

Getting to Know Your Bible

Lesson 8

The Trouble with Proof-texting The Origin of the True Gospel The Organization of the Bible The Jewish Timing of the Day

The Trouble with Proof Texting

An Example!

"Once upon a time, a man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves (Luke 10:30), and the thorns grew up and choked him (Luke 8:7).

And he went on and met the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:10), and she gave him a thousand talents of gold and silver, and a hundred changes of rainment (2 Kings 5:5). And he got in his chariot and drove furiously (Nahum 2:4). And when he was driving along under a tree his hair got caught in a limb and left him hanging there (2 Samuel 18:9).

And he hung there many days and many nights, and ravens brought him food to eat and drink (1 Kings 17:4-6). And one night while he was hanging there asleep, his wife, Delilah, came and cut off his hair (Judges 16:14), and he dropped and fell on the stony ground (Mark 4:5); and it began to rain and it rained forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7:4), and he hid himself in a cave (1 Samuel 13:6).

And he went on and met a man who said, "Come in and take supper with me," (Revelation 3:20) but he said, "I cannot come, for I have married a wife." (Luke 14:20) And the man went out into the highways and byways and compelled him to come (Luke 14:23).

He went on and came to Jerusalem and he saw Queen Jezebel sitting high up in a window (2 Kings 9:30). When she saw him she laughed (Genesis 18:20). And he said, "Throw her down out of there," and they threw her down (2 Kings 9:33). And he said, "Throw her down again," and they threw her down seventy times seven times (Matthew 18:22), and of the fragments they then picked up twelve baskets full (Luke 9:17). Now whose wife will she be in the day of judgment?"(Matthew 22:28).

Author Unknown

What does this story prove? It proves that you can proof-text anything you want to believe by pulling verses out of context! Such practices have caused the development of different gospels through the years. Let's talk about that point for a moment.

The Origin of the True Gospel – God, and Gospel

GOD

God/Good

The Old English word "god" and the Old Saxon word "God" both made it into our modern English, but the two terms are not the same and did not end up the same in modern English.

The Old English word "god" was originally pronounced "good." However, do not try to trace the connection of "good" with our "God," the big "G" God. The real connection is simple. The Old English "god" with a long "o" was the Old English spelling used to say things like "that which is good, a good thing, and goodness," which were initially written as "that which is god, a god thing, and godness." Middle English finally added the extra "o" and spelled the word "good." It has remained that way in Modern English.

Note: Some teach that God was initially named "Good" in English, but that is a false claim that cannot be justified in the development of the word; although, you will find that statement in many sermons and commentaries.

The Old Saxon word "God," German "Gott," and Gothic "Gup" came into modern English as the Supreme Deity. The vowel sound used for the Supreme Deity was retained and came into Modern English with the spelling of "God." This God, with one "o" is our God.

Gospel

The word "Gospel," as we use it today, comes from **the Old Saxon word "Godspell."** The word was coined in Saxon to employ the equivalent of the Greek word *euaggelion*, which in Koine Greek meant a "sacrifice offered in

thanksgiving" and later Koine Greek changed it to signify the "god news" of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Modern believers have changed the wording to be the "good news" because of the misunderstanding of the differences of the words, but that was not original. It was "God's news," which began as "Godspell." The word "spell" in Saxon meant "story, news, or message." Therefore, the Saxon's coined the word "Godspell" to represent the essence of "God's story, God's news, or God's message." Old English picked up the Old Saxon "Godspell" as a name to tell the story of what Jesus did for us; however, because of the negative definition that developed with the word "spell" in association with witchcraft, Middle English dropped the "d" and the last "L," and the word became the "Gospel." Nevertheless, the meaning of the word did not change. Gospel still meant the story or message of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus as it does today.

A Different Gospel

Paul warned the Corinthians and the Galatians of being swept away by a different Gospel than the true Gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Here are the two warnings.

2 Corinthians 11:4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

Galatians 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

In 1830, just thirty years before the American Civil War, Joseph Smith began his work of correcting the King James Version (called the JST for Joseph Smith Translation). In John 1:1, he made the following corrections for his Mormon cult and gospel.

Original King James Version	JST Corrected Wording of the King James Version
<small>John 1:1</small> In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.	<small>John 1:1</small> In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the Word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God.

In Mormonism, Jesus is the spirit brother of Satan; both are created beings. In Mormonism, the gospel is about the requirements to keep the doctrines and the covenants found in the Doctrines and the Covenants written by Joseph Smith. His wording of John 1:1 presents a different gospel than the true Gospel.

In today's Reform movement, taking over many of the Baptist Churches in America, the word "**gospel**" means the eternal divine decree by which God has "**ordained whatsoever comes to pass.**" He has determined, before creation, all that occurs; therefore, He is the cause of all things that happen to you, which includes every thought, desire, attitude, and belief you have ever had, are having, or will have. It includes every act of every person in all history – good or evil. If you commit a crime, God made you commit the crime. If you commit adultery, God made you commit adultery. When you hear the word "**Sovereign**" in a reform teaching, it means that God has predetermined and pre-programmed you, and you have no choice in your life, deeds, actions, or choices. God makes all the choices. Your actions on earth and your eternal destiny are God's choices. Their word "**gospel**" means "divine grace" bestowed on specific individuals chosen out of all the mass of sinful humanity since the beginning of time, all of who are undeserving of salvation. "**Grace**" means God's choice, and they call it the "**gospel of grace.**" It is solely God's will and work. A person has nothing to do with their salvation. You cannot "**call upon the name of the LORD to be saved.**" Your words mean nothing. He has or has not chosen you.

This theology is a different gospel than what we find in the Bible. The LORD God made mankind with the ability to make choices. In Genesis 4, the LORD pleaded with Cain to make the right choice before he killed Abel. The LORD knew what Cain was going to do, yet, He asked Cain to "master" his sinful thoughts before his sinful thoughts mastered him. Cain failed, but it was still Cain's decision. The LORD did not foreordain that Cain would kill Abel. If the LORD had foreordained the killing of Abel, would He have any reason to plead with Cain? Who would want to trust a theology

in a barbaric god who allows babies to be born knowing that He has already doomed them to eternal fire? Instead, wouldn't you want to trust a theology where the LORD Jesus, the Creator of us all, says,

Mt 11:28-30 *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."*

John 11:25-26 *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."*

You have a choice in the place of your eternal destination. Even the thieves on the cross with Jesus had a choice. One chose to curse Jesus. The other decided to defend Jesus. Listen to his conversation with Jesus on the cross that day.

The Thief on the Left Hurled Abuses at Jesus: *"One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, 'Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!'"* (Luke 23:39)

The Thief on the Right Confessed His Sin and Believed in Jesus: *"But the other answered, and rebuking him said, 'Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.'* (Luke 23:40)

The Thief on the Right Trusted in Jesus the Only Way He Knew How: *"And he was saying, Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"* (Luke 23:42)

Then Jesus Accepted the Thief on the Right Because the Thief Believed and Trusted in Him: *"And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.'*" (Luke 23:43)

And that is the way we are all saved for all eternity!

"But what does it say? 'THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART'—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."
 (Romans 10:8-10)

Now We Must End Where We Began

First, the Storylines

1. The Bible is one complete story, told in many little stories that all fit together but told from multiple eyewitness accounts or directly from the mouth of the LORD. All the little stories are told several times with new information added. The stories start with the big picture in a summary and then breaks the story down into particular details in the following stories.
2. In reading and studying the Bible, we must always LOOK AT WHO IS TALKING to determine if what is being said is a good instruction or a bad instruction. Remember, everything that is wrong and everything that is good in this world is covered in the Bible. Always look at the character of the person talking to determine good or evil. By all means, never attribute something to the LORD that He did not say or do.
 - a. **Did the LORD Say It – or Did the LORD Not Say It?** We must be careful to always look at passages that say "Thus says the LORD" because the Bible includes passages where the LORD did not say what is being said. Example:

Hananiah, the prophet, said the following in Jeremiah 28:2-3: *"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I am going to bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon...."*

Jeremiah replied to Hananiah in Jeremiah 28:15-16: *"Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet, 'Listen now, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. Therefore, thus says the LORD, Behold, I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This year you are going to die, because you have counseled rebellion against the LORD.'"*

Hananiah died two months later (Compare Jeremiah 28:1 with 28:17)

b. **Did the LORD Do It – or Did the LORD Not Do It?** Sometimes people in the Bible say the LORD did something that He did not do. Example:

While Saul was sleeping, Abishai said to David in 1 Samuel 26:8: “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time.”

But David replied to Abishai in 1 Samuel 26:9: “Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed without guilt?”

The LORD had not delivered Saul into David’s hands to kill him; the LORD would send the Philistines to do that job later.

Second, the Organization of the Two Testaments

Old Testament	New Testament
The <u>BEGINNING</u> of the Nation of Israel Genesis	The <u>BEGINNING</u> of the Church Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
The <u>ESTABLISHING</u> of the Nation of Israel Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	The <u>ESTABLISHING</u> of the Church Acts
The <u>DEVELOPMENT</u> of the Nation of Israel Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, (<i>Parts of Jeremiah, Parts of Isaiah, Parts of Haggai, Parts of Ezekiel</i>)	The <u>DEVELOPMENT</u> of the Church Romans, 1 st & 2 nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 st & 2 nd Thessalonians, 1 st & 2 nd Timothy, Titus, Philemon, 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd John
The <u>WRITINGS</u> to the Nation of Israel Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes	The <u>WRITINGS</u> to the Nation of Israel 1 st & 2 nd Peter, Hebrews, James, Jude
The <u>PROPHETS</u> of the Nation of Israel Joel, Jonah, Nahum, Obadiah, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Daniel, Amos, Hosea, Haggai, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Micah, Ezekiel, Malachi	The <u>PROPHET</u> of the Church to the Nation of Israel The Revelation

Third, the Jewish Timing of the Day

