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South Walton Church of Christ in Destin Florida sponsors the following presentation by Evangelist John Morris who serves under the Eldership of the Murray Road Church of Christ of Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Here is the first lesson in the series: **The Bible: Can It Be Trusted?** Part Three of Six

When we look in Joshua chapters 2 and 6 we find Joshua, Yeshua, for so his name would be in the Hebrew, we find him bringing the people of God across the Jordan to march around the city of Jericho 7 times on that 7th day. The Lord said when you've marched around 7 times, let the people shout, let the priests blow the horns and when you do the walls are going to come tumbling down. God said then you are to enter the city and you are to burn the whole city, everything in it, except I want you to save the valuable vessels in the city and Joshua agreed to save Rahab, a woman whose window was marked with a scarlet cord. When we come to the New Testament, written hundreds of years later, by totally different people, we find it recorded that someday Jesus for so His name is in Greek but Yeshua in the Hebrew, will someday return with the saints. He will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an Archangel, with the trumpet of God, and when He does so the walls of this world are going to come tumbling down. All the Earth and the works therein will be burned up says Peter and everything in this world will be destroyed save that woman, the Bride of Christ marked with the scarlet blood of Jesus and those valuable vessels of honor who are the people of God.

We could go on and on with this sort of "Type-Antitype" connection that exists between the Old and New Testament. We could look at how Elijah, goes through the wilderness for 40 days during which time he eats nothing, he fasts for 40 days and at the end of which he comes down to Mt. Sinai and he is tempted to give up but God says to him "No, I've reserved seven thousand souls in Judah whose knees have not bowed to Baal. I want you to go anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat as Prophet in your place. So Elijah goes and he gets Elisha, trains Elisha and then after a time Elisha watches Elijah ascend into Heaven in a whirlwind according to II Kings chapter 2 and Elisha asks Elijah before he departs; "Please grant me a double portion of your spirit." Elijah says; "If you see me go up you'll get it." When we come to the New Testament we see Jesus the Prophet, prophesied about in Deuteronomy 18, fasting for 40 days being tempted in the wilderness after which He goes and He selects the Apostles who He will leave after His departure. After spending 3 and a half years with them we read in Acts chapter 1, He ascends into Heaven and they watch it take place and Jesus promises them that if after He has ascended into Heaven they will receive the Holy Spirit.

Once again there are many more such connections in the Bible, but these seem to indicate that we have a book here which has been weaved together with a hand inhuman, a hand outside of time and space. We could look to the Bible's use of numbers and see that how consistently 3 seems to be a number associated with God for God is Father, Word & Spirit. We see in the scriptures how 4 is often used as a number for the Earth, 6 the number for man, 7 the number for perfection, 10 a number for completion, 1 a number for unity, 8 a number for sanctification. Why is it once again if this is a book written by man, how did this ever come to pass? When men are so inclined to change things down through the years? When they are so inclined to put their own spin on things?

And yet we have men of different times, different places, different languages, agreeing. Why is it that the Bible has come to be translated more than any other book? Most books are never translated into another language and those that are, are normally just translated into 2 or 3 languages. It's very infrequent that a book ever sees a translation into several languages such as into the teens.

And yet, the Bible, as of 1998 had been translated into 2200 languages which serve as the primary vehicle of communication for over 90% of the world's population. No other book has ever been translated anywhere close to the amount that the Bible has. As of 1998 the Bible was being translated into 468 MORE languages. And according to Ted Bergman at the Summer Institute of Linguistics; at the present rate of translation, and these statistics are a little old, the Bible should be available to almost all language groups between 2007 and 2022. We are a generation or less away from seeing the Bible become the world's first universally translated text.

When listening to this sort of thing, we should be always thinking, always be asking; Why the Bible? Is the Bible the only book that claims to be from God? Is the Bible the only book that claims to be the SOLE witness of God?

We know these things are not the case and yet it's the Bible, this book from an obscure group of people over in the East, at least that's where it began, this book which espouses a very difficult religion for so the Savior said "The way is narrow," it is difficult and yet it's this book which has found itself being propagated throughout the world and translated for everyone to read. Why?

Why not the Hindu Vedas? Why not the writings of Buddha? Why not the Koran?

Why the Bible?

End of Lesson One Part Three

