

# APOLOGETICS

for a *New Generation*



# CONVINCE THIS ATHEIST TO BELIEVE IN GOD

- ◆ ACCURATE PROPHECIES IN SACRED TEXTS
- ◆ ACCURATE SCIENCE IN RELIGIOUS TEXTS
- ◆ THE ONE SUCCESSFUL RELIGION
- ◆ INEXPLICABLY ACCURATE INFORMATION GAINED DURING NEAR-DEATH
- ◆ AN UNAMBIGUOUS MESSAGE



# C.S LEWIS



*“...the question of being an apologist is not so much whether you use an apologetic in answering someone’s question, but whether the apologetic you already use is a good one”*



# WHY APOLOGETICS?

1. Ellen White's view of a more multifaceted ministry
2. The limit of current Apologetics
3. Traditional divide of science and religion
4. Apologetics as discipleship
5. Confronting anti-intellectual ideas in the church



# PAUL THE APOLOGIST



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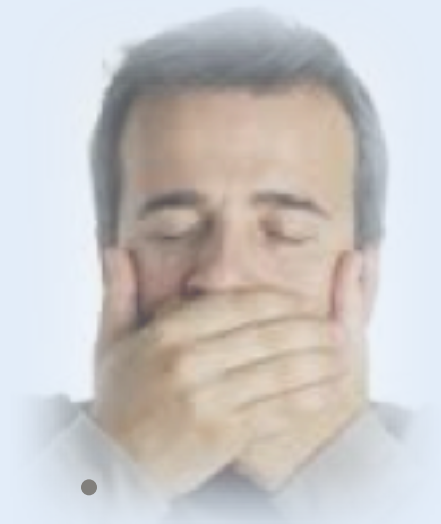


- ◆ Let every worker in the Master's vineyard, study, plan, devise methods, to reach the people where they are. We must do something out of the common course of things. We must arrest the attention. {Ev 122.4}
- ◆ We fully believe in church organization; but this is not to prescribe the exact way in which we should work, for not all minds are to be reached by the same methods. {6T 116.1}
- ◆ Some of the methods used in this work will be different from the methods used in the work in the past; but let no one, because of this, block the way by criticism. {Ev 105.2}
- ◆ Different methods of labor are really essential in sowing the seeds of truth and gathering in the harvest. {TM .251.1}

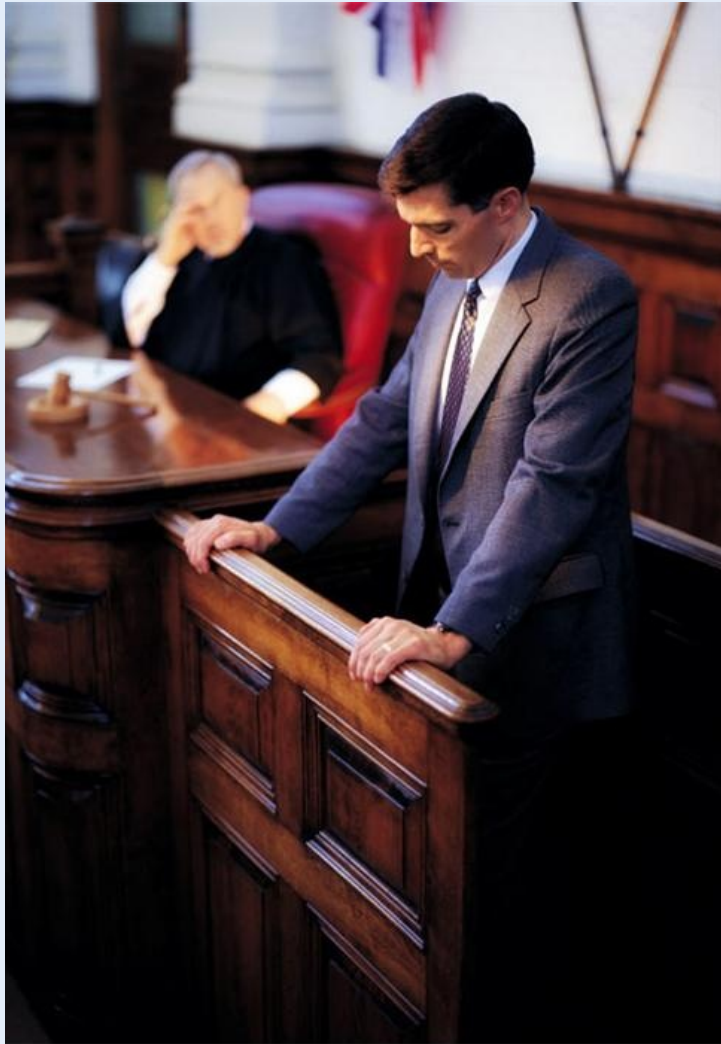


# PROVERBS 24:7

*“Wisdom is too lofty for a fool: he opens not his mouth in the gate.”*



# 1 PETER 3:15



*“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”*

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1. Ellen White's view of a more multifaceted ministry
2. The limit of current Apologetics
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The times demand an **intelligent, educated ministry**, not novices. False doctrines are being multiplied. The world is becoming educated to a high standard of literary attainment; and sin, unbelief, and infidelity are becoming more bold and defiant, as intellectual knowledge and acuteness are acquired. This state of things calls for the use of every power of the intellect; for it is keen minds, under the control of Satan, that the minister will have to meet.

Testimonies 5:528



Every position of truth taken by our people **will bear the criticism of the greatest minds;** the highest of the world's great men will be brought in contact with truth, and therefore every position we take should be critically examined and tested by the Scriptures. Now we seem to be unnoticed, but this will not always be. Movements are at work to bring us to the front, and if our theories of truth can be picked to pieces by historians or the world's greatest men, it will be done. {Ev 69.1}



The time will come when we shall be called to stand before Kings and rulers, magistrates and powers, in vindication of the truth. Then it will be a surprise to those witnesses to learn that their positions, their words, the very expressions made in a **careless manner** or thoughtless way, when attacking error or advancing truth—expressions that they had not thought would be remembered—**will be reproduced, and they will be confronted with them,** and their enemies will have the advantage, putting their own construction on these words that were spoken unadvisedly.... {3SM 403.3}



# AN **APOLOGETIC** ABOUT APOLOGETICS?

- Familiarizing one's self with the most up-to-date material and communicating in a culturally relevant manner...
- Be willing to engage in a variety of contexts i.e classrooms, public forums, churches, personal settings...
- Presenting information that removes intellectual barriers to beliefs...
- The ultimate goal is to lead individuals to a wonderful experience with Jesus...



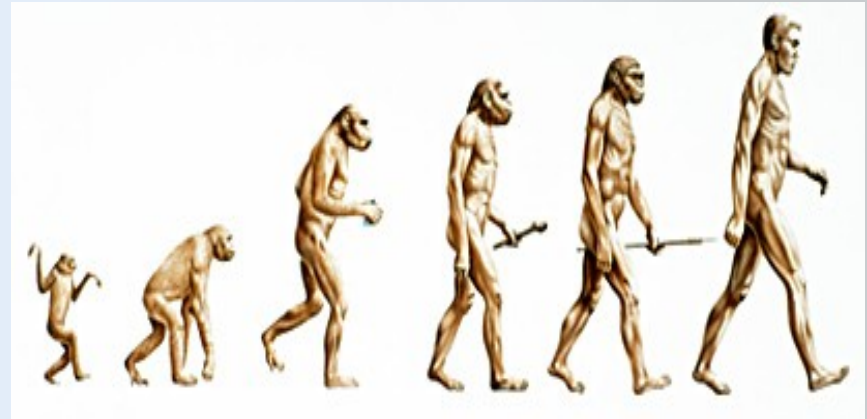




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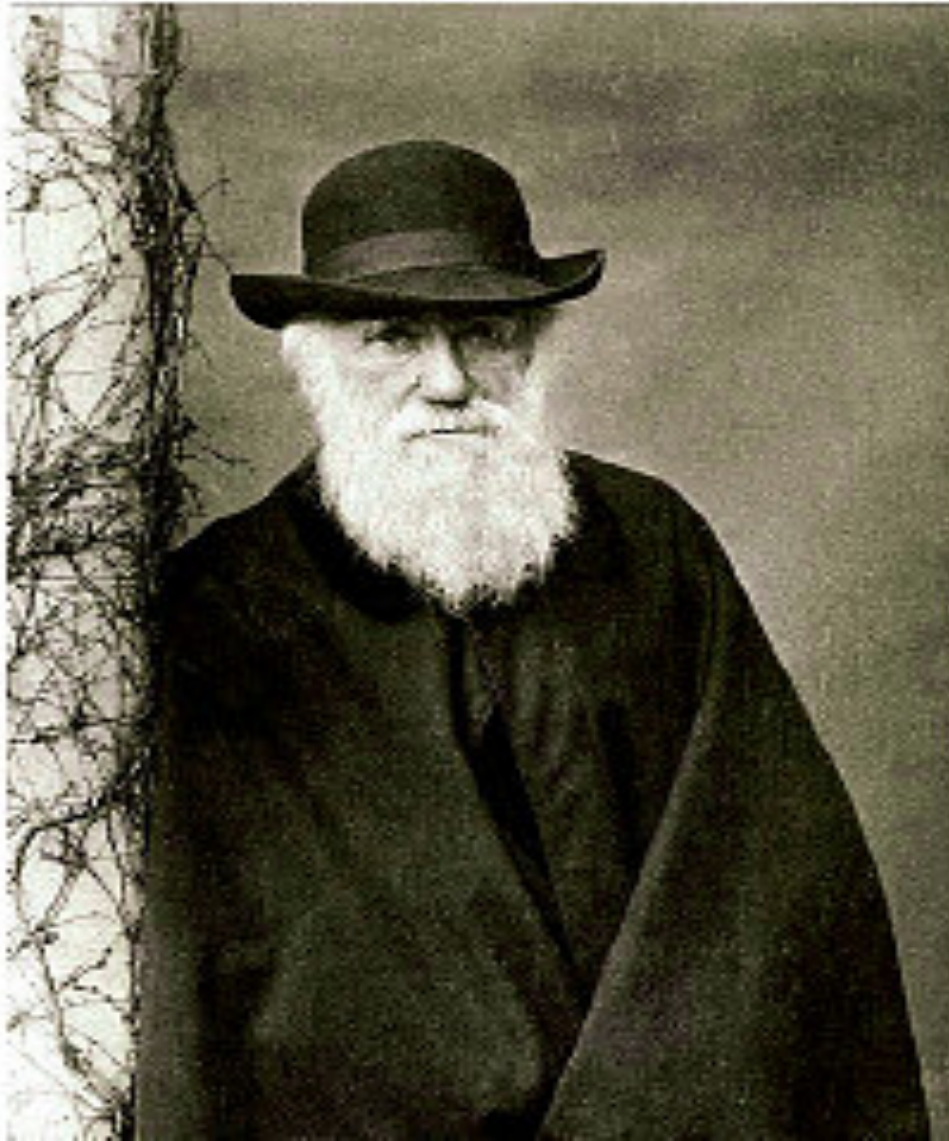




Peter Kreeft

**“The problem of evil is the most serious problem in the world.** More people have abandoned their faith because of the problem of evil than for any other reason. It is certainly the greatest test of faith, the greatest temptation to unbelief. And it's not just an intellectual objection. We feel it. We live it. The problem can be stated very simply: If God is so good, why is his world so bad? Why do bad things happen to good people?”





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*With respect to the theological view of the question. This is always painful to me. I am bewildered. I had no intention to write atheistically. But I own that I cannot see as plainly as others do, and as I should wish to do, evidence of design and beneficence on all sides of us. There seems to me too much misery in the world. I cannot persuade myself that a **beneficent and omnipotent God would have designedly created** the [wasps] with the express intention of their [larva] feeding within the living bodies of Caterpillars, or that a cat should play with mice.*

– Charles Darwin, [in a letter to Asa Gray, 1860](#)





# MATTHEW 13:24

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, **‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’** He said to them, **‘An enemy has done this...’**”

The problem of evil needs to be transitioned into a **Great Controversy** narrative. Without the vital components of the War in Heaven, merely describing the fall of mankind does not suffice. Key points need to eventually be introduced to expand the perspective of our broken existence. The very first direction is that of God's own heart; God is broken over the tragedies we experience. This powerful point immediately brings the heart of mankind into connection with the heart of God.





# WHY QUESTIONS?

- \* **R**evealed the divinity of the Savior by these heart-searching questions...
- \* **E**xposed assumptions held by questioner...showed questioner the fallacies of their beliefs...
- \* **P**ointed out prejudices and avoided possible accusations...
- \* **L**ed questioner to obvious conclusions on their own, thus responsible for answers...
- \* **Y**earning for more...

# Atheism's C.R.I.M.E.S

Causality

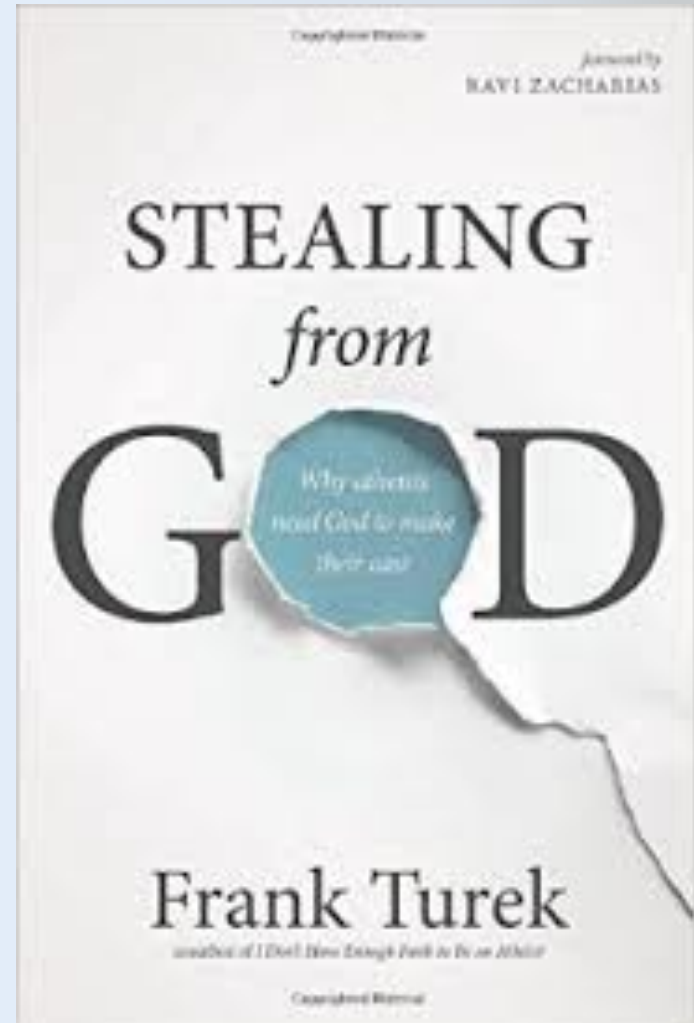
Reason

Intentionality

Morality

Evil

Science





## *LAWS OF LOGIC*

1. Law of Identity
2. Law of Non-Contradiction
3. Law of Excluded Middle

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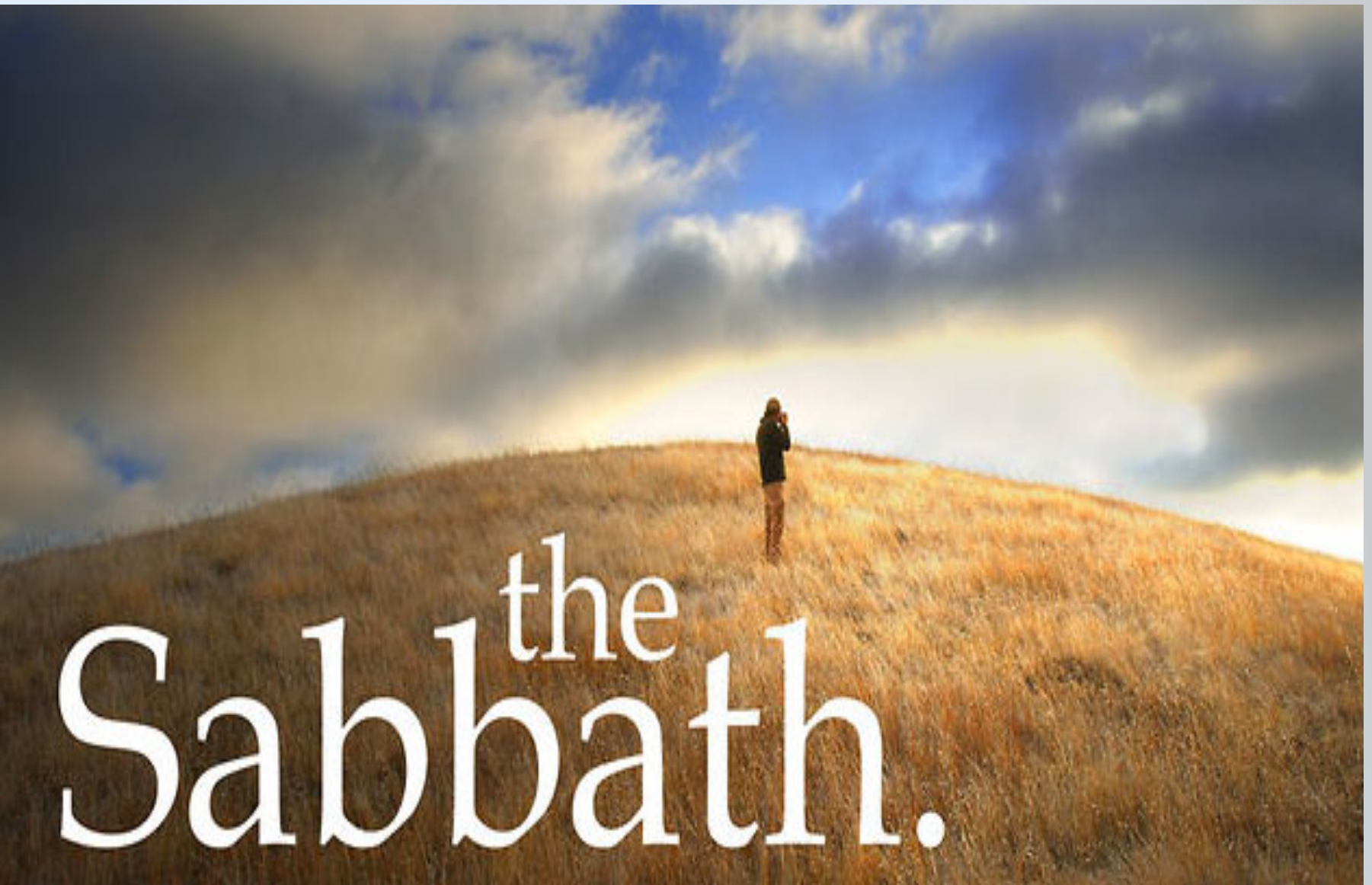


Law

vs

Ethics





# the Sabbath.

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The **most effective way** to teach the heathen who know not God is through His works. In this way, far more readily than by any other method, they can be made to realize the difference between their idols, the works of their own hands, and the true God, the Maker of heaven and earth...In itself the beauty of nature leads the soul away from sin and worldly attractions, and toward purity, peace, and God. (CT 186.2)

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*Much of the prejudice that prevents the truth of the third angel's message from reaching the hearts of the people, might be removed if more attention were given to health reform.*

*When people become interested in this subject, the way is often prepared for the entrance of other truths. **If they see that we are intelligent with regard to health,** they will be more ready to believe that we are sound in Bible doctrines. CD76*





*“Ministers especially should become intelligent on this question. As shepherds of the flock, they will be held accountable for willing ignorance and disregard of nature's laws...At conventions, institutes, and other large and important meetings, instruction should be given upon health and temperance. Bring into service all the talent at command, and follow up the work with publications on the subject.*

***'Educate, educate, educate,' should be the watchword.***



There is **one great central truth** to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures—**Christ and Him crucified**. *Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme. It is only in the light of the cross that we can discern the exalted character of the law of God.—Hanging upon the cross Christ was the gospel...* **This is our message, our argument, our doctrine, our warning to the impenitent, our encouragement for the sorrowing, the hope for every believer.** Manuscript 49, 1898.

**Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world.** The proclamation of the third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath truth. This truth, with others included in the message, is to be proclaimed; **but the great center of attraction, Christ Jesus, must not be left out...**The sinner must be led to look to Calvary; with the simple faith of a little child he must trust in the merits of the Savior, accepting His righteousness, believing in His mercy.



*John 15:9*  
He who does not love  
**for God is love.**  
this the love of God  
I see, that God has  
love for us



# APOLOGETICS *TIPS*

- ◆-Listen
- ◆-Question the questioner
- ◆-Learn to espouse deeper principles
- ◆-Challenge people on where to find answers, instead of answers themselves.
- ◆-Acronyms
- ◆-Earnestly desire that the character of God is uplifted.





ELOHIM ADONAI JEHOVAH ABBA MACCADDESHAM OUR SANCTIFIER ROHI GOD WHO IS OUR SHEPHERD  
SHAMMAH GOD WHO IS PRESENT RAPHA THE LORD OUR HEALER TSIDKENU OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS JIBEN THE LORD  
OUR PROVIDER MISSI THE LORD OUR BANNER SHALOM GOD WHO IS OUR PEACE SABBATH THE LORD OF HOSTS EL-  
ELYON THE MOST HIGH GOD EL-RBI THE STRONG ONE WHO SEES EL-SHADDAI GOD OF THE MOUNTAINS EL-OLAM EV-  
ERLASTING GOD ADVOCATE ALMIGHTY ALPHA ANCIENT OF DAYS ARM OF THE LORD AUTHOR OF LIFE  
AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH BEGINNING BESSER & HONOR RULER BRANCH BREAD OF LIFE BRIDEGROOM  
BRIGHT MORNING STAR CHIEF SHEPHERD MOSEY ONE CHRIST CHRIST OF GOD CHRIST THE LORD CHRIST THE SON  
OF LIVING GOD COMFORTER COMMANDER CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL CONSUMING FIRE CORNERSTONE COUNSELOR  
CREATOR DELIVERER DESIRED OF ALL NATIONS DOOR END ETERNAL GOD EVERLASTING FATHER FAITHFUL & TRUE  
FATHER WITNESS FATHER FIRSTBORN FIRSTFRUITS FOUNDATION FRIEND OF TAX COLLECTORS & SINNERS GENTLE  
WHISPER GIFT OF GOD GLORY OF THE LORD GOD GOD ALMIGHTY GOD OVER ALL GOD WHO SEES ME GOOD SHEPHERD  
GREAT HIGH PRIEST GREAT SHEPHERD GUIDE HEAD OF THE BODY HEAD OF THE CHURCH HEIR OF ALL THINGS HIGH  
PRIEST HIGH PRIEST FORGIVER HOLY ONE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL HOLY SPIRIT HOPE HORN OF SALVATION I AM IMAGE  
OF GOD IMAGE OF HIS PERSON IMMANUEL JEALOUS JEHOVAH JESUS JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD JUDGE KING KING  
OF KINGS KING OF KINGS KING OF THE AGES LAMB OF GOD LAST ADAM LAWGIVER LEADER LIFE LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH LIVING STONE LIVING WATER LORD LORD GOD  
MIGHTY LORD JESUS CHRIST LORD OF ALL LORD OF GLORY LORD OF LORDS LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS LOVE MAN  
MARRIAGE PARTNER MEDIATOR MERCIFUL GOD MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT MESSIAH MIGHTY GOD MIGHTY  
MORNING STAR OMEGA ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OUR PASSOVER LAMB OUR PEACE POTTER POWER OF  
WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? PURE PURIFIER RADIANCE OF GOD'S GLORY REDEEMER REFINER'S FIRE RESUR-  
RECTION RIGHTEOUS ROCK RULER OF GOD'S CREATION RULER OVER KINGS OF  
THE EARTH RULER OVER THE UNIVERSE CENTER OUT OF ISRAEL SEED SERVANT SHEPHERD OF OUR SOULS SHIELD SON  
OF MARY SON OF THE MOST HIGH SOURCE SPIRIT OF GOD STAR OF JACOB STAR OF THE SOUTH  
STAR OF THE NORTH TRUTH WITNESS TRUTH WINE WAY WISDOM OF GOD WITH US WITH YOU

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