

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

June 2024

No. 462

WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from

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a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim. 3:10-17)

You know that today we are bombarded with the philosophies and theories of men, which many people have believed. In the name of science, man has concocted theories to answer questions about the creation of the whole universe, the earth, and even the origin and purpose of man. In the name of God, man has written doctrines which relate to the destiny of men. In theory, man has tried to tell us how to live. All of these writings, my friends, I don't believe. I believe what the Bible says: that God created man, the earth, and even the purpose and destiny of man. In Genesis 1 we can read about how the universe, the earth, and man were created.

The Bible is the work of about forty inspired men, many of which were Jews. Moses was one of its first writers and John was the last. There were 1600 years between Moses and John that were used to compile this great Bible of ours. Here is something that causes my faith to be lifted above the mountain peaks: All of these different writers wrote harmoniously. What accounts for this? There is but one answer to that question and it is revealed in Peter's statement when he said,

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Pet. 1:21)

These men, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote the Bible. Remember what we read earlier that Paul also said to Timothy:

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto

salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Tim. 3:15-16)

I read an article once of two infidels who were great intellects. They had decided to write a book against the Bible, discrediting it. Before they started their work, they thought the best thing to do was to acquaint themselves with all of its discrepancies and all of its contradictions. They began to read and study. When one of them reached the 22nd and 23rd chapters of the books of Acts, and read there of the conversion of Saul, it is said that he became a staunch believer in the Bible. When the other one came to the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, he became a believer in the Lord. You remember that the eunuch was convinced after this very same reading. The reason there is so much infidelity in the world today is people don't take time to acquaint themselves with the Bible. Jesus said, "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me*" (John 5:39).

Paul said to Timothy:

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

When men begin to read the Bible and read it all the way through carefully, prayerfully, and sincerely, there will be no infidelity in this world. People just don't read.

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (Mat. 22:29)

That's what is wrong. The Bible is a great book, and I want to call your attention to something else that makes me believe it: It is true in all of its prophetic fulfillment. There have been prophecies that were made hundreds of years before they were fulfilled, and they were fulfilled to the nth degree.

For the entire history of man, the Bible has been the target for evil men to try to destroy, but they have not been successful. Why? Jesus tells us, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away*” (Mark 13:31).

Then, as I read through the Bible, I find one “golden thread” running from Genesis all the way through to Revelation. Jesus Christ is the theme of this great book. We could go on and on talking about prophecies of the past that were fulfilled, but I want to take a moment of time to talk about the future.

The church has been declining steadily since its glory years in this country, when men of God gave diligence to carry out its commands during the restoration. What accounts for this? Do you remember what John said to the church at Laodicea? The same thing is happening today.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (Rev. 3:15-16)

What is the solution? “*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent*” (Rev. 3:19).

I encourage everyone to get some of the zeal of the Christians of old.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I

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also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Rev. 3:20-22)

We need to study, and we need to believe the Bible. We cannot let the world decide how we feel and what we believe. It is up to us.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (Php. 2:12)

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Rom. 12:2)

Adapted from a sermon by KENT DICKINSON
(Deceased)

BEWARE OF JAVELINS!

King Saul was very jealous of the lad David (1 Sam. 18:8). One day while David was playing music for the king, Saul had a javelin in his hand. Suddenly he threw the spear at David, hoping to smite the young man to the wall with it, but David was able to flee (1 Sam. 18:10-11). Amazingly this same exact scenario occurred in the next chapter (1 Sam. 19:8-10) and again David avoided the javelin.

Today the devil continues to throw javelins at God's people. He wants to destroy us in the same way that Saul desired to eliminate David. Therefore as Christians we must constantly beware of the devil's javelins.

One javelin that Satan throws at us when we are not looking is foolish questions.

But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. (Tit. 3:9)

During His time here on earth Christ encountered many tricky and tempting questions that were designed merely as snares. We must realize that the devil continues such tactics on Christians. *“But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes”* (2 Tim. 2:23).

A second javelin that Satan is sure to hurl at us is excuses offered for committing sin or for neglecting our duty. Such weapons were used against Adam (Gen. 3:12), Moses (Exo. 4:10), Aaron (Exo. 32:23-24), Saul (1 Sam. 13:12; 1 Sam. 15:21), and the one-talent man (Mat. 25:24-25). Surely we are not immune to the devil’s attempts, so we must be careful to accept responsibility for our own actions and quit making silly excuses. *“For every man shall bear his own burden”* (Gal. 6:5).

Another javelin that Satan will use to overcome us is traditions, philosophies, and superstitions of man.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. (Col. 2:8)

These things can turn us away from the truth if we become so engrossed in them as they are handed down from generation to generation.

The devil’s javelin comes in different shapes and sizes. When we least expect it, he will try to “nail us to the wall.” Thus we must constantly be on guard and wear the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10-18).

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1 Pet. 5:8)

RAY MCMANUS

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TO ERR IS HUMAN --
TO BLAME IT ON SOMEONE ELSE IS
EVEN MORE HUMAN

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES: ABOUT THE LORD

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. (Exo. 34:6-7)

Because I [Moses] will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. (Deu. 32:3-4)

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. (Psa. 100:5)

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (Psa. 103:8)

Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. (Psa. 89:14-15)

The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. (Psa. 11:4-6)

Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. (Jer. 9:23-24)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
June 2 - 7	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	Jacob Frederick, Ben McManus, & Bryce Whiddon
June 13 - 16	Mt. Zion Crab Orchard, KY	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)
June 23 - 28	Ephesus Ephesus, GA	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What was the covenant between God and Noah?
2. What guided the Israelites through the wilderness?
3. How did David defeat Goliath?
4. What is more difficult than a camel going through the eye of a needle?
5. Where was Paul when he wrote the letter to Philemon?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. What was Noah's ark made out of?
GOPHER (CYPRESS) WOOD (Gen. 6:14)
2. Into which land did God send Abraham to sacrifice his special son, Isaac? MORIAH (Gen. 22:2)
3. What did the crew of the ship Jonah was on do once the storm had ceased?
THEY MADE SACRIFICES TO GOD (Jon. 1:16)
4. Which disciple was a tax collector?
MATTHEW (LEVI) (Luke 5:27)
5. When a man said to Jesus, "who is my neighbor?" what parable did Jesus reply with? THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN (Luke 10:29)