

DAVID O. HARRISON

THE NEXT 60 SECONDS

THE URGENCY OF KNOWING
WHAT'S NEXT:
HEAVEN, HELL, NOTHING?

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60

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>A Special Offer</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Table of Contents.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>About the Author</i>	<i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i>
<i>Citations</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>About this Book</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Playing the Odds and the Fragility of Life.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Consider the Odds</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Who is God, Anyway?</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Which God?</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>What is Intimacy With God?</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Why Did God Make the Universe?</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>The Problem of Evil</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Satisfying the Scales of Justice</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Second Chances, but Not Thirds – The Way to Hell</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Sin</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Defining What Hell Is.....</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Who Made Hell?</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>If God is Love, What is Love?</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>Where is Heaven and What is Heaven Like?</i>	<i>85</i>
<i>Choosing Hell?</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>What About Those Who Haven’t Heard?</i>	<i>92</i>

Knowing Right from Wrong 94

What is Repentance? 100

Is There More Than One Way to Heaven? 102

What happens when you receive Jesus as Lord and Savior? 106

No More Emptiness 108

Double Sixes – Guaranteed 112

It's OK To Have Questions..... 115

Appendix 1. 129

By the same author..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DAVID HARRISON was born and raised in England and emigrated to Canada in 1973 at the age of 21.

When he was 35, David became a Christ-follower. He is married and the father of two adult children. He attended a Brethren Bible Chapel in Scarborough for 25-years, ten of those years as an elder.

For 23-years David ran a successful audiovisual integration company in Toronto, Canada, catering primarily to universities, banks, and law firms.

In 2006 David founded Bus Stop Bible Studies¹, a ministry which used public transit advertising panels to display messages of encouragement from the Word of God to many millions of people in Canada.

For 10-years David was the Board Chair of Daystar Native Christian Outreach, based on Manitoulin Island.

Now 'retired', David and his wife, Wendy, run a bed & Breakfast in Muskoka, and David (who failed miserably in English at school) has taken to writing as a hobby.

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¹ See bit.ly/BSBSIMAGINE

CITATIONS

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Every person who has ever lived, now living, or yet to be conceived will face their final 60 seconds. This simple statement of fact includes everyone - you and me. The questions that faces each of us is, "Am I ready for what lies ahead? Do I even know the different possibilities and their consequences?"

This book has been written for the benefit of those of you who are uncertain about the existence of God or don't presently have a personal relationship with God. Maybe, like millions of others, you simply have the feeling that 'something is missing'.

Perhaps you were raised in a specific religion but are now questioning the trustworthiness of the teachings you received.

Maybe you have been influenced by atheistic professors at your college or university who suggest it is irrational that there should be any kind of a Supreme Being.

Maybe you were brought up as a Muslim, Sikh or Hindu and you have seen or experienced extreme violence and oppression from your leaders that seems completely contrary to the tenets of your faith.

Some readers might have felt subjugated by a cult, led by a charismatic figure who seemed to have complete control over your life.

Possibly you have been going to church all your life, christened (baptized) as a child, but you still have doubts?

You might be one of those who have been brought up in the Christian faith, hurt by the Church and found some Christians

to be downright hypocritical—or worse—causing you to turn your back on God. And what about those who call themselves Christians and yet their political extremism demonstrates a completely different set of values?

Do any of these scenarios strike a chord? The question must be asked, do any of them mean you that can't be different and have a meaningful, intimate relationship with God?

Whether you are Atheist (or agnostic), Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian (Protestant, Orthodox, Coptic or Catholic), Hindu, Jehovah's Witness, Jew, Mormon, Muslim (any of the seven sects of Islam), New Age, Shinto, Sikh, Unitarian, or any other faith or system of belief, it is my hope that this book will provide you with a path of reason and logical understanding so that you can find true inner peace and have absolute confidence of what lies ahead—something to actually look forward to—without anxiety!

I am a born-again Christian, that is someone who has been 'reborn' spiritually, someone who believes that through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus I can have a truly meaningful, intimate relationship with God. I need to emphasize that this is not a simple belief [faith] that I have, it is an *experiential knowledge* of God that comes only through the intimacy of relationship. It is my earnest prayer that, through the reading of this book, you too will come to enjoy an intimate, experiential knowledge of God.

In one of the later chapters of this book, titled "WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RECEIVE JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOUR?", it is mentioned that "You will feel a sense of excitement and a desire to share your experience, your newfound faith, with others." As with most situations in life, nothing is quite as straightforward as one imagines. Indeed, this feeling of a 'need' to share one's

conversion experience can seem palpable, yet, as one encounters people who may not be particularly enthusiastic to hear your story (sometimes displaying outright hostility), one may become discouraged or even embarrassed to share something so deeply precious and personal as one's conversion experience. I am no exception. But God makes an amazing promise – to use our weaknesses.

Let me share a short story. Just after 9/11, I had the idea to start a ministry to display God's Word, combined with messages of encouragement, on public transit using the advertising panels inside buses and subway cars. When I first shared this idea with my wife, whom I love very much and who knows my entrepreneurial spirit all too well, she correctly summed up the situation "Here you are wanting to share the Gospel all over Toronto and we haven't even shared it with our neighbours!" Note: Gospel is the English translation of the Greek word, εὐαγγέλιον, meaning 'good news'.

You see, I would much rather stand in front of a crowded stadium full of atheists and tell them about Jesus than wander over to my next-door-neighbour and say, "Something absolutely amazing has happened in my life, and I would like to tell you about it." Even writing books like this one, during my retirement, is one of the ways I try and compensate for my confessed insecurities. But God says,

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9

Let me encourage you... During Jesus' three years of earthly ministry, He made some pretty wild promises, one of which specifically applied to me.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14:12

In the 10 years that God and I ran Bus Stop Bible Studies together, we shared countless messages of hope and assurance with *millions* of public transit users across Canada – just as Jesus predicted. During that time, it is estimated that Bus Stop Bible Study Messages were seen more than 1.25 billion times.

If just one person responded to Jesus as a consequence of my ten years in this ministry, then I count it an enormous success! Such is one’s natural response to receiving such a spectacular gift – eternal life in the presence of God in Heaven.

Let me ask, how would you feel if you had prevented a young woman, seemingly without hope, from committing suicide – thinking about ending her life by jumping in front of a subway car. Or, the Spirit of God using your words to get a woman’s attention, to save her child from being killed by abortion and then God arranging for you to meet that mother and child in-person? Consider a woman, having just left the hospital, getting on a bus, in the minutes before learning she has cancer, and sitting down directly in front of one of our message panels and God speaking directly to her and encouraging her in her moment of greatest need? That was how God chose to use my weakness. I get emotional and am in awe each time I recall these events.

I have endeavoured to present the contents of this book in a practical and logical sequence. But there is an often-quoted adage, “Which do you want first—the good news or the bad

news?" In as much as the topic of Hell is dark and horrifying you may wish to skip over "DEFINING WHAT HELL IS" and "WHO CREATED HELL?" to the love and Heaven chapters, starting with "IF GOD IS LOVE, WHAT IS LOVE?" and then come back to the sections on Hell later. I do not want anyone to be deterred from reading the entirety of this book because they found it too heavy.

I hope God will use the words written in this book to encourage you and maybe cause you to reach out to Him and find Him.

The following is one of my favourite quotes and defines my inspiration for writing this book:

"Man's chief purpose is to glorify God and *enjoy*
Him forever."

From the Westminster Shorter Catechism

In the perpetual wonder of grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

CHAPTER 1

PLAYING THE ODDS AND THE FRAGILITY OF LIFE

The following story was related to me firsthand by a young motorcycle rider, while recently filling up at the gas station where he works.

You have a passion for motorbikes. For three years you've worked hard and saved to buy your first new bike. Despite your youth, you are a cautious rider and don't take unnecessary chances. You even have a Go-Pro camera on your helmet to keep a record of your motorcycling activity. Suddenly, the driver in front of you slams on her brakes (a distracted driver on her phone). You react immediately and squeeze the brakes with all your strength. The front brake grabs a fraction of a second before the rear brake, causing the bike to go end-over-end into the back of the car. You go flying high into the air and land on the hood of the woman's vehicle—your mangled motorbike lying in her back seat. Amazingly, you walk away. The woman is charged with careless driving and the insurance company pays for a new bike. A while later you are driving along the highway, another motorcycle comes up behind and somehow clips you. Again, you survive, but this time with a broken arm and four broken ribs. The paramedics are amazed that you are alive.

The metaphorical dice of fate have been rolled; it seems you've won. Or have you? That depends.



You are a Russian soldier driving along a dusty dirt road somewhere near the front line in Ukraine. Three kilometres away a Javelin anti-tank missile, with its nineteen-pound warhead, has just been launched and is heading straight for you. In a matter of seconds your tank, with you in it, is about to be engulfed in a fiery explosion. The odds of this happening to you in Ukraine is about one in two hundred on any given day. That's the unpredictable existence, or the abrupt cessation thereof, for a Russian tank driver.

The metaphorical dice of fate have been rolled; it seems you've lost. Or have you? That depends.

It was reported in the *New York Post* that the life expectancy of a Russian soldier fighting on the frontlines in Bakhmut, in winter and spring of 2023, was just 4 hours.



You just celebrated your fiftieth birthday. You have been athletic all your life and feel on top of the world. To mark the occasion, you participate in the Ironman 70.3 Muskoka triathlon. As you swim amongst 1,730 other competitors, you suddenly gasp for breath.

Struggling, you aim for the shore, but you never make it.

Once again, the dice have been rolled, and seemingly, you've lost. Or have you? That depends.

In North America, heart disease reigns as the top cause of death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that heart disease accounts for roughly 659,000 deaths annually in the United States, constituting one in every four deaths.



Today is your special day—it's been in the planning for months. Only six hours ago, you exchanged vows with the love of your life, surrounded by your closest friends and family. The wedding dinner was as close to perfection as any meal could be. To get from the reception to your next destination, you and your spouse hop into a golf cart and head down a picturesque South Carolina beach road. Suddenly, a violent impact racks the cart. The cause is a drunk driver recklessly going at double the speed limit. You were killed instantly, and your husband critically injured.

Yet again, fate's dice have rolled. Did you lose? That depends.

According to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), around 28% of all traffic-related deaths recorded in the United States in 2019 were a result of alcohol-impaired driving. That equates to one alcohol-related fatality approximately every 52 minutes.



You are a candidate for president of the United States. You are addressing an audience at a rally in Pennsylvania. As you engage the crowd, you turn your head to look at a graph being shown on the screen beside you. In that instant, you feel a sting on the top of your ear and hear the whiz of an assassin's bullet as it miraculously flies by. A fraction of a second, the seemingly insignificant turn of your head and your life is spared.

The dice of fate have been rolled. You've won! Or have you? That depends.

There have been over 30 assassination attempts (4 successful) on 22 sitting, former, or president-elect individuals in the United States since the early 19th century.



The referenced stories were all actual events.

In the USA today, men live an average of 74 years, while women live up to 80. But that's just an average. Most of us have no clear notion of when our lives will end—except in extreme circumstances. The phrase, “The dice have been rolled...” captures the uncertainty of our lifespan. It's something we don't have ultimate control over. Similarly, most people grapple with the question of what happens next and the eternity that is just beginning.

If you are uncertain of what happens next, at the time of your passing, you will have probably lost. Yet others, confident