

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

## The Word of God—Part One

T. A. McMahon

THE WORD OF GOD is the chief focus of this message.

This is also a survey regarding the way you and I think about the Word of God. It has to do with how seriously we take the Bible to be the actual Word of God.

I took the survey myself as I prepared this message, so I have a good idea of my own thoughts about the Word of God.

I did okay, although there's room for improvement.

Now it's your turn.

This isn't a test. Again, it's a survey between you and the Lord.

I put the Lord in the mix so that I'd remember to be honest regarding my own thoughts in response to the survey. We can kid ourselves, but we can't put anything over on Jesus.

This isn't a judgmental procedure. It's simply a self-evaluation of where we are as Christians. The objective is to get us to where God wants our thinking to be concerning His Word.

So, let's start with this:

Do you believe the Word of God consists of God's actual words that He communicated to men? If you're not sure, what do you think Matthew 4:4 means: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”?

Are you thinking that those who wrote down the Scriptures made their own contributions to it? If so, then what of 2 Peter 1:19-21: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came *not in old time by the will of man*: but holy men of God spake *as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*.”

Although nearly one third of the Bible is prophecy that has to do with foretelling the future, prophecy also consists of all God's words that He wants us to know and obey. We're told that holy men of God, His prophets, received God's words through the Holy Ghost.

Those verses seem to indicate that the prophets simply wrote down what they were given by the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul declares much the same in 1 Thessalonians 2:13: “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the *word of God* which ye heard of us, ye received *it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God*, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

Paul told the Galatians the same: “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is *not after man*. For *I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it*, but by the *revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Galatians 1:11-12).

Based upon those verses (and many more that are found throughout the Bible), do you believe that the Word of God is *entirely and unquestionably* from Him? In other words, that *absolutely nothing* has been added to God's Word from man?

If we come to that conclusion, then all we should need to believe is what the Scriptures declare *unequivocally*. Even so, we can also look to reason. Consider, for example, that God is *infinite* and humanity is *finite*. As finite beings, we are therefore incapable of knowing our infinite God without His input. The only way we can know God is by

His communicating to us directly. Being finite, we are limited to our own ideas about an infinite God.

We can, nevertheless, surmise that God created us. There are only two options for how everything exists: by chance or by design. Chance would be a bad choice, since chance or randomness (aka evolution) in explaining the origin of life and its development explains nothing nor does it prove anything.

Design is the only reasonable choice, given the extraordinary complexity of everything from an atom, to the nucleus of a cell, to our DNA, to the expanse of the universe.

There are nearly 40 trillion cells in the human body, each cell having its own function. A cell's size is smaller than the period at the end of this sentence. The nucleus of a cell occupies about eight percent of the volume of the cell.

That's impressive! Even Richard Dawkins, one of the world's leading evolutionists, has written that the nucleus of a cell has a digitally coded database in information content equivalent to 30 volumes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

Yet he continues to believe that the building information in the nucleus came about randomly. That's ignorance with a purpose.

To the contrary, what does the design we can observe as finite beings (which includes everyone) tell us about the designer? Whatever or whoever brought such complexities into existence must be very intelligent, very powerful, and unlimited in its or their presence. Even infinitely so.

The Word of God refers to those attributes of our Creator as being omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent, and all humanity is held accountable for discerning the difference between our Creator and creation. Yet finite man, for the most part, has rejected a Designer and opted for worshiping mindless creation, i.e., evolution (Romans 1:18-20, 25).

Have you considered the belief that God used evolution as the method with which He went about creating all things? That's referred to as theistic evolution, and it's gaining followers throughout Christendom, even among leading evangelicals.

Many Christians who believe in theistic evolution do so because they think it supports the Bible and science. It does neither. Furthermore, it contradicts the clear teaching of the Word of God (allowing for death to take place before Adam sinned) and it's at odds with the pseudo-science of evolution.

As noted, finite man is held accountable to recognize that the world was created by God: “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:19-20).

Although God's creation attributes “are clearly seen” such as “His eternal power,” they do not answer a host of critical questions about God that finite man cannot discern without God revealing the answers.

Yes, we can conclude that God created us, but we can't know *why* He created us without Him telling us. We can't know about His personal characteristics such as His triune nature, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and His perfect and eternal nature.

Nor can we know His personal qualities, His love, His grace, His mercy, His compassion, His long-suffering or His wrath unless He gives us such information.

Scripture also communicates the history of God's relationship with

mankind, how man was created in perfection, which was followed by his rebellion and eternal separation from his Creator. Then God brought about man's justification and reconciliation through the payment for our sin by the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

That can only be made known to God's created beings through His direct revelation of Himself, that is, the Word of God.

Back to the survey.

How important is the Word of God to you? Is it just an additive to your Christianity? Something you get a taste of each Sunday? If that's your situation you are heading for spiritual malnourishment, if you're not there already.

If you don't think that's the case, here are three basic beliefs that a biblical Christian needs to adhere to in order to grow in and be strengthened and fruitful in the Word of God. These beliefs are the *inerrancy*, the *authority*, and the *sufficiency* of God's Word.

Beginning with the inerrancy of Scripture, do you believe that what God communicated to mankind through His prophets was without error? If you think it may have some errors, then you have to conclude that God must have made some mistakes.

What might those errors be?

If you entertain thoughts that God can make mistakes, what does that tell you about the character of God? How can you completely trust in a God who commits errors?

As for those who accuse God of errors and say that His Word is filled with contradictions, are they influencing your thoughts about God? What might those contradictions be?

What of those who say that many of the Bible's teachings are at odds with science? No pushback on that one.

The question is, however, who is in error, the Creator or the creatures whom He created that are either trying to figure out how creation took place or imposing their own beliefs on how it all came about?

How about the Big Bang? That's said to be where science and religion meet. Really?

Where did the stuff that "banged" come from? When has an explosion ever produced order or exhibited purposeful design?

Remember, we have finite men trying their hardest to assess their infinite Creator. That impossibility notwithstanding, all the accusations can be readily dismissed as false by simply comparing what the unchanging Word of God says with the continual corrections found throughout the history of science.

So, a believer's belief in the inerrancy of Scripture and God himself is foundational to biblical Christianity. What then of the authority of God and His Word?

Authority is closely related to inerrancy in one sense. If someone has a record or reputation of being error free, he is usually considered to be an authority in a certain field or practice. We refer to such a person as an expert.

Our lives continually seek out experts for help in every area where we lack expertise. That would include a seemingly endless list involving our health needs, our financial investments, our education, the laws of our state, our safety, and so on and so forth.

When a serious medical condition arises, we often look to a doctor who has a reputation built on success, one who is considered to be an authority in dealing with the illness we or a loved one is facing. We may even seek out a second opinion from a second authority.

That makes sense regarding physical issues we face temporally. But what about the conditions of life that include not only temporal things but, more importantly, eternal things?

To whom do you look as your spiritual authority? Your pastor? Your seminary or Bible college professor? Your favorite Christian author? A Christian psychologist, or even a Biblical counselor? Or to the Word of God itself?

If your authority is in anything other than God's Word, then God and His Word are no longer your authority. You have turned from the inerrant Word and the perfect One who established it to a fallible and potentially Scripture-corrupting human resource.

The Word of God is its own authority. It is and must be

self-authenticating. If not, then we will likely turn to an authority other than God's Word.

There's another sense of biblical authority that is rarely taken seriously today, and that's related to our thoughts about God being in charge.

Is He or isn't He in charge? Is He not God Almighty "who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein..." (Revelation 10:6)? "For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding" (Psalm 47:7)!

As someone noted, God's Word is not a book of suggestions. If you're treating it that way, you may have drifted into a state of complacency verging on disobedience.

Jesus addressed that condition when He said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Those of us who have children have probably said to them that if they really loved us they would do what we say.

In John 14:23 we read, "If a man love me, he will keep my words," and in John 15:10, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

Again, is it God who is ruling in your life, or have you added your own set of rules?

The third point related to how you are living out the Word of God has to do with sufficiency. That is the tell-tale indicator of where you actually stand regarding the inerrancy and authority of the Bible.

First of all, does the Word of God claim to be sufficient? Consider these verses: "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man [woman, child] of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Notice what is described as the realm in which the Word of God is sufficient: "all things that pertain to life and godliness," "instruction in righteousness," and being thoroughly equipped "unto all good works."

What in a believer's life would not involve godliness, righteousness, and good works? There are some things, however, that do not involve what is right or wrong morally.

For example, auto mechanics or fashion design or medical procedures are amoral. They, in themselves, along with lots of other things, are not what the Bible claims to address. Yet such activities are addressed indirectly by God's Word if their practice involves sin.

Of the three points that are critical for a biblical Christian to believe, it is the *sufficiency of God's Word* that is the most professed yet the least heeded. That's astonishing because it reveals a person's actual belief or disbelief in inerrancy and authority.

If someone claims to believe in the inerrancy and authority of the Word of God but looks to other sources for help with his issues of sin, his ungodliness, unrighteousness, and self-serving activities, Scripture is no longer sufficient for him, it is no longer his authority.

That being the case, a belief in biblical inerrancy is pointless and worse. It's like someone extolling a healthy diet while engaging in gluttony.

Part 2 of this series will focus on the ways and means the church has abandoned the sufficiency of the Word of God. Evangelical shepherds are turning their sheep over to supposed experts as authorities that are antichrist in their theories and therapies. Many are even encouraging their flocks to look to visual translations of the Word of God produced by cult members such as *The Passion of the Christ* and *The Chosen*. Obviously, they do not truly believe the words of our Lord and Savior: "If ye continue in *my word*, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

TBC

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708  
or e-mail: [editorial@thebereanall.org](mailto:editorial@thebereanall.org)

**QUESTION:** In “The Chosen Livestream: Our 2022 Launch” on Youtube (see <https://bit.ly/3schKTh> at 1:49), Derral Eves (a Mormon) says he is “excited . . . to go after the unreached.” Are the biblical Jesus and the Mormon Jesus the same?

**ANSWER:** “For if he that cometh preacheth *another Jesus*, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive *another spirit*, which ye have not received, or *another gospel*, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him” (2 Corinthians 11:4, italics added).

The apostle Paul warns that some will present a “Jesus” to the church who is *not* the Jesus of the Bible but is one who brings a spirit that is *not* the Holy Spirit and a gospel that is *not* the one that can save men’s souls. Paul’s concern is that some members of the church will embrace and “bear with” a false Christ.

*The Chosen’s* director, co-writer, and chief publicist, Dallas Jenkins, has gone on record stating that the Mormon Jesus is the same as the Bible’s Jesus. In an interview Jenkins did in May of 2020 on a Mormon program, he stated:

“I can honestly say . . . one of the top three most fascinating and beautiful things about this project has been my growing brother-and-sisterhood with people of the LDS community that I never would have known otherwise, and learning so much about your faith tradition and realizing, gosh, for all the stuff that maybe we don’t see eye to eye on, that all happened; that’s all based on stuff that happened after Jesus was here. The stories of Jesus, we do agree on, and *we love the same Jesus*. That’s not something that you often hear. . . . *I mean I’ll sink or swim on that statement*, and it’s controversial, and I don’t mind getting criticized at all for the show, and *I don’t mind being called a blasphemer*. . . . I’ve made it very clear that if I go down, I’m going down swinging, protecting *my friends and my brothers and sisters*. . . . I don’t deny we have a lot of theological differences, but *we love the same Jesus*” (italics added).

In the book *The God Makers*, Ed Decker and Dave Hunt state:

“Mormon missionaries claim to be bringing true Christianity to the world. . . . When questioned, Mormons insist that their gospel comes from the Bible and that they have the same God and the same Jesus as Christians. In actual fact, they have a completely different God from what the Bible presents, a different Jesus, and a different gospel. These differences are denied or glossed over by the missionaries, who are often evasive and unwilling to tell the whole truth to a prospective convert for fear of losing him.”

Below is a list of some of the “attributes” of the Mormon Jesus:

- Jesus is Lucifer’s brother.
- Jesus is a spirit child conceived through physical means between an exalted man (Heavenly Father) and the virgin Mary.
- Jesus is not eternal and had a beginning (i.e., not part of an eternal Trinity).
- Jesus was not always God but earned his way to godhood just as we will become gods someday.
- The work of the Mormon Jesus was insufficient for man’s salvation, and to complete it, one has to believe in Joseph Smith that he came from God to restore the church (i.e., Smith has a role in salvation).
- Mormon doctrine teaches that without our own righteousness, there is no forgiveness of sins (contrary to Romans 4:5 and many other Bible verses).

These, and many other teachings of the Mormon church, clearly show that the Mormon Jesus is *not* the same as the Jesus of the Bible. For Dallas Jenkins to say otherwise helps to legitimize Mormonism as true Christianity and to bring it into the evangelical fold.

In 2021, Dallas Jenkins further defended what he calls his “brothers and sisters” in the Mormon religion when he states: “[The] calling of my life is to make the *authentic* Jesus known to the entire world, and *anyone* who’s going to help me do that *is welcome*” (italics added).

Jenkins’s open invitation to “anyone” who wants to help present his alleged “authentic” Jesus is a prime example of what the apostle Paul was warning about in 2 Corinthians 11:4.

By calling Mormons his brothers and sisters (obviously in a spiritual sense), this implies there is no reason to introduce them to the one eternal God and evangelize them to a true biblical faith.

(THIS IS AN EXCERPT FROM A NEW LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS BOOKLET TITLED *THE CHOSEN SERIES: 10 CRITICAL CONCERNS*. FOR MORE DETAILS SEE COVER PAGE OR GIVE US A CALL TODAY! THE BOOKLET IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT [WWW.LIGHTHOUSETRAILS.COM](http://WWW.LIGHTHOUSETRAILS.COM))

**QUESTION:** In your book *The Seduction of Christianity* you said, “If there is not clear teaching in the Bible to support such a practice, it should not be adopted by the church today.” My pastor said that application of this would mean that one could lose salvation for baptizing infants, since that is not “in the Bible.” And he suggested that the statement ought rather to be, “Unless a practice is clearly prohibited or contradicted in the Bible, it may be adopted by the church.” Please explain your position.

**RESPONSE:** It is clear that we have some basic misunderstandings. First, the book *Seduction* was dealing, at that point, with a specific subject: the introduction of psychological methods for producing a spiritual wholeness for which the Bible claims to have the only and sufficient answer, and the statement you quote (from page 179) must be understood in that context, not as a blanket statement applying to everything and anything. Second, *Seduction* does not suggest that the adoption of a practice not supported by clear teaching in the Bible will cause anyone to lose his salvation.

Finally, even if applied generally, the *Seduction* statement is at least safer than the pastor’s. He admits that infant baptism is not in the Bible, so according to his statement it may be adopted, but according to *Seduction* it should not be. Which is right? Although baptizing an infant will not cause the infant to lose its salvation, it could lead that person later in life to imagine that he is saved because of being baptized as an infant, when in fact he is not. This misconception could then prevent him from ever being saved. We ought not to adopt infant baptism, because it is not supported by Scripture, and its practice undermines the biblical teaching on salvation, whereby baptism does not save and is not for the unsaved, but is only practiced by those who are already saved.

**QUESTION:** I have a question that only leads to more questions: What should I expect from a relationship with Jesus? Some would tell me that the sky is the limit when it comes to God, who will control my life and guide my thoughts and actions. Others make it sound like we can just ask and get whatever we want from him.

**RESPONSE:** The concept of “name it and claim it” is the pathway to disaster. We don’t tell God what to do or what to give us; we submit ourselves to His holy will in everything. There is nothing so thrilling as to be in God’s will and see Him at work in and through us. Yes, there will be trials and triumphs. As to what we can do? Meditate on God’s Word. Tell Christ frequently that you love Him and want to love Him more and know Him better. You will find then that you have plenty of evidence that He is there and that He hears your prayers.



Dear TBC,

In one YouTube video, [Dallas] Jenkins, talking to the “Jesus” actor, says, “We have these running gags that Jesus can raise the dead, he can heal the sick, but he’s horrible with directions... so that Jesus can’t get directions right for the life of him.... So that became a running gag of almost every scene that involved travel. You were always turning left instead of right. The disciples were always going, ‘Jeeze!’” So not only blasphemous disrespect but

## TBC NOTES

### *The Bewitching Power of The Chosen*

It’s astonishing how popular *The Chosen* has become and continues to increase among evangelicals, even though more than a few (thankfully so) have not watched the series nor do they care to. Some of those who have shunned the series have done so because they are aware that the Word of God condemns the programs for adding men’s ideas to what’s presented in Scripture.

That condemnation is stated unequivocally in Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32: “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.” Furthermore, whatever is added is a lie: “Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:6).

*The Chosen* backstories of the biblically derived characters that have been added to what God’s Word presents—are lies. The added dialogues, the added film story plots, the added highly dramatic scenes, the added characters (some added for social/political correctness purposes), and the unbiblical even blasphemous character traits of *The Chosen*’s Jesus, are all lies.

If they are not true to God’s Word, what else could they be but lies? Again, that Bible-believing Christians would be deceived by *The Chosen* is astonishing. At the same time, I’m not surprised. Grieved, but not surprised.

Here are a few reasons, which I give mainly for prayer, for church leaders and their fellowships, as well as individual believers, that have been caught in this snare of the adversary (2 Timothy 2:26). Most Christians would rather watch a dramatized biblical movie rather than read the Word. Like sheep, they would rather follow the flock led by their shepherds than be like the Bereans (Acts 17:11). Much, if not most of Christendom, has turned from reason to emotionalism, which is central to the bewitching power of motion pictures.

In addition to our prayers for deliverance for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been bewitched, ask the Lord for opportunities to minister to them according to 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

also taking the Lord’s name in vain. In a scene where Andrew is a clumsy dancer and Jesus is asked to help him, he says, “Some things even I cannot do.”

There are other scenes where “Jesus,” under the guise of humor, effectively denies his divine power and nature. I have only watched the first episode (at the urging of an enthusiastic fan) and it didn’t really impress me. It was The Berean Call’s recent article that tipped me off to the Mormon connection, and I have recently watched several pro- and anti-*Chosen* videos, some of which contained clips from the series. I have also watched a video of Jenkins gushing about what an honor and amazing opportunity it was to meet the “pope” while also exposing his determined and unshakable belief that Mormons and Christians are “brothers and sisters” and “love the same Jesus.” He says he is willing to die on that hill. Unfortunately it is not a hill, rather an abyss of heresy.

It occurs to me that *The Chosen* is similar to the blasphemous and heretical book *The Shack* in the way it attempts to make Jesus more attractive to unbelievers by making Him more human. That might be OK if it did not depart from the Jesus revealed in Scripture and especially if it were not at the expense of the truth of Christ’s divine nature. In *The Shack*, Jesus is portrayed as someone who cannot catch a fish that he wants to catch and at one point he drops a bowl of sauce and is called “Old greasy fingers” and “clumsy” by the two other bizarre supposed members of the Trinity present in the shack. Sorry, but I would not put my eternal future existence in the hands of someone who cannot even walk across the room without dropping something. In contrast, my Savior and Lord holds in perfect balance every subatomic particle in every one of the billion galaxies in the vast universe he spoke into existence out of absolutely nothing. DB (email)

Dear TBC,

“For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:8-10). I always like how, no matter what the topic is, the Bereans keep coming back to salvation through faith in Jesus alone. BA (email)

Dear TBC,

If a man is not “elect,” that means (according to Calvinism) that he has no choice in the matter of salvation, right? If election overrides choice, and man can’t choose because he’s not elect, how can he go to hell, seeing that he’s not guilty of making the wrong choice or any choice? The ability to choose assumes that man, not God, is accountable for the decisions that he makes. LC (email)

## QUOTABLE.....

We mustn’t excuse our sinning by passing the buck to the old nature. That is a form of blame-shifting that will not work. God holds the person responsible, not the nature. Perhaps you’ve heard the fictitious story of the speeder who said to the judge, “Your honour, it was my old nature that was speeding.” To which the judge replied, “I fine your old nature £50 for speeding, and I fine your new nature £50 for being an accessory.” Blaming the old nature just isn’t the way to go.

—WILLIAM MACDONALD

# NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise  
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

## IS MOTHER EARTH ANGRY?

**MIDWESTOUTREACH.ORG, 2/17/22, "IS MOTHER (EARTH) ANGRY?" [EXCERPTS]:** One of the themes of the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, UT, was apologizing to Mother Earth. Gaia worship was pervasive in the main sessions and exhibition hall. "Mom" is sick, and it is our fault. In addition to public sessions of repentance, there was a booth accepting "Love Notes to the Earth."

It seems British ecologist and futurist, James Lovelock, is of the opinion that Gaia has indeed had enough and is fighting back. John Stonestreet writes in, "A Gaian Interpretation of COVID and the World":

"Gaia" is the ancient Greek goddess who personified Earth, and the theory behind it is one Lovelock pioneered in the 1970s. The idea is that Earth is a single complex organism with its vast amounts of life striving to balance and correct its ecology, sort of like a huge immune system.

From that worldview foundation, Lovelock offers this extreme conclusion: "Covid-19 may well have been one attempt by the Earth to protect itself." He means, of course, that the earth was attempting to protect itself from humans. If people continue to egg on the planet he warns, "Gaia will try harder next time with something even nastier."

"Climate Change" advocates are the prophets, priests, and worshippers promoting the modernized religion. This updated version of the ancient Greek goddess, Gaia, who personified the earth is Federally funded, mandated, and citizens are required to perform obedience by donating to the religion's support through taxation. Heretics will be punished, perhaps even killed by "Mom!"

(<https://bit.ly/3oVUiBJ>)

## FACELESS DOLLS TO AVOID OFFENDING MUSLIMS

**JIHADWATCH.ORG, 1/26/22, "FRANCE: SOME TOY STORES SELL FACELESS DOLLS TO AVOID OFFENDING MUSLIMS":** It isn't an "ultra-radical version of Islam, which forbids the depiction of human beings"; it's at this point standard, mainstream Islam, to avoid the temptation to idolatry. In any case, this is one small indication of how Islamic mores are becoming commonplace in some areas of France.

In Roubaix, some toy shops sell faceless dolls to comply with an ultra-radical

version of Islam that forbids the depiction of humans.

"In the Islamic tradition, the representation of the human figure has given rise to very diverse interpretations, and in fact, there is no unanimous condemnation," [Jocelyne Cesari, a specialist in contemporary Islam at Harvard] explained in 2014 [to] *Slate*.

(<https://bit.ly/3503v4x>)

## BACTERIAL COMPLEXITY

**ICR.ORG, 2/7/22, "BACTERIAL COMPLEXITY" [EXCERPTS]:** Yet another layer of complexity has been added to the lowly bacterial cell. It has been discovered they can undergo genetic silencing to guard themselves from mutations. A researcher stated this finding is "an extremely important system that had not been appreciated until now."

Prior to this discovery, it was thought all parts of the circular chromosome of the bacteria were fully expressed. In other words, the bacterium could not control chromosome accessibility.

The article states, "Bacteria can become infected with viruses that integrate into their genomes, becoming genetic elements called prophages. Under certain conditions, these prophages can lead to the death of the bacterial cell. Finding and silencing these regions is critical for the cell's survival."

Now it's been discovered bacteria can regulate their gene (DNA) expression by way of a simple but interesting energy-rich molecule called polyphosphate (or polyP)—ubiquitous in the living world. It targets a specific protein in the bacterial genome (the total genetic information) that contains problematic elements (e.g. prophages), preventing their transcription (production of RNA molecules using the bacterial DNA strand as a template). Such an important step silences parts of a bacterium's chromosome (genetic elements) that can cause problems such as harmful mutations. When polyphosphate is absent there is a mobilization of deleterious transposons (DNA elements) and prophages, resulting in cell death via DNA damage.

This discovery of self-protection through selective genetic silencing indicates that bacteria are once again far from simple cells and reflects the mind of the all-wise Creator.

(<https://bit.ly/3LKsjyv>)

## THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt  
Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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\*Purchase *A Very Present Help* and *East Wind* in SET116 (see below) — get Ruth Hunt's DVD *Come to Jesus and Rest* for FREE!



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**Ruth Hunt**—Originally published in 1976 by Fleming H. Revell with the title *Sparrow on the Housetop*, The Berean Call is pleased to present this edition of Ruth Hunt's incisive look into the lives of some of the Bible's most interesting characters. From Adam and Eve to Samson to David and beyond, we may catch glimpses of ourselves in the feats and foibles and even the deep loneliness of these very human characters through whom God chose to work amazing acts that would shape and rock the very world in which we live today. We tend to put the various individuals in the Bible into

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**ABOUT RUTH HUNT:** *Ruth was raised in a godly home. Her family tree goes way back to a Mennonite ancestry in the Netherlands. Her father became a beloved preacher among these fervent believers. Ruth followed her university graduation with teaching and administrative careers. A highlight was her marriage of 60-plus years to author/lecturer Dave Hunt and the gift of four lovely children. Ruth passed away on October 24, 2013.*



### East Wind

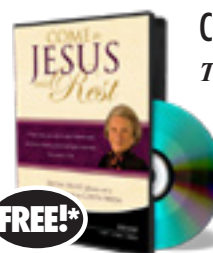
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stories, and although *East Wind* fits this description, it is far more than just another war story. We are grateful to Ruth Hunt for the opportunity to preserve this valuable literary work, and we present it as a true Christian classic for edification, enrichment, and enjoyment. The Berean Call, 240 pp.

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### The Chosen Series — 10 Critical Concerns

**LHT Editors**—The incredibly popular series *The Chosen* is being described as a “global phenomenon” and growing “movement” that is creating the groundwork for world “revival.”

However, there are some critical concerns about this series and where it is heading. As T. A. McMahon wrote in the December 2021 TBC newsletter: “Those who are drawn to the Jesus of *The Chosen* have been seduced into believing in a character who is not the perfect God/Man presented in God’s Word, but rather a man-made counterfeit Christ whose ministry had to be enabled through the input of his disciples. That’s not the Jesus Christ of God’s inerrant, infallible, and all-sufficient God-breathed Word. Those who claim to believe the Scriptures but are drawn to *The Chosen* need to heed the Bible’s far-reaching warning in Matthew 24:24-25. Lighthouse Trails, 19 pp.

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