

AUNDREY RICHARD HUBBARD

PROOF

ISLAM

JUDAISM

CATHOLICISM

MORMONISM

BUDDHISM

ARE FALSE!

CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE!



ISLAM

IS

FALSE

**MUSLIMS
MUST
SEARCH THE
BIBLE, BUT
THE BIBLE
REFUTES
ISLAM.**

CRITICISMS CONCERNING THE QURAN

RELIANCE ON EARLIER SOURCES. THE QURAN CLAIMS TO CONFIRM EARLIER SCRIPTURES, SUCH AS THE TORAH AND THE GOSPEL, BUT ALSO ASSERTS THEY WERE CORRUPTED. CRITICS ARGUE THAT THE QURAN REINTERPRETS BIBLICAL NARRATIVES AND NON-CANONICAL TEXTS FROM LATE ANTIQUITY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE QURAN'S ACCOUNTS OF BIBLICAL FIGURES LIKE ABRAHAM AND JESUS DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE BIBLICAL VERSIONS.

**CIRCULAR REASONING.
THE QURAN IS
CONSIDERED DIVINELY
INSPIRED BECAUSE IT
SAYS SO WITHIN ITS
OWN TEXT. CRITICS
POINT OUT THAT THIS
IS A FORM OF
CIRCULAR LOGIC THAT
LACKS EXTERNAL,
VERIFIABLE PROOF.**

TEXTUAL VARIATIONS.

**ALTHOUGH THE STANDARD
ISLAMIC VIEW ASSERTS THE
QURAN'S TEXTUAL
PERFECTION, SOME
SCHOLARS NOTE
MANUSCRIPT VARIATIONS
AND THE EXISTENCE OF
DIFFERENT EARLY READINGS
(KNOWN AS QIRA'AT).**

**MUSLIM APOLOGISTS ARGUE
THESE VARIATIONS ARE
MINOR AND DO NOT ALTER
THE CORE MESSAGE.**

**HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC
ANACHRONISMS. THE QURAN
IS ARGUED BY SOME TO
CONTAIN INACCURACIES THAT
REFLECT THE COMMON
FOLKLORE AND
MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE 7TH
CENTURY RATHER THAN DIVINE
OMNISCIENCE. MODERN
INTERPRETATIONS OFTEN
EXPLAIN THESE ISSUES
THROUGH METAPHOR,
ALTERNATIVE MEANINGS, OR
PHENOMENOLOGICAL
INTERPRETATIONS.**

**PROPHETIC
INFALLIBILITY. WHILE
MUSLIMS HOLD
MUHAMMAD TO BE
INFALLIBLE, SOME
CRITICS CITE
HISTORICAL RECORDS
OF QUESTIONABLE
DEEDS AND
PROBLEMATIC
TEACHINGS.**

CRITICISMS REGARDING THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD

PHILOSOPHICAL AND ETHICAL CRITIQUES

**CONTESTED BIBLICAL
PROPHECIES. THE QURAN
CLAIMS THAT JESUS
FORETOLD MUHAMMAD'S
COMING, BUT THIS
PROPHECY DOES NOT
APPEAR IN ANY
HISTORICAL BIBLICAL
RECORDS. CRITICS ALSO
ARGUE THAT MUHAMMAD
FITS THE CRITERIA OF A
FALSE PROPHET IN
DEUTERONOMY 18.**

SOURCE RELIABILITY. THE EARLIEST WRITTEN ISLAMIC SOURCES ABOUT MUHAMMAD'S LIFE AND THE ORIGINS OF ISLAM, SUCH AS THE HADITH AND SIRA, APPEARED AROUND 150 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH AND WERE TRANSMITTED ORALLY. SOME REVISIONIST SCHOLARS ARGUE THESE TEXTS WERE INFLUENCED BY THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF THEIR TIME AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS LITERARY, NOT STRICTLY HISTORICAL, SOURCES.

**DIVINE HIDDENNESS. A
COMMON OBJECTION ASKS
WHY, IF THE QURAN CONTAINS
THE ULTIMATE TRUTH, GOD
DOES NOT MAKE IT
UNIVERSALLY KNOWN TO ALL
PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE
WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO
INFORMATION. MUSLIM
SCHOLARS RESPOND BY
ARGUING THAT CONVICTION
COMES FROM INTUITION,
EXPERIENCE, AND RATIONAL
REFLECTION, NOT JUST
EXTERNAL SIGNS.**

**QUESTIONABLE ETHICS. SOME
VERSES AND HISTORICAL
PRACTICES RELATED TO
ISLAMIC LAW (SHARIA) HAVE
FACED CRITICISM FOR THEIR
ETHICS, INCLUDING THE
INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY AND
SEVERE PUNISHMENTS FOR
OFFENSES LIKE BLASPHEMY
AND APOSTASY. SOME CRITICS
ALSO ARGUE THAT COMBINING
A STRICT LEGALISTIC SYSTEM
WITH A PROSELYTIZING
MISSION IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY
DANGEROUS.**

**THE PROBLEM OF EVIL.
CRITICS QUESTION HOW AN
ALL-POWERFUL AND ALL-
LOVING GOD COULD ALLOW
NATURAL DISASTERS AND
OTHER FORMS OF
SUFFERING. THE QURAN
PRESENTS ARGUMENTS FOR
GOD'S EXISTENCE THAT
APPEAL TO COSMIC ORDER
AND MORALITY, SUGGESTING
THAT A SHARED HUMAN
UNDERSTANDING OF JUSTICE
REFLECTS GOD'S WILL.**

NATURE OF THE EARLY CONQUESTS. ACCOUNTS OF THE EARLY ISLAMIC CONQUESTS ARE OFTEN CONTRADICTORY. SOME HISTORIANS CHARACTERIZE THEM AS COLONIAL EXPANSION DRIVEN BY MILITARY FORCE, WHILE OTHERS FRAME THEM AS A HOLY STRUGGLE (JIHAD) OR AS DEFENSIVE WARS. THE RAPID SUCCESS OF THE MUSLIM ARMIES IS ATTRIBUTED BY SOME TO MILITARY STRATEGY AND RELIGIOUS ZEAL, AND BY OTHERS TO THE WEAKNESS OF THE BYZANTINE AND SASSANIAN EMPIRES.

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES ON EARLY ISLAMIC HISTORY

**LACK OF MIRACULOUS
SIGNS. WHILE THE QURAN
MENTIONS MIRACLES
PERFORMED BY EARLIER
PROPHETS LIKE MOSES
AND JESUS, CRITICS NOTE
THAT A DEMAND FOR
SIMILAR MIRACULOUS
EVIDENCE FOR THE QURAN
IS REJECTED. ISLAMIC
APOLOGISTS CLAIM THE
QURAN ITSELF IS THE
GREATEST MIRACLE.**

**IN OTHER WORDS, PRIOR
TO ITS SUPPOSED
CORRUPTION. YET WHEN
WE READ THE FOLLOWING
VERSES, IT BECOMES
BLATANTLY CLEAR THAT
“ALLAH” AND HIS PROPHET
CONSIDERED THE BIBLE TO
BE UNCORRUPTED AND
INSPIRED DURING THE
TIME OF MUHAMMAD:**

THE QURAN AFFIRMS THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD.

YES. YOU READ THAT CORRECTLY. WHEN ONE BEGINS TO EXAMINE THE QURANIC NARRATIVE, HE OR SHE WILL QUICKLY COME TO DISCOVER THAT THE QURAN AFFIRMS THE BIBLE'S DIVINE INSPIRATION AND INERRANCY. MANY MUSLIMS, HOWEVER, ASSERT THAT SUCH PASSAGES ARE REFERRING TO THE "REAL" BIBLE.

**REVISIONIST VS. TRADITIONAL
VIEWS. THE "REVISIONIST
SCHOOL" OF ISLAMIC STUDY
CHALLENGES THE TRADITIONAL
MUSLIM VIEW OF EARLY
ISLAMIC HISTORY, SUGGESTING A
SIGNIFICANT GAP BETWEEN THE
EVENTS AND THEIR WRITTEN
ACCOUNTS. TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC
SOURCES GENERALLY ASSUME
THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ORAL
AND WRITTEN TRANSMISSIONS
OF ISLAMIC HISTORY, CITING THE
PRESERVATION OF THE QURAN
AND THE RELIABILITY OF THE
HADITH COMPILATIONS.**

SUNAN ABU DAWUD, BOOK 38 (KITAB AL HUDUD, I.E. PRESCRIBED PUNISHMENTS), NUMBER 4434:
NARRATED ABDULLAH IBN UMAR: A GROUP OF JEWS CAME AND INVITED THE APOSTLE OF ALLAH (PEACE_BE_UPON_HIM) TO QUFF. SO HE VISITED THEM IN THEIR SCHOOL.THEY SAID: ABULQASIM, ONE OF OUR MEN HAS COMMITTED FORNICATION WITH A WOMAN; SO PRONOUNCE JUDGMENT UPON THEM. THEY PLACED A CUSHION FOR THE APOSTLE OF ALLAH (PEACE_BE_UPON_HIM) WHO SAT ON IT AND SAID: BRING THE TORAH. IT WAS THEN BROUGHT. HE THEN WITHDREW THE CUSHION FROM BENEATH HIM AND PLACED THE TORAH ON IT SAYING: I BELIEVED IN THEE AND IN HIM WHO REVEALED THEE.

SURAH 5:46-47: “AND IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS WE SENT JESUS THE SON OF MARY, CONFIRMING THE TORAH THAT CAME BEFORE HIM: WE SENT HIM THE GOSPEL: THEREIN IS GUIDANCE AND LIGHT, AND CONFIRMATION OF THE TORAH THAT HAD COME BEFORE HIM: A GUIDANCE AND AN ADMONITION TO THOSE WHO FEAR ALLAH. LET THE PEOPLE OF THE GOSPEL JUDGE BY WHAT ALLAH HATH REVEALED THEREIN. IF ANY DO FAIL TO JUDGE BY (THE LIGHT OF) WHAT ALLAH HATH REVEALED, THEY ARE (NO BETTER THAN) THOSE WHO REBEL.”

**SURAH 5:43: “BUT WHY
DO THEY COME TO THEE
FOR DECISION, WHEN
THEY HAVE (THEIR OWN)
TORAH BEFORE THEM? –
THEREIN IS THE (PLAIN)
COMMAND OF ALLAH;
YET EVEN AFTER THAT,
THEY WOULD TURN
AWAY. FOR THEY ARE
NOT (REALLY) PEOPLE
OF FAITH.**

**THE CHESTER BEATTY PAPYRUS
II: AD 100.**

**THE JOHN RYLANDS
MANUSCRIPT: AD 130.**

**THE CODEX VATICANUS: AD 325-
350.**

**THE CODEX SINAITICUS: AD
375-400.**

**THE CODEX WASHINGTONIANUS:
AD 450.**

NOW IN LIGHT OF THE ISLAMIC EVIDENCE, A SEGMENT OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY HAVE CONJURED UP A THEORY THAT THE BIBLE WAS CORRUPTED AFTER MUHAMMAD'S TIME. THIS IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE, SEEING AS WE HAVE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE BIBLE WHICH DATE BACK PRIOR TO AND DURING MUHAMMAD'S TIME.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THE BIBLE SAID DURING THE COMMENCEMENT AND LAUNCH OF THE ISLAMIC RELIGION:

**HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO
NOTE:**

**IN SURAH 5:43, THE JEWS HAVE
THE TORAH (PRESENT TENSE).
THEREIN IS ALLAH'S COMMAND.**

**IN SURAH 5:46-47 IT WRITES
THEREIN IS GUIDANCE.
FURTHERMORE, ALLAH
INSTRUCTS US TO JUDGE
(PRESENT TENSE) BY THE
GOSPEL.**

**MUHAMMAD CONSIDERED THE
TORAH THAT EXISTED IN HIS TIME
TO BE THE WORD OF GOD.**

SINCE WE KNOW THE BIBLE WAS NOT CORRUPTED BY REFERRING TO THESE ANCIENT DOCUMENTS AND PAPYRI, WE SEE THAT ISLAM IS PROVEN TO BE LOCKED INTO A GRAVE DILEMMA. IF THE BIBLE WAS CORRUPTED, THEN THE QURAN IS FALSE BECAUSE IT AFFIRMS ITS INERRANCY AND INSPIRATION. BUT IF THE BIBLE WAS NOT CORRUPTED, THE QURAN STILL REMAINS FALSE BECAUSE IT BLATANTLY CONTRADICTS THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE ON VIRTUALLY EVERY SIGNIFICANT POINT.

ALL THINGS WERE MADE IN PAIRS:

WITHIN THE QURAN, SURAH 51:49, IT WRITES THAT ALL THINGS WERE CREATED IN PAIRS. YET, TODAY WE KNOW OF SOMETHING CALLED ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION. ASEXUAL REPRODUCTION IS A TYPE OF REPRODUCTION BY WHICH OFFSPRINGS ARISE FROM A SINGLE ORGANISM. IT SERVES AS THE CHIEF MEANS BY WHICH SINGLE CELLED ORGANISMS ARE FORMED. SUCH EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE ARCHAEA, BACTERIA, VARIOUS PLANTS AND FUNGI.

FLAT EARTH:

THE QURAN IS LADEN WITH VERSES WHICH HINT TOWARDS THE IMPRESSION OF A “FLAT” EARTH. SURAH 13:3, 15:19, 50:7, 51:48, 71:19, 20:53 AND MANY MORE WRITE THAT THE EARTH IS “SPREAD OUT”, “LAID OUT”, OR “LIKE A CARPET”. YET DUE TO MODERN SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY WE KNOW THAT THE EARTH IS ACTUALLY IN THE SHAPE OF A CIRCULAR SPHERE.

JUST TO FURTHER ELABORATE ON THIS POINT, EVER NOTICE HOW THE ISLAMIC SALAT INDIRECTLY HINTS AT THE IDEA OF A FLAT EARTH? MUSLIMS ALL AROUND THE WORLD ARE INSTRUCTED TO PRAY TOWARDS THE KABBA 5 TIMES A DAY. THIS WOULD ONLY MAKE SENSE IF WE LIVED ON A FLAT EARTH. IF, HOWEVER, ISLAM ENDORSED THE BELIEF IN A SPHERICAL PLANET, WE WOULD GET THE FOLLOWING DILEMMA.

SCIENTIFIC INACCURACIES

SPERM:

**THE QUR'AN STATES,
INCORRECTLY, THAT SEMEN
ORIGINATES FROM A SPOT
BETWEEN THE BACKBONE AND
THE RIBS, SURAH 86:6-7.
HOWEVER, SCIENCE HAS
DEMONSTRATED THAT SPERM
COMES FROM THE TESTICLES
WHILST SEMEN ISSUES FROM
DIFFERENT GLANDS BEHIND
AND BELOW OUR BLADDER.**

HISTORICAL INACCURACIES

SAMARIA:

IN SURAH 20:85-88, 95 WE READ ABOUT THE STORY OF THE PROPHET MOSES AND THE ISRAELITE REBELLION IN THEIR WORSHIP OF THE GOLDEN CALF. THE INTERESTING THING WITHIN THIS PASSAGE, IS THAT A SAMARITAN WAS ACCUSED OF LEADING THE PEOPLE OF ALLAH ASTRAY.

THE STORY OF MOSES AND THE GOLDEN CALF IS DATED TO HAVE OCCURRED AROUND 1400 BC. YET THE SAMARITANS DID NOT EXIST UNTIL 530 YEARS AFTER MOSES. SAMARIA WAS FOUNDED BY KING OMRI DURING THE YEAR 870 BC. THE SAMARITANS DID NOT EXIST UNTIL AFTER THE EXILE OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL AND THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE AREA UNDER KING SARGON II IN 722 B.C.

SO THE QUESTION ARISES: HOW COULD A SAMARITAN LEAD THE PEOPLE OF MOSES ASTRAY WHEN SAMARITANS DID NOT EXIST DURING THE TIME OF MOSES?

**THE SUN SETTLES IN A MUDDY
SPRING:**

**IN SURAH 18:86, THE QURAN
DESCRIBES THE SUN AS
SETTING INTO A MUDDY
SPRING. YET WE KNOW DUE
TO MODERN SCIENTIFIC
DISCOVERY THAT THE SETTING
OF THE SUN IS CAUSED BY
THE CIRCULAR AND
ROTATIONAL PROPERTIES OF
OUR PLANET. THERE EXISTS NO
PLACE WHERE THE SUN
PHYSICALLY “SETS”.**

SHOOTING STARS ARE MISSILES TO DRIVE OUT DEMONS:

**THE QUR'AN TEACHES THAT STARS ARE FIRES SET UP IN THE SKY TO GUARD HEAVEN AGAINST DEMONS. THE DEMONS WANT TO HEAR WHAT GOD IS SAYING SO THEY TRY TO SNEAK UP TO HEAVEN. IF THEY ARE FOUND, THE GUARDIANS OF HEAVEN WILL HURL STARS AT THEM TO CHASE THEM OFF:
15:16-18, 37:6-10, 67:5 AND 72:8-9.**

THE DILEMMA, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE QURAN IS CONFUSING "STARS" WITH "SHOOTING STARS". STARS, AS WE KNOW, ARE ACTUALLY SUNS. SHOOTING STARS ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE METEORITES, OR GALACTIC DEBRIS. IF WE ARE TO TAKE THE QURAN SERIOUSLY, THEN EACH TIME WE SEE A "SHOOTING STAR" WE ARE TO ASSUME THAT IT IS ACTUALLY A SUN THAT IS BLASTING ACROSS THE SKY IN THE PURSUE OF A DEMON.

MARY, THE QURANIC CONFUSION:

ACCORDING TO ANSWERINGISLAM.ORG,

IN MANY PLACES, THE QUR'AN MENTIONS MARY AS THE SISTER OF MOSES AND AARON AND THE DAUGHTER OF IMRAN. THE QUR'AN HAS CONFUSED JESUS' MOTHER WITH AARON'S SISTER BECAUSE BOTH OF THEM CARRY THE SAME NAME, THOUGH THERE ARE SEVERAL CENTURIES BETWEEN THEM.

THE QUR'AN INDICATES THAT MARY (CHRIST'S MOTHER) HAD A BROTHER WHOSE NAME WAS AARON (CHAPTER 19:28) AND A FATHER WHOSE NAME IS IMRAN (CHAPTER 66:12). THEIR MOTHER WAS CALLED "THE WIFE OF IMRAN" (CHAPTER 3:35) WHICH ELIMINATES ANY DOUBT THAT IT CONFUSES MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS, WITH MARY, SISTER OF AARON.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

IN SURAH 18:83-98 WE READ ABOUT A MAN NAMED DHUL-QARNAYN. NOW, IT IS VERY RARE TO FIND A SCHOLAR OF THE ISLAMIC RELIGION WHICH WILL NOT STATE THAT THIS POINTS TO ALEXANDER THE GREAT. HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE: BAYDAWI, P. 399, AL-JALALAN, P. 251, AL-TABARI, P. 339, AL-ZAMAKHSHARI, PART 2 OF AL-KASH-SHAF, P. 743.

THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE QURAN DESCRIBES ALEXANDER AS BEING A “RIGHTEOUS AND GOD FEARING MAN”. THAT ALLAH IS THE ONE WHOM GUIDED HIM AND THAT HE LEAD PEOPLE INTO THE FOLD OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH.

HOWEVER, WHEN WE EVEN DO A LITTLE RESEARCH ON THE TRUE AND HISTORICAL ALEXANDER, WE SEE THAT HE WAS AN IDOLATER, CLAIMING TO BE THE SON OF THE EGYPTIAN GOD AMUN. VERY FEW WOULD EVEN CONSIDER HIM TO BE EVEN REMOTELY CLOSE TO A RIGHTEOUS HUMAN BEING.

CRUCIFIXION:

ACCORDING TO SURAH 12:41, THE QURAN WRITES THAT DURING THE TIME OF JOSEPH (IN THE OLD TESTAMENT), DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION WAS ACTUALLY SOMETHING THAT EXISTED AND WAS BEING PERFORMED. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THE QURAN WRITES IN SURAH 7:124, 26:49 AND 20:71 THAT PHARAOH THREATENED THE MAGICIANS WHO BELIEVED IN MOSES WITH CRUCIFIXION.

THE MAJOR PROBLEM WITH THESE STATEMENTS FROM THE QUR'AN IS THAT THERE IS NO ARCHEOLOGICAL OR HISTORICAL EVIDENCE THAT THE EGYPTIANS USED CRUCIFIXION AS A FORM OF PUNISHMENT IN THE TIME OF JOSEPH, OR IN THE TIME OF MOSES. CRUCIFIXION ONLY BECOMES A PUNISHMENT MUCH LATER IN HISTORY.

**IN THE HISTORICAL JESUS: LECTURE TRANSCRIPT
AND COURSE GUIDEBOOK, 2000, EHRMAN SAYS:**

**“ONE OF THE MOST CERTAIN FACTS OF HISTORY
IS THAT JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED ON ORDERS OF
THE ROMAN PREFECT OF JUDEA, PONTIUS
PILATE”. [P. 162]**

**ATHEIST PROFESSOR OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTTINGEN GERD
LUDEMANN SAYS:**

**“JESUS’ DEATH AS A CONSEQUENCE OF
CRUCIFIXION IS INDISPUTABLE”. IN THE
RESURRECTION OF CHRIST: A HISTORICAL
INQUIRY, 2004, P 50**

**WE HAVE AT LEAST 11 SOURCES FOR THE
CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS: PRE-MARK PASSION
NARRATIVE, Q, JOHN, PAUL, HEBREWS, 1 PETER
2:24, CLEMENT OF ROME, IGNATIUS, MARTYR,
JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS, & CORNELIUS TACITUS. PRE-
MARK AND Q ARE VERY EARLY DATING TO
WITHIN YEARS OF THE ACTUAL CRUCIFIXION.**

IN SURAH 4:157, THE QURAN UNASHAMEDLY TELLS US THAT CHRIST WAS NEVER KILLED NOR CRUCIFIED. BUT THAT IT WAS MADE TO APPEAR SO. RATHER, ALLAH RAISED CHRIST UNTO HIMSELF. THE TRADITIONAL INTERPRETATION OF THIS VERSE IS THAT ALLAH REPLACED JESUS WITH JUDAS ON THE CROSS, HENCE ANY HISTORICAL SUBSTANTIATION OF THIS EVENT WOULD FALL SHORT ON DISPROVING THE ISLAMIC POSITION, FOR THEY DO NOT DOUBT THAT THE CRUCIFIXION TOOK PLACE, BUT THAT IT WAS JUDAS WHO TOOK ON CHRIST'S FORM.

YET WHEN WE LOOK TO THE HISTORICAL RECORD, WE SEE THAT IT TOO, ALSO SUCCESSFULLY DISMANTLES THIS ELUCIDATION, BECAUSE 10 OUT OF THE 12 APOSTLES WERE MARTYRED FOR BELIEVING IN THE MURDER AND RESSURECTION OF JESUS. HISTORY SHOWS THAT THAT THEY FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT IT WAS JESUS HIMSELF WHO WAS MURDERED RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

**THE
GOSPEL
OF JESUS
CHRIST.**

THE QURAN BORROWED FROM CHRISTIAN FORGERIES

WHEN WE BEGIN TO READ THE STORY OF JESUS AS IT IS FOUND WITHIN THE QURAN, WE WILL QUICKLY COME TO FIND TWO PARTICULAR EVENTS WHICH WOULD IMMEDIATELY COME TO STRIKE HIM/HER AS BEING SOMEWHAT ODD:

JESUS TALKS FROM THE CRADLE: SURAH 3:46, 19:28-34 AND 5:110.

JESUS TURNS CLAY BIRDS INTO REAL BIRDS: SURAH 3:49 AND 5:110.

THE PROBLEM HOWEVER, IS THAT WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THESE FABLES CAME FROM. AND THEY ARE INDEED FABLES BECAUSE THEY COME FROM CHRISTIAN FORGERIES KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING DURING THE TIME OF THE ISLAMIC PROPHET.

**IF IT WAS REALLY JUDAS ON THE CROSS,
THEN ISLAM IS IMMEDIATELY
CONTRADICTED BY THE HISTORICAL
SOURCES THAT TELL US JESUS WAS
CRUCIFIED AND ALL THOSE WHO KNEW
HIM BELIEVED AND DIED FOR THE BELIEF
THAT HE WAS CRUCIFIED.**

**IF ALLAH TRANSFORMED JUDAS INTO
JESUS, THEN THE CORRUPTION OF ISLAM,
WHICH EVENTUALLY GAVE BIRTH TO
CHRISTIANITY, IS ALLAH'S FAULT. FOR HE
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DECEIVING THE
MASSES, ONLY TO AMEND IT HUNDREDS
OF YEARS LATER.**

**NOW THERE DOES EXIST OTHER
INTERPRETATIONS SUCH AS "CHRIST DID
NOT DIE, BUT HE MERELY FAINTED". YET
ALL STILL MANAGE TO FAIL WHEN
BROUGHT UNDER SCRUTINY OF WHAT
HISTORY HAS TO SAY CONCERNING THE
CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS.**

WE HAVE AT LEAST 11 SOURCES FOR THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS: PRE-MARK PASSION NARRATIVE, Q, JOHN, PAUL, HEBREWS, 1 PETER 2:24, CLEMENT OF ROME, IGNATIUS, MARTYR, JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS, & CORNELIUS TACITUS. PRE-MARK AND Q ARE VERY EARLY DATING TO WITHIN YEARS OF THE ACTUAL CRUCIFIXION.

OTHER LESS VALUABLE SOURCES SUCH AS LUCIAN, MESA BAR SERAPION (DEPENDS ON DATING), THALLUS AND THE TALMUD ALL AFFIRM A CONSTANT TRADITION OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION.

IF THIS WAS REALLY JUDAS ON THE CROSS, THEN SURELY THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE. SURELY THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DIE FOR SOMETHING THEY KNEW WAS FALSE. SO AGAIN, IF WE TAKE THE ABOVE MENTIONED INTERPRETATION INTO ACCOUNT, ISLAM IS LEFT WITH THE FOLLOWING 2 PROBLEMS:

MUHAMMAD ALLOWED HIS SCRIBES TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE QURAN

**MUHAMMAD, AS MANY KNOW,
POSSESSED MANY SCRIBES WHO WOULD
WRITE DOWN THE REVELATIONS HE WAS
GIVEN. ONE OF THESE SCRIBES WENT BY
THE NAME OF ABDULLAH IBN SA'D IBN ABI
SARH. AS ABDULLAH WOULD PEN DOWN
THE REVELATIONS, HE FREQUENTLY MADE
SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE WORDING
OF A PARTICULAR AYAT (VERSE).**

**MUHAMMAD, SURPRISINGLY, ALLOWED
FOR THESE CHANGES TO BE MADE.
SEEING THAT GOD'S WORD CAN BE
CHANGED BY A MERE HUMAN BEING,
ABDULLAH EVENTUALLY LEFT ISLAM,
KNOWING THAT THE QURAN COULD NOT
HAVE BEEN THE PERFECT AND
INCORRUPTIBLE WORD OF ALLAH.**

THE STORY OF JESUS TRANSFIGURING CLAY BIRDS INTO REAL ONES COMES FROM THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS THE ISRAELITE, WHICH SAYS:

THE CHILD JESUS, WHEN 5 YEARS OF AGE, WAS PLAYING ON THE ROAD BY A DIRTY STREAM OF RUNNING WATER; AND HAVING BROUGHT IT ALL TOGETHER INTO DITCHES, IMMEDIATELY MADE IT PURE AND CLEAN; BY SAYING A SINGLE WORD. THEN HAVING MOISTENED SOME EARTH, HE MADE OF IT TWELVE SPARROWS. AND IT WAS THE SABBATH DAY WHEN HE DID THESE THINGS. THERE WERE MANY OTHER CHILDREN PLAYING WITH HIM. NOW A JEW, SEEING WHAT JESUS DID, THAT HE WAS PLAYING ON THE SABBATH DAY, WENT HIS WAY TO (JESUS') FATHER JOSEPH.

HE SAID, "BEHOLD, YOUR SON IS AT THE STREAM OF DIRTY WATER, AND HAVING TAKEN UP SOME MUD, HAS MADE OF IT TWELVE SPARROWS, THUS DESECRATING THE SABBATH. ON THIS JOSEPH WENT TO THE SPOT, AND CRIED OUT, "WHY DID YOU DO THESE THINGS ON THE SABBATH DAY WHICH IT IS NOT LAWFUL TO DO?" JESUS THEN CLAPPED HIS HANDS AT THE SPARROWS AND CRIED ALOUD TO THEM, "GO OFF!" SO THEY, CLUCKING, FLEW AWAY. THE JEWS SEEING IT WERE ASTONISHED, AND WENT AND TOLD THEIR RULERS WHAT THEY HAD SEEN JESUS DO."

**THE STORY OF JESUS SPEAKING
FROM THE CRADLE CAME FROM
THE INFANCY GOSPEL OF JESUS
CHRIST WHICH WRITES:**

**JESUS SPAKE WHEN HE WAS
IN THE CRADLE, AND SAID TO
HIS MOTHER: "MARY, I AM
JESUS THE SON OF GOD, THE
WORD, WHICH THOU DIDST
BRING FORTH ACCORDING TO
THE DECLARATION OF THE
ANGEL GABRIEL, AND MY
FATHER HATH SENT ME FOR THE
SALVATION OF THE WORLD."**

**IBN SA`D "TABAQAT", VOL 2, PAGE
168:**

**THE APOSTLE OF ALLAH ENTERED
THROUGH ADHAKHIR, [INTO MECCA],
AND PROHIBITED FIGHTING. HE
ORDERED SIX MEN AND FOUR
WOMEN TO BE KILLED, THEY WERE (1)
IKRIMAH IBN ABI JAHL, (2) HABBAR
IBN AL-ASWAD, (3) ABD ALLAH IBN
SA`D IBN ABI SARH, (4) MIQYAS IBN
SABABAH AL-LAYTHI, (5) AL-
HUWAYRITH IBN NUQAYDH, (6) ABD
ABBAH IBN HILAL IBN KHATAL AL-
ADRAMI, (7) HIND BINT UTBAH, (8)
SARAH, THE MAWLAT (ENFRANCHISED
GIRL) OF AMR IBN HASHIM, (9)
FARTANA AND (10) QARIBAH.**

**“THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD”, A
GUILLAUME’S A TRANSLATION OF IBN
HISHAM’S “SIRAT RASUL ALLAH”, FROM
PAGE 550:**

**THE APOSTLE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS
COMMANDERS WHEN THEY ENTERED
MECCA ONLY TO FIGHT THOSE WHO
RESISTED THEM EXCEPT A SMALL
NUMBER WHO WERE TO BE KILLED EVEN
IF THEY WERE FOUND BENEATH THE
CURTAINS OF THE KA`BA. AMONG THEM
WAS `ABDULLAH B. SA`D, BROTHER OF
THE B. `AMIR B. LU`AYY. THE REASON HE
ORDERED HIM TO BE KILLED WAS THAT
HE HAD BEEN A MUSLIM AND USED TO
WRITE DOWN REVELATION; THEN HE
APOSTATIZED AND RETURNED TO
QURAHYSH [MECCA] AND FLED TO
`UTHMAN B.**

HERE IS WHAT HE SAID:

“I USED TO DIRECT MUHAMMAD WHEREVER I WILLED. HE WOULD DICTATE TO ME ‘MOST HIGH, ALL-WISE,’ AND I WOULD WRITE DOWN ‘ALL-WISE’ ONLY. THEN HE WOULD SAY, ‘YES IT IS ALL THE SAME.’ ON A CERTAIN OCCASION HE SAID, ‘WRITE SUCH AND SUCH’, BUT I WROTE ‘WRITE’ ONLY, AND HE SAID, ‘WRITE WHATEVER YOU LIKE.’ (1)

SUCH CHANGES CAN BE SEEN IN SURAH 23:14.

INTERESTINGLY, FOLLOWING MUHAMMAD’S CONQUEST OF MECCA, THE PROPHET ORDERED FOR 10 PEOPLE TO BE KILLED. AND UNSURPRISINGLY, ONE OF THEM WAS ABDULLAH.

**FOLLOWING THIS EVENT, MUHAMMAD
THOUGHT HE WAS DEMON POSSESSED
ACCORDING TO SAHIH BUKHARI 9:111
WHERE IT STATES THAT HE WAS
TWITCHING WITH TERROR, ASKING WHAT
WAS WRONG WITH HIM WHILST
DEMANDING TO BE COVERED, FEARING
THAT SOMETHING BAD MAY HAPPEN TO
HIM.**

**ALSO FROM IBN ISHAQ'S "SIRAT RASUL
ALLAH" MUHAMAD DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS
GABRIEL AT FIRST, BUT THAT HE WAS
DEMON POSSESSED. P. 106-107. IT WAS
ONLY UNTIL PEOPLE CONVINCED HIM THAT
HE WAS MET BY AN ANGEL OF THE LORD
THAT HE SLOWLY CAME TO BELIEVE THAT
HE WAS CALLED TO PROPHET HOOD.**

**AS A MATTER OF FACT, EVEN PEOPLE
DURING MUHAMMAD'S TIME BELIEVED THAT
HE WAS DEMON POSSESSED AND WAS
MET, NOT BY GABRIEL, BUT BY A DEVIL:**

SURAH 2:97: SAY, “WHOEVER IS AN ENEMY TO GABRIEL – IT IS [NONE BUT] HE WHO HAS BROUGHT THE QUR’AN DOWN UPON YOUR HEART, [O MUHAMMAD], BY PERMISSION OF ALLAH , CONFIRMING THAT WHICH WAS BEFORE IT AND AS GUIDANCE AND GOOD TIDINGS FOR THE BELIEVERS.”

THE QURAN DESCRIBES GABRIEL AS THE ANGEL AND MESSENGER WHO BROUGHT DOWN THE QURAN UNTO MUHAMMAD’S HEART. IN THE HADITH, HOWEVER, THE ANGEL IS DESCRIBED AS PRESSING AND STRANGLING MUHAMAD UPON THE GIVING OF THE REVELATION. SOMETHING WE NEVER FIND GABRIEL DOING IN THE BIBLE (WHICH THE QURAN AFFIRMS).

**ISLAMIC
SOURCES
SHOW THAT
MUHAMMAD
THOUGHT HE
WAS DEMON
POSSESSED.**

JUDAISM

IS

FALSE

SO UPON VIEWING THE ISLAMIC SOURCES, IS IT SAFE TO SAY THAT ISLAM IS THE PERFECT AND PRESERVED RELIGION OF THE ALMIGHTY? FAR FROM IT! GOD IS OMNISCIENT AND THERE IS NOTHING FALSE TO BE FOUND WITHIN HIM. HENCE THE WAY WHICH HE PRESCRIBES SHOULD CONSEQUENTLY NOT STAND IN DISHARMONY TO BOTH SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORICAL DISCOVERY.

HIS WORDS SHOULD NEVER BE IN NEED OF ANY HUMAN INTERVENTION FOR IMPROVEMENT AND HIS PROPHET SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO FEEL DEMON POSSESSED, ONLY TO BE REASSURED BY HUMAN TONGUES THAT HE WAS DIVINELY VISITED. THESE ARE ALL THINGS WHICH ISLAM HAS TO ACCOUNT FOR.

AND UNTIL WE ARE GIVEN ANY SATISFACTORY ANSWER FOR THESE TROUBLESOME DISCOVERIES, THERE IS NO SOLID REASON TO PLACE YOUR FAITH IN MUHAMMAD'S RELIGION.

SOURCES

IBN AL-ATHÎR, USÛD ULGHÂBAH FÎ MA'RIFAT IS-SAHÂBAH, 1995, DÂR AL-FIKR, BERUIT (LEBANON), VOLUME 3, P. 154.

SURAH 81:22-25: “NO, YOUR COMPATRIOT [MUHAMMAD] IS NOT MAD. HE SAW HIM [GABRIEL] ON THE CLEAR HORIZON. HE DOES NOT GRUDGE THE SECRETS OF THE UNSEEN, NOR IS THIS THE UTTERANCE OF AN ACCURSED DEVIL.”

SURAH 69:41, 42: “IT [THE QURAN] IS NO POET’S SPEECH: SCANT IS YOUR FAITH! IT IS NO SOOTHSAYER’S DIVINATION: HOW LITTLE YOU REFLECT! IT IS REVELATION FROM THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE.

SO IT IS THEN NO SHOCK THAT WE GO ON TO READ IN THE QURAN THAT JESUS WAS NEVER KILLED OR CRUCIFIED: QURAN 4:157. A COMPLETE CONTRADICTION TO WHAT THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL IS, THE DEATH BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

“BUT EVEN IF WE OR AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN SHOULD PREACH TO YOU A GOSPEL CONTRARY TO THE ONE WE PREACHED TO YOU, LET HIM BE ACCURSED.” – GALATIANS 1:8

2 CORINTHIANS 11:14 ALSO STATES THAT SATAN CAN MASQUERADE AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.

JUDAISM IS NAMED AFTER THE NATION OF JUDAH WHICH WAS NAMED FOR ONE OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL. AFTER KING SOLOMON DIED THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL WERE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEPARATE KINGDOMS. THE TEN NORTHERN TRIBES BECAME ISRAEL AND THE TWO SOUTHERN TRIBES OF JUDAH AND BENJAMIN ALONG WITH THE LEVITES BECAME THE NATION OF JUDAH. JUDAISM BECAME A DISTORTION OF THE TRUE BELIEFS THAT GOD GAVE TO THE ISRAELITES. THE NATION OF ISRAEL WAS FULL OF SIN AND WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE AND THE PEOPLE WERE SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD. JUDAH LASTED FOR A LITTLE LONGER, BUT HER SIN WAS JUST AS WORSE IF NOT EVEN WORSE. SHE WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE BABYLONIANS FOR 70 YEARS WHICH WOULD INFLUENCE HER BELIEFS.

A MUSLIM FOLLOWING ISLAM. I OFTEN PREACH THAT WE NEED TO BLESS THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND TO PRAY FOR THEM AND SUPPORT THEM AS THIS IS WHAT SCRIPTURE COMMANDS US TO DO. THIS IS STILL TRUE, BUT WE ALSO NEED TO WARN THE JEWS THAT THEIR RELIGION IS A DEAD RELIGION AND THAT IT IS NOT THE SAME BELIEFS THAT GOD GAVE TO MOSES. WE ARE TO SUPPORT ISRAEL, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE CONDONE EVERYTHING THEY DO OR THE FALSE BELIEFS OF JUDAISM. FEW PREACHERS HAVE THE COURAGE TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT JUDAISM. MANY JUST BELIEVE THAT CHRISTIANITY CAME FROM IT. TRUE CHRISTIANITY CAME FROM THE LAWS OF MOSES, BUT NEVER CONTAINED THE FALSE BELIEFS OF JUDAISM. GOD NEVER STARTED JUDAISM. JUDAISM IS MAN'S ATTEMPT TO "IMPROVE" ON WHAT GOD DID. JUST AS THE ISRAELITES WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH GOD AS THEIR KING BUT WANTED A MAN, THE JEWS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE WORSHIP THAT GOD GAVE THEM AND MADE THEIR OWN RELIGION WHICH IS JUDAISM.

FALSE RELIGION OF JUDAISM

MANY PEOPLE DO NOT REALIZE THAT JUDAISM IS A FALSE RELIGION AS MUCH AS ISLAM, HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, OR THE MANY OTHER FALSE RELIGIONS. JUDAISM IS NOT THE RELIGION OF THE ISRAELITES AS MENTIONED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. THE ISRAELITES THAT FOLLOWED GOD'S COMMANDS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WERE FOLLOWING THE TRUE RELIGION OR TRUE BELIEFS OF GOD. THIS WAS CONTINUED BY CHRISTIANITY. THE JEWS OVER TIME STARTED CHANGING WHAT GOD COMMANDED THEM TO DO AND AS ALL RELIGIONS STARTED ADDING TO IT. TODAY IT IS A DEAD RELIGION THAT ANY JEW FOLLOWING IT WILL END UP IN HELL AS MUCH AS

WHAT SCRIPTURE SAID. BESIDES THE TALMUD THE JEWS HAVE THE OLD TESTAMENT WHICH THEY REFER TO AS THE TANAKH WITH THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES (GENESIS TO DEUTERONOMY) AS THE TORAH. MOST JEWS ONLY READ THE TORAH AND MUCH OF THE REST IS IGNORED EXCEPT PARTS AT CERTAIN TIMES. ANY PARTS THAT SHOW JESUS AS THE MESSIAH ESPECIALLY ISAIAH 53 ARE IGNORED AND ARE NOT TO BE READ. TODAY THE TALMUD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BIBLE. MANY OF THE TRADITIONS THAT GOD CONDEMNED THE JEWS OVER ARE CONTAINED IN THE TALMUD SHOWING THE JEWS NEVER LEARNED. IN JUDAISM WITH THE TALMUD AND SPECIFICALLY THE GEMARA, MAN'S WORDS HAVE BECOME GREATER THAN GOD'S WORD. THE JEWISH BIBLE CONTAINS THE SAME AS OUR OLD TESTAMENT EXCEPT THAT WE DIVIDE IT INTO 39 BOOKS AND THE HEBREW BIBLE IS MADE UP OF 24 BOOKS. THEY COMBINE I AND II SAMUEL INTO ONE BOOK AND DO THE SAME TO I AND II KINGS AND I AND II CHRONICLES. EZRA AND NEHEMIAH ARE COMBINED AS ONE BOOK AND THE TWELVE MINOR PROPHETS AS ONE BOOK.

TOGETHER THESE TWO BOOKS MAKE UP WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE TALMUD. THE TALMUD ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA IS "A COLLECTION OF LEGAL AND ETHICAL WRITINGS, AS WELL AS JEWISH HISTORY AND FOLKLORE. IT SERVES PRIMARY AS A GUIDE TO THE CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LAWS OF JUDAISM. ORTHODOX JEWS BELIEVE THE LAWS IN THE TALMUD WERE GIVEN TO MOSES BY GOD AND PASSED DOWN ORALLY FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION." IT WAS IN 200 THAT THESE ORAL LAWS WERE WRITTEN DOWN AS THE MISHNAH. LATER ON SCHOLARS EXPLAINED THE MISHNAH AND THEIR INTERPRETATIONS WERE WRITTEN DOWN AS THE GEMARA AND THESE TWO BOOKS TOGETHER MAKE UP THE TALMUD. GOD WARNED ABOUT AVOIDING THESE JEWISH FABLES. (I TIMOTHY 1:4 NEITHER GIVE HEED TO FABLES AND ENDLESS GENEALOGIES, WHICH MINISTER QUESTIONS, RATHER THAN GODLY EDIFYING WHICH IS IN FAITH: SO DO.) (TITUS 1:14 NOT GIVING HEED TO JEWISH FABLES, AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN, THAT TURN FROM THE TRUTH.) (II PETER 1:16 FOR WE HAVE NOT FOLLOWED CUNNINGLY DEVISED FABLES, WHEN WE MADE KNOWN UNTO YOU THE POWER AND COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BUT WERE EYEWITNESSES OF HIS MAJESTY.) II PETER 1:16 SHOWS TRUE CHRISTIANITY NEVER CAME FROM JUDAISM. ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE TALMUD WAS JESUS. AS MANY JEWS AND GENTILES TURNED TO JESUS AND GOT SAVED, THE JEWS WHO AS A WHOLE REJECTED JESUS AS THE MESSIAH FELT THEY NEEDED TO SAVE THEIR RELIGION. THE JEWS HAD ALREADY LONG BEEN CORRUPTING THE BELIEFS WITH ORAL TRADITION OF WHICH JESUS OFTEN CONDEMNED THEM OVER. IT WAS DUE TO THIS CORRUPTION BY THE PHARISEES AND OTHER LEADERS OVER TIME THAT THEY WERE BLINDED TO REALIZE THAT JESUS WAS THEIR MESSIAH. THE JEWS HAD MADE TRADITION OF MORE IMPORTANCE THAN

BY THE TIME OF JESUS THE JEWS HAD ADDED MUCH TRADITION TO THEIR BELIEFS WITH TRADITION OVERRIDING WHAT SCRIPTURE SAID. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS HOW THE PHARISEES HAD ADDED MANY EXTRA LAWS TO THE SABBATH FROM WHAT GOD COMMANDED. THE SABBATH HAD BECOME A BURDEN TO THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN A DAY OF REST AND WORSHIP OF GOD. THE JEWS ADDED THE TALMUD TO THE WRITINGS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. MANY OF THE TRADITIONS AND FALSE TEACHINGS OF JUDAISM COME FROM THE TALMUD. THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO TALMUDS. THE MAIN ONE IS THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD WHICH CAME ABOUT AROUND A.D. 200. THIS IS WHERE MOST OF THEIR BELIEFS COME FROM. THE SECOND TALMUD CAME ABOUT AROUND A.D. 400 AND IS KNOWN AS THE TALMUD OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL OR THE JERUSALEM TALMUD. BOTH TALMUDS CONTAIN BOTH A MISHNAH AND A GEMARA. THESE TWO TALMUDS DO NOT AGREE IN PLACES WHICH SHOWS THEY ARE NOT INSPIRED BY GOD.

BUT LETS THE COMMUNITY DECIDE WHAT OBSERVANCES TO FOLLOW. THIS SHOWS HOW JEWS DO NOT OBEY SCRIPTURE BUT MAKE UP THEIR OWN RULES. A SMALL AMOUNT OF JEWS BELONG TO HUMANISTIC JUDAISM WHICH DENIES GOD BUT EMPHASIZES JEWISH CULTURE AND HISTORY. THESE JEWS OBVIOUSLY HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS GOD THAT PROVIDED THAT HISTORY. THERE ARE A FEW OTHER SMALL GROUPS. MESSIANIC JEWS ARE JEWS WHO HAVE RECEIVED JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR, BUT CONSIDER THEMSELVES JEWS AND THEY STILL FOLLOW JEWISH CUSTOMS. THEY ARE NOT RECOGNIZED AS PART OF JUDAISM BY THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS AS THEY DENY JESUS AND DESPISE HIM EVEN TODAY. A FEW GROUPS IN BETWEEN THE SECTS OF THE DAYS OF JESUS AND TODAY THAT NO LONGER EXIST ARE THE SEPHARDIC JEWS AND THE ASHKENAZI JEWS.

MADE UP OF ORTHODOX JEWS WITH A SUBGROUP KNOWN AS THE ULTRAORTHODOX. THESE JEWS ARE THE STRICTEST JEWS WHO TRY AND FOLLOW ALL THE LAWS OF THE TALMUD AND WILL NOT EVEN TURN ON A LIGHT SWITCH ON THE SABBATH. THEY REFUSE TO DO MILITARY SERVICE. SOME OTHER SUBSECTS OF ORTHODOXY JUDAISM ARE THE HASIDIC JEWS WHO ARE VERY HARD TO REACH FOR JESUS. THE ORTHODOX JEWS HIGHLY FOLLOW THE TEACHINGS OF RABBI MOSES BEN MAIMON BETTER KNOWN AS MAIMONIDES AND HIS TEACHINGS KNOWN AS MAIMONIDES 13 PRINCIPLES.

MAIMONIDES LIVED IN THE 1100'S. HIS TEACHINGS HAVE SUPERSEDED SCRIPTURE. ORTHODOX JEWS WEAR SPECIAL CLOTHING. CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM IS NOT AS STRICT AS THE ORTHODOX. THEY BELIEVE THAT ORAL LAW IS DIVINE AND THAT THE RABBIS CAN INTERPRET BOTH THE WRITTEN AND ORAL LAW. REFORMED JUDAISM IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS LIBERAL OR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IN MANY COUNTRIES. REFORMED JUDAISM WAS STARTED IN THE 1800'S AND REJECTS MOST OF THE RITUAL AND CEREMONIAL LAWS OF THE TORAH. REFORMED JUDAISM EMPHASIZES JEWISH TRADITION. THIS SECT MAKES UP MOST JEWS AS MOST JEWS ARE ALSO POLITICALLY LIBERAL. RECONSTRUCTIONIST JUDAISM IS SIMILAR TO REFORMED JUDAISM

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT TODAY THERE ARE MANY JEWS WHO ARE OF JEWISH HERITAGE, BUT ARE VERY SECULAR AND MANY CONSIDER THEMSELVES ATHEISTS AND DO NOT BELONG TO JUDAISM. THESE JEWS ARE OFTEN VERY LIBERAL. THE JEW KARL MARX STARTED COMMUNISM AND MANY JEWS ARE VERY LIBERAL AND SUPPORT THE NEW WORLD ORDER. THEN THERE ARE JEWS WHO SAY THEY BELONG TO THE RELIGION OF JUDAISM. JUDAISM JUST LIKE CHRISTIANITY OR ISLAM HAS DIFFERENT SECTS OR DENOMINATIONS. DURING THE DAYS OF JESUS, YOU HAD DIFFERENT GROUPS FROM TODAY SUCH AS THE PHARISEES AND SCRIBES, SADDUCEES, HERODIANS, ZEALOTS, ESSENCES (WHO STASHED THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS), AND CHRISTIANITY WHICH UNTIL THE TIME OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE IN AD 70 WAS CONSIDERED A SECT AND WAS KNOWN AS THE NAZARENE SECT. (ACTS 24:5 FOR WE HAVE FOUND THIS MAN A PESTILENT FELLOW, AND A MOVER OF SEDITION AMONG ALL THE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND A RINGLEADER OF THE SECT OF THE NAZARENES.) THE RELIGION OF THE JEWS WAS NOT REFERRED TO AS JUDAISM AT THAT TIME, BUT JUST THE JEWISH RELIGION AND THE PEOPLE AS JEWS. TODAY JUDAISM IS

JUDAISM HAS NOT ONLY ADDED TO GOD'S WORD WITH THE TALMUD, BUT HAS MADE TRADITION OF MORE IMPORTANCE THAN THE WORD OF GOD. JUDAISM REJECTS THE NEW TESTAMENT AND JESUS AND HAS MINIMIZED MUCH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AS WELL. I MENTIONED HOW WORKS HAVE BECOME THE WAY OF SALVATION AND JEWS LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY THAT THE TEMPLE IS REBUILT AND ANIMAL SACRIFICES RESTARTED. SACRIFICES WILL NEVER SAVE YOU, ONLY THE BLOOD OF JESUS. (HEBREWS 10:4 FOR IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND OF GOATS SHOULD TAKE AWAY SINS.) ALL FALSE RELIGIONS HAVE WORK FOR THEIR SALVATION. SCRIPTURE SAYS WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, NOT WORKS. A PERSON'S FAITH MUST BE PLACED IN JESUS, NOT THEMSELVES. (EPHESIANS 2:8-9 FOR BY GRACE ARE YE SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD: 9NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST.) MOST JEWS IN REALITY KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT WHAT IS IN SCRIPTURE (OLD TESTAMENT) AND MOST DO NOT CARE TO KNOW. THE DAY WILL COME AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION THAT THE REMAINING ONE THIRD OF JEWS WHO ARE STILL

JUDAISM DOES RETAIN SOME OF THE BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY SUCH AS THE WORSHIP OF ONE GOD, THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF CREATION, AND OTHER STORIES AND BELIEFS. MANY LIBERAL JEWS ACCEPT EVOLUTION. JUDAISM JUST LIKE CHRISTIANITY IS A MONOTHEISTIC RELIGION AND BOTH CLAIM RIGHTFULLY DESCENT FROM ABRAHAM. JUDAISM DIFFERS IN THE REJECTION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT AS WELL AS IN THE REJECTION OF THE GODHEAD (TRINITY). JUDAISM DENIES JESUS IS GOD AS WELL AS BEING THE SON OF GOD AND THE MESSIAH. JUDAISM DENIES THE HOLY GHOST IS A PERSON. REMEMBER SOME OF THE JEWISH BELIEVERS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT RIGHTFULLY BELIEVED THE SAME AS WE DO, BUT THAT JUDAISM IS A DISTORTION OF WHAT GOD GAVE TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND IS A FALSE RELIGION. JUDAISM ACCEPTS THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE TALMUD, VARIOUS RABBIS AND TRADITIONS FOR THEIR BELIEFS, WHILE REJECTING THE NEW TESTAMENT. JUDAISM HAS REJECTED SOME OF THE THINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. JUDAISM AGREES WITH CHRISTIANITY BY BELIEVING MAN WAS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE AND MAN IS FALLEN DUE TO ADAM'S SIN AND NEEDS SALVATION. IN JUDAISM SIN IS DISOBEYING THE LAWS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. REMEMBER THE PHARISEES ADDED MANY MANMADE LAWS AS WELL. SALVATION IN JUDAISM IS BY ONE'S WORKS AND OBEYING BIBLICAL AND RABBINICAL LAWS AND WILL ALSO BE BY FUTURE ANIMAL SACRIFICES.

JEW'S WORSHIP IN SYNAGOGUES AND THE LEADERS ARE CALLED RABBIS. JEWS WERE NEVER INTENDED TO HAVE SYNAGOGUES. GOD GAVE THEM FIRST THE TABERNACLE AND THEN THE TEMPLE AND WORSHIP WAS TO HAVE BEEN DONE AT THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM. AS TIME WENT BY ESPECIALLY AFTER THE DIVING OF ISRAEL INTO TWO KINGDOMS THEN SYNAGOGUES BECAME IMPORTANT AS THE NORTHERN TRIBES WERE FORBIDDEN FROM GOING TO THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM BY THE EVIL KINGS. THE JEWS WILL REBUILD THE TEMPLE DURING THE TRIBULATION AND WILL RESTART ANIMAL SACRIFICES. SINCE THE JEWS HAVE NOT HAD A TEMPLE SINCE AD 70 AND CANNOT PERFORM ANIMAL SACRIFICES TO WHAT THEY BELIEVED REMOVED THEIR SINS, THEY HAVE MADE WORKS AS THE WAY OF SALVATION. ALL FALSE RELIGIONS HAVE WORKS AS THE WAY TO HEAVEN. JEWS ARE FORBIDDEN TO MENTION THE NAME OF JESUS OR TO LEARN ABOUT HIM. JESUS IS YESHUA IN HEBREW. FAMILY MEMBERS WILL OFTEN PUNISH ANOTHER ONE WHO IS CAUGHT READING THE NEW TESTAMENT OR TALKING ABOUT JESUS. WHEN ONE GETS SAVED THEY ARE USUALLY SHUNNED BY THE REST OF THE FAMILY AS A TRAITOR TO JUDAISM.

TABERNACLE OF YOUR MOLOCH AND CHIUN YOUR IMAGES, THE STAR OF YOUR GOD, WHICH YE MADE TO YOURSELVES.) (ACTS 7:43 YEA, YE TOOK UP THE TABERNACLE OF MOLOCH, AND THE STAR OF YOUR GOD REMPHAN, FIGURES WHICH YE MADE TO WORSHIP THEM: AND I WILL CARRY YOU AWAY BEYOND BABYLON.) IT DOES SEEM THAT GOD MAY BE GIVING US A CLUE THAT SOLOMON MAY HAVE USED THE HEXAGRAM FOR SINFUL WORSHIP AS HE COLLECTED THE SAME AMOUNT OF GOLD ANNUALLY AS THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST IN REVELATION. (I KINGS 10:14 ¶ NOW THE WEIGHT OF GOLD THAT CAME TO SOLOMON IN ONE YEAR WAS SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX TALENTS OF GOLD.) (REVELATION 13:18 HERE IS WISDOM. LET HIM THAT HATH UNDERSTANDING COUNT THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST. FOR IT IS THE NUMBER OF A MAN; AND HIS NUMBER IS SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX.) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS A COINCIDENCE THAT SOLOMON IS CONNECTED TO THE MARK OF THE BEAST. REMEMBER THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WHICH WILL GIVE US THE ANTICHRIST USES THE SAME SYMBOL. THE PAPAL MITRE EVEN HAS THE SYMBOL ON IT AS DO MANY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES AND OTHER THINGS IN ROMAN CATHOLICISM. THE STAR OF DAVID IS NOTHING MORE THAN A HEXAGRAM WHICH IS USED BY SATANISTS, LUCIFERIANS, WITCHES, FREEMASONS, ASTROLOGERS, NEW AGERS, OTHER OCCULTISTS,

THE STAR OF DAVID IS THE SYMBOL USED FOR ISRAEL AND JUDAISM AND IS ON THE FLAG OF ISRAEL. THE STAR OF DAVID IS MADE UP OF TWO TRIANGLES OVERLAPPING WITH ONE POINTING UP THAT SUPPOSEDLY REPRESENTS GOD AND ONE POINTING DOWN THAT SUPPOSEDLY REPRESENTS MAN. THIS SYMBOL IS NOT FROM GOD AND GOD NEVER GAVE IT TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO USE. IN FACT GOD CONDEMNED ITS USE. THIS AGAIN SHOWS THAT JUDAISM IS A FALSE RELIGION. THESE VERSES MAY BE SPEAKING OF THE SYMBOL BEING USED BY THE JEWS OR AT LEAST A SIMILAR ONE. THE STAR REPRESENTED FALSE GODS WORSHIPPED BY THE JEWS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS. SOLOMON MARRIED MANY WIVES THAT WORSHIPPED THESE FALSE GODS. SOMETIMES THE STAR OF DAVID IS ASSOCIATED WITH SOLOMON WHICH MAKES SENSE AS HE HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY FALSE GODS. THE SEAL OF SOLOMON IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN THE TALISMAN OF SATURN. SATANISTS AND FREEMASONS LOVE SOLOMON. (AMOS 5:26 BUT YE HAVE BORNE THE

ALIVE WILL ALL BE SAVED. (ZECHARIAH 13:8-9 AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT IN ALL THE LAND, SAITH THE LORD, TWO PARTS THEREIN SHALL BE CUT OFF AND DIE; BUT THE THIRD SHALL BE LEFT THEREIN. 9 AND I WILL BRING THE THIRD PART THROUGH THE FIRE, AND WILL REFINE THEM AS SILVER IS REFINED, AND WILL TRY THEM AS GOLD IS TRIED: THEY SHALL CALL ON MY NAME, AND I WILL HEAR THEM: I WILL SAY, IT IS MY PEOPLE: AND THEY SHALL SAY, THE LORD IS MY GOD.) JEWS HAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR SALVATION AND THEY ONLY HOPE THEY WILL GET TO HEAVEN. BY TRUSTING WHAT GOD TAUGHT MOSES THEY COULD KNOW THEY WILL GO TO HEAVEN IF THEY TRUST AND BELIEVE IN JESUS. JUDAISM HAS DISTORTED GOD'S WORD SO THAT TODAY JEWS HAVE NO ASSURANCE OF GOING TO HEAVEN. SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT THOSE WHO TRUST IN JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR CAN KNOW THEY WILL GO TO HEAVEN. (I JOHN 5:13 THESE THINGS HAVE I WRITTEN UNTO YOU THAT BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD; THAT YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, AND THAT YE MAY BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF THE SON OF GOD.) DUE TO JUDAISM'S HATRED FOR JESUS THEY HAVE INTENTIONALLY DROPPED YEARS FROM THEIR CALENDAR. THE JEWISH CALENDAR IS SUPPOSED TO BE BASED OFF OF THE DATE OF CREATION YET MANY YEARS WERE DROPPED SO IT WOULD NOT MATCH UP WITH JESUS. THEIR CALENDAR IN 2022 IS THE YEAR 5778 WHEN IT SHOULD BE JUST UNDER 6000. MANY OF THE JEWISH FEASTS HAVE HAD CUSTOMS ADDED TO THEM BY THE JEWS OVER THE YEARS THAT GOD NEVER ORDAINED. IN SUMMARY JUDAISM IS A FALSE RELIGION AS IT ADDS TO GOD'S WORD (TALMUD) AS WELL AS REMOVES FROM GOD'S WORD (NEW TESTAMENT) AND SALVATION IS BY WORKS AND JUDAISM REJECTS JESUS AS HER MESSIAH.

CATHOLICISM
IS
FALSE

THESE JEWS WERE INTO THE OCCULT. THE JEWISH ROTHSCHILD FAMILY, OF WHOM MOST WERE SATANISTS, HAS A LONG CONNECTION WITH THE NEW WORLD ORDER AND THEIR FAMILY SYMBOL IS A RED HEXAGRAM AND THEY ARE CONTROLLED BY THE JESUITS AND THEY CONTROL MUCH OF THE WORLD'S FINANCES. ISRAEL TODAY IS SECRETLY CONTROLLED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC JESUITS WHO ARE BRINGING IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER AND CONTROL THE WORLD'S WEALTH. THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE STAR OF DAVID ON THE NATIONAL FLAG AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE JEWISH LEADERS ARE FREEMASONS AND ILLUMINATI. THE STAR OF DAVID IS PLACED ON JEWISH SYNAGOGUES. THIS WAS SUPPOSEDLY DONE TO MATCH THE CHRISTIAN CROSS, BUT IN REALITY MARKS THEM AS SERVANTS OF SATAN AND JUDAISM AS A FALSE RELIGION.

AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WHOSE POPE WILL BE THE ANTICHRIST AS WELL AS BY MORMONS AND OTHERS. THE FACT THAT EVEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH USES THE STAR OF DAVID SHOWS IT IS NOT A JEWISH SYMBOL. NO SCRIPTURE BACKS UP DAVID USING IT SO BY CALLING IT THE STAR OF DAVID IS JUST A WAY TO DECEIVE PEOPLE ABOUT THE TRUE ORIGIN AND MEANING OF IT. THE STAR OF DAVID IS ESSENTIALLY A DOUBLE PYRAMID WHICH IS HIGHLY REPRESENTATIVE IN FREEMASONRY WHICH IS SATANISM IN DISGUISE. MANY SECULAR JEWS HAVE BEEN FREEMASONS OR BELONGED TO OTHER SATANIC ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ILLUMINATI THAT ARE WORKING ON BRINGING IN THE NEW WORLD ORDER. THE STAR OF DAVID CONSISTS OF SIX POINTS, SIX TRIANGLES, SIX SIDES OF THE HEXAGON AND REPRESENTS THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST WHICH IS 666. THE SIX POINTED STAR IS ALWAYS SATANIC. SATANISTS USE THE STAR OF DAVID TO REPRESENT 666 SO IT IS NOT SPECULATION. THE STAR OF DAVID IS USED BY WITCHES TO CALL DEVILS. IN FACT WITCHES ARE SAID TO PLACE A "HEX" (CURSE) ON PEOPLE AND THIS SAYING COMES FROM HEXAGRAM. SOME SATANISTS HAVE SAID IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE A HEXAGRAM PRESENT IN ORDER TO CALL FORTH DEVILS. THE HORNS OF THE FREEMASON GOD BAPHOMET WHO REPRESENTS SATAN CAN BE SEEN ON THE POINTS OF THE TOP TRIANGLE WHICH POINTS DOWNWARD. I MENTIONED HOW THE TWO TRIANGLES ARE SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT GOD AND MAN. THIS IS SIMILAR TO IN FREEMASONRY WHERE BAPHOMET POINTS UP AND DOWN AND THEY SAY "AS ABOVE, SO BELOW". THIS REFERENCES SATAN, NOT GOD. MYSTICAL KABBALIST JEWS IN THE DARK AGES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE USED THE STAR OF DAVID

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN CATHOLICISM AND BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

FIRST, THIS POST IS THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES THAT WILL EXAMINE VARIOUS FAITHS AND DENOMINATIONS. LEARNING ABOUT OTHERS' BELIEFS HELPS US UNDERSTAND OUR OWN BETTER. PLUS, IT CAN HELP OUR WITNESS TO OTHERS IF WE UNDERSTAND THEIR FAITH.

SECOND, CATHOLICISM IS COMMON IN CHRISTIAN CIRCLES. PEOPLE QUICKLY ASSUME THAT IT IS BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY BECAUSE CATHOLICS LOVE JESUS. IT LOOKS ALL RIGHT AT A QUICK GLANCE, THEREFORE, CATHOLICISM OFTEN GETS A PASS IN MIXED CHRISTIAN COMPANY.

LASTLY, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS HUGE. GLOBAL ESTIMATES SUGGEST THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1.2 BILLION CATHOLICS IN THE WORLD. ROUGHLY, 22-23% OF THE U.S. POPULATIONS IDENTIFIES AS CATHOLIC. CHANCES ARE YOU WILL INTERACT WITH MANY CATHOLICS THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFETIME. WHY NOT GET TO KNOW WHAT THEY BELIEVE?

**WHY POINT
OUT THE
UNBIBLICAL
CHRISTIANITY
OF
CATHOLICISM?**

CATHOLICISM VS. BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

3. TRINITY

THIS BELIEF IS OFTEN REJECTED OR MISUNDERSTOOD BY THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. THE TRINITY IS THE IDEA THAT WE HAVE ONE GOD IN THREE PERSONS: THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT (MATTHEW 3:16-17).

DESPITE THESE INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT CORE CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, CATHOLICISM DEPARTS FROM SCRIPTURE AND, AS A RESULT, DEPARTS FROM BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY. I WILL NOT BE DOING A DEEP STUDY ON CATHOLICISM TODAY. THERE ARE LIBRARIES FILLED WITH BOOKS ON THE INTRICACIES AND HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, BUT ALL THAT IS NOT OUR FOCUS TODAY. INSTEAD, I AM GOING TO LOOK AT WHAT I SEE AS SOME OF THE NONNEGOTIABLE BELIEFS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HOLDS. THE FOLLOWING CATHOLIC BELIEFS EXCLUDE CATHOLICISM FROM BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY.

CATHOLICISM AND BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY SHARE A FEW VERY IMPORTANT BELIEFS. THESE BELIEFS ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THAT MANY STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT THAT CATHOLICS CAN BELIEVE THEM BUT NOT BE CHRISTIAN.

1. SIN

SIN IS WHEN WE BREAK GOD'S LAW, AND IT SEPARATES US FROM HIM. WE ARE BORN AS FALLEN PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE SIN COMMITTED BY ADAM (ROMANS 5:12).

2. JESUS

WE BELIEVE IN THE DEITY OF CHRIST (JOHN 1:1; JOHN 10:30), AND THAT HE IS GOD'S ONLY SON (JOHN 3:16). WE ALSO BELIEVE IN THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND BODILY RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH WHICH MAN CAN BE SAVED (1 PETER 1:3).

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC)

**THIS BOOK IS A SUMMARY OF
CATHOLIC BELIEFS AND WAS
PROMOTED BY POPE JOHN PAUL
II IN 1992. SOME REFER TO THE
CCC AS A RELIGIOUS
INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR
CATHOLICISM.**

**BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY LEANS ON
THE BIBLE FOR AUTHORITY WHILE
CATHOLICISM HAS ADDED MAN-
MADE SOURCES. IN SHORT,
CATHOLIC LEADERS HAVE MADE
THEMSELVES THE AUTHORITY.**

OTHER AUTHORITIES

BESIDES THE CATHOLIC BIBLE AND THE POPE (AS WELL AS PRIESTS AND BISHOPS), CATHOLICISM HAS A FEW OTHER SOURCES OF AUTHORITY.

SACRED TRADITIONS

THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL EQUATED SACRED TRADITIONS, THOUGH UNBIBLICAL, AS EQUAL TO THE WORD OF GOD.

NINETEEN COUNCILS

ARGUABLY, THE MOST WELL-KNOWN COUNCIL IS THE COUNCIL OF TRENT. IT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 1545-1563 AS A RESPONSE TO THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION. ULTIMATELY, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DEEMED THE BELIEF THAT ONE IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE (BY NO WORKS OF OUR OWN) AS HERESY. THE COUNCIL OF TRENT ALSO DAMNED ANYONE WHO REJECTED THE APOCRYPHA. ADDITIONALLY, THOUGH THE PROCESS WAS REFORMED, INDULGENCES WERE CONFIRMED AS A LEGITIMATE PRACTICE THROUGH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. THERE ARE MORE HIGHLIGHTS FOR ANYONE INTERESTED.

IN CASE I WAS UNCLEAR, THE DECISIONS AT TRENT AND OTHER COUNCILS STILL HOLD TODAY.

1. AUTHORITY

THE BIBLE

DON'T CATHOLICS READ THE BIBLE? YES, THEY DO, BUT IT'S THE CATHOLIC BIBLE. THIS ISN'T JUST A BIBLE WITH CATHOLIC IMAGES THROWN IN FOR EFFECT. IT HAS A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE. THE BIBLE HAS SIXTY-SIX BOOKS (39 OLD TESTAMENT, 27 NEW TESTAMENT). THE CATHOLIC BIBLE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS SEVENTY-THREE BOOKS. THE EXTRA SEVEN BOOKS ARE OFTEN REFERRED TO BY PROTESTANTS AS THE APOCRYPHA. THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS DEUTEROCANONICAL BOOKS. (SAY THAT FAST FIVE TIMES!) OUTSIDE OF CATHOLICISM, THE APOCRYPHA ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS CANON.

THE POPE

ASIDE FROM HAVING A DIFFERENT BIBLE, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ALSO DOES NOT LOOK TO IT AS THE SOLE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY AND TRUTH. CATHOLICISM TURNS TO THE POPE, AS WELL. HE HAS SEVERAL TITLES SUCH AS SUCCESSOR OF THE PRINCE OF THE APOSTLES, VICAR OF JESUS CHRIST, AND SUPREME PONTIFF OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE HUMBLE AND UNSUSPECTING NAMES THE POPE HAS, HE COMMANDS A GREAT AMOUNT OF POWER AND AUTHORITY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. ESSENTIALLY, HE ANSWERS TO GOD ALONE, AND HE DIRECTS THE BISHOPS AND CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH HIS MANDATES AND LEADERSHIP.

3. IDOLATRY:

AN

UNBIBLICAL

CATHOLIC

PRACTICE

THE CATECHISM ALSO CLAIMS MARY SUFFERED ALONG WITH CHRIST ON THE CROSS. TO BE CLEAR, THERE IS NO SUGGESTION SHE WAS LITERALLY ON THE CROSS, BUT SHE, ALLEGEDLY, SUFFERED, TOO. I WILL RELENT THAT WATCHING THAT HORROR WOULD BREAK ANY MOTHER'S HEART, BUT MARY'S SUFFERING IS LIKENED TO JESUS' SUFFERING IN THE CCC.

FINALLY, CATHOLICISM TEACHES TO PRAY TO MARY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BRIDE IN A CATHOLIC WEDDING PRAYS TO MARY TO BLESS THE BRIDE AS A WIFE. MOST DISTURBINGLY, ACCORDING TO THE CATECHISM, MARY "WILL DELIVER OUR SOULS FROM DEATH." ONLY ONE CAN DO THAT, AND HIS NAME IS JESUS!

AS A SIDE NOTE: PRAYING TO DEAD PEOPLE IS NOT BIBLICAL. IN FACT, IT IS AN ABOMINATION AND FORBIDDEN. COMMUNICATING WITH THE DEAD IS ADDRESSED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE BIBLE (DEUTERONOMY 18:10-12; LEVITICUS 20:6,27; 1 SAMUEL 28:5-18; ISAIAH 8:19-20).

2. MARY

CHRISTIANS ACROSS DENOMINATIONS AGREE THAT MARY WAS A VIRGIN WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH JESUS. THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE STORY OF JESUS CHRIST'S ARRIVAL TO MANKIND. HOWEVER, SHE WAS STILL JUST A WOMAN. A FAITHFUL WOMAN WHO WAS ESPECIALLY CHOSEN BY GOD, BUT YET, STILL JUST A WOMAN. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS TAKEN MARY AND TURNED HER INTO AN ALMOST CHRIST-LIKE ENTITY IN ITS FAITH.

ACCORDING TO THE CCC, MARY WAS A PERPETUAL VIRGIN, BUT THE BIBLE MENTIONS HIS SIBLINGS (MARK 6:3; MATTHEW 13:55; LUKE 8:19; GALATIANS 1:19). MARY MUST HAVE EVENTUALLY CONSUMMATED HER RELATIONSHIP WITH JOSEPH.

ADDITIONALLY, THE CCC TEACHES THAT MARY WAS BORN SINLESS AND LIVED A SINLESS LIFE. THIS IS ABSURD, OF COURSE, BECAUSE SHE WAS 100% HUMAN AND NO PERSON IS RIGHTEOUS (ROMANS 3:10).

4. THE UNBIBLICAL PRIESTHOOD

IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PRIESTS ARE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. CATHOLICS BELIEVE THEY ARE THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND GOD. ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD CONFESS THEIR SINS, ON THIS WE CAN AGREE, BUT CATHOLIC TEACHING SAYS THAT WE MUST CONFESS TO A PRIEST. THIS IS HOW WE ARE TO BE FORGIVEN.

THE BIBLE DISAGREES WITH THE CATHOLIC APPROACH. MATTHEW 27:51 SAYS, “AND, BEHOLD, THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE WAS RENT IN TWAIN FROM THE TOP TO THE BOTTOM;...” THIS MOMENT HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR BELIEVERS. THAT VEIL SEPARATED THE FIRST AND SECOND ROOMS OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM, THE HOLY PLACE AND THE HOLY OF HOLIES, RESPECTIVELY.

THE HOLY OF HOLIES CONTAINED THE ARK OF THE COVENANT WHICH EMBODIED THE PRESENCE OF GOD. THE HIGH PRIEST SPRINKLED SACRIFICIAL BLOOD ON THE MERCY SEAT IN THIS ROOM ONCE A YEAR FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS OF GOD’S PEOPLE. THE VEIL WAS A LITERAL AND METAPHORICAL SEPARATION BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. THAT IS, IT WAS UNTIL IT TORE IN HALF WHEN JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS. BELIEVERS, THANKS TO JESUS’ WORK ON THE CROSS, HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO GOD. THE BIBLE AGREES.

SAINTS

SAINTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE UNBIBLICAL, IN AND OF THEMSELVES, EVEN WITHOUT THE PATRON SAINT SITUATION. CATHOLICISM GIVES THE POPE THE FINAL SAY WHEN WITH SAINTS. HE ULTIMATELY GIVES HIS APPROVAL. PRIOR TO THAT, HOWEVER, THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A SAINT (AKA: CANONIZATION) IS A LENGTHY FIVE-STEP PROCESS THAT RELIES HEAVILY ON THE WORKS OF THE POTENTIAL SAINT (WHO IS DEAD AT THE TIME OF CANONIZATION).

THE BIBLE, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOES NOT DESCRIBE SAINTHOOD AS AN EARNED STATUS. QUITE THE OPPOSITE! ALL BELIEVERS, WHO ARE BELIEVERS THROUGH GRACE AND FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, ARE SAINTS (PSALM 30:4; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2; ACTS 26:10).

AS YOU CAN SEE, CATHOLICISM RELIES ON PRAYERS TO THE DEAD AND OBJECTS SUSPECTED OF BEING IMBUED WITH SPECIAL SPIRITUAL POWER. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES ITS MEMBERS TO TURN AWAY FROM CHRIST WITH THEIR WORSHIP AND FOCUS IT TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE AND OBJECTS. THIS IS IDOLATRY.

PRAYING TO MARY IS UNDOUBTEDLY IDOLATRY, BUT IT DOESN'T END WITH HER. PRAYING TO THE SAINTS IS A COMMON PRACTICE IN CATHOLICISM. DO YOU REMEMBER THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE IPHONE IN 2009 THAT COINED "THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT?" WELL, IN CATHOLICISM THERE'S A SAINT FOR THAT. PATRON SAINTS ARE DEDICATED TO A PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHICAL AREA, PROFESSION, OR GROUP OF PEOPLE. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES THESE SAINTS WILL PROTECT AND AID MEMBERS OF THESE AREAS AND GROUPS WHEN WE PRAY TO THEM FOR HELP. SOME EXAMPLES INCLUDE PATRON SAINTS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, BEEKEEPERS, AND PYROTECHNICIANS.

WE ALSO SEE PRACTICING CATHOLICS PRAYING TO STATUES OF THESE SAINTS AND PLACING IMMENSE SPIRITUAL POWER AND SIGNIFICANCE INTO WHAT THEY WOULD CALL RELICS. THESE ITEMS ARE OFTEN TREATED AT THE SOURCE OF POWER. NEED HEALING? PRAY TO AN IMAGE OF SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL. MEANWHILE, AN INDIVIDUAL FOLLOWING BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY WOULD CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN AND PRAY DIRECTLY TO JESUS. HOWEVER, IN CATHOLICISM, THESE IDOLS ARE TREATED LIKE LUCKY CHARMS AND TALISMANS THAT ARE WORN AND PLACED AROUND THE HOUSE FOR PROTECTION.

**“AND EVERY PRIEST STANDETH
DAILY MINISTERING AND
OFFERING OFTENTIMES THE SAME
SACRIFICES, WHICH CAN NEVER
TAKE AWAY SINS: BUT THIS MAN,
AFTER HE HAD OFFERED ONE
SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOR EVER,
SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND
OF GOD; FROM HENCEFORTH
EXPECTING TILL HIS ENEMIES BE
MADE HIS FOOTSTOOL. FOR BY
ONE OFFERING HE HATH
PERFECTED FOR EVER THEM THAT
ARE SANCTIFIED.” (EMPHASIS
MINE)**

HEBREWS 10:11-14

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE WORK A PRIEST DOES IS THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BAPTISM

THIS INVOLVES SPRINKLING HOLY WATER ON A BABY'S HEAD FOR SALVATION.

CONFIRMATION

THIS IS A COMING OF AGE AND FORMAL, VOLUNTARY ADMISSION INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

CONFESSION

IT IS AS IT SOUNDS. CATHOLICS CONFESS THEIR SINS TO A PRIEST IN ORDER TO BE ABSOLVED OF THEM.

HOLY COMMUNION/EUCHARIST

WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT THIS SOON, BUT GENERALLY, IT IS A REENACTMENT OF THE LAST SUPPER.

MARRIAGE

IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION, MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. THEY SHOULD BOTH BE CATHOLIC, AND A PRIEST SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO MARRIES THEM.

HOLY ORDERS

THIS REFERS TO WHEN MEN ARE ORDAINED INTO THE CLERGY.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

THIS SACRAMENT IS OFTEN THE LAST AN INDIVIDUAL WILL RECEIVE. IT IS MEANT TO HEAL PHYSICALLY AND/OR SPIRITUALLY AS THE LORD WILLS IT.

HERE'S THE THING... THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS SIMPLY COMPRISE A LIST OF WORKS. WE DON'T NEED PRIESTS TO KEEP US ON GOOD SPIRITUAL TERMS. WE DON'T NEED TO WORK FOR OUR STANDING WITH CHRIST.

**“BUT YE ARE A CHOSEN
GENERATION, A ROYAL
PRIESTHOOD, AN HOLY
NATION, A PECULIAR
PEOPLE; THAT YE SHOULD
SHEW FORTH THE
PRAISES OF HIM WHO
HATH CALLED YOU OUT OF
DARKNESS INTO HIS
MARVELLOUS LIGHT,”
(EMPHASIS MINE)**

1 PETER 2:9

SIMPLY PUT, PAUL WAS DEALING WITH BELIEVERS EXPERIENCING DIVISION OVER WHO BAPTIZED THEM, AND VERSE 17 IS PART OF HIS RESPONSE. NOTICE WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT BAPTISM. CHRIST DIDN'T SEND HIM FOR BAPTISMS. HE WAS SENT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL. CLEARLY, THE GOSPEL TAKES PREEMINENCE OVER BAPTISM. WHY? WELL, BAPTISM GETS YOU WET, BUT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST SAVES.

6. PURGATORY

PURGATORY IS A PLACE CATHOLICS BELIEVE SAVED PEOPLE GO WHEN THEY DIE TO UNDERGO PURIFICATION AND SUFFERING FOR THEIR SINS. IT IS NOT A PERMANENT PLACE BECAUSE EVENTUALLY THESE PEOPLE MOVE ON AFTER THEY HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH AND FINISHED THEIR SANCTIFICATION PROCESS.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES THAT OTHER CATHOLICS CAN PRAY FOR THOSE IN PURGATORY AND EVEN PAY "INDULGENCES" TO SHORTEN THE TIME SERVED IN PURGATORY. YOU CAN TRY, BUT YOU WILL FIND NO MENTION OF PURGATORY OR ANYTHING LIKE IT IN THE BIBLE. YOU WILL FIND THIS, THOUGH.

**“FOR CHRIST SENT
ME NOT TO BAPTIZE,
BUT TO PREACH THE
GOSPEL: NOT WITH
WISDOM OF WORDS,
LEST THE CROSS OF
CHRIST SHOULD BE
MADE OF NONE
EFFECT.”**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:17

JESUS SAT DOWN BECAUSE THE WORK WAS COMPLETED. THE PRIESTS STOOD, DOING THEIR WORK WHILE NEVER BEING ABLE TO TRULY TAKE AWAY SIN. CHRIST, ON THE OTHER HAND, FINISHED THE JOB WITH HIS SACRIFICE. CATHOLIC PRIESTS, TRY AS THEY MIGHT, CANNOT AND NEED NOT PLAY MEDIATOR IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. JESUS GAVE US ACCESS TO THE FATHER THROUGH THAT LAST BLOOD SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS.

5. BAPTISM

BAPTISM IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS TRADITIONALLY DONE TO BABIES BY SPRINKLING HOLY WATER ON THEIR HEADS. THIS ACT OFFERS SALVATION FOR THE INFANT.

BAPTISM WON'T SAVE YOU

THE BIBLE HAS ZERO EXAMPLES OF INFANT BAPTISM. THE BIBLE ALSO DISPLAYS NO NEED FOR BAPTISM IN ORDER TO BE SAVED IN VARIOUS PLACES. THE MOST COMMON EXAMPLE OF THIS IS FOUND IN LUKE 23:33-43 WITH THE ACCOUNT OF THE THIEF ON THE CROSS. LONG STORY SHORT, A THIEF BEING CRUCIFIED NEXT TO JESUS COMES TO FAITH, AND JESUS TELLS THE THIEF THEY WILL SEE EACH OTHER IN PARADISE THAT VERY DAY.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 SAYS THAT WE ARE NOT SAVED BY WORKS, BUT THE CATHOLIC TAKE ON BAPTISM IS THAT IT SAVES. WELL, THAT'S A WORK IF WE THINK WE ARE DOING IT FOR SALVATION. WE CAN DO NOTHING BUT RECEIVE SALVATION AS A GIFT.

LET'S ALSO LOOK AT WHAT PAUL SAYS ABOUT BAPTISM IN 1 CORINTHIANS.

7. HOLY COMMUNION/EUCHARIST

IN LUKE 22:18-20, JESUS TAKES PART IN WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE LAST SUPPER. HE TELLS THOSE WITH HIM TO DO THIS "IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." THIS INDICATES THAT WHEN WE PARTICIPATE IN THIS COMMUNION OR LORD'S SUPPER, DEPENDING ON YOUR DENOMINATION, WE ARE TO REMEMBER HIM WHO WILL NOT BE THERE IN BODY. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WENT THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE DIRECTION WITH THIS.

THE MASS IS SET UP AROUND THIS HOLY COMMUNION. THIS IS A SACRAMENT THAT COUNTS POSITIVELY TOWARDS THE CATHOLICS WHO PARTICIPATE. MASS IS PRETTY MUCH ALL ABOUT THIS SACRAMENT. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH BECAUSE OF TRANSUBSTANTIATION. CATHOLICISM TEACHES THAT THE BREAD IS LITERALLY CHRIST'S BODY, AND THE WINE IS LITERALLY HIS BLOOD.

THIS SHOULD BOTHER...EVERYONE. WHY DID HE COME AND ACCOMPLISH THE WORK OF THE CROSS IF HE WOULD JUST NEED TO DO THAT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN THROUGH A CHURCH RITUAL? WAS JESUS LYING WHEN HE SAID, "IT IS FINISHED" (JOHN 19:30)? THE BLOOD SACRIFICES HAD COME TO AN END THANKS TO CHRIST BEING THE SPOTLESS LAMB WHO DIED FOR OUR SINS. HOWEVER, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WANTS TO RELIVE IT WEEKLY.

HOLY COMMUNION IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF MAN TRYING TO EARN SALVATION AFTER IT HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN FREELY WITHOUT WORKS ATTACHED.

SO, WE DIE AND THEN WE FACE JUDGMENT. AT DEATH, OUR CHANCES HAVE RUN OUT. WE EITHER FACE THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT BEFORE BEING CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE (REVELATION 20:11-15), OR WE WILL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST BEFORE SPENDING ETERNITY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD (2 CORINTHIANS 5:10). PURGATORY SIMPLY DOESN'T EXIST, DESPITE HOW COMFORTING IT MAY BE TO THINK WE CAN HELP LOVED ONES GET INTO HEAVEN.

PURGATORY IS ANOTHER WAY THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH UNDERCUTS CHRIST'S POWER TO SAVE BY INDICATING WE NEED TO WORK OFF OUR SIN DEBT RATHER THAN JESUS' PAYMENT ON THE CROSS BEING ENOUGH. PLUS, THE INDULGENCES ARE A HANDY FUNDRAISER FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AS WELL.

**“AND AS IT IS APPOINTED
UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE,
BUT AFTER THIS THE
JUDGMENT. SO CHRIST
WAS ONCE OFFERED TO
BEAR THE SINS OF MANY;
AND UNTO THEM THAT
LOOK FOR HIM SHALL HE
APPEAR THE SECOND TIME
WITHOUT SIN UNTO
SALVATION.”**

HEBREWS 9:27-28

**MORMONISM
IS
FALSE**

THE LAW CANNOT EARN US RIGHTEOUSNESS. IT CAN ONLY SHOW US HOW WE FAIL TO MEET GOD'S STANDARDS. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THROUGH CHRIST ALONE.

"AND IF BY GRACE, THEN IS IT NO MORE OF WORKS: OTHERWISE GRACE IS NO MORE GRACE. BUT IF IT BE OF WORKS, THEN IT IS NO MORE GRACE: OTHERWISE WORK IS NO MORE WORK."

ROMANS 11:6

SALVATION CANNOT BE FROM GRACE AND WORKS. CATHOLICISM WANTS PEOPLE TO ACCEPT THE GRACE OF GOD WHILE ADDING OUR OWN WORKS, BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. IT'S GRACE, OR IT'S WORKS. JESUS IS ENOUGH, OR HE IS NOT.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES THAT WE CAN RELY ON JESUS, BUT WE ALSO NEED SEVEN SACRAMENTS, OUR GOOD WORKS, SACRED TRADITIONS, AND HELP FROM DEAD SAINTS AND MEDIATOR PRIESTS. CATHOLICS ARE LEFT HOPING THEY ARE DOING ENOUGH, THAT THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH. WORKING, WORKING, WORKING. THAT IS THE CENTRAL PIECE OF CATHOLICISM. IT ISN'T CHRIST. IT'S WORK.

8. SALVATION

THIS IS THE CRUX OF THE ARGUMENT AGAINST CATHOLICISM BEING BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY. ALL THE OTHER ISSUES WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HINGE ON THE CATHOLIC TEACHING ON SALVATION.

IN GOD'S OWN WORDS

“JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.”

JOHN 14:6

NO OTHER GODS, PLANS, WORKS, OR OTHERWISE CAN RECONCILE US TO GOD. JUST JESUS.

“AND BE FOUND IN HIM, NOT HAVING MINE OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH IS OF THE LAW, BUT THAT WHICH IS THROUGH THE FAITH OF CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS OF GOD BY FAITH.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:9

ANACHRONISMS: THE TEXT INCLUDES PHRASES AND CONCEPTS THAT ALIGN WITH THE 19TH-CENTURY UNITED STATES RATHER THAN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST OR THE PRE-COLUMBIAN AMERICAS. CRITICS NOTE THE BOOK'S STYLISTIC AND LINGUISTIC SIMILARITIES TO THE KING JAMES BIBLE AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY WRITINGS, INCLUDING THE "VIEW OF THE HEBREWS" THEORY, WHICH SUGGESTED NATIVE AMERICANS WERE DESCENDED FROM ISRAELITES.

DNA EVIDENCE: THE BOOK OF MORMON STATES THAT NATIVE AMERICANS ARE PRIMARILY DESCENDED FROM THE ISRAELITES WHO ARRIVED IN THE AMERICAS AROUND 600 BC. HOWEVER, DNA EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT NATIVE AMERICANS' ANCESTRY CAN BE TRACED TO ASIA, WITH MIGRATIONS OCCURRING THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE THE TIMEFRAME SUGGESTED IN THE BOOK.

TEXTUAL CHANGES: SINCE ITS FIRST EDITION, THE BOOK OF MORMON HAS UNDERGONE THOUSANDS OF CHANGES, WHICH SOME CRITICS FIND PROBLEMATIC FOR A TEXT CLAIMED TO BE TRANSLATED BY "THE POWER OF GOD".

**ARGUMENTS REGARDING THE
BOOK OF MORMON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DISCREPANCIES: THE BOOK OF
MORMON DESCRIBES LARGE,
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS IN THE
AMERICAS WITH ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGIES, ANIMALS, AND
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
(E.G., STEEL, CHARIOTS,
HORSES, CATTLE, AND
CEMENT) THAT ARE NOT
SUPPORTED BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE IN
THE PRE-COLUMBIAN
AMERICAS.**

**ARGUMENTS QUESTIONING THE
VALIDITY OF MORMONISM
OFTEN FOCUS ON ISSUES OF
HISTORICAL ACCURACY,
ARCHAEOLOGY, AND THE
PRACTICES OF ITS FOUNDER,
JOSEPH SMITH. THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS (LDS) ACKNOWLEDGES
SOME OF THESE HISTORICAL
CRITICISMS IN ITS "GOSPEL
TOPICS ESSAYS," THOUGH IT
MAINTAINS THAT FAITH AND
SPIRITUAL WITNESS ARE THE
ULTIMATE ARBITERS OF TRUTH.**

THEOLOGICAL AND EPISTEMOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS

PLURAL MARRIAGE: SMITH SECRETLY PRACTICED AND PROMOTED POLYGAMY, INCLUDING POLYANDRY (MARRYING WOMEN ALREADY MARRIED TO OTHER MEN) AND MARRYING TEENAGE GIRLS. THE PRACTICE WAS PUBLICLY DENIED AND CONCEALED UNTIL LATER CHURCH LEADERS OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED IT. THE CHURCH HAS ALSO DOCUMENTED THESE PRACTICES IN ITS HISTORICAL ESSAYS.

BOOK OF ABRAHAM: CRITICS ARGUE THAT THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM, WHICH SMITH CLAIMED TO HAVE TRANSLATED FROM EGYPTIAN PAPYRI, IS A MISTRANSLATION. EGYPTOLOGISTS WHO HAVE EXAMINED THE PAPYRI STATE THAT THEY CONTAIN STANDARD EGYPTIAN FUNERARY TEXTS AND HAVE NO CONNECTION TO THE STORY OF ABRAHAM.

FALSE PROPHECIES: SOME CRITICS POINT TO PREDICTIONS MADE BY SMITH THAT FAILED TO COME TO PASS AS EVIDENCE AGAINST HIS PROPHETIC CLAIMS.

MASONIC PLAGIARISM: SIGNIFICANT PARALLELS EXIST BETWEEN THE RITUALS OF THE LDS TEMPLE ENDOWMENT AND THE CEREMONIES OF FREEMASONRY, WHICH SMITH HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF.

**ARGUMENTS
CONCERNING
JOSEPH SMITH
AND EARLY
CHURCH
HISTORY**

MILMAN PERRY, ONE OF THE PIONEERS IN STUDYING ORAL TRADITION, SHOWED THAT INDIGENOUS ORAL STORYTELLERS CAN RECITE EPIC POEMS OVER 300,000 WORDS IN LENGTH IN A FEW WEEKS, SO THE BOOK OF MORMON BEING RECITED IN A FEW MONTHS ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE BY HUMAN STANDARDS. SMITH RECITED ABOUT 4000 WORDS PER DAY TO SCRIBES WHO WROTE AT A SPEED OF 10 WORDS PER MINUTE. THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME TO GIVE A RECITATION AND THE BOOK OF MORMON IS ALSO FILLED WITH STOCK PHRASES LIKE "BEHOLD" OR "AND IT CAME TO PASS" AND RECYCLED STORY STRUCTURES THAT HELP AN ORAL PRESENTER RECITE IT. SMITH WAS ALSO MEMBER OF A JUVENILE DEBATE SOCIETY, AND SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE TIME COULD MEMORIZE THINGS LIKE THE ENTIRE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW IN JUST A FEW WEEKS AND GIVE IMPROMPTU SERMONS THAT LASTED FOR HOURS.

MOREOVER, UNLIKE CHRIST OR THE APOSTLES, JOSEPH SMITH AND MUHAMMAD PERFORMED NO VERIFIABLE MIRACLES TO AUTHENTICATE THEIR STATUS AS PROPHETS. ALL WE HAVE IS A BOOK THAT APPARENTLY NO HUMAN BEING COULD CREATE. THE ONLY THING THAT SEEMS SUPERNATURAL IN THE CASE OF MORMONISM ARE THE THREE WITNESSES CLAIMING TO HAVE SEEN AN ANGEL WITH SMITH.

NUMBER 1 – THE EVIDENCE FOR THE BOOK OF MORMON ISN'T IMPRESSIVE

**I'M NOT MORMON FOR THE SAME
REASON MORMONS AREN'T MUSLIM.
MANY MUSLIMS SAY THE QURAN
MUST BE DIVINELY INSPIRED
BECAUSE AN ILLITERATE SHEPHERD
COULD NOT HAVE COMPOSED
SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL AND
COMPLEX. IF MORMONS REJECT THAT
ARGUMENT FOR ISLAM, THEN SHOULD
UNDERSTAND WHY I REJECT SIMILAR
ARGUMENTS WHICH CLAIM JOSEPH
SMITH COULD NOT HAVE DICTATED
THE BOOK OF MORMON TO A SCRIBE
OVER A 70-DAY PERIOD.**

CONTRADICTORY THEOLOGY: SOME CRITICS HIGHLIGHT HOW THE BOOK OF MORMON APPEARS TO CONTRADICT CORE MORMON DOCTRINES THAT EMERGED LATER IN SMITH'S REVELATIONS, SUCH AS THE GODHEAD, THE NATURE OF SALVATION, AND THE ROLE OF PRIESTHOOD AUTHORITY.

CHANGING DOCTRINE: MAJOR SHIFTS IN LDS DOCTRINE OVER TIME ARE NOTED BY CRITICS, INCLUDING CHANGES IN THE PRACTICE OF POLYGAMY AND THE LIFTING OF THE PRIESTHOOD BAN FOR BLACK MEMBERS IN 1978.

EPISTEMOLOGY: CRITICS OFTEN CHALLENGE THE MORMON EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL FEELINGS OR SPIRITUAL "BURNING IN THE BOSOM" AS A PRIMARY METHOD FOR DISCERNING TRUTH, ARGUING THAT THIS APPROACH IS SUBJECTIVE AND UNRELIABLE.

FINALLY, THERE IS ALSO NO CONCLUSIVE RECORD OF ALL THREE MEN SEEING AN ANGEL AT ONCE. THIS WOULD NOT BE A CASE OF GROUP HALLUCINATION, BUT OF A GROUP OF PEOPLE BEING BROUGHT INTO THE WILDERNESS PRIMED BY SMITH TO SEE AN ANGEL AND AFTER PRAYING ECSTATICALLY FOR HOURS THEY EACH FINALLY “SEE” IT IN THEIR OWN MIND’S EYE.

THE ALLEGED GOLDEN PLATES THEMSELVES COULD HAVE BEEN NATURAL ARTIFACTS, OR SIMPLY FRAUDS. IN 1843 BRASS PLATES WERE UNEARTHED IN KINDERHOOK ILLINOIS AND JOSEPH SMITH CLAIMED THEY REFERRED TO AN EGYPTIAN DESCENDANT OF HAM, BUT THE PLATES WERE CREATED BY A BLACKSMITH AS A HOAX.

IN 1845 JAMES STRANG, AN EARLY LDS DISSENTER, CLAIMED TO HAVE A TRANSLATED METAL PLATES DESCRIBING ANCIENT PEOPLES, AND UNLIKE SMITH’S PLATES, NON-MORMONS CONFIRMED THEIR EXISTENCE. MARTIN HARRIS, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL BOOK OF MORMON WITNESSES, EVEN BECAME ONE OF STRANG’S FOLLOWERS FOR A BRIEF PERIOD.

MORMONS DON’T BELIEVE IN JAMES STRANG’S PLATES OR THE KINDERHOOK PLATES, AND I DON’T BELIEVE IN JOSEPH SMITH’S PLATES.

THIRD, THERE'S MARTIN HARRIS WHO MORTGAGED HIS FARM TO FUND THE PUBLISHING OF THE BOOK OF MORMON, WHICH MEANS HE HAD A HUGE FINANCIAL MOTIVATION TO CONVINCE PEOPLE OF ITS TRUTHFULNESS. AND MULTIPLE SOURCES DESCRIBE HARRIS AS SOMEONE WHO WAS EASILY SPOOKED, LIKE SEEING THE DEVIL IN CANDLELIGHT FLICKERS. IN 1842 JOHN CLARKE SAID OF HIM, "HARRIS WAS READY TO BE DUPED BY ANYTHING, NO MATTER WHERE HE WENT HE SAW VISIONS AND SUPERNATURAL APPEARANCES AROUND HIM. ONCE WHILE TRAVELLING "HE MET THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO WALKED BY THE SIDE OF HIM IN THE SHAPE OF A DEER FOR TWO OR THREE MILES TALKING WITH HIM AS FAMILIARLY AS ONE MAN TALKS WITH ANOTHER."

HARRIS ALSO ADMITTED HE SAW THE PLATES WITH SPIRITUAL EYES, CAUSING SOME PEOPLE TO LEAVE THE MORMON CHURCH. HARRIS ALSO LEFT THE CHURCH CALLING THEM 'LATTER DAY DEVILS.'

THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A DEMONIC ENCOUNTER. ST. PAUL EVEN WARNS IN GALATIANS 1 TO REJECT ANGELS WHO PREACH FALSE GOSPELS. BUT IT COULD ALSO BE THE PRODUCT OF EXCITABLE PEOPLE PRONE TO SEE VISIONS AROUND EVERY CORNER. CONSIDER THE THREE WITNESSES OF THIS ALLEGED EVENT.

FIRST, THERE'S DAVID WHITMER WHO SAID THE ANGEL HAD NO APPEARANCE OR SHAPE BUT THAT IT WAS AN IMPRESSION THAT HE FELT. HE LATER LEFT THE CHURCH SAYING, "GOD SPAKE TO ME AGAIN BY HIS OWN VOICE FROM THE HEAVENS AND TOLD ME TO 'SEPARATE MYSELF FROM AMONG THE LATTER DAY SAINTS.'"

SECOND, THERE'S OLIVER COWDERY, WHO ALSO LEFT THE CHURCH BEFORE BRIEFLY REJOINING FOR A FEW MONTHS BEFORE HIS DEATH. COWDERY CLAIMED TO SEE VISIONS BEFORE HE MET JOSEPH SMITH, HE KNEW SMITH FOR YEARS BEFORE HE BECAME ONE OF HIS SCRIBES, AND BELIEVED DOWSING RODS COULD SPEAK TO HIM.

PLUS, THE BOOK OF MORMON CONTAINS THINGS WE KNOW DID NOT EXIST IN ANCIENT AMERICA. FOR EXAMPLE, IT DESCRIBES HORSES AND CHARIOTS EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE NO CHARIOTS AND HORSES WERE INTRODUCED AFTER COLUMBUS ARRIVED IN THE NEW WORLD. SOME MORMONS SAY THE WORD “HORSES” REFERS TO TAPIRS, WHICH RESEMBLE LIKE BIG WEIRD LOOKING PIGS, AND THE CHARIOTS WERE LITTERS CARRIED BY OTHER HUMANS. BUT THEN WHY ARE THE “HORSES” ALWAYS MENTIONED WITH THESE “CHARIOTS” IF THEY DIDN’T PULL THEM AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT AN OVERGROWN PIG WITH THESE CHARIOTS?

IT’S NO WONDER THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY HAS SAID “ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND OTHER SCHOLARS HAVE LONG PROBED THE HEMISPHERE’S PAST, AND THE SOCIETY DOES NOT KNOW OF ANYTHING FOUND SO FAR THAT HAS SUBSTANTIATED THE BOOK OF MORMON.”

AND WHILE NOT EVERY BIBLICAL EVENT HAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFIRMATION, THIS IS FAR DIFFERENT THAN AN ENTIRE ANCIENT HISTORY HAVING ZERO ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR IT.

AND THE SILENCE IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD IS DEAFENING. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE LARGEST CITIES IN ANCIENT AMERICA, CHAOKIA, HAD ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE SPREAD OUT OVER 100 EARTHWORK SETTLEMENTS. BUT ZARAHENLA, A CITY IN THE BOOK OF MORMON THAT HAD AT LEAST 100,000 PEOPLE IN IT, HAS NEVER BEEN FOUND. WE HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND A SINGLE EXAMPLE OF HEBREW OR EGYPTIAN SCRIPT THAT SHOULD BE IN THE NEW WORLD IF THE JEWISH EMIGRANTS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON REALLY EXISTED.

MORMONS CAN'T EVEN AGREE ON WHICH RIVERS OR MOUNTAINS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF MORMON. FLETCHER B. HAMMOND WROTE IN THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON THAT GOD CHANGED THE WORLD'S TOPOGRAPHY AFTER THE FACT SO THAT FAITH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BELIEVE IN THE BOOK OF MORMON. HOW CONVENIENT!

NUMBER 2 – BOOK OF MORMON GEOGRAPHY IS ABYSMAL

MANY BIBLES CONTAIN MAPS THAT DESCRIBE WHERE BIBLICAL EVENTS TOOK PLACE. IF YOU GET CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, AND ATHEISTIC SCHOLARS TOGETHER IN A ROOM THEY WOULD AGREE ON THESE MAPS, EVEN THOUGH THEY'D DISAGREE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THESE SITES. BUT YOU CAN'T DO THAT FOR THE BOOK OF MORMON.

IN SPITE OF ALL ITS GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, MORMONS ONLY KNOW THE EVENTS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON TOOK PLACE SOMEWHERE IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA. SOME MORMONS SAY THEY TOOK PLACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA, OTHERS SAY AS FAR AWAY AS THE GREAT LAKES OR AMERICAN HEARTLAND. THAT WOULD BE LIKE CHRISTIANS DISAGREEING ON WHETHER JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED IN JUDEA OR ENGLAND.

SOME MORMON APOLOGISTS SAY SMITH WAS JUST USING THE PAPYRI TO HELP HIM WRITE DOWN VISIONS HE HAD, BUT IN HIS OWN DIARY SMITH CLAIMS TO HAVE TRANSLATED THE DOCUMENT. HE EVEN WROTE AN “EGYPTIAN ALPH ABET AND GRAMMAR,” TO HELP HIM TRANSLATE, EVEN THOUGH HE WASN’T ACTUALLY DOING THAT. BUT IT’S NOT ONLY THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM THAT REVEALS SMITH WAS A FALSE PROPHET.

THIS IS A MODEL OF THE GOLDEN PLATES, 2/3 OF WHICH WERE SEALED AND ALLEGEDLY COULDN’T BE OPENED. THAT MEANS THERE WERE AT MOST 40 PLATES, EACH 6×8 INCHES THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE CONTAINED INFORMATION PRESENT IN THE 270,000 ENGLISH WORDS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON. IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THAT INFORMATION, EVERY CHARACTER ON THIS PLATE WOULD HAVE TO REPRESENT 80 WORDS. BUT ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS DON’T WORK LIKE THAT. ACTUAL ANCIENT METAL PLATES, LIKE THE PLATES OF DARIUS, ONLY CONTAIN ABOUT 200 WORDS PER PAGE. SMITH’S CLAIM ABOUT THE “REFORMED EGYPTIAN” WRITING ON THE PLATES WERE SIMPLY PART OF HIS OWN IMAGINATION.

IN 1828, MARTIN HARRIS OFFERED TO ASSIST SMITH IN THE TRANSLATION OF THE PLATES, BUT HARRIS LOST 116 PAGES OF THE TRANSLATED MANUSCRIPT SMITH GAVE HIM. SMITH CLAIMED THAT GOD WAS ANGRY AT THE LOSS OF THE PAGES AND WOULD ONLY ALLOW SMITH TRANSLATE FROM ANOTHER SET OF PLATES. THESE PLATES TOLD THE SAME STORY AS THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS, BUT FROM A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

AND SMITH DEFINITELY LED PEOPLE AWAY TO BELIEVE IN FALSE GODS. AT THE FUNERAL FOR ELDER KING FOLLETT, SMITH SAID, “GOD HIMSELF WAS ONCE AS WE ARE NOW, AND IS AN EXALTED MAN, AND SITS ENTHRONED IN YONDER HEAVENS!”

ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM, WHICH SMITH ALSO ALLEGEDLY TRANSLATED, GOD IS A SUPER POWERED MAN WHO RULES NEAR A STAR OR PLANET NAMED KOLOB. IF MORMONS ARE FAITHFUL ENOUGH, THEY TOO CAN BECOME GODS AND RULE OVER THEIR OWN UNIVERSES ALONGSIDE THE SPOUSES THEY MARRIED IN THIS LIFE. BUT THIS CONTRADICTS A CENTRAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD: THE CREATOR IS NOT AND NEVER HAS BEEN A CREATURE. THE OMNIPOTENT GOD CAN BECOME MAN, OR ASSUME A HUMAN NATURE ALONG WITH HIS DIVINE NATURE, BUT MAN CANNOT BECOME GOD. THE FACT THAT SMITH TAUGHT THE CONTRARY MEANS HE IS A FALSE PROPHET.

SPEAKING OF THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM, SMITH CLAIMED HE TRANSLATED AN ANCIENT PAPYRUS WRITTEN IN ABRAHAM’S OWN HAND THAT TALKS ABOUT “THE GODS” CREATING THE WORLD. BUT EVEN MORMON EGYPTOLOGISTS AGREE THAT PAPYRUS IS SIMPLY A COLLECTION OF 2ND CENTURY EGYPTIAN FUNERARY TEXTS THAT SAY NOTHING ABOUT ABRAHAM AND CERTAINLY WEREN’T WRITTEN BY HIM.

NUMBER 3 – JOSEPH SMITH WAS A FALSE PROPHET

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY SAYS A FALSE PROPHET LEADS PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE TRUE GOD AND FAILS TO PREDICT THE FUTURE. JOSEPH SMITH IS GUILTY ON BOTH THESE COUNTS. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD NOT BELIEVE GOD USED A FALSE PROPHET LIKE HIM TO TRANSMIT INSPIRED REVELATION.

IN HIS HISTORY OF THE CHURCH, SMITH PROPHESED THAT JESUS WOULD RETURN SOMETIME IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE OVERTHROWN, BOTH OF WHICH, OF COURSE, DIDN'T HAPPEN. MORMONS LIKE TO SAY JOSEPH SMITH PREDICTED THE CIVIL WAR 30 YEARS BEFORE IT HAPPENED, BUT ANYONE AT THE TIME KNEW THERE WERE TROUBLES BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH. SMITH ALSO PREDICTED THAT "WAR WILL BE POURED OUT UPON ALL NATIONS, BEGINNING AT THIS PLACE" BUT NO OTHER NATIONS FOUGHT IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, WHICH SHOWS THIS WAS A FALSE PROPHECY.

INDEED, THE ENTIRE BOOK FEELS LIKE A MEDIOCRE NOVEL DELIVERED BY A SERMON THAT'S GONE ON FAR TOO LONG, AS CAN BE SEEN IN OVER 1500 USES OF THE PHRASE, "AND IT CAME TO PASS" WHICH HELP BREAK UP THE NARRATIVE FOR SOMEONE ORALLY PRESENTING IT. SMITH'S PRESENTATION WAS ALSO AIDED BY RIPPING OFF HUNDREDS OF NEW TESTAMENT THEMES AND IMAGERY THAT HE REPACKAGED FOR CHARACTERS IN HIS STORY. OR, IN ONE OUT OF SEVEN VERSES, SMITH OUTRIGHT COPIED THE KING JAMES BIBLE, INCLUDING ITS GRAMMATICAL ERRORS.

THE ENTIRE CHAPTERS OF ISAIAH THAT ARE COPIED CAN BE EXPLAINED BY THE ANCIENT AMERICANS REGURGITATING THEIR ALLEGED ISRAELITE HISTORY, BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN COPIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT BEING QUOTED. MORONI CHAPTER 10 DIRECTLY COPIES 1 CORINTHIANS 12'S LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS: WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, FAITH, HEALING, MIRACLES, PROPHECY, AND DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS.

BUT MORONI, ALLEGEDLY LIVING IN THE 4TH CENTURY AMERICA, WOULD HAVE ONLY KNOWN THE OLD TESTAMENT OF HIS ALLEGED ANCESTORS. HE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT FIRST CORINTHIANS. THAT'S WHY IN HIS DEFENSE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON, ROBERT BENNETT SAYS SMITH "INADVERTENTLY SLIPPED INTO LANGUAGE WITH WHICH HE WAS FAMILIAR", WHICH WE'D EXPECT FROM A GOOD STORY-TELLER. INDEED, SMITH'S OWN MOTHER SAID THE FOLLOWING ABOUT HIM:

NUMBER 4 – THE BOOK OF MORMON’S VERY HUMAN ELEMENTS

THE BOOK OF MORMON IS GOOD AND ORIGINAL. HOWEVER, THE GOOD PARTS AREN’T ORIGINAL AND THE ORIGINAL PARTS AREN’T GOOD.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACTUAL ORIGINAL PARTS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON, THEY LACK A DIVINE QUALITY. WHILE MANY NON-CHRISTIANS ARE FAMILIAR WITH ELOQUENT BIBLICAL STORIES LIKE THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON OR THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, NON-MORMONS ARE UNAWARE OF ANYTHING AS ELOQUENT IN THE BOOK OF MORMON. FAR FROM BEING DIVINELY INSPIRED, THE BOOK IS BARELY INSPIRED BY HUMAN STANDARDS.

FOR EXAMPLE, MARK TWAIN THOUGHT THE BIBLE WAS FALSE, BUT HE ALSO ADMITTED IT HAD “NOBLE POETRY IN IT, AND SOME CLEVER FABLES”. WHEN IT COMES TO THE BOOK OF MORMON, HOWEVER, SAID:

“IT IS CHLOROFORM IN PRINT. IF JOSEPH SMITH COMPOSED THIS BOOK, THE ACT WAS A MIRACLE—KEEPING AWAKE WHILE HE DID . . . WHENEVER HE FOUND HIS SPEECH GROWING TOO MODERN—WHICH WAS ABOUT EVERY SENTENCE OR TWO—HE LADLED IN A FEW SUCH SCRIPTURAL PHRASES AS “EXCEEDING SORE,” “AND IT CAME TO PASS,” WHICH WAS HIS PET PHRASE. IF HE HAD LEFT THAT OUT, HIS BIBLE WOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY A PAMPHLET.” END QUOTE

OF COURSE, IF SMITH WERE JUST DICTATING THE STORY FROM MEMORY AND NOT ACTUALLY TRANSLATING, IT

WOULD HAVE BEEN NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO REPRODUCE WHAT HE ORIGINALLY DICTATED TO HARRIS

AND PROVE HE WASN'T A PROPHET. SMITH EVEN DESCRIBES IN HIS BOOK DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS HOW HIS CRITICS WOULD HAVE USED THE LOSS OF THE PAGES TO TRY AND PROVE THAT HE WAS NOT MIRACULOUSLY TRANSLATING THE GOLDEN PLATES AND SO HE WASN'T A PROPHET.

FINALLY, SMITH DID WHAT MANY FALSE PROPHETS HAVE DONE THROUGHOUT HISTORY. HE USED HIS STATUS TO ACQUIRE POWER, SUCH AS BY BECOMING A TOWN MAYOR, RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND ACQUIRING MULTIPLE WIVES FOR HIMSELF, SOME AS YOUNG AS 14-YEARS-OLD. SMITH LIED TO HIS WIFE ABOUT TWO OF THEM, SISTERS EMILY AND ELIZA PARTRIDGE, AND ONE MORMON APOLOGIST SAYS "IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT JOSEPH DID NOT DISCLOSE ALL OF HIS PLURAL MARRIAGES PRECISELY WHEN THEY HAPPENED".

THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT.

SMITH ALSO ORDERED A PRINTING PRESS TO BE DESTROYED FOR PUBLISHING WORKS THAT WERE CRITICAL OF HIM. HE WAS LATER ARRESTED IN CONNECTION TO THIS ACT AND DIED IN A SHOOTOUT USING A GUN SMUGGLED INTO THE JAIL WHERE HE WAS BEING HELD. JOSEPH SMITH WAS NOT A TRUE PROPHET WHO DIED A MARTYR'S DEATH. HE WAS A FALSE PROPHET WHO MET THE IGNOBLE END OF SO MANY OTHER FALSE PROPHETS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

BUDDHISM

IS

FALSE

SOME MORMON APOLOGISTS CLAIM THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE BOOK OF MORMON WENT EXTINCT AND DID NOT LEAVE A DNA RECORD. BUT THE BOOK OF MORMON NEVER MENTIONS OTHER PEOPLE LIVING IN THE NEW WORLD BESIDES THE NEPHITES AND LAMANITES. THESE APOLOGISTS JUST SAY SUCH PEOPLE'S MUST HAVE EXISTED BECAUSE OF THE "UNBELIEVABLY HIGH POPULATION GROWTH RATE" IN THE BOOK OF MORMON'S NARRATIVE. WHICH CAN BE MORE EASILY EXPLAINED BY THE NARRATIVE BEING FICTIONAL.

“DURING OUR EVENING CONVERSATIONS, JOSEPH WOULD OCCASIONALLY GIVE US SOME OF THE MOST AMUSING RECITALS THAT COULD BE IMAGINED. HE WOULD DESCRIBE THE ANCIENT INHABITANTS OF THIS CONTINENT, THEIR DRESS, MODE OF TRAVELLING, AND THE ANIMALS UPON WHICH THEY RODE; THEIR CITIES, THEIR BUILDINGS, WITH EVERY PARTICULAR; THEIR MODE OF WARFARE; AND ALSO THEIR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP. THIS HE WOULD DO WITH AS MUCH EASE, SEEMINGLY, AS IF HE HAD SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE WITH THEM.”

FINALLY, THERE IS THE TROUBLING FACT THAT THE BASIC STORY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON, THAT NATIVE AMERICANS WERE THE DESCENDANTS OF JEWS WHO EMIGRATED TO AMERICA IN 600 BC, HAD ALREADY BEEN PUBLISHED A FEW YEARS EARLIER IN A BOOK CALLED VIEW OF THE HEBREWS WRITTEN BY ETHAN SMITH. FAWN BRODIE, THE AUTHOR OF THE FIRST SCHOLARLY BIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH SMITH SAYS, “THE STRIKING PARALLELISMS BETWEEN THE TWO BOOKS HARDLY LEAVE A CASE FOR MERE COINCIDENCE.”

INDEED, THIS IDEA ABOUT NATIVE AMERICANS WAS A COMMON ONE IN THE 19TH CENTURY SO IT FITS WITHIN THE CLAIM THAT A HUMAN AUTHOR CONCOCTED THE STORY. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SCIENCE OF GENETICS PROVES NATIVE AMERICANS ARE NOT DESCENDANTS OF JEWISH MIGRANTS, WHICH DISPROVES SMITH CLAIM THAT QUOTE, “OUR WESTERN TRIBES OF INDIANS ARE DESCENDANTS FROM THAT JOSEPH WHICH WAS SOLD INTO EGYPT,”

BUDDHISM HAS BECOMING VERY POPULAR IN THE WESTERN NATIONS INCLUDING HERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN HOLLYWOOD. IT IS PROBABLY THE MOST ACCEPTABLE AND POPULAR OF THE EASTERN RELIGIONS. YOGA WHICH IS ALSO SEEN IN HINDUISM HAS TAKEN OVER HERE IN THE US WITH IT EVEN BEING PUSHED BY CHRISTIANS. THIS TEACHING IS DANGEROUS AS IT OPENS THE DOOR FOR SATAN. GOD DOES NOT WANT OUR MINDS EMPTIED, BUT RATHER TO FILL THEM WITH THE SPIRIT AND FOR US TO MEDITATE UPON HIS WORD. HOLLYWOOD HAS BEEN PUSHING BUDDHISM FOR A LONG TIME THOUGH IN HIDDEN WAYS INCLUDING YOGA. GEORGE LUCAS WHO CREATED THE STAR WARS MOVIES IS A BUDDHIST AND SAID HE WROTE THE MOVIES TO PUSH BUDDHISM ON THE UNITED STATES, ESPECIALLY TO THE YOUTH.

BUDDHISM DOES NOT HAVE A HOLY BOOK SUCH AS CHRISTIANITY HAS THE HOLY BIBLE OR ISLAM HAS THE KORAN. THERE ARE MANY WRITINGS IN BUDDHISM WITH THE MOST POPULAR BEING A LARGE COLLECTION OF WRITINGS KNOWN AS THE PALI CANON WHICH IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS. THERE IS NO GOD IN BUDDHISM, BUT THE WRITINGS OF BUDDHA GUIDE BUDDHISTS.

BUDDHISM WAS FOUNDED IN INDIA BY GAUTAMA BUDDHA. BUDDHISM STILL HAS MANY CONVERTS IN INDIA, THOUGH IT HAS BEEN MOSTLY REPLACED BY HINDUISM. BUDDHA IS REVERED BY BUDDHISTS AND IS REFERRED TO AS AN ENLIGHTENED BEING. SUPPOSEDLY BUDDHA GAVE UP HIS WEALTH AND SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN MEDITATION, REFRAINING FROM PLEASURES OF LIFE, AND OTHER THINGS AND THEN CLAIMED TO HAVE FIGURED OUT HOW TO END THE CYCLE OF REINCARNATION TO REACH NIRVANA. IT WAS NOT UNTIL A COUPLE OF CENTURIES AFTER HIS DEATH THAT HE WAS GIVEN THE NAME BUDDHA MEANING ENLIGHTENED ONE. IT IS NOT KNOWN EXACTLY WHEN BUDDHA STARTED BUDDHISM, BUT IT IS BELIEVED TO BE AROUND 500-400 BC. MANY BUDDHIST MONKS TODAY LIVE IN MONASTERIES SPENDING THEIR DAYS IN MEDITATION AND CHANTING. GOD SAID WE ARE NOT TO JUST REPEAT WORDS OR HUMMING. (MATTHEW 6:7 BUT WHEN YE PRAY, USE NOT VAIN REPETITIONS, AS THE HEATHEN DO: FOR THEY THINK THAT THEY SHALL BE HEARD FOR THEIR MUCH SPEAKING.) GOD ALSO SAID TO MEDITATE ON HIS WORD, NOT EMPTY OUR MINDS THE WAY BUDDHISTS DO WHILE MEDITATING WHICH ONLY OPENS THE DOOR TO SATAN. (EPHESIANS 5:18 AND BE NOT DRUNK WITH WINE, WHEREIN IS EXCESS; BUT BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT) MOST BUDDHIST MONKS SHAVE THEIR HEAD BALD OR SOME HAVE THE HAIR SHAVED SHORT, BUT NOT BALD LIKE A BALD MAN, THOUGH MOST DO HAVE THE BALD LOOK. BUDDHISTS WILL OFTEN HAVE A BUDDHA IDOL (STATUE) IN THEIR HOMES. THIS IS THEIR GOD, THOUGH THEY WILL NOT SAY THAT.

BUDDHISM IS THE WORLD'S FOURTH LARGEST RELIGION WITH OVER 520 MILLION BUDDHISTS. BUDDHISM IS FOUND MOSTLY IN THE FAR EAST PART OF ASIA AND IS THE DOMINANT RELIGION IN PLACES SUCH AS VIETNAM, CHINA, JAPAN, THAILAND, LAOS, CAMBODIA, MONGOLIA, BURMA, BHUTAN, AND SRI LANKA, AND SINGAPORE. BUDDHISM SHARES MANY SIMILAR BELIEFS WITH HINDUISM AND OTHER EASTERN RELIGIONS. BUDDHISM CONSISTS OF MANY TRADITIONS, TEACHINGS, PHILOSOPHIES, BELIEFS, AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICES. THERE ARE TWO MAJOR BRANCHES OF BUDDHISM, THERAVADA (THE SCHOOL OF THE ELDERS) AND MAHAYANA (THE GREAT VEHICLE) WITH MAHAYANA THE MORE POPULAR. VAJRAYANA IS ANOTHER BRANCH. THERAVADA IS THE MORE CONSERVATIVE OF THE TWO AND HAS MANY MORE MONKS IN MONASTERIES BELIEVING THAT MEDITATION WILL LEAD TO "SALVATION". THE DIFFERENT GROUPS HAVE DIFFERENT SCHOOLS WITH SOME DIFFERENCES IN BELIEFS. ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN SCHOOLS OF MAHAYANA IS ZEN BUDDHISM WHICH ORIGINATED IN CHINA. THE SYMBOL OF BUDDHISM IS THE EIGHT SPOKE WHEEL KNOWN AS THE DHARMA. BUDDHISTS WORSHIP AT TEMPLES.

NIRVANA VARIES AMONG BUDDHISTS BUT IS WHEN A BUDDHIST ELIMINATES GREED, HATRED, IGNORANCE, AND DELUSION. SOME BUDDHISTS BELIEVE NIRVANA IS THE STATE OF ULTIMATE BLISS OR HAPPINESS. OTHER BUDDHISTS BELIEVE IT IS THE POINT WHEN A BUDDHIST IS ABLE TO END THE CYCLE OF REINCARNATION AND THE SOUL IS LIBERATED AND EXTINGUISHED OR ANNIHILATED. BUDDHISTS BELIEVE THAT ALL CASTES CAN REACH NIRVANA AND ARE EQUAL. CASTES ARE THE DIVISIONS OF PEOPLE BY WEALTH AND RANK AND SOCIAL STATUS. THIS IS BIG IN INDIA WITH THOSE BORN IN LOW CASTES GREATLY DESPISED BY THE UPPER CASTES IN HINDUISM. IT IS BELIEVED THE LOW CASTES ARE THEIR BECAUSE OF THEIR KARMA.

WHEN IT COMES TO CREATION, THE BUDDHIST HAS NO ANSWER AS THEY DO NOT CARE HOW ALL SUFFERING GOT HERE, ONLY THAT IT BE STOPPED. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IN A SUPREME BEING AND BUDDHA NEVER ADDRESSED CREATION. WHEN IT COMES TO HEAVEN AND HELL THE BUDDHIST DOES NOT BELIEVE IN ANY KIND OF AFTERLIFE, BUT RATHER HOPES THAT THERE IS NO AFTERLIFE AND THEY CAN ACHIEVE THIS END BY REACHING NIRVANA. A FEW BUDDHISTS DO BELIEVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF BUDDHISTS WILL GO TO A FIERY HELL AND BE PUNISHED SIMILAR TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PURGATORY FOR A WHILE AND THEN BE PUT BACK ON THE CYCLE OF BIRTH, DEATH, AND REINCARNATION TO TRY ONCE AGAIN TO REACH NIRVANA.

SEVERAL TERMS ARE WELL KNOWN BY MOST WESTERNERS. BUDDHISTS BELIEVE IN KARMA WHICH IS BASICALLY YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW. THEY BELIEVE THAT ALL THEIR ACTIONS THEY DO WHETHER GOOD OR BAD AFFECTS THEIR LIFE NOT ONLY NOW BUT FUTURE LIVES. THEY BELIEVE PAST LIVES ALSO AFFECTS HOW THEY ARE TODAY BASED ON THEIR KARMA AND EACH LIFE BUILDS ON THE KARMA OF PREVIOUS LIVES.

ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN TERM IS REINCARNATION (SAMSAARA) WHICH IS THE BELIEF THAT A BUDDHIST WILL CONTINUE TO BE BORN AND DIE AND THEN BE BORN AGAIN AND DIE AND WILL CONTINUE THIS CYCLE UNTIL THE BUDDHIST REACHES THE POINT THAT THEY CAN BREAK THE CYCLE. A BUDDHIST CAN RETURN AS A PERSON OR ANIMAL. TRANSMIGRATION OF THE SOUL GOES ALONG WITH THIS BELIEF IN THAT THE SOUL OF THE PERSON GOES INTO THE NEW BODY EACH TIME. UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN TALKING TO A BUDDHIST ABOUT BEING "BORN AGAIN" THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THIS TERM IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAY. A BUDDHIST DOES NOT BELIEVE IN A PERMANENT SOUL. THEY BELIEVE ONCE A BUDDHIST REACHES NIRVANA THAT IT IS DESTROYED. GOD SAYS WE DIE ONCE. (HEBREWS 9:27 AND AS IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT.)

ALL BUDDHISTS BELIEVE IN THE THREE JEWELS KNOWN AS THE YELLOW JEWEL (BUDDHA), THE TEACHINGS OR THE BLUE JEWEL, AND THE MONASTIC ORDER OR THE RED JEWEL. BUDDHIST MONKS CHANT THESE THREE JEWELS EVERY DAY. BUDDHISTS ALSO BELIEVE IN WHAT ARE REFERRED TO AS THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS. THEY ARE DUKKHA OR SUFFERING, SAMUDAYA OR CRAVING, NIRODHA OR CEASE, AND MARGA OR CESSATION OF SUFFERING. BUDDHISTS FOLLOW THE EIGHTFOLD PATH WHICH INCLUDES THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS. THESE EIGHT STEPS ARE BROKEN INTO THREE MAIN AREAS OF TRAINING IN WISDOM, TRAINING IN MORALITY, AND TRAINING IN CONCENTRATION. THESE EIGHT STEPS ARE TO REMOVE THE BUDDHIST FROM THE WORLD, ELIMINATE ALL DISTRACTIONS, UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES, AND PURGE IMPROPER THOUGHTS. WHILE REMOVING SINFUL THOUGHTS IS ADMIRABLE, JESUS SAID THAT WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE TO LIVE IN THE WORLD, JUST NOT BE A PART OF IT. WE ARE NOT TO RUN OFF TO MONASTERIES OR AVOID THE WORLD THE WAY BUDDHISTS DO. I WILL SAY THE BUDDHISTS DO NOT HAVE A REPUTATION FOR ATTACKING CHRISTIANS THE WAY MUSLIMS AND HINDUS DO WHICH IS GOOD. BUDDHISTS DO TRY TO BE PEACEFUL AS A WHOLE. THE MIDDLE WAY IS THE BUDDHIST BELIEF THAT CONSISTS OF THE EIGHTFOLD PATH AND OTHER BUDDHA TEACHINGS. TOGETHER THIS IS KNOWN AS THE DHARMA WHICH MEANS RELIGIOUS DUTIES. THE GOAL OF EVERY BUDDHIST IS TO END SUFFERING. THE ONLY WAY THAT WILL HAPPEN IS TO RECEIVE JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR. THEY WILL NOT KNOW WHAT SUFFERING IS UNTIL IN HELL.

MOST BUDDHISTS ARE VEGETARIANS AS THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IN HARMING ANIMALS. WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE KIND TO ANIMALS, BUT GOD GAVE US ANIMALS TO EAT IF THEY ARE BLESSED WITH PRAYER. (GENESIS 9:3 EVERY MOVING THING THAT LIVETH SHALL BE MEAT FOR YOU; EVEN AS THE GREEN HERB HAVE I GIVEN YOU ALL THINGS.) (1 TIMOTHY 4:4 FOR EVERY CREATURE OF GOD IS GOOD, AND NOTHING TO BE REFUSED, IF IT BE RECEIVED WITH THANKSGIVING.) BUDDHIST MONKS KEEP THEIR HEADS SHAVED AND OFTEN BEG FOR FOOD.

FOR ANY PRECIOUS BUDDHIST SOUL THAT MAY BE LISTENING, I PLEAD WITH YOU THAT YOU WILL TURN FROM THE FALSE RELIGION OF BUDDHISM AND TURN TO A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER ON A PATH TO HELL AND NEED A SAVIOUR TO SAVE YOU. THAT SAVIOUR IS JESUS. NO WORKS OR ANYTHING YOU DO WILL SAVE YOU, ONLY JESUS. CALL UPON JESUS NOW TO SAVE YOU AND SEE WHAT BEING FREE IS ALL ABOUT.

MANY PROFESSING CHRISTIANS BELIEVE BUDDHISM IS COMPATIBLE WITH CHRISTIANITY AND SAY THEY ARE CATHOLIC BUDDHISTS OR THEY ARE METHODIST BUDDHISTS. THESE TWO RELIGIONS ARE NOT COMPATIBLE. BUDDHISM WILL ONLY LEAD TO DEATH WHEREAS TRUE CHRISTIANITY IS A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST AND WILL LEAD TO EVERLASTING LIFE. (JOHN 3:16 ¶ FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.) BUDDHISM DENIES GOD AND THE DEITY OF JESUS AND IS ABOUT ONE'S SELF WHEREAS CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT OTHERS. BUDDHISM IS DARKNESS AND TRUE CHRISTIANITY IS LIGHT AND WE ARE NOT TO BE YOKED WITH DARKNESS, BUT TO COME OUT OF THE DARKNESS. (I JOHN 1:5-7 THIS THEN IS THE MESSAGE WHICH WE HAVE HEARD OF HIM, AND DECLARE UNTO YOU, THAT GOD IS LIGHT, AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL. 6 IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM, AND WALK IN DARKNESS, WE LIE, AND DO NOT THE TRUTH: 7 BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.) (EPHESIANS 5:11 AND HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS, BUT RATHER REPROVE THEM.) (II CORINTHIANS 6:14 BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS: FOR WHAT FELLOWSHIP HATH RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS? AND WHAT COMMUNION HATH LIGHT WITH DARKNESS?)

MOST BUDDHISTS BELIEVE THAT BUDDHA HAD A MIRACULOUS BIRTH SO THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM BELIEVING JESUS DID AS WELL. BUDDHISTS DO NOT BELIEVE JESUS IS GOD, BUT THEY DO BELIEVE HE WAS A GREAT TEACHER AND TAUGHT GREAT SOCIAL ISSUES. MANY BUDDHISTS ADMIRE HIS TEACHINGS. BUDDHISTS ADMIRE HOW HE HELPED THE POOR AND BELIEVE JESUS POSTPONED NIRVANA FOR HIMSELF BY CARING MORE FOR OTHERS THAN HIMSELF. HE IS GREATLY RESPECTED FOR THIS. SOME BUDDHISTS WHO HAVE READ THE HOLY BIBLE SAY THAT JESUS WAS A BUDDHA. THE ONE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JESUS AND BUDDHA AND OTHER FOUNDERS OF RELIGIONS SUCH AS MOHAMMED WITH ISLAM IS THAT THEY ARE ALL DEAD WHEREAS JESUS IS ALIVE AND WELL. CHRISTIANS SERVE A LIVING GOD.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

ACCEPT JESUS TODAY

**OUR FATHER. WHO ART IN NEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY
NAME: THY KINGDOM COME
THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT
IS IN NEAVEN. GIVE US
THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD: AND
FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS
WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST US: AND LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM
EVIL, AMEN**

JESUS IS

THE WAY

THE TRUTH

THE LIFE