

Dedication

Respect is given where respect is due; thus, we at Kenpo Connection have dedicated these writings to Orned “Chicken” Gabriel for making them possible.

It has been an honor to train in Kenpo Karate under the tutelage of the martial arts legend known as “Chicken” Gabriel, United Karate Federation (UKF).

Chicken, a champion fighter and warrior turned preacher, had a way of lifting the wayward up out of the mud of life and turning them into accomplished martial artists.

Without “Chicken’s” motivation, teaching, consistency, patience, and the sheer love for people that he displayed, these writings would never have come to be.

This world is a much better place because Orned “Chicken” Gabriel has passed through it.

My name is Herbert Lee Patus, Tenth Degree (UKF) Black Belt, granted to me by my instructor and best friend ever, “Chicken.”

Words cannot properly convey how eternally grateful I am for all that “Chicken” has done for me to enable these Bible studies.

A great big “Thank You” to you, “Chicken.” I’ll see ya in Heaven, preacher.

Sifu Herb (UKF)

Introduction to

KenpoConnection.com Bible Study Series

by Sifu Herb Patus

Introduction

Kenpo Connection has compiled a series of Bible studies that contain a wealth of scriptural information that may be deemed controversial to some.

The below 5 bible studies will provide biblical data to aid the reader toward a better understanding of each study.

Also, with each study, a cult will be reviewed.

Suggested Order of Study

I. David and Goliath: A Case for David

II. Jonah

III. Deity

IV. The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

V. Massacre in the Church: Where Is God?

Study #1: David and Goliath: A Case for David

This study addresses the age-old question of the stone that slew Goliath: was it powered by God, or David's skill with the sling?

The Bible lists each of the four items that David took into his epic battle with Goliath...but why?

A compilation of interesting facts surrounding this event have been presented in order that you may better evaluate this classic battle.

The cult reviewed in this study is that of... Unitarianism. They claim to be "free thinkers."

Here, their "free thinking" beliefs will be scrutinized.

Study #2: Jonah

The Bible says that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, but it also says that it was a great fish, so which one was it—a whale or a fish?

And if so, would he be able to survive in the belly of a whale/fish for three days and three nights due to lack of oxygen?

Also, can an animal swallow a human?

Jonah: fact or fable?

The cult reviewed will be that of...Catholicism. Was Peter actually the first pope?

What about their teaching of Purgatory—is it scriptural?

Does Catholicism actually represent God's true church? Do they come from a solid biblical foundation?

Study #3: Deity

Whether or not one believes in the triune God of Scripture (God the Father – God the Son – God the Spirit), the Bible does teach it. The question is, do you believe the Bible?

This study presents an abundance of biblical data that re-enforces the 3-in-1 deity of the Godhead.

There are cults who have gone to great lengths to abolish the biblical teaching of the Godhead, even to the point of re-writing Scripture, or through the dreams and visions of their cultic leaders.

Also addressed is a group of false teachers that claim to be God's only true Church, but deny the deity of Christ.

The cult reviewed in this study will be that of a group claiming to be Jehovah Witnesses. The God of the Christian Bible will be compared to the god that the Jehovah Witnesses serve.

Study #4: The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

This study focuses on the mass resurrection of the saints at the time of Christ's death/resurrection at Calvary.

Was this resurrection of the saints physical or spiritual? Some believe that this was Christ retrieving the souls from Paradise. The facts will be reviewed in detail.

The cult reviewed will be that of Mormonism.

As is with the cult of Jehovah Witnesses, the Mormons worship a completely different God than that of the Christian Bible.

If you have completed kenpoconnection.com study on Deity, you should have a solid understanding of who the God of the Christian Bible is, and be better able to decipher truth from counterfeit.

Study #5: Church Massacres: Where Is God?

Why would a holy God stand by idle and watch as Bible-believing Christians (including little children) are slaughtered, even during a service at a godly church?

Is it God's fault, or has He given "born again" believers instruction on how to deal with these satanic attacks? This study sheds biblical light on the issue.

The cult reviewed will be that of the Seventh-day Adventist.

This organization was heavily established by a woman who claimed to be a visionary, having privileged insight from the Lord, thus making her His special messenger to earth. But is this really the case?

Her dreams and visions established much of the Seventh-day theology, for the membership regards her to be a prophetess.

This organization is definitely worthy of scrutiny.

My Tribute to a Martial Arts Legend: Orned “Chicken” Gabriel

The Bible can and does change lives, and when combined with the martial arts (taught within the boundaries of Scripture), makes a powerful tool for ministry.

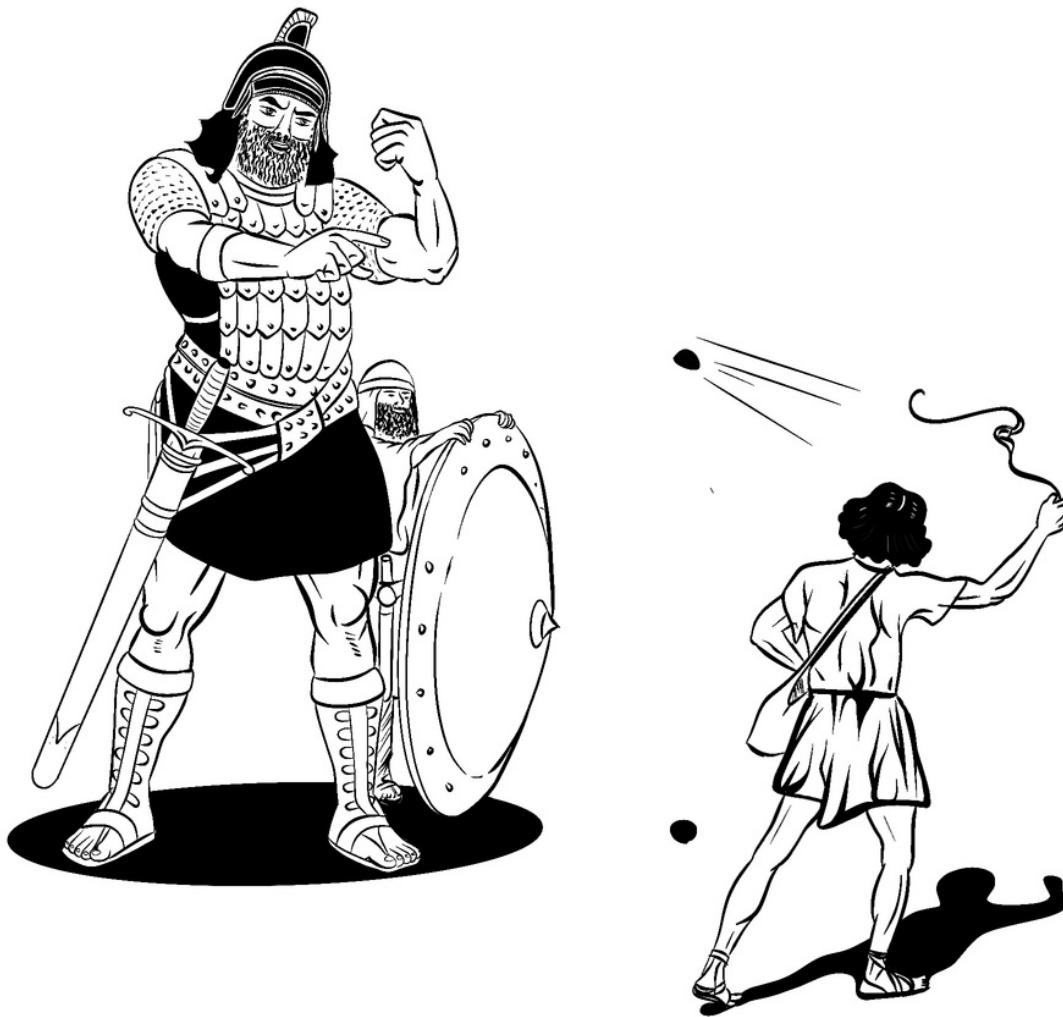
It is here that we recognize a champion fighter turned preacher who changed many lives—a compelling example of giving “All glory to God”.

Please read about this godly man who was a legend/warrior/preacher for the true God of the Bible right after the end of the last bible study.

This is a kenpoconnection.com

Bible Study of

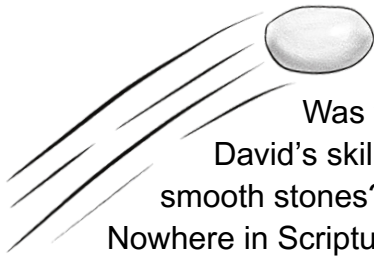
David and Goliath: *A Case for David*



by Sifu Herb Patus

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The Stone That Slew Goliath

Was the stone that slew Goliath guided by God's hand, or was it David's skill with the sling that got the job done? And why the staff and five smooth stones?

Nowhere in Scripture are we told that God guided the stone. Instead, words like deliver and delivered are used, which are not equivalent to God's hand literally guiding the stone to its target.

Although many may believe that God's hand guided the stone, Scripture seems to provide evidence to present a case that David himself may have had sufficient skill to hit his target. When David confesses to King Saul that he was once confronted by a lion and a bear, and that God had delivered him from them, it does not necessarily mean—nor does it say—that God's hand intervened. It may, rather, proclaim that as a God-powered believer, he can do all things through strength, courage, and faith in God—the “can do” attitude of a God-powered believer.

The Apostle Paul, in New Testament Scripture, proclaimed:

(Phil. 4:13) “I can do all things through Christ.”

This displays an “I can do” attitude, which is a Christian basic fundamental.

Yes, David definitely had an abundance of “I can do” attitude, courage, confidence, and skill.

Lessons to learn from this infamous battle are invaluable and many; however, our focus will be on the actual fight that slew Goliath.

Scripture says that Goliath presented himself to taunt the Israelites morning and evening for forty days.

The number forty is used in Scripture approximately one hundred fifty times, and in most cases represents testing, trials, or probation—all of which may have applied to Goliath.

“The Lord our God will deliver thee into our hands”
was a commonly used battle cry by the Israelites, and David used it boldly.

Remember, the two armies were lined up face to face, talking plenty of trash. The Philistines wanted the loser of the fight to be slaves to the winner. However, when their champion Goliath lost, they did not concede to Israel—but rather fled to the hills. Yes, there was plenty of trash talk back and forth.

The Lord Delivers

God protected Moses and the Israelites and told them many times that He would deliver their enemies unto them. Then He did—often proclaiming how:

- **(Deuteronomy 2:25)** God delivered enemy nations unto Israel by putting “dread fear” into them. As Joshua readied to enter the new promised land, God told them, “Ye shall not fear them, for the Lord your God, He shall fight for you.”
- **(Deuteronomy 7:20)** God fought for Israel by sending hornets before them to drive out the enemy.
- **(Deuteronomy 7:23)** But the Lord thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.
- **(Joshua 1:7)** Several times, God told Joshua to be strong and very courageous. He expected him to be a brave and valiant warrior.
- **(Joshua 10:11)** When Israel warred in Gibeon, the Lord promised Joshua that He would deliver the enemy to him, then rained down great stones from heaven upon them, devastating their camp.
- **(Joshua 11:6)** And the Lord said unto Joshua, “Be not afraid because of them: for tomorrow at this time I will deliver them up all slain before Israel.” Then He did.
- **(Judges 7)** God told Gideon that He would deliver the Midian’s unto him in battle, and then He did—causing confusion in their camp to where they turned their swords against one another.

These are but a few examples of how God delivered David’s predecessors and methods of doing so. These methods are not consistent with David’s “deliverance” from Goliath.

David’s Deliverance

Unlike our previous examples, God does not state that He would deliver David from the giant, nor does He take credit for it anywhere in Scripture. The question is, did David need God’s hand to guide the stone, or did he have the skill himself?

The keyword that influences one’s decision as to whether it was God’s hand or David’s skill is the word “deliver.”

The word “**deliver(ed)**” was used four times in regard to David’s battle with Goliath—each time it was used by David, not God.

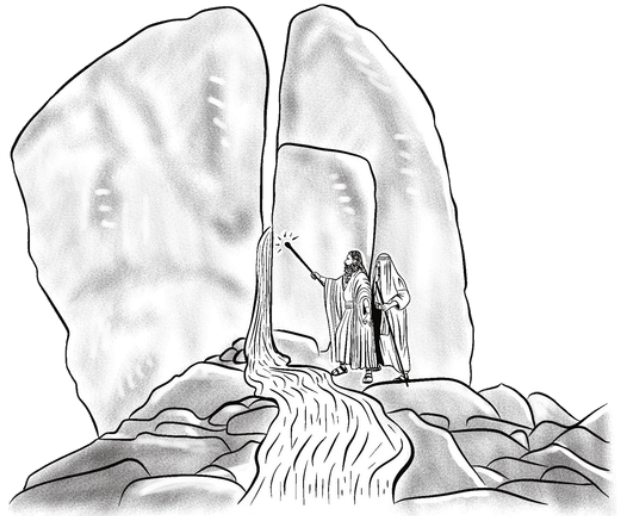
All Glory to God

(Num. 20:7) When Israel was in the desert thirsting, God told Moses to “speak” to the rock so that water may flow. Instead, Moses violated God’s order in two ways. First, he took partial credit for the miracle when he said:

(Num. 20:10–11) “Hear ye now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?”

Second, he smote the rock twice, rather than merely speaking to it as God had commanded.

For the portrait painted in Scripture of Christ, “the Rock” is that He was smitten but once for our sins.



This angered God—that He had empowered Moses to a task in which He did not receive full credit for—thus preventing him from entering the Promised Land.

(Isa. 42:8) “My glory I will not give to another.”

Could David also be guilty of this type of glory grab when he declared that God would deliver Goliath into his hand and then, as he approached Goliath for the kill, said to the giant:

(I Sam. 17:46) “This day will the Lord deliver thee into my hand; and I will smite thee, and take thy head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel.”

This verse indicates that David had taken credit for the kill. Moses was to take none.

Did God guide the stone, or was it David’s skill? Could it be that because God did not declare that He would intervene (guide the stone) for David, that David could stand before Goliath and speak as he did?

A Case for David

Out of 100 people polled:

75% = God powered the stone.

20% = Both God and David powered the stone.

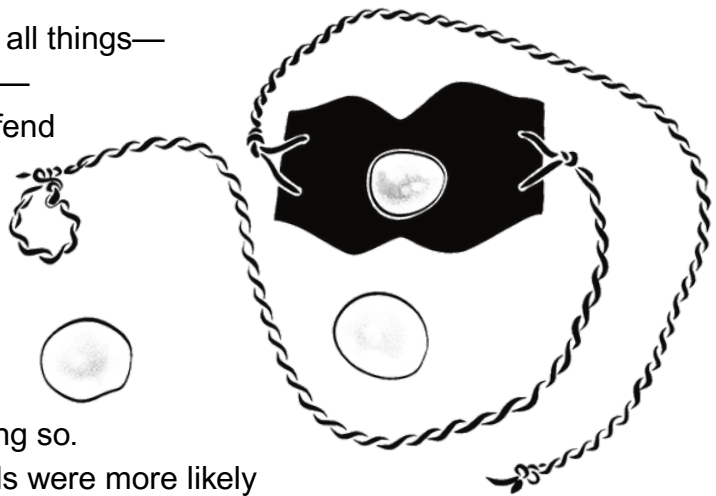
5% = David had the skill to power the stone.

We do not wish to rob God of His glory, nor David of his skill with a sling. So, let's look deeper into this slinging of the stone.

Many believe that since God gave David the ability to use the sling, that somehow translates into giving God the credit for the actual guiding of the stone to its target.

Yes indeed, God gives us the ability to do all things—including drinking water and breathing air—however, at some point He expects us to fend for ourselves. God has given man free will, which includes how much time we spend (or do not spend) perfecting our defense skills.

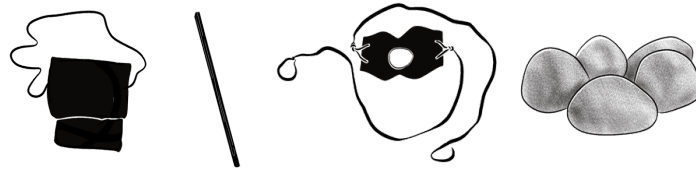
Although God promised Israel to deliver them in battle, they often lost soldiers doing so. They that developed the higher battle skills were more likely to have a higher survival rate.



Remember the 1968 Eight-Day War that Israel miraculously won against all odds? Yes, God delivered them, yet they still had military fatalities.

David may have begun shepherding as young as 7 or 8 years old, which gave him ample opportunity to perfect sling skills.

To a shepherd, the sling was not a hobby but rather a tool for survival, and the accuracy of a shepherd's sling was often equivalent to that of a modern-day handgun marksman.



David's Choice of Weapons

Scripture teaches that David equipped himself with a shepherd's bag, a staff, a sling, and five smooth stones.

Shepherd's Bag:

Was—and still is today—a carry-all bag that is predominantly used to carry food. David had just delivered food to his brothers on the battle line, thus emptying the bag, now ready to use in battle.



Staff:

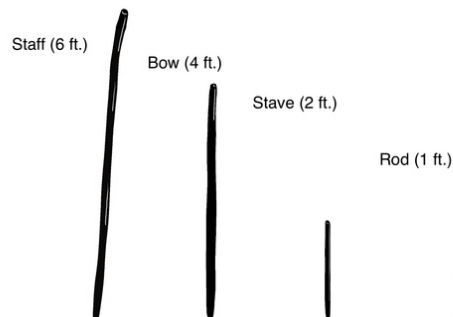
The staff can have various applications, each requiring a different length. The word translation in both the Old and New Testaments describing the staff or rod carries the same meaning: “to break off a branch,” or “a branch for support.”



The proverb “spare the rod and spoil the child” has a tendency to make us believe that a rod is strictly a small switch-type stick used for discipline (and it can be); however, the rod used by Moses and Aaron (Aaron's budding rod) for support was no longer than four feet, for it was one of the three items that was placed in the Ark of the Covenant, which had a four-foot length.

A common martial art belief is that a staff is longer (5' and 6') than a bow (4' or shorter).

Of all the martial art weapons, a 4' long bow may be the perfect weapon, for it is easier to handle than the longer staff. It is extremely difficult to be taken from the hands of the user in battle. You can swing, strike, poke, butt, block, and deflect with it.



The 4' bow is equivalent in size to Aaron's budding rod.

Another distinction is that a staff has tapered ends, and a bow has rounded ends.

David's Staff

The stave, sometimes referred to as a “staff,” is a shorter stick (1–2 feet long).

The stave could be used for defense in close fighting, as a modern-day soldier may fix a bayonet to his rifle for trench warfare. It was a weapon of war.

Scripture teaches that David had a staff in his hand, yet Goliath referred to it as a stave:

(I Sam. 17:43) “And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?”

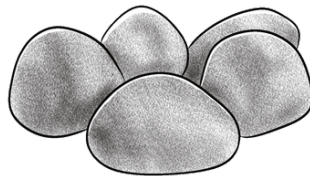
So Goliath did recognize David's staff/stave as a weapon—just not an effective one.



And why was David armed with a staff/stave, and no mention as to what he did with it?

Five Smooth Stones

Scripture says that David chose five smooth stones from the brook.



The Hebrew word for **chose** is: **bachar = baw-khar**, meaning: *choose (choice), excellent, require*.

David had to search out stones with just the right weight, texture, and dimensions for a true trajectory.

With the spirit of a true warrior preparing for battle, he probably took his time selecting choice stones while eyeballing the battle conditions across the brook that were awaiting him.

If one had but four hours to cut down a tree and their life depended on it, three hours should be spent sharpening the ax.

David was preparing for a lengthily battle if need be.



The Shepherd's Sling

A sling in the hand of a shepherd was a lethal weapon.

Not only was (and still is today) a great defensive tool, but it was also used to hunt with.

The sling was used as an effective weapon of war by Israel's army and even had an established special unit from the tribe of Benjamin:

(Judges 20:16) Among all these people, there were seven hundred chosen men left-handed: They could sling stones at a hair's breath without missing.

One of the many functions in combat for slingers would be to sling stones at the enemy's horses, the head being a priority target.

If these seven hundred left-handed slingers could sling with such skill and not miss, could not David also?

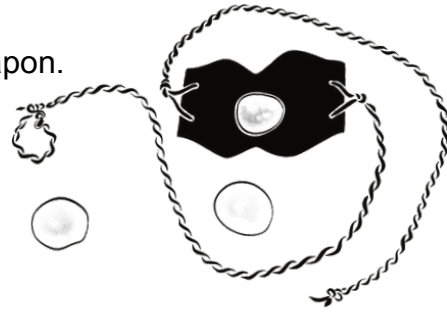
God did not guide the stones of these skilled seven hundred that did not miss in battle—why would David need God to guide his most famous shot?

A stone slung to the forehead should have been a fairly easy shot for David, and not requiring God's assistance.

The shepherd's sling is 2½ to 3 feet long and can sling a hefty stone with tremendous velocity to speeds of between 60–100 MPH, with the impact of a .44 Magnum pistol.

A .45 caliber bullet can go through an engine block.

The sling delivers devastating power. Although the 3' sling has more power, the 2½' or shorter slings have more accuracy.



To Those Who Believe

That God had to guide for David's lack of skill with the sling should go to the internet, where much is available verifying the accuracy of the shepherd's sling, performed by practitioners in various Middle Eastern cultures.

Their accuracy is amazing. It is not a problem for them to hit a bottle-sized target at 20–30 feet, and a torso-sized target at 100 feet, with deadly accuracy and impact. Hitting a lion or a bear on the run is not a problem.

This kind of accuracy can be achieved with 3–4 years of constant practice.

The current Balearic Nation Champion can hit a 1½' round plate consistently (that's probably close to being the size of Goliath's head) at 150 feet.

Are we to believe that these modern-day Middle East experts who sling for a hobby have more skill than David, who probably trained (as if his life depended on it) long hours daily for 8–10 years before his encounter with Goliath?

Due to the need for meat and wool, sheep are as popular today as ever in all the Middle Eastern and Arabic cultures, even since the beginning of their existence, all of which required shepherds with slings.

David was not the only shepherd to use a sling. There were many.

Thus, the power and efficiency of the sling was widely known among the people. In the tradition of the Middle East, the Philistines also herded sheep—therefore had shepherds who also utilized the sling.

The sling has been dated back as far as 700 B.C.

The Sling: A Weapon of War

The Israelis included slings in their armory, as did many other tribes and cultures, including the Greeks and Romans. But why the left-handed slingers?

There were a number of reasons for lefties with a sling, deception and protection being tops. In combat, it is difficult for a conventional (right-handed) fighter to feel comfortable engaging with a lefty, due to the fact that 70–80% of their opponents are right-handed. As a result, lefties feel comfortable engaging right-handed opponents.

It is awkward—and even deadly—in close quarters, hand-to-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder fighting to abruptly turn about to face another foe, only to discover that they are positioned in a left-handed stance with no time to readjust tactics.

Deception / Give Your Opponent A False Reading

A common martial arts fight technique when squaring off to an opponent is to immediately create confusion.

A right-handed fighter will stand back at a distance, assuming a left-handed stance, allowing his opponent to assess his sudo position.

While in this false stance, the right-handed fighter slowly inches his way closer to his opponent.

Then, just as he comes into striking range, he will quickly switch back to his strong right-hand side before his opponent can re-adjust to the switch, then launch his attack by closing the gap with a blitzing technique.

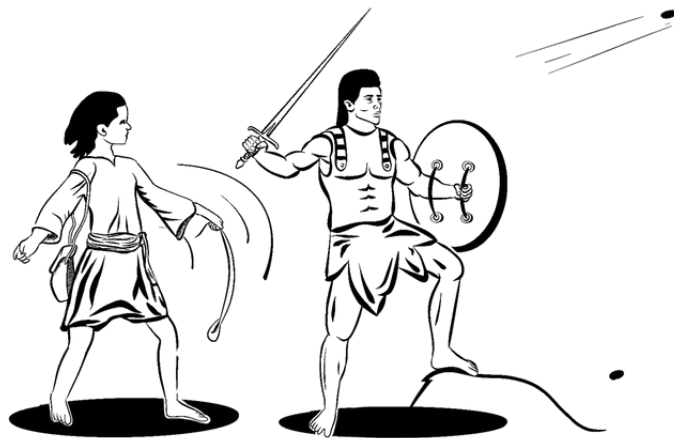
“Always try to make your opponent think one thing, then you do another,” is a great gym slogan that actually works in combat.

Protection

The left-handed slinger could stand behind a right-handed armored swordsman, thus utilizing his armor for protection as he slung.

There is evidence that the Greeks used left-handed slingers to strengthen their infamous Phalanx V formation, which made them the war machine of their day.

The Romans also utilized the sling but favored right-handed use of all weaponry. It was common for the Romans to retain and convert a lefty into a conventional fighter.



Slings were popular and plentiful during that period of time—as guns are in today’s society.

David's Fight With Goliath

The closer we look at Scripture, the more it looks as if David was intending on skillfully defeating this giant head-on, rather than just standing back, slinging a stone, then having God guide it for him.

No, David used several strategic maneuvers that resulted in his victory.

The element of surprise was a major tactic in David's approach. Israel did not announce that David would meet the challenge, but rather, David in:

(I Sam. 17:40) grabbed his bag and staff and, still unnoticed, wandered down to the brook for the five smooth stones. And with his sling in his hand, then drew near to the Philistine. It would have been to David's benefit to keep his sling concealed from Goliath's sight until the last possible second before use.

For, in all probability, Goliath knew of the sling and its capabilities—and did not see one in David's hand.

Conceal A Sling?

Shepherds had a way to wrap the sling around their hand as a boxer would hand-wrap before putting on a glove.

At the end of the wrap, the pouch that holds the stone would end up positioned between the thumb and first finger—ready to receive the stone, preload the pouch, and hold it, ready to go.

For a quick release into the ready (to fire) position, merely uncoil it by pulling it from off the front of the arm.

It is uncoiled, loaded, and can be pointing at a target in seconds.



Slinging Techniques

There are a number of various slinging techniques that may be used to heave a stone—overhead, underhand, side sling, single, multiple, or no windups at all.

It is not known what particular type of sling pattern David used, but whatever it was—short, sweet, and to the point—with not a lot of windups.

As a general rule, multiple circling does not increase power, for it is the last (only one circle), then a snap of the wrist on delivery, that develops a sling's momentum.

David Drew Near to Goliath

As David drew near to Goliath, it would have been prudent for him to keep his sling hand tucked and low while displaying his hand with the staff to Goliath.

And apparently he did, for in:

(**I Sam. 17:43**) Goliath said to David from a distance, “Am I a dog that you come at me with staves?”

Notice that Goliath did not mention a sling because he did not see one; thus, another element of surprise in David's arsenal that helped him slay Goliath.



Also, had Goliath seen a sling in David's hand and suspected a stone may come his way, would he not have procured his shield that his armor bearer was carrying for him?

The term “**drew near**” was used twice, and “**drew nigh**” used but once in this account. The word “*drew*” comes from the word **sha-ab** = **shaw-ab**, meaning: *to bail up water, woman to draw*.

This indicates that after selecting five smooth stones, David began to slowly walk towards the giant. At that time, Goliath took notice of David's approach, then “drew near” or walked slowly toward David.

It was here, at a distance, that they had a heated verbal exchange—until Goliath lost his cool and “drew nigh” to David.

“Drew near” indicates a slow walk; “drew nigh” indicates an aggressive approach.

Goliath began to move in for the kill, and at this point, all conversation was over. The rest happened quickly.

David and Goliath: A Case for David

With Goliath initiating the fight, David quickly ran toward the Philistine army to face Goliath, although he had not yet loaded a stone into the sling's pouch.

It would be difficult to do so if he had his lengthy sling dangling by his side while running.

Chances are that his sling was wrapped around his hand—still out of Goliath's view—with the stone pouch positioned between the thumb and first finger, thus enabling him to load on the run.

David Slings

As David ran towards Goliath, he was probably looking for a suitable firing point in which to release his stone. Where might that be?

There is no better place to be other than just outside your opponent's striking range—yet comfortably within your own.

A choice firing position when lining up to a 9' to 10' tall opponent to sling would be approximately 15' to 20', preferably 15'.

When throwing an object, there is a natural tendency to lunge or step and drag forward in order to project power.

This may also be applied to slinging (from a run, to a trot, to a skip, to a step, and drag fire).

From the time that David began his run towards Goliath until the time that the giant lay dead was a matter of seconds, not minutes.

The size of Goliath's head was probably about the size of the target used by the modern-day Balearic National Champion at 150'.

So why could not David bulls-eye Goliath's head at 15–20' without God's help? Scripture teaches that David began his run, then reached into his bag for a stone, then slung—all accomplished while on the run. What a great strategy by David.

It is unlikely that Goliath spotted David's sling until the very last second.

Also, as David began his run towards Goliath, he had a staff in his hand that he apparently discarded in order to load his sling—then immediately slings.

Was this staff/stave a mere decoy in order to distract Goliath from the deadly sling that David held in his other hand?

Was this another tactical maneuver by David?

The Stone That Connects

Scripture says that the stone “smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead.”

The word “sunk” can be suggestive, for in the lower forehead—between the eyeball area—the bone is quite thin and is considered to be a death blow in the martial arts.

If it was a medium-sized stone (size of a quail egg) that was used (and it probably was), slung at such a short distance with such velocity, the stone may very well have sunk deep into the brain.

The Scripture says: “...and he fell upon his face to the earth.”

This simply means that the stone killed him instantly, and he collapsed.

What a display of battle tactics used by David—a true fighter at such an early age of probably 15–16 years old.



Why Five Stones?

As skilled and confident as David was with a sling, and as close as he anticipated being to Goliath when he slung, it is hard to imagine him worried about missing a shot.

Perhaps he had knowledge of the also large-in-stature brother and three sons of Goliath that may have been in the Philistine camp that day.

Whatever the reason, David was well prepared for the battle.

Death of the Giants

How and who slew these giants in the various battles is explained to us in (**II Sam. 21:15–22**). Also, an interesting note is mentioned concerning David's last battle as a warrior with the sword.

Battles between the Philistines and Israel were ongoing throughout David's life. But as he aged, his battle skills dwindled to the point that he waxed faint during a battle involving "Ishbi-benob," who was one of the giant's sons. He must have known that David slew his father, Goliath, and was looking for revenge.

With David fainting in battle, his man Abishai, in fear for David's life, succored (looked for him, rounded him up) this giant and killed him.

David and Goliath: A Case for David

It was at that time that his men retired him by telling him:

“Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us into battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel. (**II Sam. 21:17**)

(They feared losing him as their leader.)

It is ironic that David launched his career as a warrior on the battlefield with Goliath and, in his later years, ended it on the battlefield with the giant's son.

This was the last time that David fought in battles with his men.

Other Giants Slain in Battle

(**II Sam. 21:18**) "Saph," son of the giant, was slain in battle by Sibbechai, David's man.

(**II Sam. 21:19**) Scripture says "Elhanan," David's man, slew the brother of Goliath in battle, although it does not mention his name.

(**II Sam. 21:20**) This is yet another battle where a man of great stature, born to the giant—whose name is not mentioned—was slain by Jonathan, the son of Shimeah.

(**II Sam. 21:22**) These were killed by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

Did God Guide a Trajectory?

(**I Kings 22:29–38**) Scripture does not mention nor indicate in any way that God had anything to do with David's famous shot. However, there is a case where He did guide a trajectory—the account concerning Ahab.

There are those who try to equate God's guiding hand in this account to that of David and Goliath, but compare both accounts closely, and they will differ:

The wicked King Ahab was told by the Prophet Elijah that, for his wickedness, he would die on the floor of a particular vineyard, and the dogs would lick up his blood. This was a prophecy from God.

Soon after, the Prophet Micaiah prophesied to Ahab that if he went to war with Syria, he would not return.

Ahab thought that he would outsmart God, so he dressed in disguise and rode in one chariot while placing one disguised as the king in another chariot.

This fooled the Syrians who were searching for him, thus they retreated.

Not Over Yet

(**I Kings 22:34**) Ahab may have thought that he had gotten away from what was prophesied, but God caused:

"A certain man drew a bow at venture (by chance), and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness."

Thus, Ahab's death was as prophesied.

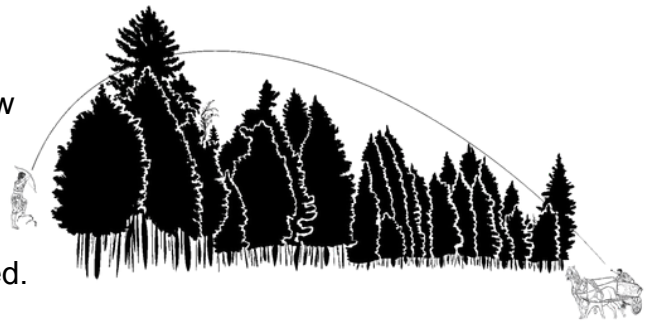
The word "certain" comes from the Hebrew word **Echad** = **ekh-awd**, which can mean: a man, once, only, one, first.

The indication is that this archer was a special, one-of-a-kind man—once only—the first and only one, as if called by God to do a one-time task.

Although the Scriptures do not tell us that God guided this random arrow into a split in Ahab's armor, killing him, there is a strong indication that God picked the archer and touched his heart to shoot the arrow, assuring God's prophecy would be fulfilled.

In this case, God had to have guided this arrow to make His prophecy come true.

David was not fulfilling a prophecy by slaying Goliath and, more likely than not, had the skill to place that stone wherever he wanted.



Goliath's big head should have been an easy shot for David.

Unlike the archer who shot the arrow and then let God do the rest, David did not merely stand there and sling, but rather displayed several tactical maneuvers that led to his famous victory shot to the forehead of Goliath.

The archer displayed no courage or skill, where David had an abundance of both on display.

Summary of Account

Although many view the David vs. Goliath account as a method of displaying how God can intervene and fight the giants in one's life—and under the right circumstances, He may, in His own time and way, if it is His will—the predominant theme is "Fear Not."

David's faith in God was so strong that he was virtually without fear. Also, David's youth (15–16 years) gave him an attitude of indestructibility—for what 16-year-old thinks that anything could possibly happen to them, or that there is anything they cannot do?

Conclusion: David's Skill or God's Guiding Hand

Was it David's skill or God's hand guiding the smooth stone into Goliath's forehead, slaying the giant?

This seems to be an age-old question. For the best answer, always go to the Scriptures. The answers will always be there; if you can't find them, dig harder—they're there.

After the David and Goliath account, Scripture seems to give David credit for the kill, not the guiding hand of God.

(I Sam. 17:50) So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him.

David in Heaven?

God referred to David as a man after His own heart. Although Christ had not yet suffered the Cross to redeem man's sins, David secured a place in heaven by his faith and trust in God. He obeyed God's will.

Since Jesus came to earth, died on the Cross, and established the Church, the requirement has remained the same: obey God's will.

(John 6:28–29) Jesus was asked how a man can do the work of God.

Jesus answered, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent."

And Who Hath He Sent?

(John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

We are born into this sinful world as children of the Devil by nature; therefore, we must be born again to enter into the family of God and become one of His children.

(John 3:3) "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

(John 1:12) "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

How to Receive Him

(**Romans 10:9**) “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

These words of confession must come from the mouth of the seeker (this establishes a relationship with God)—not for another to confess to God on the seeker’s behalf.

(**I Timothy 2:5**) “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

Our faith in Jesus Christ is what transforms us into the family of God.

(**Galatians 3:26**) “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

There are words in Scripture that are reserved specifically to describe those who have been born again:

- Children of God — (**John 3:10**)
- Children of the Highest — (**Luke 6:35**)
- Children of Light — (**John 12:36**)
- Children of Promise — (**Romans 9:8**)
- Sons of God — (**John 1:12**)

Nowhere in Scripture is a non-believer in Christ referred to as a child of God. Sadly, some believe that we are all the children of God. However, when the religious leaders of the day refused to receive Jesus, He told them in **John 8:44**:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do...”

So how could God be their Father?”

Biblical Terms for the Non-Believer

The Scriptures also have specific names reserved for those who have not yet joined God's family:

- (**1 John 3:10**) Children of the Devil
- (**Matthew 13:38**) Children of the Wicked One
- (**Ephesians 2:2**) Children of Disobedience
- (**Ephesians 2:3**) Children of Wrath
- (**Romans 9:8**) "...they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God."

Of those who claim to be believers, there are many who do not believe the entire Bible to be God's Word. Therefore, they reserve the right to pick and choose whatever they wish to believe or not believe—usually to accommodate their lifestyle.

There are those who believe the New Testament but not the Old Testament. But remember: Jesus Himself believed in the Old Testament and often quoted from it.

It is dangerous thinking to waver on whether to believe His Word. For when one picks and chooses what to believe or not believe, they can twist the Scriptures into anything they wish them to be.

God does not honor such a wobbly faith, for this is how God feels about a wobbler.

(**James 1:6**) "For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

(**James 1:7**) "For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord."

(**James 1:8**) "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Those who believe that we are all heaven-bound children of God make God a liar. For God clearly states in **John 3:36**:

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

To the wobbly who pick and choose—be careful, or your non-belief will waver you from God's loving plan of salvation.

The Empowered Believer

God created man with a spirit so that we could communicate—God's Spirit with man's spirit.

When trusting upon Christ as Savior, God's Spirit plugs into man's inner man and empowers him. This is a power not available to non-believers.

(Ephesians 3:16) "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man."

There are many instances in Scripture where God has empowered man to do the unbelievable. Even so, man in his wildest imagination cannot conceive the totality of God's awesome power.

One of the many mind-boggling displays of God's power is the recent scientific discovery of deep space black holes.

Science says that a black hole the size of a pinhead could suck in and devour a spaceship from one million miles out—a real navigation concern.

A very recent discovery revealed a gigantic black hole 700 million light years from Earth, with a mass 40 billion times that of our sun, capable of sucking in and devouring entire galaxies. This is but a minute sample of God's power.

The same God who spoke these awesome creations into being could just as easily destroy them in like manner.

And He empowers all those who believe in Him whom He sent.

Every Word Ever Spoken

Words are important to God, for they can lift one into heaven or lower them into hell. Man shall be judged by every word that has ever been spoken—unless we have an advocate with the Father to take our place: the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 12:36) "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

(Matthew 12:37) "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

There are those who scoff at the idea of every word eternally floating around somewhere, waiting to be retrieved. However, some 2,000 years after God's Word established the fact, science now says that words are energy—and energy never ceases to exist—and that every word ever spoken, by every human being that has ever walked the earth (approximately 65 billion), is still in existence out there somewhere.

Come Let Us Reason

As David tapped into this awesome power of God, so may every believer in Christ—for He is the same God to all.

And though David felt the power of God within, he still used his free will to hone his battle skills, as we should today.

Never become complacent or think that the law of the jungle (the strong survive) does not apply to our modern-day society. Even the just are gunned down while worshipping during services in a God-honoring church. And where is God?

Have not the Scriptures taught us that we are always to fend for ourselves in both the Old and New Testament?

For further insight into what the Bible says about the Christian right to defend (even through the use of a martial art), read:

"Karate and the Christian, The Parchments: A Fifth Degree Black Belt Thesis"

The Cult of Unitarianism

The Cult of Unitarianism

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is an ultra-liberal organization that came about because of two separate religious groups merging. They are:

- The Universalist Church of America (founded in 1793)
- The American Unitarian Association (formed in 1825)

These organizations consolidated in 1961 to form their present-day name.

They became more of a "free thinker society" (spiritualist), rather than a traditional Christian denomination.

Opposed to Christians who assemble to worship God, they focus on principles and purposes such as:

- Inherent worth and dignity for all
- A responsible search for the truth
- Free thinking
- Being non-creedal
- Compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another
- Encouragement of spiritual growth
- The right of conscience and democratic process within the congregation

The Church

The English word church translates from the Greek word "**Ekklesia**," meaning: a called-out group, a group that has convened, or is about to convene.

This terminology is normally ascribed to churches but may also apply to assembled groups other than churches, such as those referring to themselves as Unitarian Universalism.

Often thought of as a church, they are far from being one. They themselves refute Christianity, the Bible, and its doctrines. They do not wish to be called a church, nor Christians. As a matter of fact, they find Christian theology offensive.

David and Goliath: A Case for David

They believe that a higher power (God, god) initiated creation, but then evolution (as taught by Darwin) began its process.

They teach that the Gospel writers were deceivers who tried to make Jesus God when He actually was not, and that the Bible is a good book of stories concerning moral concepts and values—in which they pick and choose what to believe or not believe—but as a whole, not true.

The U.U. teaches that the Bible has no absolute or infallible guide for man, and that accepting biblical truths is really a matter of personal choice and opinion.

They believe in one god (monotheism) and follow Jehovah's Witness and Mormon beliefs in denying a triune God.

They reject any pre-existence of Christ, teaching that He was merely a good man and a prophet.

They believe that no loving God (god) would send anyone into a hell of eternal torment. The U.U.'s view of the Bible is that:

"It is an entirely human product, a result of the thinking of fallible and sometimes of ignorant men."

Their theological liberalism teaches that man is sinless—therefore has no need for a Savior—thus the Cross of Calvary was needless. They teach that man is not totally depraved, but rather is morally perfectible.

They believe: no life after death, that this earthly life is all man gets, no judgment, no hell, no eternal punishment (any consequences of sin were suffered in our earthly lives), and they have eroded the emphasis on God.

Sin?

The U.U. does not believe in sin, but rather that man is naturally good—and if you want to become better, you've got to do it yourself. This is a works-based view of salvation.

They teach that education is the way to salvation or victory, and that evil is caused by ignorance, poverty, and social injustice. According to them, salvation through education is the way to purity.

To Be Free?

Some of the U.U. followers from history past included Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Howard Taft. Other subscribers were Charles Darwin, P.T. Barnum (circus), and actress Marlo Thomas.

A book (an extreme feminist writing) by U.U. follower Marlo Thomas, published in 1974, loosens the boundaries of morality by advocating that our children grow up in a gender-neutral and free-thinking society.

But free from what?

The Bible teaches that we can be free from sin.

The U.U. teaches that you are free to sin, for they do not believe in sin at all—and just about anything goes.

Conclusion

The U.U. seems to be a fitting religion for today's yuppie culture—for it is an easy belief system (with entertaining social gatherings), no commitment, no serious theology, and a Santa Claus god where everybody lives happily ever after...

What a deal!

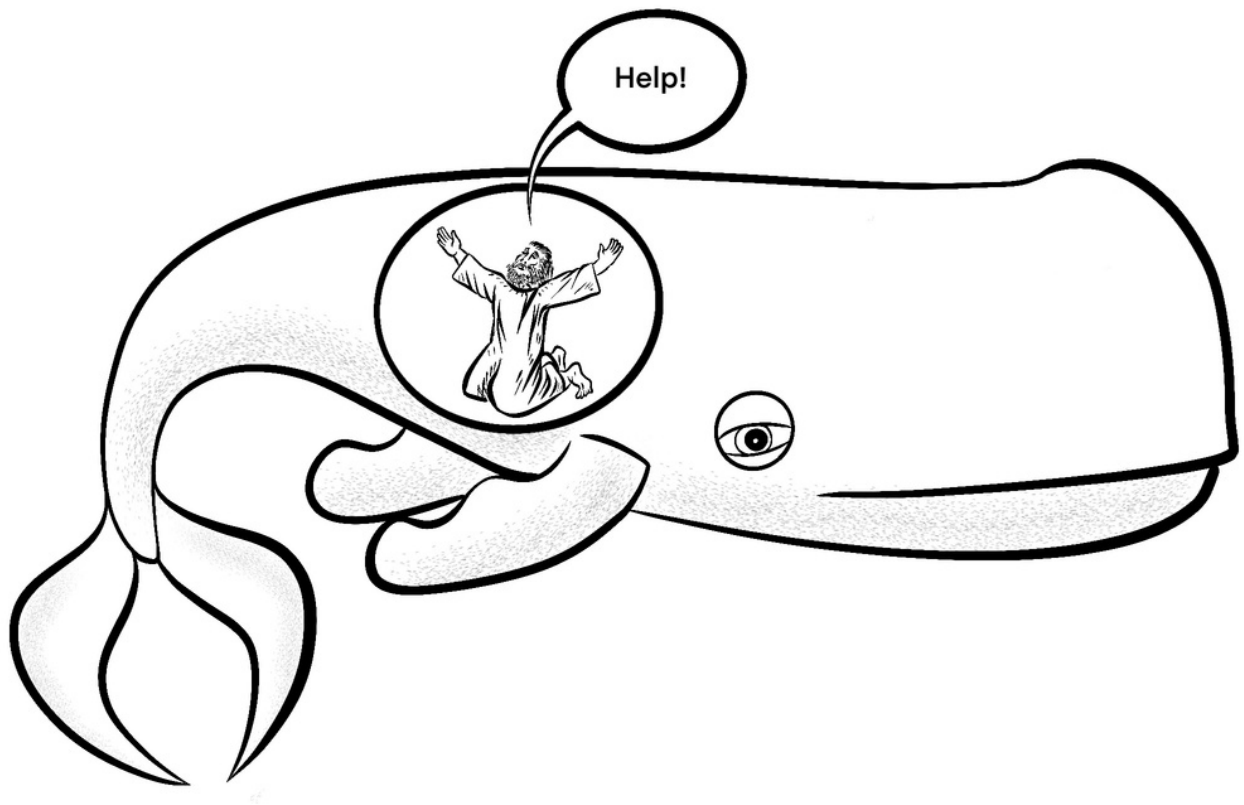
What Say Ye?
(Blog us on our site)

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Bible Study of

Jonah



by Sifu Herb Patus

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Jonah Swallowed by A Whale... Really?

There are a number of interesting points involving the story of Jonah and his unusual three-day/three-night journey at sea in the stomach of whom most consider to be a whale. Although Jonah's situation was special, he was probably not the first human to be swallowed by an animal—and was certainly not the last.

Humans Swallowed by Animals?

Although there have been past reports of those claiming to have been swallowed by whales and survived, critics say these stories were never verified. However, there are some that were:

- **March 25, 2017** – At a palm oil plantation on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, a 25-year-old harvest worker, Akbar Salubiro, was swallowed whole by a 23-foot reticulated python, where he died. Internet footage of his body being cut out of the snake may easily be found.
- **June 14, 2018** – In a rocky area of Muna Island, Indonesia, a 54-year-old woman, Wa Tiba, while checking her vegetable garden at night, was swallowed whole by a python. Internet footage of her body being cut out of the snake may also be found.

The Giant Green Anaconda

This snake grows up to 29 feet in length and, weighing 550 lbs., is more than capable of swallowing a human.

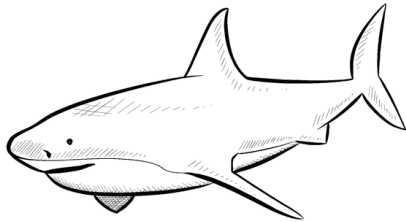
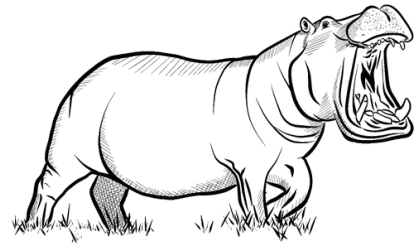
Doctors say that when a pressure squeeze occurs—such as that of an anaconda or python—the massive increase in blood pressure would instantly stop or rupture the heart, even before asphyxiation.

For a study of this snake's hunting and feeding habits, 27-year-old **Paul Rosolie**, fitted into a specially designed suit, roamed through the jungles of Peru until he found the right anaconda. He then allowed the snake to purposely swallow him whole (without the crushing) and lived to talk about it. This feat was achieved by Discovery Channel's *Eaten Alive* programming. There was, however, a bit of hyperbole in this story—but it does make an interesting point.



Jonah

The hippopotamus (translated “water horse”) has a mouth and throat large enough to swallow a small human, but probably not a full-grown adult.

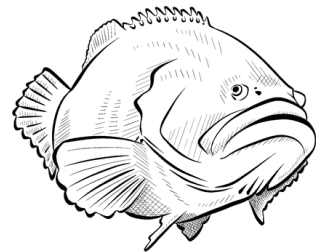


February 2014 – Twenty-eight-year-old Sam Kellet and friends were free diving in South Australia (Goldsmith Beach). The friends heard Sam scream, then a large white pointer shark thrashed in the water where Sam was. They looked under the water and saw some blood, but no other sign of Sam or the shark.

Great white sharks are capable of swallowing humans but usually shred with their teeth first.

Whale sharks are large enough to swallow a human but have an esophagus the size of a quarter. It is believed that a 7–10 ton whale shark could possibly swallow a human but would not. Their mouths are large enough to accommodate a man sitting in a chair.

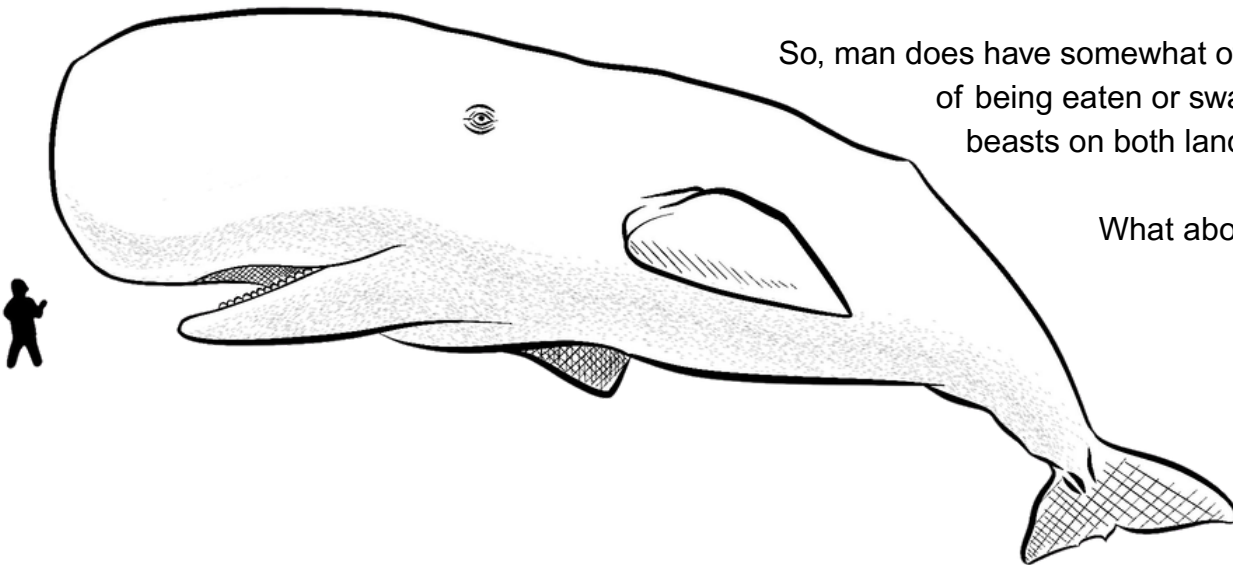
The feared Atlantic goliath grouper grows up to 8 feet long and 800 lbs. It has been known to attack divers as well as various types of sharks and is believed to have the capability to swallow a human.



The sperm whale has the ability to swallow a human, but not the nature to do so. In 1955, a 405 lb. squid was found in the belly of a sperm whale.

So, man does have somewhat of a history of being eaten or swallowed by beasts on both land and sea.

What about Jonah?



The Swallowing of Jonah

Our goal is not to review the entire book of Jonah in detail, but rather to point out some biblical facts to its legitimacy. Many reject the account of Jonah due to the belief that no man could survive three days and three nights in the belly of a whale—especially without an adequate supply of oxygen.

The word whale may not have been the KJV translators' best choice of words to describe the beast that swallowed Jonah, for during the 1600s, the English language did not distinguish the difference between a fish or a mammal, and a whale was considered to be a "big fish."

The Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures refer to this creature as dag gadol:

- **Dag** = fish, or creature (sea) of some kind
- **Gadol** = great size

The Hebrew word—both then and now—for whale is Leviathan. However, this word was never used in the Jonah account to describe a whale, but rather a sea monster.

Stronger Words Yet

When the Old Testament Scriptures were translated into Greek (Septuagint), the term **dag gadol** ("great fish") was interpreted to mean **ketei megalo**—Greek for "**mega-sized ketos**." The word **ketos** can mean a large sea creature of any kind, even a sea dragon. It is derived from the root word **phobetron** (fob-ay-tron), meaning "**a frightening thing**" or "**a fearful sight**." This is not the way a whale would normally be described.

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:40** that "as Jonah was in the belly of the **ketos** (not whale) three days and three nights." No one knows exactly what kind of creature this was, for whales are mammals, and Scripture teaches that God had prepared (a great fish) something special for Jonah.

The word **manah** means "to prepare, to appoint, to carefully weigh, to put into portion." This word is used only four times in Scripture—all in the book of Jonah and pertaining to Jonah himself. Any time God says He prepares something, it is special.

God Prepared

Jonah 1:17 – The Lord prepared a great fish.

Jonah 4:6 – The Lord prepared a great gourd.

- This would not be a literal gourd as we know it in English.
- **Gourd** = (Heb.) **qiqayon** = Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis* species), incredibly fast-growing, and classified as the most poisonous plant on earth.
- One milligram of the poison ricin from the husks of the seeds (beans) can kill a human adult.



Jonah 4:7 – God prepared a worm, that it “smote” the gourd so that it withered.

- **Smote** = **nakah** = to strike, to severely wound, kill, or slay.

Although “the worm” in Scripture could mean multiple worms, here God prepared a worm (singular). The worm was thought to be the **Olepa schleini** (moth) worm, the major enemy of the *Ricinus communis* plant, for it sucks the moisture out of it, causing it to quickly wither.

This particular worm was sought after as an ingredient for making red dye, as it takes approximately 70,000 insects to produce one pound of dye.



The desert heat in Nineveh ranges from 109–114°F but can be as high as 129°F (or hotter, if God pleases). The sand in the desert retains heat that is much hotter than the air; therefore, high desert winds blowing sand into the atmosphere can substantially raise the air temperature.

Remember—God prepared a special wind for Jonah.

Jonah 4:8 – God prepared an east wind.

It was not just a wind, but a vehement (strong, intense, violent) wind.

Winds in the desert are always exceptionally strong, so God’s specially prepared wind must have been an extreme, sand-blasting occasion.



So, the worm smote the plant. The *Olepa schleini* worm attacks the stem or root of the *Ricinus* plant and sucks the juices dry, leaving the plant to wither. The extreme heat and vehement winds that helped expose the roots may have aided the worm in quickly killing the plant.

Jonah was on the coast, where the wind normally blows onshore (west wind). The east wind came from the desert, blowing heated air and sand directly on Jonah. This drove Jonah to thirst and to faint. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

Scoffers

Scoffers of the Jonah account take every opportunity to turn it into a fairy tale, fable, or legend. However, the Bible-believing Christian has the faith to believe that this is just another supernatural event by God, one who is able to expedite issues, forcing them into a climax, as seen here with the fish, gourd, worm, and east wind that God expedited.

Another example of God expediting is the hardening of man's heart. God never hardens a soft heart but will condense an already hard heart in order to bring its existing hardness to the surface and to a conclusion.

When Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to release God's people from slavery, **Exodus 7:13** says that God hardened (chazaq) Pharaoh's heart so that he would not.

- **Harden = chazaq** = encourage, force, make hard, harden, play the man, become.

The death angel that killed the firstborn under the age of two years old (unless covered by the blood on the doorpost) convinced Pharaoh to release God's people. But as the Israelites approached the Red Sea, God hardened Pharaoh's heart again:

Exodus 14:4 – “And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them... so that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.”

So, God does prepare. The Lord is a God who prepares for those who believe in His Son Jesus—and a place for those who reject Him.

The Offer Is Made

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Unto Condemnation

John 3:18 – He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

For those who believe in Him, **John 14:2** says that He prepares a mansion—a special dwelling place.

1 Corinthians 2:9 teaches that man is unable to comprehend in his heart (mind) the great things that God has prepared for those who love Him.

A Place for Those Who Reject

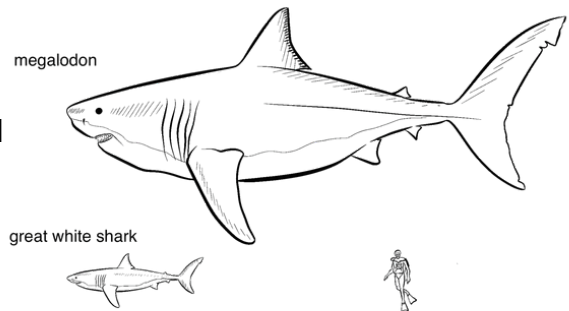
Matthew 25:41 teaches that Hell was prepared for Satan and his angels—not for man. However, it will be the final destination for all who reject Christ's offer of salvation.



The Story of Jonah Is a Portrait of Christ

There have been prehistoric fish capable of devouring humans, such as the giant monster megalodon shark—60 feet long and four times the size of a great white—which may have been able to swallow several humans at one time.

Could God have implanted a brain disorder into a normally passive sperm whale, causing abnormal behavior and thus swallowing Jonah? Or could He have enlarged the throat of an 80-foot, 200-ton blue whale (the largest mammal on earth) to do the job? Or was it among the unknown species of deep-sea creatures that have eluded scientists for centuries?



Perhaps—but probably not. This ketos was a one-time “prepared fish” for a one-time job.

Another instance where God prepared for a specific action is found in **1 Kings 22:34**, where “a certain man drew a bow at venture, then blindly shot into the air, striking King Ahab between his armor and killing him.”

Certain = (Hebrew) **echad** (ekh-awd) = a man, once, only.

The Bible describes this archer as a “certain” man—an only, one-time man. And so, God prepared a one-time-only mega fish especially for Jonah.



What About Jonah's Oxygen Supply?

Was Jonah really swallowed by a great fish? Jesus believed so.

And did he survive in the belly for three days and three nights? Apparently not, for Jesus said in **Matthew 12:40**: “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's (ketos) belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

When Jesus was buried in the heart of the earth, He was dead for three days and three nights—as was Jonah in the belly of the whale. The entire Jonah event was an Old Testament pictorial of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Jonah's Downhill Adventure

Disobedience to God is always a downhill trip, as Jonah soon learned, for the Bible teaches:

The Lord had called Jonah to prophesy unto Nineveh that they would be destroyed in forty days. These were to be the only words to the Ninevites. However, for reasons not revealed by Scripture, Jonah had a hatred for the Ninevites (Assyrians) and would rather taste death himself than deliver a message he felt would lead to salvation for those he passionately despised.

Jonah 1:3 – “But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish [in the opposite direction of Nineveh] from the presence of the Lord....” Jonah went down to Joppa, and he found a ship going to Tarshish, and went down into it.

Jonah 1:5 – He went down into the sides of the ship (birthing quarters).

Jonah 2:6 – “I went down to the bottom of the mountains (ocean floor), the earth with her bars was about me forever.”

He was dead and in hell (sheol), where he prayed a prayer of repentance unto the Lord (see **Jonah 2:7–9**) and vowed that salvation was unto the Lord and to whom He may grant it.

Jonah's Death

Let's look closer at Scripture that points to his death:

Jonah 2:1 – Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's (not whale) belly.

Jonah 2:2 – And he said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and He heard me

Note: At this point in Scripture, Jonah was in the fish's belly praying, and the Lord heard him. Due to the punctuation marks (;), there is a pause—then it continues to say: Out of the belly of hell cried I, and Thou heardest my voice.

The second time Jonah “cried out” was from hell (**sheol** = the unseen place for the dead). At this point, Jonah's lifeless body was in the fish, and his spirit (**soul**) was in hell (**sheol**).

Sheol is the two-compartment place spoken of in **Luke 16**, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus—one for the godly dead and the other for the ungodly dead. Jonah's soul rested in the compartment for the godly dead (as did Lazarus) until God heard his prayer and restored him.



Jonah 2:10 – And the Lord spake unto the fish (not whale), and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Let's Try This Again

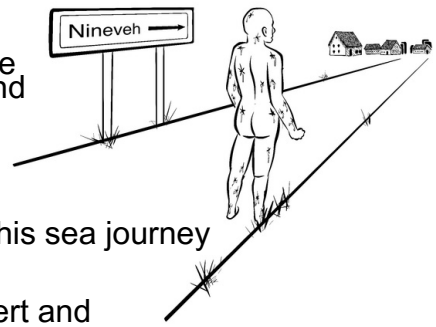
Jonah 3:1–2 – “And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.”

At this time, Jonah wised up and decided to obey the Lord's command. His actions changed, but not his attitude.

From the Mediterranean coast, where Jonah probably ended his sea journey via the “Great Fish,” it is approximately 700 miles to Nineveh.

This would be an estimated 2–3 week trek through harsh desert and mountainous terrain.

The 3-day walk mentioned in **Jonah 3:3** was how long it would take for Jonah to walk from end to end across the city. Nineveh was an exceedingly great city.



A Sign Is Given

Jonah journeyed into Nineveh as a sign with a message.

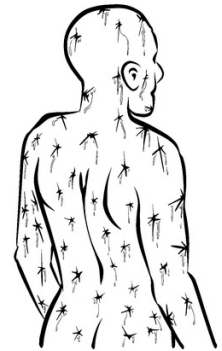
In **Matthew 12:38–39**, certain scribes and Pharisees were seeking a sign as to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, but He replied:

“There shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah.”

Jesus was telling them to read about Jonah—and expected them to believe it. The sign of Jonah was his damaged body from the gastric juices of the fish—proof of him being in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights—thus portraying Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Let us not underestimate his physical condition, for it is likely that he did not have a hair left on his body, and his putrid skin was a mass of horrid, oozing smelly scar tissue—perhaps even open wounds that would make one gasp to be near or even look upon. This is the nature of burns, whether acid or heat, and his injuries were fresh.

That was the sign—he was definitely noticed and taken seriously in Nineveh. Jonah's message was not of salvation, but condemnation. His only message was:



Jonah 3:4 – “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”

Jonah knew that God's loving hand of salvation was even offered to the wicked Ninevites, and he wanted nothing to do with the saving of Nineveh.

As a result, the king of Assyria heard and believed Jonah's message, then he himself—and his people—turned unto God.

So, Jonah fulfilled his God-given mission in Nineveh; however, he was exceedingly bitter about it and threw himself a “pity party”:

Jonah 4:1 – But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

Jonah 4:2 – And he prayed unto the Lord, and said, I pray Thee, O Lord, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that Thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest Thee of the evil.

Jonah 4:3 – Therefore now, O Lord, take, I beseech Thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

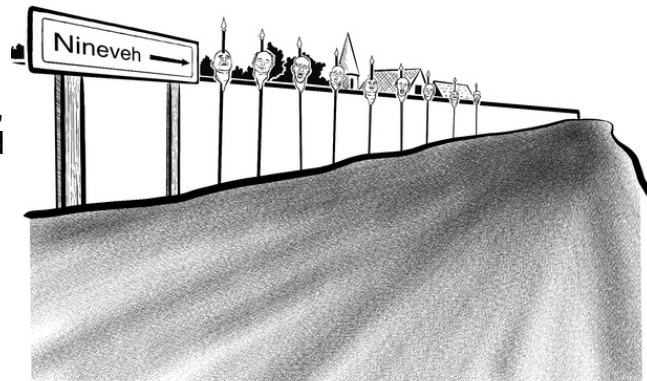
Righteous Anger?

What could have possibly been the cause for Jonah's extreme hatred toward the Ninevites? Scripture does not say why, but major theologians believe it was due to the vicious Assyrian assaults on Israel.

(Today, Nineveh is a common name for parts of Mosul, in Iraq.)

The Assyrians attacked the fortified cities of the Judean Kingdom and even ruled Israel for three years. Assyria was an exceedingly wicked and cruel nation, with a worldwide reputation for being fierce, vicious warriors of extreme cruelty and a gory, bloodcurdling history.

The torture of those captured by the Assyrians included having their noses, ears, and limbs cut off; eyes gouged out; skin and scalps peeled off—then being burned alive. Heads would be decapitated and hung on trees, or bodies impaled and displayed on stakes at the gates of the city.



(Sounds like modern-day ISIS.)

After torturing and enslaving the inhabitants of a city, they would destroy the crops and houses, then deport the people into Assyrian territories (see **2 Kings 18:10–11**). For this reason, Assyria was greatly feared as well as hated by the existing world.

Could Jonah's family have been victimized by these Assyrians—whose capital city was Nineveh?

A Powerful Hatred

Jonah's hatred of the Assyrians is consistent with the cruelties of war.

During WWII, the French were victims of such cruelty that they created the French underground—where every brave man, woman, and even child who lost family would gladly forfeit their lives (and many did) in order to kill Germans.

There are those in this world today who, if somebody killed their loved one, would seek revenge unto death. Was this not like Jonah?

A king controls his people in every way. After hearing of Jonah's plight and physical condition, which substantiated his message, King Sennacherib of Nineveh believed and repented unto God—as did his subjects. However, sometimes as kings change, so do their spiritual practices. This was the case with Nineveh, for they had returned to their old ways; therefore, God dealt with them again.

Back to Their Old Ways

In 701 BCE, Assyrian King Sennacherib amassed his army to siege Jerusalem.

It did not go well for him, for the Lord swore to protect Israel... and He did.

It is recorded in:

2 Kings 19:32 – Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with a shield, nor cast a bank against it.

(**Bank** = military assault)

2 Kings 19:33 – By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord.

2 Kings 19:34 – For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

2 Kings 19:35 – And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

2 Kings 19:36 – So Sennacherib, king of Assyria, departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

2 Kings 19:37 – And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon, his son, reigned in his stead.

The Assyrians showed up 185,000 strong, aiming to “pluck” them into oblivion. However, all plucking is under God's control:

John 10:28–29 teaches that if one belongs to God, no man shall pluck him from His hand.

Note: Verse 28 says that no man shall pluck them from the hand of Jesus, while verse 29 says that no man shall pluck them from the Father's hand. Why is that?

Jesus goes on to say in **John 10:30** – I and my Father are one. This is just one of the many claims by Jesus to His deity, for the closest man will ever be to seeing God is to look into the face of Jesus.

For a fuller understanding of deity, read: kenpoconnection.com Bible Study of Deity.

So there is no misunderstanding as to the validity of Scripture. His promise to defend is repeated in:

2 Chronicles 32:21 – And the Lord sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

Again, The Power of An Angel on Display

In a separate incident, the Scriptures speak of an event concerning David's sin, where an angel drew his sword to slay the masses.

1 Chronicles 21:15 – And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as He was destroying, the Lord beheld, and He repented Him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the Lord stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

A Scriptural Lapse in Time

Note: As we read Scripture, we must be aware that often a period between sentences—or even a comma—can indicate a substantial lapse in time.

Assyria masses a 185,000-man army.

God sends an angel to destroy them.

King Sennacherib returns home in shame.

When he goes into his house of worship, he is slain by his own two sons.

History records the failed siege as taking place in 701 BCE.

History also records King Sennacherib's assassination in 681 BCE.

There appears to be a 20-year time gap between the king's return from a disastrous failure and his assassination.

We must always study the Word with a prudent eye.

Timeline

- Jonah lived during the reign of Jeroboam III — 786–746 BCE
- Attempted Assyrian siege of Jerusalem — 701 BCE
- Assyrian king Sennacherib assassinated — 681 BCE

A Depiction of Mercy

The book of Jonah not only portrays the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, but also displays His infinite mercy.

Other than denying Jesus as Lord and Savior, there is no sin so horrific that it cannot be forgiven.

Baptism Saves?

And to all those who teach that baptizing a baby will secure them a place in Heaven—how about some of history's mass murderers who may have been baptized as children, yet curse and deny God with their last dying breath? Do they have a place in Heaven?

Critics of Jonah Are Correct

To those who claim that Jonah could not have been swallowed by a whale—and if so, could not have survived three days and three nights—they are correct. He was not swallowed by a whale and did not survive the three-day “fish ride” that God had prepared for him.

The Cult Of Catholicism

The Cult of Catholicism

Although there are insurmountable differences between Catholicism and Christianity, there is a certain fondness for Catholics due to their belief in the triune God and many of His eternal promises. However, we must never compromise the gospel.

The Catholic method of achieving biblical salvation is fatally flawed, for should someone on a deathbed seek assurance of Heaven, confessing to a Catholic priest or pope would not get the job done. But that's not their only flaw.



Definition of a Cult

When searching the internet for the definition of a cult, the media will often define it as merely churches disagreeing with one another on doctrine. The truth of the matter, however, is that a cult is an organization whose teachings contradict Holy Scripture—as does Catholicism.

Christianity Defines A Cult As:

- Only members of their organization can ever hope to see Heaven.
- The leadership of their organization has the ultimate authority to alter the Holy Scriptures.
- Members must accept the organization's literature (including their pseudo-Bibles) as God's Word.

So, Catholicism does seem to fit the definitions that constitute a cult, and by their own admission Roman Catholics are not Christian. However, one can be a saved, Heaven-bound Catholic member if their confession of sin goes to no man (priest or pope), but rather to Jesus in prayer. This establishes a personal relationship with God.

One cannot be part of a congregation that rejects Christ as Lord (such as Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons) and ever expect to see Heaven.

The Pope – Extreme Authority?

The Vatican lays claim to being God's true Church based on misinterpreted Scripture. So, let's take a closer look at the Rock upon which Christ built His Church.

Peter's Confession

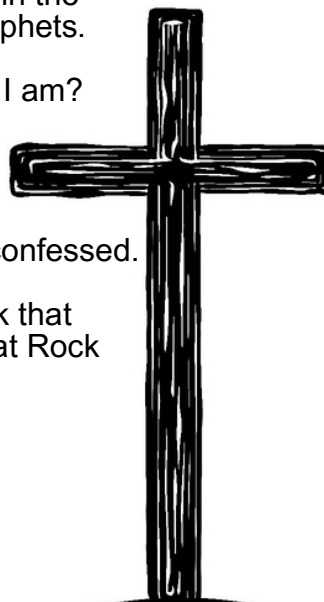
Jesus asked His disciples:

Matthew 16:13 – Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?

Matthew 16:14 – And they said, Some say that Thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

Matthew 16:15 – He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Matthew 16:16 – And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.



So, the “Rock” here is Christ—the Rock—as Peter had just confessed.

1 Corinthians 10:4 speaks of Christ being the spiritual Rock that followed the Israelites in the desert for forty years: “...and that Rock was Christ.”

Throughout Scripture, Christ is referred to as the Rock.

(For a more detailed study of the “Rock,” read the Kenpoconnection.com bible study of *Deity*.)

Peter – A Pebble?

Not only was Peter not the Rock, but upon introduction, Jesus called him a pebble.

(**John 1:42**) – And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

(**Matthew 16:18**) – And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (a little stone), and upon this Rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Now that Peter (Cephas) had confessed that Jesus was the Christ (the Rock), Jesus responded by saying that upon this same Rock—meaning the confession that Jesus is the Christ—He would build His church.

This power grab by Catholicism was due to a misinterpretation of verse 19:

(**Matthew 16:19**) – And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven.

The “keys” represent the authority to open the kingdom of Heaven through evangelizing the gospel of Jesus Christ, as Peter would demonstrate on the Day of Pentecost when 3,000 were saved and added to the existing church (Catholicism was not yet in existence).

It is interesting to note that here Jesus referred to Himself as the Christ:

(**Matthew 16:20**) – Then charged He His disciples that they should tell no man that He was the Christ.

Jonah

When properly interpreted, these Scriptures demonstrate that the foundation of Catholicism is corrupt, for Jesus never appointed Peter as head of the church. Jesus Himself is the head (cornerstone) of the church.

Peter, nor any other, has ever been labeled in Scripture as a pope or “father.” In fact, we are instructed to call no man “Father” in a spiritual sense:

Here, the word **Father** comes from the prime root word **pater** (pat-ayr), which describes father/Father as literal or figurative. The translators gave an example of each so there would be no misunderstanding about calling a mere man “father” with spiritual authority.

Matthew 23:9 – And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in Heaven.

The Bible never called Peter a pope (spiritual father), nor is there any mention of kissing Peter’s ring—though he probably never wore one.

The Bible has never referred to any man as being infallible, as Catholicism claims their popes to be. Jesus was the only infallible one.
Catholic doctrine is built upon a false foundation.

A Biblical Foundation

Foundation is everything, and the Bible speaks much about it—for without a foundation, you have nothing.

Luke 6:49 – Jesus taught that a house must have a strong foundation lest it crumble.

Romans 15:20 – Speaks of building on another man’s foundation. Has Catholicism built their house on a foundation that belongs to another?

Jesus placed His church under no man’s control, for man is sinful and corrupt.

Luke 18:19 – ...None is good, save one, that is, God.

Matthew 13 – Jesus speaks much about the foundation needed for a seed to properly root.

Matthew 7:15–23 – Jesus compares false prophets to faulty foundations.

Matthew 7:17 – But a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Matthew 7:20 – Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

We will definitely scrutinize the foundation, roots, and fruit of Catholicism; however, Jesus Himself (not Peter) is head of the church, with all prayers going to Him—not a preacher, priest, pope, nor even angels.

Christ – Head of the Church:

- **Matt 21:42**
- **Luke 20:17**
- **Ephesians 2:20**
- **1 Peter 2:6**
- **Acts 4:11**
- **Colossians 1:18**
- **Ephesians 5:23** – As Christ is head of the church.

Pagan Practice

Constantine issued an edict of toleration in 313 BC, freeing Christians as well as pagans to worship. Thus began the formation of Catholicism, with their first pagan pope, Miltiades (311–314 BC), under Constantine. Christians believe that Catholicism began its growth here—leaving a murderous, vile trail of corruption as it expanded.

Before Constantine, Catholicism as we know it today did not exist. Therefore, it had to build on another's foundation—that of the Christian church—falsely labeling God's apostles and disciples as Catholic popes and priests.

A major portion of Catholic paganism is their practice of confession to sinner-priests, who attempt to assume the role of Jesus in mediating sin to the Father.

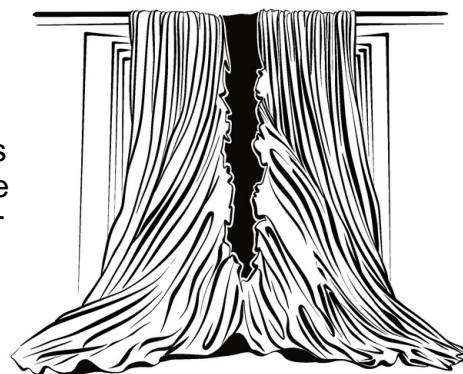
Catholicism maintains that a mediator and an intercessor are not the same, thus allowing them to pray (as intercessors) to Mary and the dead saints. However, whether it be a mediator or intercessor, it is still a Scripturally forbidden go-between.

If Catholicism wants to maintain Old Testament law regarding priests being the go-between for man and God, then why do they not use animal sacrifice as the Old Testament priests practiced?

Also, nowhere in Scripture—Old Testament or New Testament—does anyone confess sins to a priest for forgiveness.

When the Curtain Came Down

When Jesus gave up the ghost at Calvary, several miracles happened simultaneously—one being the veil in the temple tearing in two, thus eliminating the need for a priest to offer sacrifice for the people.



Jesus is now the High Priest, and all men can (and must) go directly to Him in prayer for forgiveness of sin and all other requests or matters.

The Dispensation of Law ended; yet Catholicism today still practices confessing to priests (Sacraments of Reconciliation). Although confession may be done often, members are obligated to attend at Easter and practice the sacrament at least once a year.

Confess to Who?

God's plan of salvation is simple and free—all for the asking.

When the Philippian jailor asked Paul how to be saved:

Acts 16:30 – Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

Acts 16:31 – And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

His house would be saved not by proxy, but because a man would spiritually lead his family. When the Ethiopian eunuch inquired about salvation, Philip preached Jesus to him. As they approached the water, the eunuch said:

Acts 8:36 – They came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

Philip could have easily scooped up some water and sprinkled him, but no—this baptism was by immersion (the only Scriptural way).

Acts 8:37 – And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

As here, belief is always the prerequisite to baptism.

Acts 8:38 – And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Acts 8:39 – And when they were come up out of the water.

This is the biblical method of how to obtain salvation through Christ: believe in your heart that Jesus is who He says He is—the Son of God—confess unto the Lord with your mouth, and thou shalt be saved.

Scriptural baptism adds one to the church—not being sprinkled as a child.

For a detailed study of who Christ claimed to be, see the **Kenpoconnection.com Bible Study Deity**.

Although this is the Scriptural method of obtaining salvation, Catholicism does not see it that way.

The Pope – Infallible?

So, who are these “holy, infallible” men—self-assuming the role of Jesus—that Catholicism places all their faith and trust in for a path to biblical salvation? Are they spotless or blameless as Holy Scripture demands of the church and its leaders?

(Ephesians 5:27) – That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

(2 Corinthians 6:3) – Teaches that we should operate in a manner so that the ministry not be blamed.

Holy leadership for a Scriptural church is a must—and a prerequisite for position.

1 Timothy 3:2 – A bishop must be blameless.

1 Timothy 3:10 – A deacon must be blameless.

In **Titus 3:1–4**, the Apostle Paul describes the meek manner in which church leaders should be:

Obey the law, be ready to do good work, speak evil of no man, be gentle, show meekness to all men.

Does Catholicism and its leadership align with the biblical mandate? If not, then they are not a Scriptural church. Let us compare and see.

Although the Vatican claims that its religious foundation dates back to Jesus and Peter, Christianity dates the pagan origins of Catholicism to approximately 300–600 A.D. We shall not squabble over dates; let’s look at their foundation, which is not that of Christianity.

Acts 11:26 – And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. (No Catholics nor their doctrines were there.)

You will never read of the New Testament leaders of God’s true church committing atrocities.

With the beginning of Catholicism (the “Johnny-come-late” crowd), evil began to deceive many into believing they were a Scriptural church—while their leadership, policies, and doctrines conducted themselves as the pure, disgusting sinners they truly are.

Catholicism’s Holy Popes

God’s true church is holy at all times and never goes through a “transition period” where it evolves from a wicked, evil beginning into a clean, “spotless” church—as Catholicism claims.

Jonah

Catholicism had no popes before Constantine, but let's look into the ones they did have. This list of popes may not be in exact order; however, they were all out of order, and we will merely touch on their immoralities.

Illicit sex involving homosexuality, affairs, adultery, bestiality, and even murder has plagued Catholic leadership from its foundation. The membership would confess their sins to ungodly priests and leaders who had taken vows of chastity—yet turned their monasteries into dens of corruption, with priests and nuns having sexual affairs resulting in children, and even deaths.

- **Pope Stephen VI (896–897):** Had his predecessor, Pope Formosus, exhumed, retried, had his fingers cut off (so a ring could never be put on him), and thrown into the Tiber River—later to be reburied. Stephen VI was later imprisoned, then strangled to death by supporters of Formosus.
- **Pope John XII (955–964):** At the age of 18 assumed the throne and was soon involved in operating brothels and gambling with church monies. He gave land to his mistress and was responsible for murder. Ultimately, he was caught in adultery with another man's wife, savagely beaten, and died three days later. Otto of Saxony wrote to the young pope, saying that everyone was accusing "his holiness" of homicide, perjury, sacrilege, incest with two of his sisters, and invoking pagan gods.
- **Pope Benedict IX (1032–1048, three separate terms):** Described as a "demon from hell," his unspeakable deeds to obtain office included stealing and murder. He eventually sold his position. He was said to have been homosexual and to have practiced bestiality.
- **Pope Boniface VIII (1294–1303):** A violent bully who did not hesitate to have those who crossed him murdered. He was a pedophile who enjoyed sleeping with boys, saying that "pedophilia was no more unnatural (or sinful) than rubbing your hands together." He practiced adultery and incest, even having a threesome with a mother and daughter. In 1303, he was kidnapped and beaten to death by his enemies.
- **Pope Paul II (1464–1471):** Practiced homosexuality and had an affair with a page.
- **Pope Sixtus IV (1471–1484):** Said to have fathered six illegitimate children, including one with his sister. He created a tax on prostitution and charged priests for having mistresses.
- **Pope Innocent VIII (1484–1492):** Had many illegitimate children, admitting to at least eight papal bastards (and possibly more) referred to as "nephews." In a 1484 document, he expressed strong support for "witch hunting." He also profited from the slave trade between Portugal and Spain.
- **Pope Alexander VI (1492–1503):** Purchased his office, had several mistresses, fathered nine illegitimate children, hosted orgies, and sold his position upon retiring.
- **Pope Julius II (1503–1513):** Known as a ferocious, hot-tempered pope, he fathered three daughters out of wedlock. He suffered from syphilis, and by 1508, was so full of sores that his faithful could no longer kiss him.

- **Pope Leo X (1513–1521):** Allowed the faithful to “buy their way into Heaven” by selling indulgences promising special leniency from God. Upon his death, the papacy was nearly bankrupt.
- **Pope Paul IV (1555–1559):** Known for his anti-Semitism, he created a Jewish ghetto and forced Jews to wear yellow hats.
- **Pope Urban VIII (1623–1644):** Church leader when Galileo was threatened by the Vatican with being burned at the stake unless he recanted his teaching that the sun was the center of the universe, not the earth.

A Corrupt Foundation

Nothing good can come from a corrupt, evil foundation; therefore, arguing or debating Catholic doctrine is futile, for Catholicism is not a church by biblical standards.

Christianity is based on free will. Nowhere in Scripture do Christians conquer and then force their beliefs on captives, as the Spanish did during the Crusades—and everywhere else in the world they went—torturing and killing in the name of Catholicism.

Catholicism will say, “That was a long time ago, when the early church was evolving through turbulent times.” However, one thing that all popes—throughout history until now—do have in common is the papal claim to forgive sin, teach and/or alter Scripture or doctrine, and even claims of being infallible.

Spanish Crusades referred to as the Reconquista, to convert or die.

This transpired under Popes Urban II, Callixtus, Alexander II, Sixtus IV, Innocent VIII, and Alexander VI, who all backed the convert or die policy of Catholicism.

Under Catholicism, the Spanish Conquistador Hernan Corte’s brutally slaughtered and devastated the Aztec civilization into oblivion while implementing the convert or die policy of Catholicism.

The same fate decimated the Incas through Conquistador Francisco Pizarro in a one-year campaign, although a strong resistance followed for decades.

After capturing the Inca leader Atahualpa, they forced him to convert to Catholicism, then eventually killed him.

This was solely an act of Catholicism, not Christianity.

These were Catholics, not Christians.

Major Differences Between Catholicism vs Christian Churches

1. No idols are found in a Christian Church, nor do Christians bow down in front of them to pray.
2. A dead Jesus hanging on a cross is not found in a Christian Church, for He is alive forevermore.
3. Christians do not pray to Mary nor worship her in any way (Scripture says that Mary is blessed among women, not above them). She is not able to hear nor answer prayer.
4. Christians do not pray to dead saints.
5. Christians do not take it upon themselves to determine sainthood. The word **saint** is derived from the word **sanctify** = set apart for God's purposes.

All born again believers in Christ are set apart for God's purposes, which is to take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world.

1 Peter 2:9 says that every believer is a priest through Christ (also see **Revelation 1:6 – 5:10 – and 20:6**).

There are no super saints... just saints.

The Worship of Mary

Where does Catholicism get their doctrine of praying to, and even the worship of Mary? Certainly not from the scriptures, for:

(Exodus 34:14) For the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

(Deuteronomy 4:24) For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

(Deuteronomy 5:8) Thou shall not make thee any graven image, or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters that is beneath the earth.

(Deuteronomy 5:9) Thou shall not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...

(Isaiah 42:8) I am the Lord; that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to carved idols.

This includes images of Mary and the multiple dead saints of Catholicism that they bow a knee to. Jesus does not need Mary or any other dead saint to bring a prayer to him, and actually forbids it.

Jonah

Catholicism's worship of Mary stems from Mary's interaction with Jesus at the wedding of Cana (the first recorded miracle), where Jesus granted her request to provide wine for the guests whose wine had ran out.

Even so, Jesus responded by saying, "**Woman**" (**gune**), what have I to do with thee? Mine hour hath not yet come.

Does this type of response sound like Jesus intends for Mary to be worshiped?

Though it may seem to be disrespectful in today's society for a woman to be addressed in this manner, not so in the Jewish culture of that day.

The English word **woman** = **gune** = goo-nay = wife, woman.

Gune is merely a respectful way to address a lady.

(**John 4:21**) Jesus addressed the Samaritan woman at the well as "woman" (gune).

(**John 8:10**) When the Scribes and Pharisees readied to stone the adulteress woman, Jesus wrote in the sand. The accusers left one by one.

Jesus then said, "Woman" (gune), where are your accusers?

(**Luke 13:11**) A woman with an infirmity of 18 years was bowed together (greatly hunched over) and came to Jesus. Jesus said, "Woman" (gune), thou art loosened from thine infirmity. She was made straight.

A woman came to Jesus concerning her demon possessed daughter. Jesus answered her as "woman" (gune).

(**Luke 22:57**) Here Peter denied Christ when a certain maiden accused him of being a follower of Jesus. Peter replied saying, "Woman, I know him not."

Note that Peter uses the same word (gune) to address his accuser as Jesus used to address Mary.

Woman / Mother

(**John 19:26**) Christ's third utterance on the cross was to Mary and his disciple John. With his dying breath (what love), he entrusted Mary's care unto John, saying (to Mary), "Woman" (gune), behold thy son.

(To John) behold thy **mother** (**meter**).
Mother = meter = may-tare = a mother.

Despite what Catholicism teaches, Jesus never referred to Mary as "mother" or "his mother," but rather "a mother" (a woman that has given birth to a child).

In the Jewish culture a woman's social status was based on the amount of children that she has borne. A barren woman had little respect given to her.

It is apparent through scripture that Jesus never thought of Mary as his mother, but rather as a fleshly vessel that was used by the Holy Spirit to bring Christ into humanity, thus fulfilling prophecy.

Breaking It Down

There are many today (not just Catholicism) that believe Mary was the Mother of Jesus. That's a yes, and a technical no.

Yes, Mary delivered Jesus into the world, but that alone does not match the fleshly requirement as we know it for a child to refer to his mother as "his mother."

A fleshly man and woman unite to conceive a child who can refer to his parents as "my mother" and "my father." This was not the case with Mary's delivery of Jesus the Christ, for Jesus had no fleshly father.

These words may seem harsh to some, but remember Jesus never referred to Mary as "mother" or "his mother," but rather thought of her as a vessel used by God for his purpose.

Who is My Mother?

(Matthew 12:27–50) Jesus was addressing a crowd when Mary and his brothers were standing by to speak with him.

Jesus was asked why he was ignoring his mother and brethren. Jesus replied, "Who is my mother and brethren?"

Jesus then stretched out his hands towards his disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren."

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and my sister and mother.

Spotless or Blameless?

But does Catholicism meet the biblical criteria for being a spotless church? Do these corrupt popes meet the criteria for being blameless?

Catholic parishioners may say that their leaders are just sinners like everyone else; however, sinless and blameless are not the same thing.

To those who say that "sin is sin," is not murder more of a sin than lying?

These Catholic popes are a prime example of why Jesus did not place Peter—nor any other man—in charge of His church. He alone is the cornerstone and head of the church. And what about those who have placed their faith and trust in these corrupt popes for their salvation?

Bad Seed?

There can be no doubt that these popes of Catholicism were indeed a bad seed planted by man, for these men could not have been of God.

Biblical salvation requires all prayers to be directed to Jesus—not via a priest—for they are from a corrupt seed, which the Bible warns us of:

1 Peter 1:23 – Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible.

One cannot be Scripturally born again via the doctrine of Catholicism.

Immorality Still Plagues Catholicism Today

Sex scandals involving homosexuality and pedophilia have cost the Vatican over three billion dollars. The way Catholic leadership would merely transfer a pedophile leader rather than hold them accountable for their ungodly actions is an atrocity in itself.

According to the Center for Applied Research in Apostolate at Georgetown University, as reported by NCR (*National Catholic Review*), there have been 16,276 credible allegations regarding the sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons, and religious brothers between 2004 and 2023. Three-fourths of these funds have been paid directly to abuse victims and for legal fees.

Although there are other religious institutions with moral failings, none come close to the volume that has plagued Catholicism. Sexual abuse by priests in third-world countries—such as in Africa—is also a growing problem. Due to the shame involved, many abuses go unreported, preventing a true abuse count.

The moral atrocities of Catholic leadership are alive and well today. Even as this study is being written, Catholic priests are again making news with headlines reading:

“Louisiana Priest Arrested for Alleged Threesome on Church Altar”

A witness recorded (via cellphone) late-night sexual activity on the altar of the Catholic Church, “Saint Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church” in New Orleans. Arrested was Travis Clark, priest of the church, for obscenity (on the altar of his church) and allegedly having sex in a publicly visible location with two women—Mindy Dixon, 41, and Melissa Cheng, 23—who were also arrested.

The day before the arrest, Dixon, an adult film actress and dominatrix, posted on social media that she was to meet another dominatrix and “defile a house of God.”

Can you imagine confessing to this guy? Well, the truth of the matter is that many have.

Even today, the ever-changing, evolving, man-made religion of Catholicism places the confession to a priest as more complete than confessing to God—teaching that the priest can render an immediate answer, whereas God may not.

No, We Are Not Christians – Now We Are

Until an alteration of their doctrines by the Vatican in the mid-1960s (1962–1965), all masses were conducted in Latin (the Tridentine Mass), parishioners were advised not to read Scripture, and they rigidly referred to themselves as Roman Catholics—not Christians.

However, after flip-flopping on the matter, the Vatican decided it would increase their social standing with the public to add the title of Christian to Catholicism.

Protestant

Catholicism claims that its religion is God’s true church and that all other churches were a breakaway from it. However, their foundation does not support this claim. Even those breakaway strains of Catholicism (Reformation Protestants) did so because of the corruption, evil, and unfettered power of Catholic leadership.

Although there may be various opinions as to when the Scriptural church actually began, it certainly was established by the Day of Pentecost mentioned in **Acts 2:41** – three thousand were added unto them.

These souls were added to the existing church—where there were no signs of Catholicism to be found.

Acts 2:47 – The Lord (not Peter) added to the church daily such as should be saved.

How to Know God's True Church

There is much confusion for many who search for God's true church by name, but there are so many organizations that claim to be Scriptural churches, so which one is right?

The true church may always be identified by the doctrine that is taught. The Lord's church is comprised of believers (in Christ alone) who are called out, set aside (for good works), sanctified (thus the word saint) to serve the church. And yes—every believer is a saint, a preacher, and has (or should have) a ministry.

The Lord's early churches had no name other than being referred to by the cities in which they were located. Each local church was responsible for maintaining itself—they sank or swam by their own merit, not as part of a universal church headed by corrupt, wealthy leadership.

A scriptural church is one that obeys God's Word as set forth by the Holy Scriptures, not adding to, or taking away from it. God's Word to man never changes, unlike man-made religions such as Catholicism.

Today, there are popes of Catholicism who attempt to override the Holy Scriptures by placing their acceptance and even blessings on that which God has cursed—most recently, Catholicism's Pope Francis (2013–2025).

On November 10, 2023, the Vatican gave its blessing for transgender individuals to be baptized and serve as godparents. He also allowed priests to bless same-sex couples, as well as supporting same-sex unions. He prefers to use the word "gay" rather than the actual biblical term "homosexual."

On October 21, 2023, Francis approved a document from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, stating that transgender people could be baptized into Catholicism. Francis was quoted as saying, "God does not disown any of His children." Catholicism fails to realize that man is born into this world as a creation of God—or children of the flesh—not children of God.

Romans 9:8: "...they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God."

Thus, **John 3:3 and 3:7:** "Ye must be born again."

1 Corinthians 6:9 provides a list of those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. The list includes fornicators, adulterers, and the effeminate (homosexuals).

1 Corinthians 5 focuses on the immorality of fornication in the church and instructs that the unrepentant transgressor be turned over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.

Again, **Galatians 5:19–21** clearly states that those who practice the works of the flesh—adultery, fornication, and lasciviousness (immoral sexual conduct)—cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

A major difference between a Godly (scriptural) Christian church and Catholicism is:

- In a Godly Christian church, a non-repentant sexual deviant is removed from the church.
- In Catholicism, the deviants are welcome to join their organization, be baptized, blessed, and then carry on with their ungodly lifestyle as usual.

•
When Pope Francis was asked about transgender individuals, homosexual unions, and marriages, he was quoted as saying, “Who am I to judge?” Yet the Bible clearly states in **Leviticus 20:13**:

“If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”

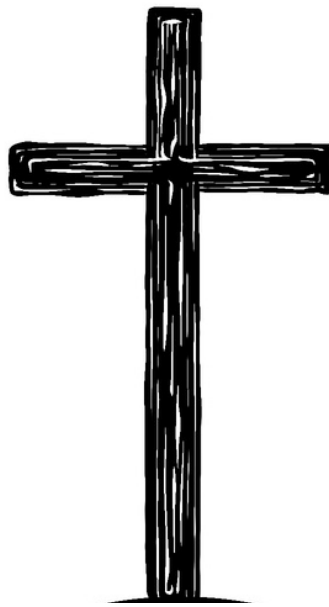
Bear in mind that whatever God labels as an abomination in the Old Testament is also an abomination in the New Testament.

Without A Foundation

- To destroy a skyscraper, merely blow up the foundation.
- A bridge crumbles when the stanchions are removed.
- Stop an attacker by kicking the legs out from under them.

Yes—foundation is everything, and without it nothing can stand.

The goal of this study is not to argue the pagan doctrines or rituals of Catholicism, but to scrutinize the foundation upon which their doctrine is based.



A Pertinent Testimony from the Author

To conclude this presentation regarding Catholicism, I am compelled to share this bizarre Catholic funeral that I attended for a co-worker. I will refer to him as Victor.

I had known Victor for many years; he was a hardcore atheist. He would speak of God with total disdain. He mocked Christ's work at Calvary with pure, unadulterated impudence.

However, the Bible says in **Hebrews 9:27**: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." And he did.

His brother was a deacon in Catholicism and presided over his funeral. I could not believe the words that came out of this man's mouth. He proceeded to say, "We can rest in assurance that Victor is in Heaven this day because he was baptized as a baby in the Catholic Church."

In actuality, the Bible teaches that a non-believer (such as Victor) is condemned:

John 3:18 – "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Catholicism has been "weighed in the balance and found wanting."

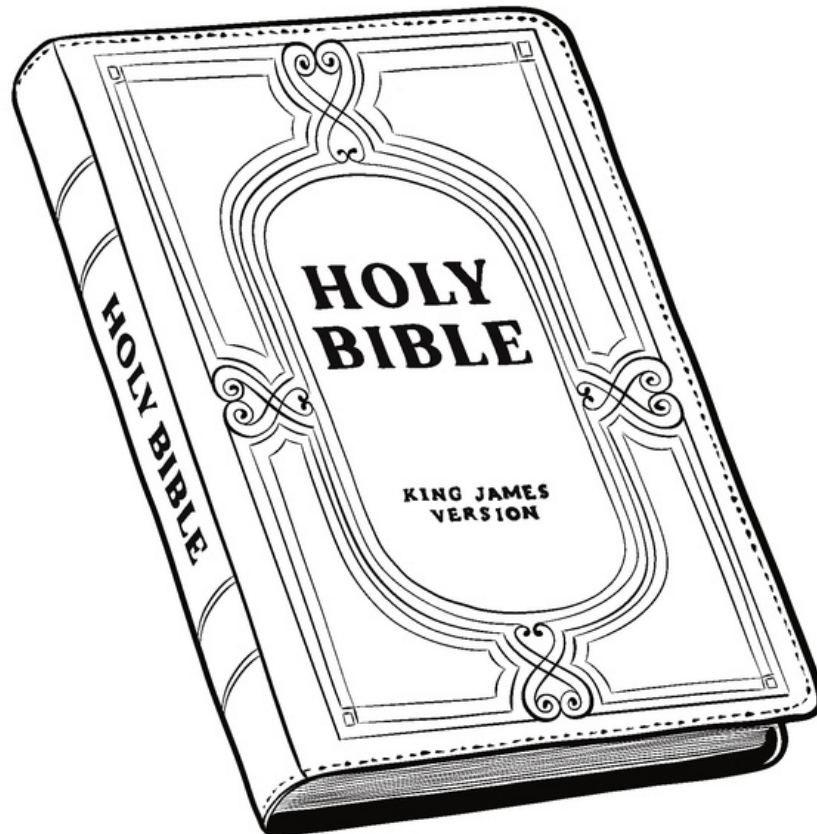
What Say Ye?
(Blog us on our site)

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Bible Study of

Deity



by Sifu Herb Patus

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The Name of God

To better understand the Deity of the Godhead, we must first understand what the Bible means when the name God is used, for it is an English word that has been translated from Old Testament Hebrew, Chaldean, and New Testament Koine Greek languages. These languages can, and do, contain multiple meanings for the same word; such is the case with the word “God.”

The term God is used some 3,090 times in the Old Testament, having been translated from 11 various names for God — maybe even more, for at one time the Jews, fearing misspelling His name, would use symbols to describe God.

Due to a variation of root words utilized, and the word processing of the many translations, it is not possible to obtain a uniform word count of Scripture. However, for the purpose of this Bible study, a word count of the KJV 1611 will be used—approximate, but as accurate as possible—for some kind of word count is paramount.

Root Words That the English Word “God” Was Translated From

1) Old Testament (O.T.) — 2,575 times: The name God was translated from the word **Elohiym** (el-o-heem), which is a bi-plural noun referring to one or more gods or God.

First used in **Genesis 1:1** — “In the beginning God (**Elohiym**) created the heaven and earth.”

2) Used 203 times: The name God was translated from the word **El** = strength, mighty, power, strong, deity.

First used in Scripture:

Genesis 14:18 — “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God (**El**).”

3) Used 77 times: The root word for God was **Elahh** = God, god.

First found in:

Ezra 4:24 — “Then ceased the work of the house of God (**Elahh**) which is at Jerusalem...”

Deity

- 4) Used 49 times: The word God means **Eloahh**: a deity, the Deity.

First used in Scripture:

Deuteronomy 32:15 — “Then he forsook God (Eloahh) which made him, and lightly esteemed the **Rock** (**tsuwr** = a cliff, sharp rock, mighty, God, strength, strong) of his salvation.”

- 5) Used 4 times: In O.T. Scripture, God means, **Yehovah** (**Yeh-ho-vaw**): self-existent, eternal, The Lord (Jehovah).

First found in **Genesis 6:5** — “And God (Yehovah) saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

The term Yehovah was also used twice by Moses in **Exodus 23:17** and **Exodus 34:23**, and once by David in **Second Samuel 12:22**.

- 6) Used 302 times: The name of God was translated from the Hebrew word **Yehovih** (**Yeh-ho-vee**), a variation of the word Yehovah (Jehovah), used in order to prevent repetition of His holy name, since they so often pronounced Yehovah.

Their reverence for God was such that they would even use a new pen each time the name Yehovah was written, then destroy it so as not to be used again.

- 7) Used 5 times: The term God comes from the root word **Beyth-el** = House of God.

First found in:

Judges 20:18 — “And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God (Beyth-el), and asked counsel of God (Elohiym)...”

This verse is a good example of how the English term “God” can be somewhat generalized, thus inhibiting the true understanding of a verse.

- 8) Used only once in the KJV translation of Scripture. The word “God” was translated from **Adonai** (**ad-o-noy**) = Lord, a name for God only

The only time in Scripture that Adonay is used as a name for God:

Habakkuk 3:19 — “The Lord God (Adonai) is my strength.”

- 9) Used only once: The root word here for God is **Ukal** (**oo-kawl**) = devoured, consume, eat, burn up.

This term was used but once in Scripture, by Job:

Job 27:9 — “Will God (Ukal) hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?”

Deity

10) Used once only: Here the root word for God is **Mabliyggyth** (**mab-leeg-eeth**) = distant, desolation, comfort self.

Used once in Scripture, referring to those who doubt God:

Psalm 73:11 — “And they say, How doth God (**Mabliyggyth**) know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

11) Used twice: The term God = **Tsuwr**, from **Tsur** = a cliff, sharp rock, refuge, mighty, God, strength, strong.

Isaiah 44:8 — “Is there a God (**Eloahh** = deity) besides me? Yea, there is no God (**Tsuwr** = rock); I know not any.”

Habakkuk 1:12 — “Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God (**Elohiym** = deity), mine Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God (**Tsuwr** = God, Rock), thou hast established them for correction.”

This is yet more evidence of how the term God was used in a general sense.

God Mentioned in the New Testament (N.T.) Some 1,354 Times

As in the O.T., the N.T. Scripture has 11 various names for God that come under the one English umbrella term “God.”

Let’s look closer at these 11 N.T. names for “God” that were translated from the original Koine Greek into English.

1) Used 1,181 times: The word God was translated from **Theos** = deity, supreme, divinity, God, god.

First used in:

Matthew 1:23 — “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God (**Theos**) with us.”

The term **Theos** is by far the predominant N.T. word for God (recognizing deity).

2) Used once: God = **Kurios** = God, supreme in authority, controller.

Used once only in the New Testament—found in **Acts 19:20**: “So mightily grew the word of God (**Kurios**) and prevailed.”

Deity

- 4) Used once: **Theomacheo** = to resist deity, fight against God.

Found in **Acts 23:9**: "...we find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God (Theomacheo)."

May be read as: "Let us not Theomacheo."

- 5) Used once: The word God was translated from **Theostuges** = hateful to God, haters of God.

Found in **Romans 1:30** "Backbiters, haters of God (Theostuges), despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents."

- 6) Used once: God = **Atheos** = godless, without God.

Thus, the root word for atheist.

Found in **Ephesians 2:12** — "...having no hope, and without God (Atheos) in the world."

May be read as: "Having no hope and Atheos in the world."

- 7) Used once: God = **Theosebes** = reverent of God, worshipper of God.

Used only in **John 9:31** — "...but if any man be a worshipper of God (Theosebes), and doeth his will, him he heareth."

This is yet another verse displaying the generalization of the English word "God."

- 8) Used once: God = **Theodidaktos** = divinely instructed, taught of God, a theologian.

Used only in **1 Thessalonians 4:9** — "...for ye yourselves are taught of God (Theodidaktos) to love one another."

May be read as: "For ye yourselves are Theodidaktos to love one another."

- 9) Used once: God = **Philotheos** = lover of God.

Found in **2 Timothy 3:4** — "...lovers of pleasures more than God (Philotheos)."

May be read as: "Lovers of pleasures more than Philotheos."

- 10) Used once: **Theopneustos** = divinely breathed in, given by the inspiration of God.

Found in **2 Timothy 3:16** — "All scripture is given by inspiration of God (Theopneustos)..."

May be read as: "All scripture is Theopneustos."

Deity

11) Used once: God = **Chrematizo** = to utter an oracle, divinely intimate, a title to be admonished by God, reveal, speak.

Found in **Hebrews 8:5** — "...as Moses was admonished by God (**Chrematizo**) when he was about to make the tabernacle."

May be read as: "As Moses was **Chrematizo** when he was about to make the tabernacle."

Deity Established

Although there are those who oppose the Scriptural teaching of Deity, the Bible definitely does teach it, for 98% of the time the O.T. Scripture refers to God as Elohiym = Deity. This brings us to the term "Godhead," being God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

These three are of a separate personage, yet equally share all the same power, glory, and attributes of the biblical God (**Elohiym**).

The Bible teaches that God is a Spirit = **Ruwach** = **roo-akh** = breath, exhalation, air, anger, courage.

Genesis 1:2 — "And the Spirit (*breath*) of God (**Elohiym**) moved upon the face of the waters."

The N.T. also teaches that God is a Spirit:

John 4:24 — "God is a Spirit."

Here the word Spirit comes from the word ***pneuma*** = breath (*blast*), breeze, (*divine*) God.

God Created

Genesis 1:1 — "In the beginning God (Elohiym) created the heaven and the earth."

Yet we were told of His power (deity) in **Colossians 1:15–19**:

Colossians 1:15 — "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature."

Christ is the image of God because God is a Spirit and cannot be seen. The closest that we can ever come to seeing God is to look into the face of Jesus.

Deity

Christ is referred to as the firstborn of every creature in three ways:

In reference to a firstborn son in Jewish tradition that is given all rights of inheritance.

The firstborn in that He is the only living to ever come back from the dead to live forevermore.

The Son was never born, for He always was.

Colossians 1:16 — “For by him all things were created...”

Colossians 1:17 — “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

Colossians 1:18 — “...that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

The word preeminence = *proteno* = to be first in rank or influence.

This is the only place in Scripture that the word preeminence (*proteno*) is used—yet another reinforcement of His deity.

Colossians 1:19 — “For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.”

Although the mysteries of godliness are great, the more you understand about Jesus, the more you will understand Deity.

Jesus of the Bible

It is amazing how so many can read the Bible, then debate on who Jesus Himself claimed to be.

The biblical description of Jesus is abundantly clear and cannot be misconstrued by building a theology on a misinterpreted or lone isolated verse that is not reinforced by other Scripture.

Yes, the Bible gives us a complete description of who Jesus is, for our view of Jesus is crucial to our salvation.

The entirety of Scripture is about Jesus Christ — the O.T. prophecies and pictorials His coming, and the N.T. records His birth, death, burial, and resurrection.

If one reads the Bible and does not get a proper understanding of who Jesus really is, it will all be for nought, for there is salvation in no other name.

Deity

(Acts 4:12) — “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

It was important to Jesus for His disciples to understand exactly who He claimed to be. So, in:

(Matthew 16:15-16) — Jesus asked His disciples, “But whom say ye that I am?” And Peter answered, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Orthodox Christianity agrees that Jesus is the Son of God, but He is more than that — He is God and man as taught by Scripture.

The Bible teaches that God is a Spirit and that a portion of this Spirit came to Earth clothed in flesh as the God-man, Jesus Christ.

Scripture teaches that Jesus is God the Father in the flesh, for He is fully God, fully man, and yet He is also the Son.

(Isaiah 9:6) — “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Why Can't God?

To those who may have trouble grasping this biblical truth, remember: man can simultaneously be a father, as well as a son, and a brother. So, why can't God?

A deity of man: father, son, brother = one man = three functions.

Spiritual Deity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit = one Godhead = three functions.

And then there is the old cliché of water: steam – liquid – ice... which is H₂O?

And then we have the egg: shell – yolk – or the white... which is egg?

Using this comparison of the egg and water may be somewhat earthly, but does make a valid point.

To further substantiate Isaiah's assertion of Deity, the Prophet Micah teaches:

(Micah 5:2) — “But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

Deity

Yes, Jesus is the Son of God — the child from Bethlehem, the Son from eternity past.

Also, Jesus Himself stated that He was not of this world and was even before the world:

(John 8:23) — “And he said unto them, You are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.”

(John 17:5) — “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

The God-Man of Scripture

The gospel of John has one of the best descriptions of Jesus that the Bible has to offer, a few being:

(John 1:1) — “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

(John 1:2) — “The same was in the beginning with God.”

Translated: The Word = **Logos** = **Log-os** = the Divine Expression (i.e., Christ).

Let's view these verses using the translated meaning:

In the beginning was the Divine Expression, and the Divine Expression was with God, and the Divine Expression was God.

The same (Divine Expression) was in the beginning with God.

It is apparent that these verses are referring to none other than Jesus Christ, for Scripture continues referring to Him as the Divine Expression:

(John 1:3) — “All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made.”

Who Is the Divine Expression?

The Scriptures refer to the Divine Expression as a personage:

(John 1:10) — “He was in the world, and the world was made by him.”

Deity

Rephrased: The Divine Expression was in the world, and the world was made by the Divine Expression.

The Divine Expression is further defined in:

(John 1:14) — “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Using the translation: And the Divine Expression was made flesh, and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth.

And who was it that was filled with grace and truth? We are told in:

(John 1:17) — “... grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

A Clear Description of the Divine Expression

The Scripture teaches that this Divine Expression was before the world, made the world, was in the world, left the world to be received back into glory (**also see 1 Tim. 3:16**); but He will return.

A description of this Divine Expression's return is found in **Revelation 19:11–13**:

(Revelation 19:11) — “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”

(Revelation 19:12) — “His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.”

(Revelation 19:13) — “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”

Where did this blood come from? There are theologians that believe that every precious drop of blood shed by the Word = Divine Expression = Jesus Christ was retrieved by God to store in heaven for His glory. Could this be some of it? (Just something to think about.)

(Revelation 1:5) — “... unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

God Came to Earth

(1 Timothy 3:16) — “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

There is none other than the God/Man Jesus Christ that could match this description. We are taught all throughout Scripture that God the Father and God the Son are one and the same.

Jesus said in:

(John 10:30) — “I and my Father are one.”

It was then that the Jews took up stones to stone Him, claiming:

(John 10:33) — “... blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God (Theos).”

(Even the unbelieving Jews of that day understood these words of Jesus to be a claim of deity.)

And again, Jesus goes on to say:

(John 14:7) — “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.”

(John 14:9) — “... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?”

As men we all have earthly fathers; however, when you see us, you do not see our fathers.

Jesus claimed to have all the attributes of the Father, equal in every way, and that the Father and the Son should share equal honor.

(John 5:23) — “That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.”

The word “**even**” used here is translated from **kathos** = **kath-ocē** = inasmuch, just as much, as, how, when.

Deity

All points to equality of the Father and the Son.

There can be two piles of sand, one containing one trillion grains of sand, and the other containing one trillion and one grains of sand.

They would be close to being identical, but they would not be equal. The Bible teaches that Jesus is equal to the Father.

We learn more of the Deity from:

(Hebrews 1:6) — “And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God (*Theos*) worship him.”

The “first begotten” spoken of here is, of course, the Son (Jesus), also stating that God “bringeth” Him in (and not create).

And where did He “bringeth” Him in from? From heaven, where the Son has been with the Father from eternity past.

Then Scripture teaches that all the angels of God should worship Him; and to those deceived who falsely believe that Jesus the Son was a created angel, if all the angels of God were to worship Him, then He Himself could not be an angel.

Does not Scripture teach that Jesus created everything that exists, including angels? (**See Colossians 1:15–19.**)

Then the Father honors the Son as Deity in:

(Hebrews 1:8) — “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God (*Theos* = Supreme Divinity), is for ever.”

The Apostle Thomas referred to Jesus as Lord = *Kurios* = deity, and God = *Theos* = deity.

(John 20:28) — “And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.”
There is no comma between Lord and and, therefore addressing one personage and not two.

The Apostle John also refers to Jesus as the true God in:

Deity

(1 John 5:20) — “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

Deity again spoken of in:

(Titus 2:13) — “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God (*Theos*) and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Again, notice that there is no comma between the words God and and, which makes the subject spoken of “great God and Jesus Christ” being addressed as one. Yes, Jesus is God in the flesh.

And again we are taught, in no uncertain terms, that the Son and the Father are one and the same:

(Revelation 1:6) — “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.”

Yes, the Father and the Son are one God serving two functions.

God Speaks of Man Whom He Hath Created

(Genesis 3:22) — “And the Lord (*Yehovah*) God (*Elohiym*) said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil:”

Two noteworthy points concerning this verse are:

1. The term God in the O.T. that was translated from the word *Elohiym* was used but four times; however, God was referred to as Lord literally thousands of times in the O.T.

This is because the words Lord and God both mean the same thing:

Lord = Jehovah, and God = *Elohiym* = Deity, Lord.

Deity

2. And who is “us” in this Scripture? Another confirmation of Deity.

The “us” (Deity) created man to know right from wrong in a godly sense.

Even a heathen in a land that has never known a legal system of any kind still knows deep within that it is wrong to take a life.

Peter reaffirms Deity in **Acts 5:1-11** when Ananias and Sapphira sold their possessions, and claimed to give it all to the church (seeking self-glorification). When they actually held back a portion of the money for their own, Peter rebuked them saying:

(**Acts 5:3**) they lied to the Holy Ghost.

(**Acts 5:4**) — “... thou has not lied unto men but unto God.”

This was Peter referring to the Holy Ghost (Spirit) as God.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, acknowledges Deity in:

(**Colossians 2:2**) — “... the mystery of God (*Theos*), and of the Father, and of Christ;”

This is yet another example of God the Spirit, God the Father, and God the Son.

The Apostle John again addresses Deity, calling Jesus the true God:

(**1 John 5:20**) — “... and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God (*Theos*), and eternal life.”

God the Spirit

Angels are spirits created by God (Jesus) that can assume a bodily form, as can the Holy Spirit. Examples being:

When God dealt with Moses in:

(**Exodus 3:2**) — “And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.”

An angel dealt with Balaam in:

Deity

(Numbers 22:31) — “Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.”

Gideon appeared face to face with an angel in:

(Judges 6:12) — “And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.”

Here the word appeared is translated from ra’ah = to see, behold, present, shew.

David’s sin with Bathsheba caused the Lord (*Yehovah*) to send an angel to stretch out his hand to destroy Jerusalem. David saw this angel in:

(2 Samuel 24:17) — “And David spake unto the Lord when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned...”

When an angel brought news to Zacharias that his wife Elizabeth would have a son and to name him John (the Baptist), he saw the angel in:

(Luke 1:11) — “And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.”

(Luke 1:12) — “And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.”

In the destruction of Sodom (**Genesis 19**), Scripture teaches that two angels appeared as men coming to aid Lot. These men later smote Lot’s wicked attackers with blindness, then bid him to leave the city, for the Lord had sent them to destroy it.

Angels are spirits that can, and often do, assume a physical shape or personage of some kind, as does the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Descends

Throughout Scripture God the Holy Spirit is referred to as a personage, as is seen in the baptism of Jesus:

(Luke 3:22) — “And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him...”

Deity

The word **bodily** comes from **somatikos** = **so-mat-ee-kos**, the same word used by Paul in (1 Timothy 4:8) when he states that “bodily exercise profiteth little.”

So the Holy Spirit, often referred to as He or he, is an equal personage in the Godhead. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the **Comforter** = **Parakletos** = **par-ak-o-lay-tos** = an intercessor, consoler, advocate, comforter.

(John 14:26) — “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things...”

The whom and he refer to the personage of the Holy Spirit.

(John 16:7) — “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

(John 16:8) — “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

Who Will Send the Comforter?

It is noteworthy that in (John 14:26) we are told that the Father will send the Holy Spirit, and in (John 16:7) Jesus says He Himself will send Him — another display of Deity.

In (John 14:16) the Comforter is referred to as personage — he, himself — nine times.

Even the followers of Islam believe that the Comforter (*Parakletos*) spoken of in the Christian Bible is in fact a person; however, they believe that person is their Prophet Muhammad.

God the Rock of Scripture

God the Father and God (Jesus Christ) are the only two in Scripture referred to as “**The Rock**” (**Tsur**, **Tsnoor**), and **Petra** in the N.T. = same.

The O.T. words used in Scripture for the Rock come from:

1. **Tsur**, **Tsnoor** — a sharp rock, mighty, a refuge, stone, strength, strong, (God), one, Rock, boulder, cliff.
2. **Cela**; **Seh'-lah** — stronghold.

Deity

The Prophet Samuel speaks of God the Rock in:

(2 Sam. 22:2) — “And he said, The Lord (Yehovah) is my rock (cela), and my fortress.”

(2 Sam. 22:3) — “The God (Elohiym) of my rock (Tsur); in him will I trust.”

(2 Sam. 22:32) — “For who is God (El), save the Lord (Yehovah)? And who is a rock, save our God (El)?”

(2 Sam. 22:47) — Refers to the rock (Tsur) of his salvation.

(1 Sam. 2:2) — “There is none holy as the Lord (Yehovah): for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock (Tsur) like our God (Elohiym).”

(Ps. 18:31) — “Who is a Rock (Tsur) save our God (Elohiym)?”

Moses speaks of Deity in the book of Deuteronomy:

(Deut. 32:15) — “Then he forsook God (Eloahh = deity) which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock (Tsuwr) of his salvation.”

(Deut. 32:18) — “Of the Rock (Tsur) that begat (created) thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God (El) that formed thee.”

God Speaks to God

(2 Samuel 23) records some of David’s last words as God lays out mandates for his successor, using David’s tongue to speak the message. (This is known as a Christophany.)

(2 Sam. 23:2) — “The Spirit (Holy Spirit – God the Spirit) of the Lord (Yehovah = Deity) spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”

(2 Sam. 23:3) — “The God (Elohiym) of Israel said, The Rock (Tsur = mighty God) of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.”

So here, the Rock (Tsur = Deity) spoke to God (Elohiym = Deity).

Although the word *deity* is not used in Scripture, the term *Godhead* is — describing the triune God of Scripture in both Old and New Testaments.

Deity

Note:

(**Deuteronomy 32:15**) teaches that God (Eloahh) created.

(**Deuteronomy 32:18**) says that the Rock (Tsur) created, and God (El = Deity) formed (created) man.

And we have the N.T. book of Colossians telling us that Jesus created all things in both heaven and earth.

Jesus the Rock

In reference to the people who followed Moses in the wilderness, Scripture says:

(**1 Corinthians 10:4**) — “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock (Petra = mass of rock) that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

Here in N.T. Scripture we are told that Christ followed Moses in the wilderness.

The O.T. has numerous descriptions of the God that followed Moses, one being:

(**Deuteronomy 32:3**) — “Because I will publish the name of the Lord (Yehovah = Deity): ascribe ye greatness unto our God (Elohiym = Deity).”

(**Deuteronomy 32:4**) — “He is the Rock (Tsuwr = God, strength), his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: A God (El) of truth.”

In these two verses Moses refers to God four times, all referring to God as Deity:

1. Lord (Yehovah)
2. God (Elohiym)
3. The Rock (Tsuwr)
4. Our God (El)

The meaning of the word *Rock* in both O.T. and N.T. is the same — a title reserved for Deity, used only for God or Jesus, for they are one and the same.

Peter's Confession

When Jesus asked Peter in:

(**Matthew 16:15–16**) — “... But whom say ye that I am?”

(**Matthew 16:16**) — “And Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God (Theos).”

Here, Peter just confessed that Jesus is Christ.

Paul tells us in (**1 Corinthians 10:4**) that Christ is the Rock, and answered him accordingly: (**Matthew 16:18**) — “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...”

No, Jesus did not call Peter a Rock, for we are told in:

(**John 1:42**) — “Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone” (a small rock or pebble).

Jesus answered Peter based on the confession just made by Peter — that Jesus is the Rock.

It was upon this confession that Jesus vowed to build His church.

Who Is Good?

O.T. word for **good** = **tob** = good in the widest sense: best, bountiful, fine, graciously, joyful, loving.

N.T. word for **good** = **agathos** = good in any sense.

We are told throughout Scripture that no man is good:

Old Testament

(**Isaiah 64:6**) — “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.”

Deity

(**Psalm 14:1**) — “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

(**Ecclesiastes 7:20**) — “For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”

New Testament

(**Romans 3:12**) — “There is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

God is not impressed with any of man's works:

(**Romans 3:20**) — “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight.”

(**Romans 3:23**) — “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Jesus Himself answered this question when a certain ruler referred to Him as “Good Master” in (**Luke 18:18**).

(**Luke 18:19**) — “And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God (*Theos*).”

Here, Jesus did not deny being good, but rather reaffirms His Deity. At first He infers that He is God, then He outright says it in:

(**John 10:11**) — “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”

Knowing that only God is good, Jesus here refers to Himself as good, which translates from the word ***kalos*** = beautiful, but chiefly virtuous, worthy, honest.

Nobody in Scripture is worthy of this title other than God.

Although several times in Scripture the term “**good man of the house**” is used, that word comes from ***oikeo*** = to occupy a house, reside, dwell, cohabit — and is not a description of man's character or goodness.

I Am: A Better Understanding

Again, Jesus paralleled Himself to God the Father when He referred to Himself as “I AM,” a title that Jews believe belongs to God alone.

When Moses questioned God as to His name, God told him “I AM”:

(**Exodus 3:14**) — “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

The English phrase “**I AM**” translates from the Hebrew word **Hayah** = to exist, be or become, come to pass.

It is well accepted that here God was stating His eternal self-existence; Jesus Himself made that very same claim.

When the non-believing Jews questioned Jesus as to Him ever seeing Abraham, He responded in:

(**John 8:58**) — “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

(**John 8:59**) — “Then they took up stones to cast at him,” claiming that He made Himself God.

Here the phrase “**I am**” was translated from the Greek word **eimi** = first person, I exist, am, have been, is.

Both O.T. and N.T. translated words I AM and I am are titles for eternal existence.

As was the Jews’ non-belief in the Deity of Jesus in history past, there are those today who follow suit, claiming that in the **Exodus 3:14** account the translators used all capital letters for I AM, but the **John 8:58** account did not (I am).

The reason for this discrepancy is that the Hebrew language of that day placed a stronger emphasis on the use of capital letters than that of the N.T. Greek translators. However, the meaning of both translated verses is the same — both refer to eternal existence.

Who But God Can Forgive Sin?

It is common knowledge that God forgives sin, but so does Jesus — reason being, He is God in the flesh, having all the attributes of God.

An example is found in **(Luke 5:20–24)** when Jesus healed a paralytic man, telling him: **(Luke 5:20)** — “Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.”

The angry Jews responded:

(Luke 5:21) — “Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”

Jesus replied to them in:

(Luke 5:24) — “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins...”

Rarely did Jesus call upon His Father to empower His miracles, but rather accomplished healings and forgiveness through His own divine self.

Notice that Jesus did not call upon His Father for any help in healing or forgiving the sins of this paralytic man, as is the case all throughout Scripture. This is just one of the many examples of Deity.

The Title of Lord — O.T.

Now that we have examined the various names for God that have been translated from the original languages, we should have a better understanding of the English term “God,” which often has the same meaning in Scripture as the title “Lord.”

Only four times in the O.T. the term “God” was translated from the Hebrew word Yehovah.

The word “Lord” (referring to God) was translated from the same word Yehovah some 6,100 times.

Even the Jewish scholars of today teach that the word “Jehovah” simply means “Lord.”

Deity

Let's now look closer at the word "**Lord**" that was translated from the O.T. Hebrew:

- Used 5,613 times: **Lord** = **Yehovah** = self-existent, eternal, Lord (Jehovah).
- Used 47 times: **Lord** = **Yahh** = **yaw** = **Jah** = a sacred name for Lord, having the same meaning as Yehovah.
- Used 36 times: **Lord** = **adown** = **aw-done** = to rule, Lord, master, controller, owner.
- Used 2 times: Found only in Daniel (Chaldean): **Lord** = **Mare'** = **maw-ray** = in the sense of domineering, a master, Lord.
- Used 409 times: **LORD** = **Adonai** (**ad-o-nay**) = a proper name used only for God throughout most of translations of Old Testament Scripture.

N.T. Word Lord

The title "Lord" in both the O.T. and N.T. share the same meaning—just another of the many names for God.

- Used 668 times: **Lord** = **Kurios** = supreme in authority, controller.
- Used once: (**Romans 14:9**) — **Lord** = **Kurieuo** (**koo-ree-yoo'-o**) = to rule, have dominion over, be Lord of, exercise lordship.
- Used once: (**Mark 10:51**) — **Lord** = **Rhabbon** (**hrab-bon-ee**) = teacher.
- Used 4 times: (**2 Peter 2:1**; **Luke 2:29**; **Acts 4:24**; **Revelation 6:10**) — **Lord** = **Posis** = absolute power, Lord, master.

Here again is a strong verse for Deity:

(**Acts 4:24**) — "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God (**Theos** = Deity) with one accord, and said, Lord (**Posis**), thou art God (**Theos**), which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is."

Here Paul teaches that God (**Theos**) created all; and in Colossians he teaches that Jesus created all.

Which is correct?

Both are, for literally hundreds of times Jesus Christ has been addressed as Lord (**Yehovah**) and, yes, God (**Theos**).

Deity

God Himself proclaimed that there is but one God:

(**Deuteronomy 6:4**) — “Hear, O Israel: The Lord (*Yehovah*) our God (*Elohiym*) is one Lord (Yehovah).”

(**Isaiah 43:10**) — “Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.”

(**Isaiah 43:11**) — “I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.”

This is yet another Scripture that points to Deity, for all throughout the N.T. Jesus is referred to as Lord and Savior.

(**Deuteronomy 32:39**) — “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.” God demands that we worship no other god:

(**Exodus 34:14**) — “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord (*Yehovah*), whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God (*Elohiym*).”

With this said, how could Jesus be mistaken for a god (little “g”)?

Be not deceived by false teachers in the world today teaching that Jesus is just a god (little g), and not actually God.

They will never see heaven.

Worship Jesus?

Yes, God is a jealous God that demands worship to Him alone, yet Jesus received worship throughout Scripture and never refused nor rebuked it, because He is Lord = Jehovah in the flesh.

There are numerous places in Scripture where Jesus is worshipped. Each and every time the English word **worship** was translated from the Greek word ***proskuneo*** (***pros-koo-neh'-o***) = to kiss like a dog licking his master's hand; to fawn or crouch to, adore, worship, reverence, to prostrate oneself in homage.

Deity

Jesus came to earth being worshipped, for the wise men sought Him in:

(Matthew 2:2) — “Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

Then they found Him in:

(Matthew 2:11) — “And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.”

When Satan tempted Jesus, Christ answered:

(Matthew 4:10) — “For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord (*Kurios*) thy God (*Theos*), and him only shalt thou serve.”

When Jesus healed the leper:

(Matthew 8:2) — “And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.”

A ruler came to Jesus seeking Him to resurrect his dead daughter:

(Matthew 9:18) — “... behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying...”

When Jesus saved Peter from sinking in the water:

(Matthew 14:33) — “Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”

Many are the occasions where Jesus was worshipped:

(Matthew 15:25) — “A woman worshipped him, saying, Lord (*Kurios*), help me.”

(Matthew 28:9) — “... behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.”

Other verses where Jesus was worshipped:

Matthew 28:17; Mark 5:6; Mark 15:19; Luke 24:52; John 9:38; Acts 10:25

A Sudo Jesus?

There are cults today teaching that Jesus was not Deity, but rather a created angel. This cannot be, for angels are created beings (spirits) who cannot create, nor receive worship.

Judges chapter 13 records an angel appearing as a man who delivered a message to Manoah that his wife would bear a Nazarite unto God (Samson).

Manoah was so awed by this that he asked him to stay while he prepared a kid (goat) for him. The angel replied in:

(**Judges 13:16**) — "... I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the Lord."

Scripture teaches us not to be fooled into worshipping angels:

(**Colossians 2:18**) — "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels..."

A False Reading

Those who falsely claim that Jesus was a created angel will point to these two verses; so, let's set the record straight.

Speaking of Jesus:

(**Hebrews 1:4**) — "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

"They" being all the angels — so how could Jesus be an angel?

Also, the word "**made**" does not mean create, but is translated from the Greek word **ginomai** (**ghin-om-ahee**) = to cause to be, become.

Also in:

(**Hebrews 2:9**) — "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

Here again, the word "made" does not mean create.

Deity

Made = *elattoo* = *el-at-to-o* = push, carry, drive.

Jesus pushed and drove Himself to be lower than the angels so that He could suffer the cross for fallen man. Thus, He lowered Himself to suffer and die.

We are told again that Jesus was not an angel in:

(Hebrews 2:16) — “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels.”

Not only is Jesus not a created angel, but all the angels of God are to worship Him:

(Hebrews 1:6) — “And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”

Also, the term “**when he bringeth**” is special. It comes from (*eisago*), used but once in Scripture — another indication that Jesus is not a created being.

Bringeth = *eisago* = *ice-ag’-o* = to introduce, lead into.

These are not words that parallel create.

Even today, as Jesus is in heaven taking His rightful position in the Deity, the angels are under His control:

(1 Peter 3:22) — “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”

The Scriptures do present a clear teaching of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; however, there are false prophets and teachers in the world today that would beguile you into a false gospel — cults, if you will.

Cults

The definition of a cult is:

1. Only members of their organization can hope to see heaven or eternal life.
2. The leaders of their organization reserve the right to make changes to the Scriptures.
3. You need the Bible plus their literature, consisting of changes that they have made to the Bible according to the latest visions from their leaders. They will tell you that the Bible is outdated.

Both the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons meet the definition of being a cult.

The purpose of mentioning these two organizations is that they both have a twisted teaching on the Jesus of Scripture.

The J.W.'s teach that their Jesus is, in reality, the Archangel Michael, a created being.

The Mormons teach that their god had a physical relationship with Mary to create Jesus, and that Satan and Jesus are brothers.

That is definitely a stretch in truth by both of these hell-bound cults.

The True Church

The Lord Jesus did not wait some two thousand years for some “Johnny come lately” cult to appear on the scene in order to establish His church.

The Apostolic Commission:

At the Last Supper, the Lord was ordaining His ministers (the 12 Apostles) to go into the world with the gospel (good news), commencing the work of the Church. Then, on the Day of Pentecost:

(Acts 2:41) — “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

(Acts 2:47) — “... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
The Church was established, and Jesus said:

(Matthew 16:18) — “... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

The Church has long been established.

The Cult of Jehovah Witnesses

The Cult of Jehovah Witnesses

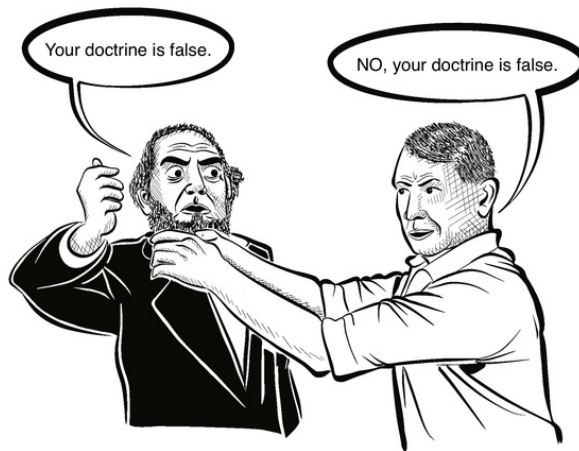
Ye Are of Your Father the Devil

(John 8:44) — “For he is a liar, and the father of it.”

Those are words from Jesus to those who scoffed at Him in disbelief. These words still apply today to those who scoff at Him — example being those referring to themselves as modern-day Jehovah’s Witnesses, who deny the worship and deity of Jesus Christ.

This organization, as well as its founders, is filled with deception as well as corruption — some of which we will look at.

However, the major issue is how they view Jesus, for if they do not have that right, there is no need getting into lengthy discussions over their meaningless cultic doctrines.



New World Translation — A Corrupt Text

Before getting into their corruption, let’s look at some of their deception, beginning with their pseudo Bible.

The teachings of founder Charles Taze Russell and his corrupt co-founder Joseph “Judge” Rutherford were so contrary to that of the Holy Scriptures that they had to write their own Bible.

They claim that it is just another translation, but they re-interpreted Scripture to fit their cultic teachings. Over 2,500 times they made changes to the original Scriptures.

Many of these changes were an effort to remove the crown of Deity that has been placed upon the head of Jesus by Scripture.

Deity

The word for God, Elohiym, a by-plural noun which supports Deity and is used over 2,500 times in O.T. Scripture was removed by the J.W. 's and replaced with the word "Yehovah" in their effort to uncrown the Lord Jesus.

However, the word Yehovah is also a term meaning Deity.

Also, the O.T. name for God was translated from the word Yehovah four times.

There are volumes written on the N.W.T., however we will only scrutinize the Foreword of their corrupt text.

The foreword of any book is an insight as to its content. Although a book may not be judged by its cover, it can be judged by its foreword.

N.W.T. Foreword

The very beginning of the NWT starts off with a word salad, as they state that their writings were “Rendered” from the original language of the Scriptures. The word rendered simply means to change from one language to another, and that they did to fit their agenda.

This J.W. version is just an example of its corruption, for it says absolutely nothing as to the validity of its content other than claiming that their Bible translation committee loves you, wants the best for you, and that they will do the best job possible to translate correctly, and *bla, bla, bla....*

It goes on to explain when and where their various translations (actually, re-interpretations) took place. This explanation alone consumes 75% of their feeble foreword that tells you nothing and is merely an example of “smoke and mirrors.”

When asked why their NWT has been revised five times:
1970 (1670 pages) / 1971 (1371 pages) / 1981 (1469 pages) / 1984 (1663 pages) / 2013 (1796 pages),

Their response is that the English language has changed so significantly in the past half century, thus the need to update... (*Really*).

However, the number of pages for each of their translations do not coincide with their explanation. Perhaps a more accurate explanation would be that they are false prophets whose beliefs are ever changing (as is with the Mormons).

Example: In the inception of this cult, they taught that only 144,000 would make it to heaven; that is, until their organization grew to be more. That doctrine was quickly changed, as had so many since then. Thus, there are many translations.

Due to dreams and visions that they claim from their god, they have on many occasions disavowed the teachings of their previous J.W. leadership, even that of the founders. Their writings are altered to accommodate the ever-changing J.W. doctrines.

Also, the NWT foreword tells you nothing of the scholastic qualifications of those in their organization that re-interpreted the Scriptures, other than that they were supposedly inspired by Jehovah God.

The names and qualifications of their true translators are kept in close secrecy, and under no circumstances will they release that information.

Deity

However, in 1983, a former high-ranking Watch Tower staff and Governing Body member, Raymond Franz, listed:

Nathan H. Knorr / Fredrick W. Franz / Albert D. Schroeder / George G. Gangas / Milton G. Henschel, as members of the translation committee.

None of these listed had education in biblical languages except for Fredrick Franz, whose skills even so were limited. Franz led the committee of these unqualified interpreters.

Although Franz was proficient in several languages, his claims to be proficient in Hebrew and Greek were over exaggerated.

He attended the University of Cincinnati (a four-year college) for two years, then dropped out, never achieving a four-year bachelor's degree.

There was no record found of him studying Hebrew, and his study of Greek consisted of twenty-one hours of Classical Greek (not the language of the New Testament).

His education in Koine Greek (language of the New Testament) consisted of a class entitled "The New Testament – A Course in Grammar and Translation."

This was not a three-hour college credit course, but simply a survey course in New Testament Greek.

A shortened two-hour class of "Bible Greek" was the extent of his translation abilities.

On top of this embarrassment, he seems to have perjured himself in a 1954 Scotland courtroom when, under oath, he claimed that he could read Hebrew; but when challenged by a prosecutor to translate a short verse in Genesis 2:4, he failed.

As for the interpretation ability of the J.W. founder, Charles Taze Russell, he had no meaningful education. His translation skills were limited to the use of Hebrew and Greek Bible concordances to teach his classes.

For a true and fuller understanding of these unqualified who claim to have the abilities to translate the Holy Scriptures may be found on the internet at:

<https://www.bibleready.org/new-world-translation>

The reading alone of this pathetic, feeble foreword from the corrupt NWT, written by the Jehovah Witness cult, should cause one to not walk, but run from this organization, for they will usher you into the biblical Hell that they do not believe in.

Deity

The NWT is copyrighted material.

The J.W.'s NWT is neither used nor accepted by any Christian church or organization other than the J.W.'s.

World-renowned language experts (other than those who are J.W.'s) concur, with many testimonials, that the NWT has grossly corrupted the truths of Scripture.

KJV 1611

Of all the Bibles on the market today, the KJV 1611 is the only version not copyrighted. It is free to the world to be used in any way.

Unlike the hidden translators of the J.W.'s NWT, the King James translators have been named, and each one of these thirty-six has biographies written of them, with their lives being an open book for all to judge their character and qualifications.

Each of these thirty-six were top scholars of their day in Hebrew, Chaldean, and Greek.

Each was a worshipper of God, having the utmost character.

Who Says Not to Worship Jesus?

J.W.'s will tell you not to worship Jesus. The founders of this cult were Charles Taze Russell (1852–1916) and his co-founder and successor Joseph “Judge” Rutherford, an attorney who sat as a special judge on occasion, thus the nickname Judge (1869–1942).

Volumes have been written concerning these two false prophets and their ungodly teachings, easily found on the Internet, so we will merely scratch the surface of their evils.

Russell himself came from a background of unbelief, being heavily influenced by Seventh-Day Adventist teaching.

The Adventists are considered a cult by Orthodox Christianity due to their non-belief in eternal salvation.

They are a salvation-by-works organization claiming that one has to earn their salvation daily.

Their works include maintaining the diet that God gave Moses in Leviticus chapter 11 as part of obeying O.T. laws.

In 1872, Russell started the International Bible Students Association.

Deity

In 1884, Russell formed the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania.

In 1907, Rutherford was appointed legal counsel for the Watch Tower Society, where he vehemently disagreed with Russell on a number of issues, leading to disputes that caused thousands of members to leave the organization—and even the imprisonment of Rutherford in 1918.

Russell died in 1916, leaving Rutherford as their new president.

Rutherford made many of the organizational and doctrinal changes that guide the beliefs and practices of today's J.W.'s.

It was in 1931 that Rutherford made the name change to Jehovah's Witnesses, and in 1935 he coined the term Kingdom Hall for their house of worship.

Blameless

Scripture tells us to be blameless, especially leaders of the church:

(1 Timothy 3:2) — A bishop must be blameless.

(1 Timothy 3:10) — The office of a deacon must be blameless.

(Titus 1:7) — For a bishop must be blameless.

Blameless is not the same as sinless.

Blameless meaning that none may be accused of inappropriate actions or deeds. Blameless is not a term that may be used to describe Joseph "Judge" Rutherford, for his conduct was egregious.

Rutherford was an embarrassment to the *Watch Tower* organization. In reality, he was described to be an abrasive, foul-mouthed, cigar-smoking alcoholic with an explosive temper who squandered the organization's money liberally.

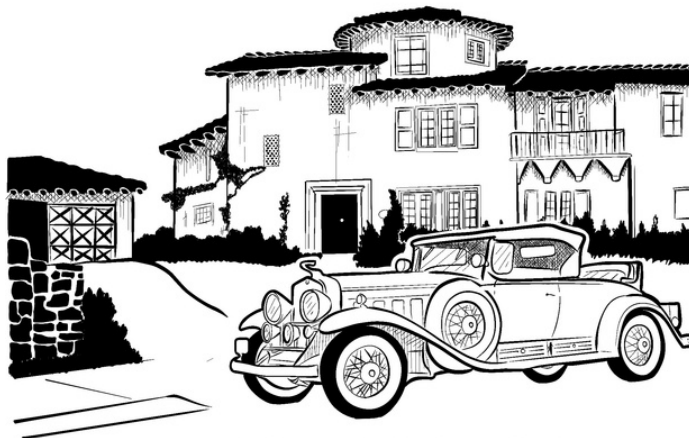
Beth Sarim is just one of Rutherford's false prophecies — and this one benefited him well. In 1918 Rutherford predicted:

"...to expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the faithful prophets of old to the condition of human perfection."

(See *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, page 89.)

Deity

As a result, Rutherford had a house built for their anticipated return. It was, however, more than a house — it was a ten-bedroom Spanish mansion with a two-car garage, sitting on a one-hundred-acre lot, landscaped with olive, date, and palm trees so that the Princes would “feel at home.”



Beth Sarim 4440 Braeburn Rd, San Diego, CA 92116
A monument to the corruption of the J.W.'s organization.

This mansion, Beth Sarim, was located in a prominent area of San Diego, CA, called Kensington Heights, address being:

4440 Braeburn Rd., San Diego, CA 92116

The property was acquired in October 1929 by Robert J. Martin, then given to Rutherford in December for ten dollars (today's equivalent of about \$150.00).

The house was built that year at the cost of \$25,000 for the O.T. Princes, who were expected to be headquartered in San Diego — although the scriptural return is to be in Jerusalem.

Rutherford had written the deed for this new property that he named Beth Sarim, stating that the property was to be held perpetually in trust, then turned over to the Princes upon arrival.

Needless to say, when these princes did not appear, Rutherford took full advantage of the situation as he utilized the facilities for his maximum benefit until his death in 1942.

With the country heading into the *Great Depression*, Rutherford had still maintained two top-of-the-line Cadillacs — one for his New York office and one for his newly obtained headquarters at Beth Sarim — all funded by membership contributions.

Deity

The Watch Tower Society eventually abandoned their prophecy of the Princes' return and sold the property in 1948.

This house is a monument to the greed and evil of the *Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society* — the same people that tell you not to worship Jesus.

Not only was Beth Sarim a total fiasco, but so were the false prophecies of both Russell and Rutherford.

Watch Tower Failed Prophecies

1. 1897: (Concerning Christ's return) — "The Lord (now King) now present since Oct. 1874."

(See *Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 4, p. 621)

2. 1899: "The battle of the great day of God will end in 1914 overthrowing earth's leadership, which has already commenced."

(See *Time Is at Hand*, 1908 edition, p. 101)

Also 1906: Preached the Rapture to begin in 1878, then the end of the world in 1914.

(See *Watch Tower*, July 15, 1906 for detailed account)

3. 1916: Claimed that Christ's 1000-year reign began in 1873.

(See *Time Is at Hand*, Foreword, p. 11)

4. 1918: Predicted: "to expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and faithful prophets of old to the condition of human perfection."

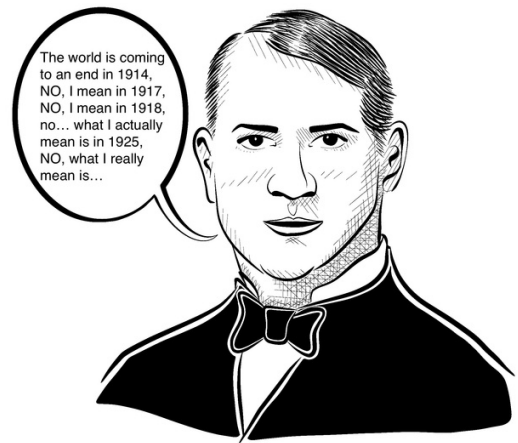
(See *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 1920, p. 89)

5. 1922: "The 1925 date is even more distinct by Scripture than that of 1914."

(See *Watch Tower*, Sept. 1, 1922, p. 262)

6. 1923: Preached that their 1925 prophecy had been settled by Scripture and that Christians have more basis for faith than Noah had for his deluge.

(See *Watch Tower*, Jan. 1, 1925, p. 106)



Deity

7. 1925: Preached: “Many expected that all members would be changed to heavenly glory this year, but if it don’t happen don’t worry about it. All in God’s time.”

(See *Watch Tower*, Jan. 1, 1925, p. 3)

8. 1925: Preached that Satan would inject into the minds of the consecrated that they should see an end to the work.

(See *Watch Tower*, Sept. 1925, p. 262)

9. 1926: Stating: “Some anticipating the work would end in 1925, but the Lord did not state so, and not to let their imaginations beyond reason burst asunder and be inclined to throw everything away.”

(See *Watch Tower*, Sept. 1926, p. 232)

10. 1931: The Watch Tower acknowledged the 1914, 1917, 1918, and 1925 disappointments and claimed to have learned to quit fixing dates.

(See *Vindication*, pg. 338)

11. 1968: Preaching: “Why are you looking forward to 1975?”

(See *Awake!*, Oct. 8, 1966, pp. 19–20; also *Watch Tower*, Aug. 15, 1968, p. 494)

Concerning another world-ending false prediction, see the Watch Tower book *Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, 1966, pp. 26–27.

Note the use of a capital S when they falsely refer to their members as “Sons of God,” when the Holy Scriptures designate the capital S solely for Deity when referring to the only begotten Son of God.

This is just another example of their attempt to remove the crown of Deity from the head of Jesus.

12. 1984: The Watch Tower records a quote from Rutherford: “I have made an ass of myself” concerning his false prophecies.

(See *Watch Tower*, Oct. 1, 1984, p. 24)

This is one of the only truths that has ever come from this evil organization, and yes, Rutherford did make an “ass” of himself; however, he made an even bigger “ass” of himself whenever he preached to not worship Jesus.

Deity

After their display of false doctrines and prophecies, are the J.W.'s to be trusted with guiding mankind to God's Scriptural path to eternal salvation?

The J.W.'s are an organization of works and often turn to the O.T. for their doctrine, so why do they not adhere to the O.T. Scriptures concerning false prophets?



Test of the Prophets

(Deuteronomy 18:20) — “But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.”

(Deuteronomy 18:22) — “When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

According to these O.T. laws, both Russell and Rutherford are liars that should be put to death.



Cultic Doctrines

The J.W.'s are widely known for their controversial doctrines; we will look at but a few:

1. No Blood Transfusions

Many J.W.'s have died as a result of this fatal practice, and should a member choose to save their loved one via blood transfusion, they would face disciplinary actions from the iron hand of their leadership that could result in expulsion and/or ostracization from their organization.

2. Shunning

The J.W.'s like to present themselves as a loving, family-oriented bunch of folks; just don't anger them or they will "shun" you.

Shunning is part of the J.W. disciplinary procedure used to control their membership.

Marrying a non- or ex-J.W., associating with or joining a military organization, receiving a blood transfusion, associating with another religion, or studying views that are not J.W. are but a few of the infractions that can bring on shunning.

This practice has torn families apart, led to suicides, and even murder-suicides.

The shunned offender could be made to sit in the back during services, or even facing the back wall, not to be spoken to—even by family members—until the leadership has been satisfied with their repentance.



Deity

They have adopted this practice from an O.T. incident

Exodus 32:26–28 involves the disobedience of God's children making, then worshipping, a golden calf while Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments on the mountain.

The punishment was severe, with Moses ordering those who did not participate in this pagan worship to gird their swords, go out into the camp, and slay all offenders:

“Slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour... three thousand fell that day.”

Although they do not adhere to the O.T. practice of stoning false prophets to death, they do adhere to severely punishing their membership O.T. style.

Since Jesus (whom the J.W.'s do not accept) fulfilled the Law at Calvary, these harsh practices have ended.

Mercy From the Cross

Yes, the Scriptures teach disciplinary actions for God's children, but with love (70 × 7).

Should one sin against the Church, they would be given a chance to repent (change their ways). If they would not, then removal from the Church would be implemented, as found in (**1 Corinthians 5:5**) where a son was fornicating with his father's wife and was faced with being turned over to Satan (removed from the Church).

However, should a brother offend another brother, he is to confront him in love privately. If there is no agreement, then the offended member should re-approach him with two or three witnesses concerning the matter. If there is still no agreement, then take the matter to the Church. But at no time is shunning a N.T. practice.

1. Refusal to Support the Military

The J.W. disdain for our military is ungodly, for the nation of Israel (God's chosen people) has always, and still does, have a strong military.

Many Americans feel that it is a cowardly act to have others fight for the right to live and worship in freedom, while J.W.'s do nothing but sit back and enjoy the fruits of others who sacrifice.

2. Do not celebrate holidays, birthdays, nor salute or pledge allegiance to flag or country.

3. No belief in hell or inherent immortality of the soul

They teach that if one dies not being a J.W., you then merely cease to exist.

However, the Bible does teach (**see Revelation 20:13–15**) that dying without Christ merits an eternity of suffering:

Deity

- first, into hell upon death,
- then, after the one-thousand-year millennial reign,
- taken from hell, judged,
- and then, cast into the Eternal Lake of Fire, which is called the second death.

How could this possibly happen without an eternal soul?

4. Higher Education?

Rutherford greatly discouraged higher education for the J.W. membership, claiming that their efforts would be better spent recruiting new members into the organization.

This is in stark contrast to Rutherford himself, for he was a highly educated attorney.

Worshipping Jesus Is Worshipping God

A tree is chopped down at its base; however, when confronting J.W.'s with Scripture, they will climb on top of the proverbial tree, then attempt to whittle their way down by engaging in conversations that take twists and turns through irrelevancy, muddling the Scriptures to their corrupt teachings, when all that is pertinent is: Do you worship Jesus? For that is all that really matters.

Their answer is, “No, we do not worship Jesus, but rather, we revere him.”

Well, we revere our elders — so Jesus is not held in the highest esteem by the J.W.'s.

The Church is to be spotless:

(Ephesians 5:27) — “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

After pointing out some of the egregious conduct and actions of this corrupt organization that refers to themselves as a “church,” do the J.W.'s fit the biblical description of “without spot, wrinkle, or blemish”?

You be the judge!

The Crusades?

To those who may point to the Crusades as a rebuttal, bear in mind that Catholics are not the true Church of God, for they appeared on the scene hundreds of years after the Church was established at Pentecost, where three thousand souls were baptized, then added to the already existing Church.

There is But One Path to Salvation, That Is:

(Romans 10:9) — “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

This prayer, accepting His Son, is to be directed to God, thus opening up a personal relationship with the Father. This cannot be done via a human mediator as the Catholics attempt to do.

(1 Timothy 2:5) — “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

(Hebrews 9:15) — “And for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament...”

(Hebrews 12:24) — “And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

Because Jesus is the New Testament mediator between God and man, we no longer need a priest to offer bloody sacrifice on the altar. So why do Catholic priests still insist on being an O.T. mediator, and why do they not still practice the sacrifice of animals?

The saving grace for the Catholics is that they do believe in the Deity of the triune God, as Jesus claimed.

If a Catholic would bypass the Vatican's policy of their priests being mediators and go directly to God for repentance, they will make it to heaven.

Yes, one can be part of the Catholic denomination and see heaven; that is not the case with J.W.'s or Mormons, who worship a totally different Jesus than that of the Christian Bible.

The Case Has Been Made

For the purpose of our Bible Study concerning “Deity” we have made our case.

This information should cause one to not walk, but rather run from this ungodly (J.W.) cult, for they will lead you into the literal hell that they do not believe in.

What Say Ye?
(Blog us on our site)

Sifu Herb Patus
Web: www.kenpoconnection.com

This is a kenpoconnection.com

Bible Study of

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible



by Sifu Herb Patus

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Introduction

The death, burial, and resurrection is the subject of a proper Easter sermon; however, all too often the message will not include the account of the mass resurrection of the saints.

The mass resurrection of the saints at the time of Christ's death is one of the most overlooked miracles in the Bible—not receiving its just due. So, let's look closer at this tremendous miracle that took place at the cross of Calvary, when Jesus gave His life so that man may live forevermore:

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

The miracles at the cross were many; however, our focus will be on **Matthew 27:50–54** concerning the mass resurrection of the saints at the time of Christ's resurrection:

Matthew 27:50

“Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.”

Matthew 27:51

“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;”

Matthew 27:52

“And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,”

Matthew 27:53

“And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”

Matthew 27:54

“Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.”

The Gospel Record

Although portions of these miracles are found in several of the other Gospels, Matthew's account has the only mention of this miraculous resurrection. Why might that be?

The events recorded by the Gospel writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—somewhat vary, which may be a result of their individual culture, background, and viewpoints.

Several people could witness an automobile accident or crime take place, yet each witness may give variances of what they thought happened, resulting in a court of law piecing their versions together in order to establish the truth.

In some instances, if the versions are too similar in detail, collusion could be inferred.

Writers of the Gospel

The fact that there are varied accounts of this Scripture reinforces the authenticity of it; and although the Holy Spirit breathed upon the pen of those who wrote, there was still a human element involved.

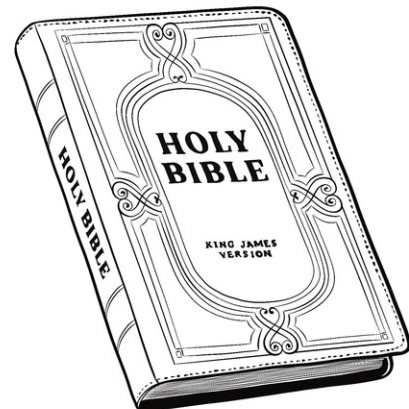
Matthew: Views Christ as King / Son of David.

Mark: Views Christ as a servant who emptied Himself of the form of God and fashioned Himself as a man.

Luke: Views Christ as the human divine One and writes as to His humanity.

John: Views Christ as the incarnation of the Word, the Son of God, and God Himself.

Yes, each of these witnesses recorded a slightly different chain of events surrounding Christ's death on the cross.



Before scrutinizing Matthew's account, let's make a quick comparison of events as laid out by each of the Gospel writers.

Events as Mentioned in the Four Gospels

Matthew:

1. Darkness
2. Loud voices (2 times)
3. Veil rent
4. Earth quaked
5. Rocks rent
6. Graves opened and saints arose
7. The centurion saw and confessed

Mark:

1. Darkness
2. Loud voice (2 times)
3. Veil rent
4. Centurion's confession

Luke:

1. Darkness
2. Veil rent
3. Loud voice (1 time)
4. Centurion's confession

John:

Records two prophecies:

1. No broken bones
2. A hard look
3. A spear thrust into the side of Jesus
4. A soldier's confession

As a court of law would critique multiple witnesses to an automobile accident and then put the pieces together for a proper conclusion, we will do the same for our Gospel witnesses.

Chain of Events

1. **Darkness:** All over the land from the sixth to the ninth hour (12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.).
2. **Loud Voice x2:** Mentioned only by Matthew and Mark.
 - *First Loud Voice:* “Why hast thou forsaken me?”
 - *Second Loud Voice:* Immediately followed the first loud voice. As they offered Him vinegar, He then gave up the ghost.

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

We must not underestimate this “loud” voice, for the word “**loud**” (Greek: ***megas***—from which we get the word **megaphone**) has a wide application that includes: exceedingly great, to the point of causing fear.

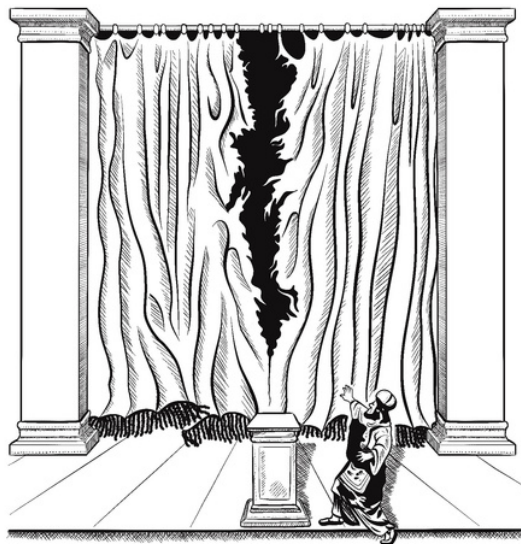
After suffering the tortures of the cross, with His knees collapsed and His respiratory muscles failing—when others could not even speak or breathe—Jesus cried out with a voice so loud it shook the earth. This could only be the Son of God. That alone had to have struck fear into the bloodthirsty crowd.

3. **Veil Rent:** “And behold, the veil of the temple was rent (torn) in twain from the top to the bottom.”

A small portion of the curtain remained intact at the bottom of the tear; thus, it had to have been initiated from the top, away from human intervention.

According to temple specifications, this curtain was a perfect square: 20 cubits × 20 cubits × 20 cubits (approximately 30' × 30' × 30'), a cubit being about 18 inches. It was thought to be made of wool that was 4" in thickness.

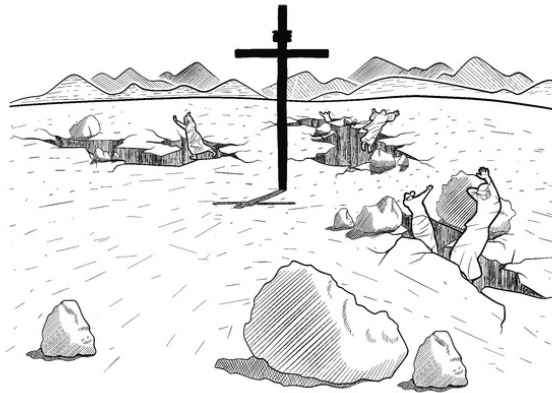
A standard military wool blanket is about 3/16 inch thick, extremely durable, and would take an exceptionally strong man to tear it. Tearing this 4" thick veil would not have been humanly possible.



4. **The Earth Quaked:** It is not hard to imagine the God-Man shedding His humanity with a loud, earth-shattering shout that triggered an earthquake still spoken of in history.

5. **The Rocks Rent and the Graves Opened:**

This second loud **voice** (*megas* = exceedingly great, as to cause fear) from a depleted, dying God-Man—perhaps just moments from death—most likely initiated this world-class earthquake that tore apart the rocks and opened the graves, allowing the saints to arise and go into the holy city, appearing unto many.



The “holy city”

Scripture says that these risen saints went into the holy city.

Skeptics of this miraculous resurrection will say that the holy city spoken of is a heavenly place (see **Revelation 21:2** and **Revelation 22:19**) that refers to New Jerusalem (not yet open for business), which happens after Christ comes again. However, the holy city spoken of in the Book of Matthew is the earthly city of Jerusalem. Examples include:

Nehemiah 11:1 refers to the (earthly) city of Jerusalem as being the holy city, as do **Isaiah 48:2**, **Isaiah 52:1**, **Daniel 9:24**, and **Matthew 4:5**.

To further substantiate this physical resurrection, Scripture says that after their entrance to this holy city (Jerusalem), they were seen by many. “**Seen by many**” is not a term that would be used to describe a heavenly entrance.

This was indeed a physical resurrection, for it was among the convincing evidence witnessed by the centurion and those with him, watching, that made them “fear greatly” and confess Christ. This confession was apparently made even before the saints came out of their graves to go into the holy city.

This physical resurrection should not be confused with Christ Jesus emptying Paradise.

John's Account

John's version of this account is extremely vague but stood alone in that his description did not parallel those of Matthew, Mark, or Luke in any way, other than the centurion's confession, which is recorded by all four Gospel writers. Rather, he focused on prophecies:

- No bones to be broken
- A spear thrust into His side
- "A hard look" – After witnessing these events, you can bet they took a long, hard look at what they had done to Jesus before confessing that He was the Son of God.
- A soldier's confession

Where Is Paradise?

The word "**paradise**" = **paradēisōs** = a park, an eden, a place of future happiness.

"Paradise" may be used as an acronym for being in the center, or place, of God's will.

Jesus told the thief on the cross in **Luke 23:43**, "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

Paul speaks of himself in **2 Corinthians 12:4** as being caught up into Paradise.

We are told in **Revelation 2:7**:

"...to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is amid the Paradise of God."

Nowhere in Scripture is Paradise described as a place for one to purge themselves into a more perfect condition as a preparation for heaven, as taught by the pagan doctrine of "Purgatory."

The best description of Sheol (unseen place of the dead), Paradise, and Hell is found in **Luke chapter 16**, where Lazarus opened his eyes from death to find himself in the bosom of Abraham, and the rich man in hell. Although the word Paradise was not used to describe this place, being in Abraham's bosom is a term used to describe being in God's will.

Paradise = Bosom = Kolpos = a bay, a creek.

This is a depiction of a peaceful, soothing, even loving place to be. An example is found in:

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

John 1:18 – “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

So, no man hath seen the Father. However, when the Apostle Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus replied in:

John 14:9 – “...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?”

Yes, the bosom is a peaceful, loving, secure place to be, as demonstrated in:

John 13:23 – “Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.” (This disciple is thought to be John.)

When Christ took captivity (Paradise) captive, He took the poor man Lazarus and all others in this Paradise compartment with Him into heaven. Wherever the Lord is, Paradise is with Him.

This leaves the two opposing compartments of **Sheol** (hidden place of the dead), which were divided by “a great gulf fixed”:

- The bosom of Abraham (Paradise), and
- The rich man’s place of torment (damnation, or even hellfire if you will).

Now, only the place of torment remains—containing the rich man as well as the ungodly who have died outside of God’s will—and they are still there.

Paradise is no longer in that location. This compartment is closed and no longer in business.

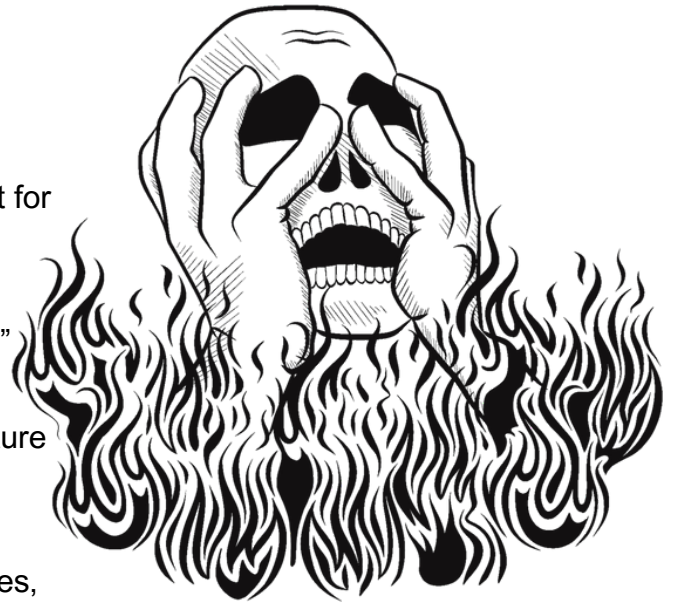
Torment

As for the rich man:

Luke 16:23 – “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...” (He was in the compartment for the ungodly portion of Sheol.)

Luke 16:24 – “...for I am tormented in this flame.”

Torment = **basanos** = a notion of going to the bottom, torture. This is the only time in Scripture that this word (basanos) is used.



As to whether or not hell is a place of literal flames, it is definitely a place of darkness and torment. Here, the word flame means exactly what it says.

Whether this flame is literal or figurative is a question for many. However, Scripture teaches abundantly that hell is darkness.

Flame = **phlox** = to flash, or flame, a blaze, flaming.

God's fire can burn without consuming. See Moses and the burning bush in **Exodus 3:1–4**. Jesus described hell in **Matthew 8:12** as outer darkness, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

2 Peter 2:4 speaks of God sparing not the sinning angels but casting them down to hell, and delivering them into chains of darkness until judgment.

Jude 13 teaches that a place of “blackness and darkness forever” is reserved for the wicked.

There are those who do not believe in a literal hell as a place of torment and equate hell or Sheol as merely being a place to bury the dead. It can be, but it is also described as:

Sheol = grave, pit, world of the dead

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

Pit = phrear (freh-ar) = a hole in the ground, an abyss (as a prison)

When Satan rebelled against God, God said:

“Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”

The term “**sides of the pit**” is merely a poetic way of saying, a second time, “being cast down to hell.” (**Isaiah 14:15**)

The word pit is often associated with the term “nether” parts of the earth (**Ezekiel 32:24**).

Nether = tachtiy (takh-tee) = lowermost, the depths, lower parts

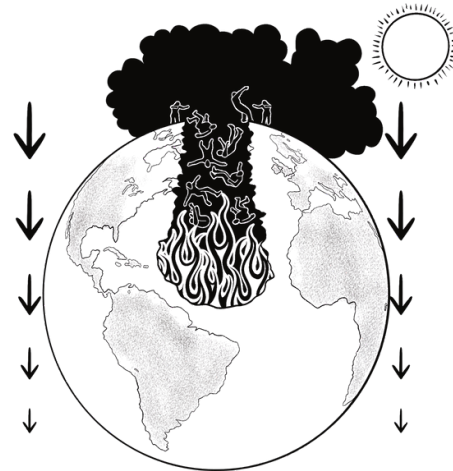
This is another term used more to describe an abyss rather than a grave.

Down – Down – Down

When the Scripture speaks of delivering one into hell, the pit, or the Lake of Fire, it often uses the word “down” over and over again. So, is down—into the depths of the earth—the location of hell, or is it out there in space and time?

The temperature of the Earth’s core is approximately 10,400 degrees Fahrenheit, equal to that of the sun, and would be a great location for hell. The Bible says:

Revelation 9:2 – “And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.”



This pit had to be located in the lower earth, for it blocked out the sun and blackened the earth’s air. It goes on to say that locusts (**Revelation 9:3**) came out from the earth with the power of scorpions, and **Revelation 13:11** tells us that the beast comes up from out of the earth.

One may argue: how could an endless pit be contained within an earth that has perimeters?

Torment = Basanos = a notion of going (endlessly) to the bottom, torture.

It is also referred to as an “endless pit” because once in, there is no exit.

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

Hell is a place of such extreme anguish that it would be impossible to fully describe. However, the good news is that hell was created for the Devil and his fallen angels, not for man.

Matthew 25:41 – “...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Hell was not created for humanity, but it is the final destination for those who reject God’s salvation in Jesus Christ.

Although we are all creations of God, man only becomes a child of God through faith and trust in Jesus. To think otherwise would be unbiblical, for:

John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Enemies of God Do Not Fare Well

The annals of time are filled with those who have shook their fist at God—and lost. We will examine but a few.

The Phoenician city of Tyre was a leading port of trade, as New York is today—a city of untold wealth and seemingly endless prosperity. However, when the king of Tyre grieved Israel by rejoicing in its fall to Babylon and selling Jewish children to the Greeks as slaves, God turned His face against him, prophesying their total destruction.

Ezekiel 26:7 – God said, “I will bring upon Tyrus, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.”
And in:

Ezekiel 26:3 – “...and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth the waves to come up.”

Tyre fell after a 13-year siege by Babylon that left the city in rubble and ruins in 573 B.C. The remaining population fled to a rocky island half a mile from shore. With the channel between the mainland and Tyre being 20 feet deep, and the island surrounded by walls up to 150 feet high, 20 feet thick, and battered by high violent winds, they felt impregnable.

However, the prophecy from God was:

Ezekiel 26:21 – “I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again,” saith the Lord God.

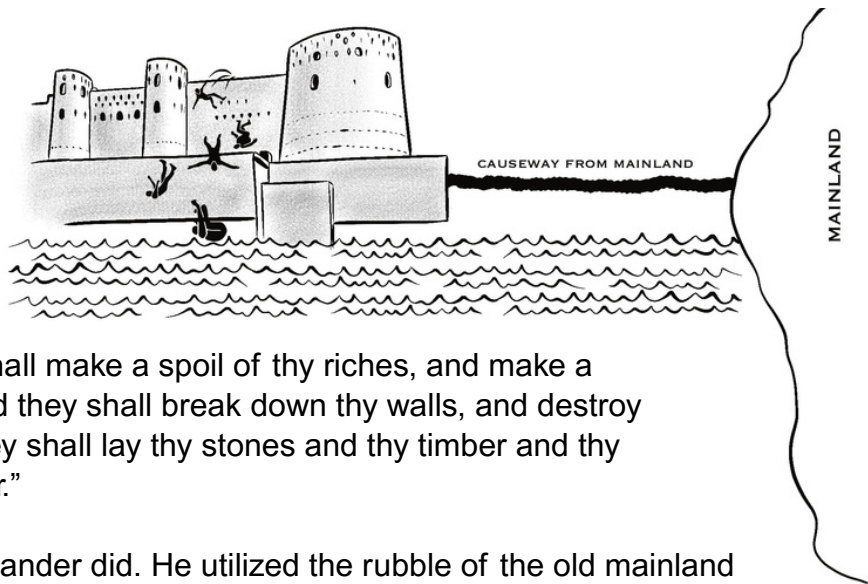
Then Comes Alexander

It was customary for the world-conquering Alexander to send his ambassadors ahead to a nation on his list to besiege, in order to negotiate a peaceful tribute. Their choice was to pay or be slaughtered.

With this new, seemingly impregnable fortress, the king decided to take a firm stand against some of Alexander's requests. The king offered Alexander an acceptable tribute, but when he refused his requests to allow use of Tyre's sacred altars for his pagan sacrifices, Alexander was furious.

The king began to kill Alexander's ambassadors and throw them over the wall and into the sea.

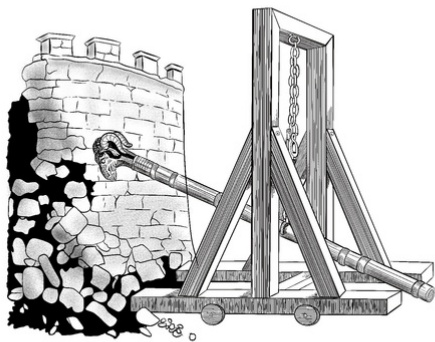
In retribution and extreme wrath, Alexander decided to construct a causeway to the island to seize this New Tyre, thus fulfilling an amazing prophecy by God:



Ezekiel 26:12 – “And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise; and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.”

And that is exactly what Alexander did. He utilized the rubble of the old mainland Tyre to construct this causeway, which was 20 feet deep, 200 feet wide, and covered it with dirt for the entire half-mile stretch to the island fortress, seeking his revenge.

Even during construction, the king was attacking the workers, so revenge for Alexander was sweet. Once he reached these massive walls, Alexander's engineers constructed a powerful battering ram that destroyed them.



In the siege of Tyre, 30,000 were killed, and another 30,000 were taken into slavery.

This was the end of Tyre as a city, as prophesied by God:

Ezekiel 26:14 – “And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord God.”

Thus ends the Phoenician reign of Tyre and its king.

Voltaire – Enemy of God

Voltaire (1694–1778), a famous French philosopher and Enlightenment writer, was a wealthy, educated, and esteemed Deist. (He believed in a higher power, but not in a personal God.) He was tolerant of religions that did not have a personal God, but had a venomous disdain for Christians, Jews, and Islam, which did.

His hatred for the Christian God was so intense that he swore to eradicate the Scriptures from the earth. He babbled, “One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible read on earth.”

He also said, “If we would destroy the Christian religion, we must first destroy the Bible.” He cursed and blasphemed God and Roman Catholicism.

Well, things just did not work out so well for Voltaire. Fifty years after his death, the Evangelical Bible Society of Geneva obtained Voltaire’s large house (mansion), where he had his own printing press—and then used it to print Bibles.

This large facility was also used as a Bible repository (storage).

Voltaire’s Death

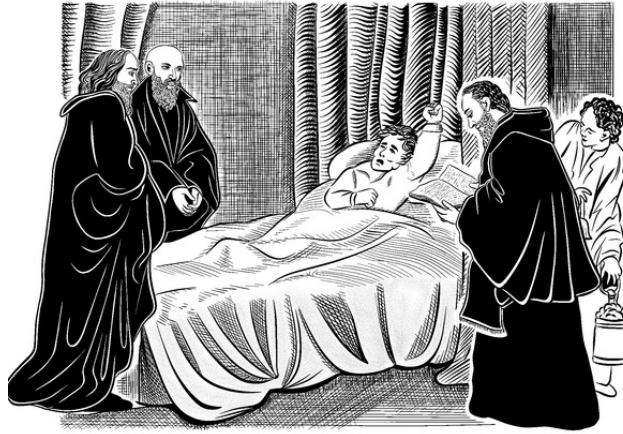
Upon his death, Voltaire’s bloodline, in order to maintain his image, painted a picture of him being calm, peaceful, charismatic, charming, and witty while passing. However, his nurse and others who were reportedly there told a much different story.

His death was long and lingering over a two-month period, during which he suffered from cardiovascular disorders. For the excruciating pain, his doctor gave him small doses of opium. However, he would consume large amounts and fall into extended periods of delirium. His bowels would not empty, nor could he urinate. He stopped eating and drinking and knew the end was near.

It was described as a horrific horror show, as he ranted and raved like a madman—looking for peace but finding none.

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

Although he was baptized Catholic as a baby and schooled by Jesuit priests, his rants toward the Church were so vile that he was exiled from Roman Catholicism. However, on his deathbed, he tried getting the Church to let him back in, but they refused him.



He would cry out to God to save him, then turn around and curse Him. His angry rants were so bad that his friends and caretakers feared being around him.

At the age of eighty-three, he died in a rage of anger, fear, and uncertainty.

Upon his death, his nurse said, “For all the wealth of Europe, I would never see another infidel (non-believer) die.”

As bad as it was for Voltaire, it got even worse for him. For the Bible that he disdained says:

Hebrews 9:27 – “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

In the end, this highly educated, arrogant, blasphemous, rich man displayed that he in fact—deep inside—did believe in a personal Creator God. Otherwise, he would not have bothered to shake his fist or take time to curse Him; he just did not accept Him.

The term “there are no atheists in foxholes” holds much truth.

John 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

It is peculiar how, when an unbeliever is told that if they don't believe in Santa Claus they will go to “ba ba land” to be unhappy forever, they would more likely than not find it amusing. However, if told that their unbelief in Christ Jesus will place them in hell for eternity, they become combative—for deep inside, the nature of man is the belief in a Creator God that longs to be satisfied.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair

This was another widely known mortal enemy of God who was instrumental in the separation of church and state movement that removed prayer and Bibles from public institutions.

In 1963, she established the American Atheist Society. One of her employees, David R. Waters (53), whom she accused of being gay in one of her publications, was enraged by the accusation.

He kidnapped O'Hair (73), her son Jon Garth O'Hair (40), and her granddaughter, Robbin Murray O'Hair (30).

On September 29, 1995, their bodies were found in a grave in Real County, Texas. The bodies were stacked on top of each other, severely burned, with legs amputated.

Jon O'Hair was found with his hands tied behind his back and a plastic bag over his head. Blunt force trauma was determined to be the cause of death.

The bodies were so severely damaged that DNA was required for identification. The torture must have been horrific.

She bitterly fought God. God won.

Oddly enough, her son William J. Murray is a Baptist minister.

These are but a few examples of those who have outright disdain for God. But what about those who dilute or contaminate the Word of God... the cults?

From the tombstone of
Madalyn Murray O'Hair:

"An atheist believes that a hospital should be built instead of a church, an atheist believes that a deed must be done instead of a prayer said, an atheist strives for involvement in life and not escape into death. He wants disease conquered, poverty vanquished, war eliminated."

The Cult of Mormonism

The Cult of Mormonism

What Is Considered a Cult?

Those who meet the following criteria are considered to be a cult by mainstream Christianity:

- They believe that only those who are members of their organization or group can ever inherit eternal reward.
- Their leaders claim the authority to change or rewrite Scripture, usually through their latest visions.
- One must accept the Bible plus their revised doctrines and literature—which overpower the canon of Scripture—in order to receive eternal reward.

Here, Mormonism is guilty on all counts. With six million members, it is the fourth-largest religion in the United States. However, it is surprising how little is known about them and their strange doctrines, even by Bible-believing Christians.

Should one search the internet seeking information on this organization, they would encounter a biased media that promotes Mormonism as just another Christian religion. It could be difficult to find links that support Christian values that oppose Mormonism, but they are there.

As a result, some basic Mormon beliefs will be reviewed in this Bible study.

Founder Joseph Smith claimed that in 1823, he was approached by an angel named Moroni (whom Smith believed to be a resurrected man now glorified). Moroni gave him gold tablets, from which he transcribed the Book of Mormon, the heart of Mormonism.

Modern Mormons call themselves the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a name they believe was given to Joseph Smith via revelation. However, Smith's first church organization in 1830 was called the Church of Christ.

In 1834, it was changed to the Church of the Latter-day Saints.

In 1838, it was changed again to its present name: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or simply LDS.

So who are these Mormons who come by 1,700 years after Christ, claiming to be God's true Church?

Mormons: Christian or Cult?

Founder Joseph Smith (1805–1844) and his brother Hyrum Smith were murdered by a jailhouse mob in Carthage, Illinois, on June 27, 1844.

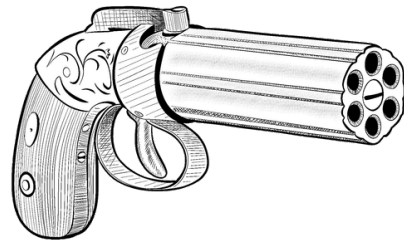
It was Smith's Mormon stance on polygamy that sparked outrage in the community to the point of lynching him and his brother.

While being arrested on charges of treason, he was quoted as saying, "I am going as a lamb to the slaughter." However, Smith's associates managed to smuggle guns to the brothers.

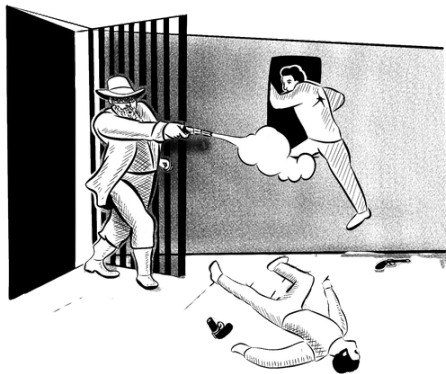
Hyrum was killed by a stray bullet before he had a chance to fire his weapon.

A Martyr, A Lamb to Slaughter, or Six Guns Blazing?

Joseph Smith fired his smuggled Pepper Box six-barrel pistol at the emerging crowd of vigilantes. Three of the barrels misfired, but he managed to injure three of the attackers (two of these three may have later died).



He was then shot dead as he attempted to escape out of a window



It was indeed a tragic ending for Smith; however, he did not go out like a lamb to the slaughter, as he claimed—but Jesus did.

The major difference between the two slaughters is that Jesus could have stopped His mob; Joseph Smith could not. When the soldiers came into the garden to arrest Jesus, He said:

Matthew 26:53 – “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”

A legion = 6,000 angels × 12 = 72,000 angels

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

Mormons believe that after the death of Jesus and His apostles, widespread apostasy caused the Lord to withdraw the priesthood from the earth. That is to say, until Joseph Smith came onto the scene some 1,700 years later in order to fulfill the gospel. Thus, the Mormons teach (see *Pearl of Great Price*, 2:5-26).

At the age of 17, Smith claimed to have a vision from the angel Moroni, and in 1830, at the age of 24, having no knowledge of the original languages of Scripture (Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic), he published the Book of Mormon.

His only claim to legitimacy is that God authorized him to make changes to Scripture via his latest visions. And although the Scriptures have given warning not to make such changes:

Deuteronomy 4:2 – “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”

We are warned again in Galatians:

Galatians 1:8 – “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

And then again, the command is reaffirmed so that there is no misunderstanding:

Galatians 1:9 – “As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

Yes, these verses cover false prophets such as Joseph Smith and his latest visions, as well as his angel Moroni. There is no mention of an angel Moroni in any Bible—only in Mormon writings.

And due to the extreme importance of this holy command, it is the very last command mentioned in the Bible. Should we not heed it?

Revelation 22:18 – “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book: If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”

Revelation 22:19 – “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

Yes, Joseph Smith and his Mormon teachings are guilty of violating these dire warnings, for they have added to, taken away from, and totally changed the gospel of Scripture.

Joseph Smith changed or added some 2,427 verses in the Bible. His visions led to the publication of four books which are the heartbeat of Mormonism:

- *Holy Bible* (modified to support Mormonism)
- *Book of Mormon*
- *Doctrine and Covenants*
- *Pearl of Great Price*

All derived via the visions of Joseph Smith.

Despite their claims, the Book of Mormon is not comparable nor compatible with the Bible, for the teachings of Mormonism overpower it, giving Mormon prophets authority to alter the canon of Scripture (see Doctrine and Covenants 43:2–9).

Brigham Young Assumes Leadership

Mormonism grows into a religion of strange and unbiblical beliefs.

Scripture teaches that the Christian God is one God, a Spirit, not of flesh and bones, as is the Mormon god. Mormons are highly offended at the suggestion of not being classified as Christians; however, they serve a totally different God than that of the Christian Bible. Still, they will not hesitate to tell you that one cannot make it to heaven unless they are Mormon.

Mormons believe in three individual, independent gods:

- God (whom they refer to as the Father)
- Jesus (whom they refer to as Jehovah)
- The Holy Spirit (who has no body, but can assume one)

They do not believe in the triune God who shares the fullness of the Godhead, as the Christian Bible teaches. So, no, Mormons are not classified as Christians, but rather as a cult. For Joseph Smith taught:

“God was once a man as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens.” (*King Follett Discourses*)

“The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s.” (*Doctrine and Covenants 130:22*)

“Therefore, we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body... of flesh and bone.” (*Doctrine and Covenants 129:1–5*)

Mormons teach that the world was not created from nothing, but was merely organized from elements that had already existed (see *Book of Abraham 3:24*).

Although not fully accepted by Mormon doctrine today, Joseph Smith taught that:

“Adam is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do.”

According to Smith’s doctrine, Adam was once a mortal man who became resurrected and exalted. With Eve being Adam’s wife, he brought her with him to earth, where—by eating of the forbidden fruit—they became mortal. After bearing mortal children, thus establishing the human race, they returned to their heavenly throne to rule.

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

Later, Adam returned to Earth to become the literal father of Jesus

When Brigham Young died, the new leadership phased out this Smith doctrine. However, many traditional members still embrace it today.

Mormons believe that their god (of flesh and bones) resides on a celestial body they call Oliblish, located near the celestial star or planet Kolob. It is said to be located in the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, 300,000 light-years from Earth (thus the Mormons teach).

Disavows the Virgin Birth

Mormons do not believe in the Virgin Birth as taught by the Bible, but rather that God took human form in order to have physical intercourse with Mary to impregnate her with Jesus. (*Journal of Discourses* 1:51; 4:218)

Mormon Apostle Bruce McConkie wrote:

“Christ was begotten by an immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by immortal fathers.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, 1966, p. 547)

Is Dark Skin a Curse?

Both Joseph Smith and Brigham Young believed that Black or dark skin was a result of the curse of Cain. They also taught that this curse made Black individuals unworthy to vote, marry with whites, hold the priesthood, or participate in temple ordinances, which would also disqualify them for entrance into the Celestial Kingdom (the highest level of the three Mormon heavens).

The Book of Mormon teaches that those with white skin are morally and spiritually superior to those with dark skin. (*The Way to Perfection*, p. 107) However, it also teaches that once someone accepts the teachings of Mormonism, their skin will eventually whiten. (II Nephi 5:21)

“O then ye unbelieving, turn ye unto the Lord; cry mightily unto the Father in the name of Jesus, that perhaps ye may be found spotless, pure, fair, and white, having been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, at that great and last day.” (Mormon 9:6)



The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

“God has always been discriminatory.”

– A quote from Randy Bott, Professor of Religion, *Brigham Young University*

It was not until 1978, under severe public pressure, that this doctrine was officially abandoned, and Black individuals were freely allowed to enter the priesthood.

Knowing the racism historically embedded in Mormonism, why would any Black or dark-skinned person ever associate with them?

These teachings are not comparable or compatible with the Bible.

The Bible does teach that the nation of Israel, in order to remain spiritually pure, was not to marry outside of Judaism, but never due to skin color. In fact, Moses himself was married to an Ethiopian woman:

Numbers 12:1 – “And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.”

The Three Heavens of Mormonism

The Bible does speak of three heavens, but not in the way Mormonism defines it. Mormons believe in:

- 1) Celestial
- 2) Terrestrial
- 3) Telestial

Three kingdoms—each offering rewards depending on one’s purity.

Celestial

Only at this level can one obtain the highest degree of glory: “God status,” the privilege of living in God’s presence. Only those who have obeyed Mormon laws, doctrines, and prophets may enter.

Terrestrial

A place for honorable people who reject Mormonism in mortality but accept it in the spiritual world (through baptism for the dead). It is also for those who accept Mormonism but do not live valiantly. (Jesus will come to visit them in this kingdom, but the Father will not.)

Telestial

This is the home for the multitude of the wicked who rejected Mormonism in both mortality and in the spirit world afterlife.

Before entering this kingdom, one must first be sent into hell in order to suffer for their sins, before their release at the end of the millennium. (The Holy Ghost will visit the residents here, but not the Father or the Son.)

The Three Biblical Heavens

Unlike Mormonism, the Christian Bible does not speak of the three heavens as places of reward, but rather as spaces between creations.

- **First Heaven:** Earth's atmosphere—air, clouds, where birds fly.
- **Second Heaven:** Contains celestial lights—sun, moon, and stars.
- **Third Heaven:** A spiritual realm containing God and angels, known only to God.

Can Mormons Become Gods

When asked this question, Mormons tend to scoff at its validity. However, it is among the many false doctrines espoused by Mormonism.

When speaking of resurrected Mormons, *Doctrine and Covenants* 132:19 teaches:

“Ye shall inherit thrones, principalities, and powers, dominions, all heights and depth.”
These words—hijacked by the Mormons—were originally ascribed only to Jesus by Scripture. For we are told in:

Colossians 1:16 – “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

And yet *Doctrine and Covenants* 132:20 states:

“Then shall they be gods, because they have no end; therefore shall they be from everlasting to everlasting, because they continue. Then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them. Then shall they become gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them.”

Mormons have taken these biblical words—clearly ascribed to Christ—and awarded them to those they designate as Celestial Kingdom Mormons who have remained pure. And what about the dwellers in their Telestial-taught heaven, who were inducted via baptism for the dead?

They believe that when one dies outside of Mormonism and is condemned to hell, temple prayers can make them Mormon—thus allowing them to “graduate” into their Telestial Kingdom.

These pagan teachings are strictly Mormon doctrine, not accepted by any Christian denomination. But where do they get this doctrine they refer to as Vicarious Baptism (baptism by proxy)?

It was taught by Joseph Smith, found in:

- *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 193
- *Doctrine and Covenants*, 138:8–14

Vicarious Baptism

Here is an excellent example of a cult taking a lone verse of Scripture, misinterpreting it, and then creating a doctrine from it, as is the case with:

1 Corinthians 15:29 – “Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?”

Often, to get the full meaning of a verse, the entire chapter should be read.

Here in **1 Corinthians 15**, Paul is speaking of Christ’s resurrection and power. In **verse 15:32**, he speaks of his hard battles for the cause of Christ, and goes on to basically say:

“Why would I do this if I did not believe that there was a resurrection for the dead?”

The dead spoken of here are the saints who were martyred for their faith. Also, for the sake of maintaining the ranks, they could not let people of faith be killed faster than they could be replaced.

The Mormon position—that one gets a second chance at eternal life after death—is simply not scriptural.

The Bible teaches in Ecclesiastes that after death, decision-making for man is over:

Ecclesiastes 9:10 – “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”

And from hell, the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus from Paradise back to earth in order to warn his brethren to obey the prophets and not enter hell (see **Luke 16:27–31**).

Abraham’s reply was that his brethren had Moses and the prophets to listen to, and that would be their last and only chance.

All Have Sinned and Come Short of the Glory of God

All throughout Scripture, the Bible teaches that man is born into sin and that no man is good. However, Mormonism teaches that man is born sinless until the age of accountability, which they have determined to be eight years old.

Moroni 8:8 – “Wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin.”

Moroni 8:12–13 teaches that children are sinless until the age of eight. (See also *Doctrine and Covenants 137:10*.)

Joseph Smith claimed that the Lord revealed to him that children should be baptized at the age of eight, thus establishing the Mormon-taught age of accountability.

The Biblical Age of Accountability

Although the Bible lays out no specific age of accountability, there are indications that it is much older than many may think.

Babies and small children are born into sin (as is all mankind); therefore, they are sinners—yet they are blameless, and God would never place them in hell with the wicked.

Children will reach a point in life (known only to God) at which they will choose a path to or away from God. That will be their age of accountability, which may vary for each child.

The biblical standard seems to be high, for the accountability for making vows unto God is shown in:

Leviticus 27:2-3 – Sets the age at twenty years old.

Numbers 1:3 – Says that a male was exempt from military service until the age of twenty years old.

Numbers 32:11 – God informed Moses that due to the lack of faith of the people, nobody from the age of twenty and up shall set foot on the Promised Land.

Apparently, they were held accountable at the age of twenty years old.

With this said, it is best not to take chances and to follow:

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Bring that child to a knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ at as early an age as possible, so that he may carve a path of righteousness for his life.

Blood Atonement

The Bible teaches that all sin may be forgiven by God, except for blaspheming the Holy Spirit (denying God's Son). No sin is too great for forgiveness.

However, Mormon doctrine has taught that the atonement of Jesus alone does not redeem all sin, and that a murderer must die by spilling his own blood in order to receive forgiveness from God.

Doctrines of Salvation, pages 135–138, teaches that the blood of Christ will not cleanse certain egregious sins, and that the transgressors must sacrifice their own lives in order to obtain forgiveness.

Case in point:

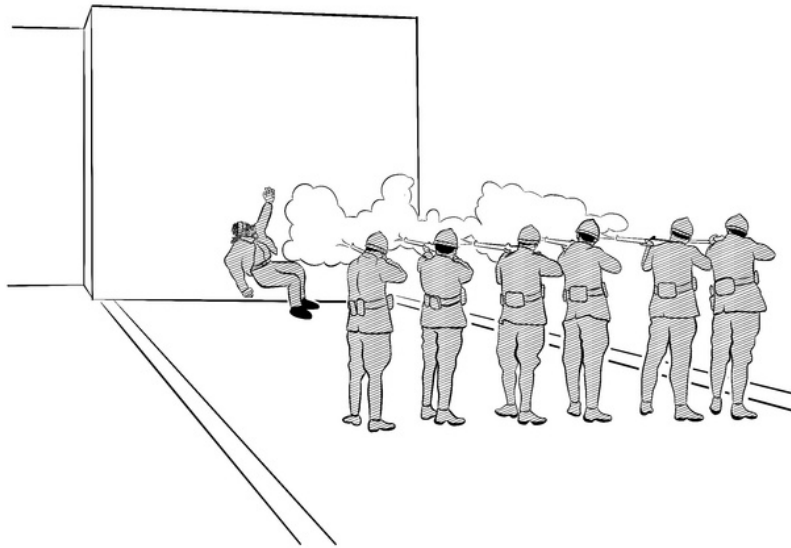
In 1976, Mormon Gary Gilmore murdered two people—one in a gas station robbery, and the next day another in a hotel robbery.

The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible

At that time, the death penalty in the U.S. had been halted, having been deemed cruel and unusual punishment—and therefore unconstitutional.

Gilmore fought to reinstate the death penalty, demanding that the execution be carried out by firing squad, thus fulfilling the Mormon doctrine of spilling blood via self-sacrifice to pay for his sin.

He got his wish.



Conclusion

There are volumes written concerning the Bible and Mormonism, however, for the purpose of our study, the information that has been provided should give one some indication of Mormon values.

You be the judge.

What Say Ye?
(Blog us on our site)

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A Kenpoconnection Bible Study

Church Massacres: Where Is God?



by Sifu Herb Patus

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Introduction



Christians have been brutalized, tortured, and killed for centuries all under the watchful eye of God, but why?

This is a spiritual question that requires a spiritual answer from the Scriptures, where we are told in **John 12:31** that Satan is the Prince of this world.

Yes, God has granted Satan charge of the earth, but has left us instructions on how to deal with it.

I Peter 5:8 – “Be ye sober (or clear minded), be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Remember Satan’s vicious beatdown of Job? Well, it still happens today. Old Testament or New, the message is the same: Arm up, and be prepared to defend yourself at all times.

O.T. Example — Nehemiah Chapter 4

God instructed Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of the city and defend themselves as they labored, to work with a tool in one hand and a sword in the other; to place armed guards at the high places and in the low places (to lay in wait) and fight to defend their families and loved ones.

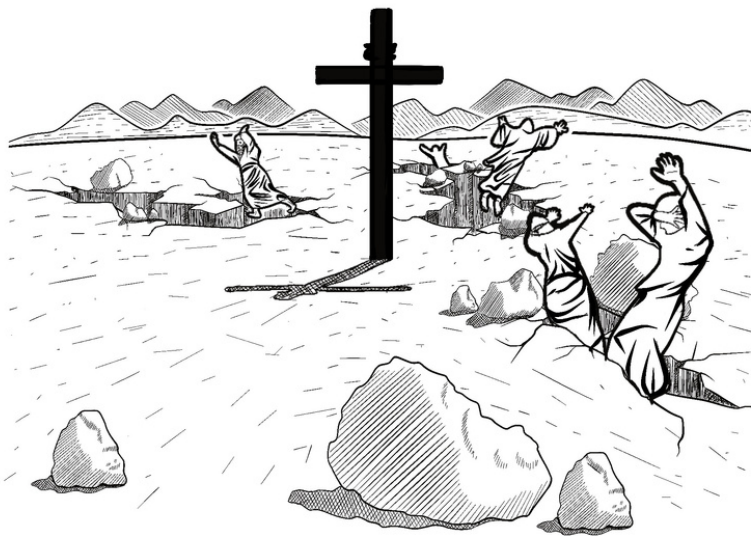
Yes, God watched the battles, yet expected and even instructed them to defend with a sword.



New Testament Example — Jesus Instructs His Disciples to Defend with the Sword

A prime example of scriptural instruction to defend with a sword comes from Jesus himself in the garden of Gethsemane as He readies for His earthly departure from His disciples, telling them that He has cared for all their needs, but will now be leaving them (for the cross at Calvary), and that they must now fend for themselves.

Two incidents in the garden involving swords may be the most powerful teaching that the Scriptures have to offer on the subject of defense, from Jesus himself.



Sword Incident #1 — In the Garden

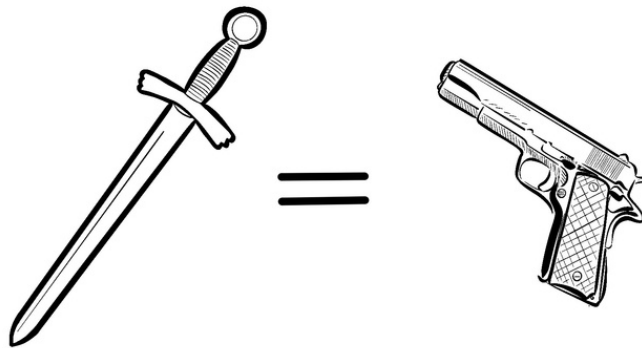
Luke 22:35–36:

“And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and script, and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, Nothing.

Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his script: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.”

Although the Middle East can be bitter cold, Jesus told them that they would be better off having a sword rather than a coat.

The sword was the most powerful weapon available in that day. In today’s vernacular the most powerful weapon for us would be a gun.



The instruction here from Jesus is to arm up and be ready to defend yourselves at all times.

Sword Incident #2 — In the Garden

Those who oppose the command by Jesus to arm themselves will point to the second sword incident in the garden, where in **Matthew 26:51–52** it says, “...one of them which were with Jesus... drew a sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest.”

Then Jesus said unto him, “Put up again thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”

This verse in no way demeans the proper use of the sword, for it is not likely that Jesus would instruct His followers to get a sword at all costs, then condemn them for having one.

Church Massacres: Where Is God?

The difference between these two incidents is that:

- In incident number one, Jesus instructed His disciples to carry a sword for defensive purposes.
- In incident number two, the unmerited attack on Malchus was offensive.

When Jesus told His disciple (most believe this was Peter) to put away his sword, He was merely reminding him that the penalty in that day for the taking of an innocent life was death.

For all purposes Malchus was an innocent man. Had Peter killed him, he'd have been guilty of murder and would have had to forfeit his own life.

A Point of Interest

During the Roman time period, a penalty for murder would be to have the dead victim's body strapped to the back of the guilty to carry them all the rest of their days—which would not be many, for the bacterial disease from the decaying corpse would cause their soon demise.



Cannot Outguess God

In some instances God may choose divine intervention in order to preserve an earthly life. However, graveyards are filled with those who have died violent deaths where God, for whatever reason, has chosen not to intervene—and even stood by and watched as His only Begotten Son was savagely beaten and tortured to death on the cross of Calvary, so that all who believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

A Clear Biblical Message

Yes, God's instruction in both Old & New Testaments is ample and clear: defend ourselves at all times, be vigilant, never drop your guard.

Although we live in what is commonly thought of as a sophisticated society, we should never become so complacent lest we forget that the laws of the jungle (nature) still apply: "the strong survive."

Never underestimate evil. Never think that just because we are sitting in a church service that we are exempt from this law.

Due to the numerous amount of churches in America today, it is possible—but highly improbable—that your place of worship would be violently attacked; but what if it were, and nobody was prepared to defend?

Evil Has No Boundaries

Even the wealthy are not exempt, as in the tragic case of the 2007 home invasion in Cheshire, Conn., that completely destroyed the lives and family of Dr. William Petit. His wife and daughters, 11 and 17—gone forever.

The doctor lived in an affluent neighborhood where you would least expect trouble of any kind, until one day evil struck the family.

Two ex-cons followed the doctor's wife home from a grocery store. Once she was inside, the cons sprang into action.

The doctor, who was asleep on his porch couch, was viciously beaten with a bat and left for dead.

The cons then raped and killed the wife, tied the two daughters to their beds, raped them, doused them in gasoline, then set them on fire. Yes, God was watching.

In 2015, South Carolina: a white gunman kills nine black parishioners (innocent young girls), and yes, God was watching.

In 2017, First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, TX: the shooter had blocked the entrance, then fired at will. Sadly, the church had not guarded their doors; however, the shooter was confronted and killed by a neighbor (a good man with a gun), or the body count would have been much higher.

Church Massacres: Where Is God?

Yes, God was watching—but it was an armed good Samaritan that brought this evil slaughter to an end.

Thank God that this brave Samaritan obeyed the words of Jesus to arm himself.

A Call to Arms

As a result of this massacre, there are now many godly churches in Texas whose Deacons and various members have had enough, and armed up as the Scriptures have directed us to do.

These were evil tragedies but not isolated incidents, for horrific evils of this nature are commonplace in today's society—and yes, all this happens under God's watchful eye. However, He has left us with instructions.

- **(John 12:31)** — Satan is the Prince of this world.
- **(I Peter 5:8)** — Be sober, be vigilant; the Devil seeks to devour to whom he can.
- **(Nehemiah 4)** — Defend yourself and your families with the sword.
- **(Luke 22:35–36)** — “...and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.”

A Church That Heeded Biblical Instruction to Get a Sword

A better example of how an armed attack on a church should be handled would be the potentially horrific slaughter that awaited the congregation at CrossPointe Community Church in Wayne, Mich., on Sunday, June 22, 2025.

The church was hosting a Vacation Bible Study that draws a large crowd of children.

There were approximately 150 people in attendance on that day when Brian Anthony Browning, 31, erratically drove his SUV into the church parking lot and exited his vehicle wearing camouflage clothing and a tactical vest.

He was armed with an AR-15-type rifle and a semi-automatic handgun with more than a dozen fully loaded magazines, as well as hundreds of rounds of ammo for his handgun.

He was ready for what he thought was a soft-target slaughter and was ready to kill all who were in attendance; however, staying true to Scripture, the church had a security team in place inside as well as outside the church.

Church Massacres: Where Is God?

As the gunman approached the front entrance of the church, an alert parishioner who was in the parking lot struck him with his vehicle as the gunman shot at him repeatedly.

Church security then engaged the gunman in a gun battle that left the gunman dead.

One of the security team members was shot in the leg but recovered following surgery. And yes—God was watching.

Church Violence—God's Fault?

The outcry as a result of church violence seems to be: Where is God? How could He allow this to happen?

When the truth of the matter is that God has given us ample warning of violence to come in this world. The real question is: Have we heeded the instruction that God has given us concerning this matter?

Only God knows the manner and hour of each human demise. Should death come via natural disaster, there may not be much we can do about it; however, many perish in ways that may very well have been prevented—if only they had adhered to the wisdom of Scripture.

The Cult of Seventh Day Adventist

The Cult of Seventh Day Adventist

Christians?

A Christian will follow and obey God's holy word every jot and tittle, for God's word is never changing. The cults will always make changes through dreams, visions, and/or false interpretations by their leaders.

With this said, we will scrutinize the organization whose founders refer to as Seventh Day Adventist = 7-DA.

The Millerite movement, sparked by William Miller, a Free Will Baptist preacher (not to be confused with fundamental Baptist), led to the formation of the 7-DA organization.

The Great Disappointment

Miller proved himself a false prophet when, in 1831, he prophesied the return of Christ would be between March 23, 1843, and March 23, 1844, which did not occur.

He then predicted Christ's return on Oct. 22, 1844, which again did not occur.

This came to be known as the Great Disappointment. As a result, a group of his followers (Millerites), as well as James and Ellen White and Joseph Bates, formed the Seventh Day Adventist.

Founders

Joseph Bates – James White – Ellen White – John Andrews

Joseph Bates: Instrumental in establishing the 7-DA. He was a staunch advocate for the observance of the seventh day sabbath.

James White: James and his wife Ellen were central leaders for the 7-DA movement.

Ellen G. White: She was a key figure in the 7-DA organization. She was a self-proclaimed preacher, writer, and visionary who played a major role in shaping the 7-DA beliefs.

The membership thought of her to be a prophetess. Her writings were foundational to the organization's theology, and thought to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and even an addendum for the Bible.

John Andrews: While not an initial founder, he was the 7-DA first official missionary to Europe.

Ellen G. White the Gold Standard

The writings of Mrs. White are considered to not only be inspired, but also authoritative by the 7-DA membership that viewed her to be a prophet.

However, she did not claim to be a prophet but rather said that at the age of 17 years old, in her very first vision, "...her Savior declared her to be his messenger, being called a prophet did not fully encompass what she believed to be doing."

The Greek word for **messenger** is **Angelos**, from which angel is derived = a supernatural being that delivers messages from God to man, i.e. Gabriel.

And yes, the word angel can also mean a preacher of the gospel; but in her case she claimed that the Holy Spirit fell upon her, took her up high to show her heavenly secrets, then afterwards Jesus sent her back to earth as his messenger to reveal his message to earth.

It is apparent that she viewed herself with an even higher heavenly status than that of a preacher or prophet, perhaps more in line with being an apostle (one sent by God to deliver a message).

Having the membership to believe in her "Spirit of prophecy" was a prerequisite for the 7-DA membership.

She taught that the Holy Spirit gifted her with prophecy and quickly garnered absolute power and control over this 7-DA organization.

7-DA has grown to be approximately 22 million members worldwide with 62,000 churches, in 203 countries.

Ellen White was a woman that became the leader of the largest 7-DA worldwide.

This alone is a violation of Scripture; however, when one believes that they have the authority to alter God's word through dreams and visions, then they can fit it into their agenda as desired (i.e. false prophet).

But the Bible Teaches

(Galatians 1:7) "... but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."

(Galatians 1:8) "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

What Does the Bible Teach Regarding Women in Church Leadership Roles and Why

(**1 Timothy 2:12**) “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”

Why?

(**1 Timothy 2:13**) “For Adam was first formed, then Eve.”

(**1 Timothy 2:14**) “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.”

The Family Was the First Institution Established by God, Even Before the Church

Women have an important and even glorious role in the family and Church, but leadership over men is not one of them. (They may lead or teach other women.)

The word of God places crowns of jewels upon their heads; however, God has appointed man as head of the house.

Nowhere in Scripture are women placed in a head-of-house position. No women apostles, no books of the Bible written by women.

God is adamant concerning women not assuming a leadership role over the man, as we are once again reminded why in **1 Corinthians 11:8–9**:

(**11:8**) “For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.”

(**11:9**) “Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.”

Women were created for the man; but not to lead him.

Qualifications for Church Leadership Are Found in: 1 Timothy 3:1–13

(**3:1**) Calls for a man to be in leadership.

(**3:2**) Must be blameless, and the husband of one wife.

(**3:4**) One that ruleth his house well, with well-behaved children.

Why?

(3:5) “...(for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God).”

More likewise instructions that further elaborate these teachings are found in the book of Titus.

These Scriptures alone disqualify women (such as Mrs. White) from leadership roles in the church.

Under the law, a false prophet would not have a second chance, for he would be put to death.

Also under the law, Saturday was the designated day of worship. There were 613 various laws that the Jews were bound by. Do the 7-DA honor all of these 613?

Even Jesus, being a Jew, lived under the law until He fulfilled the law at Calvary.

The laws were given to man in order to show his imperfection, that he was not able to keep the law, and that he needed a Savior.

When Christ on the cross said, “It is finished,” He was declaring that He had fulfilled the requirements for righteousness through the law; however, the 7-DA continue to feel that they are still bound under the law via Sabbath Day worship—much like modern day Pharisees.

NO SABBATH

(Colossians 2:16) “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holiday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days.”

After the cross there is no mention of (the saved by Christ) Christians attending a Sabbath worship, only worship on the first day.

Sunday worship Scriptures:

Matthew 28:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Luke 24:13–35; John 20:19–23; Revelation 1:10

And many more.

False Predictions of Ellen White

As with her mentor William Miller (Millerite) being a failed prophet, she herself had failed predictions regarding Christ’s imminent return in 1844 and 1845.

When 7-DA leader Joseph Bates’ prediction that Christ would return in the fall of 1851, Ellen White claimed to have a vision that supported this failed view.

Church Massacres: Where Is God?

In 1849 a cholera epidemic ignited in America causing hundreds of deaths. Ellen White interpreted this to be fulfillment of Christ's prophecy of "Pestilences," marking the "Beginning of Sorrows" found in **Matthew 24:7–8**.

However, shortly after her prophecy the epidemic subsided, and America entered a period of peace and prosperity that lasted many years.

In 1849 Ellen White said that it was revealed to her that people were looking a few years away for Christ's return, when she had a vision that "it would be sooner than that."

March 1849 Ellen White wrote a letter to Sister Hasting stating that the time of Christ's return was so short that it could be a matter of "a few more days."

Mrs. White also predicted that those alive in 1850 would see the return of Christ.

When this failed to happen she then claimed that God's promises and threats are conditional based on the hearts of the believers.

Ellen White's predictions on Christ's imminent return were rampant, supporting dates of 1851, then 1854.

Although Mrs. White believes that she has been given a spiritual insight from heaven regarding the year of Christ's return, Jesus said:

(**Matthew 24:36**) "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father."

All it takes is one false prophecy to be a false prophet worthy of death.

(**2 Corinthians 11:13**) "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ."

(**2 Corinthians 11:14**) "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Does this not describe Mrs. White?

A Real Dreamer

The internet has ample examples of her failed prophecies, visions, and writings that never came to be. Therefore, we will not try to evaluate the approximately 2,000 visions and dreams her organization claims that she had.

In defense of Ellen White's dreams, visions, and prophecies that many believed were failed, her organization claims they were taken out of context; also, that they were merely some of her viewpoints that she shared in daily conversation with friends, and/or consisted of conditional possibilities that could occur, or even that her visions were misinterpreted by accusers.

They also reiterated that she never claimed to be a prophet; however, in reality she claimed to be much more than that.

Church Massacres: Where Is God?

Putting aside her acclaimed false predictions/prophecies, let's look at how she has twisted Scripture out of context in order to suit her 7-DA cultic beliefs, such as claiming that they are the only true church, and if you are not a 7-DA member you will never see heaven.

This is but one of the cultic beliefs that 7-DA share with the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses.

Visions and Dreams Lead to the Twisting of Scripture

As a result of visions and dreams, the early 7-DA did not believe in the Trinity, but now they do.

“Conditional Immortality” is a doctrine that Mrs. White learned and adapted from the Millerite movement. It teaches that death is merely an unconscious sleep, opposed to the biblical teaching of immediate placement in heaven or hell.

They teach that there is no eternal torture for the wicked, but rather a one-time fire that burns them into annihilation. They merely cease to exist.

Nor do they believe in a literal hell as taught by Scripture, but rather a hell that is a spiritual realm, separate dimension, or psychological state.

They do not believe that a just and loving God would render an eternal hell fire punishment to the wicked, but rather a complete annihilation.

The 7-DA Teaching of Investigated Judgment

Investigated Judgment was another Millerite invention by Hiram Edson that is in stark contrast to the Bible. It was developed immediately after William Miller's false prophecy of Christ's imminent return (The Great Disappointment).

Although Mrs. White did not partake in the manufacturing of this document, her writings contributed to it, thus giving her prophetic endorsement.

It stated that the Lord has been judging Christians (those who professed to be saved) since Oct. 22, 1844, via a heavenly review of each one's deeds and lives being closely scrutinized to determine who will be saved or lost.

7-DA teach that at this judgment:

- God will be there to judge,
- Jesus will be there to advocate for the Christians,
- And Satan will be there to accuse the believers of transgressions.

This scenario is nowhere to be found in Scripture. For the Bible teaches but two judgments.

The Great White Throne Judgment: Revelation 20:11–15

Those who have lived their lives on earth rejecting Jesus Christ as their Savior will now not have Him as an advocate before the Father.

They will be judged for every evil thought, word, deed, and action that they have ever committed, then cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished according to their works.

The Judgment (Bema = Reward) Seat of Christ

This judgment is reserved for “born again” believers in Jesus Christ. The unsaved will not be here.

This judgment does not determine one’s salvation, but rather how they have lived their life, their actions and deeds for what they have done for Christ (after they were saved).

There will be reward and loss of reward for their works, or lack of.

(1 Corinthians 3:8) Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

(2 Corinthians 5:10) States that believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive rewards, or loss of, based on their works, actions, whether good or bad.

Also, see **Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11–13; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27**.

Ellen G. White a False Prophet With Many Skewed Visions, Dreams, and Twisted Teachings

In 1836, at the age of 9 years old, Ellen White was struck in the face (nose) with a rock that put her in a comatose state for 3 weeks, nearly causing her death and leaving her with a permanent disability.

Regarding this health issue, two 7-DA physicians, Hodder and Couperus, diagnosed Ellen with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy that may have contributed to her visions.

This was disputed by the modern 7-DA organization, who views her as a prophet and claims that the diagnosis was made many years after her death and was inaccurate.

Symptoms of TLE can include visual and auditory hallucinations. It is a complex neuropsychiatric disorder.

She was also diagnosed with Partial Complex Seizure Disorder.

She was a woman with a damaged mind.

Church Massacres: Where Is God?

Whether or not these disabilities contributed to her false prophecies, her interpretation of Scripture was immensely distorted.

The 7-DA seems to place much emphasis on Old Testament laws and teachings, Sabbath worship, etc.

It would do them well to give a closer observance to **Deuteronomy 18:20**:

“But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.”

There are many churches available today that accurately teach the Bible; however, the 7-DA are not among them.

Led by a woman false prophet that teaches a false gospel qualifies this 7-DA organization to be labeled as a cult.

This writing has merely scratched the surface of this ungodly organization. Much more detailed information is available online concerning this 7-DA cult and their false prophet, founder/leader Mrs. Ellen White.

If you believe that this writing was harsh, the 7-DA speaks equally so concerning other actual biblical-based believers that are non-7-DA. Remember, they teach that 7-DA are the only ones that will ever see heaven, and everyone else is lost forever.

So, if it is good for the goose; then it's good for the gander.

What Say Ye?
(Blog us on our site)

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My Tribute to Martial Arts Legend:

Orned “Chicken” Gabriel

(August 26, 1950 – April 13, 2025)



by Sifu Herb Patus

Up Close and Personal: A Compelling Story

The accomplishments of this martial artist turned preacher are many.

In 1978, Chicken was a member of an American kickboxing team that traveled to Japan, fighting for championship belts.

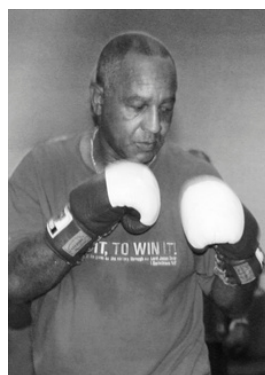
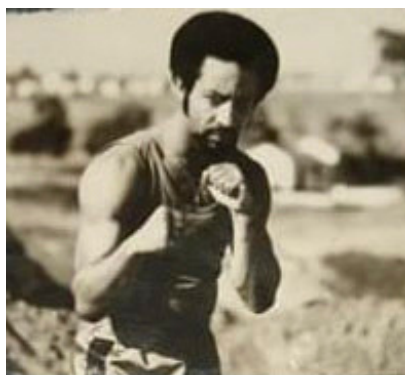
The Japanese champion that Chicken faced had defeated thirty-nine of his previous challengers—most of them by way of knockout—until he met Chicken, who broke the reigning champion’s leg, thus bringing the championship belt back to America.

Chicken received his black belt from Richard “Dick” Willett, a Tracy’s Karate Kenpo Master. Soon after, he began his own Kenpo organization, the United Karate Federation (UKF), where he continued to excel.

Chicken produced great fighters, such as Steve “Nasty” Anderson, who became an eleven-time Heavyweight National Champion in martial arts fighting.

Many others who trained under Chicken became nationally ranked competitors, professional fighters in boxing and kickboxing, or went on to open successful schools or businesses.

The training, knowledge, confidence, and peace that one receives through the martial arts can catapult them to great success.



Your Actions Create a Ripple in Life

The ripple effect is inevitable. When you drop a pebble into still water, it will always create a ripple.

"What kind of ripple are your actions going to create—positive or negative?" This is a phrase that Chicken would often use.

My name is Herb Patus, one of Chicken's UKF Tenth Degree Black Belts.

With this being said, I would like to describe the life-changing ripple that occurred in my life when Chicken dropped a pebble on me. That ripple turned into a tsunami wave that changed my life in a miraculous way.

Thank you, Chicken.

I also began my Kenpo training at Tracy's Karate on El Cajon Blvd. Due to my busy work schedule, I transferred (as a Brown Belt) to Chicken's UKF school in National City, where I lived—it was closer to home.

I trained there for a short while, then fell into tough times. I got into an accident with a semi-truck that left me in much pain for quite some time.

The pain was excruciating and difficult to diagnose and treat, as MRI imaging machines were not yet available for commercial use until 1980. As a result, my treatment consisted of an ample supply of opioid pain pills.

We know better today that opioids are not meant for long-term treatment. The longer you use them, the less effective they become—yet the more reliant you become on their addictive nature.

As the opioids became less effective, my pain level increased, and I turned to alcohol for relief. First it was wine, then hard liquor, which seemed to help. It wasn't long before I added tobacco to the mix—all in search of pain relief.

I found myself in a quagmire that I could not get out of. My once strong body had turned to mush, and I had no idea what to do. I was laid to waste, and I knew it.

A Knock at the Door

It was a Saturday morning. I was lying on the couch, grieving—when there was a knock at my door.

It was Chicken.

I can still, to this day, remember his face as he stood there. He was twenty-nine years old (I am one week older than Chicken), almost at his peak in life.

My Tribute to Martial Arts Legend: Orned “Chicken” Gabriel

He wore a small traditional afro and his signature goatee—he wore it well. I could see the strength in his face and neck. He was a sight for sore eyes. As he looked at me, his eyes were like laser beams that penetrated the very depths of my soul as he said,

“We haven’t seen you for a while. How have you been?”

I was so ashamed of myself and what I had become that I could hardly look him in the eyes. My physical body was so dilapidated from pain, alcohol, and drugs that I would avoid looking in mirrors.

“When are you coming back to class?” he asked.

I replied, “Times are bad, but I’ll be back when things are better.”

He said, “You are part of our family. Come back to class—for it is the pathway to things getting better.”

I remember telling him that I had no money. But that did not sway him. He said, “Don’t worry about money. Just come back. We were close to testing you for black belt.”

And then he left.

My urge for the black belt was a driving force.

When he left, I closed the door and instantly began to weep bitterly. It was uncontrollable. I hoped he did not hear me as he walked away. I sobbed for hours.

Chicken had dropped a pebble on me that caused a ripple.

Time For A Decision

This is not who I am—but rather what I had become.

Chicken’s visit made all the difference. It was the straw that broke the proverbial camel’s back.

Decisions are powerful. They’ve led many to twenty-to-life prison sentences, even the death penalty. But they’ve also propelled others to incredible success.

If I was going to make a change in my life, it would be now or never. I felt like it was the Lord who led Chicken to knock on my door—to retrieve a lost sheep. And I was that sheep.

I am so grateful for 70 x 7.

I decided that all I really needed was:

“A little air.
A little water.
A little food.”

(Another saying Chicken would often use.)

From Decision to Action

I dumped all my opioids, alcohol, tobacco, and hard drugs into the toilet. I had to flush twice to get the job done.

It would take a week to detox, then return to UKF classes.

Opioids are in the same pharmaceutical classification as heroin, so I knew it would be tough.

Many times, I had witnessed heroin addicts detoxing in the old San Diego County Jail. My several SDCJ stays usually involved alcohol—but not always.

The jail used to be hard-core. Addicts were jailed, then left on a bunk to detox. I’d watch as they broke into cold sweats, shook, squirmed, moaned, and groaned. It was horrible to see.

They have since cleaned up and reconstructed the jail due to the actions of Congressman Duncan Hunter. Addicts are now placed in a medical infirmary for proper treatment.

My Detox

Not only was I detoxing from opioids, but also from alcohol, nicotine, and other harder types of drugs (painkillers).

It was extremely tough—constant heavy sweating, shaking, chills, extreme nausea, loss of appetite, and the sensation of worms crawling under the skin.

Several times a night I would have to change my sweat-soaked sheets, drop down and do push-ups to failure, take a shower, then return to bed.

I would often get up during the middle of the night to run around the block once or twice, do push-ups to failure, shower, change sheets, then go back to bed.

The path to normalcy—and the black belt—would be laden with sweat, blood, and puke.

Always Go Into Battle Prepared

Fighting a drug addiction will break you physically as well as spiritually.

My years of athletics and martial arts training had my body accustomed to the physical beatdown. However, when it came to the spiritual aspect—I knew I needed God on my side.

My complete recovery would have to consist of:

- The Bible
- Kenpo training
- Exercise (weight training and running)

Approximately one week after Chicken knocked on my door, I returned to UKF for training. I began to study the Bible intently, which led me to search for a church home.

My Tribute to Martial Arts Legend: Orned “Chicken” Gabriel

Ultimately, I found a Bible-preaching fundamental Baptist church in National City. I made this my church home—and still attend to this day.

It was the ripple effect.

Thank you, Chicken, for knocking on my door in 1979.

Chicken the Master Sifu

Upon my return to Kenpo training, I was still going through withdrawals—and Chicken knew it. I could not hide my shaking, sweating, and weakness from him.

He was extremely wise, as he pushed me to my limit—but not over. He read me like a book; it was as if he could look into a glass of muddy water and see dry sand.

Ultimately, Chicken got me back into shape, then tested me for my black belt. Ironically, I began Kenpo training on May 16, 1973, and received my black belt on May 16, 1981.

Eight years to the day.



My Own School

I spent much time being an instructor for Chicken, as he also trained me in the business aspect of operating a martial arts school.

I started out being his student (and always will be), but soon we became best friends.

I had opened a very nice school in Encinitas, California—but getting established was difficult, and finances were an issue.

I got to the point that I finally decided to close the school. I called Chicken on a Friday to inform him of my decision, but he said,

“Wait a minute, don’t do that. I’ll be there Monday, and we’ll get things right.”

Chicken showed up as he said he would—and began to make things happen. He walked around the neighborhoods shaking hands, kissing babies, and handing out flyers.

He was extremely charismatic and could talk a dog off a meat truck.

As a result of his efforts, several people signed up for classes.

The Grandest of Grand Openings

Chicken then arranged a grand opening for me with the Chamber of Commerce that included a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The pastor of my church was there to pray for God’s blessings, then cut the ribbon.

My Tribute to Martial Arts Legend: Orned “Chicken” Gabriel

Just when I thought things couldn't get any better, Chicken had arranged for Muhammad Ali to show up as a special guest.

WOW! What a privilege.

Thank you, Chicken.

Muhammad Ali arrived in a limousine, walked in the front door, and asked, “Whose school is this?”

I was standing near the entrance and raised my hand, but before I could say a word, he threw a lightning-fast jab that barely touched my nose.

What amazing control!

I could feel the wind and hear the snap of his wrist—loud and clear.

At that point, I had a renewed sympathy for Joe Frazier.

Pack ‘Em In

Chicken then proceeded to recruit many of the upper belts for sparring on Saturdays to liven up the atmosphere.

The action was so intense that the windows would fog up and drip with sweat.

People packed into the lobby and even stood in line outside the door, wanting to sign up for classes.

I signed up many students—all thanks to Chicken.

Thanks to Chicken knocking at my door in 1979, *my life dramatically changed*. I began producing instructional martial arts DVDs and sold hundreds of them internationally.

Massage College (2003–2004)

In the origins of Kung Fu, a student would first learn to *heal* the body before learning to *harm* it. I decided to follow suit.

I took a break from martial arts training in order to attend the highly esteemed *Mueller College of Massage and Holistic Health*, where I received an eye-opening education on the human body.

I graduated as a *Certified Massage Therapist*. Soon after, I became *nationally certified and state licensed*.

This would never have happened had Chicken not taken the time to knock on my door in 1979. It was the ripple effect from the pebble he had dropped on me.

My Fifth Degree Black Belt Thesis

"Acknowledgement of Chicken"

In order to receive a Fifth Degree Black Belt from our Kenpo organization, the student is required to compose a 15–20 page, college-level thesis on any subject concerning the martial arts.

I turned in my 20-page composition titled:

"Karate and the Christian: The Parchments—A Fifth Degree Black Belt Thesis."

Then I kept writing.

That work ultimately became a *316-page book*, which I later published.

Thank you, Chicken, for the ripple.

In the acknowledgment portion of my thesis, this is what I wrote about my instructor and close friend Chicken: *Master Instructor Orned "Chicken" Gabriel*

Chicken, thank you for showing me "I can," even when I didn't think I could. For explaining to me the true meaning of Proverbs 23:7:

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

Webster's Dictionary does not contain the words that can properly describe the appreciation I have in my heart for all that you have done for me in my martial arts career.

To me, you will always be a champion.

Then Came COVID (2019)

Even in bad times, there are those who can take advantage of them and prosper. I was determined to do just that.

With the world locked down and not much to do, I decided to write a series of Bible studies for the furtherance of the gospel, to be posted in PDF format on my website:

www.kenpoconnection.com

Even the parks and beaches were closed to the public, so I would park my car (a 1993 Honda) on the street near the park to do my work.

I was equipped with a Bible, a Bible concordance, a cell phone, and a briefcase containing office supplies.

It was there I would sit—8 hours a day, 6–7 days a week—conducting intense research and study that produced my five Bible studies:

My Tribute to Martial Arts Legend: Orned “Chicken” Gabriel

1. *David and Goliath (A Case for David)*
2. *Jonah*
3. *Deity*
4. *The Greatest Overlooked Miracle in the Bible*
5. *Massacre in the Church: Where Is God?*

These approximately 200 pages of Bible study took about six months to complete.

Had Chicken not knocked on my door in 1979, none of this would have ever happened.

It was the ripple effect.

Still Locked Down with COVID, No End in Sight— However, I’m Warmed Up, On a Roll, and Ready to Write

My UKF training kicked in: *never quit, never give up.*

I decided to use my massage college education in kinesiology (the study of muscles—origins, insertions, and actions) to produce a *weight training manual* that would pass orthopedic muster.

And I did.

I continued sitting in my car—8+ hours a day, 6–7 days a week, for another 7 months—in order to produce: *Kenpo Connection: Isometric / Isotonic Weight Training Manual*.

I spent approximately one year—at 6–7 days a week, over 8 hours per day—to produce these two publications.

I Can’t Thank You Enough, Chicken

Still and evermore grateful to Chicken for knocking at my door in 1979 and dropping that pebble on me, I included him in the acknowledgments for the training manual.

This is what I wrote concerning him:

Orned “Chicken” Gabriel

My karate instructor who has taken me through the journey to a *10th Degree Black Belt*, where I learned to never give up, to keep on keeping on, and that it is never over until you say in your mind that it is over.

Thank you, Chicken, for the discipline that was instilled into me via your teaching—discipline that I not only carry through life, but also into the gym with my weight training, and into my *Kenpo Connection* weight training manual, to share with the world.

I salute you, sir.

Chicken My Instructor

Chicken was responsible for the majority of my promotions, including my most recent and final—earning the *Kenpo 10th Degree Black Belt*.

For this, I was required to write a dissertation (a 10th-degree thesis, if you will).

This dissertation has to be your best, because it demonstrates one who has accomplished their work to the fullest professional completion, including:

- Why you chose Kenpo
- What Kenpo has done for you
- What you have done for Kenpo
- A full explanation of your journey through Kenpo

Thank You, Chicken, for That Blessing

The 10th Degree Dissertation allowed me to combine Kenpo with my Christianity—so should one read the *Kenpo Connection* Weight Training Manual, they would not be surprised to find, at the end, an invitation to read the account of *David and Goliath: A Case for David* from the perspective of a modern-day warrior.

Hopefully, this will spark an interest in reading the rest of the studies as well.

My goal in all I do is to promote the Gospel.

Eternal Gratitude

Without Chicken knocking at my door in 1979 and pulling me up out of the muck and mire—as well as the incredible UKF-disciplined training I had received—none of this would have ever happened.

I cannot thank Chicken enough for the pebble he dropped on me, causing the tsunami ripple that greatly affected the direction of my entire life.

Thank you, Orned “Chicken” Gabriel.

Fighter Teacher

“It is the teacher and not the fighter that gets remembered,” Chicken would often say.

He was both.

Chicken was a natural-born fighter who never knew what it was like to quit or give up in any way. He taught his students likewise.

He had the uncanny ability to look through a student—to see and meet his needs.



Chicken Called to Preach

On December 12, 2021, Chicken was ordained as an evangelist by Bethel Baptist Church in San Diego, CA.

As for me, I have assumed the work of authoring and publishing Christian books and publications.

Other than my mother and father who gave me life, I can't think of anybody who has helped me achieve my hopes and dreams more than Orned “Chicken” Gabriel.

He was my best friend.



The Final Call

His last few years of earthly life were plagued by major health issues, yet he kept the faith—trusting in the promises of God.

He finished his race never complaining, never giving up, praising *the name of Jesus with his last earthly breath*—until Heaven called his name.

I have been privileged and honored to be his student and friend for these many decades.

Even on his deathbed, he was still teaching me—how to face death with courage and with the assurance of Scripture.

And indeed—*Earth is a better place today, because Chicken passed through.*

God bless you, Chicken—until we meet again... and thanks to John 3:16, we will.



Sifu Herb Patus

10th Degree Kenpo Black Belt
United Karate Federation (UKF)

