

# Why the Bible?

By Al Felder

*“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)*

As Christians, it should not surprise us that there are many religious writings that exist in the world today. The Bible, on a number of occasions, states that there have been and will always be many who claim to know and have the truth. In the modern times in which we live we still find a multitude of differing religions in the world.

A true Christian takes the stance that the Bible is right, and all other religious books are wrong. This line of thinking is considered to be the height of bigotry in our society. When we as Christians make such a statement, aren't we just being intolerant?

The conventional wisdom of the day believes that all world religions are just different roads to the same destination. It doesn't matter which path or religion you choose because in the end they're all the same. Is this true? Is the Bible just one of many good books that you can choose to read or is it the only book? For just a little while we would like to examine this topic and ask the question, “Why the Bible?”

When you look at the religious landscape today you will find that the four major world religions are Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Each of these world religions has their own sacred book or writings. Christianity has the Bible, Islam has the Koran, Hinduism has sacred writing they refer to as Vedas, and Buddhism refers to its sacred writings as the Tripitaka. When you begin to carefully examine these religions you will find that they are radically different. Their concepts of salvation as well as their deities are wildly different from one another.

In looking at and comparing these world religions we are going to start with the basis that the Bible is true. After all, this is the claim that the Bible makes on every single page of scripture.

*“<sup>13</sup>For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by not greater, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup>Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. <sup>15</sup>And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup>For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. <sup>17</sup>Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: <sup>18</sup>That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.” (Hebrews 6:13-18)*

There is no greater authority than God. That being the case, there is nothing greater than His Word. The word of God has stood the test of time and it is the ultimate measuring stick for any writing that claims to be truth.

One stark contrast between the Bible and eastern religions is its claim to have come from God. *“<sup>1</sup>God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”* (Hebrews 1:1, 2) The religions of Hinduism and Buddhism do not claim to have come from God. They are intuitional (man’s insights) rather than inspired (God’s words).

The Koran is different in this regard. Its writings claim to be the final revelation from God. (Sura 4:161) According to the Koran the Bible was just a step in the right direction, but if a person only has the Bible it will not be enough because that person would have rejected God’s greatest prophet Mohammed. Yet, the Bible is clear that it is the only revelation from God.

*“<sup>6</sup>I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: <sup>7</sup>Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup>But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup>As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”* (Galatians 1:6-9)

According to the Bible there is no additional revelation needed, and anything not contained in the scriptures is false and should not be listened to.

The Bible is alone in its depiction of man’s need for salvation due to sin. When you consider the religions of Hinduism and Buddhism sin and death is not really a factor. Both religions teach that a person goes through a series of reincarnations. Each reincarnation is based upon ones previous life. The ultimate goal is to live your life in as pure a way as possible, so you can reach a state of Nirvana or enlightenment. Once this state is reached, the cycle is broken and you no longer have to go through the process anymore. Adherents to these religions are at odds with one another as to whether Nirvana is a state of consciousness or unconsciousness. Regardless, there is no need for a savior.

According to the Koran, salvation can be achieved through performing the five pillars of Islam. But even then, salvation is not guaranteed. It is taught that Allah sends both righteous and unrighteous to hell. If the good works of the righteous outweigh the bad works they may be admitted into Paradise. The only sure way for a Muslim to go to Paradise is to die in a jihad, or holy war.

The Koran does not depict Jesus as a savior. In fact, in two separate writings (Sura 4:171 and 23:91) the Koran teaches that Allah has no son. Also, in (Sura 21:98) the Koran states that Jesus will be in hell for being worshiped by Christians. The Bible is clear on the error of such

teachings. *“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”* (1 John 2:22) Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Son of God does not have the Father.

In the New Testament we find that death is an enemy. *“<sup>25</sup>For He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”* (1 Corinthians 15:25, 26) The Bible is alone in making this claim. Death is an enemy because it is not natural. Originally death did not exist within God’s creation, it was brought in as a consequence of sin.

Why did God make death a consequence of man’s sin? Well, as a result of sin man is now in a state of rebellion against God. Could you imagine an eternity in that state? Without death, Adam and every person that has ever walked the face of this earth would still be living an eternal life of separation from God due to sin.

Without death there can be no redemption. *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”* (Hebrews 9:22) In order for sins to be remitted there must be shedding of blood. This involves the death of the sacrifice. Under the Old Testament this involved the many animal sacrifices that were a type of Christ. They pointed forward to His redeeming work and provided a temporary solution to man’s problem, but they were insufficient to provide the complete remedy of sin.

Notice the following verses from the book of Hebrews:

*“<sup>5</sup>Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared for me: <sup>6</sup>In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do they will O God. <sup>8</sup>Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; <sup>9</sup>Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God, He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. <sup>10</sup>By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*  
(Hebrews 10:5-10)

Under the Law of Moses there was an endless line of animal sacrifices. Year after year thousands of animals were sacrificed, and they were all inadequate. All they could do was roll the sins forward to the next year, but each year there was a remembrance of sin and the sacrifices had to be made again. Also, the priest making the sacrifice had to make one for himself as well because he too was guilty of sin. All of these things were insufficient and temporary.

Why couldn’t the blood of bulls and goats take away sins? The Bible gives us that answer within our passage from Hebrews. In order for sins to be remitted it was necessary for a man who had perfectly obeyed God to willingly give his life as a sacrifice for others. As we read in the Bible this was something that no man could do because all had sinned. Thus, Christ came into this world. He took upon himself the form of a man. He experienced life as we do.

He was tempted and tried, but He did not sin. Finally, He offered Himself as a sacrifice that whosoever will might be redeemed. *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”* (Hebrews 5:9) He made a way for all those who will obey. No other world religion has a Savior like the Bible teaches concerning Christ.

All of the things we have discussed so far may convince a person who already believes in God, but what about those who are involved in other religions. While here on this earth it is hard to test the accuracy of what each religious book says about spiritual things. Christ, however, did give us the key to determining which book is correct. *“If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?”* (John 3:12) When a religious book makes claims regarding things pertaining to the earth, we can test the accuracy of the book. This is where the Bible sets itself apart from all other religious writings.

All other religious writings are centered upon the ethical teachings of their founders, but the Bible deals with the great events of creation and redemption. Islam is based upon the teachings of Mohammed, Buddhism is based upon the teaching of Buddha, but Christianity is founded upon who Jesus is. Out of all of the men who founded world religions only Jesus has an empty tomb.

The Bible stands alone when it comes to fulfilled prophecy. No other religious books contains verifiable fulfilled prophecies like the Bible. *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* (Isaiah 7:14) The Bible foretold the virgin birth of Christ. *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”* (Micah 5:2) The Bible foretold that Christ would be born in Bethlehem. *“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”* (Psalm 22:18) The Bible also foretold that the Roman Soldiers would cast lots for Christ’s clothes. All of these prophecies were made hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, and they are just a few of the many prophecies regarding Him.

The Bible stands alone when it comes to scientific foreknowledge. Through the Law of Moses God gave the children of Israel medical procedures that were to govern their daily lives. It contains regulations for sanitation and quarantine as well as an understanding of germs and diseases that modern medicine did not grasp for 3,500 years. *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”* (Leviticus 17:11) It has only been within the last 100 years that modern medicine has begun to grasp this truth. Prior to this, doctors would cut their patients allowing them to bleed in hopes of curing them of their illness. This practice was called bloodletting, and it led to the death of many patients including our first President, George Washington.

During the eighteen hundreds, there was an 18% mortality rate for women giving birth in hospitals compared to a 3% rate for women using midwives. This statistic baffled doctors until they realized the importance of sanitation. Prior to this discovery, doctors would go from one patient to the next without going through a proper cleansing ritual causing the spread of

diseases among their patients. The Bible, however, told the importance of this process long ago. *“And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.”* (Numbers 17:9) This water of separation consisted of ashes of a red heifer, hyssop, cedar wood, and scarlet wool. This mixture of materials is a recipe for the world’s first antibacterial soap that was to be used in a number of situations for cleansing according to the Law of Moses. Once modern medicine learned the benefits of this, the mortality rate for women giving birth in hospitals went from 18% to 1%.

Finally, the Bible stands alone when it comes to its historical accuracy, and the description of the origin of man. With Genesis 10 a list is given of the descendants of Noah as well as their dispersion over the earth. *“Now these are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood.”* (Genesis 10:1) This genealogy is referred to as the table of nations. According to archeologists this is the most detailed genealogical framework known to man.

Many civilizations trace their lineage back to Noah. Included in these groups are the Gauls, Goths, Saxons, Romans, and Chinese just to name a few. From Ham came the Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Canaanites, and Chinese. From Japheth came the Europeans, Russian, Romans, and Medes. From Shem came the Israelites and Assyrians.

In closing, we ask our question once again, “Why the Bible?” The answer is simple. Only the Bible can be tested and proven to be accurate in its description of earthly things. It is flawless in its fulfilled prophecy, scientific foreknowledge, and historical accuracy.