

# Absolute Truth & Prophecy

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NEWSLETTER

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### 'REASON' TO BELIEVE – PART I

**“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” (1Peter 3:15)**

*Is a belief in the Biblically-based Christian Faith reasonable? Does it make sense in today's postmodern world? You better believe it does! This series will challenge you as it lays out the rational, historical and scientific evidence for the Absolute Truth of Christianity.*

#### FRAMING THE QUESTION

*Let us begin by stating the obvious. No modern, no post-modern thinking person can deny it. Science stands triumphant! So does the human will! We have mapped the humane genome. Through that science, we have brought ancient species back to life and are on the threshold of cloning copies of ourselves. In the process, Man is fast overthrowing the ancient idols of external morality and superstition. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Here is the adage of the New Man: The old truth no longer applies. There is nothing but the DNA. We are but a cosmic accident, products of nothing plus chance. Therefore, we owe no allegiance outside ourselves. God, after all, is chance. He is accident. He is the great Nothing. As last century's philosophers would have it: God is dead. The very notion of God is dead. We are free to remake ourselves in any image we want. We are free. We are masters of our own souls. So all truth is illusion. It is but a reflection of the nothing; our own to create. Truth, in the higher, ultimate sense is false. All is truth, because it is ours. Everything, everyone is subject to auto-interpretation. Ultimately there is nothing outside to tell us the right and the wrong. There can be nothing higher than ourselves; we accidents of nature. We are become our own gods.*

This has become the mission statement of our age. It is the assertion of man's supremacy and God's demise. The denizens of science, high priests of our culture, declare it so. Who are we to question? The acolytes of the New Age declare us all divine; endowed with a divine spark. It is but the lie of the Serpent found in Genesis 3. Yet this God – the very real God of the Cosmos, remains. His fingerprints lie all around us. The universe is filled with astounding evidence of His design. We see it in the workings of the heavens, in the delicate life supporting balance of our own planet. Scientists now believe there may be as many as 100 billion galaxies out there, with thousands of stars in each. How many planets? How many atoms? And we find that signature of His divine design in the precise workings of each atom, in each element, in each substance of nature. We witness it in the harmony and power of that nature, and in the functioning of the animal kingdom. If we listen closely, we can hear the evidence in our heart. That some things are immoral, we just know. That murder is evil is little debated. That lying and stealing and cruelty and unfairness are wrong is an accepted principal. What makes this so? Can it be just our preference? And we can see it in the very nature of love itself. It is evident in the love of parent for child, in the other-centeredness of love between a man and woman, and in the self-sacrifice sometimes found among comrades in war.

There is so much evidence out there to be examined without even going to a scripture confirmed by history. But there is that too. When history is examined – critically, fairly – it yields up a perfect confirmation of the historical accounts of the Bible as well as an almost eerie affirmation of its prophetic pronouncements. Yet there are many that will not see - that refuse to believe. There seems to be a will to disbelieve. Perhaps it is the loss of control entailed in that act. To believe would mean that one would no longer be at the center of one's personal universe. The notion of God means submission. To the self-immersed this can be a terrifying and revolting experience. (And after all, that is the place that we all start from.) It means the existence of a power greater than one's self. If true, it means a Truth that transcends all others, by which all things are judged.

But can it be? Does such an ultimate standard really exist? **“What is truth?”** (John 18:38), Pilate asked Jesus. It was a question dripping with scorn and skepticism, not a serious inquiry on Pilate's part. And how very presciently it anticipated the post-modern mindset. *What is truth?* The existentialist question screams at us individually and corporately, across the noise and clutter of a society, pregnant with much knowledge and little wisdom. It is a question so supremely important, yet very seldom considered. *What is truth?* We are often a society that little cares, consumed as we are by our toys and indulgences. Food, liquor, sex and self-indulgence in myriad forms; these have become our totems.

Still there are many that seek – if only on their own terms. They seem to find a multiplicity of answers. Might not all these answers be valid? The climate of unquestioning tolerance would have us believe they could be. Who are we to judge one over another? Our culture speaks again. There is no absolute truth. It is the era of the subjective. Each individual is entitled to his own specific truth. ‘If you believe it, it is true for you.’ It is the reign of relativism. In the words of many a street philosopher; ‘It's all good’.

This is the language of ‘tolerance’ being spoken. And tolerance has come to mean unqualified and unquestioning acceptance. This bent toward universalism is affirmed by our opinion leaders; presidents and pundits alike. Presidents Bush and Obama have given the nod to the notion that the god of Islam is the same as the God of the Bible. This is patently not so! Oprah continues to tell us that ‘all ways lead to God’. Again this is the lie of the New Age. Now, Glen Beck, a man who has proven his worth as a brilliant analyst of the social malaise that is afflicting our culture – and a revealer of the depth of the mendacity and duplicity of our political-ruling caste - is offering a social theology that embraces reincarnation, positive energy, and praying “to whatever higher power you believe in.”<sup>1</sup> This is the opinion expressed in his new book, *The Seven Wonders That Will Change Your Life*, that he co-authored with psychiatrist Dr Keith Ablow. Now he may claim to be a Christian. But this is in no way Christianity as understood through the logical reading of Scripture. Jesus Himself said, **“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”** (John 4:23) Just how to we identify that Truth? **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** (John 14:6)

One of Beck’s chief theological errors lies in the fact that he buys into the notion – common to Mormonism as well as the New Age belief system that “God is everything, everywhere and inside everyone.”<sup>2</sup> This is nothing less than pantheism; defined by the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy as: *“God is everything and everything is God ... the world is either identical with God or in some way a self-expression of his nature.”*<sup>3</sup> Again, this is in no way a Biblical concept. Scripture teaches that sonship is a bit more limited than that. **“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”** (John 1:12) A saving relationship with God centers around acceptance of His Son, Jesus the Christ, and the born again experience. And it is exclusive to those willing to surrender to God Himself, through His Son. It is always on God’s terms – not ours. **“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** (John 3:13-14) To those who choose to end their rebellion, the rewards are deliverance from that bondage of evil and a deep and marvelous relationship with God Himself. **“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”** (Colossians 1:18-19)

But instead of the Biblical line, Beck and Ablow offer us such relativistic precepts as “There is only your truth” and advising that we must each take our own souls and “fill it with your truth.”<sup>4</sup> Bible commentator Brannon Howse reviewed the entire book and gives this verdict. “Beck’s new book is nothing less than the promotion of universalism, postmodernism, and pagan spirituality, also known as the New Age Movement.”<sup>5</sup>

This brings us to the confusion that is postmodern thought. If we all have our own truth, our own path to God, then to judge is evil. Now, of course Beck never goes there. In fact, he shows great practical discernment in pointing out the evil extant in the political realm. But the bottom line is that this philosophy leads us logically to the point where all judgment must be filtered through the self. So even a conservative like Glenn Beck can pooh pooh the danger of gay marriage, for instance, because after all – in matters that don’t hurt anyone – everyone’s ‘truth’ is exclusively his own to build. Now not Glenn, but others have taken this even farther. Anything that smacks of the Biblical becomes ‘intolerant’, ‘mean-spirited’ or ‘homophobic’. Even to judge evil is evil. Thus our culture allows little in the way of discernment.

Is it ‘all good’? Logic tells us this can’t be so. Our experience confirms it. Evil is still evil. Murder is always wrong. Good is still good. No matter how some of our intellectual elite may argue to the contrary, there is some transcendent morality, even if the bar has been lowered. Across cultures and time, man senses this within. It is historical fact that not all behaviors are morally equivalent. Prostitution, stealing, murder and adultery are in no wise equivalent to sex with love, honesty, non-violence and fidelity. Some behaviors are inherently better than others. Evil is evil, in that it celebrates the self at the expense of others. Is this not a truth? And if there is a transcendent morality, if there is truth, what is its source?

Yet logic tells us that all things cannot be morally equivalent. It tells us too that truth is true. It is true regardless of our acceptance. It is true regardless of our awareness or acquiescence. And most importantly it is by definition; exclusive. Truth is never subjective. The notion that something can be ‘true for you, but not for me’ is foolishness. Truth must correspond to reality. Jesus and Allah cannot both be God. Truth cannot depend upon belief. Am I Napoleon Bonaparte because I am convinced of it.? Of course not! To hold that truth is ‘relative to persons’ is absurd. Relativism cannot stand the test of logic. Bowing to such a subjective standard makes meaningless any attempt to talk about the truth of anything. Reasoned argument becomes pointless.<sup>6</sup>

But that is just the position that science has decreed as the only valid one when it comes to values. Science, it seems, has appropriated to itself the right to be the judge of everything; to be as it were the arbiter of all truth. Yet it does not even recognize that this higher truth exists. It has taken the scientific method - that of measurable and repeatable experimentation - and represented it as being the only road to finding, not only the physical laws that govern our universe, but also the moral laws that underpin that universe. Ultimately science cannot answer the questions of meaning or morality. Questions of that type are neither measurable nor repeatable.<sup>7</sup> Science can show us only the how but not the why.

The ‘scientific view’ says there is only naturalism. Only Nature’s forces and elements can explain ‘all there is’. The spiritual or supernatural must never be considered. As we shall see in this series, they’ve got one problem with this. Naturalism calls for using a cause and affect relationship to explain everything – except the very beginning. It holds that there is no first or ultimate cause. Everything there is – just exploded out of nothing. [*Yeah, it sounds stupid to me too!*]

The implications of this belief are enormous. If there is no purpose, if all there 'IS', is the result of accidental, impersonal forces, then there can be no evil, for there is no morality, for there is no source for such an ultimate morality. Oxford's Richard Dawkins puts it in startlingly candid terms. "There is at the bottom of it all no good, no evil, no purpose, nothing but blind pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is, and we dance to its music."<sup>8</sup> So there is no place for God, or religion, or metaphysics.<sup>9</sup> This is a world in which determinism reigns. All that is, can be explained by the workings of natural law. Even our choices are products solely of the chain of natural events. So there can be no virtue or vice displayed in the decisions we make. Everything is a reaction to stimuli, merely a logical conclusion. There can be no heroes or villains, and ultimately no moral responsibility.

The results and ravages of this way of thinking are rampant in the culture we live in today. Such has been the trend of the last several decades. In so many ways our culture has relieved us of personal responsibility for our actions. We are a culture of victims looking for someone to blame. Nothing is ultimately our fault. This is the ethic of the New Age lie; that we are all somehow, divine. Sin is described as just the failure to recognize our own deity. In its purest form, evil is not even a concept. It is rather an illusion. Everyone is God. A rather chaotic circumstance is this! It is a prescription for a multiplicity of personalized *divine* moral laws. All of which may come into conflict with each other with no recourse or appeal to any higher moral authority. If morality is personally derived, what is the ultimate right when conflicts occur among the legion of autonomous gods comprising the human race.<sup>10 11</sup> This is the anarchy we face as the subjective reigns supreme. We see its results in the chaos that has taken hold of our current culture. If there is no creator everything becomes, in some sense, permissible. In the end it is naked power alone that establishes morality, and legitimizes a standard. Morality becomes what people say it is. It can and will be ever changing, as our perception of 'truth' changes. Because everything is subjective, we can never find Absolute Truth. In that world: It doesn't exist.

Thus we are left with the dilemma of purpose. What does it all mean? If we are but animals; stopovers on the revolutionary road: It means little at all. If we are God's handiwork, created in His image: It means we have a purpose and a duty and a destiny. In this series, we'll ask some of the hard questions. And we'll use logic to lay out the case.

That case will be built on solid evidence which is by nature objective, rational and historical. It can be found in the design and scope of the universe, the morality found in the hearts of men, and the very existence of love. The evidence for Jesus is comprehensive. It is apparent in the accuracy of the gospels confirmed by its' agreement with; earlier scripture, independent historical sources, and archaeological finds. There is the testimony of dozens of fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies. Perhaps most compellingly, there is the fact that his companions believed so completely in His resurrection that they all put their lives on the line to spread its truth. With nothing material to gain, not one recanted as they faced torture and death. Finally there are the millions of lives that have been touched and changed by faith in Christ.

But evidence is not what the culture wants to see. Christianity is black and white, an enemy of that culture. It presents itself as truth. And truth has consequences. These are unwelcome consequences to a society addicted to pleasure and self-fulfillment. Acceptance of that truth demands a change in who we are and how we live our lives. However, it offers in the acceptance of that truth, help in achieving that change. For once we understand the nature of truth, the nature of the goodness of God, it will make the will to desire to change almost inevitable.

Christianity is a rational system of belief. Against the current of the culture, it loves and tolerates every person, without raising all ideas to the level of equal truth. Yes it demands faith, but a faith based on the fulfillment of earlier promises, and solid rational evidence. Now here is the choice that faces us. To believe in nothing, we must accept that the universe came to be without cause or source. We must believe that it was self-generated. We must hold that the 'natural' laws that govern that universe came about by accident. To the disciple of pure naturalism, randomness and chance explain the delicate balance of forces that make life possible and enable the very intelligence that comprehends that world. We must hold that without divine guidance, great leaps were made, that turned matter into life, plants into animals, and animals into man. Which position takes more faith?(19)

Through much study I have come to realize that Christianity is simply reality, the way things are. And because Christianity claims to be true, it is necessarily exclusive. This is just the nature of truth itself. And as for Jesus: Remember He claimed to be the very Son of God. So He can never be just a great teacher. That would make Him either a liar or a lunatic. And in the course destroy the value of His teaching. Jesus said "**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**" (John 14:6) It will be our purpose to show why this is true. Exclusively true!

## **A RELIGION OF PEACE**

They're at it again. Maybe it's because the attacks are so regular that we hardly notice them anymore. In a very horrible sense they've become almost routine. Anyway, the 'Religion of Peace' – Islam that is – is at it again. Here's a catalogue of just some of what's been going on in the last several months.

January 1' 2011 – 21 Coptic Christians are killed when a suicide bomber detonates an explosive device packed with "sharpened metal, iron balls and razor wire." Another 80 were wounded. The attack is believed to be at the courtesy of either al-Qaeda in Iraq, who had long threatened Egypt's Christian community – or something called the Nigerian Taliban. Back in November of 2010, fifty Iraqi Catholics were murdered while worshipping at a Baghdad cathedral. In the Philippines, a Christmas Day church bombing wounded eleven. And Christmas Eve turned out to be bloody in Nigeria where a series of bombings took at least 31 lives. And it's not just the jihadist radicals perpetrating the violence. In Pakistan, the government court system have sentenced a Christian mother of 5 – Asia Bibi - to death

under the blasphemy laws for “defaming the prophet.” Her real offense: Putting her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.<sup>12 13 14 15</sup>  
<sup>16</sup> In Pakistan churches are routinely destroyed. In Egypt and Bangladesh and elsewhere in the region, police often look the other way as Muslim mobs work their violent will against the Christian community.

Here’s Michael Coren laying out the case in the National Post. *“It has all become so painfully routine as to appear almost predictable. In Pakistan, churches have been destroyed, Christians lynched, children forcibly converted. Catholics and Anglicans have been denied jobs, government support, housing and the most basic human rights. In Egypt, many of the eight million Christians face daily harassment in a country of 70 million Muslims, with periodic violence — often deadly — and police indifference, and even support, for mob attacks. One particularly sinister aspect to the Egyptian mass persecution is the difficulty Christians now face in obtaining exit visas, conjuring up dark echoes of previous campaign against German and Soviet Jews.”*<sup>17</sup>

It is no wonder that a religion whose holy book tells its adherents to do violence to all who reject Allah, the god of Islam – would find people who took those commands seriously. There are dozens of verses in the Koran which order Muslims to assault unbelievers. After all, Sura 2:191 commands: *“Slay the unbelievers wherever you catch them.”* Sura 4:89 says, *“seize them and slay them wherever you find them: and in any case take no friends or helpers from their ranks.”* And Sura 9:5 confirms, *“When the sacred months are over, slay the idolaters wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them.”* And that’s just a sampling. So the fact that jihadists, serious about their religion want to kill us, is no surprise. But what is a wonder, is that we seem blind to that fact. We have fallen for the lie of moral equivalence. Our modern brand of hyper-tolerance and universalism has blinded us to the reality of the situation. We do not even recognize our enemy, so that even something as heinous and obvious as the motivation behind, say, the Fort Hood Massacre, is quietly swept under the rug. And we consider instead if it might not be right to allow a mosque to be built at Ground Zero, where over 3,000 souls were sacrificed on the altar of jihad. We are become bloody fools; blind and stupid. Perhaps apropos are the words of Winston Churchill from his book, *The Gathering Storm*. *“Still, if you will not fight for the right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory will be sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than live as slaves.”*<sup>18</sup>

## **WHY I WORSHIP**

Cindie Palaszewski

In the news lately we’ve been hearing testimony from the trial of a Muslim man accused of the brutal slaying of his wife by beheading her. As I thought about the evil of such a crime, my mind was drawn to the Lord and what is written in the Bible.

First of all I recalled how God’s word tells us we are **ALL** sinners. That includes everyone born into this world from Charles Manson to Mother Theresa or Judas Iscariot (betrayer of Jesus) to Mary (mother of Jesus). If you were born, then you were born a sinner. Romans 3:23 puts it this way; **“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

Secondly, Jesus is no respecter of people. All races, rich, poor, nice people, mean people, beautiful looking or deformed; we are **ALL** equally loved by God. (John 3:16) **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

There is only one thing that separates the people God has knit together in the wombs of their mother’s. It is this: Some will choose Him and get heaven and some will not and receive hell.

What I was thinking about in light of the slaying situation was this. Here we have this woman who suffered at the hands of her cruel and evil husband. She was young, pretty and loved her children very much and in an instant her life was over. So where is she now? Only one thing really mattered at the point of her death. Did she trust in Jesus to save her eternal soul? John 3:18 tells us, **“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”**

As for her assailant husband, he too is given the same offer from God to choose Jesus or not. Of course we know in this case both husband and wife followed Allah, the god of Islam. (By the way, any god other than the true God, Jesus Christ, is in all actuality; Satan or one of his demons). Now, time has run out for her. He on the other hand can still change his eternal destination.

Thinking about this story made me so incredibly thankful that my time had not run out before I had made the decision to follow Jesus. There were many days throughout my life that I had lived recklessly and it could have all ended right then and there. But because of God’s amazing grace, I was spared. You see, I don’t really understand all of God’s ways and I’m certain I won’t until I see Him face to face. But I do know that somewhere between my choosing and God’s sovereignty, I became a true child of the King. That is so unbelievably wonderful to me; that He has saved me from the hell that I deserved and has given me eternal life with Him. That is why I worship.

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- <sup>1</sup> All quotes from: *The Seven Wonders That Will Change Your Life* originally found in: Glenn Beck's New Book Reveals He Embraces New Age, Prophecy Blog, January 12, 2011. This particular quote taken from: Glen Beck & Keith Ablow, *The Seven Wonders That Will Change Your Life*, Threshold / Mercury, a division of Simon & Schuster, 2011, pg 132
- <sup>2</sup> Glenn Beck & Keith Ablow, *The Seven Wonders That Will Change Your Life*, Threshold / Mercury, a division of Simon & Schuster, 2011, pgs 58 & 71
- <sup>3</sup> Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy; quoting: Owen, H. P. *Concepts of Deity*. London: Macmillan, 1971, pg 74 – [May 17, 2007]
- <sup>4</sup> Glen Beck & Keith Ablow, *The Seven Wonders That Will Change Your Life*, Threshold / Mercury, a division of Simon & Schuster, 2011, pgs 220 & 288
- <sup>5</sup> Glenn Beck's New Book Reveals He Embraces New Age, Prophecy Blog, January 12, 2011.
- <sup>6</sup> Doug Groothuis, *What is truth?*, Leader U, July 14, 2002
- <sup>7</sup> Ravi Zacharias, [Gospelcom.net/rbc/rtb/1rsn/1.2.html](http://Gospelcom.net/rbc/rtb/1rsn/1.2.html)
- <sup>8</sup> Dawkins as quoted by Ravi Zacharias in: *Lessons from a War in a Battle of Ideas*, RZIM
- <sup>9</sup> Dawkins as quoted by Ravi Zacharias in: *Lessons from a War in a Battle of Ideas*, RZIM
- <sup>10</sup> Paul E Little, *Know Why You Believe*, Chariot Victor Publishing, 1999, pg 146
- <sup>11</sup> Ravi Zacharias, *Jesus Among Other Gods*, World Publishing, 2000, pgs 86-89 & 178
- <sup>12</sup> Over 50 Catholics die during terrorist attack on Baghdad cathedral, Catholic News Agency, November 3, 2010
- <sup>13</sup> Egypt Church Bomb Kills 21 at New Year's Mass, CBS, AP, January 1, 2011
- <sup>14</sup> Michael Coren: Killing Christians, in the name of the prophet, National Post, January 6, 2011
- <sup>15</sup> Christian woman sentenced to death in Pakistan 'for blasphemy', Telegraph (UK), November 9, 2010
- <sup>16</sup> Christmas Eve Bombings in Nigeria Kill 31, New Media Journal, CNN, December 25, 2010
- <sup>17</sup> Michael Coren: Killing Christians, in the name of the prophet, National Post, January 6, 2011
- <sup>18</sup> Winston S Churchill, *The Gathering Storm*, Houghton & Mifflin, 1948, pg 348