

# **APOLOGETICS**

## **Defense of the Gospel**

### **1 Peter 3:15**

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

### **Acts 22:5**

*As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.*

### **Acts 25:16**

*To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.*

### **1 Cor. 9:3**

*Mine answer to them that do examine me is this,*

### **Philip. 1:7**

*Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.*

### **Philip. 1:16**

*The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:*

### **2 Tim. 4:16**

*At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*

## **I. BLIND FAITH VS. INTELLECTUAL SUICIDE**

**2 Tim. 1:12**

*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*

**John 8:32**

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

## **II. CHRISTIAN FAITH VS. OBJECTIVE FAITH**

- A. Must have an *objective*
- B. Not the one believing, but *the one believed*  
Not the one trusting, but **the one trusted**
- C. Good Apologetics – *able to defend our faith and the Bible*
  - 1. Historically
  - 2. Factually
  - 3. Prophetically
  - 4. Scientifically
- D. *Everyone* will call Jesus either:
  - 1. Lord
  - 2. Lunatic
  - 3. Liar
- E. Who and what is **TRUTH?**

**John 14:6**

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

### III. ORIGINS OF THE BIBLE

A. Who wrote the Book?

2 Peter 1:21

*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

B. The word **BIBLE** is not found in the English version.

C. Greek – *ta Biblia* – meaning “*the books*”. (Dan. 9:2)

D. Other Names

1. The Scripture (*John 7:38; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*)
2. The Law and the Prophets (*Matt. 5:17; Acts 13:15*)
3. The Book of the Lord (*Isa. 34:16*)
4. The Word of God (*Rom. 10:17; Heb 4:12*)
5. The Sword of the Spirit (*Eph. 6:17*)

E. What the Bible Is

1. Mirror to reflect (*Jas. 12:3*)
2. Hammer to convict (*Jer 23:29*)
3. Fire to refine (*Jer. 23:29*)
4. Seed to multiply (*1 Peter 1:23*)
5. Laver to cleanse (*Eph 5:26; John 15:3*)
6. Lamp to guide (*Ps. 119:105*)
7. Food to nourish
  - a. milk for babes (*1 Peter 2:2*)
  - b. bread for the hungry (*Matt. 4:4*)
  - c. meat for men (*Heb. 5:11-14*)
  - d. honey for dessert (*Ps. 19:10*)
8. Rain and snow to refresh (*Is. 55:10*)
9. Sword to cut (*Heb. 4:12*)
10. Bow to revenge (*Hab. 3:9*)
11. Gold to enrich (*Ps. 19:7-10*)
12. Power to create life and faith (*1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 10:17*)

## **F. How the Bible was Given**

1. Audible voices of God (*Matt. 3:16-17; 17:5; Deut. 5:24; John 12:28*)
2. Angels (*Acts 7:38; Heb. 2:2*)
3. Prophets (*Acts 3:21; 2 Peter 1:21*)
4. Jesus Christ (*Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:1*)
5. Apostles (*Acts 1:2; Eph. 4:7-11*)
6. Through visions (*Is. 6; Dan. 7-8; Ezek. 1*)
7. Dreams (*Dan. 2; Matt. 1:20; 2:12*)
8. Revelation (*Gal. 1:15-16; Eph 3:3*)
9. Inspiration (*2 Tim. 3:15-17*)

## **G. Two Main Divisions**

Old Testament – *39 books*  
New Testament – *27 books*

(*Definition of Testament* – a document disclosing the will of a person, a contract, an agreement or a covenant between two contracting parties.)

## **H. The Wonderful Unity of the Book**

1. Over *40 different authors*; kings, priests, judges, lawyers, princes, shepherds, soldiers, statesmen, musicians, inventors, singers, poets, preachers, prophets, fishermen, farmers, tent makers, publicans, physicians, rich men and poor men.
2. Written in various lands and three continents – Europe, Asia, and Africa.
3. ALL THIS WITHOUT ONE CONTRADICTION!

## **IV. DEFENDING THE BIBLE**

### **A. Apologetics**

1. Evidences for Christian faith; Greek, *apologeē'ah*, (Strong's #627); *defending* in writing or speech; *vindicating*.

2. The branch of theology having to do with *defense and proofs* of Christianity.
3. An *apology or formal defense* of an idea, religion, etc., such as a defense of one's beliefs, doctrines, or conducts.

## **B. Defending the Reliability of the Scriptures**

### **Three Tests:**

1. **Bibliographical Test** – examination of the textual transmission by which documents reach us. Examining it against other manuscripts.
2. **Internal Test** – tests to evaluate if the written record is credible and to what extent, internal criticism. Personal testimony. (*Luke 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:6; 1 John 1:3*)
3. **External Test** – to find out whether other historical material confirms or denies the internal testimony of the documents themselves. Archaeology often provides powerful external evidence.

## **C. Would You Die for a Lie?**

### **History reports:**

1. Peter – crucified
2. Andrew – crucified
3. Matthew – the sword
4. John – natural
5. James, son of Alphaeus – crucified
6. Philip – crucified
7. Simon – crucified
8. Thaddaeus – killed by arrows
9. James, brother of Jesus – stoned
10. Bartholomew – crucified
11. James, son of Zebedee – the sword

## **D. Personal Apologetics**

*As a professing Christian, can you answer the following questions?*

1. What *religion* are you?
2. Do you know what the term “*Protestant*” means and where it comes from?
3. Do you know what the word “*denomination*” means?
4. Do you know when and where your denomination got its start?
5. Do you know what your denomination teaches – *Statement of Faith*?
6. Do you know the difference between “*conservative*” vs. “*liberal*”?
7. Do you call yourself a “*fundamentalist*”?
8. Why would you call yourself a “*Pentecostal*”?
9. What does “*Charismatic*” mean?
10. If you believe in the *Rapture of the Church* are you a
  1. Pre-Triber
  2. Mid-Triber
  1. Post-Triber
11. Do you call yourself an “*Adventist*”?
12. How do you view the book of Revelation?
  1. Preterist
  2. Historical
  3. Idealist
  4. Futurist

## **E. Prophetic Defense**

1. *Definition of prophecy*: the inspired declaration of Divine Will and purposes; a prediction of something to come.

2. **Fulfilled prophecy:** one of the best methods of proving the truth of the Word of God.

### F. Test for a Prophet

#### Deut. 13:1-4

*If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, [2] And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; [3] Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. [4] Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*

1. If found to be a false prophet, it cost him his life.

2. The more detail in the prophecy, the less likely it is to come to pass.  
(*Number of details in a prophecy vs. fulfillment; one chance in number stated*):

1	2
7	128
21	2,997,152
40	1,099,511,627,776

G. Brother Dake states there are **6,027 verses of prophecy** in the KJV Bible. Over **3,299** have already been fulfilled. (“God’s Plan for Man”, page 39, by: Finis Jennings Dake)

### H. Some examples of prophecy spoken and fulfilled:

1. **Isaiah 39:1-8**, spoken around 792-722 B.C. Fulfilled in **Daniel 1:3-6**, written around 616-536 B.C.

2. **Isaiah 44:28; Daniel 1:21; 6:28**; prophecies of the rebuilding of the wall and the restoring of the temple for the Jewish nation. It was predicted about 150 years before it was fulfilled. Fulfilled in **Ezra 1:1-4**, written around 546-461 B.C.

## **I. Apologetics Scientifically**

1. Science is more than a philosophy or theory.
2. Science has to be:
  - a. measurable
  - b. observable
  - c. repeatable
3. This helps to prove that Marxism, Darwin, or Freud is theory rather than science.
4. Einstein insisted, “*Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind.*”
5. Scientists and astronomers have longed to locate a missing day in their chronology of time only to find it documented in the Bible:

### **Joshua 10:12-14**

*Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. [13] And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. [14] And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.*

6. God also turned back the sun ten degrees for King Hezekiah:

### **2 Kings 20:8-11**

*And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the Lord the third day? [9] And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? [10] And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. [11] And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.*

## V. WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

### A. Why are we not called *Jesusians*?

1. Because Christ means “*Anointed One*”. Jesus is His earthly name, common in many countries. We are to be anointed as He is.
2. Messianic prophecy: *Isaiah 61:1-2*
3. Jesus speaking and the literal fulfillment of *Isaiah 61: Luke 4:18-19*

#### Luke 4:18-19

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

4. We should be doing the works Christ did:

#### John 14:12

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*

#### Mark 16:15

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

### B. Only *three places* in the KJV New Testament we find the word *Christian* or *Christians*:

1. *Acts 11:26* – evangelizing
2. *Acts 26:28* – giving a bold defense
3. *1 Peter 4:16* – be willing to suffer for the gospel and righteousness’ sake

## VI. THE JOB OF THE CHURCH

### Ephes. 4:11-13

*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; [12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: [13] Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

**A.** We are in the *ONLY* time span of God's dealings with man, the *Dispensation of Grace*, that has the *five-fold ministry* to work with. *Note verse 11:*

1. Apostle – Greek: *Apostolo* – delegate, one sent
2. Prophet – Greek: *Prophetes* – spokesman for God
3. Evangelist – Greek: *Euangeliste* – a bringer of good tidings
4. Pastor – Greek: *Poimen* – shepherd, caretaker of flock
5. Teacher – Greek: *Didaskalos* – master

**B.** Verse 12 tells us the *purpose* of the five-fold ministry and *how it is to work* in the church:

1. for the perfecting of the saints
2. for the work of the ministry
3. for the edifying of the body of Christ

**C.** Verse 13 tells us *how long* we are to work:

1. till we all come into the unity of the faith
2. and of the knowledge of the Son of God
3. unto a perfect man
4. unto the stature of the fullness of Christ

**D.** Unfortunately, in the church, instead of the stature of the fullness of Christ, it's the stature of littleness, emptiness, and powerlessness.

## VII. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. **Christianity**: The third Person of the Trinity, not a force.
2. **Judaism**: Another name for God's activity on earth.
3. **Mormonism**: A fluid-like substance.
4. **Jehovah's Witnesses**: not God; invisible, active force.
5. **Unification Church**: a feminine spirit who works with Jesus.
6. **New Age**: a psychic force.
7. **Islam**: the angel Gabriel
8. **Spiritualism, Scientology, Hinduism, Buddhism, Hare Krishna**: not part of this belief.

## VIII. BAPTISMS

A. Baptism: Greek – *baptidzo or baptize* – immerse or submerge.

B. *Seven baptisms* taught from Genesis to Revelation:

1. Moses' baptism in the cloud and in the sea. (*1 Cor. 10:2*)
2. John's baptism in water in the name of God. (*Matt. 3; Luke 3: John 1:31-34; Acts 1:5*)
3. Baptism in water by Christ's disciples in the name of the Father (*John 3:22-23, 4:1-2, 5:43, 10:25*)
4. Baptism of suffering.
5. Baptism into body of Christ (*Rom. 6:4, 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 10:17, 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12*)
6. Baptism into water (*Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 41, 8:12-16, 36-38, 9:18, 10:48, 18:8; 1 Cor. 1:13-17*)
7. Baptism into the Holy Spirit (*Joel 2:28-29; Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4; Acts 19:1-7*)

C. Baptisms 1,2, and 3 *are not for the modern church today*. Of the remaining four, pray you never have to experience the *baptism of suffering* such as Christ did in becoming a martyr for you and I.

**D. *Three elements* of every Biblical baptism:**

1. the one doing the baptizing
2. the one being baptized
3. the one or thing being baptized into

**Baptism into Jesus**

1. Holy Spirit
2. Person
3. Jesus

**Baptism into water**

- Preacher
- Person
- Water

**Baptism into Holy Spirit**

- Jesus
- Person
- Holy Spirit

**E.** The baptism into Jesus and into the Holy Spirit have the same three elements; the persons of the Godhead are reversed.

## **IX. DIFFERENT TYPES OF TEACHINGS**

1. **Hermeneutics**: The study of the methodological principle of interpretation (as of the Bible).
2. **Eschatology**: A branch of theology concerned with the final events in history of the world or of mankind; end time prophecy.
3. **Theology**: The study of religious doctrines and matters of divinity; specifically the study of God and the relations between God, mankind, and the universe.
4. **Christology**: The study of Christ as Son of God and son of man; deity vs. humanity.
5. **Hematology**: The study of blood, specifically, the Blood of Jesus Christ.

## **X. CHRISTIANITY VS. OTHER RELIGIONS**

**A. Definitions from Webster's Dictionary**

1. **Occult**: Of or designating those mystic arts involving magic, astrology, alchemy, etc.; not divulged; secret; beyond human understanding; mysterious.
2. **Cult**: A system of religious observances; extravagant devotion to a person, cause, or thing; the object of such devotion. A group or person having an excessive interest in something.

3. **Atheist**: One who believes there is no God.
4. **Agnostic**: Someone who denies God's existence is provable. Someone who believes it is impossible to know whether or not God exists.

## B. **Different Religious and Governmental Terms**

1. **Monotheism**: Worship of *one god*; theos.
2. **Monarch**: A person who reigns over a kingdom or empire; *a sovereign ruler*; a constitutional king or queen.
3. **Monarchy**: Undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by a *single person*.
4. **Theocrat**: One who rules in or lives under a theocrat form of government.
5. **Theocracy**: Government of a state by immediate *divine guidance* or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided.
6. **Theology**: The study of God and His relation to the world.
7. **Polytheism**: Poly, *many*; theos, god; belief in or worship of *many gods*; more than one.
8. **Pantheism**: Pan - *all*, common to all, every. The doctrines that God is not a personality, but that all laws forces, manifestations, etc. of the self-existing universe are God. The worship, or toleration of worship, of *all gods* of various cults.

## C. **Worldwide Religions**

1. **Christianity**: Serves a *triune* God; tri-*three*; three operating as one (***Gen. 1:1 "In the beginning God"*** – Heb. *Elohim* – Gods, *plural*. See also ***Gen 1:26, "Let us make man in our image."***)
2. **Islam**: A monotheistic religion; mono – *one, I, single*; containing one; mono, *one* – theos, *god*. God (Allah) is one. God revealed the Qur'an to Mohammad through the angel Gabriel; God is a *severe judge* (though sometimes merciful) and is not depicted as loving.
3. **Judaism**: *God is spirit*, to orthodox Jews, God is personal, all powerful, eternal, and compassionate; ***NO trinity***.
4. **Hinduism**: God is "***The Absolute***", a universal spirit; everyone is a part of God (Brahman); ***people are God*** but unaware of it.
5. **Buddhism**: Mostly *atheistic*. Many Buddhist ***do not believe in a god*** or supreme being of any kind. Others speak of Buddha as a universal, enlightened consciousness, or as a god.

#### **D. Other Definitions**

1. **Bible**: The sacred book of Christianity; Old Testament and New Testament. The word “*bible*” is not found in the English versions of scriptures. It is equivalent to the Greek word *biblia*, meaning books. The phrase “*ta biblia*” meaning “the books” occurs in the Septuagint (a Greek translation of the Old Testament, written around 258 B.C.) in *Daniel 9:2*.
2. **Koran**: The sacred book of Islam. In Muslim belief, it contains revelations made to Mohammed by Allah.

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