

Eight Major Milestones Pointing Us to the “Highway to Heaven”

Introduction

There is a common belief that many paths lead to God and all spiritual views are equally valid. Since connecting with God for eternity is such a high-stakes issue, it is wise to consider: Do all religious views line up with reality? If “spiritual truth” is objective (not based on opinion), people could suffer eternal consequences. They could be sincere in their religious beliefs yet be sincerely wrong.

According to the Bible, “spiritual truth” is a life-or-death matter, and truth can set us free.² If the Bible is the written revelation from God to humanity—as it claims to be and proves to be (see below)—then the most loving and important message we could ever discover is:

- *Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world,*
- *Jesus offers us forgiveness and the free gift of eternal life, and*
- *Jesus is the only road to heaven.*

MILESTONE 1

A Point of Logic

The teachings about God from different religions cannot all be true because they contradict one another. They are mutually exclusive. God cannot be finite and infinite, knowable and unknowable, singular and triune, personal and impersonal simultaneously.³ There is no way to reconcile the major worldviews such as monotheism (only one God), polytheism (multiple gods), and pantheism

(God *is* or *is in* everything). Logically, either all of them are wrong or only one of them is right. All roads cannot lead to God. But one of them can.

OUR NATURAL POINT OF VIEW:

All people should be able to get to heaven, no matter what spiritual road they choose to take.

GOD’S ETERNAL POINT OF VIEW:

Beloved, I sent My divine Son to die for you, thus providing the only possible road to heaven.⁴

MILESTONE 2

Solid Evidence

If the Christian view that Jesus is the only way to heaven is true, there should be compelling evidence for it. And there is. For example: **[a]** Secular and religious historians confirm the historicity of Jesus Christ and the Bible. **[b]** The Bible’s claim to be reliable and divine in origin is authenticated by the precise unity of its message (written by 40 authors over a span of 1,500 years), its abundant manuscript evidence, its predictive prophecies fulfilled to date with 100% accuracy, and its ongoing archaeological confirmations. **[c]** Jesus’ claim to be the divine Son of God is validated by three basic credentials:

- *His performance of numerous miracles*
- *His fulfillment of extensive biblical prophecy*
- *His supernatural resurrection from the dead.*

JESUS: A Striking Comparison

No other religious “founder” claimed to be God and proved it by His resurrection from the dead. All others were men, not God in human form who died and returned to life.

MILESTONE 3

The Resurrection

On the third day after Jesus’ crucifixion—2,000 years ago on a Roman cross—He rose from the dead. For 40 days He presented Himself alive “by many infallible proofs” and taught about God’s kingdom.⁵ Then He ascended into heaven. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the “grand miracle and the greatest of them all.”⁶ Compelling evidence for this historical event includes the empty tomb, the eyewitness accounts, the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, and the radical transformation of the disciples. Jesus conquered death and He lives today. Even now our Savior says to us, “**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live [forever].**”⁷ [See key Scriptures in footnote 8.]

THE BIBLE: A Striking Comparison

The Bible contains more than 1,000 specific prophecies, more than half of which have already been fulfilled with 100% accuracy. No other written religious authority can be proven to be God’s revealed Word by the fulfillment of predictive prophecies.

MILESTONE 4

Biblical Prophecy

Fulfilled predictive prophecy not only demonstrates the divine inspiration of the Bible, it also authenticates the deity of Jesus. The Old Testament contains 300 predictions of the coming Messiah, the Christ. Centuries later, all were literally fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Over 190 of them are major messianic prophecies—predicting such things as the time and place of Messiah’s birth, His mission, His miracles, His death and resurrection.⁹ The statistical probability

of just 8 of those prophecies being fulfilled in the life of one person is 1 in 10 to the 17th power!¹⁰ The clear conclusion is that the living God revealed history in advance to the human race through predictive prophecy. [See key Scriptures in footnote 11.]

MILESTONE 5

A Relationship

Christianity is relational. Rather than being a “religion,” it is a personal love-relationship with God through His Son. “**Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends,**” said Jesus.¹² When He willingly shed His blood on the cross at Calvary, He became the complete sacrifice for our sins so we could enjoy fellowship with God forever. Our spiritual thirst will only be satisfied when we believe in Jesus Christ. And He freely invites everyone to drink of the living water He gives, which springs up into everlasting life. Our Good Shepherd declared, “**I am the door [to heaven]. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**”¹³ [See key Scriptures in footnote 14.]

RELIGION is people reaching up to God, trying to become acceptable to Him through some form of works.

CHRISTIANITY is God reaching down to people, mercifully sending His Son to reconcile us to Himself.



MILESTONE 6

The Only Road

The Bible teaches there is only one way to heaven—which God mercifully provided for us. **“Nor is there salvation in any other [except Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**¹⁵ Does everyone need a Savior? Yes! We all have sinned and fall short of the glory (perfection) of God. And the result of sin is death. But the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus. We inherited a fallen, sinful nature from our original forefather, Adam. But God extended grace to us. He gave His own Son for us. **“Behold! The [sacrificial] Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”**¹⁶ [See key Scriptures in footnote 17.]

MILESTONE 7

Our Freedom

There is a marvelous paradox concerning our relationship with God. When we surrender our lives to Him, we become liberated. No longer in rebellion against God, we have peace with Him. No longer in bondage to sin, we can choose to resist it. The Bible encourages us to **“stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”**¹⁸ We are also free to seek God’s unique plans for our lives and to cultivate our individual relationships with Him. Following His plan leads to joy, fulfillment, fruitfulness, and eternal rewards. [See key Scriptures in footnote 19.]

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

*“In a fearfully changing world, [the Christian] is solidly grounded in an unchanging Christ, and therefore is free to develop his capacities to the fullest, under God.”*²⁰

MILESTONE 8

Other Roads

In one sense, all roads do lead to God. For a day of eternal judgment is coming when everyone will give an account to God. For true believers, it will be a judgment of rewards. For those who rejected God’s beloved Son and His sacrifice, it will be a judgment of punishment. Only those who trust in Jesus for their salvation will be welcomed into God’s presence for eternity. All others will be led to a place of eternal torment. That’s why Jesus pleads with us now to **“enter [heaven] by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.”**²¹ [See key Scriptures in footnote 22.]

QUOTE BY C. S. LEWIS

*“God will invade [our world again with] something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. ... God is holding back to give us that chance.”*²³

Entering the “Highway to Heaven”

Jesus Christ, our “Highway to Heaven,” declares, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**²⁴ Great joy and gratitude come from knowing there is a road for us to get to heaven, and the road is wide enough to accommodate everyone. Out of deep love Jesus paved the way for us at a tremendous price. There is only one Savior of the world, and He is knocking at the door of your heart. Will you answer and receive Him today?

A SALVATION PRAYER

“Dear God, thank You for Your love and grace, and for sending Your Son to die on the cross for my sins. Thank You that He rose again so we can live with You eternally. I realize that I am not on the path to heaven and that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. Please, Lord Jesus, forgive me for all my sins and come into my life. You are the way, the truth, and the life, and I want to follow You and Your plan for my life. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.”



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REFERENCES: ¹“Truth is when an idea, belief, or statement matches (or corresponds with) the way the world actually is (reality).” Aaron Brake, “What is Truth?”, 2/06/18, Stand to Reason Ministry, www.str.org/w/what-is-truth-1. ²John 8:32. ³Francis Beckwith, *Bahá’í* (Bethany House Pub., 1985), 57. ⁴John 3:16; 14:6. ⁵Acts 1:3. ⁶Norman L. Geisler, *Christian Apologetics* (Baker Book House, 1999), 346. ⁷John 11:25. ⁸1 Cor. 1:1–4, 5–8. ⁹Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* (Thomas Nelson, 2017), 229–230. ¹⁰Peter Stoner and Robert Newman, *Science Speaks* (Moody Press, 1963), 106. *Evidence*, 230–231. ¹¹Matt. 26:56; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39, 46; 2 Peter 1:19–21. ¹²John 15:13. ¹³John 10:9. ¹⁴John 4:14; Heb. 12:2. ¹⁵Acts 4:12. ¹⁶John 1:29. ¹⁷Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 8:32. ¹⁸Gal. 5:1. ¹⁹Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:8–14; Eph. 2:10; Col. 3:23–24; Heb. 11:6; Rev. 3:20. ²⁰John Warwick Montgomery, *Where Is History Going?* (Zondervan Pub., 1972), 74. ²¹Matt. 7:13. ²²Rom. 14:10–12; 2 Thess. 1:5–10; Rev. 11:17–18; 22:12. ²³C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2001), 65. ²⁴John 14:6.

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DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO GOD?



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