

THE REAL GOSPEL

An Examination of the Plan of Salvation for Mankind

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CRISIS IN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOLY BOOKS AND BELIEVERS

Nobody Seems to Know What the Gospel Is

MODERN CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM are the world's major monotheistic religions, and comprise upwards of 3 billion people. Christian means one who deifies Jesus and supposedly follows Jesus, and Christians claim the Bible as their holy book. Islam means submission to the will of God, and a Muslim is one who submits, but Muslims only follow the teachings of Muhammad. Muslims heed only the Qu'ran as their holy book, in spite of the lip service they give to Jesus and prophets of the Bible. Aside from claiming to be monotheistic, there is a single major point of agreement between both religions, and that is the gospel. "Gospel" refers to gospel of the Kingdom of God taught by what both groups consider to be the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth in the years 26-30 CE.

Unbelievably, another common point between these two immense religious groups is that *neither* knows or understands what that gospel is.

There are pretenders on both sides. Muslims claim the Qu'ran says all that needs to be said about the gospel. Christians claim the apostle Paul, an evangelistic preacher who never met or knew Jesus and never heard him teach, said all there is to say about the gospel in his letters that are recorded in the Bible. Fundamentalist Christian preachers assert with every fiber of their being that one must accept on faith the death of Jesus as an atoning sacrifice for their sins, or one will burn in hell forever. They say *that* is the gospel. Muslim clerics likewise preach that those who don't follow the teachings of Muhammad will burn in hell forever, and they basically ignore the gospel.

Amidst the vituperative, strident claims of both Muslims and Christians as to the rightness of their positions, and their claim to have a firm grasp on the tenets of the gospel, that gospel is not specifically enumerated in either the Bible or the Qu'ran. And that explains why you can ask a Muslim or Christian to tell you what the gospel is and get anything but the truth and a straight answer, particularly if you ask them to cite their sources of authority. Clearly, there is a serious breakdown of communication between the holy books and their purported believers.

To make matters worse, this utter darkness is complicated by the death-grip Christian and Muslim clerics have on the light of truth. Obscured by mountains of ritual, doctrine, tradition, and ecclesiastical snobbery, the gospel never makes its way into the hearts and minds of Christian and Muslim believers. Fundamentalist preachers use all kinds of techniques to keep the truth obscured. They threaten, badger, cajole, ridicule, ostracise, accuse of heresy, and on occasion even kill those who threaten their hegemony by exposing the truth.

Fortunately, the truth-seeker need only read the holy books for himself to discover what the gospel is. I am writing this article to assist in the process by pointing to specific scriptures that reveal the truth, and by denouncing the principle lies that have been told on the subject for nearly two millennia.

THE ACTUAL GOSPEL

The "gospel" is the religion Jesus taught and lived throughout his four-year public ministry during the years 29 to 30 CE, inclusive. Click on the links to see the associated scriptural text, all of which is at the end of this article. The only ancient document that specifies the gospel is the Bible, particularly the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, however faulty the record may be. The Qu'ran only makes mention of it, but does not stipulate it. The gospel consists of

1. Acceptance of the truth of the Fatherhood of God
[MATTHEW 23:9](#), [JOHN 17:3](#), [JOHN 6:40](#)
2. Belief in the fact of the Brotherhood of Man
[MATTHEW 12:50](#), [MARK 3:35](#), [MATTHEW 18:35](#)
3. Faith in the effectiveness of the supreme human desire to do the Father's will, be like him
[MATTHEW 7:21](#)

The Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man are the warp and woof of the fabric of Jesus' life and teachings. The above three points pervaded his public and private discourses from the ordination sermon on the mount to the final moments before his ascension into Heaven. They are good news to all who suffer oppression and hardship, and to any who seek truth, beauty, and goodness in eternity. They rigorously break the grip of tradition, conventionality, and religious law. They are the core of all revealed religion of the past, present, and future.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

According to Jesus himself, from the same Bible all Christians profess to believe,

1. God forgives man's sins when man forgives the sins of others against him
[MATTHEW 6:14](#), [MARK 11:25](#), [LUKE 6:37](#)
2. Man lives forever by loving God and fellow man
[LUKE 10:25-28](#), [MARK 12:28-31](#), [JOHN 5:24](#)
3. Man receives a high estate in heaven by delivering unselfish loving service to others
[JOHN 13:34](#), [LUKE 6:35](#), [MATTHEW 5:16](#), [MATTHEW 7:21](#); [MATTHEW 23:11](#)

The above three points, taught directly by Jesus and not by his wayward apostles, constitute salvation. Next time you talk to a fundamentalist Christian preacher, ask him if having your sins forgiven, living forever, and having a high estate in heaven constitute salvation. If he says no, you know he is either lying or misinformed.

Since loving God and your fellow man lets you live forever, and forgiving the sins of others gets you God's forgiveness, of what merit is the absurd notion that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins? How can such diametrically opposed doctrines both be true? They cannot be true, much to the chagrin of fundamentalist clerics who want to make you skulk in fear of eternal damnation.

More to the point, this plan of salvation is not for idle slackers. The religion of Jesus requires *action* from its devotees. It is not enough merely to be nice to others, a follower of Jesus must be *good* and *loving* to others.

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

In fact it cannot be true that the atonement doctrine invented by Paul and the gospel brought directly to the people of this by Jesus from the Heavenly Father are both true. Only the gospel of Jesus can be true. Here is why:

1. Jesus came to this world specifically to teach the Gospel
[LUKE 4:43](#)
2. Jesus spoke directly for the Father
[LUKE 4:17-19](#), [JOHN 4:34](#), [JOHN 3:17](#)
3. The Father himself ordered people to heed Jesus
[MATTHEW 17:5](#), [MARK 9:7](#), [LUKE 9:35](#)
4. Jesus is the only Gospel authority and people should believe what he said, for that will give them salvation
[JOHN 5:24](#), [JOHN 6:40](#), [JOHN 3:16](#)

THE APOSTASY OF PETER AND PAUL

The typical religious philosophy of fundamentalist Christians was also the personal religious belief of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Beginning with Peter's tempestuous Pentecostal sermon on the "risen Christ" a few hours after Jesus ascended into heaven, and ending with Paul's sermons and letters, the errant apostles, supplanted the religion OF Jesus with a religion ABOUT Jesus.

They started by claiming Jesus is Lord. While it is true that Jesus IS Lord, according to his own [comments](#) just before ascending, it is not true that his exalted status had anything to do with the gospel. The "risen Christ" sermon of Peter contrasts with and even contradicts the direct gospel teachings of Jesus. As such, it is the most blatant proof that revelatory religion is always corrupted and perverted by religious views of the day and age. Jesus had not been gone from the earth for 8 hours before Peter started changing the religion of Jesus into a religion about him.

Furthermore, Paul injected Greek Philosophy, Mithraism, and Judaism into his personal religious philosophy. Even worse, he reverted to the pagan roots of Judaism by reviving the concept of human sacrifice to atone for sin. Bible readers will recall that Abraham was in the act of [murdering](#) his own son Isaac as a human sacrifice when an angel of the Lord stayed his hand. It took 500 years of such nonsense before Moses instituted the practice of ransom payment as a means by which fathers could avoid sacrificing their first-born sons. It took another 1500 years before Jesus finally terminated the practice of sacrifice with a ritual of drinking wine and eating bread, in reality sitting down to any meal with loved ones.

Thus, Christianity, the religion of Paul (not Jesus), is just another cult derived from pagan beliefs of the day, prevailing Judaism, Greek philosophy, some of the teachings of Jesus, and a masterful fraud about the significance of the death of Jesus. It is not based on the unequivocal teachings of Jesus, and religious life of Jesus, and how he lived it, the three of which really were the point of Jesus' mission here on earth.

WHY THE ATONEMENT DOCTRINE CANNOT BE TRUE

Furthermore, fundamentalist Christianity's atonement doctrine is completely insulting to God and cannot be true. If it were true, that would mean God is an unjust and corrupt thug, for these reasons:

1. According to fundamentalist Christians, God (perfect) cannot have relationship with man (imperfect and born in original sin inherited from Adam) unless some kind of atoning sacrifice is paid that washes away the imperfection. Fundamentalist Christians maintain that no one is, was, or can be perfect other than Jesus. And yet Jesus taught his followers that the spirit of God indwells all of us ([Luke 11:13](#), [Luke 17:21](#), [Matthew 12:28](#)), and he encouraged everyone to be perfect ([Matthew 5:48](#)). Fundamentalist Christians' contention that we are separated from God by a "sin nature" is completely illogical, and a contradiction of the teachings of Jesus that we are united with God already, and must merely embrace our son-ship on faith in order to be "saved" ([John 3:16](#), [John 5:24](#)).
2. God's ten commandments tell people not to kill ([Exodus 20:13](#)). Yet, according to Fundamentalist Christians, God ordered the death of Jesus to pay for sins. That would make God complicit in the murder of Jesus.
3. God, according to Fundamentalist Christians, required the death of Jesus.. Yet, Jesus lived a perfect human life ([John 8:46](#), [Luke 23:4](#)). In fact, he was God's only begotten son ([John 3:16](#)), a being nearly God's equal ([John 10:30](#), [John 14:9](#), [Matthew 12:8](#)). For God to require the death of such a being would make God unjust in killing an innocent person for the sins of other persons.
4. God is supposed to be fair ([Acts 10:34](#)), and yet, according to Fundamentalist Christians, he accepted the sacrificial death of Jesus (human sacrifice) as a bribe so that he would not render harsh judgment against other, unrighteous, people. That would make God just another corrupt mafia chief. It is utterly illogical that a bribe could buy God's favor, not even the sacrifice of a perfect human, particularly since that human was not the one whose sins needed atoning. Jesus himself rebuked the concept of sacrifice ([Matthew 9:13](#), [Matthew 12:7](#), [Mark 12:33](#)).
5. According to many references in the Bible, God is a God of love (e.g., [1John 4:8 & 16](#)), evident in the loving regard Jesus had for people. It is anything BUT loving to kill or to require the death of a perfect, only begotten Son of God.

THE RELIGION OF JESUS IS FOR ALL RELIGIONISTS

Let us be frank. Available man-written records of purported revelations abound, but only a few can really be taken seriously. Of those few, fewer yet are substantive, noble, and consistent enough to be of salient value to mankind. To any honest truth-seeker and student of history and philosophy, the revelation of Jesus is the cream of the crop, top of the ladder and pick of the litter. It stands in stark contrast to lesser beliefs, but it is able to unify the noblest on the world today.

1. The religion of Jesus is a friendly religion to all people on all worlds for all time ([Luke 12:32](#)). Paul and the apostles, and those who followed, corrupted that religion into Christianity, a white man's religion. Its core concept, the atonement doctrine, is insulting to people of intelligence and knowledge, for it makes a mockery of the fairness, justice, goodness, integrity, and honor of God. Christian-cult concepts alienate Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and followers of all other religions, or of no religion at all. What Falwell needs to do is to get back to the basics of the gospel Jesus actually taught, and forego the errant personal views of the Apostle Paul.
2. The bible appears to have been based on at least three (and possibly four) revelations of truth brought by celestial beings to this world: that of the Prince of Peace (possibly), Adam and Eve many thousands of years ago, Melchizedek four thousand years ago, and Jesus two thousand years ago. However, it is

hopelessly riddled with inconsistencies and contradictions, plus secular and religious history of the Jews, both of which are inaccurate and much edited to make the Jews seem favored above all other people. The truths it contains are obvious to most truth seekers, but it is not all true and accurate. Fundamentalist Christians assert against common sense and known fact the bible is infallible, and for that reason they are self-deceived liars. Since they assert the bible is the infallible, inerrant, factual, true word of God, they are saying that both Jesus and Paul were right in their contradictory views about religious truth, even though Paul admitted being a prevaricator and sinner, and he was know for his past rabidly fanatic persecutions of the followers of Jesus.

3. Fundamentalist Christians are right in their assertions that the Qu'ran and Muhammad are not accurate and do not supercede the religion of Jesus. However, but that makes Islam no less valid as a monotheistic religion promoting social justice and devotion to God's will. Muhammad was an illiterate warrior and religious leader, and the Qu'ran is likewise riddled with inaccurate recountings of biblical history. The reason so many fundamentalist Muslims are violently hateful toward Hindus, Jews, and Christians is that Muhammad encouraged Muslims to die fighting in holy jihad (struggle against injustice), and almost anything one does can be considered unjust to a Muslim looking for a reason to fight. One can read the Qu'ran and accept any conflicting comment as the specific truth to follow in order to achieve one's aims.
4. In the Qu'ran, Muhammad admonishes all Muslims to heed and follow the Gospel of Jesus ([Qur'an 3:52-63](#)). In the Bible, Jesus admonishes all his followers to teach all that he commanded (principally the Gospel) to all nations ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). I have never met a Muslim who has any idea what that Gospel is. I have met very few Christians who know. But that gospel is the hope of the future for those who would like to see Muslims and Christians united, for it is the one core principle both "think" they believe. How ironic they are so much at odds with one another.
5. If a person embraces the religion of Jesus, it shows in the person's life. How you live your life is a reflection of what you believe. If you truly trust and love God and believe his ambassadors, you do what he tells you to do, particularly when you can see it makes sense and seems to be "right". A person who accepts sonship with God is part of the administration of the universe, and is responsible first of all for the wise administration of his own domain - his own life and surroundings. A person who is a good steward of his own life will be given greater responsibility later. A person who shows wisdom in maintaining honorable and friendly relations with others is worthy of increased responsibility. A person who is wise in both areas is truly sincere in following the command of Jesus to be perfect (on earth) as our Father is (in Heaven).

EPOCHAL REVELATION

Many religious leaders of all faiths seem oblivious to the reality that the true revelation upon which they base their presently faulty beliefs did at one time supplant existing and firmly entrenched religious beliefs of a past generation or epoch. There have been many revelations from celestial beings to the people of this world. Some have been merely personal revelations to individuals to lighten their lives a bit. Some have been significant to a group or generation of people. And some have been truly epochal in significance and relevance to the entire world for all time.

People tend to be evolutionary in that they progress from profound ignorance, superstition, and prejudice to levels somewhat less arrogant and obtuse. For this reason, revelators seem to give them new truth in doses they are competent to understand, absorb, and embrace. Therefore, modern religious leaders should all be aware that what they believe is not only an aberration of an earlier revelation, but that it will also be supplanted by a new epochal revelation. If today's religious leaders are not prepared to embrace and promote the new revelation, they will just become so much more of the dust of history.

Today's Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto, and Shaman leaders have an obligation to themselves and their followers to be devoted more to a pursuit of divine truth than to pulpit-pounding and brow-beating their flocks into accepting present-day dogma, particularly when it is based on the writings of human beings, as all of the above are. It might behoove them to be on the lookout for a new, epochal revelation of truth for all mankind, one like The Urantia Book (<http://www.urantia.org/>). Aside from purporting authorship by celestial beings, it is a masterpiece of American Language literature, and philosophically consistent throughout its 2097 pages. The last third of the book is devoted to the life and teachings of Jesus, and it perfectly corroborates the position I have taken on the gospel. I recommend it highly for all truth-seekers and religionists.

DAMAGE BY PUNDITS

Christian pundits have for nearly 2000 years done untold damage to the spread of the real Gospel Jesus taught and commanded his followers to teach because they entrap souls with fear of eternal damnation, not by attraction to a loving Heavenly Father.

Had early Christians stuck to the original Gospel of Jesus, their religion would have conquered the hearts of the people of the Mideast, Asia, and Africa. Instead of 4 billion disparate and bickering Christians, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists who see themselves as mostly superior to everyone else and still have errant beliefs, the world would have 4 billion followers of the universally appealing real Gospel. Thus, fundamentalist Christianity's Paulist cult beliefs have set the Gospel back at least 1500 years.

OUR MISSION ON EARTH

We all (Christians, Muslims, Jews, and others) have a job to do in living the gospel of Jesus. That gospel will eventually bring together all people on earth in a unity of religious devotion to pursuing the will of a loving Heavenly Father in a friendly universe, and in eventuating to become like him through lives of unselfish loving service to others.

It is obvious from the inspiring life and teachings of Jesus that our mission on earth is to show the loving nature of God to ourselves and others around us, to be as much like him as we possibly can. To the typical human, doing the Father's will means being loyal to truth, beauty, and goodness through devotion to love, mercy, and ministry in our relationships with others.

It needn't be difficult to come to grips with that mission. Our lives are for each of us but a day's work in the grand scheme of universe ascension to an exciting destiny in eternity. Let us do that day's work well.

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REFERENCES FROM THE BIBLE (1611 KING JAMES VERSION)

Acts 10:34 - Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17 - Thou shalt not kill.

Ge:22:7-12: And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand,

and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

1 John 4:8 & 16 - He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. - And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 4:34 - "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

John 5:24 - "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

John 6:40 - For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 8:46 - Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

John 10:30 - I and my father are one.

John 13:34 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 14:9 - When you see me you see the father.

John 17:3 - And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 17:23 - I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Luke 22:26-27 - But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. But I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 4:17-19 - The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:43 - But he said, "I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

Luke 6:35-38 - But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:40 - The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

Luke 9:35 - A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to him!"

Luke 10:25-28 - And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and

with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live."

Luke 11:13 - If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 12:32 - "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Luke 17:3 - Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Luke 17:21 - Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Luke 23:4 - Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.

Mark 9:7 - Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Mark 11:25-26 - And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Mark 12:28-31 - And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:33 - And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:22-27 & Luke 6:41-42 - But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 5:48 - Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 6:14-15 - For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 7:15-16: Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:21 - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 9:13 - But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'

Matthew 12:6-8 - But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

Matthew 12:28 - But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Matthew 12:50, Mark 3:35 - For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Matthew 17:5 - While he was speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Matthew 18:1-6 - At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:15 - Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Matthew 18:21 - Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Matthew 18:35 - So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Matthew 20:26-28 - Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."

Matthew 23:9-11 - And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

REFERENCES FROM THE QUR'AN (KORAN)

Note: in the following passages, Muhammad clearly validates both Jesus and the Gospel, and tells his followers: those who believe and follow the teachings of Jesus are superior to all others, all the way to judgment day; therefore all Muslims are to believe and follow the teachings of Jesus, and God will punish those who do not; furthermore, anyone who disputes those teachings is a liar, and Muslims should say so.

3:2-5. Allah. There is no god but He,-the Living, the Self-Subsisting, the Supporter of all. It is He Who sent down to thee (step by step), in truth, the Book, confirming what went before it; and He sent down the Torah (of Moses) and the Gospel (of Jesus) ... before this, as a guide to mankind, and He sent down the criterion (of judgment between right and wrong). Then those who reject Faith in the Signs of Allah will suffer the severest penalty, and Allah is Exalted in Might, Lord of Retribution.

3:52 - "But when Jesus perceived unbelief on their part, he said Who will be my helpers in Allah's way? The disciples said: We are helpers (in the way) of Allah: We believe in Allah and bear witness that we are submitting ones. (Another translation: When Jesus found Unbelief on their part He said: "Who will be My helpers to (the work of) Allah?" Said the disciples: "We are Allah's helpers: We believe in Allah, and do thou bear witness that we are

Muslims.) Our Lord! we believe in what Thou hast revealed and we follow the apostle, so write us down with those who bear witness. And they planned and Allah (also) planned, and Allah is the best of planners.

3:55 - And when Allah said: O Jesus, I am going to terminate the period of your stay (on earth) and cause you to ascend unto Me and purify you of those who disbelieve and make those who follow you above those who disbelieve to the day of resurrection; then to Me shall be your return, so I will decide between you concerning that in which you differed. *(Another translation: Behold! Allah said: "O Jesus! I will take thee and raise thee to Myself and clear thee (of the falsehoods) of those who blaspheme; I will make those who follow thee superior to those who reject faith, to the Day of Resurrection: Then shall ye all return unto me, and I will judge between you of the matters wherein ye dispute.)*

3:56 - Then as to those who disbelieve, I will chastise them with severe chastisement in this world and the hereafter, and they shall have no helpers. And as to those who believe and do good deeds, He will pay them fully their rewards; and Allah does not love the unjust. *(Another translation: As to those who reject faith, I will punish them with severe agony in this world and in the Hereafter, nor will they have anyone to help. As to those who believe and work righteousness, Allah will pay them (in full) their reward; but Allah loveth not those who do wrong.)*

3:57-60 - This is what we rehearse unto thee of the Signs and the Message of Wisdom. The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust, then said to him: "Be". And he was. The Truth (comes) from thy Lord alone; so be not of those who doubt.

3:61-63 - If any one disputes in this matter with thee, now after (full) knowledge Hath come to thee, say: "Come! let us gather together,- our sons and your sons, our women and your women, ourselves and yourselves: Then let us earnestly pray, and invoke the curse of Allah on those who lie! This is the true account: There is no god except Allah. and Allah - He is indeed the Exalted in Power, the Wise. But if they turn back, Allah hath full knowledge of those who do mischief.

3:84 Say: "We believe in Allah, and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (the Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the Prophets, from their Lord: We make no distinction between one and another among them, and to Allah do we bow our will (in Islám)."

4:172 - The Messiah does by no means disdain that he should be a servant of Allah, nor do the angels who are near to Him, and whoever disdains His service and is proud, He will gather them all together to Himself. Then as for those who believe and do good, He will pay them fully their rewards and give them more out of His grace; and as for those who disdain and are proud, He will chastise them with a painful chastisement. And they shall not find for themselves besides Allah a guardian or a helper "

5:68 Say: "O People of the Book! ye have no ground to stand upon unless ye stand fast by the Torah, the Gospel, and all the revelation that has come to you from your Lord." It is the revelation that cometh to thee from thy Lord, that increaseth in most of them their obstinate rebellion and blasphemy. But sorrow thou not over (these) people without Faith.

5:110 Then will Allah say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Recount My favor to thee and to thy mother. Behold! I strengthened thee with the Holy Spirit, so that thou didst speak to the people in childhood and in maturity. Behold! I taught thee the Book and Wisdom, the Torah and the Gospel. And behold! thou makest out of clay, as it were, the figure of a bird, by My leave, and thou breathest into it and it becometh a bird by My leave, and thou healest those born blind, and the lepers, by My leave. And behold! thou bringest forth the dead by My leave. And behold! I did restrain the Children of Israel from (violence to) thee when thou didst show them the Clear Signs, and the unbelievers among them said: "This is nothing but evident magic."

9:111 Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the Garden (of Paradise): they fight in His Cause, and slay and are slain: a promise binding on Him in Truth, through the Torah, the Gospel, and the Qurán: and who is more faithful to his Covenant than Allah? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: that is the achievement supreme.

33:7 And remember We took from the Prophets their Covenant: As from thee: from Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus the son of Mary: We took from them a solemn covenant:

42:13 The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah - the which We have sent by inspiration to thee - and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that ye should remain steadfast in religion, and make no divisions therein: to those who worship other things than Allah, hard is the (way) to which thou callest them. Allah chooses to Himself those whom He pleases, and guides to Himself those who turn (to Him).

43:63. When Jesus came with Clear Signs, he said: "Now have I come to you with Wisdom, and in order to make clear to you some of the (points) on which ye dispute: therefore fear Allah and obey me. For Allah, He is my Lord and your Lord: so worship ye Him: this is a Straight Way."

48:29 Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, and those who are with him are strong against Unbelievers, (but) compassionate amongst each other. Thou wilt see them bow and prostrate themselves (in prayer), seeking Grace from Allah and (His) Good Pleasure. On their faces are their marks, (being) the traces of their prostration. This is their similitude in the Taurát; and their similitude in the Gospel is: like a seed which sends forth its blade, then makes it strong; it then becomes thick, and it stands on its own stem, (filling) the sowers with wonder and delight. As a result, it fills the Unbelievers with rage at them. Allah has promised those among them who believe and do righteous deeds forgiveness, and a great Reward.

61.14 O ye who believe! Be ye helpers of Allah: as said Jesus the son of Mary to the Disciples, "Who will be my helpers to (the work of) Allah?" Said the Disciples, "We are Allah's helpers!" then a portion of the Children of Israel believed, and a portion disbelieved: But We gave power to those who believed against their enemies, and they became the ones that prevailed.

About the Author

Bob Hurt was born on 29 May 1943 in Houston, Texas to a pair of salespersons. After a 9-year stint in the U.S. Navy as a Fire Control Technician aboard submarines, Bob studied history, music, religion, engineering, and computer science, and worked variously as a technical writer, product manager, programmer, design engineer, marketer, salesman, and head as his own PC diagnostics company. He authored <http://cancercure.ws> to help heal people, and <http://evangelist.net> to help enlighten them. He is a truth seeker and an ardent student of the Urantia Book. He has traveled extensively and resides with his wife Maria in Clearwater, Florida. He is the family chef, and experiments with food and nutrition. He exercises and catches an occasional movie with Maria, his darling. He occasionally plays guitar for her or friends, just for fun. Bob likes to write. Visit his web site and write to him if you liked this article. <http://bobhurt.com/>.

