

Introduction

The Problem

This book is an examination of the most influential person who ever lived. Was Jesus really God, or just a man? *Is Jesus “God”?* addresses that age-old question in a manner that will appeal to both believers and skeptics. And the way it does this can't be disputed because this book doesn't tell you what to believe. Instead, it simply reveals the information you need to understand—and then lets *you* decide.

Why is this important?

Although more than five *billion* copies of the Bible have been printed in at least 450 languages, most people have no idea what it says. Everyone knows that parts of it talk about Jesus, but who and what he is has long been clouded by mystery, theological biases, religious swindlers, and the intimidation many feel when trying to study the Bible.

This intimidation isn't as much due to the Bible's size, but due to its *structure* – how the books are written and organized – which is *not* reflective of how we read and learn today. Ever since we were children, we've acquired knowledge from books in a specific way: introduction, background, visual aid, elaboration of core premise, follow-up questions, conclusion summary, and so forth; but many books of the Bible appear to be hasty dictations or letters, where thoughts are incompletely developed or jumbled together, and core nuggets of information are scattered in isolation or mentioned in passing without clarification.

This lack of organized structure makes it extremely difficult for the average person to get a holistic understanding of the Scriptures (what should only take hours using a treatise-like source now takes years of reading and study). In addition, most works that try to explain the Bible insert their theological preconceptions and interpretation, giving the reader a slanted viewpoint. Which biblical commentary provides a completely unbiased explanation? One written by Catholics, Evangelicals, Mormons, or Jehovah's Witnesses?

I'm in a unique position to see, understand, and remedy this problem because I've been an atheist, a believer, and everything in between. Even more important, some of my core skills are in the creation, editing, and analysis of anthologies – single works that have multiple contributors but a common theme.¹

I specialize in the development and analysis of *correlative* anthologies—anthologies that need to speak with a common voice and message such as proposals, business plans, project execution plans, and project closeout reports for multi-million and even billion-dollar projects.²

I know from experience that it is impossible for different people to have the same perspective on anything without external constraints.³

Our brains are not wired to have perfectly harmonious viewpoints with each other – there will always be misunderstandings and disagreements. Intelligence and maturity have nothing to do with it. Every manager knows his team will never function perfectly and will always need correction, clarification, and guidance.

This fact of human nature means every correlative anthology needs to have its contributors operate within a common frame. They must write their deliverables following a specific set of instructions and criteria. These would be a style guide, a set of specifications, and instructions on what and how they are supposed to develop their deliverables.

After they submit their work, a single editor or team of editors needs to review each deliverable to ensure they complied with the requirements, identify errors and ensure they are corrected, and rewrite the

deliverables if needed so that each piece supports and enhances the objectives of the project (see Figure 1).

Multiple-Author Deliverable Development Process for Correlative Single Product

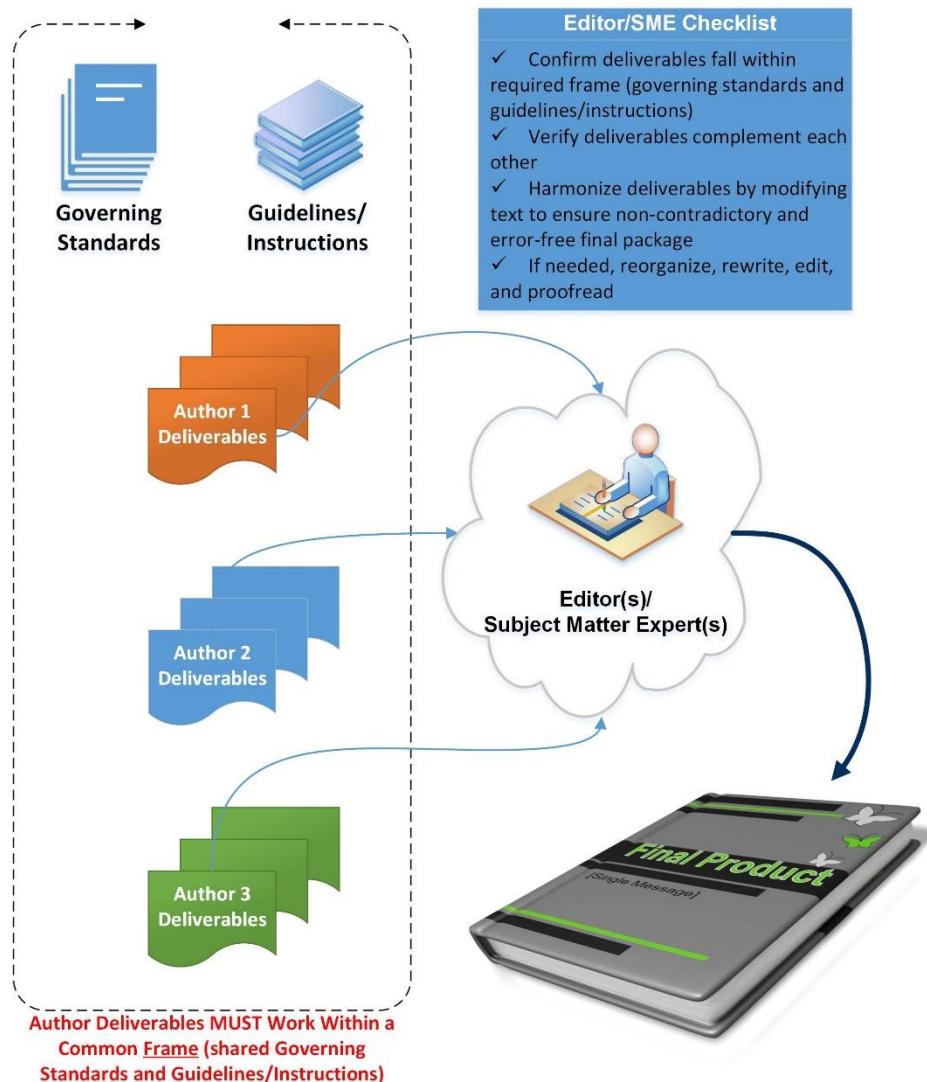


Figure 1: The Process ALL Major Projects Follow When Using Multiple Authors for Separate Document Deliverables for a Single, Correlative Product

What does this have to do with the Bible? Well, although many people think the New Testament is a single book, it is actually an anthology of 27 books from nine authors, who were separated from one another by distance and up to 50 years. And although being human, with the same mental limitations we all have; when their doctrines about Jesus are mapped—a single, coherent cosmology appears:

THE GOSPEL'S COSMOLOGY

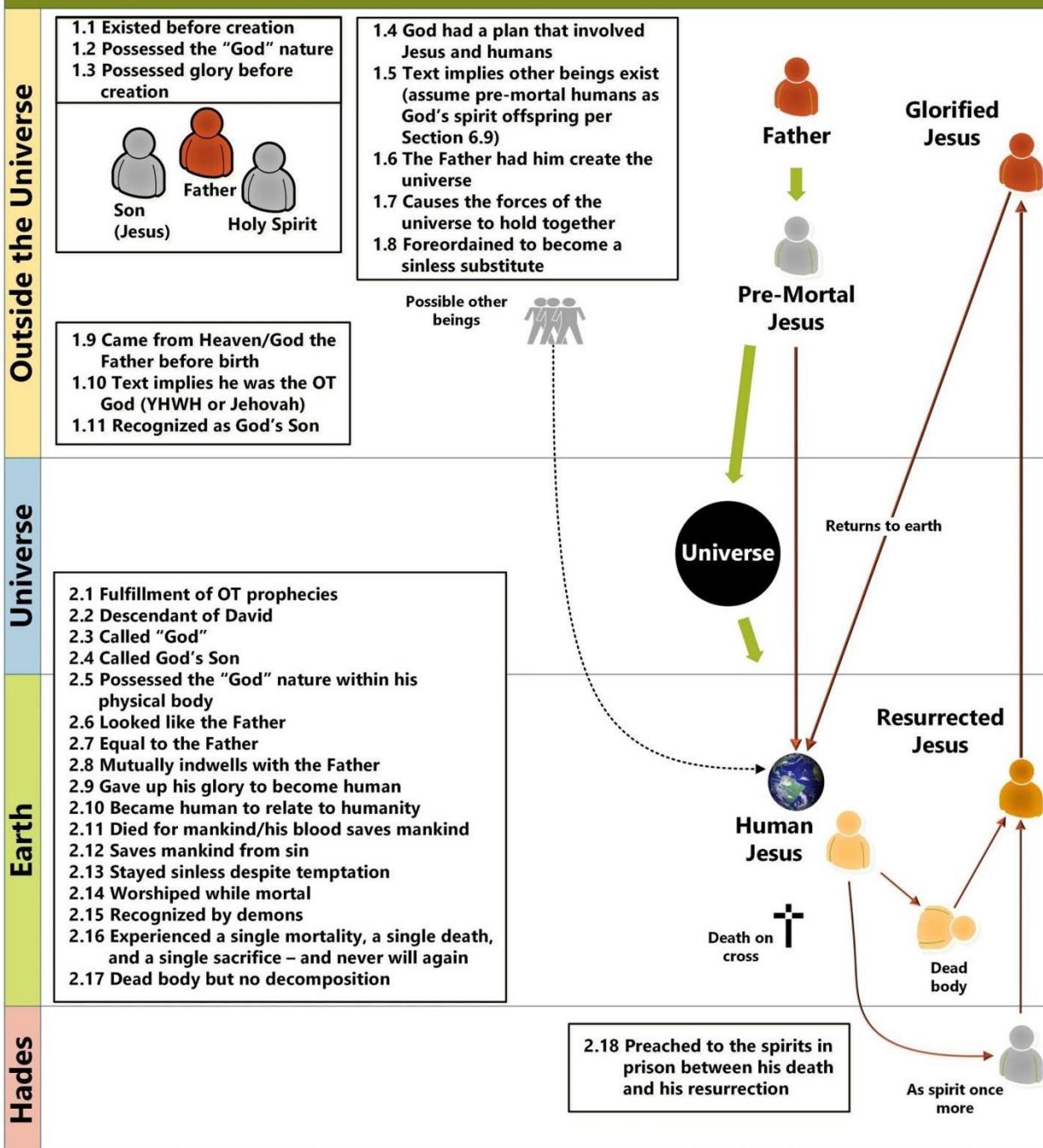
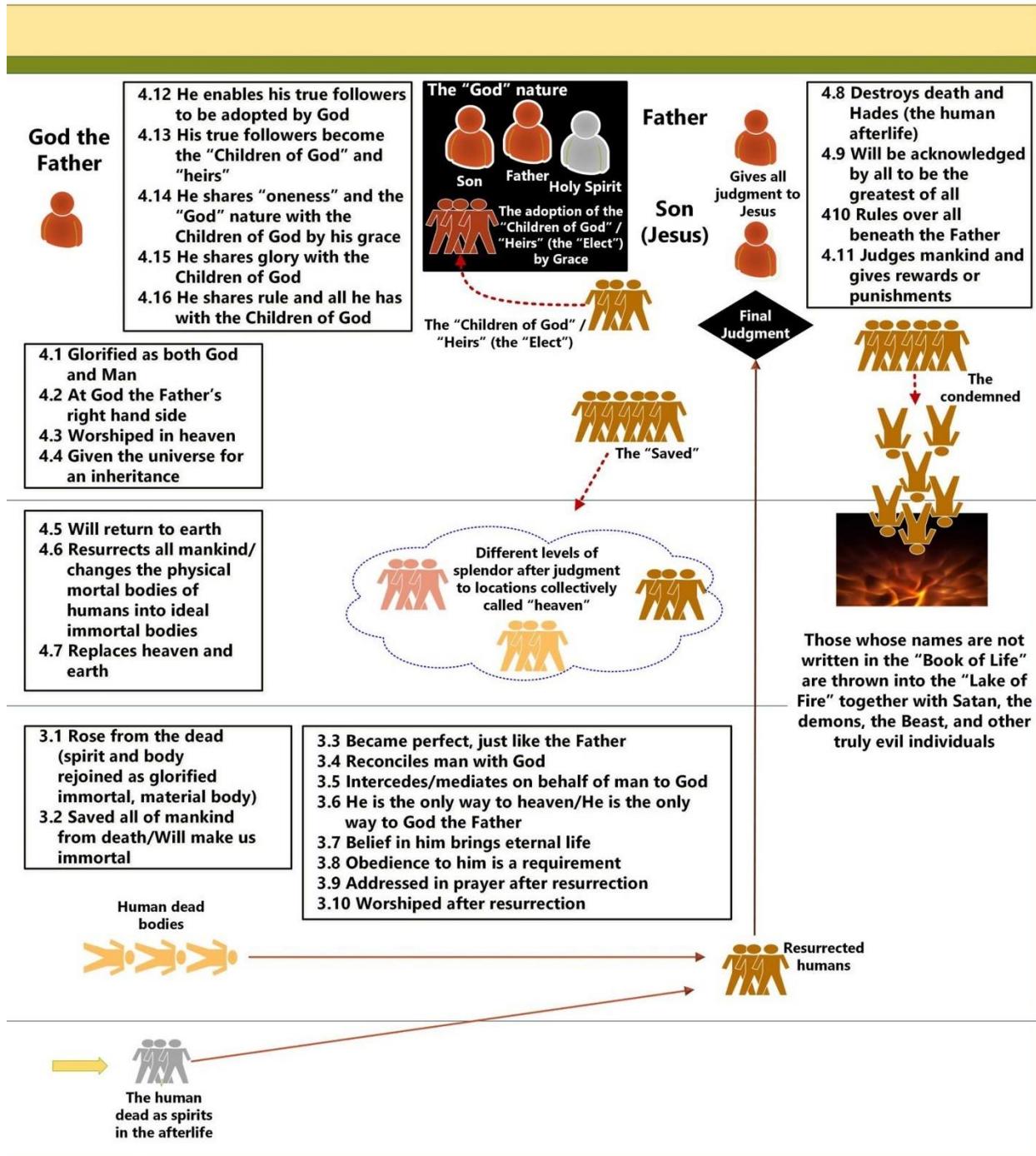


Figure 2: Cosmology of the New Testament's "Gospel" or Core Message, Showing It to Be a Correlative Anthology



Somehow, these nine authors wrote 27 books containing 55 major doctrines and 180 doctrinal concepts, that when put together, created a *correlative* anthology—*without* operating within a common frame and *without* using a common editor for harmonization.

This cannot be done. *It is impossible*. It is like saying you can write a book by simply putting a pen and some paper in a box and shaking it vigorously.

In my opinion, this means the New Testament has a p-value of at least four-sigma [4σ] of being “true” (99.994%). It isn’t *proof* that it is supernaturally inspired – which to me is five-sigma [5σ] (99.99994%), but means it is highly *probable* that something “other than human” was involved in its creation because this issue is empirical and falsifiable—we can actually test if it’s possible for multiple people to produce a correlative anthology with a single cosmology or picture while not using a common editor or frame (see Section 7.4).

I know it is hard for someone without experience in creating and editing correlative anthologies to grasp at just how huge of a deal this is. It’s like finding a watch strapped around a forelimb of a dinosaur that is still embedded in rock. What do you do when you are staring at something you know from experience is impossible to exist?

To illustrate the difficulty involved, imagine asking nine people to draw parts of a picture on 27 pieces of paper of random sizes. (Let’s stick to 27 for simplicity, instead of the actual 180 pieces.) They do not know what the whole picture looks like and do not know what the other participants are drawing. At the end of the exercise, collect the pieces of paper and put them together to see what the picture looks like. It is a guarantee they will not make a coherent image.

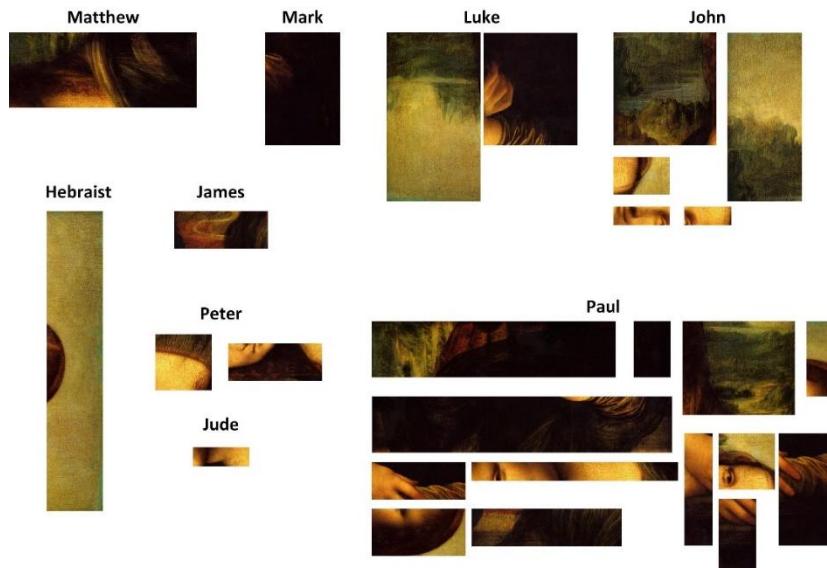


Figure 3: Each New Testament Author Wrote Books of Various Sizes on Topics That Were Unique to Themselves and in Common With Others

And yet, when the jigsaw puzzle pieces of the doctrines within the NT books are grouped together, a single picture emerges:

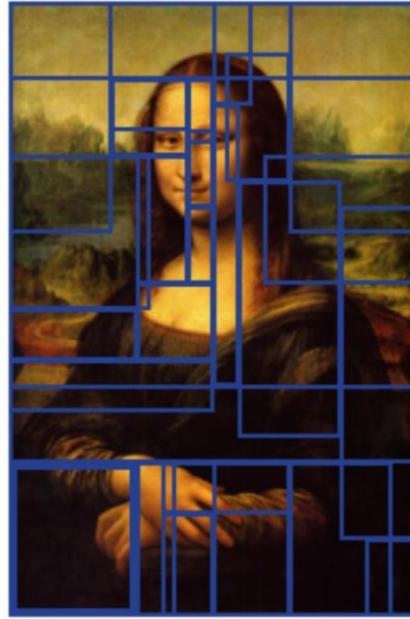


Figure 4: The New Testament Books Fit Together and Make a Single Picture

Each New Testament author had unique doctrines about Jesus and taught the same doctrines as the other writers, resulting in hundreds of doctrinal overlaps. But when all are combined, a single, internally consistent cosmology emerges.



Figure 5: The New Testament Picture (the Cosmology of its Core Message or “Gospel”) is Coherent and Complete

And yet, the New Testament writers didn't have a common frame. There was no style guide, set of instructions, doctrinal source, or project manager that they all followed to produce their writings. There

was no editor who eliminated inconsistencies and contradictions between the different writers when creating the correlative anthology that became the New Testament.

What this means is the New Testament is the world's only unedited, frameless, correlative anthology. It should not exist—but there it is.

The challenges then become extracting the accurate biblical message and teachings to determine what the Bible actually says and assessing whether there are any benefits to applying them to oneself.

The Solution

This book helps you comprehend the teachings of the Bible using a simple, but highly effective approach: It groups the different doctrinal concepts together and *quotes* the text.

That's it!

Its Part 1: Database does not interpret the passages, where you are told how you need to understand the text.⁴ The practical result of this methodology is those who read this book will get a new, more accurate understanding of the Bible's core teachings. It will also help you easily discern which religions or so-called “experts” are teaching the truth about Jesus, and which ones are misrepresenting him.⁵

Another important and unique aspect of this work is its transparency. No other book breaks down biblical passages to the individual verse level and shows *how* it understands the text.

For example:

Philippians 2:6	Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
Nestle-Aland 28	ὅς ἐν μορφῇ θεοῦ ὑπάρχων οὐχ ἀρπαγμὸν ἤγιστο τὸ εἶναι ἴσα θεῷ
Transliteration	hos en morphē theou hyparchōn ouch harpagmon hēgēsato to einai isa theō
Literal	Who in [the] form of God subsisting not something to be grasped esteemed it to be equal with God.
Paraphrase	<i>Despite having the same nature of God, he didn't think to forcefully cling to his equality with God.</i>

This book uses the Authorized King James Version (AV) for scriptural quotations but analyzes the passage using Nestle-Aland's *Novum Testamentum Graece 28th Edition* (NA28),⁶ which is considered the most accurate New Testament of the current era. It transliterates the Greek so the reader can pronounce the words,⁷ gives a literal Greek-English translation,⁸ and then paraphrases the passage conceptually, using modern English.⁹

This transparency allows you to judge if my paraphrases and associations are accurate or if I'm guilty of distorting the passages.¹⁰

Book Layout

This book is divided into two parts:

Part 1: Database

Part 2: Apologetics

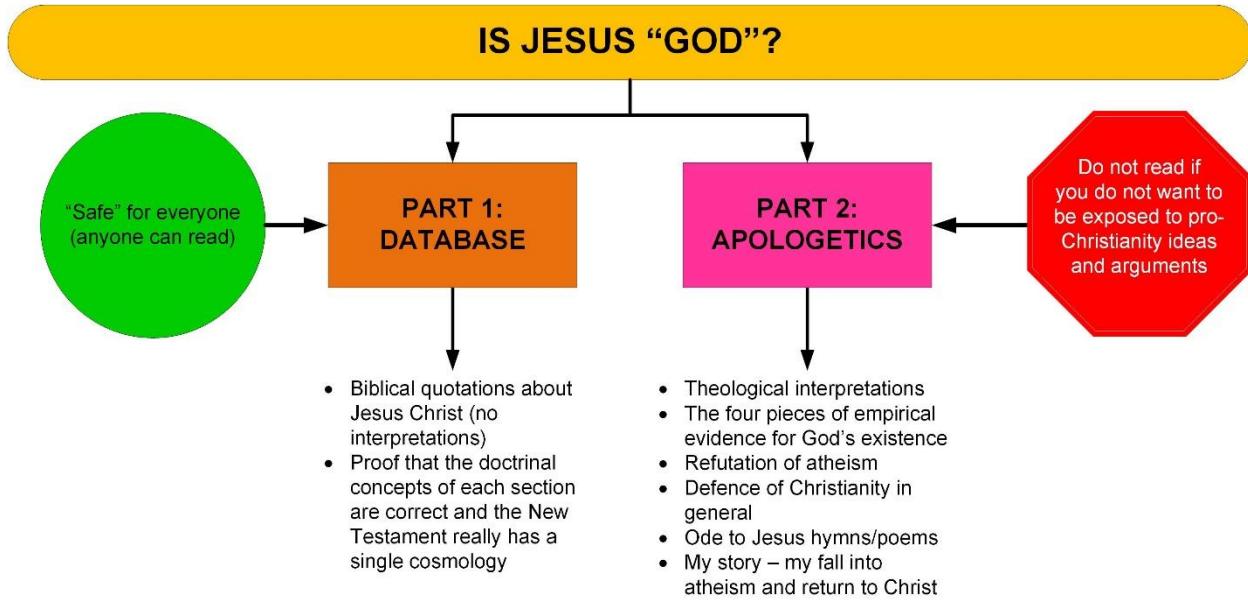


Figure 6: This Book’s Layout

Part 1: Database

Part 1 identifies important biblical passages and just *quotes* them. There is no interpretation—you can interpret them however you want. All Part 1 does is tell you *what* the Bible says. *How* you understand the text is up to you. What they *mean* is up to you. What they *prove* is up to you.

Part 1 is the proof that the New Testament’s “Gospel” has a single cosmology. Each subsection contains scripture text relating to Jesus Christ, and they are grouped according to the different stages of his existence:

Section 1: Pre-Mortal Jesus: What and who was Jesus before he was born and what did he do

Section 2: Human Jesus: What and who was Jesus while he was human and what did he do

Section 3: Resurrected Jesus: What and who was Jesus after he came back to life and what did he do

Section 4: Glorified Jesus: What and who will Jesus be after he is glorified by God and what will he do

This part of the book is just raw data. Anyone, regardless of whether they are a believer or unbeliever, can confirm that the referenced passages really do say what they say. *It doesn’t make what they’re saying true*—only that’s what the Bible is claiming.

THE BIBLICAL JESUS			
Pre-Mortal Jesus	Human Jesus	Resurrected Jesus	Glorified Jesus
<p>See Subsections for Scripture Passages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Existed before creation 1.2 Possessed the "God" nature 1.3 Possessed glory before creation 1.4 God had a plan that involved Jesus and humans 1.5 Text implies other beings exist (assume pre-mortal humans as God's spirit offspring per Section 6.9) 1.6 The Father had him create the universe 1.7 Causes the forces of the universe to hold together 1.8 Foreordained to become a sinless substitute 1.9 Came from Heaven/ God the Father before birth 1.10 Text implies he was the OT God (YHWH or Jehovah) 1.11 Recognized as God's Son 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Fulfillment of OT prophecies 2.2 Descendant of David 2.3 Called "God" 2.4 Called God's Son 2.5 Possessed the "God" nature within his physical body 2.6 Looked like the Father 2.7 Equal to the Father 2.8 Mutually indwells with the Father 2.9 Gave up his glory to become human 2.10 Became human to relate to humanity 2.11 Died for mankind/his blood saves mankind 2.12 Saves mankind from sin 2.13 Stayed sinless despite temptation 2.14 Worshiped while mortal 2.15 Recognized by demons 2.16 Experienced a single mortality, a single death, and a single sacrifice 2.17 Dead body but no decomposition 2.18 Preached to the spirits in prison between his death on the cross and his resurrection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Rose from the dead (his spirit and body rejoined as glorified, immortal, material body) 3.2 Saved all of mankind from death 3.3 Became perfect, just like the Father 3.4 Reconciles man with God 3.5 Intercedes/mediates on behalf of man to God 3.6 He is the only way to heaven/the Father 3.7 Belief in him brings "eternal life" 3.8 Obedience to him is a requirement 3.9 Addressed in prayer after resurrection 3.10 Worshiped after resurrection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Glorified as both God and Man 4.2 At God the Father's right hand side in heaven 4.3 Worshiped in heaven 4.4 The Father gave him the universe for an inheritance 4.5 Will return to earth 4.6 Resurrects all mankind 4.7 Replaces heaven and earth 4.8 Destroys Death and Hades (the human afterlife) 4.9 Will be acknowledged by all to be the greatest ever and entitled to rule over all 4.10 Rules over all beneath the Father 4.11 Judges mankind and gives rewards/punishments 4.12 Enables his true followers to be adopted by God 4.13 His true followers become the "Children of God" and "heirs" 4.14 He shares "oneness" and the "God" nature with the Children of God by his grace 4.15 He shares glory with the Children of God or "Heirs" 4.16 He shares rule and all he has with the Children of God

Figure 7: Snapshot Summary of the Biblical Jesus With This Book's Subsections

Sections 1 through 4, together, identify the core doctrines and concepts about Jesus that the biblical writers were attempting to articulate.¹¹ As this book will show, they shared a common message and common fundamentals that *when combined, results in a single cosmology*, but each had their own way of teaching and writing to persuade their listeners and readers.

Part 2: Apologetics

Anyone who only wants to know what the Bible says about Jesus and does not want to be exposed to pro-Christianity views can ignore or skip over this book's Part 2.

Part 2 discusses Christianity in greater depth and belief in Jesus Christ in particular. It does not endorse any specific denomination within Christianity. Its concern is on what unites over 2.2 billion people within the Christian religion, not on what separates the different Christian branches and sects. It also uses science, logic, and historical facts that are often ignored or pretended to be nonexistent by those hostile to Christianity.

One section is addressed to anyone who wants to understand how I interpret certain database subsections (Section 5), one is addressed to Christians regardless of their activity level or church (Section 6), three challenges nonbelievers and skeptics using scientific, logical, and historical arguments (Sections 7, 8, and 9), and two are addressed to all (Section 10 and Section 11):

Section 5: Database Section Clarifications: My interpretation of concepts from a handful of Part 1 Database subsections that I consider important to the reader

Section 6: For Christians: Miscellaneous topics of great benefit to Christians

Section 7: Four Empirical Evidence for Belief in God: Four empirical, falsifiable pieces of evidence where the more one knows, the less likely they appear to come from a natural origin

Section 8: The Problem of Atheism: Refutation of atheism using logical arguments

Section 9: The World's Debt to Jesus Christ: Acknowledgment of the world's debt to Jesus regardless of one's particular religious beliefs or lack thereof, because of the actions of his followers

Section 10: Ode to Jesus: A collection of poems/hymns that reflect the Bible's teachings

Section 11: My Story: My personal exploration and conclusions after exploring atheism and the Bible

IMPORTANT

This book identifies most, if not all, passages that discuss specific doctrines to demonstrate it does not “cherry-pick” passages to suit an agenda. This methodology results in a three-volume work that is around 1200 pages in size due to the sheer number of relevant biblical passages.

To make this work easier to read for the average person, this Abridged Edition was made, which kept all the primary information while only reducing the number of quoted and paraphrased passages (which are identified in the Database subsection header table by underlined text).

Concept About Jesus	Biblical Author	Location
Existed from the Beginning	Isaiah	Isa 9:6
	Micah	Mic 5:2
	John	<u>John 1:1-3, 10, 14</u> <u>1 Jn 1:1-2</u> 1 Jn 2:13
	Paul	<u>Col 1:15-17</u>
	Hebraist	Heb 9:26
Chosen Before the World was Created	Peter	<u>1 Pet 1:19-20</u>
Existed before Abraham	John	John 8:56-59
Existed before Time Began	Paul	<u>2 Tim 1:9-10</u>
Unchangeableness of Jesus	Hebraist	Heb 13:8
	John	Rev 1:8 Rev 22:13

Readers are encouraged to use their own bibles to examine the other identified passages to confirm the New Testament writers taught the same doctrines despite the lack of common editor and frame.

Also, readers who want to see all database scriptures should read the full three-volume *IS JESUS “GOD”? Unveiling the Most Influential Person Who Ever Lived.*

¹ Textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, journals, and other topic-specific periodicals are anthologies, where multiple people develop deliverables that are combined into a single, larger product.

² See www.ProjectExecutionPlan.com for a list of projects that I’ve worked on.

³ I’m loosely using the word “impossible” in the sense that something is highly unlikely given what is actually known about the subject, and not in the philosophical/logical argument sense.

⁴ While this work will also be biased to some extent (since it’s impossible to be completely unbiased given the subject), its bias is completely transparent by how it paraphrases the text and how it associates the passages with one another. Readers can easily follow my thought process and determine for themselves if the paraphrases and associations are accurate.

⁵ If you would like more information, use reputable Bible dictionaries, concordances, lexicons, and encyclopedias in conjunction with this book. Some I highly recommend are www.biblehub.com, www.biblestudytools.com, and www.studylight.org.

⁶ Taken from <http://www.nestle-aland.com/en/read-na28-online/>.

⁷ Taken from the Society of Biblical Literature's transliteration of NA28 Greek text using Faithlife's Logos Bible Software (<http://transliterate.com/>).

⁸ Taken from the literal interlinear version of the cited passage based on the Nestle 1904 version [Eberhard Nestle, H KAINH ΔΙΑΘHKH. Text with Critical Apparatus. (British and Foreign Bible Society, 1904)] <https://sites.google.com/site/nestle1904> as found in <http://biblehub.com/>. It is used since its difference from NA28 is minuscule (texts that are struck-through are Nestle 1904 that are no longer in NA28).

⁹ All paraphrases are the author's understanding of what the text is trying to convey using current language from a conceptual, not literal linguistic sense. They are based on:

- a. how a handful of Alexandrian and Byzantine-based bibles understand the text,
- b. how numerous Bible commentaries and lexicons understand the word or phrase, and
- c. how the thought aligns with identical thoughts in other passages that describe the same concept.

In other words, they are the author's *opinion* and not meant to supplant translations.

¹⁰ If you think any of my paraphrases are inaccurate, please examine the verse using a handful of biblical commentaries and multiple Bible versions. There will be a reason for the paraphrase's wording.

¹¹ An analysis of the biblical text shows it is obvious that the biblical writers *struggled* to make sense of the core message they felt they were charged to proclaim to the world. They believed they were given information that was supremely important to mankind but needed to use their own words and arguments in trying to convince their listeners that their claims were true—while being constrained by their intellectual limitations.

It is as if a group of uneducated men in the 19th century was told a great universal truth that they had to share with the world:

"Energy is equal to mass multiplied by the square of the velocity of light."

How will they articulate it, how will they *prove* it to their listeners, especially if none of them were mathematicians? How would they argue $E = MC^2$?

The biblical writers and their listeners had no comprehension of the age of the earth or the universe; the size, shape, and composition of the earth and universe; and our physical science. Theirs was a milieu completely strange to modern man, governed by superstition and myths. Given their environment, lack of education, and overall ignorance; it is remarkable they were as successful as they were in making their message the most influential and beneficial message in the history of mankind.