

Did the Bible Really Come From God? Part 2

Well hey, how many of you guys would say that when you come to a Church service, if nothing else you would at least expect to get some good advice for living life, right? You know what I'm saying? I mean, at least that's bare minimum, right? Well, that's right folks, because I care about you and I got to earn that paycheck somehow, I'm here to help you out. I'm going to share with you some great advice on living life, **not from me**, oh no contraire, but from people much more wise and profound than I, that's right, from kids. That's right! You tell me if they don't have some incredible advice on how to have a loving relationship.

- **WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR?** (Craig, age 9) I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.
- **WHAT IS THE PROPER AGE TO GET MARRIED?** (Tom, age 10) Once I'm done with kindergarten, I'm going to find me a wife.
- **HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHOM TO MARRY?** (Alan, age 10) You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.
- **HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?** (Derrick, age 8) You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

- WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE? (Jim, age 10) You should never kiss a girl unless you have enough bucks to buy her a big ring and her own VCR, cause she'll want to have videos of the wedding.
- WHY DOES LOVE HAPPEN BETWEEN TWO PARTICULAR PEOPLE? (Jan, age 9) No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That's why perfume and deodorant are so popular.
- WHY DO LOVERS OFTEN HOLD HANDS? (Dave, age 8) They want to make sure their rings don't fall off because they paid good money for them.
- WHAT ARE SOME SUREFIRE WAYS TO MAKE SOMEONE FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU? (Alonzo, age 9) Don't do things like have smelly green sneakers. You might get attention, but attention ain't the same thing as love.
- WHAT ARE MOST PEOPLE THINKING WHEN THEY SAY I LOVE YOU? (Michelle, age 9) The person is thinking, "Yah I really do love him, but I hope he showers at least once a day."
- HOW DO YOU MAKE LOVE ENDURE? (Randy, age 8) Be a good kisser. It might make your wife forget that you never take out the trash.
- HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK? (Ricky, age 10) Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck.

Now folks, maybe it's just me, but apparently there's a lot of great advice out there on having great relationships, isn't there? Aren't you glad you came today? Mission accomplished! But that's right folks, to me probably the greatest advice I could ever give you as a Pastor, not just in your relationship with your spouse **but in your relationship with God**, would have to be this. To never, ever, ever **doubt that the Bible Really Did**

Come from God! And I say that folks, because as we saw last week, that's is no longer the case. Christian, non-Christian it doesn't matter! Due to a century or more of skepticism and false criticism towards the Bible, and hypocritical behavior from Christians who never pick up the Bible, people, even Christians are starting to doubt that the Bible really did come from God!

Therefore, to stave off this criticism and hypocrisy even in the Church, we're going to continue in our study called, "**Did the Bible Really Come from God?**" And what we're doing folks is taking a look at the **Ten Lines of Solid Logical Evidence** showing us that the Bible really did come from God. And so far we've seen that the **1st line of evidence** was **the Bible** says so. Hello! And what we saw there is that God tells us over and over again emphatically in the Bible that it really did come from Him. Why? Because He wants us to know the truth, He doesn't lie like man, He is Holy! And that's why He warned us over and over again, in the Bible, to stay away from False Worldly Prophets and False Churchy Prophets because they're a bunch of liars who'll lead you astray and you need to kick them out of the Church! Just stick to His Word in the Bible, and you'll be just fine.

But that's not all. The **2nd line of logical evidence** showing us that the Bible really did come from God is that **Jesus says so**. But again, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to His.

Matthew 4:1-11 "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command His angels concerning you, and they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" Then the devil left Him, and angels came and attended Him."

So folks, here's the question. How do we know that the Bible really did come from God? Well, what did we just read? The **2nd line of evidence** is that Jesus says so. What'd we just read? Jesus not only quoted the Scripture to combat satan himself, but He did so because He obviously believed that it carried the Ultimate Authority, and that's exactly what we saw. Even the devil has to obey what the Bible says. Why? **Because it really did come from God!** And believe it or not folks, that's just the tip of the iceberg of what Jesus taught about the Bible. Let's take a look at some others.

- Divine Authority – Matthew 4:4-10
- Indestructibility – Matthew 5:17-18
- Infallibility – John 10:35
- Ultimate Supremacy – Matthew 15:3,6
- Factual Inerrancy – Matthew 22:29
- Historical Reliability – Matthew 12:40
- Scientific Accuracy – Matthew 19:4-5

In other words, He believed in a literal Adam with a literal Eve in a literal Garden where the first woman literally ate the first man out of literal house and home. And apparently, if you haven't heard, that's what Adam got for trying to cut a deal with God.

“One day Adam was moping around in the Garden of Eden, feeling very lonesome, and so God asked him, ‘What’s wrong Adam?’

And Adam answered that he didn't have anyone to talk to.

So God said He was going to give him a companion, and that it would be a woman. He said that this woman would cook for you, wash your clothes, always agree with every decision you make.

She will bear your offspring and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night with them. She will not nag, and will always be the first to admit she was wrong in a disagreement.

She will never have a headache, and will freely give you love and compassion.

Adam asked God, ‘What will a woman like this cost?’

God said, ‘An arm and a leg.’

Adam said, ‘What can I get for a rib?’ The rest is history.”

But seriously folks, what we see in the Bible is that Jesus clearly believed in a literal Adam, and a literal Eve, with a literal Creation, that happened in literal 24-hour periods. Why? Because the Bible really came from God! That's what Jesus believed and that's what He taught! And so here's the point. If Jesus is the Son of God, then logically that means that the **Bible is the Word of God**. Why? Because "The authority of Jesus confirms the authority of the Bible." Or as one guy puts it this way:

"If Jesus is the Son of God then the Bible is the Word of God. Only if one rejects the divine authority of Christ can he consistently reject the divine authority of the Scripture.

If Jesus is telling the truth, then it is true that the Bible is God's Word. And even if you wanted to say Jesus were merely a prophet, then the Bible still is confirmed to be the Word of God through His prophetic office."

In other words, you can't have it both ways. You can't agree with some of Jesus' teaching and then turn around and deny the authenticity of the Bible. Because **Jesus clearly presented the Bible as the genuine Word of God**. And anything short of this is hypocrisy.

And yet, this is exactly what the skeptics do. They not only deny the fact that Jesus clearly taught the Bible really did come from God, but they even go so far as to denigrate Him and the other clear evidences that He was Who He said He was, i.e. the Son of God, and therefore you might want to listen to Him and what He says, including that the Bible came from God.

And the **1st thing** they try to denigrate about Jesus, the skeptics, is **The Historicity of Jesus**. And here's what they do. They'll typically state something like this, "Oh well, come on! This is a bunch of baloney anyway! Jesus didn't even exist. He only appears in the Bible that men made up to brainwash people with," right? How many of you have heard that before? Uh huh! It's all over the place. **So let's put that charge to the test**. If Jesus really existed, then yeah, you'd think we'd find some other evidence of Him outside the Bible, right? Well guess what? We do! Hello! It's all over the place! In fact, let me give you just a few of the examples that are out there.

The Roman historian Tacitus wrote: "Nero fastened the guilt on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, (Latin for Christ) from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome."

Pliny the Younger, a Roman governor of Asia Minor wrote in A.D. 112 for advice on how to conduct legal proceedings against those accused of being Christians: "They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food."

Josephus, a first century Jewish historian wrote about Jesus: "About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he wrought surprising feats. He was the Christ. When Pilate condemned him to be crucified, those who had come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared, restored to life, and the tribe of Christians has not disappeared even to this day."

The Babylonian Talmud, a collection of Jewish rabbinical writings compiled between 70 AD onward states: “On the eve of the Passover Yeshu (“Yeshu” is Hebrew for Jesus) was hanged. (Hanged is also a synonym for crucifixion) For forty days before the execution took place, a herald cried, “He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy.”

Lucian of Samosata a second century Greek satirist said: “The Christians worship a man to this day, the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. It was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws.”

Suetonius another Roman Historian from AD 69-140 said this about the Christian persecution of Nero in AD 64: “He banished from Rome all the Jews, who were continually making disturbances at the instigation of one Chrestus. Punishment was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition.”

Thallus another historian who lived in the middle of the first century AD wrote around 52 AD about the darkness that fell during the crucifixion of Jesus as was quoted later by Julius Africanus: “On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down.”

A Multitude of Writers In fact folks, that’s not all. There are at least 42 different authors that mention Jesus within 150 years of His life. Now contrast this to the only 10 authors that mention Tiberious Caesar within 150 years of his life, who was the Roman Emperor during Jesus’ ministry, and yet nobody questions him!

Why not? If you’re going to question Jesus with His 42 authors, then why aren’t you questioning that guy with his 10? You can’t have it both ways! Jesus not only appears in the Bible all over the place, but He appears all over the place outside the Bible! Why? Because He’s **Historically real!**

Therefore, I think the point is obvious. If Jesus not only says He was the Son of God in the Bible, and He's real, and if even secular sources confirm His existence, then I'm kind of thinking, we might want to listen to what He says, how about you? Including the fact that the Bible came from God, right?

But that's not all. The **2nd thing** the skeptics try to denigrate about Jesus is **The Uniqueness of Jesus**. Now, here's what's funny, and hypocritical at the same time. Now although the skeptics will flat out **deny and refuse** to believe that Jesus was God in the flesh and that He's the Savior of the world, even though that's what we see in the Bible, they will nonetheless label Him as a "good teacher." How many of you guys heard that before? You know, just like Buddha, Mohammed, or the Great Confused One, or Confucius. But seriously folks, how many of you have heard that one before? Yeah, it's all over the place too, isn't it? But the problem is this "good teacher" mentality is ridiculous when you actually **read the Bible**. And I say that because if you actually **read the Bible** you'll see that Jesus did not leave us with the option of Him being merely a good teacher. Either He was a **liar**, which isn't consistent with His character we see in the Bible, or some form of a **lunatic**, which again isn't consistent with His character, or He was indeed who He said He was, i.e. **Lord God!** That's

what you get if you actually **read the Bible**. But nonetheless, let's meet the skeptic on their terms and see just what it is that made Jesus so unique and unlike those other guys, Moe Larry and Curly.

The **1st unique thing** we see about Jesus is that **He was a Miracle Worker**. You tell me which one of those guys, Moe Larry and Curly, I mean, Buddha, Mohammed, and Confucius, ever did stuff like this. Let's take a look.

- Water converted into wine
- Heals the nobleman's son
- The catch of fish
- Heals the demoniac
- Heals Peter's mother-in-law
- Cleanses the leper
- Heals the paralyzed man
- Healing of the immobile man
- Restoring the withered hand
- Restores the centurion's servant
- Raises the widow's son to life
- Stills the storm
- Throws demons out of two men
- Raises the daughter of Jairus from the dead
- Cures the woman with the issue of blood
- Restores two blind men to sight
- Walks upon Lake Galilee
- Heals the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman
- Feeds more than 4,000 people
- Restores the deaf-mute man
- Restores a blind man
- Heals the epileptic boy
- Pays the temple tax by getting money from a fish's mouth
- Restores ten lepers to wholeness

- Opens the eyes of a man born blind
- Raises Lazarus from the dead
- Heals the woman with the spirit of infirmity
- Cures a man with dropsy
- Restores sight to two blind men near Jericho
- Condemns a fig tree
- Heals the ear of Malchus
- The second catch of fish

Now folks, here's the point. Did Buddha ever do those miracles? No!

Did Confucius even do those things? I don't think so! How about

Mohammed? No! Then how in the world can you say they're all the same

and that Jesus was just like those other guys! It's ludicrous! Jesus is totally unique!

But that's not all. The **2nd unique thing** we see about Jesus is that **He was God.**

John 20:26-28 "A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Now folks, I think it's pretty obvious, but Thomas not only said Jesus was **Lord** but He's Who? He **God**, right? And so here's the point. Is Buddha God? No! Is Confucius God? No! How about Mohammed? I don't think so!!! Then how can you say they're all the same as Jesus? That's crazy! He's totally unique!

Oh but that's still not all. The **3rd unique thing** we see about Jesus is that **He was the Creator**.

Colossians 1:15-16 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him."

That means Jesus! So once again, here's the point. Did Buddha create the world? No! How about Confucius? No! Or how about Mohammed? No! Then how can you say they're all the same as Jesus when He's **radically different** than all the rest! He is totally unique, unlike those other guys, Moe Larry and Curly, and that's why one man said this:

"People often ask what was so unique about Jesus? I mean, He possessed no certificates or degrees. He never traveled farther than 150 miles from where He was born. He lived and moved among common people and He was not an author.

He wrote no books. He composed no poems, He compiled no documents, and the only sentence He wrote was a single line in the sand, which disappeared the same day.

He never used a fountain pen or even a typewriter or even Microsoft Word, and we have no line or syllable from His hand and yet do you realize that more books have been written about Him and His Words than any other Man in history?

Do you realize that He has affected the lives of more people than all the authors of all the ages put together, and that the story of His life has now been translated in over 2,500 different languages and is read every year by billions of people?

No one ever spoke like this Man. His discourses have become the theme of millions of addresses and His Words are simple and clear. In fact, today, His

sayings are hammered into polished marble, chiseled into imperishable granite, wrought into enduring bronze, and fashioned onto stained glass windows.

His Words are literary gems. He stands today unequalled over all of literature. Shakespere, Milton, Emerson, all bow their heads in His presence. Recognizing the Superior.

He was not a poet and yet He has inspired thousands of poets to honor their most sublime expressions. He was not a musician and yet He inspired Mozart, Shubert, Beethoven, Mendelson, Handel and the list goes on and on.

He was not an artist, sculpter or painter yet He was the inspiration for Rafael, Michaelangeo, Leonardo DaVinci, Hoffman, and so many more.

He was not a doctor and yet He healed the sick, opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, and He even raised the dead.

He was not a statesman and never held nor aspired to a position, but He founded a Kingdom and He became the Conquerer of the world.

And in just three short years of Christ's ministry here on earth, it has done more to regenerate mankind than any other influence that has ever been felt in the history of mankind."

And that's why it remains true to this day that no single word grips the hearts of men like the name of Jesus Christ. There's just something about that Name."

Why? Because He really existed, and He really said that the Bible came from God, and you might want to listen to Him!

But that's not all. The **3rd line of evidence** showing us that the Bible really did come from God is that **the Apostles say so**. And this is yet another very important factor because although we may not know everything about the Apostles, we can deduce some things about them from the Bible and

what they experienced. For instance, we know the Apostles experienced an amazing unity wherever they went because they all drove around in a Honda. How do I know? Because the Bible says they were all in one accord! Yeah, it was just as stupid the last 14 times I shared it, but I had to do it again, I'm here for you! But seriously folks, when you actually **read the Bible** it's very obvious that the Apostles truly believed that the Bible came from God, including what they were writing down for us, which was to become the New Testament. But don't take my word for it. Let's listen to theirs.

2 Peter 1:16,18,19,20-21 “We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

And so here we see that the Apostles did not just whoop up some book like the skeptics wants to say, but they were actual eyewitnesses of God. And when they went about to preserve this account for us, it was guided along by the Holy Spirit, right? In fact, the Greek word there for “carried along” spoke of a ship that was being “driven” or “carried along” by the wind. And this is a picture of how **true Biblical inspiration** took place.

Just as the men in a boat have the freedom to move around in the boat, even though the boat is actually being controlled by the wind, so it is with the process of Biblical inspiration. The writers of the Bible had the freedom to express their own personality and writing style, but the process was being watched over or “controlled” or “carried along” along by the “wind” if you will of the Holy Spirit. And this is **radically different** than other supposed sources of truth and their methods of inspiration. You tell me if it’s not wise to stick to the Biblical method of inspiration.

Not like the Oracle of Delphi: For many centuries people went this is supposed source of prophetic truth and it all started one day when a goat herder noticed his sheep acting strange after they peered into a particular chasm. It turns out that the chasm had a gaseous vapor that was being released from it and it caused the sheep to act “agitated” and become “frantic.” But soon they weren’t the only ones. The next thing you know somebody actually set up a tripod over it, where these brain altering vapors, from a crack in the ground, were now said to have caused a divine source of inspiration and thus you have the birth of the so-called prophet or Oracle of Delphi.

Not like Automatic Writing: This is the occult process by which a writer, is taken over by a spirit, who then causes the writer to write down words on a piece of paper, without the use of their will, that the writer is clueless to.

Not like Channeling Messages: This is what we saw before where a person is not just taken over by another spirit to write down words on paper, but they actually take over their voice box and speak through them like these people.

“This man channels a spirit calling itself “Bashar” who seems to hold his audience spellbound as he tells them they are equal to the Creator of the Universe.

“Bashar”: That’s why all are made in the image of the infinite Creator and what that means is you are all infinite creators.

Jack Purcell has become one of the more popular channels possessed by a spirit named “Lazaris.”

“Lazaris”: Indeed it a pleasure to be talking with you and uh well, shall we begin where you’d like to begin.

Lazaris tells the listener that God is already within man and that if man wants to find God he only needs to find himself.

Jane Roberts was a new age pioneer who channeled a spirit known as “Seth”. Roberts sold more than a million copies of her books and have inspired many.

Rick Stack: Clearly the main message that Seth is trying to say is that people are gods in training.

Some may find it interesting that the name Seth is synonymous with the Egyptian god Set. And in the realm of the occult, Set is one of the infernal names of satan.”

Not like Mormonism: Believe it or not, it is well documented that Joseph Smith used occult techniques to get his “new and improved” supposed revelation of Jesus Christ. Check this out.

“Joseph Smith was a sorcerer and practiced crystal ball gazing or fortune telling and was convicted of this practice by the New York courts. Smiths practice of magic and necromancy led him annually to during a witchcraft holy day to the Hill Camora in New York, specifically to seek encounters with a spirit being called Moroni. During this time he would attempt to conjure up the spirit from the dead. There was strong evidence in 1824, Joseph Smith actually had to dig up the body of his dead brother Alvin and bring part of that body with him to the Hill Camora in order to gain access of the “gold” plates on which were written the Book of Mormon.

It was also know within his community that Joseph Smith used blood sacrifices in his magic rituals to find hidden treasure. C.R. Stafford writes, “Joe Smith, the prophet, told my uncle William Stafford he wanted a fat

black sheep. He said he wanted to cut its throat and make it walk in a circle 3 times around.”

After his death Smith was found to be carrying a “magic” talisman on his person “sacred” to Jupiter, designed to bring him wealth, power and success in seducing women.

Bill-former satanist and mormon: Behind me is the Los Angeles temple of the Mormon church and inside are many devout Mormons who are fulfilling what they consider to be godly, noble obligations to their faith and to their god. What they don't realize though, is that the rituals and the ceremonies that they are involved in are straight out of the occult. How do I know that? Because I was a Mormon who went to the temple. I went to the temple many times, but more importantly I was also a high priest of satan. Before I joined the Mormon church I had 12 years of experience in witchcraft and satanism and when I went to the temple I was astounded at the high level of similarity the handshakes and the grips involved, the secret tokens of the Aaronic priesthood and the Melchizadek priesthood are in fact right out of witchcraft and satanism. The concept of putting on, as part of your priesthood robes, an apron which God rejected in the garden of Eden-- Lucifer himself in the temple says, “this apron is a symbol of my power and priesthods” So when I went through the temple I was ultimately very satisfied by it because I thought this was in fact, a profound satanic initiation ceremony

All throughout the temple grounds here in Salt Lake City you will find all sorts of cult symbols. Symbols that are generally associated with witchcraft and satanism. They are predominantly on the temples but they are on such buildings as the Assembly Halls, and you can even find them in the visitor's center. I mean the place is virtually a Disneyland of occult symbols and yet there is absolutely no Christian symbol anywhere in here.”

Hmmm. I wonder why? Maybe it has to do with their method of so-called inspiration? Folks, I don't know about you but I'm thinking I'm just going to stick to the Biblical method of inspiration over those guys who were involved in the occult, infested with demons, and sucked up gas to get a so-called a vision, how about you?

But that's not all. So much so were the Apostles convinced that what they were writing really was from God, not gas or demons, that they even said their writings were to be considered from God, and included in the Bible.

2 Peter 3:15-16 “Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

People, did you catch it? The Apostle Peter called the Apostle Paul’s writings **Scripture!** And for those of you who don’t know, the word “Scripture” here is actually a “technical term” that was used to speak of “specialized writings” that had the “authority of God” and were considered to be the actual “Word of God.” And that’s not the only one. Paul even quoted from the Gospel of Luke and he too places that on the same level as the rest of “Scripture” in 1 Timothy 5:18, and so **logically** if Paul’s and Luke writings were to be considered Sacred Scripture, part of the Bible, by other Apostles while they were still alive, then logically the other Apostles and their writings should be considered Sacred Scripture as well, right?

In fact, **so much so were they convinced of this**, that what they wrote really did come from God, that we have the harsh warning in the last book of

the Bible by the Apostle John that no one should ever even dare tamper with the words they recorded for us in the Bible.

Revelation 22:18-19 “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

In other words, don't touch it! But folks, maybe it's me, but I'd say the Apostles **seriously believed** that what they were writing really did from God and you better not mess with it, how about you? And folks, what you need to realize is that this warning is not just applicable to just the Book of Revelation as some people would say. That's ludicrous! Think about it! If it only applied to the Book of Revelation alone, which is a part of the Bible, then does that mean you can go ahead and manipulate and mess up the rest of the Bible? That's crazy! Or, could it be that since the Book of Revelation is just one of the 66 books of the **whole** Bible and it just so happens to be at the **end** of the Bible, then maybe it applies to **all** of the Bible! Hello! Wouldn't that be logical? Why? Because it came from God and the Apostles said you better not mess with it!

But that's not all. They were even willing to **seal this belief** with their very own lives. Let's take a look at what happened to the Apostles.

- James, brother of John, was beheaded.
- Thomas was run through the body with a lance.

- Simon, brother of Jude, was crucified in Egypt.
- Simon the Zealot was crucified.
- Mark was burned and buried after being dragged through the streets.
- Bartholomew was beaten, skinned alive, crucified, then beheaded.
- Andrew was crucified.
- Matthew was killed by a spear.
- Philip was stoned and then crucified.
- James was thrown off the Temple and then clubbed to death.
- Peter was crucified upside down.
- Paul was beheaded.
- Luke was hanged upon an olive tree.
- Jude was shot to death by arrows.
- Matthias was first stoned then beheaded.
- Barnabas was stoned to death.
- John was put into a cauldron of boiling oil but survived and later died a 'natural' death.

Now folks, here's my point. If the Bible really were a lie, do you really think that everyone of those Apostles would die a horrible death like that? I mean, you'd think if it really was lie, that somewhere, somewhere along the line, some of them would've cracked and said something like this, "Okay, you got me? I was just kidding! Sorry about that! Whatever you do, don't crucify me, don't drag me through the streets, and please, don't chop my head off or skin me alive, it was a lie." **But that's not what we see!**

Every single one of them died a horrible death, save John who was tortured by the way. Why? Because they really believed that the Bible, including what they were writing for us, came from God!

And contrast this to Joseph Smith, who although the Mormons would love to make him out to be a hero or some sort of a martyr like the Apostles he's not! When called upon to stand up for his supposed "new" new testament, the Book of Mormon, he was **fleeing like a coward running** for his life! He was shot and killed by a mob of about 200 men for sleeping with their wives. And he was shot in the back twice while trying to jump out of a window! **And yet**, we see every one of the Apostles of the REAL New Testament stood the test. Why? Because what they wrote for us really did come from God!

And people, this is why you can't have it both ways. You can't agree with some of the Apostle's teaching and then turn around and deny the authenticity of the Bible. Why? Because the Apostles clearly presented the Bible as the genuine Word of God. And anything short of this is total hypocrisy. And **so it is with the skeptics of the Bible!** They spout off bold claims that the Bible cannot be trusted, that the Bible is full of errors. Yet **it is they** who refuse to look at the evidence.

People be encouraged today! You don't have to give into the **attacks of the skeptic**. You don't have to give into **doubt**. What we hold in our hands is the genuine Word of God! And that's why, more than ever, we've got to wake up and realize the golden opportunity that God is giving us. Our

world is in a frantic search for purpose and direction and meaning to life. People are full of questions like, “Why do I exist? Where did I come from? Where is all this evil coming from? Is there life after death? And **is there any hope?**” And it’s high time that we the Church get busy not just **saying** the Bible came from God, but **showing** the world that it did come from God. Why? Because even if you have to read this Book with your toe, it’s the source of truth that tells us how God is not only real, but He really can make beauty out of ashes with your life, like He did for this guy.

Nick Vujicic (A man with no arms and no legs): I gave my life to Jesus Christ when I read John 9 at age 15, where a man was coming through a village--and a man, this blind man from birth, Jesus saw him. People said, “Why was this man born that way” Jesus said he was done so that the works of God may be revealed through him.

And 2 Timothy 3:16 it says: “All scripture is God-breathed.” And I believed God breathed in me life and faith. This faith came over me, this peace came over me and I felt like God answered my question.

Interviewer: And what was the question and what was the answer?

Nick: The question was “Why?” Why did you make me this way? And the answer was: Do you trust Me? That’s the question, and when you say “yes” to that question nothing else matters.

Reporter: And it was in Jesus Christ where Nick found the strength what many thought would be the impossible.

(Video shows Nick waking up, turning lights on by himself. Shaving by himself. Using the computer. Climbing stairs. Doing many things without any help. Jumping in and swimming in the pool.)

Nick: And I thank God that He didn’t answer my prayer when I was begging

Him for arms and legs at age 8. Because guess what? Because I have no arm and legs, He is using me all around the world and we've seen so far, approximately-and this is conservative-200,000 souls come to Jesus Christ for the very first time in the last 6 or 7 years. And what would you rather-would you rather have arms and legs-no. What ever His will is, because I would rather have no arms and no legs temporarily here on earth. To be able to reach someone else for Jesus Christ.”

He read the Bible with his **toe**, or what little he had left, and what happened? He found out that God really can make beauty out of ashes, no matter what! That's what our world needs to see, if we'd only read it with our **hands** as well. Amen?

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”
