Did the Bible Really Come From God? Part 5

"Once there was this really horrible flood here in Vegas and everyone had made it to safety except one guy, guess who? Yeah, that's right! Kenny Johnson, go figure!

But anyway, he climbs on top of his house and the water is lapping at his feet, and as fate would have it though, a helicopter flew over his head and hung down a rope for him to climb up. But Kenny said, 'It's alright! The Lord will save me!' And so the helicopter flew away.

Well again, the water continued to rise and again as fate would have it, a boat came by to save Kenny but, once again, Kenny shouted, 'No! Go AWAY! the Lord will come and save me!' and so the boat sped off.

Well, the water was getting seriously deep by now and yet again another helicopter came to get Kenny but again right on cue Kenny replied again, 'I don't need saving! My Lord will come.' So reluctantly, the 2nd helicopter left

Well, the rain continued to pour down and the water continued to rise and unfortunately, guess what? Kenny drowned. So he's at the gates of heaven and there of course Kenny meets St. Peter.

And so he's confused and so Kenny asks St. Peter, 'Well hey Peter, what's going on here? I mean, I lived a life of a faithful man, I put up with Pastor Billy, and I'm a born again Christian, why didn't you rescue me?'

And St. Peter replied to Kenny, 'For crying out loud! We sent you two helicopters and a boat.""

Now folks, how many of you guys would that Kenny not only needs

some help, that's obvious, but he learned the hard way that when God

provides something for us, you just need to reach out and take it the first

time, right? And folks, I've learned it's the same thing with the Bible! All of

God's provision, all His help, is right for us in the Bible, but we too, just like

Kenny, refuse to reach out and receive it the first time. And so we get drowned in our circumstances, don't we? And people this is why, this morning, I hope there is one mistake you never make, concerning the Bible, and that is this. **To doubt that the Bible Really Did Come from God**. And I say that folks, because as we've been seeing, 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 of Christians who never even 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 seven lines of evidence showing us the Bible really came from God was that **the Bible** says so, **Jesus** says so, the **Apostles** say so, **History** says, **Transmission Standards** say so, and last time even **Manuscripts** and the amazing discoveries of **Archaeology** say so. And what we saw was that not only do we have copies of the books of the Bible within the actual year of writing, hello, unlike other secular writings that nobody questions or doubts, but we even have the archaeology proving that the Bible came from God! It's 100% accurate on

all things including historical accounts!

But that's still not all. The 8th line of logical evidence showing us that the Bible really did come from God is that **Prophecy Says so**. But don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

Isaiah 42:5-9 "This is what God the LORD says – He who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."

So how do we know that the Bible really did come from God? Well folks, apparently the 8th line of evidence is that **Prophecy** says so. What'd we just read? God is not only the Creator of all things, but He knows about all things before they ever even happen, right? And they way He demonstrates that is by recording for us these **prophetic events**, i.e. the future, before it even happens, right? Which as we saw before is radically different than the so-called psychics out there that have a horrible track record of getting 92% of things wrong, God on the other hand, when He makes a prediction about the future, it's not only 100% accurate, it's 100% accurate all the time! AND it deals with specific intimate detail right down to the tee! Not like the psychics that say, "You're going to meet somebody new," and you live in downtown New York City...DUH! And folks, whether you realize it or not, this aspect of God, prophesying future events 100% accurate before they ever even occur is yet another powerful way to demonstrate that the Bible really did come from God. Why? Because stop and think about it. If a book were to have really come from God then one would expect that it would contain things that only God could know, right? And so the question is, "Does the Bible contain things that only God would know?" Absolutely! In fact, it doesn't contain just a few things but **tons of things** only God could know. Let me share just a few of them with you.

The 1st thing that God accurately prophesies 100% of the time showing us that the Bible really did come from Him is **The Rise and Fall of Nations**.

Nations.

Daniel 2:36,38,39-40,45 "That was the dream, and now I'll tell you what it means...You are the head of gold. After you are gone, another kingdom will rule, but it won't be as strong. Then it will be followed by a kingdom of bronze that will rule the whole world. Next, a kingdom of iron will come to power, crushing and shattering everything...God has told you what is going to happen."

And folks, boy did God ever tell Nebuchadnezzar what was going to happen. What we see here is Daniel's amazing prophecy of **the rise of 4**

totally different nations existing hundreds of years apart from each other.

The 1st nation was Nebuchadnezzar's or Babylon, the 2nd was the Medo-Persian empire, the 3rd was the Grecian empire with Alexander the great and the 4th empire was the Roman empire which will be revived in the last days. And you may not think this is a big deal **but the skeptics sure do**. You see, even the skeptics readily admit that Daniel accurately predicted the rise of these 4 empires, right down to the tee. In fact, so much so do they believe it, that they try to deny it's supernatural origin by claiming that the Book of Daniel was written **after** the events took place. But of course, this doesn't hold up to the textual evidence and it only reveals what the skeptics are **really saying**, "Don't confuse me with the facts. That's not possible. Only God could do that." Uh huh! And He did!

But that's not all. The Bible not only accurately predicted the **rise** of nations but it also predicted **their downfall**. And by the way, many of them were destroyed because of their ill-treatment of the Jewish people. I think there's a lesson there. For instance, the Bible **specifically predicted** in the Book of Nahum that the nation of **Nineveh** would be permanently destroyed, be destroyed by fire, would easily be captured, their army officers would desert, and that they'd even be drunk in their final hours. And so the question is, "Did God get it right? Of course, **God doesn't lie**! He's 100% accurate all the time! Not only did Nineveh cease to exist shortly after this

prophecy, but just like Nahum said, archaeologists have uncovered a layer of ash in its ruins showing it was destroyed by fire, and ancient Babylonian records reveal that Nineveh was easily overtaken and that their officers fled the scene, and a Greek historian even records for us that "The king gave much wine to his soldiers that night" which caused them to be drunk.

But Nineveh isn't the only nation the Bible predicted would fall. The Book of Isaiah predicted that the nation of **Babylon** would specifically be overthrown and attacked by the Medes, their gates would open for a guy named Cyrus, and they would be reduced to swampland. And so again, the question is, "Did God get it right? Of course, **God doesn't lie**! He's 100% accurate all the time! Today it's common knowledge that the Medes joined up with the Persians and conquered Babylon, and despite Babylon's incredible defenses, history records that a guy named Cyrus diverted the flow of the Euphrates River and marched into the city via the riverbed, and archaeological excavations reveal that parts of Babylon cannot be dug up because its now under the water, making it swamp-like.

Oh, but that's not all. In the Books of Ezekiel and Amos predicted that **the city of Tyre** would **specifically** be attacked by many nations, it's fortresses would fail, their stones, timber and soil would be thrown into the sea, and the remains of the city would be used "to spread fishing nets." Now that's a lot of specifics! So did God get it right? Of course, **He doesn't lie**! Babylon was the first to overthrow the city of Tyre but the people retreated to an island fortress away from the mainland and escaped **total** destruction. So wait a second, did God get it wrong? No! He wasn't done yet. Almost 250 years later, Alexander the Great attacked the city of Tyre. And when he did, the people did the same thing. They ran out to their island fortress. **But** as history records, Alexander the Great took the rubble from Tyre's mainland ruins, "the stones, timber and soil" and cast them into the sea to make a land bridge to the island and conquered the people. In fact, the city Tyre was repeatedly destroyed by the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Crusaders, and even the Muslims. And today Tyre is nothing but a flat barren rock that people only use "to spread their fishing nets."

Now folks, I'm not a rocket scientist, but I'd say there's no way somebody could know all that the specific information about the rise and fall of all those nations **in advance** without some outside help, how about you? That can't happen by chance. In fact, the only way they **could know** is if somebody who was above and beyond time and knew the beginning from the end personally told them about it, right? Hmmm. I wonder who that might be? **God perhaps**? And that's one of the reasons why we know the Bible came from Him! But that's not all. The **2nd thing** God prophesies 100% accurate all the time showing us the Bible really did come from Him is **The Arrival of the**

Messiah.

Isaiah 7:13-14 "Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Now, we're all very familiar with Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah

would be born of a virgin. I mean, we hear about it almost every single

Christmas. In fact, we hear about it so much, that I think we have lost its

significance. But here's the point. As amazing as the virgin birth is, that's

only one of hundreds of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled proving that He was

indeed the Messiah. Let's take a look at just 30 of them.

- 1. Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- 2. Born of the seed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Genesis 12,17;Numbers 24)
- 3. Descended from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49)
- 4. Heir to the throne of David (Isaiah 9:7)
- 5. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- 6. Slaughter of the innocents (Jeremiah 31:15)
- 7. Flight to Egypt (Hosea 11:1)
- 8. Proceeded by a forerunner (Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1)
- 9. Declared the Son of God (Psalm 2:7)
- 10.Galilean ministry (Isaiah 9:1-2)
- 11.Came to heal the brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1-2)
- 12.Rejected by His own (Isaiah 53:3)
- 13. Triumphal entry (Zechariah 9:9)
- 14.Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)
- 15.Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13)
- 16. Accused by false witnesses (Psalm 35:11)
- 17. Silent to accusations (Isaiah 53:7)

18.Spat upon and smitten (Isaiah 50:6)
19.Hated without reason (Psalm 35:19)
20.Hands pierced (Psalm 22:16)
21.Crucified with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12)
22.Scorned and mocked (Psalm 22:7-8)
23.Given vinegar and gall (Psalm 69:21)
24.Prayer for His enemies (Psalm 109:4)
25.Soldiers gambled for His coat (Psalm 22:18)
26.No bones broken (Psalm 34:20)
27.Side pierced (Zechariah 12:10)
28.Buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9)
29.Would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; 49:15)

30. Would ascend to God's right hand (Psalm 68:18)

Now folks here's the point. For one person to specifically fulfill all

those prophecies is not only amazing, but I still don't think we catch just

how amazing it is until we take a look at the odds of something like this

taking place.

"By using the modern science of probability, we find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled just eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} .

In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, it can be illustrated by taking 10^{17} silver dollars and laying them on the face of Texas, which would be enough to cover the state 2 feet deep.

Now mark one of these silver dollars with a "red X" and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one.

What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing just 8 prophecies and having them all come true in any one man. Furthermore the odds of just 48 prophecies being fulfilled in one man would be 1 in 10^{157} . And to give you an idea of just how big of a number that is, the estimated number of electrons in the whole universe is around 1 in 10^{79} ."

Now folks, I'm not a rocket scientist, but I'd say it's pretty obvious that there's no way that Jesus fulfilled 48 prophecies by accident. And by the way, He didn't fulfill just 48 but **over 300**. That can't happen by chance. In fact, the only way it **could happen** is if somebody was above and beyond time and knew the beginning from the end and orchestrated the whole thing. Hmmm. I wonder who that might be? **God perhaps**? And that's why we know the Bible came from Him!

But that's still not all. The Bible also predicted in the Book of Daniel **centuries before if happened** the long-awaited arrival of the Messiah in Jerusalem. And not just a good guess either, but down to **the exact day**! Daniel predicted in **Daniel 9** that 173,880 days from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, that the Messiah would come to Jerusalem and be cut off from His people. Now that's pretty specific, don't you think? So what happened 173,880 days after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem? Well, that puts us as **March 30 AD 33**. And can anyone guess what happened on that day? Hey, that's right! That's the **exact day** when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and He was rejected, or cut off, from His people!

But that still not all. The Bible also predicted many specific events

that would occur just prior to return of the Messiah, His Second Coming,

and you tell me if we're not getting close to those. Let's take a look at just

30 of them.

- 1. Israel Return to the Land Again (Isaiah 43:5-6)
- 2. Israel Become a Nation Again (Isaiah 11:11-12)
- 3. Israel Become a Nation Again in One Day (Isaiah 66:8)
- 4. Israel Become a United Nation (Ezekiel 37:21-22)
- 5. Israel Have a Powerful Military (Zechariah 12:6)
- 6. Their Currency Would Become the Shekel (Ezekiel 45:12,13,16)
- 7. Israel Blossom as a Rose in the Desert (Isaiah 35:1-2)
- 8. Israel Become a Source of World Conflict (Zechariah 12:2-3)
- 9. Israel Rebuild the Temple (Revelation 11:2)
- 10.Increase of Travel (Daniel 12:4)
- 11.Increase of Knowledge (Daniel 12:4)
- 12.Increase of Unrest (2 Timothy 3:1,7)
- 13.Increase of Earthquakes (Matthew 24:7)
- 14. Increase of Famines (Matthew 24:7)
- 15.Increase of Pestilence (Luke 21:11)
- 16.Increase of Wars (Matthew 24:6-7)
- 17.Increase of Strange Events in the Sky (Luke 21:10-11)
- 18.Increase of Global Catastrophes (Joel 2:30-31)
- 19.Increase of False Christs (Matthew 24:4-5)
- 20.Increase of False Teachers (Matthew 24:11)
- 21.Increase of Wickedness (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- 22. The Church Would go into Apostasy (1 Timothy 4:1-2)
- 23. The World would Push for a One World Religion (Revelation 13)
- 24. The People of God Would be Persecuted Around the Whole Planet (Matthew 24:9)
- 25. There'd be a Rise of an Antichrist & False Prophet (Revelation 13)
- 26. There'd be a Push for a One World Government (Revelation 13)
- 27. There's Arise a Global Big Brother Society (Revelation 13)
- 28. There'd be a Push for a One World Economy (Revelation 13)
- 29.One Man Would Control all the Buying and Selling on the Planet (Revelation 13)

30. There'd be a Push for Some Sort of a Mark of the Beast to be put in people's Right Hand or Forehead across the Planet (Revelation 13)

But folks, I don't know about you, but it's a good thing we don't see any signs of those things taking place! Yeah right! Every single one of them is happening **right now**, which means Jesus is about to come back! In fact, there's almost 2,000 prophecies mentioned in the Bible. 1/3rd of the Bible's content deals with predictive prophecy, **all of which** has already been fulfilled, as you just saw, or is on the verge of being so. Therefore, here's the point. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that if all the 300 prophecies came to pass concerning Jesus' 1st Coming, and He knocked them out of the park, then what do you think is going to happen to the some **318 prophecies** concerning His 2nd Coming? Folks, I think He's going to knock those out of the park too! Hello!

And speaking of Jesus' 2nd Coming, as you clearly saw, the Bible predicted nearly 2,000 years ago that there would be some sort of Mark thingy of the Beast or Antichrist that would be implanted in people all across the planet, right? And this Mark would allow them to buy or sell, right? Well here's the point. I'm glad that's nowhere near on the horizon...or is it? Folks, let me give you a teaser of where we're headed Lord willing in our Final Countdown study. You tell me if we're not getting close for the Return of Jesus Christ, because the commercials for the Mark of the Beast type technology are already here! They're being aired on TV. Check it out for

yourself.

"To think something so small <showing a hand holding an RFID chip between their fingers> can connect you to everything that matters, when your life and all you love are on the line.

Healthlink is always with you. When every second counts in the emergency room. <shows a scanner scanning an RFID chip. Then info's profile of Robert Jones pops up on a computer screen>

Providing immediate access to your medical records.

Because Bob has trouble remembering all his medications.

Because I'm in love with my kid's kids.

Because my car lost control while driving.

Because now I'm looking out for both of us.

Because I have diabetes, but it doesn't have me.

Because I spend my life in the E.R. trying to save yours

HEALTHLINK. LINKING YOU AND YOUR HEALTH RECORD.

Huh? If only you'd receive this implant, it'll save your life. Aren't you glad they're taking over the Health Care System? Notice where they're starting? But they'll never force us into taking that, will they? We'll get to that in a second, but here's my point. Looks to me like somebody's promoting some sort of a mark thingy to implant into our bodies, how about you? **Right now** on TV! I mean, won't it be so wonderful, so safe, so convenient? And that's precisely the selling point. And by the way, this same technology not only has the ability to not only store your medical information, but any information, including your ID, as well as make financial transactions, you know, buy and sell stuff.

But you might be thinking, "Hey man, there's no way in the world people are going to accept that thing into their bodies! I don't care what they do! I don't care how many commercials they run, nobody's going to fall for this! This is crazy!" Really? Well folks, crazy or not, you tell me if people,

for the first time on mankind's history, are ready to receive some sort of a

Mark into their bodies.

"Bobby Harley - CBS News: A procedure that only takes seconds to carry out.

Doctor: And the chip is now extruded and we're finished.

Bobbi Harley: Has turned the Jacobs family into medical pioneers. They are the first people to get chipped. Implanted with a tiny device called a VeriChip that emits radio frequencies. It's a personal I.D. that also contains vital medical information.

Derek Jacobs: It can save a lot of lives including my dads, because he has alot of medical problems and I want him to be around for a while

Bobbie Harley: A hand held scanner reads the VeriChip. Theoretically police, paramedics and hospital workers would use the information during an emergency. Thousands of Americans are already lining up to get them, and Applied Digital Solutions, the company that developed the VeriChip says this might only be the beginning.

Company scientists are already working on a Global Positioning System

similar to what you would use in your boat or your car-but to track people. And like the VeriChip, it would be small enough to implant in someone.

Nathan Issacson is in the early stages of Alzheimer's Disease

Nathan: I couldn't find my way home, kinda an embarrassing moment.

Bobbie Harley: He already wears a beeper-like GPS gadget and was also injected with a VeriChip. Implanting both devices would give him and his family more peace of mind. Nate can't wait to be chipped

Nathan: I'm ready

Harley: Are I know you're ready?

Nathan's wife: I'm ready. I'm looking for the peace of mind."

Peace of mind, if you'll just receive this implant. Wow! Looks to me like those commercials are working! And correct me if I'm wrong, but it would appear to me that for the first time in mankind's history, that people are not only ready to receive some sort of a Mark into their bodies, but what? **They're totally excited about it**! Can you believe that?

And you might be thinking, "Well hey, that's for those crazy people out there. But not me, man! No way! There's no stinking way I'm ever going to go along with this. I'll never take that thing into my body!" Really? Well again, I'll say it again, aren't you glad they took over the health care system? And if you don't think that day will ever come, where our own government will **force us** into taking some sort of a Mark into our bodies, you're wrong. **Number one**, they just forced us into taking Health Care, right? Number two, You better watch this clip from congress, where

Senator Joseph Biden (who's now Vice President) was grilling then

candidate John Roberts for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (who is now

the Chief Justice) and you tell me if there's not plans of being forced, by our

own government into receiving some sort of a Mark and implant, into our

bodies. Check this out.

John Roberts confirmation:

Joe Biden to then appointee John Roberts: And we'll be faced with equally consequential decisions in the 21st century.

Can a microscopic tag be implanted in a person's body to track his every movement. There's actual discussion about that. You will rule on that, mark my words, before your tenor is over. Can brain scans be used to determine whether a person is inclined toward criminality or violent behavior? You will rule on that.

Dr. Katherine Albrecht: I think the real concern that most people have, is that at some point, the government would say, "Line up and get your chip."

But hey, that'll never happen..."You will rule on that mark my words." Folks, I don't know about you, but if congress is talking about implanting microscopic tags into people to track their every move, then my guess they're probably going to implant microscopic tags into people to track their every move, how about you? And Biden is the Vice President and Roberts has been the Chief Justice for a while now. I wonder when he's going to rule on it...just like he did with the Health Care. Folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say it's time we better wake up! Jesus Christ is

coming back and it might be a whole lot sooner than you think. You better

make sure you're ready.

But here's the point, predictive prophecy, as you can see, is a

powerful way to show us that the Bible really came from God. He gets it

right 100% of the time and it's happening before our very eyes! And that's

why one researcher had this to say.

"Unlike any other book, the Bible alone offers a multitude of specific predictions-some hundreds of years in advance-that have been literally fulfilled.

This shows us that the Bible alone contains things that only God can know and thus reveals its divine inspiration.

Limited beings know the future only if it is told to them by an omniscient Being. If an omniscient Being is known to exist and highly improbable predictions are made in His name, which come to pass without fail, then it is reasonable to assume that they were divinely inspired.

And if the Bible contains such predictions, then they are a sign of the Bible's divine origin."

In other words, you can't have it both ways. You can't agree with

some of the Bible's teaching and then turn around and deny its authenticity.

Why? Because Bible prophecy clearly presents the Bible as the genuine

Word of God. And anything short of this is called hypocrisy. And so it is

with the skeptics of the Bible! They spout off bold claims that the Bible

cannot be trusted, it's a book full of errors, it's whooped up by man, yet it is

they who refuse to look at the evidence. But people be encouraged today! You don't have to give into the **attacks of the skeptic**. You don't have to give into **doubt**. You don't have to give into **one iota** of criticism 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 to us. Our world is in a frantic search for purpose and direction and meaning to life. They realize the world is messed up and it's getting worse! And so they're 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 came from God by our diligence in studying it. Why? Because not only is the world going to be duped into receiving a Mark of the Beast into their bodies and sealing their own demise, but there's also going to be false prophets out there, that the Bible clearly warns about, but unless you get in there and read it for yourselves, you're going to fall for their lies as well, like these Christians did.

"You know the term cult really came to peoples attention, for many people the first time they ever heard the term was back in November of 1978. I'll never forget I was leaving Manila that morning and I was flying to Singapore and I got on the airplane and people were reading the newspaper and everybody was saying, "I can't believe it, how could it happen?" And I opened the newspaper and there on the Manila Times the headlines read "913 Americans from California Commit Mass Suicide In Jonestown, Guyana" If you remember the cover of Times magazine that week-"The Cult of Death". Telling the story of Jim Jones and the People's Temple in San Francisco.

Jim Jones had moved out to California, established what he called The People's Temple in the Bay Area. Gathered a group of followers around him and began to teach that he was the voice of God, that he was the prophet of God on earth and that he alone had the truth. And he so convinced over 1,000 people here in California that he was the voice of God, the prophet of God on earth that when he told them to move down to British Guyana in South America and establish a commune called Jonestown. Over 1,000 people from the Bay area moved to South America and we hear on the last tapes where he's telling his followers that he is the messiah, that he is Jesus Christ himself. And when he told them to drink poison, 913 people from California took Dixie cups and dipped it in that vat of grape Kool-Aide laced with cyanide poisoning and they gave the poison to their babies and to their children and drank it themselves and Newsweek had it on their cover the picture of 900 Americans, as their bloated bodies lying in the hot tropical jungle having committed mass suicide following a man who'd they believed was the voice of God, the prophet of God on earth. And people said, "How could it happen?" I mean how can you have a thousand intelligent Americans from California follow a man and be told to drink poison and they commit mass suicide.

It is interesting to me that the Commander of U.S Forces who is responsible for going down to Jonestown and cleaning the camp out and bring the bodies back for burial. When he returned to Dover Air Force Base he held a press conference-he was a Christian-and I'll never forget one of the things the commander stated. He said, "You know the thing that interested us most about Jonestown", he said, "When we cleaned the camp out, we did not find a single Bible in all of Jonestown."

They all died, and they were all duped, and there were no Bibles in

their camp. Folks, if we don't want to be duped even today or led astray in

the Last Days as Christians, then we better make sure we not only got Bibles

in our camps, in our homes and in our Churches but we better get busy

reading them, amen? Let's be that kind of Church this year. Let's pray.

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."