



Should You NOT be a Christian? (Part II)

<u>1 Corinthians 3:20-21</u>: (NASB) ²⁰...The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless. ²¹So then let no one boast in men...

Several weeks ago, we began working on a response to a YouTube video sent to us by a college student entitled, "Why I am no longer a Christian," a $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour step-by-step presentation of how another young man went from devoted Christian to atheist. It was a well done, non-inflammatory treatise on why the author now believed Christianity to be just a story. Today is Part II of this three-part

series, and we will primarily focus on the portion of the video that spells out specific issues that the video's producer encountered with the Bible itself.

Apparent discord between science and the Bible, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

• One thing that always bothered me as a Christian was the apparent discord between science and the Bible. The story of Genesis, for example, seemed to be completely at odds with important scientific concepts like the Big Bang, evolution and even the age of the universe. It was a great comfort to me in college when I discovered the book, The Science of God, by the physicist Gerald Schroeder. The Bible, Schroeder explained, was actually not at odds with science at all. Evolution is easy: God had used evolution as a way to create us. The Big Bang was also easy: That was simply what God had used to create the universe.

While the Bible does contain many scientific facts and secrets, the Bible is *not* a science textbook. It is *not* meant to teach us the principles and secrets of science just the way a science textbook is *not* meant to teach us history, prophecy or ethical living. While the Bible is scientifically verifiable, one does not go to the Bible to learn science.



(1) Einstein - time is relative, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

• The hardest part for me was the timeline, and this is where Schroeder's book really shined. Secular and liberal people who criticize the Bible for not providing the right time frames for the creation of the universe, as well as Young Earth Creationists, who think the Bible has the right time and the science is wrong, are both admitting from their reasoning one of the most important discoveries that Einstein introduced through his theory of relativity: Time is relative. The time experienced by a person in one gravitation or velocity reference frame is different from the time experienced by someone in another. There is no absolute time.

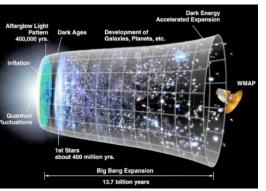
The Bible does not label the periods of creation in *hours*, rather it labels them as *stages*. It uses the word *days*, but in the Bible it is not always a 24-hour day.

<u>2 Peter 3:8</u>: (NASB) But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.



This text is an example that time - in this case, a day - is in fact related to its context. It is relative. Those creative days were not necessarily 1,000 years. The word "day" here does not mean a period from sunrise to sunset. Here is an example: "Back in my grandfather's day..."

Please see the CQ Rewind Bonus Material for information on the seemingly contradictory fourth creative day.



According to the Bible, could the "Big Bang" have really happened? Yes, because there is no biblical evidence for or against it, as the biblical account simply addresses the Earth's beginning for habitation.

According to the Bible, could man have evolved from lower forms of God's creation? NO!!

<u>Genesis 1:26-28</u>: (NASB) ²⁶Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the

earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. ²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

Notice all of the differences when it came to man, who was given a completely different role on the earth than the other animals:

- Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;
- and let them rule over all the earth;
- God blessed them;
- God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it."

Genesis is written from the standpoint of a human being looking around their environment. This marked difference of being created in God's image plays a critical role in this discussion.

Could all human languages have really started at the tower of Babel?

(1))Description and credentials of a new mentor, Why I am no Longer a Christian,



• The man had been a professor in linguistics and involved in academia for almost 40 years and had taught in universities all over the world, including Stanford, Georgetown and the State University of New York. He was also a former missionary. When he was my age, he said he had been equally confident about his own Christian beliefs. He told me that all changed for him when he was attending the University of Madrid and Ramon Menendez Pidal, head of the Royal Spanish Academy of Letters and the foremost historical scholar of his time, invited him to use his private library in his home, just outside of Madrid, during the academic year of 1961-1962. Ramon explained to



him with ample documentation, how the Bible had been put together over the centuries.

So, with a new mentor comes an incredibly persuasive and knowledgeable perspective.

Remember as the Bible creation account has shown us creation from the viewpoint of mankind, it also teaches us that <u>mankind can only truly see things</u> from his own vantage point. As we look into the claims of modern science, and the further claims of this video, let us remember that fact.

Tower of Babel is monumentally preposterous, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

• To call the scientific debate a myth is truly astonishing. Among educated people, the doctrinal underpinnings of the Bible have been known to be mythological for centuries. Have you read Robert Ingersoll's, "Some Mistakes of Moses," as one example? The Tower of Babel story alone to anyone with knowledge of historical linguistics is monumentally preposterous!

Here is the basic pre-context of the Tower of Babel:

<u>Genesis</u> 9:1: (NASB) And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

Here is what happened:

<u>Genesis 11:1-9</u>: (NASB) ¹Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. ²It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³They said to one another, Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly. And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. ⁴They said, Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.



Man wanted to elevate himself and disobey the command given to Noah to fill the earth. Man decided to do things out of harmony with the expressed will of God.

⁵The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶The LORD said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech.

God confused their language and therefore confused their effort...

⁸So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.



...And man was scattered over the earth as a result - just as God wanted them to be!

Okay, HOW did this happen? Did God miraculously implant new languages into peoples' brains?

Edenics (<u>www.edenics.org</u>) is the study of language with the thinking that a) all language came from one language;

b) the words formed were not random sounds and grunts that turned into words, but were formed because of meanings;

c) the original language was an ancient form of Hebrew;

d) this original language was pre-programmed into the human mind in the brain, similar to a software package that comes with your computer.

(1) Origin of the word Babel, The Origin of Speeches, Edenics on YouTube.com

- Maybe you are delighted, even inspired to discover that language comes from a Creator and not accidentally evolved from chattering chimps. The Edenics deniers try to say that our 23,000 bits of evidence so far are a bunch of "borrowings." Take a moment to read what the prestigious Oxford Dictionary says about the word Babel, which means "incomprehensible speech." They are clearly upset that the Bible's Babel is the likely source. Even as a mere borrowing, this upsets them.
- If the tower of Babel were a Greek or Celtic fable, they would embrace it as a logical source.

Since the source is Jewish Scripture, it is automatically looked down upon. Edenics has established 23,000+ bits of evidence that clearly link this ancient Hebrew dialect to most other languages in the world. Could this possibly have anything to do with being created in God's image?

When God created Adam and Eve, He did so in His likeness, in a different way than the rest of the animals. They were given the ability to reason and likely they were given the "language program" that they needed to learn how to use, just like small children who learn how to speak.

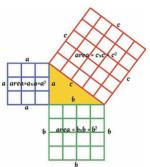
If evolution were true and everyone started with one language, what are the chances that all languages developed simultaneously around different parts of the world and made sense? We believe there is design and not merely chance.

Could languages really be "built in" to the human mind, just like a software package for a computer?

First, let's diverge into a seemingly completely unrelated subject:

(I))Accidental Math Genius, Introduction, YouTube.com

- I'm looking and I'm seeing trees and leaves and clouds. What do you see?
- I see bits and pieces of the Pythagorean Theorem



Pythagoream Theorem: $C^2 = a^2 + b^2$



everywhere. Every single little curve, every single spiral, every tree is part of that equation.

- Amazingly, Jason doesn't have a PhD, a college degree, or even a background in math. Ten years ago, he was only interested in two things: working out and partying.
- He was walking out of this place what used to be a karaoke club when he was brutally attacked by thieves who beat and kicked him in the head repeatedly.
- All I saw was a bright flash of light, and the next thing I knew I was on my knees on the ground and I thought, I'm gonna get killed.

He suddenly developed an incredible ability for math, even though he was never taught. We will come back to this in a short while.

(Source: Edenics.org; Op Ed piece solicited by The Jerusalem Post, January 2005)

Language: The Chattering of Chimps or Babble from Babel? By: Isaac Mozeson

Both options seem strange. Since Darwin's *The Origin of Species* (1859) science assumes that, after millions of years of evolving mutations, some grunting apes became the gesturing Neanderthals, which led to Shakespearean sonnets. Happily, the floating, uniquely human hyoid throat bone also appeared, helping this species survive by lying, crooning, yodeling and rapping. (The world's oldest hyoid bone was unearthed in Haifa, Israel).

Secularists have always considered it mythic that a Divine Engineer would factory install a language program at Eden, creating the first modern humans. And that multi-national history was then to have been neuro-linguistically kick-started at the Tower of Babel, with 70 spinoffs which have since de-evolved into our 6,000 tongues.

Linguist Noam Chomsky proved that the human brain is hard-wired for language and suggested that some super-intelligent alien engineered language. And recent linguists DO conclude that all Earth languages came from one universal language, but NOT that "recent West-Semitic language" called Hebrew.

(I))Accidental math genius, an acquired savant, YouTube.com

• To understand Jason, neurologists took him to Finland for a series of tests. A scan of his brain showed damage that was forcing his brain to overcompensate in certain areas that most people don't have access to. The result - Jason was now an "acquired savant," brilliant in a very specific area.

How could he have become a math genius without studying? We do not use most of our brains.

If we were created in God's image...

<u>Genesis 1:27</u>: (NASB) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.



...to be able to have dominion over the earth, then we were created with not only language pre-programmed, but math, science, music, and more. That is way more powerful than any evolutionary thought!

Ask yourself - is it more palatable to believe that languages, in all of their complexity of meaning and syntax, (at least 70 languages are known to have begun after Babel) all developed essentially simultaneously throughout the world by the pure chance of evolution - or - that Intelligent Design planted them into the human mind and simply activated the proper switch at the proper time?

Our Atheist friend continued on his quest to read the Bible all the way through as he continued in Genesis:

Problem - Abraham lied and Pharaoh was punished, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

- I started in Genesis, immediately following the verses that had been validated by "The Science of God." These chapters were about Noah, Lot, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph.
- One thing I learned that bothered me was that Abraham asks his wife Sarah to lie to the Egyptians in Genesis. He did this because Sarah was very attractive and Abraham was afraid the Egyptians would kill him so they could take her. This seemed like immoral



behavior in and of itself for a servant of the One True God. Why would Abraham lie when he had God on his side? But what was worse was that after the Egyptians believed Sarah and took Sarah to Pharaoh as a wife, God punished Pharaoh with diseases because he had taken Sarah for his wife. This seemed completely backwards to me. Shouldn't God have punished Sarah and Abraham for lying?

Please refer to the full account of <u>Genesis 20:1-18</u> in the Full Edition CQ Rewind Bonus Material

But is that the actual context? Let's review a few key points from Genesis 20:

²Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister. So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ⁶Then God said to him in the dream, Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. ¹²Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife;

God PROTECTED Pharaoh by warning him through a dream, which also tested Abimelech's integrity.

So, Abraham told a partial truth and not an outright lie. Sarah was actually his half-sister. We do not actually know what consequence Abraham had for his



lack of faith. Having a moral discussion based on a partial truth is different from that of an outright lie.

Did God really use Pharaoh as a puppet?

TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE[™]

Problem - God hardened Pharaohs heart - that's unfair, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

• I encountered other behaviors from the God of the Old Testament that didn't make sense. One was when Moses had asked Pharaoh to let the Hebrews leave Egypt in Exodus and God had hardened Pharaoh's heart - why did God do that? Didn't that violate Pharaoh's free will? Didn't that defeat the purpose of God telling Moses to ask? Didn't that just keep the Hebrews enslaved longer? Wasn't that unfair to the Egyptians, too? God killed all their first born sons and inflicted them with plagues because of this. Wasn't this unfair if God was just using Pharaoh as a puppet? After trying to answer these questions for a few minutes, I decided that I just didn't understand what God was trying to do and reminded myself not to lean on my own understanding.

God hardened Pharaoh's heart - why would He do that?

A question before we answer - what do you envision "God hardening his heart" actually means? Probably that God changed Pharaoh and made him stubborn and unmovable against his will. But what actually happened?

Exodus 4:21: (NASB) The LORD said to Moses, When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

Hebrew Lexicon: #2388 qzx chazaq khaw-zak' to strengthen, prevail, harden, be strong, become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute, be sore

Sounds like a fortifying, a strengthening, a firming action of what already is, but NOT a poisoning or polluting...God took what was already there and made it stronger. It was already within Pharaoh. God honored what Pharaoh really wanted, giving him courage to carry out what was there.

Pharaoh also did the same with his own heart:

Exodus 8:19: Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened <2388>, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

He was getting firm in what he wanted. So, it could be that God was simply putting the will of Pharaoh in the center of the event.

Exodus 7:13-14: (NASB) ¹³Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened <2388>, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said. ¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, Pharaoh's heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go.

Nowhere does it say that God made his heart *more* stubborn! God did not make Pharaoh act against his own will. Contrarily, he allowed Pharaoh to act in accordance with his own will.

There is another word used in the whole picture:

Hardened: Strongs #3513 kabad (kaw-bad'); or kabed (kaw-bade'); to be heavy, i.e. in a bad sense (burdensome, severe, dull) or in a good sense (numerous, rich, honorable; causatively, to make weighty (in the same two senses)



Here are some uses of this word:

Exodus 8:15: (KJV) But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened <3513> his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

So, Pharaoh made his heart weighty - he paid attention to what he truly desired. He gave his heart the weight of the matter.

Exodus 10:1: (KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened <3513> his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him:

So God made Pharaoh's heart weighty - God paid attention to what Pharaoh truly desired.

<u>Deuteronomy 5:16</u>: (KJV) Honour <3513> thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

What does that have to do with anything? The word for *honour* here is the exact same word for *hardened*! In the same way we should make our parents weighty - give honor to - pay attention to their desires.

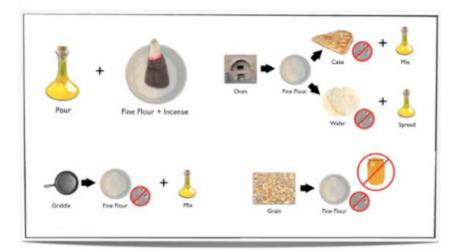
God honored Pharaoh's heart, allowing it to be what drove the circumstance. Did God make Pharaoh act against his will? Absolutely not. On the contrary, God honored Pharaoh's will.

Why all the "useless details" about sacrifices and rituals in the books of the Law?

First, let's cite a New Testament verse which we will come back to:

<u>1 Corinthians 5:7</u>: (NASB) Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.

(1) The mundane details of Leviticus, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com



After finishing Exodus, I moved onto Leviticus. I was dismayed to find that the book was filled almost entirely with rules about how to do sacrifices. What overwhelmed me was the amount of detail God put into explaining how to do the sacrifices and offerings. One set of verses from the second chapter of Leviticus reads:

<u>Leviticus 2:1-2</u>: (NASB) Now when anyone presents a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour, and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it ²and take it to Aaron's sons the priests. The priest shall take a handful of the fine flour and oil, together with all the incense, and burn this as a memorial portion on the altar, an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD.



TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE[™]

<u>Leviticus 2:4-5</u>: (NASB) ⁴Now when you bring an offering of a grain offering baked in an oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil, or unleavened wafers spread with oil. ⁵If your offering is a grain offering made on the griddle, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened, mixed with oil;

Leviticus 2:11: (NIV) Every grain offering you bring to the LORD must be made without yeast, for you are not to burn any yeast or honey in an offering made to the LORD by fire.

• Why would God care about such mundane details?

(Source: Biblical commentator C.T. Russell)

<u>Overall</u>: This is a picture of setting forth Christ's perfect human character and conduct. (Our ears should now be on high alert that if this is a New Testament picture, we would expect the details to be rich and important!) This is probably representing offerings of praise and worship.

Fine flour: There was no roughness or unevenness in Jesus' character.

Frankincense: Representing praise, heart adoration.

Leaven: represents sin, so we would not want leaven mixed with the flour.

This is a picture of Christ - unleavened (without sin); mixed with oil (the Holy Spirit); baked in an oven (the heat of trial), and so on. All of a sudden, we see a highly impactful spiritual reason for this detail. There are lessons in the Old Testament that are understood by God's children but it takes a lifetime to learn. Every week we at Christian Questions learn something new in study, and that is the glory of all of this.

「())The mundane in Numbers and Deuteronomy, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com



After several chapters, I tired of the mundane and repetitive details in Leviticus and moved onto Numbers. Here too I found tedious details, this time about counting the numbers of Israelites that were from different tribes. After that, it returned to offerings and sacrifices like Leviticus. I skipped to Deuteronomy and found more tedious law codes. All of these rules and laws were antithetical to the idea that God's Law was written on our hearts, as explained by Paul in Romans.

The Law was given as a stepping stone back to harmony with God:

<u>Galatians 3:19-22</u>: (NASB) ¹⁹Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. ²⁰Now a mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one. ²¹Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. ²²But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

A written code was needed to counteract sin. It was put into practice because God saw that it was necessary for his chosen people to label sin. The Law was not able to bring perfection to humanity. It was simply in place to help the people set themselves apart from the rest of the world and to stay within God's favor. The Law had a specific purpose. It condemned everyone under sin, but the promise of faith had been given to those of us who want to rise above the ordinary.



wind ())Old Testament and New Testament didn't seem connected, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

> • When I had started reading the Bible from cover to cover, I expected to see the lessons of the Holy Spirit that had been taught to me confirmed through Scripture. Instead I was finding the Old Testament to be, at best, almost completely unrelated to them, and at worst, antithetical to them.

We maintain that this young man did not know how to look at the details that reveal the glory of God.



A caller suggests: The young man on the YouTube video is basically saying, I don't understand it, therefore it is not true. What is interesting is that people don't take this same position with a subject like trigonometry or physics. I don't understand physics, but I know it's true! Other people are figuring it out, so there must be a way to figure it out. But the Bible we just throw away rather than try to understand the details of the Scriptures.

<u>Hebrews 10:1-4</u>: (NASB) ¹For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. ²Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? ³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews tells us that they had those sacrifices that atoned for their sins each and every year. Those sacrifices could not actually take away sin, but the sacrifice of Jesus did. So they were a picture of what was coming. You cannot teach the end of a lesson at the beginning, for all of the details are missing.

What about Judas? Was he truly sorry for his treachery against Jesus?

(1) Judas in Acts 1-18, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

• One of my favorite verses from Acts 1:18 was the reward he got for his wickedness. Judas bought a field. There he fell headlong, his body burst open, and all his intestines spilled out. While it was violent and horrible, the greed and total lack of remorse that he expressed in the passage showed that Judas deserved this death. The Holy Spirit had given me an image of his death, of Judas walking into the field and falling forward suddenly, his intestines gruesomely exploding from his abdomen. This was evidence of God's justice and palpable wrath against the wicked. Judas had thought he had gotten away, but God had tangibly and forcefully struck him down.

<u>Acts 1:16-19</u>: (NASB) ¹⁶Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry. ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)



(The parenthesis above, though genuine, is likely a note added by Luke to the account and not the spoken words of Peter. For the field to be known by all in Jerusalem as Field of Blood is not reasonable after only about a month.)

(1))Judas in Matthew 27:5, my religion was a mistake, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

- After a few evenings of reading, I finally reached the end of Matthew where Judas betrayed Jesus. I looked forward to reading Matthew's account of God's wrath against the wicked and remorseless Judas. I finally reached the point where I expected that to happen in Matthew 27:5. "So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself."
- My tongue caught in the back of my throat. My chest seized up. Adrenalin rushed through my body. My heart pounded. It felt as if the very fabric of reality itself was tearing apart. It felt like the paint on the walls surrounding me would tear open to reveal empty darkness. Everything I believed lay vulnerable on an altar, waiting to be pierced, waiting to be sacrificed. It was a horrifying moment of realization: This Judas was not remorseless. This Judas seemed filled with guilt, so filled with guilt in fact that he hung himself.
- God had exercised no wrath against him. He had felt so guilty that he hung himself. I turned back to the verse in Acts and then to the verse in Matthew. I braced myself to face the consequence that my religion was a mistake.

In reality, it did not contradict the account in Acts. Rather, it contradicted his emotional picture that he painted around the verse in Acts. The uncomfortable intestine part, we believe, happened after he hung himself, so there is no contradiction.

Acts says he bought a field with the money from his wickedness, but in the Matthew verse, it says he gave the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests.

We ran out of time! Please refer to the explanation in the Full Edition CQ Rewind Bonus Material.

<u>Matthew 27:3-5</u>: (NASB) ³Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that he had been condemned, he *felt remorse* and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. But they said, What is that to us? See to that yourself! ⁵And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.

Repent: Strongs #3338 metamellomai (met-am-el'-lom-ahee); to care afterwards, i.e. regret:

To care afterwards is not to actually repent of what you did; it just didn't work out the way you wanted it to.

This is in contrast to another type of "repentance:"

Repent: Strongs #3340; to think differently or afterwards, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction): 1) to change one's mind, i.e. to repent 2) to change one's mind for better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins

(Compunction means uneasiness of mind due to feelings of remorse or guilt; twinge of conscience)



There is a difference between regretting what you did and to change one's mind for better. It is a totally different word. The word used for Judas showed that he regretted the action but was not actually repentant.

An example of this "fuller" repentance:

<u>Acts 17:30-31</u>: (NRSV) ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

The distinction often given between these is; 3338 refers to an emotional change, 3340 to an change of choice, 3338 has reference to particulars, 3340 to the entire life, 3338 signifies nothing but regret even amounting to remorse, 3340 that reversal of moral purpose known as repentance; does not seem to be sustained by usage. But that 3340 is the fuller and nobler term, expressive of moral action and issues, is indicated not only by its derivation, but by the greater frequency of its use and by the fact it is often used in the imperative.

Judas was humiliated and regretted the way it turned out, so he committed suicide.

()) Conclusion, Why I am no Longer a Christian, YouTube.com

• While I continued to have faith in the Bible, I never looked at it quite the same way again. In the back of my mind, I slowly started to realize that at best, the Bible was something that required very complicated explanations and intense research to understand. And at worst, it was the fallible word of men who may have written it to fit their own purposes, or at least made some serious mistakes. After this experience, the Bible was no longer the clear word of God that flowed straight from His mind to mine. It suddenly required the intervention of outside sources to rescue it from being misunderstood. It could no longer stand on its own. I still had faith in the Bible; I just couldn't look at it the same way anymore.

Yes! The Bible is complicated and that is what makes it valuable! There is a value at learning and mastering a craft. The Scriptures are very deep. We need to look at the context, the symbols, and the details.

Part III will be coming in a few more weeks! When you have questions about the Scriptures, we need to think, how can we learn? How is the Bible right?

Should you NOT be a Christian? For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!



Fourth Creative Day

tive Day

The fourth creative day seems to be way out of order, as it seems to depict the creation of the sun.

Yet, that is NOT what it is depicting - remember, this account is written from the standpoint of man on earth to give us a sense of our origin. Here is the fourth day:

<u>Genesis 1:14-19</u>: (NASB) ¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse (firmament) of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; ¹⁵and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. ¹⁷God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. ¹⁹There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

(Source: Bible commentary by Jamison Fawcett and Brown) Genesis 1:14-19: FOURTH DAY. *Let there be lights in the firmament* — The atmosphere being completely purified, the sun, moon, and stars were for the first time unveiled in all their glory in the cloudless sky; and they are described as "in the firmament" which to the eye they appear to be, though we know they are really at vast distances from it.

So, the light of the sun and stars are now recognizable in the firmament (our atmosphere). This "clearing" and recognition would be crucial for mankind as the heavens would be used as markers and measurements of times and seasons throughout all of mankind's history

Abraham's Partial Truth

The account of Abraham's "partial truth:"

Genesis 20:1-18: (NASB) 'Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. ²Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister. So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married. ⁴Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless? ⁵Did he not himself say to me, She is my sister? And she herself said, He is my brother. In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this. ⁶Then God said to him in the dream, Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours. ⁸So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened. ⁹Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done. ¹⁰And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What have you encountered, that you have done this thing? ¹¹Abraham said, Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of



my wife. ¹²Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife; ¹³and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, He is my brother. ¹⁴Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him. ¹⁵Abimelech said, Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please. ¹⁶To Sarah he said, Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared. ¹⁷Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids, so that they bore children.¹⁸For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.



Another short excerpt from: www.edenics.org

Instead of the divine dance of sense among sound, scholars assume that words are merely chaotic noises that we assign meaning to. But words traced back to Eden AREN'T meaningless sounds.

Take mysterious animal names. In English, names like 1) GIRAFFE, 2) SKUNK, 3) GOPHER, and 4) HORSE are mere sounds. But in Biblical Hebrew, (Sephardic) Ayin-Resh-Phey, ghoref, means neck. 2) Tsokhen, stinker, gave the Indians that delightful creature's name, 3) Khopher means digger, and 4) Horaish is plower.



Other scriptures where the heart of Pharaoh is "hardened:"

Exodus 8:32: And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.

Exodus 9:34: And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

Exodus 10:1: And the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I might shew these my signs before him:

Exodus 7:13: Yet Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Exodus 7:14: Then the LORD said to Moses, Pharaoh's heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go.





First, the two accounts:

<u>Matthew 27:3-10</u>: (NASB) ³Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that he had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. But they said, What is that to us? See to that yourself! ⁵And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood. ⁷And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; ¹⁰And they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord directed me.

<u>Acts 1:16-19</u>: (NASB) ¹⁶Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry. ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

The seeming contradiction regarding who bought this "Field of Blood" - Judas or the Priests:

(Source: Biblical commentary by Barnes:) Acts 1 Ver. 18. Now this man, etc. The money which was given for betraying the Lord Jesus was thrown down in the temple, and the field was purchased with it by the Jewish priests. See #Mt 27:5,10.

See Barnes "Mt 27:5". A man is said often to do a thing, when he furnished means for doing it.

And a last thought on the two types of 'repentance" discussed:

So, true repentance is far more than a realization of a wrongdoing - it is a <u>true</u> changing of the direction of one's life that leads to a completely different end result than one was heading for. This would be in contrast to simply changing ones thoughts, based on circumstances - the latter action, while positive, does not necessarily aim at producing lasting results.