

## What if the Bible is true... *where do you Stand?*

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Upon awakening at 5:00 am one recent morning, I found my thoughts once again focused on what is happening in the world around us, and especially here in the United States of America where I live. Those of you reading this, familiar with my writings, you should by now have a sense that I am a Christian who believes in the Bible as being the inerrant Word of God. Some of my readers of course are not of the same opinion; while many may, in some way acknowledge the existence of *a god*, they do not see things as I do, especially concerning the Bible. They do not view the Bible as God's Word, but rather as a collection of Prose and Poetry in some cases or they see it as a collection of writings by ordinary people with some sort of "agenda of deception," with the ultimate goal of somehow controlling the masses. The problem with that opinion is the fact that the Bible, written over thousands of years by diverse people of different cultures, having never met in most cases, nullifies the possibility of any such collusion. Regardless of your particular viewpoint, back to the question at hand, "What if the Bible *"is True" and it actually is the Word of God?"* Where do you personally stand in regard to what it proclaims? What I would like you consider, just for a moment, is that simple question, putting aside all the excuses you may currently have for not believing in the Bible, simply consider the question, "What if it's true."

I have personally studied the Bible with ever-increasing vigor since around 1968. I was a skeptic at that point in my life, not quite an Agnostic, but very suspicious of what people said about Church and the Bible. It was not until 1972 that I became convinced that the Bible is in fact true and accurate. That was also the same year I became a Christian, "A Christ Follower." I was not "Brainwashed" as a child as some would assume; my mother was raised Catholic, and my father, Russian Orthodox. My mom attended "Mass" on a semi-regular basis, so I guess she would have been considered "Religious" to some degree. My dad, on the other hand, would only go to his church on Christmas or Easter... maybe! At one church, I would sit there listening to the priest talking in Latin, and at the other I listened to the priest speaking in Russian, neither of which I understood at all. I bring this up to illustrate that I was in no way forced into believing a certain way; as a child, I had little understanding of God, the Church, or the Bible. As an older teen and young adult, my parents were aware that I was searching for answers, but they had little if any understanding of God or the Bible themselves to be a viable influence one-way, or the other. As a matter of fact, when I announced to my parents in 1972 that I now considered myself a "Born-again Christian," my father replied by saying, "I thought you were stronger than that," he had no idea what I was talking about! Although I believe my mother also really did not understand what I had experienced at the time, she did not seem to have a problem with the fact that I now had a desire to follow God and the Bible. My father, on the other hand, became one of my biggest adversaries and tormentors concerning my new found faith. He had even stopped talking to his own brother for many years because he was instrumental in "guiding me" towards my faith along with his wife. Other family members (Aunts and Uncles) were also antagonistic towards me upon my decision to follow Christ, especially the "hard Core Catholics" on my mother's side. I say all this to say that I have been on both sides of the fence so to speak, I came to my faith after years of questions and years of debate and inner struggle. I also faced rejection and persecution from members of my own family and friends in the process.

In the world we currently live in, people are becoming more "polarized" than ever, concerning everything from social and political issues to historical issues. We cannot agree on historical facts, some having been accepted for centuries, and we cannot even seem to come to agreement on scientific facts, such as what determines our gender, or when human life actually begins! Throughout my own lifetime, (I am almost 70), it was not always this confusing, at least I cannot remember it being so. I remember this concept called "Logic," and another called, "Truth." Both of these concepts seem to have been lost somewhere along the way! Throughout my many years of studying the Bible, I found that these two concepts are actually the foundation of the Bible. Many people today claim to be seekers of truth, but reject the Bible, in most cases without having ever studied it themselves! They may refer to what they have heard people say about the Bible, but they have never actually studied it, even to verify what they have heard. This is not what I call being a "Truth Seeker!" People are constantly sucked into the myth that the Bible is full of errors or contradictions, but when pressed to

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reveal, then they present no evidence (there is none). I would concede that there have been many misinterpretations of the Bible, especially by different religious sects, but if honestly researched the truth always prevails. In order to consider the question of "What if the Bible is true," one has to take the time to find out for him, or herself, what the Bible actually says. This requires in most cases, more than a superficial skimming through it. I was taught years ago to use the following formula when studying the Bible: As you read through it, ask yourself three questions... what does the Bible say... what does it mean... and what does it mean to me (you). If you read it using this formula, it will give you a better understanding of the message within. One can find the answer to any question concerning life in the Bible. This includes questions concerning government, marriage, morality, finances, love, hate, sexuality, homosexuality, cross-dressing, even welfare and gluttony. You name it, and you can find the answer in the Bible! These issues are among the most prevalent in the news these days; so, why do you suppose people reject what the Bible says or in most cases never bother to look to see what the Bible says concerning these issues? *Ironically, you can even find the answer to that question in the Bible!*

I challenge all reading this to ask anyone who has been around for more than 60 years whether they feel the world is getting better or worse. I dare say that the majority would say the world is getting worse with each passing year, politically, morally, and socially. I also dare say that people feel the world is getting more evil, more violent, and more confusing. If you are wondering why, this too is answered in the Bible! You see, within the Bible there have been / and still are, many predictions as to things that have happened, are happening, and will happen in the future. Does this not spark the least bit of curiosity in you, doesn't it make you wonder what the Bible really says, ***so you can decide for yourself***, whether it is true or not? If you read the Bible and come away rejecting it, at least you can say you looked for yourself. However, if you come away realizing that it is indeed the true and accurate Word of God, then you must ask yourself the second part of the question... "Where do I stand... with God and His Word?" This is the most important question you will ever face, a question we will all soon have to answer for ourselves. It is important that you base your answer on personal knowledge, not hear say, or someone else's uninformed statements or opinions.