

Interviews with God

•**I ASK:** *'Can Any Good Come Out of Trouble?'*

•**THUS SAITH THE LORD:**

'All things work together for good to them that love God.' Rom. 8:28.

'Behold, I have refined thee... I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.' Isa. 48:10.

'Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.' Heb 12:11.

'In their affliction they will seek Me early'. Hos. 5:15.

•**TO WHICH I RESPOND:** 'Loving Father, grant me grace to realize that affliction is not an evidence of Thy wrath, but rather a mark of Thy concern for my welfare. Let me learn from my own experience that the chamber of suffering may be the birthplace of precious blessings. I do not pray for trouble, but when it does come, pray that I may profit by the lessons of this stern teacher, and then be more faithful to Thee because of the term which I have spent in this hard but blessed school, Amen.'

Studies on Bible Texts Found in the Drewes Catechism



Dr Luther: 'If this were not sufficient to admonish us **to read the Catechism daily**, yet we should feel sufficiently constrained by the command of God alone, who solemnly enjoins in Deut. 6:6ff **that we should always meditate upon His precepts, sitting, walking, standing, lying down, and rising, and have them before our eyes and in our hands as a constant mark and sign.** Doubtless He did not so solemnly require and enjoin this without a purpose; but because He knows our danger and need, as well as the constant and furious assaults and temptations of devils, He wishes to warn, equip, and preserve us against them, as with a good armour against their fiery darts and with good medicine against their evil infection and suggestion.'

(Triglotta, 571).

The First Commandment

THE PERFECT WORSHIP OF GOD.

The proof text under the First Commandment which **demand perfect worship of God** is in Matthew 4:10 which reads: *'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.'*

How did Jesus Himself come to speak these words?



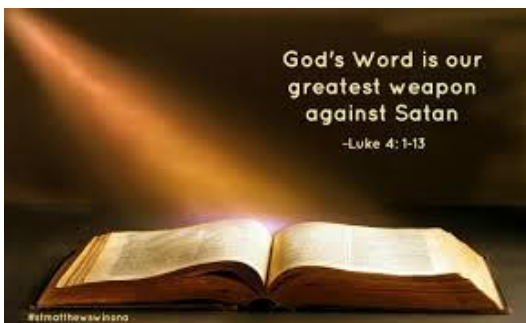
At the end of being constantly tempted by Satan in the wilderness Satan was allowed to take Jesus to a very high, lofty mountain. We see Satan's terrible power that he showed Jesus *'all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them'* (Mat.4:8). Dr. Walther correctly states: 'Satan tried to blind and win Christ through riches, honour, and the lust of this world.'¹ In his arrogance Satan wants Christ to commit the sin of idolatry when he tempts Christ: *'All these things will I give Thee if Thou wilt fall down and worship me'* (Mat.4:9). The Greek word for worship not only refers to adoration but especially means to give 'divine honour, reverence and adoration as to a god.' Satan wanted Jesus to acknowledge him as a god. Jesus could still worship His Father, but Satan wanted to be worshipped as a god also. What a powerful temptation this was! What a powerful temptation it still is, even for true Christians!

Satan especially comes with **fine idolatry**, that is, he offers us money, power, earthly advantages, love of sport, pleasure, lust, greed, friendship with other human beings, if only we will put him first and worship him. We can still talk about Jesus, go to church, and appear religious, but He wants us to put all these things **ahead of Christ** and so worship him. Oh, how many sincere Christians have lost their faith and perished because they have not in child-like faith been **watchful** over against Satan!

How does Jesus answer Satan?

The holy Son of God **takes His stand on Scripture and He emphatically and passionately** quotes **Deut.6:13** adapting it to the present circumstances. Dear young people, the only way we can resist Satan is in faith **fleeing to the suffering and death of our Saviour, Jesus, and resolutely, with steadfast determination take our stand on and quote the appropriate Bible text. From this power he must flee.** To Satan Jesus uses one word in the Greek: 'Be gone and keep on going, Satan!' We would say: 'Get out of my sight, Satan (adversary, enemy)!' It is a command to be obeyed at once and to keep on obeying. It is the expression we would say to someone we have tolerated for some time, but who now offends us very deeply and with righteous anger and earnest indignation we tell them to go and never come back. Here Christ teaches us **NEVER to debate or argue with Satan.**

Jesus answers: *'For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve'* (Mat.4:10). Let us have a look at **each of these words.**



In the Greek the expression, *'It is written,'* means, 'It has been written and is at present on authoritative record in the Old Testament.' **The power of God's Word rightly quoted and firmly used in faith will always defeat Satan.**

When all of the different types of idolatry are placed before us in order to seduce us into sin and to cause us to lose our faith, remember: **(1) Christ's perfect obedience and suffering here in the wilderness overcame and defeated Satan. (2) If we look alone to that atoning, sacrificial work of Christ we too are conquerors with Christ over Satan. (3) That by faith in Christ if we reject him using God's Word he must and will flee at least for a time.**

The word **'thou,'** is in the singular and is addressed to every individual person, even to the unbelievers. Only true Christians who appreciate the wonderful redemptive work of Christ can with the help of the Holy Spirit through God's Word to some degree, imperfectly, **'worship the Lord thy God.'**

In Greek the word *'worship'* means that we are to give **perfect** honour, reverence, respect from Childlike faith to the only true God. This also refers to **putting him first** in thoughts, words, and deeds. It involves hating what He hates and loving what He loves according to His holy Law. Especially, it refers to reading and studying His Word as our greatest treasure, putting attendance at

¹ *Old Standard Gospels*, Walther page 110.

church services first to hear His Word and also **avoiding the idolatry of false teaching which is the worship of Satan**. The adherence to the true doctrine of God's Word in faith is the highest honour and worship of God that we poor sinful beings redeemed by the blood of Christ can give.

In the words, **'the LORD, thy God,'** are contained the greatest and highest names for God. The **LORD**, refers to the **Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Jahweh**, the **'I am that I am,'** the eternal unchangeable God, who always keeps His Word, who is **just** over against sin, but **gracious** through Christ to the poor sinner. The word **'God'** refers to only true, almighty, sovereign God who rules over all things. In Deut 32:39 we read (with comments by Kretzmann): **'See now, by contemplating the fate which struck the foolish idolaters, that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me; Jehovah alone is the true God. I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal; neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand.** To Him, as the almighty God, pertains the absolute power over the creatures of His hand.'

Then Jesus says: **'Him only shalt thou serve.'** This is a further explanation of what true worship of God involves. We are to **serve** God. The Greek word for serve refers to **'sacred service'**. True worship and service of God comes alone from a heart cleansed of its sins by the blood of Christ. We truly worship and serve God when we, out of love to Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit yield our hearts and entire lives faithfully and gladly to do His will. It is **sacred** service because: (1) it flows from faith in Christ (Heb.11:6); (2) it is carried out in accordance with Christ's will (1 Cor.10:31; Matt.5:16); (3) whatever we do in faith for our fellow man, Christ says we are doing for Him (Mat.25:40).

The word **'only'** is very important here. We are to **serve God alone**. The devil was not demanding that Jesus serve Satan alone. He cunningly wanted Jesus to serve and worship him as well as His Heavenly Father. In Matt. 6:24 Christ tells us: **'No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.'** Christ knows that to give any honour, worship or service to Satan is to reject His Father completely. Therefore, Christ states: **'Him only shalt thou serve.'** By faith in Christ our Heavenly Father wants to **rule completely** in our hearts. We are to give Him perfect worship and complete sacred service. There can be no compromise. **Dr. Martin Chemnitz** states on this: 'The devil is not demanding that Christ absolutely not worship God Father, but asks only that Christ defer a little of the Father's honour to him.' (Harmony of the Gospels, Vol.1, Book 2 page 41). But God demands of us in **Is 42:8** (with comments by Kretzmann): **'I am the Lord, Jehovah, the Unchangeable One; that is My name, Ex. 3:14; and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.** The honour of His holy name, over against the false claims of the idols and their servants, demanded this solemn pledge. If He does not send the promised Mediator of the covenant to bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles alike, then He has lost the right to be called Jehovah and to be adored as the true God.'

Dear young people, again we see how much we have sinned, especially against the First Commandment. We have not given perfect reverence, love and trust to God above all things. Our sins are great. For this we deserve God's wrath and eternal punishment. But Christ came to keep the Law perfectly for us **and paid for all our sins so that by faith in Him we shall have eternal life**. Won't we now, out of love to Christ, as much as we can, seek to do as Christ urges: *'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.'*

CAN WE PROVE THE BIBLE IS TRUE? SEVEN COMPELLING EVIDENCES CONFIRM THE BIBLE IS TRUE

This article was Adapted from <https://answersingenesis.org/is-the-bible-true/seven-compelling-evidences-confirm-bible-is-true>. It is a continuation of the series titled: *'Seven Compelling Evidences Confirm the Bible Is True.'*

3. Unity of the Bible

The Bible is unlike any other religious book. Despite an estimated forty different authors writing from three continents over 1600 years, a perfect consistency in its central message is maintained. Its words

point unerringly to Christ, whose work on the cross was ordained by God—the true author of the Bible—before the world began.

Among all the books ever written, the Bible is absolutely unique. It is not just a book— it is a collection of books, 66 altogether. (Bible comes from ‘*biblios*’ = ‘a collection of books’). And one of its most remarkable qualities is the complete unity of the overall message despite having so many different authors writing over many centuries on hundreds of controversial subjects. Natural explanations fail to account for the supernatural character and origin of Scripture.

These facts alone make the Bible one of a kind, but there are many more amazing details that defy natural explanation.

Shepherds, kings, scholars, fishermen, prophets, a military general, a cupbearer, and a priest all penned portions of Scripture. They had different immediate purposes for writing, whether recording history, giving spiritual and moral instruction, or pronouncing judgment. They composed their works from palaces, prisons, the wilderness, and places of exile while writing history, laws, poetry, prophecy, and proverbs. In the process they laid bare their personal emotions, expressing anger, frustration, joy, and love.

Yet despite this marvellous array of topics and goals, the Bible displays a flawless internal consistency. It never contradicts itself or its common theme.

From Genesis to Revelation, we see man’s repeated rebellion against his holy Creator. God made a perfect world, but mankind has continually rejected His authority and sought to decide truth for himself. Nevertheless, God promised to extend His love, grace, and mercy to unworthy people who deserved to be cast into the lake of fire for all eternity.

Early in Genesis after Adam and Eve sinned, God made known His plan of redemption, which He repeatedly promised and expanded upon throughout the Old Testament. The promises were fulfilled according to prophecy: by the Saviour’s sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection, as recorded in the New Testament.

Both the Bible and history weave together in complete harmony, as though the Creator ordained this plan and recorded it in Scripture even before it unfolded in history. God says that He alone can declare the future (Isaiah 42:9), and hundreds of His prophetic predictions have been fulfilled with absolute precision, while others await fulfilment.

Isaiah 42:9: **Behold, the former things are come to pass**, (namely, the deliverance of Israel at the time of their passage through the Red Sea, Ex. 14 and 15), **and new things do I declare**, (the fulfilment of former promises being the guarantee that those herewith uttered will also come to pass); **before they spring forth, I tell you of them.** (‘All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.’ 2 Cor. 1, 20).

The unity of Scripture demonstrates its supernatural inspiration. Only the one true, holy God could provide us with such a flawless Bible that reveals such a matchless message: the Lord’s love through Jesus Christ.

66 Books . . . 1 Message

Despite writing in radically different times and contexts, the Bible’s many authors all told the same message about God’s eternal plan, from Creation and the Flood to Christ’s work on the Cross and the consummation of God’s plan. You can find the same truths stated by Moses and the Old Testament prophets, Christ Himself, and Christ’s apostles.

The First Creation

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Moses, Genesis 1:1.

All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. The apostle John, John 1:3.

Have ye not read that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, Jesus Christ, Matthew 19:4?

Noah’s Flood

*And Noah went in, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the Flood... And all flesh died that moved upon the earth,—*Moses, Genesis 7:7, 21.

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.—the apostle Peter, 2 Peter 3:6.

Noe entered into the ark, and the Flood came, and destroyed them all.—Jesus Christ, Luke 17:27.

Resurrection of Christ

For Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell, (letting it be forgotten in the realms of the dead); neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.—King David, Psalm 16:10.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.—the apostle Paul, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4.

Destroy this temple; and in three days I will raise it up.—Jesus Christ, John 2:19.

The New Creation

For, behold, I create new heavens, (the plural being applied to the abode of the blessed in many passages of the Bible), and a new earth.—the prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 65:17.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth.—the apostle John, Revelations 21:1.

I go to prepare a place for you.—Jesus Christ, John 14:2.

[To find more answers to the most common claims of ‘contradictions in the Bible’, read ‘*The Scripture Cannot Be Broken*’, by Theodore Engelder; ‘*Bible Difficulties*’, and ‘*Does the Bible Contradict Itself*,’ by William Arndt.]

Summary:

Proof The Bible is true without error.

- **UNITY OF THE BIBLE.**

- (a) It took 1600 years to write the Bible.
- (b) God used at least 40 different people to write these 66 books.
- (c) While there is a special reason for each book of the Bible, yet there is

1 Author -God,

1 Purpose - how lost sinners can be saved alone by grace through faith in Jesus Christ,

1 Outline - all the teachings in the Bible are united in the most intimate harmony.

There is no other book on earth that has ever been written that can do this. Therefore the Bible must be God’s Word without error.

- **DESIGN:**

- 1) Old Testament points forward to Christ; New Testament written after Christ’s death and resurrection.
- 2) Law and Gospel
- 3) Doctrines same
- 4) No contradictions
- 5) History, Poetry, Prophecy, Doctrine.

- **PROPHECIES** • Christ

- captivity of Jews
- destruction of Jerusalem
- destruction of Babylon
- last days
- Pentecost
- spread of Gospel in New Testament

Jews: spread over world; as a race, remain until last day.

- **AGREEMENT WITH**

- history
- archaeology —Abraham; Sodom and Gomorrah; Joseph

- science
- **PRESERVATION**
 - Dead Sea scrolls
 - Septuagint
 - Translations
 - Manuscripts

Christ Himself Taught that Every Word of the Bible Is True.

John 17:17, 'Thy Word is truth.'

John 10:35, 'The Scripture cannot be broken.'

- 1) The Bible is absolutely true in every word without any mistakes whatsoever.
- 2) When the Bible also speaks about Science, Geography, History, etc., it is absolutely true, infallible and reliable.
- 3) While the Bible is not a textbook on Science, History, Geography, etc., yet since it is God's Word in every word, what it says about these subjects is true.
- 4) There are many things in the Bible above our human reason to understand, but never against our human reason to grasp.
- 5) Since the Bible is God's Word there can never be any true contradictions in it.
- 6) If there appears to be a contradiction **either there is some information we do not know, or haven't as yet studied to arrive at the solution, or God has not yet revealed the information or it is above our reason to understand.**
- 7) But we must never dare charge the Bible with errors, mistakes or contradictions.
- 8) We can only be certain about our faith, doctrine and salvation if the Bible is absolutely true in every word.

'How do I witness to my co-workers?'

When we interact with people on a daily basis, we have many opportunities for sharing our faith. First, be sure you are respectful to your employer and set a good example in your work ethic by working 'as to the Lord' (Col. 3:23). When others around you grumble and complain, if you have a calm, forgiving, steadfast spirit, it will make an impression. As you respond in a Christlike way to angry co-workers and stressful circumstances, people will see a difference in your life.

If your boss forbids it, don't witness on work time. Instead, keep a pile of Million Dollar Bills (tracts for mission-work) or some other tract on your desk but don't give them out. If someone asks for one, let them take it. Displaying a favourite Scripture or a devotional calendar, or quietly reading your Bible during lunchtime, may prompt others to inquire about your faith.

To not infringe on your employer's time, invite unsaved co-workers out to lunch (not the opposite sex) and witness to them there. Just ask for their thoughts on what happens after death. That will let you know if they are open to the Gospel. If you detect contention, apologize and instead use closet prayer. Make a list of workers and uphold them before God, asking for divine openings.

In the meantime, let your love shine. Always be friendly and courteous, and show genuine interest in your co-workers' lives. Share their joys and sorrows by congratulating them in their good times and offering to pray for them in their bad times. Be sure you do pray for them, then follow up by asking them about the situation you prayed for. They will be moved by your concern. If co-workers are discussing what they did during the previous weekend, you can share your excitement about attending church services or a special church event. Ask about their plans for celebrating Christmas or Easter; be nonjudgmental of their answer, and be ready to explain why you celebrate as you do.

Bringing home-baked goods or leaving a small gift with a note on a co-worker's desk can sometimes have a greater impact than a thousand eloquent sermons. We can show our faith by our works. Others may not like a tree of righteousness, but they cannot help but like its fruit.

1 Peter 2:15 *'For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.'*