



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Joy

Presenting every man mature in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 44
Issue 1098

The Bloody Truth

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Chapter 13 – Why Suffering Was Necessary

by – Stephen Hill

If the ultimate goal was for Christ's blood to serve as the antidote to sin and death, why didn't the Father choose an easier path? Why not allow His Son to live a perfect, sinless life and then simply offer Himself in a painless way? Why the agony of Gethsemane? Why the betrayal, the scourging, the thorns, the nails?



of the entire cosmos. Celestial beings had to see, for themselves, that a *man* – made of the same fragile clay as the rest of us – could stare down the full arsenal of sin and death and emerge victorious.

Without the agony, without the insults, without the moments when escape seemed so close yet was refused, the god of this world could have claimed that our Hero's obedience was untested, theoretical. Instead, Christ's obedience was forged in the furnace of suffering, leaving no doubt in any realm about His right to reign.

The answer, when we grasp it, reveals something staggering: suffering was not an unfortunate byproduct – it was the proving ground of perfect love.

THE CHAMPION'S QUALIFICATION

Our Champion could truly represent the human race only if He experienced the full spectrum of human weakness and trial. Hebrews 2:10 says it plainly:

For it became Him ... in leading many sons into glory, to perfect the Inaugurator of their salvation through sufferings.

Christ was already sinless. But "perfect" here extends also to mean fully equipped and completely qualified. The suffering He endured was the arena in which His flawless obedience was tested and proven. Without the weight of trials pressing in from every side, the faithfulness of the Man Christ Jesus could not have been displayed in its fullness.

THE COSMIC WITNESS OF SUFFERING

This was not only for our sake – it was for the sake

THE LOVE THAT COULD NOT BE DOUBTED

Suffering also magnified the love of both the Father and the Son. For the Father, creating His Son in a world that He knew would reject, torture and kill Him was the ultimate declaration: There is *nothing* I will withhold to bring My creation back to Myself.

For the Son, each act of endurance – each refusal to call down legions of angels, ([continued on page 9209](#))

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3-4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice,

misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);

- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Ephesians 2:6);
 - adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of saints intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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each step carrying the cross – was a tangible proclamation: I trust My Father completely, and I love those He has given Me without condition.

The suffering is the demonstration. Without it, the love could still be declared, but it would not have been *demonstrated* in the most vivid and undeniable way possible.

SUFFERING AS VICTORY, NOT DEFEAT

Satan surely saw the cross as his moment of triumph, until he realized what had *actually* taken place. Yet the irony of the plan is that the very suffering he orchestrated became the evidence of his own defeat. Every lash, every mockery, every spike was another step toward the moment when sin and death would be broken.

Colossians 2:15 tells us that, through the cross, Christ stripped the sovereignties and authorities with boldness, making a show of them, triumphing over them in it. The suffering was the *means* of that triumph, and the secrets that God kept hidden in Himself prior to the Apostle Paul needed to be hidden from

celestial beings more than from men.

OUR PERSPECTIVE ON SUFFERING

For believers, Christ's path redefines how we view our own trials. We can see that suffering is not a sign of God's absence but is often the place where trust deepens, faith solidifies, and love is most clearly displayed.

Our Champion walked that path first, and because He did, we can face whatever comes, knowing that the antidote has already been applied and the battle already won.

Chapter 13 Key Takeaways

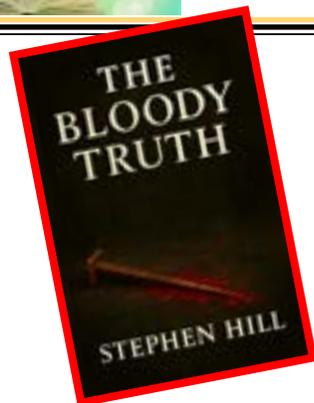
- ◆ Christ's suffering qualified Him as the perfect Champion.
- ◆ Celestial beings witnessed His obedience under trial, validating His reign.
- ◆ Suffering displayed the Father's love and turned Satan's schemes into defeat.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Champion; Christ's Faith; Love; Suffering
Minor: Antidote; Celestials; Death; Perspective; Sin

Check out a **NEW BOOK!**



The Bloody Truth

(Pre-publication notice)

by — Stephen Hill

Blood runs like a crimson thread through the pages of Scripture – from the first sacrifice in Eden to the death of Christ. But what if its purpose has been misunderstood for centuries? What if blood was never about appeasing a wrathful God, but about healing, cleansing and reversing the curse of sin and death?

The Bloody Truth uncovers one of the Bible's most profound and shocking reversals: that God Himself supplied the antidote to humanity's greatest disease.

Through vivid storytelling and careful attention to Scripture, this book reveals how the sacrifices of old pointed, not to divine anger, but to a divine cure.

It shows why Christ's blood was poured out, not to satisfy vengeance, but to restore life, reconcile creation, and draw us near to God.

This is not another book of theological jargon. It is a bold journey into the heart of God's plan—a plan that overturns human assumptions about punishment, atonement, and the very nature of salvation. If you've ever wrestled with questions about why blood is so central in the Bible, or if you've longed for a picture of God that is consistent with love, justice, and grace, this book will open your eyes to a truth both ancient and revolutionary.

Pre-Publication Sale



Firstborn: Exposing the Myth of Pre-existence

(A Synoptical Examination)

[Click here to listen to this article](#)

Steve Martin, Compilation Editor

Chapter 3 (of 10) The Genesis Moment – Jesus' Beginning at Conception

Here's the cornerstone of this whole discussion: Jesus' life began when He was conceived. Not in eternity past. Not as a conscious divine being waiting to slip into Mary's womb. His beginning was the moment that God's Spirit overshadowed Mary and created a new, perfect human seed.

This isn't just a theological side note – it's the core of who Jesus is. Scripture, when read carefully and in context, makes it plain.



they deliberately roots Jesus' story in a starting point. Not a timeless past. Not "part of Him." The whole person of Jesus had a *genesis*.

Some try to argue that Matthew was referring only to Jesus' "flesh side." But that doesn't hold up. The text says, "*the genesis of Jesus the Christ.*" Jesus wasn't even the Christ until His baptism and anointing. This is about His whole being. If He had a beginning with the lineage found in Matthew, He could not have pre-existed.

MATTHEW'S WITNESS: THE GENESIS OF JESUS

Matthew doesn't waste time. He opens his Gospel with these words: "*The book of the genesis of Jesus Christ*" (Matthew 1:1). The Greek word *genesis* (γένεσις) couldn't be clearer – it means origin, beginning.

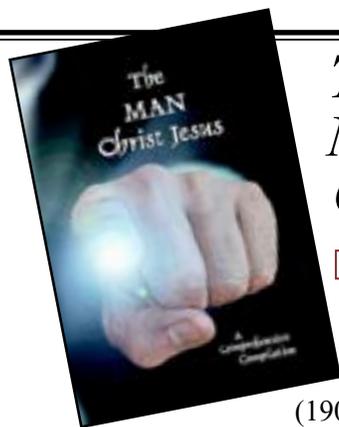
If Jesus had existed eternally before Bethlehem, Matthew's opening line would be nonsense. But Mat-

LUKE'S TESTIMONY: THE MIRACLE IN MARY'S WOMB

Luke spells it out even more directly. The angel told Mary:

*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Holy One Who is being **generated** shall be called the Son of God* (Luke 1:35).

(see [FIRSTBORN](#), page 9213)



The Man Christ Jesus: His Birth, Life, Nature, Faith, Suffering and Glory (A Comprehensive Compilation)

430 pages This book contains 24 authors and 74 works spanning 130 years. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925), William W. Bentley, Jr., William Tucker Broad (1860-1923), Leon A. Bynoe (1895-1983), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), E.H. Clayton (1887-1972), John H. Essex (1907-1991), William B. Hallman (1903-1985), Joseph Edwin Hartill (1909-1981), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Adlai Loudy (1893-1984), William Mealand (1873-1957), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988), André Sneider, E. Al Stahl (1926-2011) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967).

The Three Heavens and Earths

Bible Student's Courses

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Course 2: Creation / Unit 1: God the Creator / Lesson 8: The Three Heavens and Earths (Part 1)

by — Mark D. Vogt

Most people assume that the world we live in now is the only one that's ever existed – and the only one that ever will. But Scripture tells a very different story. According to God's Word, there are **three Heavens and Earths** across time, each part of His plan. In this lesson, we'll explore the first two and look ahead to the third.



God has judged the world before. He will judge it again. And He's already told us how.

THREE HEAVENS AND THREE EARTHS

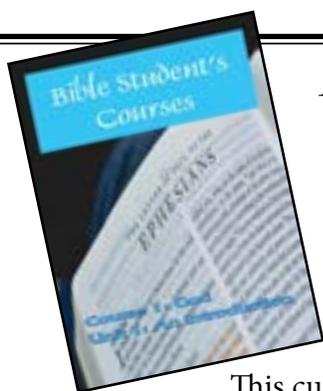
God's Word reveals that there are **three distinct Heavens and Earths**:

1. **The First Heaven and Earth** – Mentioned in Genesis 1:1, this was the original creation. It was later **destroyed by water** in a judgment that occurred before Genesis 1:2. This was not Noah's flood – it was a **pre-Adamic destruction**.
2. **The Second Heaven and Earth** – This is the world we now live in, beginning in **Genesis 1:2** after God restored the Earth. This present Earth will one day be **destroyed by fire** as Peter tells us (II Peter 3:7).

SCOFFERS IN THE LAST DAYS

In II Peter 3:5-7, the apostle Peter warns the scattered people of Israel that scoffers will come in the last days, mocking the idea of Jesus Christ returning and of coming judgment. These scoffers think nothing will ever change – they believe that since things have always stayed the same, they always will.

Peter reminds them: **That's not true.**



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Unit 1, An Introduction

Unit 3, The Love of God

Unit 5, The Attributes of God.

Unit 2, The Sovereignty of God

Unit 4, God as Father

3. **The Third Heaven and Earth** – This future world is described in **Revelation 21**, where the **New Heaven and New Earth** are revealed. The old passes away. The sea is no more. And the **New Jerusalem** comes down from Heaven, prepared as a bride for her husband.

TWO MAJOR JUDGMENTS

Between these three Heavens and Earths are two major acts of divine judgment:

- **The First Judgment:** Between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, the original earth was **destroyed by water**. This is not the flood of Noah, but an earlier, cataclysmic event.
- **The Second Judgment:** Still to come. At the end of this current creation, God will **destroy the present Heavens and Earth by fire** – possibly using energy already stored within the Earth itself.

These judgments are not signs of failure, but **part of God's perfect plan**, moving creation forward toward restoration and glory.

REVELATION 21: A NEW CREATION

The apostle John writes:

And I perceived a new heaven and earth, for the former heaven and the former earth passed away, and the sea is no more (Revelation 21:1, CV).

This is the **third Heaven and Earth**, and it will be unlike anything we've ever known. It will mark the **fullness of God's plan**, the beginning of an age with **no more sorrow, no more pain, no more separation**.

The **Holy City** descends, prepared by God Himself – a picture of beauty, unity and divine presence.

WHY DON'T WE KNOW MORE?

Most of the Bible focuses on the **second Heaven and Earth** – the one we live in now. Why is there so little revealed about the first and third?

Here are two reasons:

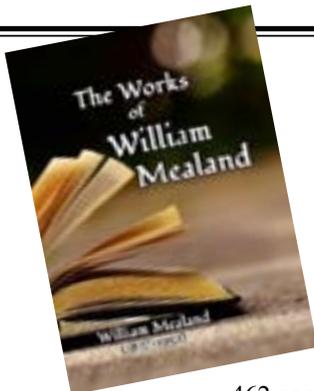
1. **God chose not to tell us.** He's revealed exactly what we need for now. The rest is hidden for His purposes.
2. **We couldn't understand it anyway.** The first and third creations are so **magnificent**, so **beyond human comparison**, that in our current condition, we simply don't have the ability to grasp it.

For example, Isaiah 9:7 says,

*Of the **increase** of His government and peace there shall be no end ... (KJV).*

No end to the *increase*?

How do you govern a people that keep *increasing* forever?



462 pages

The Works of William Mealand

by — William Mealand (1873-1957)

Mealand of England is best remembered for his prolific devotional series which appeared in *Unsearchable Riches* for more than two decades, which are the basis of this collection. He was also a conference speaker at the United Gatherings held in England. A faithful co-laborer with A.E. Knoch and a compiler of the *Concordant Version*.



Where do they live?

What does that even look like?

We simply don't have anything in our current experience to compare with that. So, God, in His wisdom, gives us **glimpses** – just enough to fill us with hope and awe, but not more than we can handle.

KEY TAKEAWAY

The Bible doesn't teach a flat, static view of creation. It reveals a **story unfolding across ages** – with three

Heavens and Earths, two major judgments, and one eternal purpose:

That God will be “*All in all*.”

In Part 2 of this lesson, we'll look more closely at the **differences between each Heaven and Earth**, and what this means for our understanding of God's plan for creation.

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Consummation; Judgment; New Creation; Three Heavens and Three Earths

Minor: Ages; Creation; Disruption

FIRSTBORN (continued from page 9210)

Notice the verb – *being generated*. That's *future tense*. His existence was about to begin. This was not a reminder of a Son Who had always existed. This was the moment of *origin*.

The Spirit hovering over Mary echoes Genesis 1, when the Spirit hovered over the waters to bring forth life. In Mary's womb, God created something entirely new – a perfect human seed. Jesus was not a hybrid. He was not God sneaking into a body. He was not a celestial being incarnated. He was the biological Son of God, conceived by God's creative act, as real and miraculous as Adam being formed from the dust.

If Jesus was already God's Son before this, then Luke's explanation of why He would be called “*the Son of God*” loses all meaning.

THE PROPHECIES POINT TO A HUMAN MESSIAH

The Old Testament doesn't speak of a pre-existent divine being coming down from Heaven to become Messiah. It speaks of a human descendant of David. Jeremiah 23:5 promises: “*I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.*”

The genealogies in Matthew and Luke aren't filler: they're evidence that Jesus is rooted in human lineage, qualified as the Messiah through His descent.

Even more, the “kinsman-redeemer” principle demanded that the Redeemer be fully human – a near relative. To undo what Adam brought into the world, Jesus had to be 100% human. Nothing more, nothing less. Adam didn't pre-exist. Neither did Christ. Only then could the last Adam stand as a true equal and undo the failure of the first.

Every prophecy of His birth – from Bethlehem to Mary to Joseph's legal line – anchors Him on earth, not in eternity past.

WHY PRE-EXISTENCE DOESN'T FIT

When we take Matthew and Luke seriously, the idea of pre-existence falls apart. If Jesus began at conception, He could not have existed before.

And here's a principle we can't ignore: future revelation can't contradict earlier revelation. If the Bible is God's Word, it won't undermine itself. The clear testimony at the start of the Gospels – that Jesus' life began in Mary's womb – can't be overturned by later, less direct passages.

To accept pre-existence, we'd have to believe that God gave us two stories that clash. But He doesn't make mistakes. The consistent witness of Scripture points to one truth: the *genesis* of Jesus Christ was His conception. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Jesus Christ (Pre-Existence of) ; Messiah

Minor: Genealogy; Prophecy



William Mealand (1873-1957)



William Mealand, of England, is best remembered for his prolific devotional series which appeared in *Unsearchable Riches* for more than two decades, which are the basis of our facsimile book, *The Works of William Mealand*.¹

He worked as a jewelry engraver in the city of Birmingham. With the city's connecting network of canals and roads, the transportation of goods supported a growing economy. The company he worked for was Pepper, Payton and sons LTD, and thrived into the 1970's.



William met and married Kate, and they had 5 children. I know he enjoyed the game of cricket and was also an artist, sketching and painting in his leisure time.

BSN

He was also a conference speaker at the United Gatherings held in England, a faithful collaborer with A.E. Knoch, and a compiler of the *Concordant Version*.

He was born in Birmingham. His biological mother worked as a maid for a wealthy family when she became pregnant with him. A father was not listed on his birth certificate. William was given, and retained, his birth mother's surname of Mealand, even when he was informally adopted by a couple who didn't have children and raised him as their own, while his birth mother lived with them until the end of her life.

1. <https://studysshelf.com/product/the-works-of-william-mealand-1873-1957/>

**GRACE IS THE
THING IN ALL THE
WORLD THAT IS
LEAST UNDERSTOOD.**
– J.G. M'VICKER (1826-1900)



88 pages

Nothing Will Be Lost! The Truth About God's Good News

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Is the Creator wasteful? Has He brought His creation into existence just to abandon it to a "Christless eternity"? No! God is the true Savior of His Own creation, and nothing will be lost. The realization of this truth about the true nature of our Father will completely change the way we look at Him and everyone around us.

This is an abridgement of the larger work *The Salvation of All*. It is designed as a give-away edition, with quantity pricing available.

"*Nothing Will be Lost* was one of the most edifying studies I have read in a very long time. It brings real joy to my heart when I see someone stand for the truth of Christ's total victory over sin. We do not have a weak Savior Who hopes to save only a few; rather, we have a Savior Who saves all!" – NY