

# CHRIST'S EXPLANATION OF THE BIBLE

Normally I would begin with a look at evidences for Christianity. I would not start by saying "believe the Bible because it says it is true", though it is true. God always gave evidence of Himself throughout the history of the Bible. The Bible is full of eyewitness accounts. There isn't time to cover the evidences.

**I am simply taking you to the record given to us from all the biblical writers. What I want to focus upon is the testimony of Jesus Christ Himself. He came well-credentialed.**

**Two Jews - Peter and Paul were tried and found guilty of the crimes of promoting Jesus. They both knew this Jesus and they wrote about Him. They were changed by Him, lived for Him, and died for Him. They earned the right to tell us with authority what this Jesus said.**

**1 Peter 3:14-16** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,<sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

**Acts 26:24-29** And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."<sup>25</sup> But Paul said, **"I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.<sup>26</sup> For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.<sup>27</sup>** King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."<sup>28</sup> And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"<sup>29</sup> And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am-- except for these chains."

## THE NEED IS GREAT AND DISTORTION IS RAMPANT IN THE CULTURE AND THE PROFESSING CHURCH

Allow me to quote Ravi Zacharius:

In the 1980s, I attended a lecture given jointly by Francis Schaeffer and C. Everett Koop, the former surgeon general of the United States. **At that talk, Schaeffer made a comment that caught me by surprise. He said that the day was coming in the West when the name of Jesus would not be recognized by the average young person; and if it were recognized, not a single historical fact about him would be known.** At the time I found his statement a bit hard to swallow and wondered if he had said it just to be **provocative.** But a generation later, it is appearing to be quite true. **I find it rather amazing that the name of Jesus is used quite regularly in profanity not just in the West, but no one would dare use the name of Muhammad in the same way.** And of course, no Hindu I know would use the name of any one

of their deities with such disrespect. (Zacharias, Ravi Why Jesus?: Rediscovering His Truth in an Age of Mass Marketed Spirituality (p. 181).

Media driven generation aware of virtually only what is **digitalized**. I have a hunch that today's American brand recognition teen and adult **is more aware of Muhammed** than Jesus. Why not? If your 24/7 time is online and not in a book like the Bible, is not Islam in the news more than Christianity? Not wanting to focus on the reasons. Simply saying Muhammed's name in the USA is out there more than Jesus when it comes to media events and news. (See also Ravi up to p. 175)

So taking our **cue from the Biblical martyrs who signed the pages of the Bible with their blood to report what Jesus said, we will turn to what Jesus therefore said.**

**The story begins long before there was a written Bible**...God was there living in love, communication and relationship. He was talking on the High Order of the Trinity. There was communication long before God gave us the gift of language and then the Bible.

### LET'S EAVESDROP:

**Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

## IN THE BEGINNING WITH JESUS

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1:1** ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν

בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ Genesis 1:1

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**John 1:1-3** Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. <sup>2</sup> οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. <sup>3</sup> πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν. ὃ γέγονεν

- There is no Gospel without Something there before there was the material universe. That Something (or should I say Someone) was not matter, it was God. Jesus was there in the Absolute Beginning before space and time. **SO JESUS WAS THERE AS THE CREATOR. Since that is true, then He would know the rest of the details from first-hand knowledge.** Jesus therefore knew that the Bible was true because He knew every word of it from eternity.

# What did Jesus believe about the OT?

## Christ Himself believed all of Scripture.

Cast into the midst of a heated debate over His claim to Deity was something easily missed. As God, He says something about the OT:

**John 10:35-38** <sup>35</sup> If he called them gods to whom the word of God came--**and Scripture cannot be broken**-- <sup>36</sup> do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are **blaspheming,**' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? <sup>37</sup> If I am not doing the **works** of my Father, then do not believe me; <sup>38</sup> but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

**John 10:35** εἰ ἐκείνους εἶπεν θεοὺς πρὸς οὓς ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἐγένετο, **καὶ οὐ δύναται λυθῆναι ἡ γραφή.**

**δύναται** verb indicative present middle 3rd person singular from **δύναμαι** impf. **ἠδυνάμην** and **ἐδυνάμην**; fut. **δυνήσομαι**; 1aor. **ἠδυνήθην** and **ἠδυνάσθην**; of capacity or ability **be able, be capable of, can, have power to**; with an infinitive supplied or implied of what one is able to do (MT 3.9; 16.3)

**λυθῆναι** verb infinitive **aorist** passive from **λύω** impf. **ἔλυον**; 1aor. **ἔλυσα**; pf. pass. **λέλυμαι**; 1aor. pass. **ἐλύθην**; 1fut. pass. **λυθήσομαι**; from a basic meaning *loose*, translated with a variety of meanings from the specific contexts; (1) literally, as freeing someone or something tied or bound *loose, untie, set free, release* (MK 1.7; AC 22.30), opposite **δέω** (*bind*); figuratively, as freeing from a legal obligation *free, release* (1C 7.27); as freeing from spiritual bondage *set free* (RV 1.5); (2) literally, as breaking something up into its component parts **destroy, tear down, break up** (2P 3.10); as breaking up a crowd *dismiss, disperse* (AC 13.43); **figuratively, as bringing something to an end do away with, undo** (1J 3.8); (3) **of law, commandments, scriptures set aside, annul, invalidate** (JN 7.23)

Jesus linked two things:

1. Claimed He was God.
2. As God He knows the OT is Authoritative.

## He believed in the OT historical events and characters as real and not fictional.

See the context. Jesus is Again in a debate with the Pharisees. They were involved in a contemporary debate about the restrictions on marriage and divorce. Some argued for grounds on any offense, others believed only certain narrow grounds would be a basis for

divorce. They wanted to entrap Jesus in their debate. He rose above their arguments by appealing directly to the OT. The nature of His argument is what I focus on here.

Jesus clearly based the debate about the nature of marriage and divorce on one foundation: **The Genesis account. He claimed that Adam was a real historical figure and what God did with Adam and Eve had binding moral implications for all human beings.**

**Matthew 19:1-9** Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. <sup>2</sup> And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. <sup>3</sup> And **Pharisees** came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" <sup>4</sup> **He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'?** <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore **God** has joined together, let not man separate." <sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Why then did **Moses** command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" <sup>8</sup> He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the **beginning** it was not so. <sup>9</sup> And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."

Jesus also added His belief that Noah was a real historical figure. Noah and what he did is the foundation for a future event of the end of the age when Jesus will return again.

**Matthew 24:37-39** <sup>37</sup> **As** were the days of **Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** <sup>38</sup> For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day **when Noah entered the ark,** <sup>39</sup> and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

## He believed in OT miracles.

**Matthew 12:38-42** <sup>38</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see **a sign from you.**" <sup>39</sup> But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a **sign**, but **no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.** <sup>40</sup> For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The **men of Nineveh** will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear

## He taught that OT prophecies were genuinely from God

**Remember, as God He was there!**

**Luke 24:18-27** <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you

the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, **"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

**Luke 24:35-48** <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. <sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> **See my hands and my feet**, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> And **while they still disbelieved for joy** and were marveling, he said to them, **"Have you anything here to eat?"** <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them. <sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> **Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,** <sup>46</sup> and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

**Jesus confirmed that the Bible was verbally inspired right down to individual words and tenses of the verbs (and He rebuked people who didn't believe this)**

**Mark 12:18-27** <sup>8</sup> And **Sadducees** came to him, who say that there is no resurrection. And they asked him a question, saying, <sup>19</sup> "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife, but leaves no child, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. <sup>20</sup> There were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and when he died left no offspring. <sup>21</sup> And the second took her, and died, leaving no offspring. And the third likewise. <sup>22</sup> And the **seven** left no offspring. Last of all the woman also died. <sup>23</sup> In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as wife." <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because **you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?** <sup>25</sup> For

when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. <sup>26</sup> **And as for the dead being raised, have you not read (οὐκ ἀνέγνωτε ἐν τῇ βίβλῳ Μωϋσέως) in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?** <sup>27</sup> **He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong. (πολὺ πλανᾶσθε PPI2PL) "**

= read aloud, lit. "to know something again"...based on written text of the Bible!  
= wandering, error, deception, not your regular kind of deception Jesus here uses the superlative!!! Exquisite deception. Massive error of the most serious consequences.

**He is the Living God, Covenant God who delivers His promises to the living which inherently includes sustaining life...**

**Mark 12:26-27** περι δὲ τῶν νεκρῶν ὅτι ἐγείρονται οὐκ ἀνέγνωτε ἐν τῇ βίβλῳ Μωϋσέως ἐπὶ τοῦ βάλτου πῶς εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὁ θεὸς λέγων· ἐγὼ ὁ θεὸς Ἀβραὰμ καὶ [ὁ] θεὸς Ἰσαὰκ καὶ [ὁ] θεὸς Ἰακώβ; <sup>27</sup> οὐκ ἔστιν θεὸς νεκρῶν ἀλλὰ ζώντων· πολὺ πλανᾶσθε.

**Exodus 3:6** And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתַי אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב Exodus 3:6  
וַיִּסְתֵּר מִשְׁחָה פָּנָיו כִּי יָרָא מִהִבֵּיט אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים:

**Now we come to the finest detail of all! Jesus believed in more than the inspiration of the tense of a verb/phrase...*He believed that Yahweh is such a God of detail and accuracy that a single letter and the part of that letter in the original was inspired (God-breathed)...*He stated all of it was from God and as such it was infallible**

**Matthew 5:17-20** <sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called **least** in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

# אֱלֹהִים

Why do you think Jesus said this?  
Is Jesus given to exaggeration? Extremes?

- Change the part of the letter you change the word, change the word you change the phrase, change the phrase you change the sentence, change the sentence you have changed the entire Bible. Jesus had already said, it can't fail, it can't be annulled!
- We have come full circle here, remember Jesus believed all of the old testament and He added just this. It cannot be broken or changed.
- If you change the language, you have changed the meaning. Since language is a gift from God, when God spoke he meant what he said. God never asked to retract a word.

## He affirmed that God spoke through men while at the same time distinguishing the Bible as God's word from mere human tradition

(Popular to talk about “communities of faith” today...)

**Matthew 15:2-9** <sup>2</sup> "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." <sup>3</sup> He answered them, "And why do you break the **commandment of God** for the sake of your **tradition**?" <sup>4</sup> For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' <sup>5</sup> But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, What you would have gained from me is given to God, <sup>6</sup> he need not honor his father.' **So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.** <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: <sup>8</sup> "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; <sup>9</sup> in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

## He said that the entire Bible must be fulfilled.

**Luke 22:37** <sup>37</sup> For I tell you that this Scripture **must be fulfilled in me** (τὸ γεγραμμένον **δεῖ** τελεσθῆναι ἐν ἐμοί): 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

= Occurs 101 times in NT, 40 times in Lk/Acts. Means “unconditional necessity, absolute unquestioned outcome, when God is the Doer it is always an inevitable decree and result.

Since Christ is Lord, then the ultimate question about one's view of Scripture is a matter of "Christology". "What think you of the Bible?" becomes "What think you of the Christ?" "What shall I do with Scripture?" becomes a matter of "What shall I do with the Christ?"

**Hebrews 1:1-4** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, **he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,** <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.