

The Way to Heaven



Can an El Camino
show you the way to
Heaven?



PREFACE

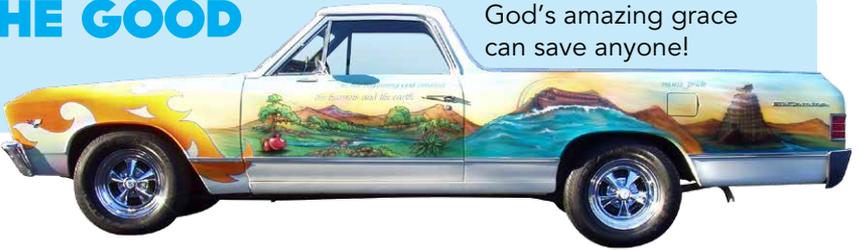
For many of us who grew up in the '50's, '60's and '70's, our lives were all about cars. Whether it was just for transportation or maybe racing on the street or track, the love of cars has lasted a lifetime.

It is interesting to see how God would want to use a 1967 El Camino (which, by the way, in Spanish means "The Way") to tell the good news of how to get to heaven.

So even if you have no interest in cars at all, we hope and pray that as you view the different scenes, God will open your eyes – not only to the start of "life" on earth, but more importantly, the way of "life" that God has planned just for you because of His great love for you.

THE GOOD

God's amazing grace can save anyone!



Man's pride would lead to sin which led to God's judgments.

THE BAD



THE UGLY

...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6)

This means we cannot earn our way to heaven by doing good deeds.



About 50 years ago most people would have known something about the Bible and who Jesus is. But that is not true in our culture today. We have taken prayer out of our schools, we have banned the Ten Commandments and other Scriptures from public places, we have legalized the killing of the unborn, and then we wonder why our Country is in turmoil. We really do not know the truth any more and we are a Country and a people without hope.

The original plan was to paint some scenes and Bible verses on a truck depicting the good news of the Gospel and how we can have a right relationship with God. But that changed in order to introduce people to the Bible – the only truth that can be trusted, as its promises and prophecies have never failed and will never fail.¹ (For more information there are Bible verses in the back “References” to show exactly Who is the Word of God, where it came from, and how it gives life to everyone who believes in it.)

The journey starts with the first book of the Bible – Genesis. It tells that God created heaven and earth and everything in them. It ends with the last book – Revelation. It tells how at the end of the age God will create a new heaven and a new earth.

Our prayer is that along “the way” you will meet Jesus who is the only real hope any of us can have, and how some day we can have eternal life with Him in heaven.



GARDEN OF EDEN

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

The first two chapters of the first book of the Bible (Genesis) reveal the awesome power of God, for in six days He "spoke" the universe into existence. After looking at all He had created, the Bible tells us that "God saw that it was good."

Since the founding of our Country, the majority of people believed this until the last 100 years or so. Then man, in all his "wisdom" came up with the idea that we crawled out from a under a rock or that our favorite food is bananas. What's up with that?

In the first scene you see "The Garden of Eden". It was a perfect place with the first perfect couple - Adam and Eve - because sin had not yet entered the world. But in the third chapter of Genesis things change. Up until then God had a perfect relationship with Adam and Eve and He had given them just this one command: "Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for in the day that you do this, you will surely die" (Genesis 2:16). We are introduced to the serpent (Satan) for the first time and he succeeds in tempting Adam and Eve to eat of the fruit from the tree.

This one act of disobedience brought sin into the world for the first time (Romans 5:12)² and along with it not only physical death, but more tragically, spiritual death which is separation from God because of His holiness. Just as God showed His awesome power in creation, He will also show His awesome love for mankind throughout history, as we will see in the journey ahead.



THE FLOOD

By the time we get to Genesis 6, things on earth have changed dramatically. Probably due to the lack of diseases and being more “genetically pure”, men and women were living to 900+ years of age. Imagine keeping track of the names of not only your children, but grandchildren, great grandchildren and on it goes. From Genesis 1-6, there is a genealogy of ten generations listed, so the earth would have been quite populated by then.

Then came a tragic event and judgment by God, for He looked upon the earth and saw the wickedness of man and that his heart was thinking evil continually. Everything that God had perfectly created was now corrupt. ³ But in Genesis 6:8-9 there was a man named Noah “who found grace in the eyes of the Lord... he was a just man... and he walked with God.” So God gave Noah dimensions to build an ark - all 450’ of it - because He was about to destroy every living thing through a flood.



Noah was faithful in building the ark and God saved Noah and his household. God also made a covenant (promise) with Noah that He never would destroy the earth again with a flood. His sign to remember His promise would be a rainbow. All of us as descendants of Noah should remember God’s mercy to us when we see the beauty of the rainbow, which we still see today.

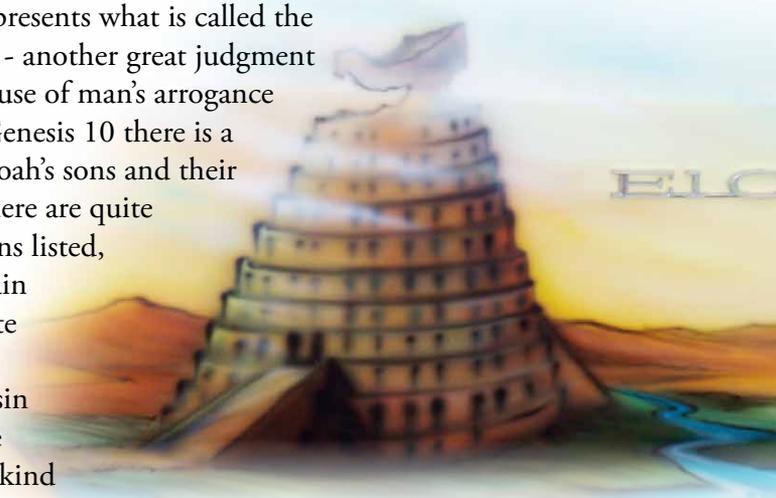
As a side note, just about every civilization in their history has a story of a great flood. When we find fossils and sediment layers in strange places it is great evidence to believe in the Bible.

TOWER OF BABEL

This scene represents what is called the Tower of Babel - another great judgment from God because of man's arrogance and pride. In Genesis 10 there is a genealogy of Noah's sons and their families, and there are quite a few generations listed, so the earth again is probably quite populated. But again, because sin had entered the world and mankind through Adam and Eve's disobedience, man's pride would lead again to his downfall.

In Genesis 11:4 the people say, "Come let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves..." God would see that mankind's arrogance was bent on doing only evil again, so before it went any further, the Bible says, "The Lord came down to see the city and the tower and said 'Come let us go down and confuse their language so they cannot understand one another.' So the Lord scattered them over all the face of the earth" (Genesis 11:9). "Babel" means "confuse", and from there came different languages, cultures and people groups.

There is some doom and gloom in the first 11 chapters of Genesis, but we also see men and women who had faith in God, and that faith would save them. There are many interesting stories of people and nations throughout the rest of the Old Testament (B.C.) which are there for our benefit in order to instruct us and teach in this life. For example, we see Moses to whom God gave the ability to do miraculous signs, and the prophet Jonah who was swallowed by a large fish and then was spit out on land and sent to preach the good news about the true and living God. There were powerful kings like David and Solomon who had wealth and wisdom. Most all of them were ordinary people through whom God would do extraordinary things.



THOUGHTS ON A TAILGATE

Now we are going to fast-forward to the New Testament (A.D.). We have seen three great acts of God's judgment (expelling Adam and Eve from Eden, the flood, and the scattering of people from Babel). Now we will see three great acts of God's love. But first, some questions:

Looking for Hope?

- Do you feel like nobody cares for you, rejected, hopeless? Are you looking for peace in your life? There is real hope waiting for you ahead.

Searching for Truth?

- Have people lied to you? Are you looking for something to believe in? Jesus said "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Free from the bondage of sin and an empty life. ⁴

Need a "new" Life?"

- Are you depressed, discouraged, angry or living without a purpose? There is an answer for you. Jesus said, "I am the way." ⁵

Follow us as we travel the way to Bethlehem and Christmas!



BETHLEHEM

The Messiah, the Redeemer, the King who would crush the Roman Empire; that is what the Jewish people were looking for. Instead, what “was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying ‘Behold the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel which is translated “God with us.”’⁶ A fragile child who was about to enter our domain. It was the most humble of beginnings. This baby named Jesus would grow up to be a humble servant sent to do His Father’s will.

Here He was, the Creator of the universe, fully God and fully man, living among us for 33 years. So He can identify with us because He faced the same struggles and temptations we have. Yet He was perfect - without sin - the only one who could ever lay claim to that. Jesus would demonstrate His power through miracles: His power over disease, the forces of evil, and even over nature. Many flocked to Him to be healed and fed. He gave sight to the blind, healed lepers, cast out demons, taught with great authority. His life would change people forever. Some wondered who Jesus was, others followed Him, but some would hate Him.

As Jesus neared the end of his life, those who followed Him finally realized He was the coming king. At Jerusalem large crowds were praising Him and calling out “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” It was his triumphal entry.

But then things would change...





THE CRUCIFIXION

“Crucify him!” “Crucify him!” the crowd shouted only a few days after Jesus’ “triumphal” ride into Jerusalem. Already their hearts had changed because of the sin nature we all inherited from Adam and Eve. The people did not want God to rule over them – they wanted to rule their own lives, just as we do today.

But Jesus knew all along that His purpose here on earth was to obey the will of God, His heavenly Father. That meant He had to die for the sins of all mankind. He would be our Redeemer, the Savior of the world.

He was tortured and suffered horrific crucifixion on a Roman cross – the most painful way ever devised to kill a person. He was hung on the middle of three crosses between two criminals. These two men would have two different beliefs, which is also true today. One man rejected Jesus and would suffer judgment, but the other put his faith in Him and believed Jesus to be his Savior. There was nothing that man could do as he hung upon the cross to earn his salvation, but Jesus said, “Today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The time had finally come. The sins of the entire world were laid on Jesus. He who would shed His blood so our sins could be forgiven breathed His last. ⁷

And then He died.

Had Satan won? Had the King been defeated? Had he really?

THE EMPTY TOMB

Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen!” claimed the angels to the women who came to the tomb early that “Easter” morning. His dead body had been laid in a cold tomb and they had gone to mourn for Him. But He was not there, for He had broken the power of sin and even death itself! Indeed He had risen from the dead and He was alive!

How can we know for sure? He was seen not only by His disciples and followers after rising from the dead, but also to over 500 people during a 40-day period. He told them He was going back to Heaven and they wanted to know when He would return to earth. He told them they didn’t need to know the time of His return. While He was speaking to them, He ascended to Heaven.

What does that mean for us? When Jesus came back from the dead, He had a “resurrected” body that is different and also never decays. Someday those who have put their faith in Jesus, when they die, will also receive a resurrected body and just as He ascended into Heaven, the next greatest event in history will be His return to earth. This time He will return not as a humble servant, but the mighty King He rightly is. Everyone will know the name of Jesus.

You can be sure that His return could happen at any time because Jesus Himself told us, and in Revelation 21:5 it tells us that “His words are true and faithful.”

Are you ready to meet this Jesus?



FAITH IN JESUS

The journey is almost over and it's been a lot to take in as we've covered thousands of years of history. We hope that it has been somewhat clear to you. And now – what is the whole purpose of this truck? To bring glory to God and help you make a decision on where you will spend eternity.

Just as the two men who were crucified with Jesus made two different choices, so we too also have to make a choice at some point in our lives. The first criminal rejected Jesus, as did many others during Jesus' life on this earth, as many still do today. You also have people who say they will take their chances when their life is over, which is the same as rejecting Him, and receiving the fate that the flames on the truck represent, and that is Hell – eternal separation from God. Hell is real as the Bible and Jesus Himself often mention it and the danger of ending up there. Do not ever let anybody mislead you into thinking it is not “that bad” or that you can party there. Hell is a terrible, horrific place, and if you want to read the only story of a man who ended up there, it is referenced in the table in back of this booklet. We plead with you to make the right choice. ⁸

And what is that right choice? Believe and put your faith in Jesus! Nothing else can compare, as Jesus Himself will forgive your sins, give you a “new” heart, and give you a “new” life because you are now a “new” creation. ⁹ And it is all because of His amazing love, grace and compassion to want to save us.

How do I become “saved” (which means I do not have to suffer God's wrath and judgment because of my sins)? God makes it quite simple, as He compares it to a little child making the decision. Pray from your heart like the sinful tax collector in the Bible prayed: “Lord, be merciful to me a sinner.” ¹⁰ Agree with God that you are a sinner. Turn from your sin (repent) and turn to Jesus, the only way to God and heaven. If you do that, placing all your faith in Him alone, you have become God's child and will be with Him in heaven some day. You will be, as the Bible says, “born again” and will have a new purpose for living.

This is the wisest, most joyful and peace-giving choice you will ever make, and you will never regret it! You are on your way to heaven! (Check the back of this book for what to expect from your new-found faith.)

faith in Jesus



HEAVEN

Home at last. Wow – is this place big or what? It has to be, for God tells us there are countless people there. The architect is out of this world! Literally. In Revelation 21 it actually tells a little bit what heaven looks like. It is 1400 square miles and it is that height too! (Will we need elevators to get around, or do we fly? Don't know!) It has a wall 200' wide surrounding it made of jasper with precious stones, with 12 gates, each with a single white pearl for the gate! Spectacular!

The City itself and the streets in it are made of pure gold, clear as glass. Kind of humbles us and puts us to shame, as most of our lives we have tried to accumulate possessions and amass wealth with the little bit of time God has placed us on this earth. The mansions or rooms inside are built by none other than Jesus Himself. We know that because in the first few verses of the 14th chapter of John, Jesus was telling His disciples not to be troubled because He was leaving them and going to prepare a place for them. Think about it. This same Jesus, who created the heavens and earth in six days, who has been gone for almost 2000 years, is working on our places. Hello. What do you think they are going to look like?!

What are we going to be doing there? Are we going to fly or sit on clouds? Don't know. Are there going to be pets there? Don't know. Is there going to be chocolate there? Don't know. We do know we won't have to work or go to school, so guess what? No alarm clocks, bills

to pay, homework to do, and no obnoxious people will be there. It doesn't get much better than that... but it does! We won't have to deal with temptations and sin because we will be holy as He is holy. We do know that we will worship and serve Him, so there's no chance of being bored. We will have eternity to enjoy our new home.

We have saved the best for last. "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:3-5.) Wow! No more pain and sorrow! How awesome it is that we will see God face to face. There will be no more cancer, wars, famine or hatred.

We started this booklet with the first verse of the Bible and end it with the last verse of the Bible: "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen." (Revelation 22:21.) May You be glorified, Lord Jesus.



REFERENCES

1. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*
John 1:1-5
Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1: 20-21
2. *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.* Romans 5:12
3. *The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.* Genesis 6:5-8
4. *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*
John 8:32
5. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* John 14:6
6. *"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").* Matthew 1:23
7. *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8

8. A testimony of a person who rejected Jesus:

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Luke 16:19-31

9. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

10. *“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’* Luke 18:13

**This truck was saved
from destruction –
*what about you?***



At the moment of your salvation, things happen! God's Holy Spirit comes and resides in you. He will guide you, comfort you, and convict you when you sin, because you will still battle the sinful nature within you. But Jesus provides the power to overcome it, if you will let Him. *"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4). You are also "sealed" which means you can never lose your salvation. You indeed have become a child of God. It is a win-win situation!

**BASIC
INSTRUCTIONS
BEFORE
LEAVING
EARTH**

So how do I start my new life? Glad you asked, because the manual is right next door

God has given us everything we need to know in it, but if we really want to change our life, we need to read it. So make it a habit every day.

Finally, tell people the good news of what God has done for you so they also may be given the opportunity to become a child of God.

If you have questions or want help, please contact:

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