

Fake Jesus



I am not a Bible scholar nor a religious leader of any kind. I do read the Bible and related writings that express its Spirit and Wisdom, but I haven't studied its languages – Hebrew, Greek, Latin, etc. I have not spent my life trying to figure out what Scripture is saying here and what it means there.

Why haven't I done all of that? Don't I respect, even revere it as the "Word of God"? Well, yes, I do, but God called us – the little group of us who sponsor the store and serve God together – to serve Him in a more down-to-earth way, through this store, this mission of service to Lucerne Valley. It keeps us too busy to become Bible scholars.

Most Americans trace their ancestral roots to another country, whether European, African, Asian, Indian, South American. But that does not require that we read and study books about those places, their histories, or stories about our parents' grandparents' grandparents' grandparents.

We know and love our parents by knowing them personally and spending time with them. We get to know what they like and don't like; how they think; or how they will respond to things we do and decisions we make.

So it is with God. We come to know and to love Him by spending time with Him, and even though we don't see Him in the flesh, we know His Spirit just as we know our parents' spirits even if they've been gone for years. If we had good parents, their spirits molded ours. In the same way, God's Spirit molds ours, if we let Him.

I've been thinking about who Jesus is as He relates to God and God's Holy Spirit. I started with another mathematical equation: God = Truth; God = Spirit; therefore Truth = Spirit = God. Where does Jesus Christ come in? John the Apostle may have given us a clue when he wrote in his gospel,

"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known." (John 1:18 NIV).

That completes my little equation: Truth = Spirit = God = Jesus. So, Jesus Christ = God, Spirit, and Truth. Jesus Christ is the only one of the Three Who has a fleshly form that we can see and touch, but His Body left us after His resurrection. In His place, He left us His Holy Spirit to be our guide, comforter, teacher of wisdom, and link to our Father, God, so we have a way to know what He is thinking.

Why is this important? Because of God's enemy, Satan. He wants to deceive, distort, and destroy anything he can relating to God, Jesus, Truth, God's love, and the list goes on. He has been extremely successful confusing the word "love", or "luhvuv", as we said last week. We use the same word for a casual sexual relationship as we do for God's holy



From Amir Tsarfati

Israeli Bible and Prophecy Teacher

This coming Saturday I will be turning 50.

While it is a great reason for me to look back and be thankful for the life God has given to me personally, it is an even greater reason to thank God for the privilege of living in the greatest generation since the time of Jesus Christ. It is a generation that has experienced the rebirth of the nation of Israel back in its land and a generation that will soon see the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our precious Messiah to take us home.

The coming weeks and months are bringing with them a massive storm. A storm the likes of which most of us have never seen. This is what the Lord has put on my heart to share today in preparation for the soon salvation of our body from this world:

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Romans 13:11-14

and beautiful love for us!

He has also distorted the phrase "God's Word" or "The Word" so that even the best "religious" leaders use it to mean the Bible and fail to use it in the way John the Apostle defined it in his beautiful introduction to his gospel.

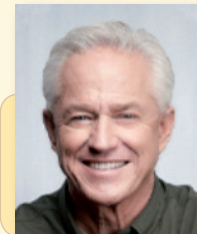
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1:5



it. . . . And the Word became flesh [Jesus!] and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . . For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (John 1, excerpts)

The Bible is a static document and cannot be changed. In fact, there is a warning at the end of the last book, Revelation, almost a curse, if anyone adds to the book (which could mean just Revelation or the entire Bible). We gain inspiration and knowledge from the Bible



Just Ask (excerpt)

Ray Bentley Ministries

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.

"So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" —Matthew 20:32

. . . Jesus takes the time to ask and to listen. There's something very powerful about this. The King of the universe doesn't have to take the time to listen to us to fulfill our desires and needs. But He wants to.

Here is a key that opens hearts to the message of the Gospel: ask questions and listen. Ask people to tell you their story or their situation. Demonstrate that you are interested in them just beyond the cultural greeting of "How are you?" One of our greatest needs as humans is to be listened to. Not just their words; their very souls need to be heard.

Listening is a gift we can give believers and non-believers alike. When we spend time with someone and make them the focus of our undivided attention, we're bringing Jesus to them. We're saying, "You matter; you are beloved by God; you are worth listening to."

People respond to this kind of love. They start peeling out from behind the iron gates of their highly fortified hearts. They soften. They lower the drawbridge and allow you to come in. And eventually, after experiencing this uncommon love, they're often open to hearing about the Source of it...our beloved Savior.

Take the time to listen to someone today — the same gift Jesus lovingly gives us.

through the lens of the Holy Spirit in us. So it's the Holy Spirit who is the Living Word, the Word involved in creating the world. Our equation now is God=Truth=Jesus Christ=Holy Spirit=The Word. A physical printed book recorded by humans transmits God's Word by the Holy Spirit and isn't "The Word" per se. (I know many will be angry at that thought!)

In the same way, the enemy has distorted what we know and think of Jesus Himself. Jesus Himself told us that His physical presence on earth was ending for a while, and that we are to look to God's Holy Spirit now, during Jesus' absence.

The Enemy has subtly placed before us painted images of a Jesus when we don't know what He looked like, and he has created an image of a meek, mild, and sweetie-heart Jesus, with children, butterflies and birdies surrounding Him. This Jesus image has blue eyes and light brown hair and he almost floats 6 inches above the ground. People worship this fake Jesus, pray to him, raise their hands to him, and live their lives as if he has no expectations of real change or surrender of their lives and wills.

The enemy Satan is behind these distorted images, calling them Jesus, when they are not JESUS THE CHRIST, SON OF THE LIVING GOD at all!

What we know of Jesus has been filtered through human writings and analysis for over 2000 years, so there has been plenty of opportunity for Satan to do his work, laying traps for the unsuspecting, and subtly changing believers' orientation from the real living Lord to the false images. That is why, as Jesus instructed us, we must look to the living Holy Spirit to keep our relationship with God healthy and alive on a daily, even moment-by-moment basis.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. . . . These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. . . . But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." (John 14-16, excerpts, but please read the whole thing!)

Please read Amir Tsarfati's short little article above, and you'll know another reason this is important. We are coming into difficult times very quickly: phony vaccines, growing tyranny and loss of freedoms, daily threat of nuclear war from several evil world players, the destruction of morality worldwide, hatred for those who love God, violence, riots, earthquakes, and on and on.

These are the birth pangs of the End, the warnings of what is to come. Therefore we had better be right with God, the true God and not some fake image created by Satan. Then when the End actually comes, we have nothing to fear and everything to celebrate as we live eternally with the Creator of the universe!

Linda Gommel

On The Lighter Side . . . Contributed from the Web

