

or Post-Modern Mistakes
or The End-times Follies

A Brief Introduction

Let me state my purpose clearly right at the outset: if I can produce a tiny glimmer of curiosity for you to want to get your hands on a Bible and crack its pages then I will count my purpose fulfilled. As I told my nephew the other day, I've read hundreds, perhaps thousands, of books in my life, but I never read The Bible. Looking into the controversies surrounding the various translations and editions available I settled upon the King James Version published in 1611. I have found that this is the version that is burned indelibly into the consciousness of our generations, whose phrases and verses are so ingrained into our culture that they begin to fade from view out of familiarity. Consider it as you would Shakespeare, any English Literature professor worth their salt would insist on teaching you the original text of Shakespeare – despite its modern difficulty in reading. In it you find a treasure trove of sayings and intentions that are also a part of the substrate of modern culture in English speaking nations. However, Shakespeare is undoubtedly the profane history as much as it is well loved – tragedy and comedy in the secular tradition; important but not necessarily leading one to the truth of Jesus Christ.

However, I must note that as I progressed through my reading and understanding of The Bible, I found it helpful to look at other translations when the KJV was just too obtuse or too terse to understand. In particular the Amplified Bible has been really helpful. Take a look at BibleGateway.com where you will find many translations and can even view them side-by-side with the KJV.

Regarding history, you may find it interesting to read about Martin Luther – the original Martin Luther and his 95 Thesis of 1517. Many complain of modern education that it is rooted in liberation theology and cultural Marxism, which it undoubtedly is; but the all important history of the reformation of Christianity might as well be the history of Atlantis for as much as it is taught outside of formal religious institutions for the education of pastors, priests and professors of religion. Instead we immerse ourselves in the study of pagan cultures and religions, the indigenous peoples who are supposed to hold the key to spiritual understanding and growth with their myriad of godheads and idols.

So before I risk losing you at the beginning, let me stop and say, “Bravely read on!” Forgive this poor author for boring, clumsy writing and seek inside for a sip of the water that will never leave you thirsty. And if at some point in your journey you feel an urge to pull that dusty Bible down from the shelf, or order a new one online, don't be afraid! You will find freedom, not judgment. On to the Good News!

Genesis 9

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. ² And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth *upon* the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. ³ Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. ⁴ But flesh with the life thereof, *which is* the blood thereof, shall ye not eat. ⁵ And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at

the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. ⁶ Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. ⁷ And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein. ⁸ And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹ And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; ¹⁰ And with every living creature that *is* with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. ¹¹ And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹² And God said, This *is* the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: ¹⁵ And I will remember my covenant, which *is* between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* upon the earth. ¹⁷ And God said unto Noah, This *is* the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that *is* upon the earth.

I will assume you know the story of Noah's Arc, because it is one of the stories from The Bible that is allowed to persist in our post-modern, pagan, popular culture. There have been numerous movies made of the story, most recently in 2014 as of the date of this writing. Some stories from the old testament are very popular because they show the divine wrath of God and as such serve to perpetuate the viewing of Him as distant, judgmental, a punishing figure to be avoided or ignored. But did you see the part of Noah's story that is not only ignored, but in fact actively covered up by modern replacement icons? "I do set my bow in the cloud" and "the bow shall be seen in the cloud" are references to the rainbow, a beautiful miraculous natural occurrence that we have all seen. But what does the rainbow symbolize today? It is the standard for the homosexual and "alternative" lifestyle crowd, who even like to die their hair with the most unusual colors available to modern die making chemists. You may also recall that the corporate symbol for Apple Computer is a rainbow colored apple with a bite out of it. Some say this is a reference to a gay computer scientist who committed suicide in 1954 by eating a poisoned apple. But once again, is that not a cover story to obscure the truth of original sin in the Garden of Eden? Although we don't know what kind of fruit grew on the tree in the center of the garden, it is popularly symbolized as an apple. Perhaps this is why teachers are associated with apples, since they are to give us the worldly knowledge that move us into the world system.

Leviticus 16

And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died; ² And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy *place* within the vail before the mercy seat, which *is* upon the ark; that he die not: for I will

appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. ³ Thus shall Aaron come into the holy *place*: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁴ He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these *are* holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on. ⁵ And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. ⁶ And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which *is* for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. ⁷ And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. ⁹ And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him *for* a sin offering. ¹⁰ But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, *and* to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

²⁰ And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy *place*, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: ²¹ And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send *him* away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: ²² And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

One theme you will find repeated throughout the old testament is the sacrifice of animals to God. We find this perhaps naturally repulsive, or barbaric. But consider that most of us eat meat and don't consider where it obviously must come from. And it is worth noting that in many cultures of that era, not only animals but also humans were sacrificed to "gods". I was fascinated to discover here the origins of the word "scapegoat" which we all think is the person who receives the blame and/or punishment for something going wrong in business or in family life. Although that is partially true, it turns out that the scapegoat is the goat that escapes being sacrificed and is turned loose in the wilderness to metaphorically represent the turning out of the sins of Israelites. I am quite sure the hapless goat in this case preferred to be the "scapegoat".

Deuteronomy 19

²¹ And thine eye shall not pity; *but* life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

We tend to see this statement as an advocacy for ruthlessness or rigid justice. For example, if someone steals a loaf of bread he should have his hand cut off as punishment. However, if you read the whole passage from The Bible you will find Moses is referring to a person falsely accusing someone of a

crime in order to get them punished out of spite. It says that such a person, when discovered, should be punished for the same crime that they were trying to get their enemy punished with. Thus, an eye for an eye. Not that you should have your eye put out for poking someone else's eye, but rather that if you lied about someone to try and get the authorities to punish them with a blinding that rather you should suffer that fate yourself. It surely sounds much more reasonable when you consider it in context. It is worth noting that the Quran does say that a thief should have his hands cut off, just for comparison sake. I am not an expert on Islam but it seems far more common for people to have body parts excised in parts of the world where that religion is dominant. There aren't too many beheadings in Finland.

Deuteronomy 22

⁵ The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so *are* abomination unto the LORD thy God.

One of the examples of why modern sinners hate The Bible and are irreconcilable against it.

Deuteronomy 23

¹³ And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee: ¹⁴ For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

Look out San Francisco, you have a problem with your streets.

¹⁷ There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.

We are so careless with thus nowadays, Satan is alive and roars over the world that it isn't so.

1 Samuel 7

⁴ Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

The name Astaroth was ultimately derived from that of 2nd millennium BCE Phoenician goddess Astarte, an equivalent of the Babylonian Ishtar, and the earlier Sumerian Inanna. She is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible in the forms Ashtoreth (singular) and Ashtaroth (plural, in reference to multiple statues of her). Baal is Beelzebub, the greater devil. And together with Satan these three represent the unholy triune of the antichrist. To this day, Ishtar is still a popular icon even having movies made under her name.

¹² Then Samuel took a stone, and set *it* between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

So “Ebenezer” is the name of a place that means The Lord helped us Here. I would bet that if someone asked you who Ebenezer was you would think of Ebenezer Scrooge the character from Charles Dickens a Christmas Carol. I am repeatedly amazed at the names, places and themes from The Bible that have been supplanted in our collective consciousness by modern stories and references. On the one hand, this may seem like fitting tribute for the Word of God (or should I say, “the greatest *story* ever told” as Hollywood would like us to imagine). But on the other hand, the references’ meanings are subtly changed, divorced from their original power and context, and the overall effect of this repeated redirection and alteration is to erase The Bible from modern life. You be the judge.

²¹ And she named the child I-chabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

The wife of a corrupt priest of Israel dies as she bears a son, and names him Ichabod, which means “Glory Departed”. Her husband and his brother and their father have all died that day because they failed God in their duties, Israel is to lose the Arc of the Covenant containing The Ten Commandments to the attacking Philistines (doesn’t that sound an awful lot like Palestines?). Eventually the Arc will be returned to Samuel who an angel of the Lord prophesied would be born to Eli’s second wife. Samuel means “asked of the Lord” because his mother Hannah prayed tearfully to God for a child and she was heard and answered. So I ask again, who do you say is Ichabod? No doubt you will answer Ichabod Crane from the Headless Horseman tale of Halloween, just ask Google or Wikipedia and you will be told with authority that Ichabod Crane is a fictional character and the protagonist in Washington Irving's short story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", first published in 1820. Hmmm, have we lost yet another lesson from God to be plastered over, covered up by another neo-pagan tale and associated holiday?

I am sure that when these tales were originally written and became popular, people recognized some of the names and themes from The Bible – since most Christians still went to Sunday School as children and every family had a Bible in which they recorded births and deaths. Whatever did we do before Ancestry.com and 23 and Me DNA testing? But eventually we drifted further and further away from the Word and eventually all that remains for most people is the popular tale which contains only a whiff, a hint, a trace of the original power of God’s Word. I must myself in this deception and anything that my writings may reveal come only through discernment and providence. I encourage you to read The Bible, preferably the King James Version, because like it or not that is the language that is embedded in our culture from stem to stern and you will recognize it deep inside yourself when you read it. It is not enough to have someone else explain it to you, translate it for you, put it in context for you. Dive in and start reading it wherever The Spirit leads you. Read Saint John - you may become faint or tearful because the power of the words will pierce you like a sword. If that is too much, start with Psalms or Proverbs. There is a place for you. You will be stunned at the breadth and depth which will open to your heart, mind and soul. Be not afraid!

1 Samuel 22

¹⁵ Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute *any* thing unto his servant, *nor* to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

“be it far from me”, I think it is commonly said today “far be it for me to say such and such”. Even such a common phrase as this seems to have ancient origins in The Bible. We attribute much to Shakespeare, and truly some common phrases are from his writings, but those from The Bible seem to not be attributed so. Though we argue about who Shakespeare really was, surely Bacon?

¹² The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. ¹³ As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. ¹⁴ After whom is the king of Israel come out? after whom dost thou pursue? after a dead dog, after a flea. ¹⁵ The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand. ¹⁶

(continued next page)

1 Samuel 28

7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, *there is* a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.



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SOLO ▾ STATUS ARTICLES ▾ NAVIGATION ▾ COMMUNITY ▾ EXPLORE ▾ DISCUSS

in: Canon articles, Articles to be expanded, Pages with missing permanent archival links, and 3 more

Endor

CANON LEGENDS

For other uses, see [Endor \(disambiguation\)](#).

[Show]

"Oh, I told you it was dangerous here!"
—C-3PO^(en)

Endor (also known as the **Forest Moon of Endor** or the **Sanctuary Moon**) was a small forested moon that orbited the [Outer Rim planet](#) of the same name and was the [hometown](#) of the sentient [Dulok](#), [Ewok](#) and [Yuzzum species](#). As well as the semi sentient [Gorax](#) and [Wistie](#) races.

Contents [\[show\]](#)



2 Samuel 1

19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! 20

“How the mighty have fallen.” Prov. a jovial or mocking way of remarking that someone is doing something that he or she used to consider very demeaning. Jill: Ever since Fred's wife left him, he has had to cook his own meals. Jane: Well! How the mighty have fallen! When Dan lost his money, he had to sell his expensive sports car. Now he drives an ugly old sedan. How the mighty have fallen.

McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs. © 2002 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Once again, we can see an important phrase from The Bible reduced to a petty “jovial or mocking” idiom in common use. The mighty who have fallen are the Saul, the King of Israel, and his sons who

for years have alternately befriended and tried to kill David. Their deaths are both saddening and at the same time not unexpected since it was prophesied by Samuel when he was called up from the dead by the soothsayer from Endor.

²⁰ Tell *it* not in Gath, publish *it* not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

Circumcision is an important Bible topic for me as a father, when my son was born I was living in sin and had not accepted Jesus Christ into my heart as Lord and Saviour. I looked into circumcision as a medical issue and decided not to have it done upon him. My rationale was that it was unnecessary from a modern medical standpoint, and that I was certainly not Jewish, also married to a Buddhist woman. I told my son when he was of age, he could decide to have himself circumcised if he wished. Personally, as a circumcised man I have always felt somewhat cut open, exposed, constricted. I have wondered from a psychological perspective how that event has affected me, experiencing pain and rough exposure soon after birth. I reasoned that God or nature had given this protection to man and why should I let a doctor remove it with no medically proven need. Despite all this, reading the Old Testament can be somewhat convicting as I realize now it was part of the law and a way that God separated his people from the Philistines, the gentiles, if you will. However, in the New Testament it is clear that Jesus freed us from living under the law – which it is impossible to succeed at – to living under grace by faith in Jesus Christ. Furthermore, I think modern society is very hostile to masculinity. It is even referred to commonly as “toxic” masculinity. Men are controlled by exploiting their sexual desires and exposing the tip of their penis doesn’t seem helpful to equip or guard young boys against this satanic influence, this hedonistic culture. Ultimately, circumcising my boys wouldn’t make them Jewish, and if the grace and faith of Jesus Christ isn’t enough to sanctify them then nothing is.

On a separate point, in an era when doctors can literally transform a man into the appearance of a beautiful woman using a surgical scalpel – going so far as to remove his gonads and turn his penis inside out to form an artificial vagina, I have to ask how can circumcision hold any significance in sanctification. I regretfully admit to watching a good deal of pornography before being born again in Jesus Christ and accepting his strength over mine, and in that unholy pursuit I saw 99% circumcised penises. It didn’t seem to prevent sin.

1 Kings 1

¹¹ Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bath-sheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth *it* not?

I was curious about the name Bath-sheba because I know I had heard it before and that perhaps it had a non-biblical definition or cultural precedent. But as far as I can tell it is a name that is actually known from The Bible. Probably because it has been an opportunity to create art with a beautiful, naked woman and to show one of the Kings in a negative light as lusting after his neighbor’s wife. Apparently the Quran asserts that all of God’s prophets were infallible and therefore the texts must be mistaken.

This appears to me to be a very simplistic view of The Bible in which people are frequently revealed as sinners and inadequate to follow The Law. Even Moses murdered an Egyptian before fleeing to the wilderness and eventually bringing the Ten Commandments back to the Jewish people (twice). This is not a contradiction because God is not subject to paradox which is a limited human conception of reality. Mathematicians and physicists even assert there are at least 11 and perhaps as many as 23 dimensions in the universe that are hidden to human eyes, and I assert their understanding is primitive since surely there are infinitely many dimensions to God's creation!

Furthermore, the elevation and fame of figures like Bath-sheba and the wife of Lot who became a pillar of salt, may have more to do with the current matriarchal ascendance of new Babylonian culture. Remember that in revelation Mystery Babylon is a woman. In the bizarro-world, upside down modern culture women have been placed above men culturally, despite all the assertions to the contrary about toxic masculinity and oppressive patriarchy. Some look at the Old Testament and see justification for polygamy, but just as I stated about circumcision, it is not at all clear to me that just because it is mentioned in The Bible that we should be enacting it as law today. From my own personal experience, being with multiple women sounds a lot better than it really is, and is truly not healthy or Christian.

1 Kings 3 (of Solomon the son of David who asked the lord for discernment and fair judgement instead of long life or riches)

23 Then said the king, The one saith, This *is* my son that liveth, and thy son *is* the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son *is* the dead, and my son *is* the living.
24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.
25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.
26 Then spake the woman whose the living child *was* unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, *but* divide *it*.
27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she *is* the mother thereof.
28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God *was* in him, to do judgment.

This is one story that seems to live on from The Bible, more or less uncovered, unobscured. I can only think that like the story of Lot whose daughters plied him with wine and seduced him, or of Bath-sheba being seen naked by David, there is a certain exposure of human sin which Satan must feel behooves him to have left these stories out in popular culture and in the social consciousness. However, having been left out alone, without context, the fuller meaning of the word of God is risked to be lost. Did Solomon actually cut the child in half? Was that even a possibility? Or did he know that the true mother would reveal herself as would the false so there was no danger at all for the child?

I have wished for intelligence all my life, or perhaps more accurately wished to *not* be stupid. For whatever reason shrouded in my childhood, probably from my parents, the Lord knows and has protected me from some of that knowledge. But I can say now with great confidence that intelligence is not the same thing as wisdom; especially not the same thing as discernment. Some of the most

intelligent people who have ever lived are no doubt heading for the lake of fire and the white throne of judgment, while many a humble man and woman will take their place alongside Jesus Christ.

I was surprised by the amount of polygamy in the Old Testament, but after some thought and research it occurs to me that this is similar to other anachronisms that are apparent and cause us to question the currency of the stories found there. We have to consider that in those ages having multiple wives was common as was perhaps all sorts of wickedness, even today. The Bible forbid leaving aside your wife, casting her out, divorcing her excepting for extreme circumstances like adultery. So a man could have another wife, but he still maintained and paid for his first wife. And the firstborn of the first wife would inherit the bulk of his estates. What do we have today? Man and women both have multiple spouses, in turn, and there is little responsibility to maintain or care for those cast aside. Who takes care of the divorced woman and her children? We expect the secular government to take care of them with welfare or enforced child support or alimony. We have the worst of all worlds, little to no commitment, serial divorce and remarriage, children tossed about and cast from household to household. All the while the secular state intervening to care for and teach all those children about how bad religion is. Men are not only forbidden to maintain multiple wives, as it is illegal in the secular law, but society is structured more and more to make it impossible for a man to even head a household with a single wife and children. We have traded an illusory, secular freedom to sin for the true freedom that is conferred by the Son of Man and salvation. You are free to sin wickedly, will even be celebrated in the culture for doing so and raised up as an example for children, but at such a cost no man would pay if he understood the truth.

Nosse velint omnes, mercedem solvere nemo.

All wish to be learned, but no one is willing to pay the price.

Juvenal—Satires. VII. 157.

1 Kings 16

²⁸ So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead. ²⁹ And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. ³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that *were* before him. ³¹ And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. ³² And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

1 Kings 21

And it came to pass after these things, *that* Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which *was* in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² And Ahab

spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it *is* near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; *or*, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. ³ And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. ⁴ And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. ⁵ But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? ⁶ And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee *another* vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. ⁷ And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, *and* eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. ⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed *them* with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that *were* in his city, dwelling with Naboth. ⁹ And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: ¹⁰ And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And *then* carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. ¹¹ And the men of his city, *even* the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, *and* as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent unto them. ¹² They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. ¹³ And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, *even* against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. ¹⁴ Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. ¹⁶ And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. ¹⁷ And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ¹⁸ Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which *is* in Samaria: behold, *he is* in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. ¹⁹ And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. ²⁰ And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found *thee*: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. ²¹ Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, ²² And will make thine house

like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked *me* to anger, and made Israel to sin. ²³ And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. ²⁴ Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat. ²⁵ But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. ²⁶ And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all *things* as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. ²⁷ And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. ²⁸ And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹ Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: *but* in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.

And now you know the story of Ahab and Jezebel. He wasn't a ship captain who obsessively quested after a giant, white whale, and she wasn't a bitchy, slutty woman. Rather he worshiped idols including Baal or Beelzebub a devil and allowed his wife to kill the Jewish prophets and replace them with those of Baal. She used her husband's power, as King of Israel, to have a man killed unrighteously (remember bearing false witness against an innocent man, the sin that can be punished in like kind Deuteronomy 19). Ahab repented and the Lord withheld his punishment but stated that it would fall upon his family in his son's days.

It is worth noting at this point how truly massive and epic The Bible is. At nearly 800,000 words and over 3,000,000 characters there is a huge amount of information contained in it. Furthermore, it is not like reading a fictional novel or even popular non-fiction like a biography or history. Every sentence is potentially life changing or at the very least contains an idea worth contemplating. Sometimes The Bible challenges us, sometimes it comforts and reassures, sometimes it can be downright frightening. You will find an amazing number of different translations available from the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts (the Greek may have been translations themselves). As I mentioned previously, I chose the King James Bible because I am skeptical of post-modernism which tends to upend all traditional, common-sense thought. Shakespeare is perhaps the accepted secular "bible" of literature, and I daresay reading some kind of "American Vernacular" translation of King Lear or Hamlet would be viewed as an abomination by any scholar of English literature, and rightfully so. Keep in mind as you read your Bible, words that are printed in *italics* were added by translators to help English readers understand what was meant. Sometimes the words aren't helpful or even obscure the original meaning. I often try reading the sentence without the italic words and it makes more sense. There are many, many instances of the word "*even*" in the KJB that seem awkward or probably better replaced by a different sentiment. However, overall the original content seems to me intact and discernible – ultimately the Holy Spirit will help you to understand what you are reading and apply it your spiritual life. The idea of learning to read the original texts is out of the question for me, it would be like starting over in college all over

again, so I have to trust in the Lord and King James translators and Martin Luther. You did know there was another Martin Luther besides the one who has a holiday named after him in the United States?

2 Kings 23

⁴ And the king (*Josiah who was eight years old when he began to reign*) commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. ⁵ And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. ⁶ And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped *it* small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people. ⁷ And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that *were* by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove. ⁸ And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beer-sheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that *were* in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which *were* on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. ⁹ Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren. ¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which *is* in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech. ¹¹ And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which *was* in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire. ¹² And the altars that *were* on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake *them* down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. ¹³ And the high places that *were* before Jerusalem, which *were* on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. ¹⁴ And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men. ¹⁵ Moreover the altar that *was* at Bethel, *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, *and* stamped *it* small to powder, and burned the grove.

So much to say about this passage, let me start with a very personal note regarding the tearing down of idols, burning of incense and “high places”. My wife immigrated to the US when she was very young and she has always been a more reverent and spiritual person than I was. Before I was saved I was agnostic at best, went through a period as a teenager when I was convinced I was an atheist but that didn’t stick – somehow I knew that believing in nothing wasn’t right. I didn’t want to live in that world. I remember lying awake in bed at night when I was about 8 or 9 years old thinking about the inevitability of death. I had begun to experience it and was completely terrified of the black nothingness that awaited me at the end of my life. I consulted my older brother, he advised it was best not to dwell on such thoughts – true and practical, but not very helpful spiritually. He was reading Marcus Aurelius’ meditations at the time which is very cerebral and stoic but not addressing existential crisis per se. My mother says to this day she doesn’t believe in God because if He existed he wouldn’t allow the horrible things to happen in this world that do, such as child sexual abuse (pedophilia). And my father likewise has stated repeatedly that when you die you return to nothing, just as you were nothing before your birth. He is very skeptical of religion in general. However, I was lucky to have a step-father who was a baptist and I learned more from being around him than I ever learned in school. He was kind and nonjudgmental, slow to anger, joyful with lovingkindness and god-fearing. For many years I believed it was he who spoke to me in my quiet moments and visited me in my dreams, but now I believe it was really Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that were speaking to me – I just wasn’t able to accept it yet. Perhaps they came to me disguised as my earthly father to make it easier for me. Who can say? Only God!

1 Chronicles 11

²⁶ Also the valiant men of the armies *were*, Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, ²⁷ Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite, ²⁸ Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abi-ezer the Antothite, ²⁹ Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite, ³⁰ Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite, ³¹ Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, *that pertained* to the children of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite, ³² Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite, ³³ Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite, ³⁴ The sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shage the Hararite, ³⁵ Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphai the son of Ur, ³⁶ Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite, ³⁷ Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai, ³⁸ Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Haggeri, ³⁹ Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite, the armourbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah, ⁴⁰ Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, ⁴¹ Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai, ⁴² Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a captain of the Reubenites, and thirty with him, ⁴³ Hanan the son of Maachah, and Joshaphat the Mithnite, ⁴⁴ Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jehiel the sons of Hothan the Aroerite, ⁴⁵ Jediael the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite, ⁴⁶ Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai, and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite, ⁴⁷ Eliel, and Obed, and Jasiel the Mesobaite.

There are many names in The Bible, some of which are names of places which are told to have a certain meaning usually long forgotten by us, but another example of a name superseded by a modern precedent is Uriah the Hittite. All I could think of when I read this name was Uriah Heep or Uriah the Heap which after a quick internet search is another Charles Dickens character known for his sycophancy, and also a rock and roll band started in 1969 whose album covers are quite creepy to say the least. Needless to say nothing which brings to mind a mighty man of valor in the service of King David of Israel. More like tales of Cthulu by H.P. Lovecraft.

1 Chronicles 15

²⁴ And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obed-edom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

From Wikipedia: The king's name in the [oath jumping Jehosaphat](#) was likely popularized by the name's utility as a [euphemism](#) for [Jesus](#) and [Jehovah](#). The phrase, spelled "Jumpin' Geehosofat", is first recorded in the 1865-1866 novel [The Headless Horseman](#) by [Thomas Mayne Reid](#).^{[5][6]} The novel also uses "Geehosofat", standing alone, as an exclamation. Here we go with The Headless Horseman again, Jumpin' Jehoshaphat! "The biblical king Jehoshaphat is the inspiration for the exclamation "jumpin' Jehosaphat!" This alliterative idiom probably arose in the 19th century but was popularized by the cartoon character Yosemite Sam in the 20th century." from <https://www.waywordradio.org/jumping-jehoshaphat/>

I also wonder about the nearness in 1 Chronicles 15 to David dancing and perhaps jumping:

²⁹ And it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, that Michal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw king David dancing and playing: and she despised him in her heart.

1 Chronicles 24

Now *these are* the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children: therefore Eleazar and Ithamar executed the priest's office. ³ And David distributed them, both Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, according to their offices in their service.

It may be helpful to note at this point that The Bible does repeat certain histories and here in Chronicles you may feel that you have read this before, the history of David and Solomon and the Temple. Much has been written about the human sources and methods of the writing and passing down of The Bible and I will not pretend to have such knowledge. In fact, my approach has been to write about this from the point of view of an outsider and explorer, to share my wonder and excitement and with providence to share those same with the reader. I will note that the story of Bathsheba is missing from Chronicles, and in it's place is one of the first references to Satan – vaguely related to a “numbering” of the people

of Israel which is normally associated with preparations for war or taxation. There are many who delve into the arcane corners of The Bible and attempt to fill in the blanks with explanations of Nephilim and Giants and such, reading much into short sections. For me I prefer to search for meaning that is real in my life and in my journey to salvation and redemption, and I accept the fact that everything is not going to make sense to me all the time.

2 Chronicles 30

¹⁵ Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth *day* of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD.

In our modern calendar this date would be February 14th which is commonly Valentines Day. Though associated with a Saint, it has historical ties to ancient Roman and pagan holiday known as Lupercalia. Now I know that the calendar in the Old Testament is probably different than the one we use today, sometimes I think perhaps things are made overly complicated by science and history and even Jewish theologians and writers tend to mask everything with veils of obfuscation.

2 Chronicles 35

Moreover Josiah kept a passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the passover on the fourteenth *day* of the first month.

So passover, celebrating the Jews being freed from Egypt – more specifically the “passing over” of the spirit from God that came and caused all the first born sons of Egypt to die, is actually supposed to be in the first month. Doing a little research you can discover that the Jewish calendar is a hybrid of solar (western) and lunar (eastern) calendars, which means that it moves around relative to our calendar similar to the way the Chinese calendar does. For example, instead of adding one day every four years for leap year, they add a whole month every nine years to keep their calendar in line with the motion of the earth around the sun.

Job 38

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, ² Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

This passage puzzled me because I had heard the phrase “gird up your loins” and knew it meant getting ready to face a challenge, similar to “buck up”, “knuckle up”, “gut check”, or less politically correctly “man up”. Here is what The Free Dictionary website has to say about it:

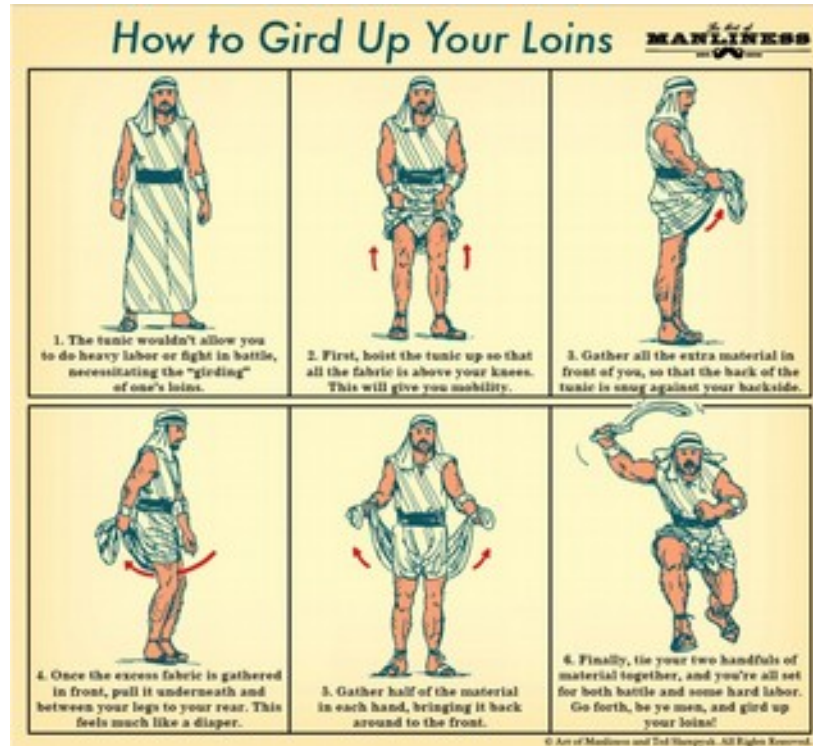
gird (up) (one's) loins

To prepare oneself to face or contend with something. *You better gird your loins in preparation for another holiday with my dysfunctional family! They better gird up their loins—the weather up there is no joke.*

See also: [gird](#), [loin](#)

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But here we find the phrase in The Bible in the story of Job (“job”), what could it possibly mean? The absolute best explanation I found is from the website www.artofmanliness.com, I haven’t read their book yet so I can’t recommend it here, but if this graphic is any indication it must be a pretty funny read.



I have more to say about the story of Job. It is the story of a man who has unshakeable faith in God, who is sorely tested by Satan. This is the second time Satan appears in The Bible, he challenges God and says let me take away the bounty You have provided to Job and he will turn away from his faith. After losing everything he has: possessions, family, animals, status; Job still cries out to God for mercy and will not deny his faith. Even when his friends come and try to convince him otherwise, he won’t let go of his strong faith. In the end, he is restored to be even greater than he was before and is rewarded again by God for his longsuffering and trials. Compare this to the story Candide by French author Voltaire, which I was required to read in college. In that short story Candide is ridiculed over and over again because he has a positive attitude and although not stated directly he is a stand in for Job who comes to a bad end because of his faith.

Psalms 15

A Psalm of David.

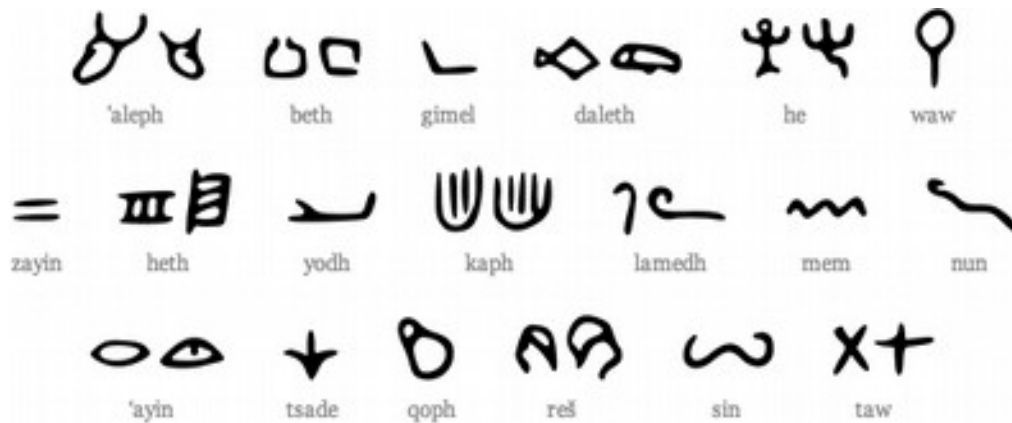
LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³ *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that* sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not. ⁵ *He that* putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these *things* shall never be moved.

Reading the Psalms, it occurred to me that these may have been meant to be sung or read as poetry. Many of them even say “To the chief Musician.” Doing a quick Internet search, I discovered that the Psalms were originally recorded in Hebrew, and that language was a symbolic writing perhaps similar to the Egyptian hieroglyphics we are all familiar with. For example the word for love is three characters that represent an Ox, a spirit (looks like a person), and a house (or home). There are no vowels in written Hebrew and they are implied, and each character can have multiple meanings depending upon context and the way it is written. My wife is Chinese and I have tried to learn reading and speaking Cantonese, it is quite difficult because they have thousands of symbols – although they are composed many times of multiple smaller symbols. Nonetheless, the Psalms weren’t meant to rhyme in the sense we are used to, but instead follow a repeating pattern that does contain a musical quality to it. Rhythm instead of Rhyme.

“But anyway, to speak of poetry and rhyme, what I was getting at with the alphabet is that basically Hebrew comes from pictographs. Kinda like hieroglyphs, and sometimes they use dumbed down versions of the same imaged, and the earliest forms of the root language show up in Egypt, but not exactly the same as Egyptian at all. What this means is that many early Hebrew words, the kind that generally are just three letters, actually are concepts which are explained with their pictographs. So for example, the word for love in Hebrew is Aheb. The letters used are A, H, B. The pictographs of these letters are an ox head, a spirit, and the plan of a house, respectively. What this does is tell a story to explain the idea of love. But the story has to be read functionally, not formally. For you, because you are in the west, you see an ox and you think ox, you see a spirit and you think ghost, you see a house and you think of a house. You're thinking formally. Not functionally. For a person in the time of Moses and before, he would see ox and think ‘strength’, he would see ghost and think ‘breathe’, he would see a house and think ‘family’ or ‘inheritance’. These are functions for the form. So the story is by function, no form. Love is: A strong leader defending his house with a great spirit. Love is: being yoked to your calling and your

inheritance. Love is: laboring for your house and your memory. Love is: dedication to one's family. These are ideas told through the function, instead of the form.” -

https://www.reddit.com/r/Christianity/comments/2r2t1n/do_the_psalms_rhyme_in_their_original_language/

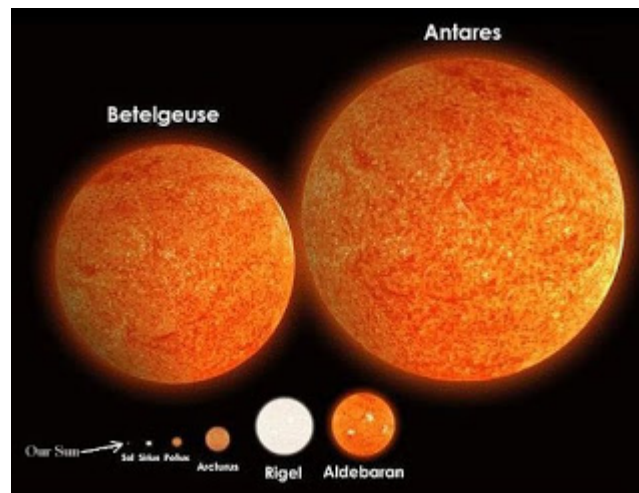


Psalms 19

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. ² Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. ³ *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ Which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. ⁶ His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Contrast this lovely Psalm of David with the message that modern science beats the drum of: you are a tiny, insignificant ant in a vast universe of infinite possibilities; nothing you do is worth anything or matters in the least in the long run. Instead of seeing the sun as a ball of burning gas, indeed quite a small star compared to others such as Betelgeuse which is unimaginably large.



from <http://afkra.blogspot.com/2012/11/10-largest-known-stars-of-universe.html>

Compare to the language of David, “there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.” Which instead glorifies the immense power and mystery of God, that he sends out the rays of the sun to heat all the inhabitants of Earth, of which you are one. Every person is important to God, has a friend in Jesus, and indwells the Holy Spirit. But not everyone knows it!

The Psalms are akin to poems or songs in The Bible, many of them were written by David the shepherd boy who slew Goliath and was persecuted by Saul for many years before becoming king of Israel. Recall the saying “How the mighty have fallen!” 2 Samuel 1:25 which was a cry for Saul and his son Jonathan who died in battle against the Amalekites. The Psalms do not rhyme the way modern poetry or lyrics usually do, but a quick investigation reveals that in Hebrew they do have a certain structure and repetition that is reminiscent of verse. Most of the Psalms are of several types, they either praise the greatness of God or lament the current dire circumstances of the author, frequently they discuss the fate of the unjust and unloving of The Lord and his ways. Here are a sample of the first few lines, if they speak to your heart then perhaps Psalms would be a good place for you to start your journey into the word.

Psalms 42 To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Psalms 44 To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, Maschil.

We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, *what* work thou didst in their days, in the times of old.

Psalms 45 To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, for the sons of Korah, Maschil, A Song of loves.

My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer.

Psalms 46 To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.

God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 47 To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
A Song *and* Psalm for the sons of Korah.

Psalms 48 A Song *and* Psalm for the sons of Korah.

Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, *in* the mountain of his holiness.

Psalms 49 To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: ² Both low and high, rich and poor, together. ³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart *shall be* of understanding.

Psalms 84 To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

How amiable *are* thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! ² My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Psalms 85 To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob. ² Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

Psalms 87 A Psalm *or* Song for the sons of Korah.

His foundation *is* in the holy mountains. ² The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. ³ Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

Psalms 88 A Song *or* Psalm for the sons of Korah, to the chief Musician upon Mahalath Leannoth, Maschil of Heman the Ezrahite.

O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day *and* night before thee: ² Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; ³ For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

Note the frequent references to the sons of Korah and to the chief musicians.

Genesis 36

Now these *are* the generations of Esau, who *is* Edom. ² Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan; Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite; ³ And Bashemath Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth. ⁴ And Adah bare to Esau Eliphaz; and Bashemath bare Reuel; ⁵ And Aholibamah bare Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah: these *are* the sons of Esau, which were born unto him in the land of Canaan.

So Korah was a son of Esau way back in Genesis, later in Numbers Korah is swallowed up by the earth for standing against Moses and Aaron. But in Numbers we find that the children of Korah survived.

Numbers 26

And it came to pass after the plague, that the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying, ² Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel. ³ And Moses and Eleazar the priest spake with them in the plains of Moab by Jordan *near* Jericho, saying, ⁴ *Take the sum of the people*, from twenty years old and upward; as the LORD commanded Moses and the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt. ⁵ Reuben, the eldest son of Israel: the children of Reuben; Hanoch, *of whom cometh* the family of the Hanochites: of Pallu, the family of the Palluites: ⁶ Of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites: of Carmi, the family of the Carmites. ⁷ These *are* the families of the Reubenites: and they that were numbered of them were forty and three thousand and seven hundred and thirty. ⁸ And the sons of Pallu; Eliab. ⁹ And the sons of Eliab; Nemuel, and Dathan, and Abiram. This *is that* Dathan and Abiram, *which were* famous in the congregation, who strove against Moses and against Aaron in the company of Korah, when they strove against the LORD: ¹⁰ And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, what time the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men: and they became a sign. ¹¹ Notwithstanding the children of Korah died not.

Furthermore in Chronicles the sons of Korah or Korahites become door keepers or sergeants at arms of the tabernacle, and bakers of shewbread, and eventually the singers who would lead the congregation in the singing of Psalms.

1 Chronicles 9

So all Israel were reckoned by genealogies; and, behold, they *were* written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah, *who were* carried away to Babylon for their transgression.

...

¹⁹ And Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, of the house of his father, the Korahites, *were* over the work of the service, keepers of the gates of the tabernacle: and their fathers, *being* over the host of the LORD, *were* keepers of the entry.

...

³¹ And Mattithiah, *one* of the Levites, who *was* the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the set office over the things that were made in the pans. ³² And *other* of their brethren, of the sons of the Kohathites, *were* over the shewbread, to prepare *it* every sabbath. ³³ And these *are* the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, *who remaining* in the chambers *were* free: for they were employed in

that work day and night. ³⁴ These chief fathers of the Levites *were* chief throughout their generations; these dwelt at Jerusalem.

Also in Psalms we find another reference to the infamous Bathsheba with whom David sinned.

Psalms 51 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. ⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest. ⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

We must take hope in the fact that one of the greatest figures in the Bible, King David, struggled with sin and prayed to the almighty Lord for forgiveness. Selah!

I include below Psalm 9, because it was a comfort to me in a dark time of my own life. When I felt encompassed about by treachery and deceit and I knew not whom to trust except the Lord. I do not wish for evil against my enemies but prayed for peace and strength and that those who were trying to destroy me would find themselves snared in their own traps through the grace of God. I leave it all to Him for my understanding is weak and limited and I cannot judge those who afflict me, I simply pray for peace, faith, strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead me safely through the field of land mines that await me daily. I carry Jesus Christ in my heart as my only savior and the only one worthy of praise.

Psalms 9 To the chief Musician upon Muthlabben, A Psalm of David.

I will praise *thee*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. ² I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. ³ When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. ⁴ For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right. ⁵ Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever. ⁶ O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. ⁷ But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. ⁸ And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness. ⁹ The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. ¹⁰ And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. ¹¹ Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings. ¹² When he maketh inquisition for

blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble. ¹³ Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble *which I suffer* of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death: ¹⁴ That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation. ¹⁵ The heathen are sunk down in the pit *that* they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. ¹⁶ The LORD is known *by* the judgment *which* he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsaion. Selah. ¹⁷ The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God. ¹⁸ For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall *not* perish for ever. ¹⁹ Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight. ²⁰ Put them in fear, O LORD: *that* the nations may know themselves *to be but* men. Selah.

PART II: Common Sayings or Aphorisms Aphorismus

“All aphorisms are wrong, with the possible exception of this one.” - variously attributed to Pascal, Mark Twain, Kurt Godel, and others.

“The enemy of my enemy is my friend.” There are many different enemies of God, and none of them are good. Consider what the demon said to Jesus in Mark 5:

6But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, **7**And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. **8**For he said unto him, Come out of the man, *thou* unclean spirit.

9And he asked him, What *is* thy name? And he answered, saying, My name *is* **Legion**: for we are many. **10**

Consider that for every good man there must be a hundred, nay a thousand sinners or more in the world. So the odds are very high that the enemies of your enemies are also your enemies too! At best this is a tactical advice that would apply in certain limited situations where you ally yourself with some others in an ad hoc fashion to survive and attack or accomplish a goal. Think of Russia in WWII.

“God helps those who help themselves.” After being born-again, I began to see this advice in a different light. It is more of an admonishment to pursue your own will by your own means in your own time. Most of what I have read in The Bible contradicts this advice, encouraging patience and longsuffering, that sometimes you have to let God do his work in his time. Yet another example of popular culture that sounds biblical but is not.

Faust

Faust is the protagonist of a classic German legend, based on the historical Johann Georg Faust. Faust is an erudite who is highly successful yet dissatisfied with his life, which leads him to make a pact with the Devil, exchanging his soul for unlimited knowledge and worldly pleasures. [More at Wikipedia](#)



You may have heard the saying “Sell your soul to the devil.” Probably one of the most famous historical examples is Faust from whom we get the saying “a Faustian bargain.” What is amazing in our post-modern times is the small price that many people will sell their souls for, not for great riches, fame or power but rather for a small amount of money or even out of capriciousness or folly. I would venture that some would literally sell their souls for as little as \$20. I suppose this is a logical consequence of not believing that you have a soul or that there are any everlasting consequences for your actions and decisions on God’s Earth.

“When you die, it’s not the things you did that you will regret, but rather it’s the things you didn’t do!” How many times have you heard this spoken so affirmatively, so

confidently – go out and do more stuff before you die! Honestly this is the worst advice I have ever heard, I firmly believe that most normal people are going to regret the bad things they did in their lives more than any imagined fun adventures or fantastical love affairs they didn't pursue. Now if we take "things you didn't do" to mean being nicer to your wife and kids, forgiving those who sinned against you, and not leading others into temptation, then perhaps we can give this aphorism true status. But in all honesty, that is not what comes to mind: we all imagine jumping out of an airplane, dancing joyously on a beach around a bon-fire, or zip-lining through an Amazon forest. Let me illustrate with a little bit of hyperbole. "When you die, it's not the things you did that you will regret, but rather it's the things you didn't do! Like doing more and different kinds of drugs and alcohol! Like staying up all night partying more often! Like sleeping with more strangers on one-night-stands that never lead anywhere! Like having more types of venereal disease! Wow so many things you missed out on in life, get out there and try some more fun stuff!" There is nothing wrong with having fun or enjoyment in life, God lovingly provided such experiences for us in his wisdom. However, "fun" should not be the primary goal of any Christian's life – it is a natural consequence of right living, you can't make it happen willingly (see "God helps those who help themselves.")

On calendars, curses and Christ

Do you know what the beginning of time was? Perhaps you will answer "The Big Bang" since cosmologists will claim that is the point at which all recorded and observed history recede to inevitably and inescapably. Let me ask you another question, what year is it? Suppose you answer 2018 (the year of this writing), then the obvious and never asked nor answered question is: 2018 years since what? Ask a historian they will ostentatiously proclaim "We refer to it as 2018 CE which means The Common Era. Just like 100 BCE means 100 years Before the Common Era." The contortions we engage in as a culture to hide the ever-present and obvious truth that all children knew before they were educated. Our calendar starts with the life of Jesus Christ, it is 2018 AD which means "Anno Domini" the Year of Our Lord or commonly "After Death". Educated persons will no doubt try to correct me on this point, but methinks they protest too much. BC 100 means "100 years Before Christ lived." Imagine yourself an alien visiting the Earth from outer space, or a time traveler from 10,000 years in the future, wouldn't you ask yourself "Who was this Jesus Christ fellow, that for thousands of years many millions of people numbered the years of their lives according to his birth and death? That person was Jesus Christ who died for your sins and mine, who was crucified at Golgotha, buried three days in the Tomb, and who rose again after defeating death and the world. Hallelujah! Hosannah in the highest! If you can't see the truth of this then you are willfully blind.

"In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king." -- Desiderius Erasmus

But let us pass beyond calendars and consider curses. What is the worst curse you can imagine? Perhaps you have said it yourself on occasion and certainly heard others say such things. When you stub your toe on a drawers, drop your new cell phone and crack the screen, or find out some really bad news, you might loudly exclaim... what? Let me suggest some things you will probably not say: “Oh, Science!” “Disestablish It All!”

“My dear Cosmology!” Hmmm, we don’t hear curses like that do we? What about using a person’s name? Let’s see: “Lord Voldemort!” “Sir Winston Churchill curse it!” “Great George Bushes!” Hopefully you find some humor in this, I certainly do, it seems ridiculous to even imagine such curses. Only a historian would find offense at taking Churchill’s name in vain. But who’s name does every lip call upon when reaching for a vain curse? Of course, it is none other than Jesus Christ. The worst curse you can probably imagine is a combination of the F word and our lord and saviour. And before you say, “Ha! The F word isn’t religious.” I must point out something known as “The Original Sin” which you will find near the very front of your Holy Bible if you take the time from your life to read even a little of it. The more I thought about cursing, the more I realized how important tossing God’s Son’s name into the gutter is for effective cursing. Even abbreviated curses like “Geesh!” are simple abbreviations for Jesus. Saying “God Dammit!” (our fathers curse) invokes religion as well. Any time we curse we are bringing to bear the most serious and eternal truths in the name of something no doubt trivial and petty. At the very least it debases us and lowers others esteem of our character, at worst we drag the most important things in life through the mud by way of the gutter. So tell me again how Jesus Christ isn’t important, how he didn’t change the world, how people who have found salvation in his arms are deluded incompetents with no knowledge of the world. He is the foundation of our calendar, the foundation of our society and culture, and you can’t even curse properly without invoking his name. Higgaiion!

Here is another example of a common saying, “He had a come to Jesus moment.” Why do people use this phrase when referring to someone having an important revelation, or being forced to face judgement for inappropriate conduct? Because, in our hearts we know, we know that Jesus Christ is the most important revelation. He is the final judge of our lives. He is the author and finisher of our faith. To say “come to Jesus” is to once again trivialize one of the most important things in the world (or the universe for our cosmologist friends). This is the apparent function of Post-modernism, cultural-Marxism or perhaps should we just say Satanism – the affirmative deconstruction of truth and beauty in favor of a world-view where white is black, up is down, heaven is hell and nothing on Earth matters except the next 10 seconds of my selfish existence. Drugs? OK! Alcohol? Go ahead! Sex? All the time with whoever or whatever you want. Love? That is for naive fools. Sacrifice? A painful waste of effort. This is the fate that awaits those who

reject Jesus Christ, his father and the indwelling holy spirit. Look on your heart and you will find the words of truth indelibly recorded.

“Christians are so self-righteous and judgemental, they think they’re so much better than everyone else!” I used to think this myself, and can understand the sentiment completely. However, it is another example of inversion of the truth sounding true. I often use the example of a photographic negative, if you are old enough to have seen one, it is a recognizable image of a person, or a lake, or whatever subject the photographer captured in their old-fashioned chemistry-based film camera. But all the colors are reversed and it looks oddly like midnight scene illuminated by moonlight. Stare at it long enough and you might be convinced that it was a real and true picture. But this is how Satan’s lies always work, they are mixed with small truths and opposites so that the amalgam becomes difficult to distinguish from the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The truth about Christians is that they have accepted the fact that they are sons and daughters of Adam, born with a sinful nature. If you ask a Christian in confidence, they will assuredly admit to you they committed sins before being born-again, and that they know they still commit sins despite being guided by the Holy Spirit. They don’t judge people, that is the Lord’s domain. But as a Christian you may feel a great sorrow and regret for people you meet who can’t see the truth and whose salvation is in peril. Dare I say you may feel pity for those on the wide road to hell. And that is why those who haven’t heard from Jesus Christ, even though he is always reaching out, may become angry and resentful of any open-hearted Christian who may try to help them.

“All religions are essentially the same.”

This is reminiscent of the “enemy of my enemy must be my friend.” As far as I can tell, there are only two major religions that believe in a singular Godhead: Jewish and Christian. So one quick test for any religious or philosophical system is to inquire about the pantheon of deities and mythical or magical entities represented in it. From Greek and Roman pagan pantheons of Saturn and Zeus to Hinduism with its thousands of godheads, if you find multiple personages and creatures there is a problem right there. I’m not sure about Islam, they are professedly monotheistic, but as deniers of Jesus Christ their religion has some shall we say antichristian aspects to it. It is easy to get lost in discussions of Trinity versus agnostic pragmatism, but look at the modern state of the Middle East. Apart from Israel it is largely a mess, a humanitarian disaster, a highly unequal society that engages still in slavery and other practices abhorrent to enlightened civilization. Cast your gaze upon Africa, again you will have difficulty finding a liberal, progressive, humanistic nation providing loving care for its citizens. Again, I don’t wish to become mired in sociological and historical arguments which Satan loves to use to confuse the naive. People like to say that religion is responsible for so much death and suffering and war in the world, and this is accepted on its face as true. But is not war responsible for war, and disease and famine their own horsemen of the apocalypse?

Religion in general cannot be confused with Christianity in specific, and the mistakes of the free will of men cannot be laid upon God. We thank God that he made us in his image and gave us the free will to choose sin. The alternative would be that he created slaves, biological robots whose perfect behavior would be 100% controlled and therefore hollow effigies and not men at all.

“An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind.” I addressed this earlier in the book. The Bible does not say anything like this, it says that if you lie about someone in order to have them blinded for their punishment then you should be blinded for giving false testimony. In other words, if you lie about someone to get them put in prison, then you should receive the punishment instead. It’s more about how terrible it is to lie and spread rumours about other people that it is about “Old School Religion” and “Fire and Brimstone” of the old testament. Satan loves to take things out of context, it is one of his greatest weapons as the master of lies and you can see it all around you in modern life. From fake news, to misleading video clips of encounters with cops and teachers, the partial pre-judged story can be very powerful in reinforcing a “narrative” straight from the mouth of hell.

“The ends justify the means.” Perhaps one of the most evil and confusing aphorisms you will encounter in English speaking cultures. It is infused into movies, books, television, video games, pretty much any modern plot device will entertain this theme. The idea is that if you know your goals are good, then you can feel free to pursue them using any vile tactic that presents itself. Most commonly this involves murder, rape, theft – just refer to the ten commandments aka Mosaic Law and you will find a tidy list of things it is OK to do as long as your “intentions are good” or your “heart is in the right place”. Perhaps a more recent example is warranted, if you disagree with someone’s politics it is perfectly acceptable to lie about them, slander them, physically attack them and their families. All movies about zombies – which are essentially stand-ins for human beings we disagree with – are the archetypes for this misconception. The problem is that only in movies do we have perfect information about what is going on, about who is right and who is wrong, about what is inside people’s hearts. In the real world, only God can know everything about any given situation and see inside their heart, into their pasts, into their futures, know everything about everyone involved from their ancestors back to Adam and Eve and forward to the rapture or apocalypse. It is our human arrogance and folly that allows Satan to trick us into believing that we know best, that we can decide what is wrong and what is right on our own. This again is the nihilistic or Nietzschean ethic, the belief in the super man who can transcend this world and make his own decisions about who should live and who should die. “Do what thou wilt.” “Might makes right.” This is the problem with Buddhism unfortunately, the same essential philosophy, what you do doesn’t matter because you’ll be reincarnated to try again and ultimately it will be possible for you to become a transcendent, enlightened being who can leave the Earth to reside in Nirvana. But this is the story of Jesus Christ, and he only lived once, died once,

and was resurrected once, and ascended to Heaven once, and sent the Holy Spirit to live inside believers' hearts to guide them and protect them and keep them company. What you do does matter, you are going to mess it up repeatedly, but through faith and grace you can be saved from this world.

But let me get back to "The ends justify the means". What I have found as I have gotten older is that actually the means betray the ends. In other words, when I see people lying to get what they want, I can safely assume that what they want is something bad. When I see people manipulating others' emotions to finagle the outcome they prefer, I can safely assume that their outcome is going to be evil. Good people don't willingly engage in evil no matter what. This is not to say good people don't make mistakes, of course they do. I have made many mistakes, still make mistakes on a daily basis, I have to ask for daily forgiveness of sins some of which I don't even know I am making. But again, people who willingly engage in deception, manipulation, obfuscation to achieve what they believe is the "greater good" have already betrayed themselves and their goals. So if someone tells you "the ends justify the means" remember, "the means betray the ends".

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions." This is a tough one because in one sense it must be true, but you need discernment to look deeper into the effect this belief has on a persons behaviour. It really is the same as saying "The ends justify the means", because it doesn't matter if you are trying to be good and do the right thing it only matters what your actions actually result in or lead to in the world. Isn't this just another lie from Satan telling you that trying to be good is a waste of time? Think about it this way, would you rather have friends and family who think they are doing the right thing but know sometimes they will fall short, or have friends and family who don't bother trying to be good because they feel they will be punished no matter what they do? It's a hallmark of the devil to produce arguments that are either very near to truth, that sound like truth, but that lead to a reprobate, depraved mind. The problem is that once again we have forgotten that only God can know a persons heart, we may think we know – the person may even come right out and tell us what their intentions are (rare but it does happen) – still, we don't know and cannot stand in judgement of whether they meant for good or for evil or just didn't recognize the difference at all. We play at judgement on earth, setting up courts to adjudicate disagreements and dispense punishment for law breakers, but in your heart you know that the only judgment that matters is the one that is coming after you leave this earth. So good intentions do matter, it is just not our job to judge other people's intentions.

"Stupid is as stupid does." I find some truth in this saying, but prefer to modify it slightly to "Evil is as evil does." I found that myself and my friends and coworkers would spend an inordinate amount of time trying to figure out if people were doing bad deeds on purpose or just because they were stupid or ignorant of what was right. Eventually, I came to the conclusion that this was the wrong question to ask. It goes right back to those

“good intentions” we were discussing above: only omniscient God can know the fullness of a persons heart. Here on earth we can only observe the results of someone’s actions, we can only judge the fruit of their tree. So if a person does things that result in evil, then we must conclude “evil is as evil does.” We should pray for their redemption, provide testimony of the Gospel if the opportunity presents itself, certainly provide an example of the best behavior we can provide, but don’t waste time or sleep trying to figure out which of the people are “really evil” and which are just going to hell on that road paved with good intentions. Remember that Jesus loves you as much as any sinner, and you have the right and obligation to protect yourself from evil. Just as you avoid drinking or doing drugs or promiscuity you should avoid allowing yourself to be the subject of evil. This does not mean you won’t be called upon to make sacrifices for the light, you will and you should. But repeat after Jesus, “Get behind me Satan!” (Matthew 16:23)

“The King is dead. Long live the King!” Before reading The Bible, I thought this only referred to long dead English royalty. A reference to the fact that as soon as one king died another was elevated to take his place. But now I see like so many stories, this one is about Jesus. The King has died, and been resurrected, and ascended into Heaven to sit on the right hand of his father for eternity. Long live The King!

PART III: The Mountain and The Flood – A parable for lost souls

A man was climbing a mountain because he knew a great flood was coming, although he wasn't sure exactly when it would occur, he was certain it would come. As he travelled the paths of the undending mountainous terrain, he would occasionally come upon forks in the road. Many times the downward sloping path was far easier to tread, leading to beautiful glades and meadows with downy grass to lie down and rest upon. But he was wary not to tarry too long or take too many paths leading towards the valley, because he fretted upon the coming flood and did not want to be carried away by the waters to certain death. Occasionally he would notice steep cliffs with many footholds and handholds that promised a quick ascent to a much higher place on the mountain, but often he found these were dead ends and had to laboriously retrace his steps back down the cliff, only to resume his original path after much wasted time and energy. Frequently, the man would meet other people on his path, overtaking slower climbers or being overtaken by those faster travellers, oft times passing whole groups of people travelling the opposite direction. Once he asked, "Why are you going back down towards the valley, surely you know the river will rise and consume you when the time of the flood draws nigh?" Invariable the revelers scoffed at his admonitions and told him they had never seen a flood and they wanted to dwell in the peaceful, happy valley and would make their home there if they could. They invited him to join their party and give up his fruitless quest for the summit of the mountain, insisting that the path upwards was impossible as soon he would meet impassable snow banks and icy ground to slip and fall to the rocks below. Surely he would meet his end long before any fabled flood could carry him away, and besides no flood could even reach the foothills of the mountains let alone one of the panoramic meadows studded with wildflowers and wet with dew and stream. Nonetheless, the man treaded on higher and higher upon the mountain, in his heart he could hear his father speaking to him, urging him to always climb upwards. Not to let naysayers demoralize him or dead ends sap his joy. To try and tell others about the coming flood and warn them, but not to tarry too long if they were unable to hear the truth. Once the man met a woman on his path, and she offered him meat and wine around her campfire. She told him that mighty men had learned how to predict the flood, both its time and how high it would rise upon the mountain. Those who tried could ensure their own salvation from the flood, and avoid unnecessary work and suffering trying to reach the summit because this was not necessary. One only had to read the signs or nature and mark the times of the seasons and a bad end would be certainly avoided. She invited him to join her and build a home in a nearby glade from logs and thatch, and a life of ease would be within easy grasp. Other travellers would be welcomed in their refuge and taught the science of prediction and the evolutionary history of the floods so they could be spared the dreadful, unnecessary ascension to the peaks of the mountain. The man thought upon it for a long time, but he considered what difference there was between the woman and the revelers who descended down to the lush valleys to join the bustling

cities of those who had abandoned the trek up the mountain. Would they not all find themselves caught up in the flood to come, what assurance did she have that she had climbed high enough? He resolved to continue his journey upward, though there was much he did not understand, he wanted know that when the inevitable flood came he was as high upon the mountain as he was able to reach. If he was taken nonetheless by the flood, at least he would know that it wasn't for lack of faith that he found himself wanting.

PART IV: Science

Search the galaxies inside your soul until you find the planet that Jesus lives on and go there. For those of you with a firm grounding in cosmology you understand how vast the universe is and how small the chances are of finding one planet amidst the vast, undending universe. Finding a needle in a haystack would be child's play by comparison! You could search for a thousand life times using a star ship with warp drive and never even come close. But what if a signal was broadcasting throughout the entire universe, calling those who could hear it towards that special planet? This is the word, this is Jesus. And you have heard his name, and you've seen the real hitchhikers guide to the galaxy, which does contain the meaning of life, the universe, and everything. You only have to open your heart and mind and you will find the truth waiting there for you, on that planet hidden inside the galaxies of your soul. I pray that you my words may carry the power of the holy spirit and crack open the dry husk of your heart if it be the will of The Lord you will hear his call. In case you don't know, the red text in the new testament are things that Jesus Christ said. The red text is the heart of the signal that draws you near.

Saint John 6

43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Saint John 14

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ... 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Perhaps you have been searching for answers from man, explanations from science and philosophy. You may have read Plato, Descartes and Kant. You may have taken many college courses in astronomy, physics, mathematics. I did so myself. What I found when I reached the edge of human understanding was nothing but more questions. Have you ever read the insert for a medication from the pharmacy you may be taking? I tell you that without any doubt if you read far enough and deep enough you will find a phrase similar to this, "The exact mechanism by which the process occurs is not fully understood." It will be buried in difficult to read terms from biology and chemistry, important sounding latin phrases that turn away all but the most determined readers, but you will find it there. Thousands of medications which people take every day, no one can explain to you exactly how or why they work. Ultimately, it is only because researchers tried giving the medicine to people and found that it helped with a certain condition. Nothing more than that.

Perhaps you think physics has more solid theoretical footing upon which to stand, surely Einstein and Planck can give us a thorough explanation for our existence without resorting to some silly, ancient and discredited concept as God. Harumph! I am here to tell you that science cannot explain the universe. No one can connect the large scale explanations of Einstein which give some idea of how the universe works on a vast scale with the theories of quantum mechanics which attempt to explain the universe at a subatomic level. Even string theory, one of the greatest achievements of math and science over a thousand years of unending effort, cannot be proved or disproved by any scientific experiment because its consequences are unobservable. In short, just like with the medicine insert from the doctor, you reach a point where the scientific explanation simply falls short of a complete understanding. Over the centuries, that point has for certain moved – the circle of human knowledge and understanding is ever expanding. That point cannot be argued, and I am not arguing against that. I am simply pointing out that science cannot explain everything. You may point to the Big Bang theory and say, but this is a logically defensible source of all creation! Even if I accept this as sound theory (although it is impossible to prove) I simply ask, what happened before that? What caused the bang? Perhaps more importantly, why? An honest scientist will have to concede they don't answer "why".

Perhaps you think mathematics, the purest of the academic pursuits, unfettered by chains of experimentation and the messiness of the real world, must surely contain an irrefutable proof that God cannot exist. Surely He is nothing more than myth and ancient legend, thoroughly discredited by the modern world. I mean, Microwave Ovens! Jumbo Jets! Supercomputers! How can The Bible possibly have anything to offer to modernity, or post-modernity? Here is the problem, it was proven in the 1930's by Kurt Gödel that it is impossible for any logical system to be both complete and internally consistent. This sounds trivial, but it is one of the most consequential statements that has ever been produced by mankind. It rivals Copernicus asserting that the Earth goes round the Sun, Newton's discovery of gravity and the relativity of Einstein (who was a friend of Gödel's). And yet most people don't even know his name. Not only did Gödel prove that science and math don't explain the universe completely, he proved that it is impossible for any logical system to explain everything and remain completely consistent.

And yet as noted, we see the results of modern marvels of engineering, science and medicine all around us every day. Perhaps not proven mathematically, but certainly proven by years of observation of effectiveness and usefulness which ultimately is the only form of proof available for mankind. Let me digress momentarily and talk about the relationship between science and religion. You probably assume that they are contradictory, at odds with one another, both cannot be true, right? But even a cursory review of history will reveal that not only were most important scientists and mathematicians believers of strong faith, but in fact churches and monks were in many cases the keepers of knowledge and the principal instigators of the scientific method. The modern conception of science as the antagonist of religion is just that, a modern misconception. I believe this is Satan's plan, the father of lies, he will use any tool that he can to keep man separated from salvation, to keep you from hearing the signal from Jesus Christ, to keep you doubting the gentle urgings of the Holy Spirit in your heart. I have found that although many educated persons have been trained to hate religion and view it as the source of evil in

the world (see Bizarro World), you will find that most religious and faithful people do not view science, engineering or mathematics as evil or as something that needs to be gotten rid of.

Lastly, a word about the theory of evolution, this requires special mention because it is rightfully seen as an alternative to God. But if something is an alternative to God, then it must, by definition be a religion. Evolution is no different than quantum theory, it cannot be definitively proven because its time and space parameters lie outside the realm of observability for human beings. Therefore, certain of its tenets must be accepted *a priori* which means without any prior supposition. Or we might say, they must be taken on *faith*. So, if we are going to choose a philosophical worldview based upon no logical underpinnings or observably provable facts, then I am going to choose Jesus Christ who offers salvation and eternal life over a nihilistic, hedonistic, satanistic world view that believes there are no consequences to human action, only equal and opposite reactions. I am going to freely choose using the human will given by God to sons of Adam to have faith in something that elevates me above being either a naked ape or a biological robot. One thing I have never understood is why all atheists don't simply immediately commit suicide – if there is absolutely no point in your life why continue it?

I don't want to extend my arguments too far into the realm of esoterics, since that is likely where confusion and getting lost in the wilderness come into the picture. But let me just reiterate that there actually is no such thing as proof, only a high degree of confidence from repeated trials and tests. Not only are scientific and mathematical theories not proven, they are essentially unprovable. Proof simply means that we human beings are sufficiently convinced that something is true. The only differences between sophistry and logical arguments are ones of degree and perception. If you delve into Neitsche and Sartre you will find yourself in the thin air of existentialism and epistemology which call into question what the difference is between human perception of a thing and the thing itself. Go back again to Plato and his perfect forms or ideals which are imagined only and don't exist in the real world. Think hard about irrational numbers, the Plank constant or Einstein's Cosmological Constant and you will invariably wind up either confused or convinced of the absolute necessity of faith, hope and love. Science can't tell you why. Math can't tell you why. Engineering certainly can't tell you why. But Jesus already did, and if you listen you can hear him calling to you. Why wouldn't you come?

If you can spare half an hour of your time, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rnJoHHZ9ik>

A quick note on psychology, this is a pseudo-scientific endeavor that ultimately tries to treat the human mind as a computer just as medicine treats the human being as a complex biological robot. Consider that just as a devil can come forth from a human being when they are performing acts of unspeakable evil, so too can an angel protect a child who is a victim of abuse. Psychologists try to explain away the supernatural with phrases such as “repressed memories”, they try to discredit the holy trinity by calling them “the id, the ego and the superego”. Just as many social scientists try to explain away everything that has happened in human history to “human nature” and biologists dismiss all fate and spirituality with “natural selection”. A river of blood connects all humans backwards and forwards through history and connects us all the way back to Adam and Eve, with Jesus Christ right there in the middle of everything shedding his blood for our sins. This explanation requires no more faith than any of those carefully constructed scaffolds that try to build around God by substituting man's will and blind luck.

References

<https://www.intouch.org/> In Touch Ministries led by Dr. Charles F. Stanley. I can still clearly recall the hung-over Sunday morning when I sat on the couch in front of the television feeling guilt and shame for a debauched weekend and ran across Dr. Stanley talking about the Sinner's Prayer. I prayed it right then and there earnestly and faithfully and accepted Jesus Christ into my life. A thoroughly modern salvation via television! In Touch has a YouTube channel with lots of great content and we have a daily devotional calendar always on our kitchen table and a wall calendar on our wall.

<https://lcrlfreedom.org/> As I progressed in my knowledge and faith, I learned what protestantism was and who Martin Luther was and about the reformation. We started listening to The Lutheran Hour on Sunday mornings on the Internet when Reverend Dr. Gregory Seltz was the speaker and it became our Sunday service. Dr. Seltz has since moved on to found the LCRL in Washington, D.C. where he works to protect religious liberty in America.

<https://www.familyradio.org/> Most days I listen to Family Radio on my way to work, old fashioned FM radio – funny that I should refer to something invented in the 1920's as old fashioned but that is post-modernism for you. It is a wonderful, traditional format radio program that plays spiritually uplifting music and frequently reads straight from the bible. It was started by Harold Camping who was famous for attempting to set dates for Judgement Day and was ruthlessly mocked in the media for his efforts to wake people from their slumber and turn them towards salvation.

<https://reallifewithjackhibbs.org/> Jack Hibbs is the Founder and Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills located in Southern California. I've enjoyed watching many of his wonderful sermons on YouTube, including an interview with candidate for governor of California John Cox. He is one of those annoying pastors who just won't stay out of secular matters and insists that the elect must have a role in guiding the course of society and cannot leave that task for others.

<https://www.revival.com/> Drs. Rodney and Adonica Howard-Browne are the founders of Revival Ministries International. They are famous for their long services, many of which you can watch on YouTube. Pastor Howard-Browne is a very special man who carries the fire of the holy spirit in his heart and has much wisdom to share.