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**Can We Learn from
Israel's Failure?**

**God's Warning to
America**

What the Bible Teaches

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Can We Learn from Israel's Failure?

Gen 12:1-7	God said to Abram when he was 75 years old, Leave your country (today's Iraq) and go to a land I will show you, the land of Canaan. I will make you a great nation. <u>I will bless those that bless you and I will curse those that curse you.</u> This still applies today. We are not to curse or hate the Jews. Let God deal with his chosen people.
Gen 15:1-18	God said to Abram, I am your shield. Lord, I have no son! I will give you a son. Look at the stars which you cannot number. So shall your seed be. <u>Abram believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness.</u> Your seed will be strangers in Canaan and Egypt 400 years, and will be afflicted. Also, out of slavery in Egypt I will deliver you and bring you back to Canaanland, from the River of Egypt to the River Euphrates.
Gen 17:1-27 & 21:1-8	After 25 years, when Abram was 100 years old, God's promise to give him a son was fulfilled. His name was Isaac. <u>God made a covenant of circumcision with Abraham</u> – every male in his house, young and old.
Gen 32:24-32	Isaac's son, Jacob, wrestles with God. <u>Your name shall now be called Israel.</u> He had 12 sons which became the twelve tribes of Israel.
Gen 35:9-15	God appeared to Jacob, I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, (the land of Israel) I give <u>to you and to your seed after you forever.</u>
Exo 3:1-10 Exo 12:29-42 Exo.chp. 14 Exo 16:1-15 Exo 17:1-7	Four hundred years later, <u>Moses, Jacob's great, great grandson, meets God at the burning bush.</u> I am the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will bring you back into the land of Canaan that flows with milk and honey <u>to fulfill my promise to Abraham.</u> A few months later, God delivers Israel out of Egypt and opens the Red Sea. He gives them water out of a rock to drink, and manna out of heaven to eat.

Israel's Sin and Rebellion

Exo 32:1-19	Moses is on the mount for 40 days. God gives him the 10 commandments written by God's finger on 2 stone tables. <u>Israel commits a great sin. Aaron makes the golden calf.</u> God tells Moses, I have seen this stiff-necked people. <u>I will destroy them</u> and make from you, Moses, a new nation.
Exo 32:30-35	He that sins against me, <u>I will blot him out of my book of life.</u>
Exo 34:1-14 Exo 40:1-17 & 34-38	<u>The Lord God is merciful and longsuffering, forgiving the sins of those who repent</u> and bring a lamb for a sin offering to the priest (without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin). <u>But by no means will I clear the guilty who do not repent!</u> In the last 7 months at Mt. Horeb, Israel builds the portable tabernacle with all its furnishings, and the God of Israel lives in it. They carried it with them for the next 40 years.
Num 13:17-33 & 14:1-24	<u>Israel did not believe God</u> that he promised them a land that flowed with milk and honey. Twelve men were sent to spy out the land for 40 days. Ten men returned with an evil report saying there were giants living in the land. We wish we had died in Egypt! Joshua and Caleb, the other 2 spies said, <u>Don't rebel against the Lord, but believe his promise to give us the land, and he will fight for us.</u>
Num 14:35-38	God sends a plague upon the 10 men which brought the evil report, and kills them.
Num 16:1-50	Soon after, 250 princes or leaders of Israel rebelled against Moses and Aaron, <u>You have too much power. Everyone in the congregation is holy.</u> You have failed to bring us into the land that flows with milk and honey! So God stepped in to stop the rebellion and killed the 250 princes. The next day the congregation accused Moses that <u>he</u> killed the 250 princes. God stepped in again and killed another 14,700 rebels, and for the next 40 years, as punishment, they wandered in the wilderness till the old generation died off.

After the 40 year wandering and just before the new generation is to enter the promised land, God speaks to Israel about blessings and curses.

Deut 9:1-14

Now, O Israel, don't say that I have given this land to you because of your righteousness. No, you have been stiff-necked and rebellious since I brought you out of Egypt. I give you the land because I promised it to my friend, Abraham, for an everlasting possession.

Deut 28:1-14

All these **blessings** will come upon you, if you obey my commandments.

Deut 28:15-61

All these **curses** and sicknesses will come upon you if you disobey.

Deut 28:62-65
Luke 21:24

And it shall come to pass that as the Lord rejoiced over you to bless you and multiply you, so will the Lord rejoice to destroy you and to pluck you out of the land which you are about to enter. And the Lord will scatter you to other nations of the earth. This took place 40 years after Christ was crucified. For 2,000 years, Israel had no homeland.

Deut 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you. I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; that you love God and obey his voice and that you cleave unto him, for he is your life and length of days that you and your seed may live in the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Deut 32:15-35
1 Cor 10:1-13
Rom 11:17-23

But Israel forsook God, did not honor God's salvation. The Rock that begat you, you are unmindful of, and have forgotten God who formed you. I will hide my face from you. You are evil people with no faith in me. I will bring mischief upon you and scatter you into all corners of the earth. For Israel is a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. O that they were wise, and would understand and consider what is in store for them!

For 450 years Israel was ruled by 16 judges and sinned against God most of the time.

Judges chp. 2	<u>And Israel did evil. They sinned and forsook the Lord God of their fathers. They followed other gods of the nations round about, worshipping idols. God's anger was hot against them. He delivered them into the hands of the spoilers. Their enemies defeated them and made slaves of them. God's hand was against them for evil.</u> They neither listened to nor obeyed their leaders, the judges.
1 Sam 2:12-17 & 22-25	The 15th judge was Eli the priest. He was old and his 2 sons were evil. The tabernacle of God was at that time in Shiloh, about 30 miles north of Jerusalem.
1 Sam chps. 3 & 4 1 Sam 7:3-17	Young Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. He grew up to become a prophet, and the 16th judge in Israel. When he called Israel to repent, God delivered them from their oppressors, the Philistines.
1 Sam 8:1-10	<u>Israel rejects God as their king.</u> They tell Samuel, Make us a king to judge us like all the nations. Their first king was Saul and he reigned 40 years in Israel. He was evil. Their second king was David. He reigned 40 years and was a man after God's own heart. Their third king was Solomon. He reigned 40 years. Toward the end of his life he backslid, as his many wives turned his heart against God. <u>After his reign, civil war began.</u> The books of 1st and 2nd Kings give us an account of these wars. Some 20 kings ruled on both sides of the divided kingdom for about 400 years. Most of them were evil. God sent the prophets to warn Israel to repent of their sin, but they killed most of the prophets.

Isaiah the Prophet warns Israel

Isa 1:1-20	<u>Ah, sinful nation, You have forsaken the Lord.</u> Your country is desolate. Your cities are burned with fire. You pray, but I don't listen. Your hands are full of blood. Stop sinning. Learn to do good. If you refuse and rebel, you will be killed by the sword.
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Isaiah tells Israel that God will send His Son!

- Isa 7:14 Isaiah prophesies 770 years before that their Savior or Messiah will be born.
- Isa 9:6-7 The Lord will give you a sign. Behold a virgin will have a son (the Lord Jesus) and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

Isaiah further prophesied in detail of Messiah's ministry and sufferings.

- Isa 42:1-7 He will open blind eyes & be a light to Gentiles.
- Isa 50:4-6
& 52:13-14 He will be severely and unmercifully beaten at the post, being unrecognizable as a man.
- Isa 53:5 By those cruel stripes, believers in him are healed.
- Isa 53:1-12 It pleased God that his son should be crucified for our transgressions. See also Psalm 22:12-18.

The prophet Jeremiah warns Israel.

- Jeremiah ministered for God some 50 years in Israel. Through him, God warned Israel to stop sinning or he would bring the Babylonian kingdom against them to destroy the city of Jerusalem and Solomon's temple. Most would be killed by the famine, pestilence, and sword. The remnant would be taken to Babylon for 70 years captivity to fulfill God's warning of Deuteronomy 28.
- Jer 3:8-13 I have given backslidden Israel a bill of divorce. Return you backslidden Israel. Confess your sin and I will have mercy on you and forgive you, but if you keep sinning, you will get my vengeance.
- Jer 11:1-11 I will bring evil on them and they will not escape it. They will cry to me, but I will not listen to them.
- Jer 16:1-13 I have taken peace, lovingkindness, and mercy from Israel. The small and the great shall die.

Jer 18:1-12	Though I have pronounced evil against you, <u>if you repent I will NOT bring evil upon you</u> . But you said, There is no hope. We will continue to walk in sin and in the imaginations of our evil heart.
Jer 19:8-11	The famine will be so bad that you will eat the flesh of your own children fulfilling the warning God gave them in Deuteronomy 28.
The prophets Ezra and Nehemiah	
Ezra chp. 9 Nehemiah chp. 1	The 70 year captivity in Babylon is ended. <u>Israel must be made a nation again so that the birth and ministry of their Messiah can happen</u> . Ezra and Nehemiah weep before God because of the sin of Israel, and acknowledge that their punishment in Babylon was deserved. They thanked God for his mercy to bring them back to form a nation again.
Ezra 1:1-5 & 2:64-65	The 70 year captivity is over and in 544 BC only about 50,000 Jews are willing to return to Jerusalem to begin to rebuild the temple.
Nehe 2:1-6 Dan 9:24-26	94 years later (450 BC) Nehemiah returns to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down. At this point the prophecy given by the prophet Daniel began to be fulfilled – in 483 more years, Messiah will be crucified. So 450 BC + 33 AD = 483 years. This was fulfilled to the day!
The crisis, or turning point of the ages, has come.	
	The prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the first coming of Christ (Greek for <u>Messiah</u>) are fulfilled. The kingdom of God and its King are introduced to Israel, but the nation rejects both.
Matt 1:18-25	The words of the prophet Isaiah spoken some 770 years before is fulfilled by God. A virgin will have a son and his name shall be called Emmanuel, <u>God with us</u> .

Matt 2:1-6 &
Micah 5:1-2

Where is the King of the Jews to be born?

The chief priest answered, The prophet Micah said in Bethlehem. He also prophesied that the Jews would smite their King on the cheek in their persecution of him.

Matt 23:37-39

A few days before Christ's crucifixion, he said, Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that kills the prophets, how often would I have gathered you together as a hen gathers her chicks, but you would not. So your house and land will be left onto you desolate, and you shall not see me again till you repent and say, Blessed is he (Christ) that comes in the name of the Lord. When? At Christ's Second Coming to set up the Kingdom of God on earth, Israel will finally accept her King!

For nearly 2000 years, God's chosen people had no homeland. Why? Because of their continued sin.

Matt 24:1-2
Luke 21:5-22

Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple and of Jerusalem. Forty years later, the Romans had enough with the rebellion of the Jews and destroyed the temple, crucifying some one million Jews. Others were sold as slaves, and a remnant fled to all corners of the earth. For the last 2000 years, Jews worldwide do not admit that their own God of the Old Testament was the one to drive them from their land as he promised he would in Deuteronomy 28.

Rom 11:19-22

Why were the branches (Israel) broken off by God? Because of sin and unbelief, for they did not obey the law of Moses, but made up their own law called the Talmud.

Matt 15:1-9

Jesus told them, You break God's law by your traditions and false teachings. You worship God in vain!

Jn 8:34-44

Jesus told the Jews, You are slave to sin. If the son of God shall make you free, you will be free indeed! They answered, We have God as our Father. Jesus replied, If God were your Father you would love me for I come from the Father. Your father is the devil for he was a murderer from the beginning and you want to kill me.

Anyone who denies that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son and Savior of the world, that person cannot have God as their Father.

1 Jn 2:22-23

If you deny Christ, rejecting him as God's son, you are an antichrist and do not have God the Father either. Remember what Jesus said to the Jews, Your father is not God, but the devil. Any Jew, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslem, etc. rejecting Christ today is an antichrist.

1 Jn 4:3

Anyone that does not confess that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh is not of God, but is an antichrist.

2 Jn 1:7-11

Many in the world deny that Jesus is come in the flesh. Whosoever believes not in Christ and his doctrine (the virgin birth, his deity as God's only begotten son, his death and bodily resurrection) cannot have God the Father. If any come and teach that Christ has not come in the flesh, don't receive him into your house or you will be a partaker of his evil deeds.

What is God's plan and future for Israel?

Isa 11:11-12

And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will gather the remnant of his people, the Jews, from all over the world a second time. When was the first time? When God brought Israel back to their homeland from the 70 year captivity in Babylon some 2500 years ago. God began to fulfill his covenant to Abraham to give the land of Canaan to Israel in 1948. After some nearly 2000 years, Israel is a nation again, and many Jews have returned to their homeland. Yet, still, the land is not fully theirs. There are continued wars with the Palestinians. They have no temple.

Matt 24:4-22
Dan 9:27

Jesus' disciples asked him, What shall be the sign of your coming? He answered, Be not deceived, many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ. In the middle of a future 7 year time of tribulation for the nation of Israel, Antichrist shall step into the newly built temple of God in Jerusalem, which temple the Jews must soon construct, and demand that he only be worshipped as God.

Jn 5:43	Jesus told the Jews, <u>I came in my Father's name and you received me not. Another shall come in his own name</u> , him you <u>shall</u> receive. At the start of the 7 year tribulation, Israel will accept Antichrist as their Messiah. He will make a 7 year peace pact with Israel, protecting them from their enemies. But in the middle of those years, he will betray them by breaking his pact with them and seeking their destruction. Jesus warns the Jews to flee from Israel in order to escape Antichrist's wrath. Read Matt 24:15-21.
Mal 3:1-6 Rom 11:21-26 Jere 30:3-9	<u>Throughout Israel's history, God has used Gentile nations as his instruments to punish Israel for their backslidings.</u> At the end of this age, God will again use the fires of Gentile tribulation to refine and purify the sons of Levi (the Jewish nation) so that they will finally accept Christ as the Son of God and bring an offering of righteousness to him.
Zech 13:8-9	It shall come to pass saith the Lord, <u>2/3 of Israel will be cut off and die for their sin. But 1/3 will be left</u> which will come through the purifying fires. They will call on my name and I will hear them. God will declare, It is my people, and they will say, The Lord is my God. <u>The 1/3 of Jews will accept Christ as both Lord and Savior and be born again!</u>
Zech chp. 12 Zech 13:1-6	After the battle of Armageddon, I will pour forth mercy and grace to these Jews and they will mourn and be in bitterness as one who has lost their only son. When they see my nail-scarred hands, they will ask, <u>What are these wounds?</u> You gave them to me when you had me nailed to a cross and crucified. They will weep sorely for having killed their own brother and King!
	<u>When Christ returns, he will make Jerusalem his world headquarters and will rule on earth forever.</u>
Luke 1:26-33	God the Father will give Jesus the throne of David, and he will reign in Israel forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Jerusalem and its King will be the joy of the whole earth.

Isa 9:6-7

A child is born, a son is given. He is called the mighty God, the everlasting father (the one who gives eternal or everlasting life), the prince of peace. There will be no end of his reign here on earth. On David's throne Christ will rule forever!

Ezek 36:16-38
Ezek 39:21-29

Not for your sakes do I bring you back to your land, but to sanctify my holy name which you dishonored among the heathen nations where I scattered you. In the day I gather you back, you will loathe yourselves when you recall how evil you have been. At that time, all the world will know that you had no homeland because of your sin against me. But when my son returns and you will see his nail-scarred hands and will weep and be sorry for your sin, I will have compassion, and will cleanse you from your sin. Then you will obey and honor me. James 4:7-10

Conclusion: What can the church learn from Israel's failure?

Gen 3:1-13
Lam 3:39-40
Ps. 139:23-24

Israel failed to live circumspectly, examining themselves to see if they were in sin. They blamed others for their troubles. Circumcision in the flesh and being God's chosen people made their salvation secure. God would never forsake his temple and his city, Jerusalem. Their false prophets taught that once saved always saved was scriptural, even if you lived in sin, and they loved it so! They have remained proud and stiff-necked in their thinking and behavior. To this day, they have failed to see that God punished them, and that is why they had no homeland for nearly 2000 years.

Rev chp. 2

To the church in America: You left your first love! Repent and return to me. To love God means to obey all His law. Read Jn 14:15 & 21.

Rev 3:15-22

You are neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm. You say, I am rich and need nothing. But I say you are wretched and miserable, poor, blind, naked. Buy gold from me that you may be rich, and white clothing so that you are not naked. Get eye salve that you may see the many truths of the bible. Repent of your lukewarmness.

The church can learn 4 very simple lessons from Israel's failures:

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| Eph 5:25-27 | 1. Jesus is coming for a church without spot and blameless, not for a sinning church. |
| Rom 6:17-18 | 2. To believe the teaching that we are saved, but still sinners, is to follow in the footsteps of a fallen Israel. God is no respecter of persons. If he cut off Israel for living in sin, he is obligated to do the same to believers, for the wages of sin is death Rom 6:23. |
| Rom 8:1-2 | Christ has made me free from the law of sin and death. |
| John 8:34-36 | Did Jesus tell the truth when he said, You are a slave to sin, but I can make you free? |
| 1 Jn 3:8-10 | 3. Christ came for this purpose: to destroy sin, which is the work of the devil. The church must cease to blame the devil and Adam's nature for its sinful lifestyle. The cross broke sin's power over us. The devil cannot touch a saint who lives in obedience to God 1 Jn 5:18. |
| 1 Cor 10:1-13 | 4. It encourages us to take a hard look at Israel's failure and to learn a lesson from it. |
| 2 Cor 13:5
James 4:6-10 | The Bible tells us to examine ourselves to see if we are in faith. If you have failed God in your walk of faith, humble yourself before him and let him revive you again. A broken and contrite spirit he will never despise Isaiah 57:15. |

A recent testimony of a Christian wife

It took many years for me to learn to admit my faults to anyone. I was an expert at hiding my faults especially from those closest to me. **Like King David, I hid my sin even from God.** Because I thought so highly of myself, it pained me to have to finally confess my sins to Him.

1 Pet 3:1-7

Did King David love God? Did I love God? Of course, **but only in part**. Did I love my husband? I was a faithful and good housekeeper and never used the bedroom to trap him; **nonetheless, I did not subject myself to him as my head**. I was driven to control situations causing my mouth to get the better of me. I plagued him with my constant input and direction. Didn't I know the scripture by heart? Didn't I have a real grasp on human nature being such a know-it-all? Try as he may, my husband could not help me. He finally resorted to prayer. I may not have killed him like David did Uriah, but eventually I marred his happiness and manhood as head of the house. By God's grace, he never became bitter toward me. He feared for my soul. He truly loved me!

Did I trust God? Looking back now, I really believed I did, **but like Eve I was deceived**. Holy women who trust God prove their trust by being subject to their husbands. **They have a meek (teachable) and quiet (not anxious) spirit, which pleases both God and their husbands**.

King David had a godly sorrow for his sin. He never did it again. As for me, after years of worldly repentances (for try as I may, I kept falling back into the same old pattern), I finally realized the gravity of my situation and the deep hurt I had brought upon my husband. **I began earnestly to cry to God to help me overcome sin and to deliver me of the many evil spirits who, over the many years, found place in me to dwell**.

In time, I fell sick with a serious, long-standing viral disease which immobilized me with an ongoing fatigue. I could no longer "run the show" - any show. I couldn't drive, shop, clean, talk too much without collapsing on the sofa. **It was the gracious hand of God's scourging which alone could have set me on the right path**. I have learned both to fear God and to reverence my husband by looking to him for direction and trusting God to lead him in managing our family's affairs. **I am literally, "scared stiff" to ever go back to that sin, that terrible sin, that so easily beset me**.

Chastening is a life-saver and proves God's love for his children. I am a new woman. My husband delights in me, something I always longed to know and now am experiencing.

After David's own scourging, he longed to teach others God's righteous ways. Permit me to do the same for you:

- 1 Cor 11:3 The head of every man is Christ. The head of every woman is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.
- Col 3:18-25 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands as is fit in the Lord.
- Eph 5:22-25 **Wives, in everything submit yourselves to your husbands as unto the Lord.**
- Eph 5:33 Husbands love your wives as yourselves, and the wife see that she reverences her husband.
- Titus 2:3-8 Wives, be discreet . . . obedient to your husbands, that the word of God not be blasphemed.
- 1 Timothy 2:9-15 Wives, don't dictate to your husbands. Adam was first formed, then Eve, and it was Eve, not Adam, who was deceived.
- Heb 12:5-15 Remember, every son God receives **He chastens**. To chasten means to instruct, correct, and to train up in the ways of God. By what means does God train up His children? By the scripture and by the conviction of the Holy Spirit and of our consciences. If these do not work to change us, God uses the ministry and fellow Christians to reprove us. If these fail to shape our behavior, then God Himself will judge us. If you are not growing as a son of God, never experience the chastening of God, you need to question if you have grown cold in your faith, if you are still a child of God.

GOD'S WARNING TO AMERICA

God resists the proud.

James 4:6-10

Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. Weep and mourn for your sin and God will lift you up again! America must repent of her pride, self-reliance, and independence, for she has not looked to God for help and protection.

Let us be honest with ourselves and face the truth! Is America still being blessed by God?

1. **Is America still the home of the free** when the bank owns your house and car?

2. **America the proud!** Never giving God honor and glory for having blessed America. Haven't you read in the bible that God resists the proud? Pride is a great sin, make no mistake! God hates pride.

Prov. 6:16-19

6 things God hates: pride, a lying tongue, killing the innocent, etc.

Prov. 13:10

By pride comes contention and fighting.

Prov. 15:25

God will destroy the house of the proud.

3. **America prints money** that says on it, In God We Trust. Do we trust God? Or do we trust our big houses, cars, bonds and stocks. Now, many Americans have lost their homes and possessions.

Year 2008

4. **Has the American church failed** to be God's true representative on earth? We say we are rich and in need of nothing, yet we are destitute of godliness, answered prayers, healings and miracles. Like the Laodicean Church, Jesus said, You are not rich, but you are wretched and blind. His call to repent remains.

5. **Who is the God of America?** Is it not all the sports with their athletes, who are worshipped as little gods? Has not money become the god of America? Jesus said, If you love money then you don't love God. He said, You cannot serve two masters at the same time. If you love the one, you will hate the other. (Not money, but the love of money 1 Tim. 6:9-10)

6. **It is time for America to repent** as a people, as families, to repent of pride, love of money and idol worship, and get on our knees to ask God's forgiveness of our sins!

2 Chron. 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name (Americans call themselves Christians) shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land.

I leave us with the following historical account of how God dealt with one very proudful, gentile king.

Dan 4:4-37

I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. I dreamt one night, having a vision of a very large tree. I was shown an angel coming down from heaven that cried, Cut down the tree but leave the stump. Let his heart become like a beast's heart and let seven years pass by upon him. **This is the decree of the holy angel to the intent that the living may know that God rules in the kingdoms of men and gives it to whomsoever he wills.** I did not know the meaning of my dream and so asked Daniel, a Jewish captive, to interpret it for me. He told me that I was that big tree and that men would drive me from my palace and I would eat grass with the cattle of the field for seven years till I learned to humble myself and give God glory. Daniel admonished me along these lines, but I didn't take his counsel to heart. One year later, as I was walking in my palace, **I boasted, Is this not the great Babylon I have built by my might and power and for my glory.** While I yet spake, I was driven from my palace and began eating grass. I was wet from the dew of heaven, my hair grew as long as eagle feathers, and my nails as bird's claws. At the end of seven years, **I, King Nebuchadnezzar, humbled myself and lifted my eyes to heaven and my understanding returned to me. I praised and gave honor to God who lives forever and whose dominion on earth and throughout the universe is an everlasting dominion.** All the people of the earth are as **nothing**, and those that walk in pride, He is able to bring low.

What the Bible Is

The Bible is God's inspired revelation of **the origin and destiny of all things**. It is the power of God unto eternal salvation and is the source of present help for body, soul, and spirit. It is God's will and testament to men of all ages, revealing the plan of God for man here and now and in the next life. It is the record of God's dealings with man; past, present, and future. It contains God's message of eternal salvation to all those who believe in Christ, and eternal damnation to those who rebel against the Gospel.

It is the book that contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding. **Here Heaven is opened and the gates of Hell disclosed**. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It is given to you in this life, will be opened at the judgment, and will last forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the least to the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

The Bible was given to man through the audible voice of God (Matt 3:16-17), through angels (Heb 2:2), through the prophets (Acts 3:21), through Jesus Christ (Heb 1:1-3), and the apostles (Acts 1:2). It came through visions (Isa 6:1-5), dreams (Matt 1:20-21), revelation (Gal 1:15-16), and inspiration (2 Tim 3:15-17).

The Bible contains wonderful unity throughout its writings. Over forty different authors wrote the sixty-six books of the Bible during a period of over 1,800 years; and they all had one theme, the creation and redemption of the human race by God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. These books of the Bible were written by men from all walks of life such as kings, priests, judges, lawyers, princes, shepherds, soldiers, musicians, singers, poets, preachers, prophets, fishermen, farmers, tent makers, publicans, physicians, rich men and poor men. They

were written in various lands of three continents - Europe, Asia, Africa. They were written in different ages and by many men, some who never saw each other, or knew what the others wrote on the same subjects, yet when their writings became one book, there was not one contradiction among them.

Man could not have written the Bible by himself, nor would he have written it if he could. We know that good men must have written the Bible. The writers claim to be inspired by God and were either inspired or simply liars. If they were liars, then bad men must have written it, and such is contrary to every known human trait. **The Bible condemns all sin**, and this no evil man would do. **Some of the Bible writers recorded their own sins, which brought them into disgrace**. No man would so expose himself unless divine power moved him to do so that others might profit. Only a good man would submit to such a revelation of his own life. If good men wrote the Bible and said they were inspired by God then it is an inspired book.

All of man's needs are met by the Bible. This has been true of all ages. Every promise in God's Word has been fulfilled in the lives of men **who have met the conditions**, and so it must be from God who supplies these needs and fulfills his promises.

Miracles also prove divine revelation of the Bible. Hundreds of miracles are recorded in Scripture, which only God could have brought about. Millions of men have been healed of disease and saved from sin through the centuries by obedience to the word of God. This cannot be said of any other book.

The Bible itself claims to be the word of God. Over 3,800 times expressions such as, "Thus saith the Lord", "The Lord spake", "The Word of the Lord came unto me", etc. are found. These writers lied this many times and more if they did not tell the truth.

The doctrines of the Bible are both strange and contrary to man's teachings and philosophies. The Bible says that if we want life, we must be willing to lose it first; if we want to be exalted, we must humble ourselves first; if we want to make Heaven, we cannot work good works to reach it, but must through faith, receive its entrance by grace. If we want to be great, we must become as servant to all; if a man thinks he is somebody, he is nothing from the standpoint of the Bible. If we are dead in our trespasses, we must be born again, and so it continues with basically all principles and ways of life according to the Bible.

This is why a man, to be saved and remain saved, must learn the Bible through and through and practice all of its commandments. To accomplish this great task, God has given men apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to both preach and teach the Word of God. **The Bible says that many perish for their lack of knowledge of its holy contents, and that many miss entering the narrow gate for their ignorance of the whole of God's Word.**

Dake's Annotated Bible

