

Chapter 7: Open the books

God on Trial

Let us recap our previous discussions. Our outlook can affect our beliefs. If we are purely focused upon the world we will only see the things of the world. The 'here and now', nothing else. When we try to question what we see we draw closer to truth, and understanding because only the inquisitive mind would ask such questions, and think in such a way as to consider the existence of God. If we don't seek we will not find. It is quite possible that people can live in this world, continue with their lives and never consider its origins or if it was created. Only by opening the mind can we begin to learn the truth because our mind requires a degree of intellectual acceptance that people rarely afford themselves. We have all spent long enough being persuaded that God does not exist. Let us now be fully open to the possibility that He does exist. Let us begin to study the facts.

As we have previously discussed, the subjects of science and religion are introduced and discussed within the school environment but they are treated as opposing viewpoints with no coloration between them. Science is addressed as fact and religion is considered as a lifestyle and a point of few. The discussion of the relation between spiritual teachings and science is not included in our National Curriculum. Therefore as people we may never consider this relationship and as a result we could completely miss a fundamental truth.

The notion of the existence of God has been placed on trial, and the primary witness has not been called to take the stand. Without examining the words within the Bible this is a biased debate. This is your challenge. Dare to read the Bible, to discover its secrets, and to form your own opinions and beliefs through knowledge and understanding rather than ignorance and hearsay. If God is on trial let the defendant speak for Himself.

The True Nature of the Bible

The Bible is quite remarkable and more complex in design than most people would initially realise. However contrary to belief it is not difficult to understand. Many people may have the impression that it is written in Old English and is full of difficult words. There are modern translations available which are easy to understand. The New International Version and the New King James Version are examples of these. It is possible to find a comfortable version to read at most bookstores.

The word Bible is taken from the Greek word biblia, which translates into English as "the books", some dictionaries may define this as "little books". Interestingly the name given to the scriptures is an exact description of what they are, a collection of books gathered together into one book. The scriptures document mankind's creation and interaction with God and can be historically retraced over thousands of years. The fact that the Bible is not just one book but actually a collection of books is contrary to most peoples understanding. Many people have regarded the Bible as one book written by one person. However the Bible contains 66 books and has been written by 40 different authors, being faithfully copied and stored by those dedicated to their preservation, and finally mass produced and available for almost everyone in the world at this time.

Some people regard the Bible as being a book that contains church rituals and stories. However it is worth noting that a large number of the books of the Bible are concerned with foretelling the future. Consider the following:

"The Bible contains 1,817 individual predictions concerning 737 separate subjects found in 8,352 verses. These numerous predictions comprise 27 percent of the 31,124 verses in the whole of the Scriptures. Multitudes of Biblical scholars over the last 2000 years have explored many of these prophecies and their detailed fulfillments, as proven by ample historical evidence."

Konig (2003)

The Bible therefore appears to contain much hidden knowledge and wisdom that most of us have never considered. Of course the scriptures also contains accounts of God's creation and interaction with mankind, including the testimony of Jesus Christ, which are in many ways more important to understand despite the fact that the promise of prophecy may be enticing to some of us, as it was for me in the beginning.

In order to accept or reject these teachings we must examine them completely. For the remainder of this book we will examine The Bible, concentrating upon relevant teachings and passages. This will serve as a guide, discussing interesting facts, and explaining passages. In order to complete this study you will need a Bible. They can be purchased at most bookstores, discretely ordered from online stores (e.g.: Amazon) or browsed online. Most people use the New International Version as this provides a more modern translation albeit slightly paraphrased. The serious student would choose a King James or New King James Version as these are translations, which are a closer match to the original texts. For the purposes of introducing the knowledge and wisdom that is contained within the Bible, a New International Version will suffice. This book will quote from the New King James Version with definitions provided as required.

People have used the words within the Bible in the past for evil purposes. To control, manipulate and justify persecution and prejudice. By studying the scriptures for ourselves we can avoid the influence of corrupted individuals and gain true knowledge of what it can teach us without the baggage of an imposed corporate interpretation, which some religious institutions may attempt to enforce. The Bible's purpose is explained within its own pages. Consider the following:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

Therefore we can understand from this passage that man has written all the books within the Bible as God has inspired them through His interaction with us. They can instruct us as to Gods plans and purposes for mankind, and this world, and guide us in our daily lives. These books also contain secrets, which have been hidden for thousands of years waiting for us to discover them. Therefore let us begin to discover them now.