

TOO EARLY TO BE SAVED?

If you are born in a Christian family, you may find the Gospel message not applicable to you after you heard of it hundreds of times. Even when you are not born in a Christian family, you may have been tempted many times to not accept the Lord Jesus as your Saviour until you are ready to die.

I have the following point of views to prove that it is necessary for you to seek to be a born-again Christian now.

First of all, there is a spiritual world filled with demons and angels.

The first example to prove the existence of a spiritual world is from my own experience. About twenty years ago, I was living in Hong Kong (now I am living in Canada). I was playing a dark spiritualism game named “saucer god” with my neighbors. The tools of this game are composed of a large piece of paper printed with a lot of Chinese words and a saucer. About four of us put one of our fingers on the saucer. While there was a piece

of incense being burnt beside us, we sincerely asked the “saucer god” questions. We drew an arrow at the edge of the saucer. After we asked each question, the saucer moved and the arrow pointed to different Chinese words. The pointed words formed sentences. We were quite satisfied with the “answers.”

Two things to prove the high chance of a demon involved in this game was: first, at least I myself did not purposely move the saucer. There are about 6,000 Chinese character blocks in the contemporary Chinese writing system. On the piece of paper we used for that spiritualism game there were probably over 500 Chinese character blocks. Anyway, I was certain that there were many more than 26 Chinese character blocks on that piece of paper. What I mean is, if some of us flaked moving the saucer, it would be much easier to get “flaked answers” if there were only 26 English characters. After all, it seemed to me all of us involved in that spiritualism game truly wanted to test the existence of “spirits.” None of us were famous and we were not in a TV show to entertain other people by playing spiritualism games.

The second example was a story about famous preacher who was born in China at the beginning of 1900's. He was born in a Christian family and his father was a poor pastor. When he became a teenager, his father bought him a ship ticket to travel to United States for his academic pursuance. After he had arrived in the USA, he had to work long hours in order to pay for his tuition and living fees. He was once hospitalized because his work loads were too huge. The amazing thing was that he was able to complete his doctoral degree in Chemistry and obtained a Golden Key. The Golden Key signified that he was on top of his doctoral degree class. His success was even published in a US newspaper. A while later he became a born-again Christian, but he was put into a psychiatric hospital because people thought he had psychiatric problem due to his extremely worn-out body and his seemingly unusual behavior because of his joy of being born again. Around the 1930's, with the help of the Chinese government (not the current Chinese communist government), he was released from the psychiatric hospital and shipped back to China. Soon after he arrived China, a warlord

wanted to hire him (during the 1930's, there were many warlords in China fighting with each other) because the warlord who wanted to hire him knew that he obtained a doctoral degree in Chemistry and wanted him to involve in making gun-powder. However, he refused. Later, he became a teacher and then a full-time preacher. Shortly after he became a preacher, he discovered that he possessed the gift of healing from God. Sick people were healed by him laying hands on them and praying for them. There was one event that many sick people (I forgot the number but there were very likely over 100) were brought before him. After he prayed for them, over 90% of these sick people were healed. The sicknesses mentioned included handicaps like deaf and blind.

Although people who can perform miracles by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus are not necessarily born-again Christians, the story of John Song proves that very likely the healing of the sick people, by John's prayers, was caused by a spiritual power.

Besides miracles, there were three prominent ancient civilizations proving the existence of a spiritual world.

The first civilization was Egypt. Although Egypt was second to none in measuring the length of an object and a prosperous nation in ancient worlds, Egypt had her own religious system. Not only was the Egyptian religious system described in the Egyptian history books, but the Bible also says that there were magicians and sorceries standing beside Pharaoh when Moses and Aaron came to see him. According to the Bible, Pharaoh's magicians were able to perform the same miracles as Moses performed. However the Bible also said Moses' miracles were superior to the magicians' miracles. For example, Moses' serpent, transformed from a staff, swallowed the magicians' serpents which were transformed from the magician's staffs.

The second prominent civilization was Greece. Greeks were great scientific thinkers. A famous Greek philosopher invented the “buoyancy” theory. The theory states that the up-lifting forces, acting on an object when it is

submerged in the water, is equal to the weight of the water displaced by the object. This proven theory was an important concept in designing a ship made with steel. I meant many craftsmen can easily build a boat made with wood without considering the “buoyancy” theory but not so for ships made with steel.

Not only was ancient Greece the birth place of western civilization, but the Bible also mentions that there were some Greeks sought to see the face of the Lord Jesus Christ who was preaching in Israel. As a matter of fact, a few hundred years after the resurrection of Christ Jesus, the Greek Orthodox Church was formed and is still the main religion in Greece today.

The third ancient civilization was Rome. The Romans were great engineers. Julius Caesar's army was able to build a sturdy bridge spanning over 100 meters in 10 days across the Rhine River. The Romans were also famous in building good roads.

The Romans played a very important role in the Bible. The soldiers who crucified the Lord Jesus were Romans. There was also a Roman centurion and his family who got saved by the preaching of the Apostle Peter.

Several hundred years after the resurrection of Christ Jesus, Rome became the “Holy Roman Empire.”

Although people referred to the “Holy Roman Empire's” rule of Europe as the dark ages, why would these three successful ancient civilizations had their own religious system BEFORE the birth of Christianity? For example, the Pharaohs did pay their priests wages to perform religious rituals before the birth of Moses. Why were the Pharaohs willing to pay the priests to do so if they thought the spiritual world does not exist or not important at all?

I am not able to discuss the statement “Christianity brings in superstition and hinders scientific advancement” at the present time.

Not only is there sound knowledge inspired from the Holy Scriptures, but the fulfilled prophecies are infallible proof that there is an almighty God.

There is a verse recorded in the Book of Daniel (9:24-26) fulfilled by the Lord Jesus but was denied by many rabbis living in Israel today.

9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

9:25

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

9:26

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

There is a list of events which prove the fulfillment of this prophecy. In the first year of Cyrus, King of Persia, he decreed that the Jewish people could return to the land of Judah so that the Temple and Jerusalem could be rebuilt.

While Jerusalem was being rebuilt, the Jewish people were attacked by other racial groups inside the Persian Empire which was prophesied by these specific words, “even in troublous time.”

Please note that after the decree to rebuild the temple, there were 2 “sixty two weeks.” The word “weeks” in the original Hebrew language

means “seven.” If it is interpreted as “seven Jewish years,” the Lord Jesus was indeed crucified 860 Jewish years after King Cyrus' decree of rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple. Someone calculated that the time in this prophecy was accurate up-to-date.

This is interesting to note that the Book of Daniel was well preserved by the Jewish rabbis throughout centuries. However, they would deny the Lord Jesus fulfilled the “seventy weeks” prophecy because their fathers requested the Romans to kill the Lord by crucifixion.

Although the rabbis would deny the “seventy weeks” prophesy, there is another prophecy in the Book of Daniel (8:3-8) which will likely be agreed by the rabbis if it is interpreted this way.

8:3

Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was

higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

8:4

I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

8:5

And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

8:6

And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

8:7

And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before

him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

8:8

Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.

You do not need to be a historian to see that the he-goat with a notable horn was referring to Alexander the Great because after Greece defeated Persia, the Greek Empire was divided into four kingdoms after the death of Alexander the Great. There is one record stating that the Jewish people living in the Persian Empire did not make too much resistance when the Greek army was invading Persia because they believed the “he goat” was referring to Alexander the Great.

It was the “seventy weeks” prophecy that designated the time when the Lord Jesus would be crucified. Beside this prophecy,

there were another 47 prophecies fulfilled by the Lord Jesus.

Another reason for you to seek to be born again is that you will be certain that even the sins committed by you after you became a Christian are covered by the blood of Christ. There are a few examples to prove that even born-again Christians can sin.

The first example can be found in the Book of Exodus. Chapter 17 of the Book of Exodus says that the children of Israel murmured against Moses because of no water. God told Moses to smite a rock on their way. Moses smote the rock, and water came forth from it. Several years later, a similar crisis happened to Moses and the children of Israel again. The children of Israel murmured against Moses again. God, instead of telling Moses to smite another rock on their way, told Moses to command water to come out from that rock. However, Moses made a big mistake and SMOTE the rock, just like what he did to the first rock he saw many years ago. Later, the Lord God was very angry with Moses and did not allow him to enter the land of Canaan.

These kind of mistakes can be made by many born-again Christians. Imagine a Christian man having the financial burden of his family. While he is in a financial crisis, his wife complains to him of no handbags and his kids complain to him of no toys! In this situation, this Christian man may likely to commit sin or even crimes because of PEER PRESSURE!

Also imagine if you have a wife who became handicapped five years ago in a car accident, and she has to stay in her wheelchair for the rest of her life. And one week ago, an one hundred dollars bill was stolen from your wallet and you were able to verify that your wife stole it. Three days later, you found there was another one hundred dollar bill missing from your wallet. You suspected your wife stole your money again but she denied it when you asked her. Then, both of you started a quarrel. In the midst of the quarrel, you suddenly yelled at her and said, “you deserve to be handicapped!” After your wife heard these words, she might kill herself because we all have something we do not want to hear but not related to our sins. If you get many “zeros” from exams throughout years, you will

be hurt psychologically if someone said you are stupid.

However, if your wife commits suicide because of your words, “you deserve to be handicapped” you will be partly responsible for her death because, firstly, her handicap was not related to your suspicion of her stealing your money, and, secondly, you are not God and you do not know if her handicap was because of her wickedness.

In the Gospel of John chapter 9, the Lord Jesus' disciples asked the Lord if one blind man's blindness was because of his sins or his parents' sins. The Lord Jesus said his physical blindness was neither due to his sins nor his parents' sins but for the glory of God. Later, the Lord healed this blind man and he became a strong witness for the Lord Jesus before the unbelieving Pharisees.

When the Lord Jesus was tempted by the Devil to “turn rock into bread” after the Lord fasted 40 days, the Lord said it was wrong for Him to do so now by saying, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that

proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”
(Matthew 4:4).

The only reason I can give to explain the Lord’s refusal of Satan is that Satan wanted to prevent the Lord from fasting continuously. If the Lord did turn the rock into bread at that moment, Satan did not need to tempt the Lord later and tell the Lord to “jump from the top of the pinnacle” and “worship me and I will give you the glory of nations.”

The last example I could give is suicidal bombers. Some Muslim terrorists told young boys that if they blew themselves up by explosives in a bus and kill the enemies of Allah, there will be beautiful virgins waiting for them in heaven. Many people would agree that they would never do that if someone enticed him or her to do similar things.

However, we are always put under similar temptations like what the suicidal bombers met.

For example, if your boss gave you some money so that after you arrived in another

country, on behalf of your company, you could give this money to the people working for the government as “gifts.” By doing so, your company will gain business facilitation in that country. Your boss also told you that it is not illegal for you to do so in that country.

I would not blame you if you have to do so because it is not illegal to do this in that country. However, I can give you an example to prove that it may be a sin in the eyes of the Lord.

During the 1960's, bribery was a serious problem in Hong Kong. I was told that if you paid some extra cash to the nurses and doctors in a hospital during the 60's, you could get better services or, in some case, better results.

To get better services seems acceptable, but even organized criminals in Hong Kong, during the 1960's, liked to give money to police as “gifts” so that the police would not shut down their illegal casinos, prostitute houses and heroin businesses.

So the Hong Kong government first established an “anti-triad” department to fight

against the police being bribed by the criminals. Later, they found the policemen in the “anti-triad” department were also bribed by the criminals. Soon after that, they even found the “anti-, anti-triad” department did not work for its establishment. That was the reason why “ICAC” was finally formed under the special instructions from the Hong Kong government. Since the establishment of “ICAC,” the corruption problem in Hong Kong was greatly improved.

The really good thing being born again is that born-again Christians have the guidance of the Holy Ghost. A born-again Christian does not need to meditate or do harm to his or her own physical body to chase away the “evil thoughts” from his or her mind.

I strongly believe the worst sins a born-again Christian might commit are: kill someone because of continuous humiliations from offenders or commit adultery accidentally.

By the words of the Lord Jesus, we can be sure that all the sins committed by a person, after

he or she became born again, are forgiven in the eyes of the Lord.

At the same time, the Lord knows who are not born-again among those people attending churches.

I strongly believe a born-again Christian would not suddenly do harm to other people psychologically or physically because he or she is superior to other people.

I also believe a born-again Christian would not kill a person walking on a street because the Christian wants the victim's music player.