

IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ENOUGH

(to manifest God's self-giving love, glorious communion, and transforming life)

by Rick McKinney, Good Friday, March 29, 2002

If God created a precisely ordered universe of space and time that was capable of forming wondrous and diverse gases, stars, planets, and galaxies, but did not create living physical beings to inhabit it, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God created wondrous and diverse living beings, but did not create personal physical beings - human beings, made in God's personal image and likeness with self-awareness and self determination, and capable of appreciating goodness and beauty and choosing to trust God and to give themselves in love to God and one another, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God created human beings, who if they choose not to give themselves in trust-filled love and instead choose mistrust, self-taking, self-protection and self glory, and then if God were to abandon them to their own deadly separation from God, themselves and one another, but did not give them a hope for redemption, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God gave humanity a hope for redemption and deliverance, but did not call a people to fulfill that redemptive plan as his chosen servants, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God called together a chosen people, the Hebrew nation, but did not communicate his own loving will and merciful nature through specially given laws, ceremonies, messengers, and the flow of Hebrew generations and history, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God communicated his own loving will and merciful nature through messengers and symbols, but did not promise through them to send an anointed deliverer who could truly accomplish deliverance and convey God's merciful nature and self-giving love as only a person can, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God promised to send an anointed deliverer through his messengers and symbols, but did not in fact send such a deliverer, born of woman, born to wed earth and heaven and the human and divine in his one incarnate flesh, begotten of God before space and time existed, the God Man, the Savior of the world, the Son of the Most High who created the whole universe, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God sent his only begotten Son as savior and deliverer, but did not accomplish that salvation and deliverance by the Son freely and trustfully giving himself up to an unjust, horrible and naked death and thereby manifest to all both the deplorable state of humanity that could do such an act of deicide and the merciful and self-giving love of God who could

forgive such an act and use it to redeem humanity, the just one dying unjustly in order to justify the unjust through faith in his atoning blood, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God gave up his only begotten Son to death, but did not also raise him up in a transformed glorious body, the first fruit of the resurrection life that conquers death and sin, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God raised up his Son to new and everlasting life, but did not also promise that we too, who believe in him, would not also share in a like resurrection to a glorious life beyond all imagining in this world of space and time, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God promised to raise us up with his Son, but did not have his Son ascend to be with him and together send forth God's Holy Spirit to indwell in our hearts so that our old natures of mistrust, of self-taking, of self protection, and of self glory would indeed die and that we would become like God full of mercy and self-giving love, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God sent his Holy Spirit to indwell our hearts, but did not promise to send his Son again, this time to not only raise our bodies to new life, but to also transform time and space itself and to establish a new a new heaven and a new earth, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God transformed heaven and earth, but did not also unite all human believers, males and females, rich and poor, Gentiles and Jews, old and young into one communion of persons, the church, the bride of Christ, and thereby have that one communion of persons enter into the joyful and loving communion of God himself in the Holy Trinity, it wouldn't have been enough.

If God transforms and unites his people into one communion of persons and weds that communion into the one self-giving life of the Holy Trinity, that would be enough.