

# The Bible is ...

# NOTORIOUSLY UNPREDICTABLE



# NOBODY SAW THAT COMING!!!

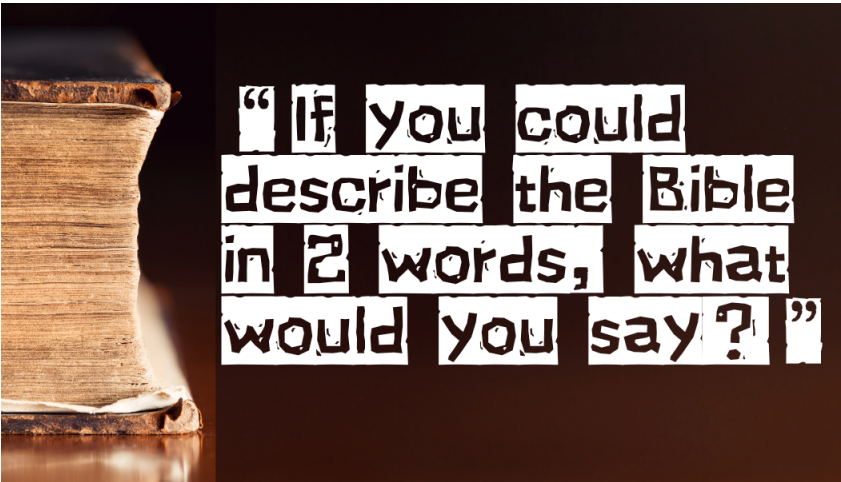


eBook  
Series  
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# Introduction

The Bible contains 791,328 words, 31,101 verses, and 1,189 chapters. Yet, you could sum up the way of life it teaches in two words: **Just Trust**. Those are my 2 words.



Since 2023 I've been asking people this question and have had a lot of diverse, thoughtful, sometimes-funny-sometimes-not, but always intriguing combinations of words about the Bible. In my reading I run across some other two-word descriptions and I add those to the collection as well. My sincere hope is that as you read this small ebook series you'll be inspired to pick up the Bible and read it for yourself. Like a good friend of mine said ... the Bible is a **Must Read!**

# 1

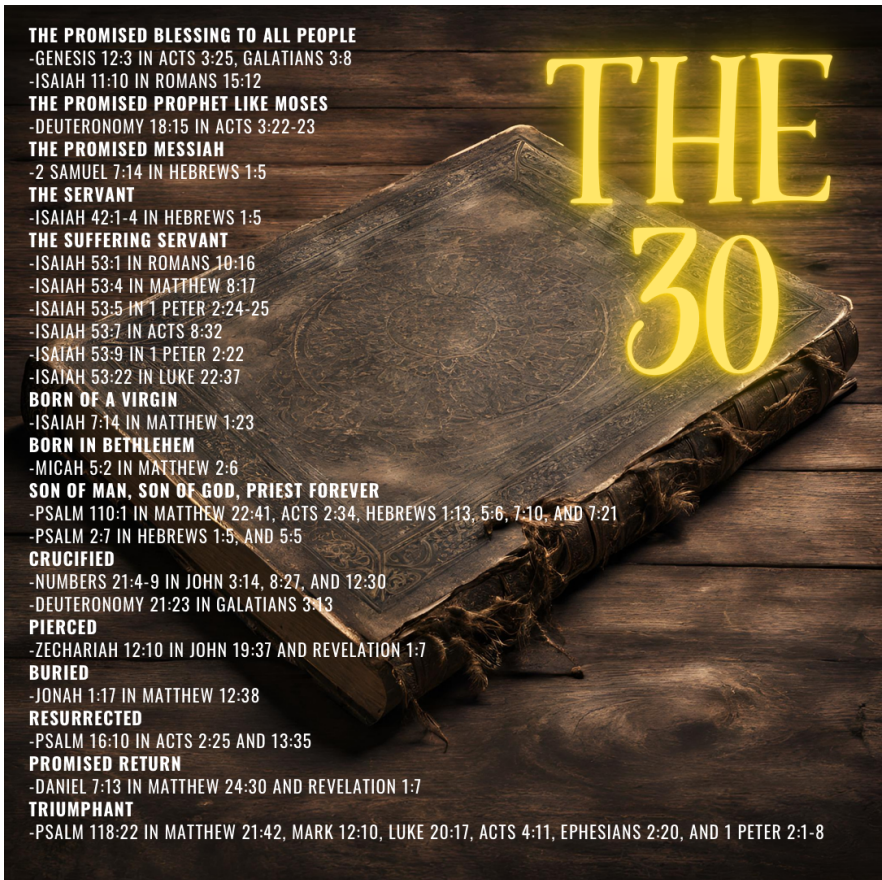
## Say what?



**C**hristianity is NOT what you'd expect as a fulfillment of Judaism. The New Testament includes about 300 directly quoted verses from the Old Testament. From those there are 30 verses that are considered to be messianic prophecies. From those there are only 3 references that Jesus used to describe His death, burial, and resurrection.

Those three include two that are types and not clear predictions. Jesus referred to being lifted up LIKE the snake was lifted up on a pole in Numbers 21:4-9. He also referred to being buried in the earth LIKE Jonah had been in the fish that had swallowed him for 3 days and nights. Finally, Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22 in reference to His rejection, and ultimate triumph over the grave to take His throne as the King of Kings.

There's one psalm that Jesus quoted while on the cross that is not on the list but is of notable mention. Psalm 22



reads like a description of Christ's crucifixion but it never really goes far enough to describe it as anything more than incredible suffering.

Even Isaiah 53, as descriptive as it is, does not give us a hint about the cross.

## What do we say to that?

To me, it means that GOD is a mystery, but ONE of such intrigue that I want to know Him more and more. GOD is ...

**NOTORIOUSLY  
UNPREDICTABLE**



Without the cross we are left to wonder if GOD really is love.

**But GOD did NOT  
leave us hanging.**

Jesus Christ has no rival because He stands alone as the only Savior. The cross is GOD's original idea. No other GOD came up with anything like it before or since. It seems no one was that foolish! HaHa! (1 Corinthians 1:18) That's why NOBODY SAW THAT COMING.

The prevailing message Christianity emphasizes today is that there are over 300 messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. To me, it feels like we're overcompensating.

Like we're underrating the impact of **The Thirty** messianic prophecies that are like 1,650-TONS-of-C4-EACH that the New Testament writers included. I used to appeal to the 300 prophecies idea when I wrote my first book, "it's GOD's BiG Show". But as the years have passed by I've slowed down enough in my studying to see some things that I blew right pass before without even a second thought. Like this: Paul the apostle wrote about two-thirds of the New Testament and he barely used any prophetic scripture. Genesis 12:3, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 53:1, Deuteronomy 21:23, and Psalm 118:22.

Yet he referred to the generalized description of prophetic scripture as a reference itself. As if to say, you should believe what I'm writing about because it's in the scripture. In effect, he was saying "trust me that it's there." You'd be amazed how many times he did that.

# 143

So, Paul directly quoted 5 prophetic scriptures but 143 times he used words like ...

The gospel

My gospel

The law

GOD's law

The law and the prophets

The written code

The holy scriptures

The scriptures  
The promises  
The word of GOD  
The very words of GOD  
GOD's word  
The word  
Good news  
GOD's truth  
The message  
The message of the cross  
The testimony about GOD  
GOD's wisdom  
Words taught by the Spirit  
Moses  
The gospel of Christ  
The message of reconciliation  
The message of truth  
The gospel of GOD

The list goes on but you get the point.

And Paul wasn't the only one to do this. All of the New Testament writers did it too. Guess how many times they did it?

# 143

Why is the New Testament written this way? Perhaps it is due to the fact that **the gospel isn't based on a mountain**

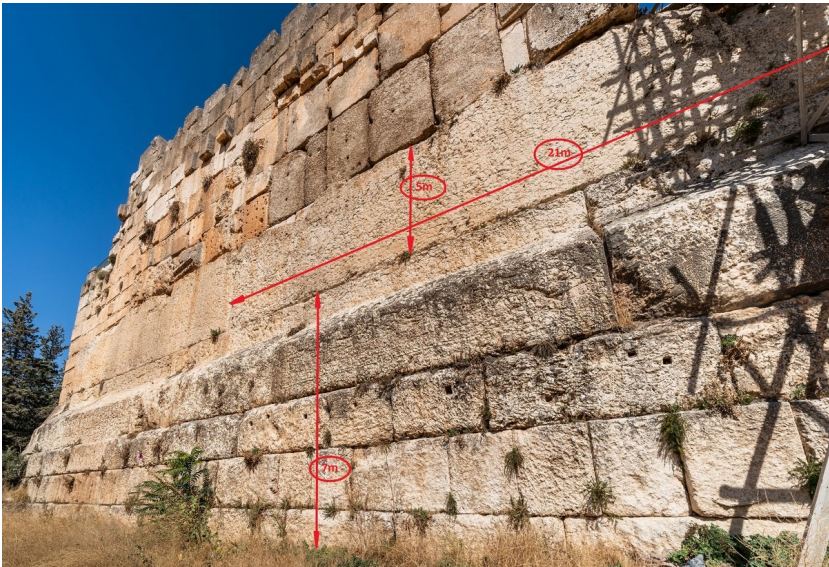


**of prophecies. Rather, it is based on mountain sized prophecies!**

Ok, so now we can see a pattern. There's about 300 Old Testament verses directly quoted in the New Testament. Of those 300 the writers used just **The Thirty** messianic prophecies as a basis for the gospel. Then another 286 times they simply stated that what they were writing was in the scriptures. That means that half the time they were referring to the body of scripture without giving a direct quote.

Is that a bad thing? NO.

But that's why we have written so many books saying that there are 300 messianic prophecies. We don't feel like **The Thirty** that we have are enough.



I like to think of **The Thirty** like the 6 super-massive stones of Baalbek, Lebanon. They are the largest quarried stones in human history. The heaviest weighing in at an astounding one-thousand six-hundred and fifty TONS. As a comparison, the pillars of Stonehenge weigh about one-fortieth of that magnitude!

To me, **The Thirty** have been set in their various contexts but have a much greater import than the rest. They are like the foundation stones. They carry all the weight. But they wouldn't make sense without the cornerstone. Which is why the most quoted verse of **The Thirty** is Psalm 118:22.

*“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.”*

It's the greatest redemption story ever told about the only Savior there ever was based on **The Thirty** most significant prophecies ever written. The Bible is more story than it is anything. If a story gets caught up in telling too many facts it can get bogged down. It may never get going. But a story with just the right mix of facts, that relies on the premise more than mere data ... that's a story we can relate to.

Imagine yourself in the group of the disciples following Jesus and your hear Him predicting his death, burial and resurrection. Matthew records 8 times that Jesus did this. Mark included 5 times. Luke included 5 times. John included 15 predictions. If you followed Him long enough to hear all of these you'd probably be wondering where He

was getting this from. That's exactly what Judaism thinks today. Where does Christianity get the cross?

What references did Jesus give?

The sign of Jonah in Jonah 1:17.

The snake being lifted up on a pole in Numbers 21:4-9.

That's it. Of the 33 times that Jesus' predictions of His death, burial, and resurrection occur in the gospels He only made reference to just two (jus2!) Old Testament verses.

What did He say the rest of the time?

Jesus gave the same kind of generalized answer that the apostles gave in their writings ... essentially, "it's in the scriptures."

Why is this important to understand?

What seems obvious to me is the simple fact that NO ONE SAW THIS COMING. The cross is barely even there. It's not what you'd expect GOD to do.

The unique claim of Christianity is that the fulfillment of Judaism is a CRUCIFIED GOD who conquered death and offers forgiveness to all who trust in Him. This is such an unthinkable way for GOD to be our Savior! CS Lewis said



that the gospel message was an **irreverent doctrine**. The idea that GOD would not only suffer the humiliation of becoming a man but also one that would be unjustly put to death is too much to accept for many. Why would GOD stoop to such depths? It is almost unfathomable.

## **But it's such a great story!**

If Jesus were just another prophet who gave us just another book we would have a rather predictable GOD, wouldn't we? Sounds like Islam, doesn't it?

But our GOD is ...

**NOTORIOUSLY  
UNPREDICTABLE**



Jesus Christ was GOD showing us how much He loves us.

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

# 2

## But Why?



**W**hy should anyone believe the message of the cross if it really is true that **NOBODY SAW IT COMING?**

You'll have to **find out** for yourself.

Jesus said, “*Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will **find out** whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.*” (John 7:17)

How do you **find out**? *Shut up and **PEDAL!***

## The Road of Life ...

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of

like the president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him.

But later on when I met Christ, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Jesus was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was that he suggested we change places, but my life has not been the same since!

But when He took the lead, it was all I could do to hang on! He knew delightful paths, up mountains and through rocky places—and at breakneck speeds. Even though it looked like madness, he said, “Pedal!”

I worried and was anxious and asked, “Where are you taking me?” He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to ***just trust***.

### **I forgot my boring life and entered into adventure.**

*(Predictable is another word for boring)*

When I'd say, “I'm scared,” He'd lean back and touch my hand.

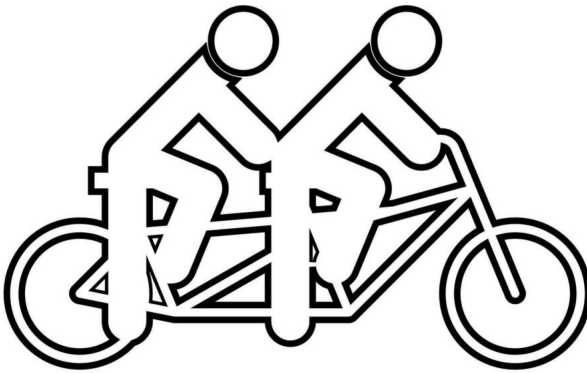
He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again. He said, “Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight.” So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and our burden became light.

At first, I did not trust Him in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets—knows how to make it lean to take sharp corners, dodge large rocks, and speed through scary passages.

And I am learning to *Shut up and **PEDAL*** in the strangest places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says, "Pedal!"



Are you ready for the ride of your life?

Learn to just trust.

Jesus said ...

*“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.  
And you shall know the truth,  
and the truth shall make you free.”*

John 8:31-32