

## do the 66 books really measure up?

Most Christian articles of faith assert that the 66 books of the Bible represent the Word of GOD<sup>1</sup>, at least in the original versions. I do not agree. I have found the number of Authoritative books - those with a perfect alignment befitting of GOD - to be fewer. Ancient scribes and modern translators are not the topic. The fact is that GOD the FATHER is Perfect, and HIS Word is Perfect. We are dangerously wrong to be ascribing to HIS Perfection or that of YESU (JESUS) or the HOLY SPIRIT anything that is demonstrably not perfect. Among the 66 books are original inconsistencies that prevent me from describing the collection as HIS Word. GOD does not make erroneous statements. GOD does not contradict HIMSELF. My answer is “No, not all of the 66 books measure up to HIS standard of Perfection - there is subtracting to be done.”

I hope this study will help you see more clearly the difference between what FATHER really said and doctrines that are founded upon lesser writings. Dare we insult GOD by following human traditions? Men have elevated imperfect writings as HIS Word! A tradition from 1546 adds still more books as sacred with anyone opposing them declared anathema (accursed)!<sup>2</sup> The doctrines of men unsurprisingly conflict with one another today. I do not expect the problems I make note of here to disturb your faith in GOD but only what part of your faith you’ve unduly placed in men and their traditions. My hope is that you will rely upon the HOLY SPIRIT, our TEACHER, and walk away from soiled doctrines of men who would not listen to HIM. Let us examine some specifics...

### first, an easy one - the genealogies of Yosef

Finding different genealogies for Yosef in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke is a mild shock to those of us who were taught, even at threat of condemnation, that we must accept the 66 books as perfectly representing GOD’s Word. It is well that earlier generations did not tamper with the two genealogies; such an obvious inconsistency easily disproves the hyperbolic twaddle handed down by the clergy and scholars of the generations since. The lineage is to show that YESU (JESUS) was born into the house of a direct descendant of King David of Israel. HIS FATHER, as we all know, is YHVH the MOST HIGH. The departure between the two lineages for Yosef occurs in the generation from King David to his sons. Matthew 1:6-7 indicates ancestry through King Solomon, while Luke 3:31 indicates ancestry through Nathan, son of David. My own opinion is that the genealogy in Matthew, as illuminated by modern research on the DuTillet Hebrew manuscript of that Gospel,<sup>3</sup> provides the correct lineage to Yosef, the husband of Miriam, the mother of YESU. While both genealogies do show Yosef as a direct descendant of King David, they cannot both be correct.

### now Who do you think really made all this?

There are clergy today who preach that YESU is the FATHER and made the universe. YESU told us plainly “**the FATHER is greater than I**”<sup>4</sup> and in Isaiah, we find

**Thus says YHVH, WHO saved you  
and WHO formed you from the womb  
and WHO helped you:  
I am YHVH WHO made all things;  
WHO stretched out the heavens ALONE;  
WHO spread out the earth by MYSELF...<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> use of ALL CAPS is for DIVINE PERSONS; it does not mean ‘read loudly’

<sup>2</sup> the fourth session of the council of Trent held forth 66+12 books, also referred to by some as the Augustinian canon, and a decree concerning canonical scriptures concluded with “*But if any one receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts, as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church, and as they are contained in the old Latin vulgate edition; and knowingly and deliberately contemn the traditions aforesaid; let him be anathema. Let all, therefore, understand, in what order, and in what manner, the said Synod, after having laid the foundation of the Confession of faith, will proceed, and what testimonies and authorities it will mainly use in confirming dogmas, and in restoring morals in the Church.*” [quoted March 2011 from <http://history.hanover.edu/early/trent/ct04.html>, with emphasis of mine on two words]

<sup>3</sup> information about the DuTillet Hebrew Matthew can be found on wikipedia and other internet sites

<sup>4</sup> see John 14:28 and also John 10:29

<sup>5</sup> see Isaiah 44:24

Is the errant doctrine based on Colossians? Or maybe on the first chapter of John?<sup>6</sup> These suggest that nothing came into existence apart from YESU, but YESU never said that. YESU would have to be in conflict with the FATHER to say so. Scribes and translators carry their own theology into the action of rendering manuscripts and influence doctrinal positions thereby. Here are at least two wild departures in John and Colossians that stand opposed to what YHVH and YESU have said about this.

### so nobody has ever seen GOD? really?

“GOD ... who alone is immortal and lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.”<sup>7</sup> “No one has ever seen GOD...”<sup>8</sup> I have heard people parrot these words without considering that GOD once met with Avraham.<sup>9</sup> GOD appeared to Moses more than once and even the seventy elders of Israel beheld HIM on the day of the Covenant.<sup>10</sup> Two million or more people of Israel heard HIS Voice at Sinai.<sup>11</sup> Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel and John each saw GOD on HIS Throne.<sup>12</sup> Why do we find the first two statements in a Gospel and an Epistle? Can they be GOD’s Own Word?

### census taking, poll taxes and plagues

There is a story told in the Second Book of Samuel, chapter 24 about a plague that occurred when King David ordered a census of the men. It suggests GOD incited the census. Another account in 1Chronicles 21 says the devil incited King David to do this.<sup>13</sup> What is clear to me is that King David and his men neglected the ransom required for a census in order to prevent plague from breaking out.<sup>14</sup> Some points in the Torah had apparently been forgotten already in the days of King David to the extent we find the Books of Moses were even forgotten by the days of Josiah King of Judah.<sup>15</sup> To see doctrinal conflicts in clear light, always start with *What did our FATHER actually say?* The point here is that there was a method legislated by GOD to prevent a plague breaking out due to a census; this was not remembered before or even, apparently, after the fact when 2Samuel24 and 1Chronicles21 were written down. Sadly, even today mine seems to be a very lonely report.

### Who is LORD of all the earth? YHVH, of course!

Have you ever listened to a preacher who talked of the devil as if it had some exalted position on the earth? Our FATHER said to the devil “**in the dust you shall go all the days of your life**” and never told it otherwise. GOD and YESU refer to the earth as YHVH’s Footstool.<sup>16</sup> We find in the Gospel of John three verses where the devil is referred to as a ruler or even a prince of this world.<sup>17</sup> Did our MESSIAH really say those words? No. To do that, YESU would have to be at odds with the Torah and the Prophets, at odds with what the FATHER said. That is not YESU’s Way. So the Gospel of John needs careful rendering before reading it to children, let alone using it for doctrine. Consider the following.

Behold the ark of the covenant of the LORD of all the earth is passing over before you in the Jordan. Now therefore take twelve men from all the tribes of Israel, a man out of each tribe. And when the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the covenant of YHVH, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be divided, the waters that are flowing down from above shall pile up as though they were in sheepskins, one beside the other.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>6</sup> see Colossians 1:16 and John 1:3, the latter reading rather like a Gnostic extremism

<sup>7</sup> see 1Tim 6:15-16 – it sounds alluring, but it is wrong

<sup>8</sup> see John 1:18 – again, it sounds alluring, but it is wrong

<sup>9</sup> see Genesis 18:1-2

<sup>10</sup> see Exodus 24:9-11; Exodus 33:11 and 18-23; Num 12:8

<sup>11</sup> see Exodus chapter 20, Deut 5:4 and consider the census figures in Numbers chapter 2

<sup>12</sup> see Isaiah 6:1-4 and Daniel 7:9 and Ezekiel 1:26 and Revelation from chapter 4 onward

<sup>13</sup> in Hebrew 1Chron21 refers to the devil as *HaSatan*. This changes the Hebrew plural noun *satan* (bad spirits in general) to a proper name; it is a degradation of language and the source of a supposed name for the devil that did not come to us from FATHER, but from the scribes, translators and assemblers of the doctrines of men.

<sup>14</sup> see Exodus 30:11-12 and chapters 1-to-4 of the Book of Numbers

<sup>15</sup> see 2Kings22 and 2Chronicles23 where the books of the Law were found and read

<sup>16</sup> see Isaiah 66:1 and Matthew 5:34-35

<sup>17</sup> see the Gospel of John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11

<sup>18</sup> see Joshua 3:11-13

Then I answered the Angel who talked with me, What are these my lord? And the Angel answered and said to me, **These are the four spirits of the heavens, who stand before the presence of the LORD of all the earth.**<sup>19</sup>

Are these clear enough? The LORD of all the earth; HE Who created all that there is; HE Who owns all that there is. Should I accept three verses in the Gospel of John that conflict with the Torah and the Prophets? No. Nor can I accept Christian doctrine that calls the devil a ruler on earth due to a few stray verses. Perhaps someone tampered with John's Testimony. Finding five points, including these three verses that cannot be reconciled to the Torah and Prophets caused me to place that Gospel in the Annex of my own family Bible. I know that GOD Alone is LORD of all the earth, and HE told the devil to crawl on its belly in the dust that we walk upon in this life. GOD never told it otherwise.

i confess my sin to YOU, and do not say  
that a serpent intrigued, or tempted me  
how can i conceal from YOU my faults, since  
before i was born YOUR love enveloped me? <sup>20</sup>

The Jewish poets of medieval Spain, like Solomon Ibn Gabirol quoted here, did not harbour any illusion about the nature of their faults, as many Christians seem to. Those who teach that the devil is some kind of exalted ruler down here also espouse the view that much of the evil on earth is due to the continuing action of that creature or some foolishness about a Design error of giving us *sinful natures*. People are too quick to cast blame elsewhere for their own failings and that collectively of institutional religions and societies over generations. When we set aside the false notions, we can get on with solving the real problems.

### the church as HIS Bride? who are you kidding?

We learn the identity of Bride of the LAMB in Revelation. The Bride of the LAMB is the heavenly Jerusalem, a city made by GOD, made perfect in every way, for HIS SON YESU, the LAMB.<sup>21</sup> It is not fashioned of sinners who, by GOD's Own Grace, have been made acceptable to HIM only by the Costly Blood of HIS SON YESU. Only by GOD's Righteousness are we allowed to be cleansed of our sin so we can be invited to the Wedding Feast, and to one day enter through the gates of the city.<sup>22</sup> The Bride is Perfect from start to finish yet we find the analogies of Paul<sup>23</sup> supporting later doctrines that give YESU's servants the role of Divine Bride. Ridiculous!

### don't Law and Grace naturally go together?

It is clear that GOD's Commandments for Israel have never been set aside yet I still hear preachers claiming that very thing. Just consider what YESU and the HOLY SPIRIT have taught us<sup>24</sup> and there will be no doubt about this. When Paul dwells upon a false dichotomy of *law-versus-grace* in Romans 6 and Galatians 5, and the writer of Hebrews declares the law "set aside"<sup>25</sup> it is not hard to see how glossed-over doctrines flow so easily through the lips of many preachers; however, Commandments and Grace have long been offered together by GOD and they still are.

### a long-transmitted error

In Greek manuscripts of Matthew, the prophecy concerning thirty pieces of silver is attributed to Jeremiah<sup>26</sup> and it is thus translated in many Bibles, in many languages. In fact, it was the book of Zechariah that refers.<sup>27</sup> Not all Bibles bother to correct or to footnote this. The Aramaic Peshitta, used

<sup>19</sup> see Zechariah 6:4-5

<sup>20</sup> Solomon Ibn Gabirol c. 1050, The ending of *Before I was born*, as translated in *The Jewish Poets of Spain 900-1250*, David Goldstein editor, ©1965, page 97, capitalisations modified by the author

<sup>21</sup> see Rev 21:10-21

<sup>22</sup> see Rev 22:14

<sup>23</sup> see Ephesians 5 for example

<sup>24</sup> see Matthew 5:17-20 for example, and the commandments for Gentiles in Acts 15:28-29 and Acts 21:17-26

<sup>25</sup> see Hebrews 7:18-19

<sup>26</sup> see Matthew 27:3-10

<sup>27</sup> see Zechariah 11:12-13

in the George Lamsa translation to English in 1933, does not name a Prophet at all, and so my family Bible does not include the name of any prophet in the text proper, but mentions in a footnote this old error and correction simply as part of educating my own children.

**a simple solution – an order-of-precedence**

So what is the answer? If I cannot accept all the words of the 66 books as GOD’s Word then what can I do? I have found a Contract-Legal device called *order-of-precedence* to be a simple remedy. The device establishes, among any set of contract documents, the Legal precedence to be used when there is a matter of ambiguity or conflict found. In my use of this device, all Words Spoken by our FATHER take precedence over everything else. Simple. The Torah and Prophets contain almost all of the Words YHVH Spoke among the 66 books. There are rare but important Amendments to Torah in the Prophets, but no contradictions.<sup>28</sup> The Words spoken by YESU and the HOLY SPIRIT must be conformed to what our FATHER has said, since THEY will not contradict HIM. I found only rare problems that were resolved with better source materials (Hebrew and Aramaic sources instead of Greek). But not every word in the 66 books was spoken by YHVH, YESU or the HOLY SPIRIT. Some were spoken by Holy Angels, and those hold no conflicts either. Some are words of narration. Some are only the assertions of men. Not surprisingly, I do find among those some inconsistencies that are identified and sequestered quickly by applying a properly defined *order-of-precedence*.

**the Authoritative Books in my own family Bible**

For my own family rendering of the Bible, which I refer to as FATHER’S Holy Light (FHL), I have chosen to organise the books differently than any Bible I have ever seen. As a head of household, it is my right and duty to do so if required for the proper training of my own children. I have organized the books that I find Authoritative into logical groups with all sequestered Writings placed into an *Annex*. Truth must be taught from what is Authoritative. Lesser Writings, while profitable for reading, must be clearly so labeled. I provide here my current organisation of materials.

**FATHER’S HOLY LIGHT**

**TORAH**

In the beginning (*Genesis*)  
 These the names (*Exodus*)  
 Then YHVH called (*Leviticus*)  
 Then YHVH spoke (*Numbers*)  
 These the words (*Deuteronomy*)

Torah – it stands alone. There is nothing of similar age to place alongside it as profitable for reading.

Early Prophets - The Jewish Tanakh distinguishes the Early and Late Prophets from the Writings. From their *Nevi'im Rishonim*, or *Early Prophets*, I keep Joshua, Judges and Samuel here. I then include many songs of Israel. I reproduce Exodus 15:1-18 and Deuteronomy 32, two of the most ancient poems on earth, along with Psalm 90 as Songs of Moses. I believe the psalms of Assaf to be at least as old as the Books of the Prophet Samuel and place the songs of Assaf before those of King David. Our MASTER quoted one of the Psalms of Assaf as “Law” in the Gospel of John.<sup>29</sup> The Songs of King David obviously belong here - he was both King and Prophet. The words of Moses, Assaf and David deserve such prominence while all 150 psalms do not.

**FATHER’S HOLY LIGHT**

**EARLY PROPHETS**

(*from Y’hoshua to David*)  
 Songs of Moses  
 Book of Joshua  
 The Book of Judges  
 Songs of Assaf, Seer of David  
 First Book of Samuel  
 Second Book of Samuel  
 Songs of King David

**ANNEX**

**THE WRITINGS**

(*still profitable for reading*)  
 Ruth  
 First Chronicles  
 Songs of the diligent Torah student (1 & 119)  
 Songs of Ascent (120-134)

<sup>28</sup> see a *Legal primer* ([www.primconcord.info](http://www.primconcord.info)) for a first listing of such Amendments  
<sup>29</sup> see John 10:34-36 which is referring to Psalm 82, a psalm of Assaf

The Annex of my family Bible, which begins here, finds Ruth, 1Chronicles and several other Psalms profitable for reading. Some might say that my partitioning of the Psalms is somehow violent, but the forced treatment of 150 psalms as one entity has, for centuries, led to needlessly divisive arguments among believing Israelites. Partitioning the psalms in my own way gives greater coherence to the words of Early Prophets. Psalms 1 and 119 are excellent for teaching love for Torah, and the commandments most particularly. The Songs of Ascent are more enjoyable for me set out this way.

Middle Prophets - I then grouped the two books of Kings and Prophets of their day together as the *Middle Prophets*, covering the time from Solomon to the Babylonian exile. While Lamentations is presently classed by modern Jews as *Ketuv'im* (Writings), Jeremiah and Lamentations were long ago looked upon as one book. Together they conclude this section. Lamentations is an emotional end for the *Middle Prophets* – a conclusion to the number of times YHVH called through HIS Prophets for return to Torah, and yet the people hurried blindly toward exile from the Promised Land. The ordering of the *shorter* Prophets within my rendering follows the order within the Leningrad Codex.<sup>30</sup> The first nine of twelve are among the *Middle Prophets*, the final three are in the *Later Prophets*. The Annex for this group contains Second Chronicles, the books of Solomon, and the balance of psalms not already included with the *Early Prophets*.

**FATHER'S HOLY LIGHT**

**ANNEX**

**MIDDLE PROPHETS**

**THE WRITINGS**

*(from Solomon to Exile)*

*(still profitable for reading)*

- First Book of Kings of Israel
- Book of Hoshea
- Book of Yoel
- Book of Amos
- Book of Obadiah
- Book of Yonah
- Second Book of Kings of Israel
- Book of Isaiah
- Book of Micah
- Book of Nahum
- Book of Habakkuk
- Book of Zephaniah
- Book of Jeremiah
- Lamentations of Jeremiah

- Second Chronicles
- Song of Solomon
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Songs - Balance of the Psalms

Later Prophets - The Jews who do not believe in YESU as MESSIAH treat the Book of Daniel as *Ketuv'im* or Writings. Daniel is clearly *Nevi'im*, a Prophet. In the book of Ezekiel, GOD mentions Noah, Job and Daniel as among the most Righteous men who ever lived.<sup>31</sup> We have been told that Job lived in the days of the Patriarchs but an accurate history is lost to us. The writer of the book of Job took wild liberties in portraying the devil as was done. Provided the book of Job is not taken up into *doctrinal* statements, there should be no harm done. The one new entry for many people will be 1Maccabees. For my family Bible, it holds a significantly reliable history, and because there is much of the prophecy from Daniel fulfilled within 1Maccabees, it happens to be exceptionally relevant history. It deserves a place in my Annex at least as much as the book of Job we've received.

**FATHER'S HOLY LIGHT**

**ANNEX**

**LATER PROPHETS**

**THE WRITINGS**

*(from Exile to MESSIAH)*

*(still profitable for reading)*

- Book of Daniel
- Book of Ezekiel
- Book of Haggai
- Book of Zechariah
- Book of Malachi

- Job *(as mentioned in Ezekiel)*
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther
- 1Maccabees

<sup>30</sup> about 1010 CE, the oldest full Hebrew Tanakh, also the standard form of the Masoretic Text  
<sup>31</sup> see Ezekiel 14:12-23



**Messiah** - The Precursor to MESSIAH, John the Baptist, is spoken of so highly by YESU that he is considered greater than all Prophets who went before him. And yet we find only a few passages concerning John the Baptist scattered among the Gospels. For teaching my own children, I copied several Gospel portions into a book called YESU's Precursor (The Baptiser). It provides a coherent bridge between the final chapter of Malachi, and the opening of the Gospel according to Matthew. I have kept Matthew, Marcus, Acts and Revelation within the collection of authoritative books. Alongside these, for profitable reading, I placed the Gospels of Luke and John and the Letters of the Disciples of YESU.

#### FATHER'S HOLY LIGHT

##### MASHIACH (MESSIAH)

*(for YHVH so loved the world...)*

YESU's Precursor (The Baptiser)  
 YESU's Gospel (of Matthew)  
 YESU's Gospel (of Marcus)  
 YESU's Ascent & Acts of the Disciples  
 YESU's Revelation to Yochanan

#### ANNEX

##### THE WRITINGS

*(still profitable for reading)*

Gospels (of Luke and John)  
 The Letters of Kefa (Simon Peter)  
 The Letters of John  
 The Letter of James  
 The Letters of Paul  
 The Letter of Jude

Not all of the 66 books received by our generation measure up to the perfection needed to be called *GOD's Word*. The Annex keeps them all, duplicates a few sections, and even adds one apocryphal book to the collection. However, the organization significantly distinguishes between Authoritative Books and Writings. Further problems with elevating the full collection to be *HIS Word* are below.

#### well, what about John 3:16?

Some will disagree with my placing of John's Gospel in the Annex, but having found two errors in chapter one and then three high claims for the devil in this world, I had to make the right choice for my own family. I know John 3:16 is a highly-favoured verse used in evangelizing.

**For GOD so loved the world that HE gave HIS one and only Begotten SON that whoever believes in HIM shall not perish but have eternal life.**

But we should not forget what else YESU said in HIS first public sermon...

**Not everyone who says to ME, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of MY FATHER in heaven. Many will say to ME on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from ME, you evildoers!'<sup>32</sup>**

Some who obviously believe in YESU, in demonstrating the Power of HIS Name, and even that they are doing the will of the FATHER, are called evildoers? How sobering! It is not enough to simply believe in YESU and HIS Name but, as throughout the Bible, to do the will of the FATHER. John 3:16 should never be taught on its own because it cannot stand alone. In fact, John 3:14-21 should not be taught apart from what else YESU and FATHER taught us about our obligations to THEM.

#### and special knowledge? isn't it okay to eat things sacrificed to idols?

It must be admitted by honest people that Paul's statements in First Corinthians chapter 8 suggest a special knowledge that it is okay to eat things sacrificed to idols because idols are "nothing". This matter seems archaic for many Christians of today, but it is not an academic matter for believers who live in places like Asia where food is routinely offered to idols and then to people. I have been offered such food plenty of times and once, decades ago, I accepted some on the basis of Paul's letters. Then I found to my shame and horror that Paul is simply wrong. I have seen clever arguments in defense of Paul's words but his claim of special knowledge<sup>33</sup> and liberty is plainly arrogant, something St. Paul otherwise warns against. This is soundly countered by the decision of the HOLY

<sup>32</sup> see Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>33</sup> see 1 Corinthians 8:7-10

SPIRIT in the Apostolic council in Jerusalem and by the words of MESSIAH in HIS message to the churches in HIS Revelation to John.<sup>34</sup> Do not be misled about idols and offerings.

### who was Jude talking about?

The letter of Jude, a mere 25 verses, contains references to matters not spoken of by GOD or YESU or the HOLY SPIRIT anywhere in the Bible. You should take care for yourself and your family with that letter and any peculiar doctrines that it supports.

The body of Moses? - Deuteronomy 34:4-7 tells us that Moses died and was gathered to his fathers and only GOD knows where Moses' body was laid to rest. The letter of Jude mentions in verse 9 an argument by the devil about body of Moses. This is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. We do find in the book of Zechariah a vision in chapter 3 where Joshua, the high priest, was standing before the Angel of YHVH and the devil was at Joshua's side accusing him. We know from YESU that the devil is a liar and murderer. The words of the Holy Angel began "YHVH rebuke you...". Perhaps Jude was confused, but a story of his day about Moses has been passed along for nearly two millennia.

Angels who rebelled? – Jude's verse 6 is one of few places where men make direct mention of some form of judgment upon the Angels. I have read other words of men that assert such a rebellion. I can find no substantiation for this doctrine among the words spoken by FATHER, YESU and the HOLY SPIRIT. I do not teach that doctrine to my children.

The Secret Book of Enoch? – Jude's verses 14 and 15 make mention of prophetic statements by Enoch, seventh from Adam. This shows familiarity with a book that even the *Rabbanites* refuse to include among the *Ketuv'im* as profitable for reading. It is apparent that Paul was also familiar with the book.

### how many heavens?

In the first chapter of Genesis, on Day Two, we are told about the expanse. It separates the waters above from those below. This is where GOD placed the stars, the sun and the moon. "Heaven is MY Throne and the earth is MY Footstool", HE says in the opening verse of Isaiah chapter 66. There is one big heaven, sometimes called the heavens. Apparently, the *Secret Book of Enoch* was making its way around religious student circles in the days before and after YESU. That book laid out ten heavens and their dispositions. Saint Paul mentions something about "the third heaven".<sup>35</sup> Do remember that Saint Paul was a Pharisee and learned from the prestigious religious schools of his day. We may assume that Paul was exposed to plenty of other doctrines from beyond the authoritative books as a student, Pharisaical doctrines so roundly rebuked by YESU. The fact that Paul referred to a place of one vision of his as *the third heaven* should not bother us provided we do not take such words up into doctrine. Saint John, when he visited heaven in the Book of Revelation, does not make any such distinction.

### ...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness...?

This is a direct quote from Hebrews 9:22. We must require correct language at all times for anything elevated to be called the *Holy Word*, and this is another example of a statement that does not quite measure up. In Numbers 14:19-20, GOD did forgive at Moses request without the shedding of blood. In Isaiah 6:5-7 one of the Seraphs took away sin using a coal from the Altar. Consider further Leviticus 5:11 where a man who is too poor to purchase and offer an animal as a sin offering is allowed to offer grain only, with no shedding of blood, and be forgiven. Very simply, we should never allow sweeping statements to be taken up into doctrine and preached without qualification.

### is circumcision really of no value?

In Galatians chapter 5, Paul suggests that a Gentile's acceptance of circumcision will require that man to keep the whole of Torah and not have the Gift of MESSIAH available to him. There is, in fact, a requirement for circumcision in Exodus chapter 12 for male Gentiles who wish to partake of the Passover meal. They are not compelled to partake, but may not partake without circumcision for YHVH has said so. It is unfortunate that Paul makes the unfounded leap of declaring that such willful

<sup>34</sup> see Acts 15:28-29, Acts 21:17-26 and Revelation 2:14,20; see also 1John 5:21

<sup>35</sup> see 2Corinthians 12:1-2

circumcision makes all the commandments binding upon that Gentile and the act somehow repudiates our MESSIAH's Gift, accepted on faith, to cover over our sins. Paul had no authority to place such an onerous meaning upon the act of circumcision.

Paul quickly thereafter, in Galatians 6:15, asserts that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any meaning. In truth, YHVH requires circumcision of all male offspring of Avraham, and those who neglect to do so are cut off from HIS people. In truth, YHVH does require all males who wish to partake of the Passover meal to be circumcised regardless of their patrilineal forebears. The terms circumcision and uncircumcision should never be used as mere 'handles' for religious views or for ethnic groups where other words exist. The commandments for Gentiles in Acts 15 do not obligate Gentiles to be circumcised. Today's *Rabbanites*, at least the several persons and organizations I checked with, do not think the circumcision requirement in Exodus 12:48 applies to Gentiles at all, but only to a 'lapsed Jew'. I disagree, as do other men who recognise the *Rabbanites* as authoritative only among themselves. GOD will explain important differences to us at a time of HIS Own choosing. Should any Gentile wish to celebrate Passover as the Jews do, and most especially to join in with Jewish believers, I urge you not to trifle with the simple meaning of Exodus 12:43-49.

### who gave us those 66 books anyway?

The Old Testament has 39 books by most Christian counts and so, the more direct question is "who gave us those 27 books"? Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, was the first Christian to list these 27 books, no more, no less. That was done in his Festal Letter in the year 367 CE. "*Numerous scholars have unreflectively claimed that this letter of Athanasius represents the 'closing' of the canon, that from then on there were no disputes about which books to include. But there continued to be debates and [...] there never has been complete agreement on the canon throughout the Christian world.*"<sup>36</sup> During the 1500's, a council of European men at Trent elevated twelve further books to the same level as the books of Moses and they condemned those of us who would disagree with them.<sup>37</sup>

### and what do we really owe to earthly leaders?

The Writings in the Bible contain numerous sayings that are not ordinances of GOD. Consider this example:-

Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil, wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.<sup>38</sup>

A young man visiting India once complained of an unrighteous leader of a Christian charity, and quoted these verses from Romans chapter 13 as his reason for remaining in subjection to such an unworthy person. An evangelist and I listened to his complaint and reminded him that subjecting himself to an unworthy leader could never be proper. To put those verses of St.Paul into correct perspective along with doctrines that flow from them, consider one verse from the Prophet Hosea.

**They have set up kings, but not by ME;  
they have appointed princes, but I did not acknowledge.  
With their silver and gold they have made idols for themselves,  
that they might be cut off.**<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> for example, the Syrian church of the 5<sup>th</sup> century had a New Testament canon of only 21 books. Lost Christianities by Bart D. Ehrman (© 2003) summarises modern scholarship on many Biblical texts with chapter 11 devoted to the development of modern canon. The text within quotations is taken from pages 230-231.

<sup>37</sup> see footnote number 2 for more information

<sup>38</sup> see Romans 13:1-6

<sup>39</sup> see Hosea 8:4



When the ALMIGHTY establishes governance, HE exalts and prospers those who are worthy. HE does not exalt the unrighteous. And when we do what YHVH requires of us, do we indeed obtain praise from the governing authorities of our day? Are we praised for stoning sodomites? Do corrupt officials pressuring all parties for bribes praise our adamantly upright ways? No! Instead we are ridiculed, constrained, threatened with violence, even murdered when we undertake measures that are required by the Torah, or even by the simpler commandments passed down to Gentile believers.

Consider the words that GOD spoke first and foremost as your sure guide. Some books are clearly not authoritative, and even contradict what we are taught by YHVH, YESU and the HOLY SPIRIT. We should be grateful to YHVH for making clear statements through the Prophets. A single verse such as this one from Hosea can guide us in dealing with errant doctrines. We must seek and distinguish the Holy Light for ourselves, it seems, to make needful choices for our families because the 66 books simply do not measure up.

### **on using the *order-of-precedence***

The first thing that I had to do was honestly acknowledge that the inconsistencies really do exist. My segregating texts into authoritative books (FHL) and annexed Writings is my own solution to the problem I found and then honestly faced. About three-quarters of the total pages of the common Bible are classed as authoritative within my FHL family Bible. The balance is annexed apart from it as the collected Writings to which I have admitted 1Maccabees. Exodus 15 and Deuteronomy 32 show up twice. A few of King David's Psalms show up also in the collected Songs of Ascent. Some extracts from the Gospels show up also in a short book focused exclusively on John the Baptist. While I admit that I have duplicated a few things within the FHL and Annex, it must also be admitted that I have not removed anything from the 66 books. The very practical outcome of my organization of materials is great clarity for doctrine. I do not need anything from the Annex to understand my duties to GOD as a Christian, and am better off without the Annex when deciding important matters.

In this entire selection of authoritative books, I also admit that I have retained at least one internal inconsistency. That is the matter of whether the cock was to crow once<sup>40</sup>, or to crow twice<sup>41</sup> in the matter of Kefa (Simon Peter) denying YESU. As the Gospel according to Marcus is said to be the Testimony of Kefa recorded by Marcus, I think it more probably the latter. I am happy enough to learn the answer to that small question some day in heaven.

GOD expresses HIMSELF in HIS Creation, in HIS Word, and in the hearts of those who love HIM. The HOLY SPIRIT never confirmed in my heart the doctrine of 66 inerrant books - quite to the contrary, HE compelled me to solve the problems I found. Of men inclined to argue this matter with me, I must ask – did you choose someone other than TEACHER to guide you into all the Truth?<sup>42</sup> The 1994 catechism of the catholic church has thousands of footnotes. In a significant sampling of those, it cited other publications of the catholic church about 50% of the time, including the council of Trent about a hundred times. The letters of Saint Paul are cited another 25% of the time. Though I did receive some instruction in catholic schools in my youth, none of that 75% of citations is included in what I teach my children as the sure basis for mature doctrine. The Protestants and many boutique denominations are not much better. I invariably find that doctrines disputed by what GOD has really said are growing with support from the Annex. Any serious believer should make the effort to clear up ambiguities before passing doctrines along to his children or sharing them with his neighbours. My own children were encouraged to study all of the Authoritative books to begin with and only then to read the Annex, treating it as interesting reading, but without undue confidence in those texts.

### **conclusion**

GOD wants us to grow like trees<sup>43</sup> - well rooted, well watered, steady, sturdy, day by day stronger. The inconsistencies I have found are mainly long-transmitted ones that have been too easily accepted or lazily glossed over in doctrinaire approaches to teaching our young. The more you understand about human slothfulness and the more forgivable human error, the closer you will stay to the HOLY SPIRIT for that Perfect guidance from heaven that the FATHER chooses to provide for all

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<sup>40</sup> see Matthew 26:34

<sup>41</sup> see Marcus 14:30

<sup>42</sup> see John 14:26

<sup>43</sup> both Psalm 1:1-3 and Jeremiah 17:7-8 are very nice analogies for growing patiently

who obey HIM.<sup>44</sup> I encourage you to use a simple *order-of-precedence* - YHVH's Words First - to distinguish Writings from Holy Light. Make the load you carry on your journey down here the lighter, and more joyful; Let HIS unchanging Truth set you free.

**try a simple simile**

to mend a mindful fence  
in contract terms we call it  
'*order-of-precedence*'

Torah : the Prime Conditions, the Covenant does bind  
YESU : Special Provisions, inviting nations for all time  
HIS Words, HIS Revelation, in Acts, Gentile insights  
but letters of Apostles? a lower Annex for their lights!

question romans 6. challenging Torah?  
Paul unlearned his training late, but he is not who calls  
GOD's Words truly Perfect, YESU told us all<sup>45</sup>  
Paul revered the *Scriptures*; did he really mean those words of Paul?<sup>46</sup>

do not add to GOD's Word; similarly, don't remove  
it's plain to read it there, Deuteronomy 4 verse 2  
Revelation chapter 22, the sternest warning heard  
but verses cited firstly cover all HIS Holy Word

be watchful what you credit  
as FATHER's Holy Light  
annex, '*simple simile*'  
improves discerning sight


they called the letters 'canon', men fallible, like the 'pope'  
this simile uproots all faults, good arithmetic : new hope  
memorize Special Provisions, Prime Conditions truly know  
like Psalm one, be well rooted, most fruitfully to grow

to subordinate mere Writings is within our TEACHER's Rights  
so, in befitting context, enjoy those minor lights  
rome not first in sequence of letters apostles wrote  
set Annex in good order? try chronology? unbiased vote?

do use a simple simile  
to mend a mindful fence  
in contract terms we call it  
'*order-of-precedence*'

a migrant labourer  
*somewhere in Africa*  
March, 2011

\*\*\* this posting is part of the book ...Delta... updated slightly for issue in 2015 with ... Three Briefs ...

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<sup>44</sup> see Acts 5:32 and 1Peter 1:2

<sup>45</sup> see John 17:17

<sup>46</sup> see 1Corinthians 14:37-38