Thank you so much for what you did!”

Then look at yourself as a hunk of garbage not even fit to crawl around through the cracks in the floor in His marvelous sight. And then just be good! Be merciful, loving, kind and forgiving.

Neil Armstrong, when he walked out on the surface of the moon, said that he was taking a great step for mankind. Jesus took a bigger step when he went right through a solid rock tomb.

You, too, can step out of your grave in an instant of time when the heavens are rent at the return of Jesus Christ. You can take your walk into eternity.

Are you interested? Then write immediately for our free booklet *What Is a Real Christian?* It could be the greatest step of your life. □

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: “In your article ‘When a Man From Space Visited Earth,’ you stated that the best kept secret was that Jesus Christ did not know His Father would turn His back on Him when He was crucified. How could this be, since Jesus inspired King David to write in Psalms 22:1 that He would be forsaken? These are the same words He spoke while on the stake. Surely as a human Jesus read this passage. So would you please explain how He still did not know He would be forsaken.”

**Carol J.,
Heflin, Alabama**

ANSWER: Be glad to. Take a closer look at Psalms 22. It consists of a prayer of David when he was in the midst of some type of horrible affliction. Notice the *context* of this scripture (one of the most important rules of Bible study): “My God, my

God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry *in the daytime*, but thou hearest not; *and in the night season*, and am not silent . . . But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people” (verses 1-2, 6).

The total time that Jesus spent on the stake was no more than about six hours (compare Mark 15:25 with Matt. 27:45-46, Mark 15:33 and Luke 23:44). He actually cried out the words of David only a very short time before His death (see Matt. 27:45-50). The realization that the Father had left Him utterly alone came only moments before He died.

Yet in David’s psalm—which, as you correctly pointed out, Christ had read before—the time factor of “being forsaken” was at the very least a twenty-four-hour period. David said he had cried out in vain *both day and night* (Ps. 22:2). So it was *not* always readily apparent,

from the context of Psalms 22:1, that this scripture was to be fulfilled just prior to Christ’s death.

Jesus Christ directly and personally fulfilled a whole host of Old Testament prophetic scriptures, but not all under the same circumstances. Some Jesus Himself, in relatively calm circumstances, made absolutely sure were fulfilled, as the account in Luke 22:36-37: “. . . He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. For I say unto you, that this that *is written must yet be accomplished in me* [and then follows a quotation from Isaiah 53]. And he was reckoned among the transgressors . . .”

Other Old Testament fulfillments were only apparent *after* the events occurred. Days *after* Judas Iscariot was already dead, the apostle Peter was inspired to say: “Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of *David spake before concerning Judas*. . . For it is

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written in the book of Psalms. Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take” (Acts 1:16, 20). Amazingly, Peter paraphrased “let his habitation be desolate” from Psalms 69:25 and “his bishoprick [office] let another take” from Psalms 109:8, *two separate psalms*, both of which King David wrote under inspiration. But looking at it logically, there is no way in the world you would ever figure out that those two verses were referring to Judas Iscariot. This knowledge came to Peter only through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Notice John 12:16 in this connection: “These things *understood not his disciples at the first*: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things *were written of him. . .*” Matthew 27:46 is in this category. During His last moments on the stake, Jesus Christ of Nazareth was in greater pain and agony than David ever was at any time in his life. It was only natural that He should think the thoughts of David when He came to the realization that He had to bear our sins utterly alone and without the Father. But by no stretch of the imagination, while Jesus Christ was in terrible agony, did He calmly and

deliberately, *as a preset duty*, parrot the words of David in Psalms 22:1.

Up to that moment Jesus fully expected to be heard by the Father even when all men, would forsake Him. Notice John 16:32. “Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come. that ye shall be scattered. . . and shall leave me alone: *and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.*” And in John 11:42, Jesus prayed to the Father: “I knew that thou hearest me *always.*”

Q: “I must say that this article was just a bit beyond me—or perhaps I was reading in a hyper-analytic frame of mind. I started reading about a man from space and was immediately face to face with dinosaurs. By now I am pretty well confused, and when you then tell me that He (God) entered Mary’s womb to create Christ, I am about ‘licked.’ ”

**Archibald S.,
Amityville, New York**

A: First of all, the article itself was primarily intended *not* as a doctrinal dissertation, but to at least momentarily lift the minds of our readers off this mundane earth with all its global, national and private problems, on up to a different level or viewpoint of thinking. It was a telescopic history of the activities of

Christ from the Genesis 1 creation until now. It was written to acquaint the reader with that extra dimension of the spirit world which we naturally devote little thought to if we are not somehow made cognizant of its real existence.

After an introduction summarizing the article’s overall intent, the reader was ushered in on the scene just prior to the seven-day *recreation* of the earth which occurred long after the events of Genesis 1:1. (Man was created about six thousand years ago. However, the geologic record substantiates the fact that the earth itself was brought into being perhaps several billions of years ago. Write for our free booklet *Did God Create a Devil?* for a detailed explanation.)

At some point after the original creation of Genesis 1:1, angelic sin caused the universal destruction of the earth’s surface. It was this destruction that was depicted in the beginning paragraphs of my article. I did not specifically mention the angelic role because of space limitations.

As to your second question, I did not say that God entered the womb of Mary. I did write in the article: “‘And the Word was made flesh’ (John 1:14). Our Creator [Christ] actually became a tiny germ of life in the womb of the virgin Mary. When the Holy Spirit, by a divine miracle from God the Father, united with a female ovum in the body of Mary, another tiny human being [Jesus Christ] was on its way to parturition [birth].”

God the Father begat His Son, Jesus Christ, in the womb of Mary *through the agency of the Holy Spirit.*

Q: “In your article, you said that ‘Jesus took a bigger step when He went right through a solid rock tomb’—indicating that Jesus was resurrected before the angel came and rolled the stone away. I would like to know where you find this stated or revealed in the Bible?”

**Leroy R.,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

A: After Jesus Christ of Nazareth was resurrected to immortal spirit life (remember, God is a Spirit—John 4:24), He appeared and dis-

appeared at will on various occasions to gatherings of His disciples behind locked doors. He did *not* enter or leave through the door, but went right through solid walls as if they weren't even there (see John 20:19, 26).

Several times He suddenly appeared right out of nowhere and then disappeared in the same manner (see Matt. 28:9; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:31).

In addition, prior to His final ascension (Acts 1), He took at least one space flight to the third heaven where God's throne is (see John 20:17-19). No physical human being, even with apparent paranormal powers, can do these things. Jesus, as the "firstborn of many [spirit composed] brethren," was able to bodily accomplish many extraordinary feats that are reserved to the realm of spirit beings.

A spirit being is not confined by the laws of matter, time and space. Jesus had no need of any angelic escorts. There is no biblical statement or prophecy indicating that any angel played a role in His escape from the tomb.

The account in the book of Matthew (28:1-6) shows that when an earthquake occurred and the angel rolled back the large rock covering the entrance of Christ's tomb, *He was not there* (verse 6). This means that He had already passed through solid stone to leave the tomb. Reading this account very carefully, it is apparent that Christ *had already risen* and left the scene by the time the great earthquake had occurred in verse 2.

Q: "What you say about Jesus being a spirit the instant He awoke from being dead does not seem to be true according to Luke 24:36-40. Jesus' disciples 'supposed that they saw a spirit.' But Jesus said: 'See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have.'"

Charles M.,
DeSoto, Texas

A: Many of the same scriptures I referred to in the previous answer prove that Jesus Christ of Nazareth

was resurrected into another dimension of spirit life. The description of Christ in Revelation 1:13-16 is simply not that of a human being. The Bible does *not* contradict itself (see John 10:35); any vague biblical scripture must be understood in the light of all the plain, clear scriptures on the same subject.

In the verses you quoted in your question, the disciples were terribly frightened when Christ suddenly appeared out of nowhere. He was simply calming them down and allaying their fears by pointing out that He was not a demon spirit or some type of ghost-like apparition: "...*They were terrified and affrighted*, and supposed that they had seen a spirit" (Luke 24:37).

Spirit beings are normally invisible, but Jesus Christ of Nazareth was able to *manifest* Himself as a normal physical human (with flesh and bones) for the purpose of proving to His disciples that it was indeed He, the real Jesus—the very same individual whom they had, for 3½ years, worked and traveled together with—who had been resurrected to eternal life.

Q: "The article contains what I believe are two errors. The statement was made that Christ 'was terribly dehydrated from fasting forty days and forty nights without a drop of water or a morsel of food passing His lips.' Nowhere in the Gospels is there any statement or implication that Jesus went without water, only without food. Had it been otherwise, Christ would have had to shed His human mantle and avail Himself of His divine powers. Human beings can go without food for forty days and nights, but not without water. . . . Also you said: 'Three days and three nights later Jesus stepped through a solid rock tomb.' This hardly accords with the widely accepted view that Jesus was crucified on a Friday following a Passover supper the night before, that He was entombed that Friday evening, as well as all day on the Sabbath, to come forth 'as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week . . .' (Matt. 28:1). It

would seem that Christ was in the tomb two nights, not three."

Forrest H.,

Jacksonville, Florida

A: The Old Testament records three other such fasts of forty-days' length. Moses was on Mount Sinai "forty days and forty nights," during which time he "neither ate bread *nor drank water*" (Deut. 9:9). A little later, Moses repeated this forty-day fast a second time (Ex. 34:28). Elijah also fasted for the same length of time. Notice it in I Kings 19:8: "And he [Elijah] arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights. . . ." Total abstinence from any liquids, including water, is certainly implied in this account. The Ninevites fasted without either bread or water as a direct result of Jonah's prophecy of national disaster (see Jonah 3:7).

There is no example in either the Old or the New Testament where it specifically says or even implies that someone drank water while fasting.

Though the accounts of Jesus' forty-day fast do not specify water per se, the weight of Scripture certainly indicates that Jesus fasted without water as well as food. Physically speaking, Jesus, as a young man of thirty, was at the very least as healthy as the eighty-year-old Moses, who we are specifically told did fast without water for that period of time.

On the second question, I will simply refer you to Matthew 12:39-40, which says that Jesus would be in His grave *three days and three nights even as the prophet Jonah* was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights. Our free booklet *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday* explains it all in great detail.

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