

## Finding Life Video Series 2: The Light and Life

### Video 4: The Wrong Standard, The Bible - Part 3

Hi and welcomed back if you have watched any of the previous videos. My name is Tim Spiess and I am serving as a guide to help people find the Light and Life...to find a good and meaningful purpose to our lives...to improve our lives and make us better human beings, and to know the solution to fix other people's problems around us so that we might all become what we were supposed to be...people who love and who care about what is true and right.

In this second video series, we are taking a closer and careful look at the Designer or Creator's messenger, his person, his life and his message. We need to do this because the messenger's message has been essentially destroyed due to the problem we have that we learned about in video series one – namely pride, fear and selfishness, in this case, of the religious kind. The purpose of this second video series is to recover what the Designer's messenger really said, and thus recover his message and its incredibly important relevance to our lives. The Creator did send a messenger to help us, and he is available to all who see their need...our need to be free of pride, fear and selfishness and to have those replaced by faith in the right person, love, caring about what is true and right, and the selfless behavior that will accompany those states of being.

In the last two videos, we took a brief look at what a good part of the christian religious system substitutes for the actual messenger and his message, the bible. Tragically, the bible – which is merely an interesting book that has a lot of good content in it covering a lot of history for a particular people group – has been made into a replacement for the Creator's messenger. The bible has been made into a religious talisman that people are taught to believe is the very word of

God to mankind. Of course, many religions make the same claim of their holy-writings so called. But what is ironic about the christian claim is that the bible does actually contain the message of the Creator, but only through his messenger's words which are contained in only four relatively small books at the beginning of what is called the new testament.

In the last two videos, we looked at why people claim the bible is the word of God to mankind, and saw that the modern religious leaders justify this claim largely by quoting a few bible verses – one from Paul and two from Peter. We saw that using those verses to back up their claim is error. We learned that Paul was referring to the Hebrew scripture in his statement, not what would later be compiled and considered the new testament at a council in about 300 AD. We learned that Peter's statement about the scripture also was also most certainly referring to the Hebrew scripture and that his statement only applied to quote "prophetic scripture" which scripture probably accounts for less than 1% of even the entire 66 book protestant bible. Finally, we learned that just because Peter – an imperfect person like you or I – wrote that he believed that Paul's writings were quote "scripture", that his claim is irrelevant to what the actual messenger did and said. In fact, that saying of Peter is only relevant if you first believe Paul's view of the scripture! And as we learned, the messenger himself did not believe Paul's view of the scripture, but instead plainly said many times in many ways, quote "listen to me to understand your Creator and Father and what he wants for mankind and for your life".

So, let's take a brief look at Paul's – and many other peoples – belief that the Hebrew scripture is God-breathed, or inspired by God, widely understood to mean that the content of the Hebrew scripture accurately conveys the thoughts, communications and will of the Creator for mankind as he revealed himself to the Hebrew people and the writers of the Hebrew scripture. Or stated another way, that the accounts, concepts, principles, statements, claims or facts so stated in the Hebrew scripture are all accurate and represent God's nature, thoughts and workings.

There are several ways to approach this endeavor. We could compare Hebrew scriptural claims that relate to the physical world to what modern science presents as fact. We could look for internal contradictions within the Hebrew scripture. We could look for contradictions between the Messenger's message and the Hebrew scripture. We will do a bit of each, but will concentrate on the latter, because the Messenger and his message is the standard of the Creator for mankind and human relationships.

Let's start with comparing a claim or two of the Hebrew scripture that relate to the physical world and to what modern science has discovered about the nature of the physical universe. The Hebrew origins account in the book of Genesis claims that God created the physical universe in six days about six thousand years ago. The facts we now have about the earth regarding the six thousand years ago just don't bear that out. While carbon dating does have some assumptions that can be challenged, the magnitude of the discrepancy between the method and the 6,000 year claim is vary large, meaning, it is highly unlikely that the carbon dating method is that far off.

Another fact that contradicts the 6,000 year old claim involves the celestial heavens. We know that light travels at a certain speed. Furthermore, given astronomical calculations based on proper physics, mathematics and observations, we know that certain stars are absolutely older than 6,000 years. How can this be known? A light year is the distance that light can travel in one year. Since light travels at a constant speed and the distance of the light-producing object – namely a star or stars – are way more than 6,000 light years away, they must be more than 6,000 years old. The Hubble telescope images of the number of galaxies in the known universe – from an age of the universe perspective – leaves little doubt that the Hebrew Scripture's claim that the celestial heavens and the earth are approximately 6,000 years old, is false.

There is a statement in the Hebrew scriptures about how God stopped the earth from rotating for one day while the Hebrew soldiers finished slaughtering their enemy. The account is in the book of Joshua 10:12-14. There are two problems with that account –physics and moral. Stopping the

earth's rotation in a short duration would have very serious consequences which would have resulted in earth destroying catastrophes like tsunamis and tectonic plate collisions and resultant earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In addition, as we shall see, the Messenger revealed that the Creator does not want human's to use violence to solve their problems, therefore he would not have stopped the earth for the reason so the Hebrews could kill those they considered their enemies.

There are a number of other accounts in the Hebrew scripture, like Noah, the ark and the global flood that have some aspects that clearly don't stand up to reason or facts about the earth.

OK, let's move away from claims about the physical world and take a brief look at internal contradictions within the Hebrew Scriptures. If there are contradictions contained in the Hebrew scripture, then it cannot be true that all the writings therein were inspired by God. Here are a few plain and simple contradictions.

In 2 Kings 24, the author is reviewing some Hebrew history in regard to the Hebrews leadership and succession of leaders. The account says, "So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his son became king in his place...Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem". Note it plainly says the Jehoiachin was 18 years old. The account in 2 Chronicales 36 covering the same topic says, "Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim...they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son became king in his place. Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem." Johoiachin's age was 10 years different between the two accounts.

In 1 Kings 7:26, the author is reviewing facts about king Soloman's palace, and he records that a large decorative container for water held 2,000 baths – a bath was a unit of measure for liquid

volume. The author of 2 Chronicles 4:5, in reviewing the same container in Solomon's palace says the container held 3,000 baths.

I could cite more many more, but even one contradiction proves that the belief of Paul's of quote "All scripture is inspired by God" is a false claim. Sadly, those who want to cling to that belief will run to scholar's so called and find 'explanations' as to why the contradictions are not actually contradictions. This simply proves that religious people are not always motivated by knowing truth, but rather spend much time and energy defending their religious dogma even when it is false. Why do they do this? Would pride and fear account for that behavior? When the messenger says, "all who are of the truth listen to my voice", that would mean that we don't hang onto that which is false if we are listening to his voice.

OK, what about the scripture's contradictions with the messenger's message? Remember, just because the Light's words were placed in the book called the bible, does not mean they are constrained by men's descriptions. In other words, the term 'scripture' is yet another religious term used to hide this simple truth of the messenger, "heaven and earth will pass away but **my words** shall never pass away". The Messenger's words stand apart from and above all men's scripture.

Perhaps the most important teaching of the messenger is this concept – love. The concept has been distorted very thoroughly by the world, but at its core, what it means is this – selfless behavior motivated by compassion for others. The love that the messenger taught has nothing to do with 'romance' or the sexual attraction between people. It has nothing to do with wanting or liking some thing a lot – you know, "I love ice cream". Rather, it is a guiding way or light that causes one person to care for and about another person based on the Messenger's teachings. Love has no fear or animosity or anger or hatred towards another. Love wishes no harm upon another. Love cares about what is true and right but doesn't force others to see that...in fact, love never uses

force meaning that one person forces their will or understanding on another. And this brings us to the Creator that the messenger reveals.

The messenger says of the Creator, “God, your Creator and Father, so loved the people of the earth, including you, that he sent me to rescue you from a purposeless, empty existence...and that all who believe me – who make me their teacher and leader – they will enter into our Life and thus not experience the consequence of a life lived for foolish things...non-eternal things”.

The messenger – both by his words and his deeds...in fact by his life – showed mankind the true nature of mankind’s Creator...that he is not a blood thirsty, vengeful, angry, punish-loving, violence-advocating being. While the messenger’s Father is a perfect being with no faults; and while he does care deeply about what is right and true; he does not use the threat of punishment, pain or death to motivate human beings. The source of those beliefs about God all come from corrupt mankind itself, looking into the mirror and attributing what they see to God. In fact, religious leaders saying in essence, ‘If you don’t believe what we say about God, then God will torture you forever in hell’, has been and continues to be used to control many tens or hundreds of millions of people. Well, your Creator and Father wants you to be free from that fear! Free to love and free to care about and do what is true and right respectively.

In contrast, the messenger is the perfect example for mankind, laying down his life for his friends, which, of course, is what love does. The messenger did not retaliate for all the abuse that was poured upon him. He did not use the special powers given to him to defend himself or to destroy or force people to do or believe something. Rather, he used the power given to him by the Creator to heal, fix, repair, make new the lives of those whom he encountered. Reflecting his Father’s desire in every way, he said, “I did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them”. And, “your Father sent me because he loves you, cares about you, and wants what is best for you – and unlike many parents - he knows for sure what is best for you”.

So, to sum up, the Messenger reveals a Creator who loves people – all people – and who does not use force or violence to achieve his desires for people. His messenger said, “Love even your enemies”, but not only did the messenger convey that teaching, he also lived it out on many occasions and finally by allowing those who made themselves his enemies to kill his body. Of course the messenger is only a messenger and is merely conveying the message and way of the one who sent him. Therefore, the teachings of the messenger are the teaching of the one who sent him, the Creator of mankind. Therefore, the Creator of mankind says, “love your enemies”. If he himself did or does not do that, then he would be a hypocrite, and not worthy of listening to.

In light of these facts about the messenger and his message, let us take a look at the god portrayed in the Hebrew scripture, which scripture Paul says is quote “inspired by God”.

In the Moses story in the book of Exodus, the evil leader of the Egyptians, the Pharaoh, was using and abusing the descendants of Jacob or Israel – the Hebrews – to build his structures. God supposedly revealed himself to Moses and wanted Moses to take the people out of Egypt. When the evil Pharaoh and those directly serving him and executing his will would not let the people go, God supposedly sent plagues to convince Pharaoh. The last two plagues allegedly sent by God killed both the Egyptian livestock as well as the eldest male child of all the Egyptian families. So, the story has God killing both animals and people in order to accomplish his supposed will, which was to free the descendants of Jacob from being slaves for the Egyptian leadership. Please note that God did not kill the evil Pharaoh and those adult men who were executing his will and abusing people. Rather, he killed the first born male of every Egyptian family – please understand this almost certainly included young infants and definitively included boys less than a few years old. That is not a just or right act. Neither is it reasonable to believe that all the Egyptian families in a nation of about 3 million people, agreed with Pharaoh’s treatment of the Hebrews. According to the account, all the first born children of all Egyptian families were killed by God or his agent.

This is not only not just but is horribly wrong. How does this action compare to the God of compassion and love revealed by the messenger?

Here is another passage from the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel:

“Then Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

We can't be sure how many people Saul killed by this supposed command from God, but according to the account, he used about a quarter of a million soldiers to accomplish the task. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that God supposedly commanded the killing of tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of women and children, let alone innocent men, when he supposedly said quote “put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey”. And what was the justification for God's wrath? Revenge as the passage plainly states. I ask the viewer, does it get any darker than that? Is it any wonder that humans who look to this God or similar gods behave in a similar manner? After all, if God thinks it is OK to behave this way, then it must be OK for us! Unless, of course, god is a 'do as I say, not as I do' god.

Here is another passage in Deuteronomy 7, “When the Lord your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, and when the Lord your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.”



So, in this passage, God is supposedly conveying his commands to the descendants of Jacob through Moses. Basically, it amounts to a command to slaughter seven people groups, tribes or nations, probably numbering in the millions. Not only does God supposedly command the utter destruction of those people, but he also commands that they show them no favor, in other words, don't be kind to them. A little later on in the chapter, Moses prophesies, "For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you." So, basically, God is saying, "Go kill all these people, and when you don't worship me the way I want, I'm going to kill you too". There is only one word that describes the normal human reaction to that kind of information, fear.

I could quote hundreds of accounts similar to this...accounts in the Hebrew scripture where God is commanding Jacob's descendants to kill other people that get in their way, as well as God threatening to destroy quote "his people" if they offend him. This is religious darkness, no different than any other religious darkness like that of Islam or of Hinduism as just two examples.

So, where does this leave you, dear viewer? If you are a religious person who has believed the claims of the religious leaders about the bible, will you continue to cling to those religious claims in spite of the simple and clear truths revealed in the last 3 videos demonstrating the bible is not what the religious leaders claim it is? If you are not a person who has believed the false claims of the many Christian religious leaders regarding the bible, you now have had a really important distinction made to you that should help you not make the mistake of throwing out the baby with the bathwater...the baby being the Designer's messenger, Joshua of Nazareth, the water being Christian religion's claims about the bible and its message, which message hides the baby!

Next time, we will start down the road of clarifying what exactly the messenger wants those who listen to him to do with their lives, or stated another way, how we should live.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness and pretentiousness of typical American life – especially religious life – and look deeper to find what you truly need!