

God's Profound *and* URGENT MESSAGE

God will not force His will on you. You are free to choose.
But you are not free to choose the consequences of your choice.

A Compassionate Call to Hear God's Message

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But you are not free to choose the consequences of your choice.

MIKE G. NORTON

A Compassionate Call to Hear God's Message



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All emphasis (italics) in Scriptures has been added by the author.

In an effort to keep to the center of interest I have not always quoted the *entire* verse, but rather focused on the phrase that was appropriate just as Jesus and the apostles often did to make a point.

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For His Glory

To the righteousness and abounding love and mercy
of our God and Savior Jesus Christ,

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for answered prayer,

for help, guidance, and content.

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Introduction

Dear Friend,
From the very beginning, I want to make clear that it is vitally important that this book be *true to Scripture*, as the Bible states: “If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God” (1 Peter 4:11 NIV). Therefore, throughout this book, both the Scriptural verse *and* the biblical source will be referenced and identified. This is not a daily devotional book or a book of ideas or opinions from man, religion, or the author. It is far more important. It is Scriptural wisdom, truth, and instruction from the Word of God to man.

If you are about to read this book, I assure you, just surely as you are breathing air right now, you have God’s light shining on you. How blessed you are! This book is dedicated to *you*. God has predestined this very time in your life and it is by no accident you are holding and reading this book. Know that regardless of your religious beliefs, present or past situation, God has great eternal plans and magnificent promises He wants to share with you. God will be revealing life-saving information to you here. Read it carefully, share it, and pass it on. Each truth God reveals is a pearl of great value and a magnificent promise.

God longs for the loving intimacy of a friend; that we come closer to Him, knowing Him, trusting Him, believing in Him. All down through the ages, too many people have become dependent upon man and religion for the source of “truth and guidance” to salvation, rather than the Word of God, and in doing so, some have grievously erred. Why? Because not all religions represent “truth” and the God of our Bible. God is calling on all of us to come to Him, talk to Him, listen to Him, and then we will truly know *God's* way and “truth.”

Seek God's Word from Scripture and the message of truth He is conveying. Meditate on it. Ponder it. Delight in it. Not to draw your own conclusions, but to be absorbed in *His*. Such truth is like a rope passed to a drowning man, and every truth, every pull is one pull closer to shore, to safety, to God. Remember that illustration. Hold on to the rope, to the words of our Lord, and affirm them. *Genuine* faith and trust are the *key* that unlocks the storehouse of God's resources. You carry out His wishes and abide in His Word, and He will give you clearer and more definite teaching and guidance.

Do not entertain thoughts of doubt and disbelief about God and His message from the media, worldly scholars, or secular teachers and professors. Never tolerate them even for a second. Lock the doors and bar the windows of your soul against them as you would with your home against a robber who would steal your treasures and harm your family. Those who know God would never think God wishes to harm them.

At this moment, God is still granting us time and mercy and patience, but this is running out. God is pleading with all nations and all people of the earth to draw near to Him, hear Him, and listen to Him. God wants the world to understand and recognize the indisputable evidence and reasons for the credibility and accuracy of the Bible and why it should be adhered to, and to understand His most profound and dominant messages with a due sense of *urgency* for salvation. Therefore,

this book will carefully address these and other issues, and as stated earlier, identify the verse and biblical source of each quote where necessary.

The primary intent of this book is sixfold: To give Scriptural evidence of:

1. The Scriptural and external evidence of the credibility and accuracy of the Bible.
2. The fact that God personally knows and dearly loves you.
3. God longs for you to know Him, to trust Him, and to believe in Him.
4. God's truly "precious and magnificent promises."
5. Jesus Christ's absolute authority and God's true way, leading to eternal salvation.
6. The importance of recognizing the dangers of deception, perverse and varied teachings, and the consequence of sin and unbelief.

This book is a valuable reference tool for quickly discovering what was said concerning the above-mentioned issues, our lives, and more. You will learn the Lord's message and the answers to many important questions in an easy-to-understand, accurate, and powerful format. Know the truth (of the questions) and the will of God.

As you read each question and answer, please, go s-l-o-w-l-y and allow God's loving words from Scripture to sink in to fully grasp its entirety, the steps, the scope, the width and depth, and the eternal value each Scriptural message is conveying. These are His inspired words from the Bible and they convey the insights into the mind and heart of our loving God. Listen carefully to His message, eagerly, joyfully. Don't crowd it out! Take your time. Mark or highlight the statements that focus on issues of importance.

This is no ordinary book. It holds in part the Word and will of God. It is a mine of spiritual treasures to share with all. Christianity is a

loving relationship with our God. The primary intent of this book is to provide the factual evidence of biblical credibility, and the reasons and steps for believing and living as God wants. The Bible provides the plan for salvation and bringing redemption and restoration to our country through the family and church, in a worldwide culture bent on pushing God out of our lives, our schools, our government, and our courts.

Know that God is inviting you personally, right now, today, to hear His loving message and to participate in the greatest, largest, and most diverse and significant cause in history: His kingdom. God says: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you" (Ps. 32:8 NASB). "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you" (Isa. 41:13 NIV).

Nothing else you do in this life will matter as much as establishing and maintaining a relationship with God and sharing with others how they can have eternal life. I know personally the transforming power of the Word of God for those who believe.

God is calling on all of us saying; "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30 ESV). "I want you to understand what *really* matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return" (Phil. 1:10 NLT). God is calling on all of us to come to *Him* and learn from *Him*. Scripture says: "The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him" (2 Chron. 16:9 NLT).

You cannot see what the future holds but don't fear because God can, and He knows better than you what you need. Trust Him absolutely. Trust His every word. You are not at the mercy of fate or man. You are being led in a very definite way, and others who do not serve your

purpose are being moved out of your path by God. Know that God is inviting you, leading you, and His loving grace is on you. His Word is your source of wisdom. Know that nothing here is by chance.

God is pleading that we all individually and as a nation, come to know the truth, by coming to know Him and His Word, the Bible, while there still remains time and mercy. “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other” (Isa. 45:22 NASB). “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Eternal, plans for peace, not evil, to give you a future and hope, never forget that” (Jer. 29:11 VOICE). The greatest eternal blessings await all those who sincerely welcome and read God’s message and believe and abide in His Word, and let the reader see for himself, if God will not open for *you*, the door to wisdom, understanding and the truth of our *creators will* and way to salvation.

The Use of Many Bible Translations

The intentional use of varied Bible translations in this book provides subtle distinctions, variations, and shades of meaning that can easily be missed using only one Bible, so it is always helpful to compare translations. Therefore, different Bible translations including paraphrases, were used to help see God’s truth and promises more easily and clearly, while accurately conveying the critical message. Furthermore, we can sometimes miss the full impact of certain Bible verses simply because they become so familiar that we just “pass over” their meaning or significance. As you read this book use a yellow marker to highlight important issues to be remembered.

Produced for: Your personal benefit, and to help you understand the eternal value and magnificent promises of knowing and complying with God's loving message.

This book is: Dedicated to you! Before you were born, God planned this moment in your life. It is by no accident you are reading this book. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10 NASB).

God's message: "Be still, and know that I *am* God" (Psalm 46:10 NKJV). "All you nations, come near and listen. Pay attention. The earth and all the people in it should listen" (Isa. 34:1 NCV). God is *pleading* for your attention. "Listen, O my people, to My instruction, incline your ears to the words of My mouth" (Ps. 78:1 NASB). "For I want you to understand what really matters" (Phil. 1:10 NLT). This is a book on Bible doctrine, on God's profound and urgent message to mankind.

Test this book: The apostle Paul said, "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21 NASB). "Don't despise what God has revealed" (1 Thess. 5:20 GW). "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38 NKJV).

With God's help, make the most of this book

Understand that anyone can read God's inspired message in Scripture; however, without the illumination of the Holy Spirit it won't make sense to him. As Scripture says, "But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means" (1 Cor. 2:14 NLT). "For the message of the cross is foolish to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the Power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18 NKJV).

Therefore, before you begin . . .

Pray and *earnestly ask* that God may reveal His will to *you*.

Know this: God explicitly says: "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee" (Jer. 33:3 KJV).

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes . . . Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law . . . Make me walk in the path of Your commandments . . . Incline my heart to Your testimonies . . . And revive me in Your ways, Establish Your Word to Your servant, As that which produces reverence for You" (Ps. 119:33-38 NASB).

"I pray that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened, So that I may know what is the hope of your calling. And what is the surpassing greatness of your power towards those who believe" (Eph. 1:18-19 author paraphrase). "Strengthen me according to Your Word, Amen" (Ps. 119:28 NKJV). "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13 NASB).

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PART 1

The Facts About the Bible

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CHAPTER 1

The Indisputable Evidence, Credibility, and Accuracy of the Bible

Stop and think! Would a creator, having supreme intelligence, wisdom, and the love to think out, plan, design, and bring about all creation, then leave His created beings in complete ignorance of Him and His laws? God almighty did not hide these important truths from human minds, but made them accessible in the Holy Bible, His instruction book for mankind. The oneness or unity of the Bible is a miracle. It is a library of sixty-six books, written by forty different authors, over a time span of approximately 1,600 years, and dating back from 1500 BC to about 100 years after Christ.

The Bible was originally written in three different ancient languages. It was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Represented in the authors is a cross-section of humanity, educated and uneducated, including kings, fishermen, public officials, farmers, teachers, and physicians. Included in the subjects are religion, history, law, science, poetry, drama, biography, and prophecy. Yet all the various parts are as harmoniously *united* as the parts that make up the human body! For forty different authors with such varied backgrounds to write on so many subjects, in

three different languages over such a long period of approximately 1,600 years, in absolute harmony, is a mathematical impossibility. It just could not have happened!

How then do we account for the Bible? Scripture states; “Every word we speak was taught to us by God’s Spirit, not by human wisdom. And this same Spirit helps us teach spiritual things to spiritual people” (1 Cor. 2:13 CEV). The Bible says, “Understand this first: No part of the Holy Writings was ever made up by any man. No part of the Holy Writings came because of what man wanted to write. But holy men who belonged to God spoke what the Holy Spirit told them” (2 Peter 1:20-21 NIV).

Our Lord also revealed, “Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth” (Num. 12:3 NASB). “It is different when I speak with my servant Moses; I have put him in charge of all my people Israel. So I speak to him [Moses] face-to-face, clearly . . . [directly], he has even seen my form!” (Num. 12:7-8 GNT). Moses was singled out as God’s servant. He is described as uniquely close to the Lord, and his importance is underscored by our Lord’s direct face-to-face communications with him. The fifth book of Moses, commonly called Deuteronomy, is so important that it’s one of the books that’s quoted most often by Jesus Himself and His apostles. There are over eighty references to this book in the New Testament. By way of reference, Jesus confirms the authority and credibility of his book in the Bible.

But God did not stop there. Historians usually admit that *greater* credibility must be granted to the very people who were both geographically and chronologically close to the events they were reporting. With that in mind, just look at the care God took when He inspired the writing of the New Testament. The overwhelming degree of scholarship confirms that the evidence and accounts of Jesus’ life and His statements, together with the letters that form the bulk of the New Testament, were all written by men who were either eyewitnesses to the events they recorded or from other eyewitnesses.

God purposely selected Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to write the four gospels for a reason. These were persons who could say with authority such things as, “I saw all this myself and have given an accurate report so that you also can believe” (John 19:35 TLB). God could have used anyone anywhere to write His words about Jesus Christ.

However, to give us additional confidence and validity in the truth being recorded, God worked through *eyewitnesses* such as John, who said in Scripture, “Again I say, we are telling you about that which we ourselves have actually seen and heard” (1 John 1:3 TLB), or through Peter, an apostle, when he said, “But we were eyewitness of His majesty” (2 Peter 1:16 NASB) “and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the mountain” (2 Peter 1:18 NASB). These were eyewitnesses who had “seen and heard.” Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ declared, “*Do not be mistaken*; our words come from God with the utmost sincerity, always spoken through the Anointed in the presence of God.” “We speak the truth before God, as messengers of God” (2 Corin. 2:17 VOICE; NCV).

Most of Christ’s apostles were eventually tortured and martyred for holding on to their testimony. Even to the point of death, Christ’s apostles did not recant their story. This alone demonstrates that their testimony was true, as who would ever suffer torture and death for telling something false? But God still did not stop there, in validating and proving the special uniqueness of the Bible. Oh no, He went much further and added to it something no man can. It has hundreds of fulfilled prophecies that further authenticate God’s special book from that of any other in the entire world. The Bible contains well over 1000 prophecies and God declared in Scripture that “No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will” (2 Peter 1:21 NASB). God had a powerful reason to make 25 percent of the Bible prophetic when it was first written. One of the strongest and most irrefutable arguments for the accuracy and

credibility of the Bible is its 100 percent accuracy rate in predicting the future.

It proves beyond all doubt that He is God. Fulfilled prophecy is solid proof and the clearest evidence that demonstrates the Bible is absolutely supernatural and the inspiration of God. It is truly, God's Word. Even the Bible itself confirms this by stating 3,808 times the words, "Thus says the Lord . . ." or "God spoke . . ." or "The Lord said . . ." or "The Word of the Lord . . ." or "The Word of God. . . ."

If the Bible is not the Word of God, it has to be the biggest hoax and bundle of lies perpetrated by man on this planet. The Bible *is* the Word of God and the absolute truth because God cannot lie. God said, "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By Myself I have sworn, My mouth has uttered in all integrity the word that will not be revoked" (Isa. 45:22-23 NIV).

God is telling us that His mouth has spoken integrity and not a word will be revoked. Furthermore, when Scripture speaks, God speaks. Romans 3:2 AMP declares that the Scriptures are the oracles, the "very words" of God. We can trust His Word! The Bible has surely stood the test of time and towers well over all other authoritative books because of fulfilled prophecy. But while hundreds of fulfilled prophecies validates the Bible as a Divine inspired supernatural book to be believed, it is much more! The remaining *unfilled* prophecies is also God's way of giving us fair warning, so we can prepare our hearts and minds to be ready for the events *coming ahead!* No Christian can afford to be ignorant of prophecy in these days which we live in because the things that are prophesied in God's Word are imminent. As the front cover of this book depicts, the sands of the hour glass are quickly running low and I believe we are standing on the threshold of the coming of Jesus Christ and the rapture of the church. (further explained later in this book) I believe there is no remaining biblical sign or prophecy that must take place before the

rapture can happen. For the sake of family and loved ones we cannot afford to be ignorant of God's profound and urgent message in the Bible.

Furthermore, because of the redemptive and instructional purpose of the Bible, God cannot, and will not allow it to be destroyed, twisted, or distorted. As the Lord Himself said in reassuring us, "For truly, I say to you, until Heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished" (Matt. 5:18 ESV). His teachings are not only authoritative ("For truly, I say to you"), they are also permanent.

God's will, *will prevail!* He will permit nothing to impede His purpose. As the Lord further declared, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35 KJV). "But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever" (1 Peter 1:25 KJV). Jesus clearly reveals that the permanence of God's Word extends to the smallest letters and the smallest parts of printed letters, and neither shall be erased or modified. No other statement by the Lord more clearly states, with such powerful and over whelming conviction, His absolute and total confidence in the enduring nature and inerrant flawless quality of the Bible. It is God's own Word down to every single word, letter and dot. In view of that reality, how foolish are we to ever wonder about the validity and relevancy of God's Word.

Furthermore, Jesus Himself stated, "The Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35 NASB). The Bible is God's eternal Word, and Scripture says, "In humility receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21 NASB). In view of the above, and in considering our obligations to the divine Scripture as Christians, we must defend the Word of God. We should always strive for the integrity, authority, and purity of God's book, the Holy Bible.

Did you know that even historians agree to the authenticity of the Bible, and contrary to popular belief, transmission of the text was completed with 99.9 percent precision (determined by textual criticism

and comparisons of thousands and thousands of existing manuscripts). God has not left us to wonder. He has miraculously supervised the transmission of His Word to ensure that it was relayed accurately from one generation to another. He said, "Write down these words. Write them in a book. They will stand until the end of time as a witness" (Isa. 30:8 NLT). On God's word, you can rest assured that we have His accurate Word as a witness today!

But God did not stop there in strengthening the textual evidence and reliability of His Word in the Bible. He worked to further reinforce the authenticity of the Scriptures. A routine criterion in examining and cross-checking historical documents is whether there exists "any other" historical material which confirms or disproves the testimony of the document in question. Historians ask "What 'other' sources apart from the literature under examination (in this case, the Bible) substantiate its accuracy and reliability?" In all of history, the Bible is, by far, the most widely referenced and quoted book. Did you know, the New Testament alone is so extensively quoted in the ancient manuscripts of non-biblical authors that all twenty-seven books, from Matthew through Revelation, could be reconstructed virtually word for word just from those sources. God's Word truly endureth forever and stands until the end of times.

God still did not stop there! Over 24,000 manuscripts or "fragments of manuscripts" of the New Testament repose in the universities and libraries of the world. There are presently 5,686 Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament, which makes the New Testament the best-attested document in all ancient writings. All totaled, these manuscripts include more than two million pages of text. The number of manuscripts and pages is absolutely staggering and because there are so many, they can be cross-checked for accuracy. After minor spelling errors and variations in word order are taken out, they agree with one another more than 99 percent of the time. Of the remaining slight

variants, there is nothing that would alter God's Word that would affect the Christian faith.

There's not even one difference that decisively affects any part of the Christian faith! As Scripture states, "Every word of God is flawless" (Prov. 30:5 NIV). With all the facts and evidence God has provided us about the Bible, He still did not stop there! He went even further to reassure us that His Word is true *even today!* He allowed the critically important and recent discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls to prove it. The Dead Sea Scrolls are considered by many to be the single most important archaeological manuscript find of the twentieth century. Over 800 scrolls were identified in caves, just thirteen miles east of Jerusalem and 1300 feet below sea level between 1947 and 1956. In fact, the scrolls are the *oldest* group of Old Testament manuscripts ever found. One scroll found in Cave 11 measured 26.7 feet long, and the Isaiah Scroll was found relatively intact. Some of the larger ones originally stretch as long as thirty feet.

The most incredible discovery was the immense library of Biblical manuscripts found in Cave Four at Qumran. It contained every book of the Old Testament with the exception of the Book of Esther. There were also multiple copies of several biblical texts such as Genesis, Deuteronomy and Isaiah in Cave Four. As a result of this important discovery, scholars were able to reach far back in time to examine the ancient texts that had rested undisturbed in the desert caves for so many centuries.

What scholars discovered in their findings was that even though more than 1,000 years separated these very ancient Dead Sea Scrolls from what we did have (the Masoretic texts), the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Masoretic texts agreed word for word more than 95 percent of the time! The remaining differences were primarily due to minor spelling variations. These very ancient findings give further evidence that the Hebrew Scriptures we have today are remarkably true to the *original*

writings. We can be confident that our Bible today is faithful to the original manuscripts and that the absolute truth, accuracy, and authority of the Scriptures stand firm today.

Even the very stones cry out that God's Word is true. Over and over again, the reliability and accuracy of the Bible have been regularly and consistently supported by archaeology. The biblical events, the cities and the people have *all* been historically verified. The extensive and external evidence for the Bible is an extremely rare phenomenon, and it makes the Holy Bible unique and unlike any other religious writings of the world.

It is truly amazing to see how the Word of God has traveled through the ages and languages and cultures. It began in the language of His chosen people, adopted the language of the Roman world, and now exists in over 2,000 different languages. Far from being static, that is, a single language text, the Bible actually embraces translations and cross-language accessibility by its very nature. Whether you read the Bible in its original language or in one of the thousands of modern languages, it's a blessing to be able to read God's Word today just as it was read thousands of years ago. As the Bible says, "The sum of Thy Word is Truth" (Ps. 119:160 NASB). The Bible is God's divine book to instruct and judge us; we are not here to judge the Bible or question God's almighty power and ability to preserve and maintain His Word forever, as He said He would. Since when is man, the creature whose mind is so *very limited*, to now be qualified enough to judge the Creator's work, since He has an infinite mind? Do not be influenced by people or religious organizations that discredit the teachings of Christ in the Bible.

The Bible is God's infallible Word and says of itself, "The Law of the Lord is Perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple" (Ps. 19:7 AKJV). The Bible is not only infallible in its totality but it is also *inerrant* in all its parts. Scripture declares: "Every word of God is flawless" (Prov. 30:5 NIV), and God's Word has

eternal force! (see Isa. 55:11). Therefore, God's Word is free from error and absolutely trustworthy.

The combined and cumulative evidence for the accuracy and reliability of the Bible is not only convincing and compelling, but a clear indication of how God has supervised its preservation for us and our children, His loving message for salvation, and the many blessings that come from knowing, trusting, and abiding in His Word.

Therefore, the ultimate criterion for determining the importance and validity of anything pertaining to God, life, or salvation is the Holy Bible, and God's very character rests upon the *authenticity* and *authority* of the Bible. As Scripture says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:31 AKJV).

Do not be deceived. The Bible is the *only* rule of faith and practice that counts. You do not need religious books to study the Bible. The Bible *itself* is its own best commentary and explanation. God states that "The Scriptures were written to teach us and encourage us by giving us hope" (Rom. 15:4 CEV). God has included everything in the Bible that He wants you to know and that is necessary to know concerning salvation and your Christian life.

The Bible is God's instruction book and love letter to mankind. We are *commanded* to know it. Jesus said, "It is written, Man is not to live on bread only. Man is to live by every word that God speaks" (Matt. 4:4 NLT). "He should keep it with him all the time and read from it every day of his life. Then he will learn to respect the Lord his God, and he will obey all the teachings and commands" (Deut. 17:19 NCV). God's laws command supreme attention over and above *any* religious denomination, organization, government, or court, as no other entity in the world can provide you with eternal salvation.

Daily Bible reading will keep you in range of God's voice. Scripture commands, "Like newborn babies, crave the pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2 NIV). Why?

Because spiritual growth, as you will discover, is the process of replacing misconception and lies with truth. Therefore, feeding on God's Word *must* be our first priority because it is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind, to lead him into the full, abundant life, to protect him, and to lead him into eternal life. All the evil in the world today is caused by disobedience of our Creator's laws.

Please, please take the time and take to heart the truth of God's statements herein. You do not want to leave your eternity to guesswork. If you are one who believes that if you lead a good life and do some good works you will end up in heaven, are you certain about your decision? If so, what do you base your certainty on?

No other book in the world, or other "written religious authority" in all of history, has provided such purity of text, such a degree of historical and archaeological confirmations, and such extensive prophecy fulfilled like the Bible does. It simply does not exist! God has given us the most historically reliable and accurate document in the world today—the Holy Bible. With it He is seeking our attention. Our part is to be attentive to His loving message.