

LITERAL, LITERALLY

Death is **literally** the wages of sin. God punished Adam and Eve for eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil by death.

- **Genesis 3:17, 19:** "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ... In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

When Jacob asked Laban to show what goods he had stolen from him, Laban claimed ownership of **literally** everything Jacob owned, including his wives and children. Laban refused to admit that Jacob had a rightful title to *anything*.

- **Genesis 31:36-37, 43:** "And Jacob was wroth, and chode with Laban: and Jacob answered and said to Laban, What is my trespass? what is my sin, that thou hast so hotly pursued after me? Whereas thou hast searched all my stuff, what hast thou found of all thy household stuff? set it here before my brethren and thy brethren, that they may judge betwixt us both. ... And Laban answered and said unto Jacob, These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and these cattle are my cattle, and all that thou seest is mine: and what can I do this day unto these my daughters, or unto their children which they have born?"

Joseph **literally** fled from temptation.

- **Genesis 39:11-12:** "And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out."

The seven years of plenty in Egypt were fulfilled **literally**, just as God said.

- **Genesis 41:47-49, 53:** "And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number. ... And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended."

In wave offerings, the ingredients of the offering were **literally** waved before the Lord.

- **Exodus 29:24:** "And thou shalt put all in the hands of Aaron, and in the hands of his sons; and shalt wave them for a wave offering before the LORD."
- **Exodus 29:26:** "And thou shalt take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration, and wave it for a wave offering before the LORD: and it shall be thy part."
- **Leviticus 7:30:** "His own hands shall bring the offerings of the LORD made by fire, the fat with the breast, it shall he

bring, that the breast may be waved for a wave offering before the LORD."

- **Leviticus 23:11:** "And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it."

Moses **literally** smashed to pieces the stone tablets that God made, upon which He had personally engraved His law.

- **Exodus 32:19:** "And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount."

Every year the Israelites had to give their firstfruits to God. (They had to **literally** carry their crops and livestock to the tabernacle and give them to the priests.)

- **Exodus 34:26:** "The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk."

The tabernacle was **literally** a tent (that was made of curtains).

- **Exodus 40:2:** "On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, they wanted food from Egypt so badly that they **literally** wept in their tents.

- **Numbers 11:10:** "Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased."

When God said He would provide enough meat to feed all of Israel for an entire month, Moses didn't believe Him. Moses thought it was impossible (in spite of all the miracles he had seen God do, and in spite of the fact God **literally** provided the entire nation with manna from Heaven six days a week.)

- **Numbers 11:20-21-22:** "But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the Lord which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt? And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month. Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?"

Moses **literally** said the Israelites remained in Kadesh according to the number of days that they stayed there.

- **Deuteronomy 1:46:** "So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode there."

When David left Jerusalem (to flee from Absalom), he said Ittai had just joined them yesterday. (It's not clear if this was **literally** true, or if David just meant Ittai had joined him recently.)

- **2 Samuel 15:19-20:** "Then said the king to Ittai the Gittite, Wherefore goest thou also with us? return to thy place, and abide with the king: for thou art a stranger, and also an exile. Whereas thou camest but yesterday, should I this day make thee go up and down with us? seeing I go whither I may, return thou, and take back thy brethren: mercy and truth be with thee."

When God asked Solomon what he wanted to be given, Solomon said he was a little child. (This doesn't seem to be **literal**, since Solomon's son Rehoboam was born a year before he became king.)

- **1 Kings 3:7:** "And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in."

When Benhadad's servants told Ahab that he wanted Ahab to spare his life, Ahab said that he was his brother. (It seems this was figurative, and not **literally** true.)

- **1 Kings 20:32:** "So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, Thy servant Benhadad saith, I pray thee, let me live. And he said, Is he yet alive? he is my brother."

Even though Job was **literally** the most upright person in the entire world, none of his friends were willing to believe he was a good person. Instead they accused him of being a wicked hypocrite who deserved everything that happened to him, including the death of all of his children. (In fact, Zophar went so far as to say that *Job deserved to be punished even more harshly*. Apparently Zophar thought Job deserved to lose

more than *absolutely everything*.)

- **Job 11:6:** "And that he would shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth."

Eliphaz seems to be saying that **literally** everything is unclean all the time, and absolutely nothing is clean or righteous or good (which is wrong).

- **Job 15:14-15:** "What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight."

When Job had problems, **literally** everyone turned against him. No one did anything to help him.

- **Job 19:19:** "All my inward friends abhorred me: and they whom I loved are turned against me."

Eliphaz accused **literally** the most upright person in the entire world of *beating up orphans*, even though he had absolutely no evidence that was true. (Job's three friends were terrible people.)

- **Job 22:9:** "Thou hast sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken."

Psalm 22 was written for "Aijelet Shahair". (Scholars believe that "aijelet" means "hind" or "doe", and "shahair" means "of the morning". The phrase **literally** means "set to the doe of

the morning". That could mean this psalm was intended for use in the early morning.)

- **Psalm 22:0:** "To the cheif Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David."

Jeremiah said that God put a heavy chain on him. (Since Jeremiah spent time in prison, this may be **literal**.)

- **Lamentations 3:7:** "He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy."

Jeremiah said that the wicked prophets and priests of Jerusalem were **literally** stained with blood (after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city).

- **Lamentations 4:13-14:** "For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her, They have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments."

There are times when God indicates that His judgment is coming by sending **literal** darkness upon that nation.

- **Ezekiel 32:7-8:** "And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD."

Nebuchadnezzar believed that **literally** no one was stronger

than him. He believed he had more power than God Himself. (He was wrong.)

- **Daniel 3:15:** "Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

When Nebuchadnezzar had his dream about the tree, he didn't immediately summon Daniel. Instead he asked **literally** everyone else first.

- **Daniel 4:6-8:** "Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream. Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof. But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my God, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,"

The prophecies of God are always fulfilled **literally**, no matter how unlikely that may seem. (All of these things happened to Nebuchadnezzar, exactly as God said they would.)

- **Daniel 4:25, 28:** "That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall

pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ... All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar."

The message that God had been written on the wall in the sight of Belshazzar was fulfilled **literally**. The king did indeed lose his kingdom (that very night, in fact).

- **Daniel 5:30-31:** "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old."

There may be an extended period of time when there are **literally** no righteous people left in the entire world, and everyone is depraved and evil and violent. (After the rapture takes place, there will be no righteous people left. The world may be in that state for quite some time.)

- **Micah 7:2-3:** "The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up."

This prophecy speaks of a time when the Lord will return to this world in person and **literally** set it on fire, as an act of vengeance against the wicked. (This may be speaking of the return of Jesus at the end of the tribulation.)

- **Nahum 1:5:** "The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the

world, and all that dwell therein."

In ancient times, some people **literally** sounded a trumpet in the streets when they gave money.

- **Matthew 6:2:** "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

Jesus **literally** fulfilled the prophecies that spoke of Him.

- **Matthew 26:53-54:** "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"
- **John 13:18:** "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me."
- **John 18:9:** "That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none."

The reason Peter, James, and John couldn't understand Jesus is because they kept looking for a symbolic interpretation of His words instead of taking Him **literally**. (When Jesus said He was going to rise from the dead, He meant He was going to die *and then rise from the dead*.)

- **Mark 9:10:** "And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean."

During the ministry of John the Baptist, the Jews should have known that the Messiah had already been born. However, they didn't. They missed all the signs and the **literal** multitude of angels that proclaimed the news of His birth. (The wise men from Parthia knew that the son of Mary and Joseph was the Messiah, but apparently the nation of Israel had no idea. The fact the Jews were speculating about John the Baptist shows that they hadn't been paying attention.)

- **Luke 3:15:** "And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;"

In the parable of the dinner invitation, the servant told his lord that **literally** everyone had rejected his invitation, and none of the people he invited were willing to come.

- **Luke 14:18, 21:** "And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. ... So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind."

Jesus **literally** bore His cross. He carried it to the place where He was crucified.

- **John 19:17:** "And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:"

In order for salvation to work, Adam must be a real person who actually existed, he must have sinned, there had to be no death before his sin, and we all must be his descendants. That means the first three chapters of Genesis must be **literally** true, and not just a myth or fairy tale, or else salvation is impossible and the death of Christ can save no one.

- **Romans 5:15:** "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many."
- **1 Corinthians 15:21:** "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."

The story that's told in Genesis about the creation of women is **literally** true. God really did make women out of men.

- **1 Corinthians 11:8:** "For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man."

Even if people have the greatest possible version of the gift of knowledge (having **literally** all knowledge), if they lack love then they're nothing. Love is that important.

- **1 Corinthians 13:2:** "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

Even if people give in the greatest way possible (**literally** giving everything they own to feed the poor), if they lack love

then they're nothing. Love is that important.

- **1 Corinthians 13:3:** "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

It's good to **literally** bow down before God.

- **Ephesians 3:14:** "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Genesis 1 should be interpreted **literally**. Adam really was created by God first, and then Eve was created later.

- **1 Timothy 2:13:** "For Adam was first formed, then Eve."

God delivered Paul out of the mouth of the lion. (This should probably be interpreted **literally**, since Christians were fed to lions in those days.)

- **2 Timothy 4:17:** "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

The story of Cain and Abel is **literally** true.

- **Hebrews 11:4:** "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

Peter warned that in the last days there would be corrupt people in the church who would reject the Genesis account of a **literal** six-day creation, and a literal flood that destroyed the whole world. (If God spoke the universe into existence, as Peter says, then that means it didn't evolve on its own over billions of years.)

- **2 Peter 3:3, 5-6:** "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ... For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"

The great Flood that's recorded in Genesis **literally** happened. It really did destroy the entire world, and kill everyone except for those who were on the Ark. It wasn't a local flood, but was a global one that brought global destruction.

- **2 Peter 3:6:** "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:"

Jesus told the church at Smyrna that they would have tribulation for "ten days". (It's not known if this was a **literal** ten days, or if it was symbolic for a passage of time.)

- **Revelation 2:10:** "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

In Revelation 8:13 an angel said "woe, woe, woe". It turns out

there will **literally** be *three* "woe" judgments during the tribulation. The angel wasn't repeating himself, but was talking about three separate woes.

- **Revelation 9:12:** "One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter."

The millennium will last for 1,000 years. This isn't a symbolic period of time, but is a **literal** thousand years. (It's literally repeated *seven times* over the course of seven verses! The text is very clear that this is an actual span of one thousand years.)

- **Revelation 20:2:** "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,"
- **Revelation 20:3:** "And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."
- **Revelation 20:4:** "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."
- **Revelation 20:5:** "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."
- **Revelation 20:6:** "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and

shall reign with him a thousand years."

- **Revelation 20:7:** "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,"

In the new Jerusalem there will be an actual river which contains the **literal** water of life. (This is like the river of life that will proceed out of the millennial temple, whose water will bring healing to the world after the terrible tribulation judgments.)

- **Revelation 22:1:** "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."