

1. *The Cause and Effect of Suffering*

After creating the universe, the world and every living thing in five days, from the dust of the earth, on the sixth day God created the first marriage. He called the first man, Adam and the first woman, He called Eve. He commanded this family to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” He provided all Adam and Eve needed in a Garden called Eden. In this garden there were many fruitful trees, like the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Man had no need to kill animals in order to live. Like the animals, the first man and first woman had no need of clothes, yet they were not ashamed. The Creator God came down to walk with Adam and Eve every evening and talk with them as friends. The snake was the cleverest of all the animals (this snake was really the evil one, Satan-**Mara**). One day he said to Eve, “Is it true God won’t let you eat from all the trees in the garden?” “Oh, we can eat from all the trees. That is, except for the one in called the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God said that we aren't to eat that fruit or even touch it. He says if we do, we will die.”

“It’s not true! You won’t die. God told you that because He knows
if you eat that fruit, you’d be like Him – you will get **enlightenment**.”

The woman looked at the fruit. It was beautiful and looked delicious. She thought, “If I eat this fruit, it will give me

Enlightenment.” So, she took the fruit and ate it. She then gave some to Adam and he ate it as well. Suddenly they realized they were naked. Immediately they sewed some leaves together to cover their shame.

As evening approached, they heard God walking in the garden. Suddenly, they realized that they were afraid of God, so they hid among the trees.

“Adam, where are you?”

Adam knew he had to answer. He said, “Lord, I heard you walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked. So, I hid.”

“Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree from which I told you not to eat?”

“It was the woman you gave me.

It’s her fault. She gave me the fruit, and ... yes, I ate it.”

God turned to Eve, “Why did you do this?”^[L-SEP]

“It’s the snake’s fault! The snake tricked me into eating the fruit!”

God turned to the snake and said, “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the animals. From now on, you will move about on your belly. There’ll be hostility between you and the woman, and there’ll be a battle between your offspring and hers. He’ll crush your head, while you will only bruise his heel.”

Looking back at the woman God said, “Your pain will be great when you give birth to children, and having babies will be associated with pain. You will want to control your husband, but from now on, man will rule you and you will desire the man.”

God said to Adam, “I made it very clear that you were not to eat from that tree. Because you have disobeyed, the ground will have suffering because of you. From now on, you'll work for your food, and the ground will fight against you. It will sprout thorns and weeds. Hard work with sweat, will mark your life until you return to the soil from which you came.”

God dressed the man and his wife in clothes made out of animal skins. He then sent them out of the garden, where they worked the soil for their food.

God put a guardian *deva* outside the garden. From that day on, people were separated from the Tree of Life.



2. The Birth of the Lord of Compassion

Over 2,021 years ago, 563 years after Buddha, in the country of Israel a *deva* appeared to a young woman named Mary. Israel is located in southwestern Asia but at that time was under the ruthless and oppressive Army of the Roman Empire. Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. The *deva* said to her, “Mary, you’re blessed by God.” She was shocked and didn’t know what to say. “Don’t be afraid. You’ve found favor with God. You’ll give birth to a son, and call his name Yeshua. He’ll be great, and there’ll be no end to His Kingdom.” Mary said, “How can this be true? I’m a virgin.” The *deva* said “You’ll have a baby by the power of the Creator God therefore, the child will be called the Son of God! This child was no ordinary child and his blood was not descended from the first woman, Eve, but His life was from the City of Nirvana. The *deva* said, “Mary, all things are possible with God.” ”Mary agreed and bowed and said, “I am the servant of the Lord. Let this happen just as you have said.” Soon Joseph, the man Mary was engaged to found out she was pregnant. He knew he wasn’t the father. Still, he was a righteous man and didn’t want to shame her. He decided to simply break off the engagement quietly. He was deep in thought about this when an *deva* appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, don’t be afraid to make Mary your wife. The child she’s carrying is from God. When he’s born, you’re to name him *"Yeshua"* meaning, *Savior God*, because he will save people from their *duccaritas*.” Joseph immediately made Mary his wife. In that time The Roman Army made all Israel go to the village of their ancestors, Joseph and his wife were force to go far away to the village of Bethlehem, because the Army wanted to count the family list.

This trip was close to the time when Mary would deliver her child. Joseph and Mary had no family in Bethlehem. Unfortunately all hotels were full when they got there, so Joseph found a place for them to stay the night in a stable. That night, Mary gave birth to her baby. The Savior was born. Mary wrapped the baby in strips of cloth, and laid him in a feeding trough. That same night, shepherds were watching their flock in a nearby field. Suddenly an *deva* stood with them, and the sky was full of bright light. The shepherds were terrified, but the *deva* said, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to bring you great news!” He then pointed toward the nearby town. “Tonight, the Savior was born in Bethlehem. He is the Messiah (Mettreya). Go there, and look for a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” Suddenly the whole sky was filled with *deva’s* who were praising God, and singing, “Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth to those who please God.” Then, they disappeared. The shepherds immediately did as they were told. They went to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, just as the *deva* had said. They told them what happened that night, and everyone was amazed. Afterwards, they went back to their fields, praising God for what they had seen. Wise Professors from eastern Asia, perhaps from Taxsilla, India, heard about the Coming Mettreya and came west to Isreal looking for the Messiah (Mettreya). They followed a special star from the east that led them to Israel where Yeshua was born. The Wisemen asked the Roman Army Governor and his ministers which village the Messiah would be born. The Governor was jealous of the Coming Savior, because this Savior was predicted to be the King of Israel and King of the World. The word Messiah and Christ means “Anointed One.” He sent the Army to kill the baby but a deva warned Joseph in a dream to take refuge in a neighboring Egypt

in Africa. When the wise professors found Yeshua they worshipped Him, bringing them gold, and two incense frankincense and myrrh.



3. Yeshua teaches Karuna (*Luke 10:25-37*)

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Yeshua. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, ““Have *metta* for the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, ‘Have *karuna* on your neighbor as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Yeshua replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Yeshua, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Yeshua said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A heigh priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a teacher of dharma, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity (*mudita*) on him. (Samaritan’s were similar but despised by Jews of Israel).

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two coins (worth 2 days wages) and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had *mudita* on him.”

Yeshua told him, “Go and do likewise.”



4. Yeshua calls puthujjana (sinners) to repent (*Luke 19:1-10*)

Yeshu'a entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Yeshua was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Yeshua was coming that way.

When Yeshua reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a puthujjana (sinner).”

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord!
Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if

I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

Yeshua said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



5. Yeshua power over Evil (*Luke 8:26-39*)

Yeshua and His disciples boat came to shore near a place where a demon possessed man lived in the tombs. No one was strong enough to control him. Many times they tried to put chains on him, but he easily snapped them off. He roamed the hills naked, and lived in tombs. He cried and yelled, and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Yeshua and his disciples get out of their boat, he ran and knelt down before him. He shouted, “I know who you are.

You’re Yeshua, the Son of the Most High God! Leave me alone. Don’t torture me.”

Yeshua said, “What’s your name” “We’re called Legion because we’re many. Please, don’t send us into the abyss. Look, there are pigs over on that hill. Send us there.” Yeshua looked at the pigs, and said, “Yes, you may go there.”

With that, the demons left the man and entered the pigs. All 2,000 pigs went wild and rushed down the hill and off the steep bank. They plunged into the sea and were drowned. The men who were tending the pigs ran into the town and told the people what happened. A crowd came out to see for themselves. When they got to Yeshua they saw the man who had been demon possessed. He was sitting quietly, fully clothed, and listening to Yeshua. Again, the men told what happened. Everyone was afraid, so they asked Yeshua to leave.

As he got into the boat, the man who was healed said, “Please, may I go with you?” Yeshua turned to him and said, “Go back to your people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them about God’s mercy on your life.” So Yeshua and his disciples left the shore and returned to the Jewish side of the lake.

The man went to his hometown and started telling everyone what Yeshua had done for him. Everyone was amazed.



6. Yeshua feeds 5,000 (*John 6:1-15*)

Some time after this, Yeshua crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Yeshua went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

When Yeshua looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

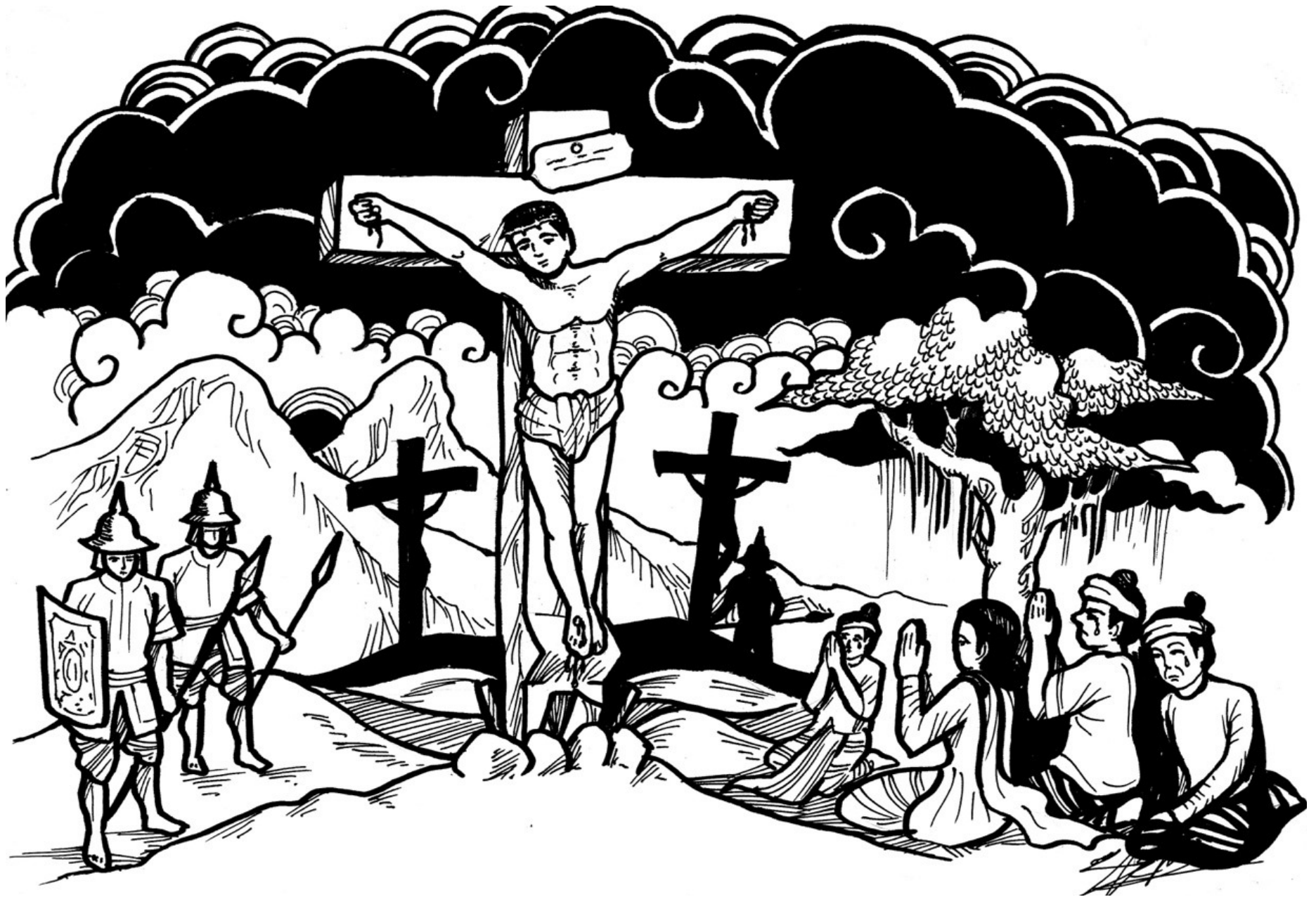
Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

Yeshua said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Yeshua then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

After the people saw the sign Yeshua performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet (*Mettreya*) who is to come into the world.” Yeshua, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.



7. Yeshua's Crucifixion (*Luke 23:1-56*)

Yeshua predicted that he would be betrayed, arrested by the Jewish and Roman Army, crucified and raised to life three days later. He said that his death would be no accident and this was God's plan for the forgiveness of the sins of the world and that is exactly what happened. His disciple Judas betrayed Yeshua for money and acted as an informer on him and the Jewish court convicted Yeshua to death for claiming that He was the Messiah, a king. They falsely accused Yeshua claiming that he taught people not to pay taxes to the Roman king. Yeshua was then handed over to the Army to be put to death on a cross along with two thieves. The army soldiers tortured Yeshua with a whip with pieces of metal, striking him 39 times. They stripped, beat and mocked him, nailing his hands and feet to a wooden cross. He hung on the cross for 6 hours and asked God to forgive those killing him.

Yeshua then called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The Army commander, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the village of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Yeshua's body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was preparation day for the upcoming holiday and the *Uposatha* (Sabbath) was about to begin.

The women who had come with Yeshua from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes.



8. The Resurrection (*Luke 24:1-8*)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Yeshua. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how He told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of *puthujjana* (sinners), be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” Then they remembered his words.

Jesus appeared among His disciples and said, “Shalom (peace) to you.” They were startled and frightened think they saw a ghost. He said to them, “don’t be afraid, look at my hands and my feet. It’s me, Touch me and see, a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have. Yeshua asked them, Do you have anything to eat? They gave him broiled fish, and he ate it in their presence. While He was with them He reminded them that He told them that he must be killed and would be raised to life before He returned to prepare a place for them in the *City of Nirvana*.



9. Yeshua Ascends to the City of Nirvana and Commissions disciples to go to All Nations (*Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:11*)

The disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Yeshua had first selected them. He suddenly appeared and they worshiped Him. He said, “All authority has been given to me, Therefore you go to all the ethnic-nations and make disciples. Immerse them in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey all my commands. Remember, I’m always with you.”

Yeshua remained on the earth for 40 days after He rose from the dead. He spent time with his disciples, teaching them things about the kingdom of God. He also appeared to many others, once to a crowd of over 500 people.

He then led his disciples to the Mount of Olives. He said, “Don't leave Jerusalem until you receive the promise from the Father. John immerse in water, but now you'll be immerse in the Holy Spirit.” Yeshua's disciples watched as He ascended up to *Nirvana Nagara*. *Suddenly there appeared two devas asking them, “why are looking up in the sky? This same Yeshua who was taken from you will return in the same way you saw Him go up.*



10. Yeshua is King of *Nirvana Nagara* (Rev. 21:9-22:2)

A *deva* said to Yeshua's disciple John "Come, and he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of *Nirvana* from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve *devas* set the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The *deva* who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 1,500 miles in length, and as wide and high as it is long. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass...The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Yeshua will wipe away every tear and there will be no more death or, sickness or suffering.

Then I saw a great multitude of people that no one could count, they sang a new song in a loud voice, “Worthy are You for with Your blood you purchased people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom of priests and kings.
Revelation 5:9-10.

Then the *deva* showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. The Spirit said, “Come! Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

These 10 Stories from the Christ Pitaka are meant to bring understanding between Buddhist and Christian cultures. Buddha and Jesus teachings are very similar because both emphasize compassion, mercy and laying down one's life for the benefit of others. Here are a list of concepts that have caused misunderstanding.

1. The concept of Heaven. Annihilation (Impermanence vs Permanence)
2. The concept of Born again and Born from Heaven? Buddhist do not want to be born again. Buddha taught people escape the cycle of reincarnation (samsara)
3. Sacrifice and Life Offering?
4. Justice and Wrath?
5. Renewal (rebirth) vs. Reincarnation
6. Sensual Love vs Compassion
7. Crime, evil desire or Sin?
8. Preeminence of Buddha or Christ? Who is older?
9. Merit or Grace?
10. Creation vs. Eternal Impermanent abodes?

11. Belief vs.Trust in what is known

12. Stories based on historical record or doctrines based on Myths/Fables.

“For God so **loved** the World that He gave His one and only son that whosoever **believes** in Him shall not perish but have *eternal life*.” John 3:16. This preeminent Bible scripture of Evangelical Christians taught by most western Christians in early Sunday school intends to communicate basic biblical concepts in early Christian children education. Buddhists however read this scripture very differently. They don’t hear good news of salvation but about sensual love of God, based on belief in myths that leads to the cycle of reincarnation which is similar to perishing in hell. The entire meaning that the authors of the Bible are intended to communicate is reversed in the Buddhist worldview. John 3:16 is not understood as Good News, what the Bible calls, gospel, but bad news. A better translation to Buddhist ears may be, “For God had such Great Compassion that He donated His one and unique Son that whoever places trust in Him shall not perish in eternal hell but have Permanent Eternal Life. John 3:16 from the Samma Pitaka translation of the Bible from Burma (Myanmar). The Samma Pitaka is the first indigenous translation of the Burmese Bible because it does not rely upon the Judson translation that all 15 Burmese translations use as a primary source.