

# The greatest cover-up the world has ever seen, part 1

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## The Greatest Cover-Up The World Has Ever Seen

### PART ONE: WHY?

With the popularity of the best selling novel, "The Da Vinci Code", and now the growing popularity of the movie by the same name, it seems that the Christian church is once again under attack. The fiction which this novel presents is just that, fiction; based upon opinion and speculation, not facts. Rather than attempt to do as others are already adequately doing, refuting the claims of "The Da Vinci Code", I would like to present to you a real-life cover-up; the most enormous, long-lived cover-up in human history; and unlike "The Da Vinci Code" with its opinions and speculations, this presentation will contain, not only the allegations, but also the documentation assimilated from whatever sources were necessary to expunge them from. This cover-up began well over 2000 years ago, and continues vibrantly today. And the truth is that it is part of the prophecies of the Bible. What if I could not only tell you, but show you in black and white or even multi-colored pages where this cover-up began, and how it has infiltrated the very churches right here in your own community?

Why should anyone believe that the Bible is God's Word? How does the Bible compare to the sacred writings of the other major world religions? What can be said about those who teach that religion is a "relative" thing; that all religions are equally valid; that religious toleration should be the norm; and that religious in-toleration is a bad thing? Is Christianity merely a religion, or can it be understood as a life-style? These are some of the questions which we must begin with and answer in order to lay a foundation for why the Bible is different from all other sacred writings.

There are six major world religions: Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Confucianism, by its own admission, is more of a philosophy than a "religion" with a belief in "god". Of the five remaining major world religions, scholars seem to agree that the oldest of the major world religions is Hinduism. Exactly how they arrive at such a conclusion is unclear; although it seems to be based upon the appearance of their sacred writings in the historical timetable as compared to the appearance of the sacred writings of other religions. But is that a true indication of a religion's age? Does it accurately reflect the beginning and emergence of a "religion"? Further, does a religion's age really determine the validity of the religion, or should the teachings of the religion be considered?

The sacred writings of Hinduism include the Rig-Veda, the Sama-Veda, the Yajur-Veda, and the Upanishads, among others. The Rig-Veda is considered to be the oldest of their sacred writings and is a collection of hymns, much like the Book of Psalms in the Bible. The Rig-Veda states that there are 339 gods in the Hindu religion, all of which if you read far enough in the Rig-Veda are bulls or cows. The Devas (gods) and the Asuras (demons) are the two diametrically opposed forces, which, if considered as they are presented seem to represent the exact opposite of the forces of good and evil as portrayed in other religions, especially the Judeo-Christian tradition; that is, if you read the Asuras as the forces of good instead of evil, and the Devas as the forces of evil instead of good, an interesting parallel to the Judeo-Christian tradition emerges. One major theme that appears in the Rig-Veda is the preparation of Soma as an offering for the gods. It seems as though this is a mixture of milk and some kind of strong fermented drink. The Hindu writings seem to focus upon the good deeds that the believer must perform in order to appease the gods. In the Rig-Veda we find themes such as sin,

The premier sacred writing of Buddhism is the Gospel of Buddha; the story of Gautama Siddhartha, the Buddha, and his search for nirvana. Among the Buddhist doctrines which are most contrary to the Judeo-Christian tradition are those concerning transmigration of souls and reincarnation. Ironically, both had infiltrated Judaism a few centuries before Christ. And the Roman Catholic Church contains vestiges of those doctrines as well.

The sacred writings of Judaism include the Torah, the Neviim, and Ketuvim; all of which are the rough equivalent of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible. In addition to the "written" law, Judaism claims that Moses also received an "oral" law on Mount Sinai along with the written "Torah". While some adherents to Judaism claim that the oral law has never been written down, there are those within Judaism who differ in their opinion. According to some, certain rabbis, during the period of and immediately after the Babylonian Captivity, concerned that their oral tradition might be lost due to their dispersion among the nations, began to assimilate that oral law, or at least as some claim, stories to help them remember what the oral law said. The collection of Mishnas, Boraithas, and other teachings were assembled into the Talmud. At the very least the Talmud, especially the Palestinian or Jerusalem Talmud provides the serious Bible student with insight as to how the Mishraic Rabbis used, understood, and interpreted Scripture. And for those who are searching for deeper, in-depth study and understanding, this translation of the Talmud provides an

understanding as to the point in history when the rabbis began to interpret God's Word in allegorical and figurative terms instead of literally; a practice which has infiltrated the Christian Church and has misled countless millions. The focus of the sacred writings of Judaism is adherence to both the written and oral law as handed down by Moses and interpreted by the rabbis through the centuries.

The sacred writings of Christianity include the Bible containing both the Old and New Testaments; and among some denominations also include a small collection of books Protestants call the Apocrypha. Many Christian denominations seem to focus upon good works as a means by which the believer may attain entrance to heaven. Such a focus results in Christianity being merely another "religion" instead of the vibrant life-style resulting from a change; a regeneration in thought, word, and deed through faith in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the Jewish Messiah of ancient prophecy.

The sacred writing of Islam is the Qu'ran or Koran. One of the most startling features of the Qu'ran is the fact that in numerous places it is stated that the Qu'ran was sent to substantiate the sacred writings of both the Jews and the Christians. Many of the characters and stories of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments are mentioned and verified as historical fact. Very little of what is contained in the Qu'ran is diametrically opposed to the Judeo-Christian tradition. Probably the most notable is what is stated about God having no son, obviously referring to the Christian claims concerning Jesus Christ. However, the meager number of times that such a concept is mentioned weighed against the numerous times that confirmation concerning the sacred writings of both the Jews and Christians is mentioned, far outweighs the negative statement concerning Jesus, unless you simply choose to focus on that instead of focus on the entire message(s) of the Qu'ran. Further, the fact that the Qu'ran substantiates these writings and within their pages are contained the very proofs concerning the divinity of Jesus Christ, plus other verses which prove, for example, that all men are "sons" of God, places the burden of proof squarely on those who interpret the Qu'ran by focusing on those few passages concerning the deity of Christ.

The real issue concerning these writings is to focus upon what they contain and NOT upon what interpreters claim they contain! In fact, interpretation and the manner in which it is conducted, is largely responsible for the misunderstandings between denominations, and, for that matter, the other major world religions. The issue of what the sacred writings mean is by and far that which divides the church and has destroyed its unity!

In addition to this problem concerning the major world religions and their messages to the world is the prevalence in post-modern times of a "relativistic" mode of thinking, and the world of theology and religion has not been immune to its effects. Most religions as well as Christian denominations have fallen prey to this most recent attack on the universal validity of the teachings of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Through such cooperative efforts as the Ecumenical Movement doctrinal truths from God's Word have been relegated to at least a secondary position in favor of whatever concessions may be made in the name of cooperation. In truth, such thinking is a façade and a smoke-screen, for it focuses our attention on everything but the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the truths of God's Word. Relativism guts the Gospel of Jesus Christ by denying many of the very claims that are necessary for salvation through faith in the vicarious, atoning death through Jesus Christ's suffering on the cruel, accursed cross of Calvary, His subsequent resurrection from the dead, and His ascension into Heaven as victor over death and the grave. Relativism is fine if you have convinced yourself that there is no future life; no heaven or hell; and that it does not matter how you live while here on earth, for this is all that there is; a truly Epicurean outlook and Philosophy. Relativism is fine if your goal is to ignore the truth; not only the truths of God's Word, the Holy Bible, but the vast array of other tangible proofs which exist and have existed for centuries through the writings of other religions and civilizations, and had been translated into English and published in books, have recently been placed at our disposal by means of the internet! In truth, much of this proof has been accessible for over 100 years! And the very scholars and religious leaders to whom most people have put their faith and trust, have been those who have willfully chosen to mislead us! This is not some idle claim, because tangible proof exists! But they are NOT the only ones to blame! Many in our grass-roots churches have adopted attitudes and beliefs which are contrary and counter-productive to the very evangelistic endeavors that we claim to support! In small churches many do not see a need for "education" especially in religious matters, and maybe rightly so, to some degree, given the material and manner in which much of it is presented; they feel that what is important is being "called of God" to preach; which is definitely important, but the call to preach also contains a mandate to prepare to do God's will! That preparation need not necessarily take the form of formal preparation in Bible school or theological seminary, but preparation through reading and studying ALL of God's Word as well as dozens of other ancient writings IS necessary and commanded by God's Word in order that the Christian laborer may be, just as the lay Christian, the best, most effective witness for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as we can be! Anything short of this mark is to fail in our calling as leaders! At the other end of the spectrum are those who have chosen the route of formal theological training, and through the deceitfulness of many of the instructors as well as the very nature of much of the material and content, have been waylaid and misled far away from the basic doctrinal truths of God's Word! Of course, the point at which the student begins his/her spiritual journey is of the most importance; if you begin from a moderate-liberal point of view, it is most likely that you will remain convinced of the validity of that viewpoint. By the same token, if you begin from a fundamental-conservative point of view, it is most likely that you will remain convinced of its validity. That, believe it or not, is NOT the issue! The issue is that by encountering these other writings and belief systems, it forces the student to re-evaluate and reassess his/her own personal belief system; and when you couple those ideas with an in-depth study and analysis of God's Word as well, you cannot help but grow in knowledge and understanding concerning God's Word and will for not only the world, but for you, the individual as well. God's Word was NOT written and revealed in a vacuum! It was a vital part of not only the history of the Hebrew nation, but also the history of the entire world. Indeed, several of the greatest civilizations man has ever known were greatly influenced by the presence of the Hebrews, Israelites, or Jews, as they were variously known throughout history. The consummation of both the plan of salvation and the ages was and will be accomplished within the framework of history, not a "spiritual" vacuum. While these historical events have "spiritual" meaning and "spiritual" significance, their historical-ness cannot be ignored nor minimized! For through much of this historical mumbo-jumbo, many seemingly obscure

passages of the Bible can be understood; easily and literally! It simply requires a thirst for and a desire to search for God's truths; a willingness to encounter them and engage them wherever they may be found; and the willingness to allow God's Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and direct your study!

In addition to the above-mentioned problems some additional comments concerning the prevalence and prominence of the "spiritual" facet and nature of the Bible and spiritual things are in order. By this I refer to those who insist that the only thing that really matters is the "spiritual" understanding or application of the truths of God's Word. Surely the informed Christian recognizes that while the Christian church has realized many successes in its attempt to evangelize a lost and dying world, there is still much more work to be done; even right here in our own backyards! A good case can be made from the historical record that the Church at large has failed miserably at effectively evangelizing the world in the manner in which our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ commanded in His great commission. Matthew 28:18-20 reads:

18 **And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**  
19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**  
20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

Notice verse 20 where Jesus tells His disciples to "teach WHATSOEVER I have commanded you", not only those parts of God's revelation or the Gospel that you believe, or agree with, or think are important, or are "spiritual" enough; TEACH WHATSOEVER, in other words, ALL OF IT!

Hopefully, as we proceed through this study and presentation, we will provide adequate information and arguments why such a position concerning merely the spiritual meaning(s) of God's Word falls vastly short of the expectations of both Almighty God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! It was a part of His message which warned His followers of the coming of wolves among the sheep who would mislead the Church. An analogy can be drawn between the Jews of the Old Testament and the Christians of the Church Age. King Jeroboam was partially responsible for the idolatry that eventually destroyed the religious life of the Northern Kingdom of Israel when he established calf worship at Dan and Beersheba. And from his example each and every of the nineteen (19) kings of the Northern Kingdom are recorded in the Bible as doing evil in the sight of the Lord. NOT ONE IS RECORDED AS DOING GOOD! The effect and influence of their apostasy also infiltrated the Southern Kingdom of Judah, for twelve (12) of the twenty (20) kings of Judah are recorded in the Bible as doing evil in the sight of the Lord. ONLY EIGHT ARE RECORDED AS DOING GOOD IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD! Yet the Prophets are clear in their condemnation; it was not only the political leaders that led Israel and Judah astray. Much is said which condemns the religious leaders as well. Pastors, priests, and prophets alike are condemned for their apostasy, lewdness, drunkenness, and general debauchery. But the condemnation of the Prophets does not end there. Jeremiah summed it up best in chapter 5:30-31:

30 ¶ **A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land:**  
31 **The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?**

[REFERENCE: 1 Kings 22:16; Isaiah 30:9-10; Jeremiah 14:14]

It was not merely the political leaders who were guilty of leading Israel and Judah astray; nor was it merely the political and religious leaders; the people, the common people, through their own beliefs, attitudes, and actions, not only allowed it to happen, but loved to have it so!

Similarly, another analogy is provided in the cruel crucifixion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Roman authorities were guilty for the death of Jesus Christ, an innocent man, because they could have stopped it through their political power! The Jewish authorities within the Sanhedrin were guilty for the death of Jesus Christ, an innocent man, because they brought false accusation against Jesus which was contrary to their law as outlined in both the Torah and the Talmud; accusations which were brought to trial in an illegal court according to their Talmud; and other events of that fateful morning were also gross infractions of both their oral and written law. And the people, the common people, were guilty for the death of Jesus Christ, an innocent man, because they allowed both the religious and political leaders to commit such an atrocity and screamed for the release of a common, condemned murderer! True Christians know that the crucifixion of Jesus Christ was not the result of any one man's action, like Pontius Pilate; or political or religious entity, like the Romans or the Jews; or even the general public; but was in fact, part of God's greater plan for mankind. Jesus Himself said as recorded in John 10:16-18:

16 **And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. [REFERENCE: The Gentiles.]**

17 **Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.**

18 **No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

No one took Jesus' life, He gave it willingly! It was part of God's plan! Jesus acted within the will of God the Father! Just as that was part of the Father's will, it was also part of the Father's will that the Jews, the Israelites, should be cast off for a short while, so that the Gentiles might be called unto salvation as well; as verse 16 above alludes to, as well as other passages in the Old Testament. Further, one major reason, aside from it being God's will, that the Israelites missed their Messiah when He came the first time is because most of them were narrow-mindedly focusing on a small fraction of Scriptures which foretold of the coming of a Kingly Messiah which would liberate them from the tyrannies of the Greek and Roman empires. They devoutly ignored those Scriptures which prophesied of the coming of a suffering servant. One rabbi in the Talmud even makes this radical statement:

Said Rabh: **All the appointed times for the appearance of the and good deeds. (page 2230) Messiah have already ceased.**

And it depends only on **repentance**

So by the time that the Messiah actually appeared on the scene, many of the more educated Jews had stopped looking for His

appearance! Such a fact sheds great light on the attitudes and actions of, at least, some of the Jews of Jesus' day as well as the early church age. Further, notice the last statement of the rabbi's. This sums up the difference between each and every religion and true Christianity. Repentance and good deeds CANNOT atone for the sins nor rectify the depravity of mankind; ONLY the precious blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cruel, accursed cross of Calvary, offered as a vicarious, that is, substitutionary, death can restore man to a proper relationship with Almighty God! Nothing that you or I can do can remedy our sinful condition. This is one of the greatest and deepest truths of God's Word: it is ALL GOD! He provided the pre-ordained plan of salvation before the foundation of the world; He provided Himself as the sacrifice in the form of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; He endured the pain and agony so that you and I might be restored to that blessed and blissful existence of close, personal, communion and fellowship with God someday; and a much closer walk with Him in this life. He did it all! And all He asked in return was obedience, not because He wants to "lord" over us, but for our own good; just as a mother of father watches over a child and protects him from potential harm. When we accept God's gracious gift of salvation we need to recognize that we are not our own any longer, but we are bought with a price; the precious blood of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. We surrender our lives in this world so that we may reap eternal life in the world to come; just as Jesus surrendered His life in this world so that He could purchase you and me!

So, as we close this first installment of our study, what kind of a Christian are you? Are you like the kings of Israel and Judah who introduced and practiced idolatry; or the pastors, priests, and prophets who abused their power as religious leaders; or the common people of that time period who loved to have it so? Are you like the Roman authorities or the religious leaders, or the common people of Jesus' day who, whether they realized it or not, have innocent blood on their hands; just as you and I do? Are you happy and complacent with what Bible knowledge and understanding you have? Do you have a thirst to know all that you can about God, His Word, His plan? Have you read God's Word; His personal love letter to you? Have you engaged and encountered the alternative religions through their sacred writings? Could you actively engage in a religious discussion with a Hindu, a Buddhist, a Moslem, or someone of any other faith and effectively witness to that lost soul whom Jesus died for? Or would you simply turn away? Do you really know what you believe, and why you believe it? Could you explain it to someone? Could you show them the references in your Bible? Could you lead someone down the old Roman Road to meet Jesus Christ? If you answered no to any of these questions, then you are not ready to embark upon this journey. You must get your own personal walk with God straightened out first, recognizing where you have fallen short of the mark which He has set for you, and set out and up on faith to strive toward the prize and the mark of the high calling of Jesus Christ, the perfection of your soul! Perfection is NOT sin-less-ness, but rather, spiritual maturity! If you are saved, God commands you to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; this is NOT an option! Souls may be lost because of your indecision and/or unwillingness to submit to God's will! Woe to the man who tests God's patience and mercy by allowing himself to become complacent!

The statements and claims presented in this [bible study](#) series are not rash claims, but are well-documented in Sterling Ministries' Color-Coded Bible Study System and Library. Sterling Ministries has assembled in one collection almost everything necessary for anyone, beginner or learned scholar, who wants to increase their knowledge and understanding of God's Word; who wants to learn why the Bible is true and why the other sacred writings of other religions do not compare to God's Word, the Bible.

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