New Atheists: Forceful Attack, Factual Answers, and Final Authority

By Don Boys, Ph.D.

At the 36th Annual Dean Burgon Society Conference At Bible Baptist Church, Marietta, Georgia

In Feb. of 1945, the Soviet Ambassador walked into the office of King Michael of Romania and demanded that he dismiss his government that was formed after a <u>coup d'état</u> six months earlier. At that time Romania was saved from the Germans but was swallowed by the Russians. The young king was not even given time to consult with his advisers and he refused to obey. The Soviet stooge angrily stomped out of his office.

The following day, the Soviet spokesman again arrived unannounced, uninvited, and unwanted and walked into the king's office. He again demanded, while beating on a table with his fists, that the government be dismissed. Again, the king refused and the stooge stalked out of the room slamming the door behind him. The next day, the streets were full of Soviet troops and tanks. Romania had fallen into the Soviet orbit. Immediately, the Communists took control of the nation starting with the churches and schools. This always happens when tyrants take control. They silence the voices of the leaders: pastors, educators, writers, and intellectuals. When the Communists tried to control the churches, Lutheran pastor Richard Wurmbrand began to minister in the underground church. Every sermon, every prayer, every song, and every counselling session was illegal.

At a huge meeting later that year in Bucharest, a Communist leader told about 4,000 ministers of all denominations how cooperation between the Communists and Churches would produce a workers' paradise. Richard and his wife Sabina heard about even more controls on their ministry and as the speaker continued talking about Christ, he became more blasphemous. Sabina nudged Richard in his ribs and said, "They are spitting on the face of Jesus. Go wash the shame from His face." Richard said, "If I speak against the Communists, you will no longer have a husband." His wife replied, "I do not wish to have a coward for a husband." She was true to self, the Scripture, and the Savior.

Richard slowly arose from his seat, walked down that long aisle with every eye in the building on him and took the microphone. He shocked everyone by advocating **only** loyalty to Christ. He would not coexist, cooperate, or compromise with the Communist government. The place was as silent as a graveyard as he handed the microphone to the Soviet official and returned to his seat.

Richard was arrested and spent almost 13 years in prison, three years in solitary confinement and was tortured by his captors. Sabina was also arrested and spent three years in a labor camp. They were people

who lived, loved and labored for the truth. They had some problems with doctrine but not with character, convictions, commitment, and courage.

American Christians demanded their freedom and the couple was finally free to leave Romania. I met Richard in the 1980s when he came to our church in Indianapolis. He preached about his captivity and ended his message by removing his shirt revealing his wounds of torture. His critics had accused him of embellishing his story with tales of torture to juice up his sermons. Not true.

Each Christian must be true to Scripture whatever the circumstances, the crowd, or the consequences. Otherwise, we are a tragedy in the making. I decided at age 22 that I would do what I'm convinced is right even if opposed by my family, my friends, my foes, or my fellowship. I vowed that I would teach the truth if I lost everything and spent my last days in prison. That sounds noble but I was young and sincere and I still believe the same and am prepared to disobey any law (and take any consequences) without whining about suffering for Christ.

Our government is running amuck like an out of control juggernaut careening through a crowded street. It is not inconceivable that many Christian leaders here today will be arrested for noncompliance with state or federal law. The New Atheists declare that it is child abuse to teach children an exclusive way of salvation and the doctrine of Hell. They make it clear in all their books that children must **not** be taught Bible truths since they consider it to be child abuse. They demand that all parents, church and school leaders refuse to so instruct children. I will not comply if that becomes law.

Some weak, whining, wimpy, wobbly preachers will show more tolerance toward the atheists than they will to me, even though the militant atheists want to prohibit us from teaching children that Christ is the only hope for this world. Christian leaders, wearing rose-colored glasses (or walking around with their eyes shut), will declare that our government would never go **that** far. Such people must live in a dark cave. I maintain that we are in a war for the freedom to preach Bible truth. And the attack is upon this Book in my hand.

Declaring war on Christians is not very bright since we are "more than conquerors."

Declaring war on Churches is not very bright since "the gates of Hell will not prevail against it."

Declaring war on Christ is not very bright since He said, "All power is given unto me."

No, New Atheists are not very bright. In fact, they are loony, leftist losers. They have made their attack upon the Bible, especially the KJV. In every example, they always disparage, deny, and deprecate the King James Version rather than modern versions.

Today I will reveal the Forceful Attack, the Factual Answers, and the Final Authority.

I. The Forceful Attack

The critics make a forceful attack upon the Word of God and young believers are often devastated. The Bible-haters denounce it, deny it, and denigrate it but they don't **disprove** it. Most atheists are as intolerant and vicious as the most rabid Inquisitor of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Atheists try to support their cause when they take the practices and beliefs of non-Christian religions such as Islam as ammunition against the God of the Bible. Furthermore, they always discuss the Crusades and the Inquisition of the Middle Ages, but the uncivil, unsavory, and ungodly actions of the Roman Church have no relationship to Bible Christianity or the existence of God.

It is true that immediately following the Reformation, some Protestant leaders also engaged in bloody persecution of Anabaptists, Quakers, and other groups. The ungodly behavior chosen by mankind through the centuries in the name of religion is not a valid argument for the non-existence of God. It only proves the truth of the Bible that all men are flawed, depraved individuals needing redemption through Christ.

Why do atheists make such a big deal out of there not being a God if One does not exist? Those same "scholars" don't believe in the Tooth Fairy, Tinker Bell, Easter Bunny, and Santa Claus, but they don't crusade against them. But, who knows. They might do so if the price is right.

They call God a "Bully," and "a Dirty Butcher." They call Christ, "Mary's little bastard." Many of the old atheists are gracious, philosophical, and even kind, but the New Atheists are mean, mad, and malicious. Of course, both groups are going to Hell without Christ. And God identified all atheists as "fools" in Ps. 14:1: "The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God."

It seems those who don't believe in God are the loudest voices who constantly want to talk about God! Their motive is clear: to prohibit Christians from teaching children that a sovereign God exists and has provided a Book that teaches an exclusive salvation based upon the death and resurrection of Christ. That is what the New Atheist declaration of war is all about. The modern translations support the New Atheists in their attack on God.

This attack upon God follows the same pattern begun by Satan in the Garden when he cast doubts upon the Word asking Eve, "Hath God said?" Then Satan lied saying, "Ye shall not surely die." Atheists today are lying about what the Bible teaches because they can't deal with reality.

Every Bible critic rings the same bells: slavery, concubines, multiply wives, and genocide. That is the bulk of their arguments against God and the Bible and I deal with all those and all their other objections in my eBook, *The God Haters: Angry Atheists, Silly Scientists, Shallow Scholars, Pagan Preachers, and Embattled Evolutionists Declare War on Christians.*

Slavery, multiple wives, concubines, etc., were wrong; however, God gave laws and principles for mankind to live by in a world dominated by unrepentant fallen men who had no desire for godly living. As biblical influence grew, those evil practices decreased as God knew they would. One thing is sure: God **never** commanded, commended, or condoned slavery, concubines, or multiple wives.

Keep in mind that skeptics look for every opportunity to reject the Bible, to refuse Christ, and to ridicule Christians, and when skeptics can't find a reason to justify their attacks, they will make a way somehow,

someway following the old motto, "I will either **find** a discrepancy or I will **make** one." That seems true with their treatment of Jonah.

Critics have forcefully attacked the Jonah account seeking to prove the unreliability of the Bible by saying that Jonah could not have been disgorged from the belly of the whale onto the shores of Nineveh since Nineveh was not on the sea! Uh-oh. We've got a real problem here; however, the problem is not with the Bible but with the reading ability or honesty of the critics. The Bible does not say that Jonah was thrown up on Nineveh's shore but informs us in Jonah 2:10, "it vomited out Jonah upon **dry land**." Hey, Bible critics need to understand that there is a big difference in dry land and "the shores of Nineveh." But any argument will be attempted if it works against God. Critics are dishonest or dummies; either way, they don't deserve to be respected, rewarded, or read. Jonah was thrown up somewhere along the eastern Mediterranean shore and walked to Nineveh.

Of course, the old charge that no whale could swallow a man is obviously wrong since the blue whale, the world's largest creature can easily swallow a man. Its tongue weighs as much as an elephant and its heart as much as an automobile. Its veins are so large, a man could maneuver through them! So, no big deal about one being able to swallow a man.

For hundreds of years Bible critics ridiculed Christians for believing that Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon since history clearly shows that it was Nabonidus, but now informed people know the "rest of the story." Archaeologists discovered a clay cylinder at Ur with accounts of the rebuilding of a temple tower by King Nabonidus. On the cylinder were prayers for the health of Nabonidus and for his eldest son and **co-regent**, Belshazzar! In fact, Belshazzar the son was killed by the Persians and his father, Nabonidus lived on a pension supplied by the victorious Persians.

But the attack continues.

Critics charge that the last 12 verses of Mark's Gospel are an interpolation; however, Irenaeus (died 202 A.D.), in his *Against Heresies* (iii. 10.6), accepted the common ending of Mark as did all the early church leaders. Irenaeus was a student of Polycarp who was martyred in 156 A.D. It is recorded by <u>Irenaeus</u>, who heard Polycarp speak in his youth, that Polycarp had been a disciple of <u>John the Apostle</u>. That was also recorded by <u>Tertullian</u>. <u>Jerome</u> also wrote that Polycarp was a disciple of John and that John had ordained Polycarp bishop of Smyrna. Now, since a preacher that close to the Apostle John believed in those verses, don't you think he would have objected if he read a corrupt version of Mark?

Tertullian refers to Mark 16:19 in about 215 A.D. as did Cyprian and others at that time. It seems Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea who died 339 A.D., was the first to reject those verses in favor of a shortened version. It is outrageous to suggest that any of those early church leaders rejected any part of Mark's Gospel.

Most liberal scholars tell us that those verses were added by scribes so they are not part of Scripture. Liberal New Testament scholar Bart Ehrman says the same thing. Bart is a brilliant apostate who followed me at Moody, then on to Princeton where he lost whatever faith he had. He is more dangerous than other God haters because he doesn't foam at the mouth as do most of the members of the American Atheist

Association. However, just because he does not foam at the mouth doesn't mean he is not rabid and deadly. He is no friend of sincere Christians, and his dangerous teeth and claws can be easily observed beneath the deceptive sheep's clothing.

Yes, there are some manuscripts that have the disputed Mark passage while others do not. I believe the available evidence corroborates the Word of God as we have it in the KJV.

Furthermore, it would be very strange for Mark to end his Gospel of good news without mentioning any of Christ's post resurrection appearances or His ascension and to close his Gospel with "for they were afraid." That is unimaginable. The Good News of the Gospel will expel our fears! No, the last twelve verses belong in Mark's Gospel. Moreover, a first century fragment of Mark has been found in Egypt. That fragment is the same as our common Mark!

Also, many modern translators reject the validity of John 7:53-8:11 about the woman taken in the act of adultery. She was about to be stoned by religious leaders but was released by Jesus (after He wrote in the sand) and told the woman; "Go, and sin no more." Ehrman and others say that this passage is not found in the oldest and best manuscripts and concludes, "This passage was not originally part of the Gospel." He is screaming to the Christian world: the Bible is untrue, unreliable, and unnecessary, but Bart Ehrman is untrue, unreliable, and for sure, unnecessary!

Jerome reported on this passage after 400 A.D. and he declared that Latin and Greek manuscripts **did** contain the disputed passage. So the passage was recorded in some manuscripts and in some it was not.

Most liberal manuscript experts tell us that the passage does not belong there, but why do most modern translations have it if that is true? Modern translators know that removing that famous story would precipitate rebellion, revolution, and ruin in their Bible market. So they knowingly use a passage that practically all their experts agree should not be in the Bible! If a passage does not belong in the Bible (according to their research and convictions), they should do the principled thing, but modern translators have taken a stand like a crippled chicken. They place the disputed passage in their translations because of cash, cowardice, and convenience.

Conversely, scholars focused on preservation find the passage in the **oldest** trusted manuscripts and believe it belongs in John's Gospel.

It is also an interesting fact that in some ancient manuscripts that omit that passage, there is a blank space left on the page. A famous Bible teacher said, "On the other hand, it is rather an interesting fact that in a number of very ancient manuscripts, while these verses are omitted, there is a blank space left on the page, showing evidently the scribe meant to indicate that in some other manuscripts that something came in between verse 52 of chapter seven and verse 12 of Chapter eight."

Moreover, consider the incident: where was the other guilty person—the man? After all, it takes two to tango. Is it being too pushy to suggest that the man was not found because this whole incident was a "set

up"? And Christ, being God, knew it was a set up. There is no doubt the woman "taken in adultery" was a woman of questionable virtue, but the religious leaders were trying to trap Christ. What fools they were, but they are similar to their modern day successors.

Of another famous passage, I John 5:7, Bart Ehrman declares it not "in the original." The Apostle John wrote, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." That Trinitarian passage is recognized by almost all liberal and loosey-goosey evangelical scholars to be an interpolation having no foundation in ancient texts.

I remember how horrified I was when a Moody professor nonchalantly told our class that that verse was "not in the originals" and should not be a part of the Bible. Of course, neither he nor anyone else alive had ever seen the "originals." I could hardly believe what I had just heard, but like a sheep I did as everyone else and blacked out that passage from my Bible! I soon repented. I was a nineteen-year-old street preacher from Huntington, WV who was dumb as dirt. I have improved a little since then.

Some modern scholars tell us that that verse is "added" and not needed since the doctrine of the Trinity can be supported clearly in other portions of the Word; however, it **is** a major concern to those in Bible-centered churches who still believe that we have a preserved Bible that can be totally trusted. In fact, I can't think of anything more shattering than for congregations to be told that the Bible on their laps is full of mistakes, misquotes, misinformation.

Moreover, I would remind you that the manuscript issue is about "words." Jesus said in Mark 13:31, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." And Jeremiah 23:30 says, "Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbor." Scribes who purposefully changed some manuscripts are in trouble with God, and translators who knowingly use corrupt translations to advance their agenda of disrupting the churches, are in danger. Ehrman and other translators of the newer versions had better take note.

To seek destruction of the Word of God is more foolish than commanding the waves to cease, the sun to stop shinning, and the birds to stop flying. The Bible is indestructible.

Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door, And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime; Then looking in, I saw upon the floor, Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

[&]quot;How many anvils have you had,' said I,

^{&#}x27;To wear and batter all these hammers so?'

^{&#}x27;Just one,' said he, and then with twinkling eye,

^{&#}x27;The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'

[&]quot;And so, I thought, the Anvil of God's Word For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;

Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard, The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."

But "the word of the Lord endureth for ever..." 1 Peter 1:25

Yes, the New Atheists are making a Forceful Attack and we must respond with Factual Answers.

II The Factual Answers I Pet. 3:15 "Be ready always to give an answer to every man."

To be sure many critics are **not** looking for answers but arguments but some have genuine questions seeking solutions and we must provide the answers.

To provide factual answers Christians must always assume the KJV is totally reliable even if we don't have the answer at the present time. Robert Dick Wilson, Hebrew professor at Princeton Seminary told his class, "Gentlemen, the things I do not understand in the Bible I put down to my own ignorance." Dr. Wilson was conversant in 45 different languages and dialects. Wilson was saying we should always give the Word the benefit of the doubt and time and events will validate its trustworthiness.

Even Aristotle's dictum supports that approach. He said that "the benefit of the doubt is to be given to the document itself, not arrogated by the critic to himself." But modern translators think they are more trustworthy than the document. I wouldn't trust these modern translators to walk my dog!

Job 21:24 is a perfect example of this fact: "His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow." Isaiah 49:23 reveals "And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers." Num. 11:12 is very similar to the Isaiah passage.

The KJV clearly teaches that men can breast feed babies; however, everyone knows that can't happen. So, what are we to believe? I believe the KJV even when I can't explain it. How arrogant it is for **anyone**, even a highly trained theologian to think he can answer every question about the Bible.

However, today we know the answer to those passages that teach male breast feeding! It has been proved conclusively that there have been many examples of male breast feeding in the literature. And not one of the modern translations recognizes that fact!

Two medical doctors, George Gould and Walter Pyle, authored *Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine* that proved many cases of male breast feeding.

Even the anti-creationist *Discovery Magazine* published in February of 1995 an article titled, "Father's Milk" revealing: "We've known for some time that many male mammals, including some men, can undergo breast development and lactate under special conditions."

David Livingstone, medical missionary and explorer reported on the possibility of male breast feeding: "...anatomists declare the structure of both male and female breasts to be identical...." Moreover, he reported "I have examined several cases in which a grandmother has taken upon herself to suckle a grandchild." David Livingstone, *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*," 1858.

In 1799, naturalist and world explorer Baron Alexander von Humboldt (called "the last person to know everything") reported a breast-feeding man he encountered in Cumana, Venezuela. "They heard of and then found a man suckling a child with his own milk." Smith, Anthony. *Explorers of the Amazon*, London: Viking, 1990.

So, it is a fact. Men can, at times, breast feed babies. That means the KJV translators did the honest thing and translated the Hebrew into English without understanding the meaning. They did not try to explain or interpret the Scripture, only translate it. Now, what did the translators of modern versions do? This is interesting and revealing.

Just dealing with the Job reference that says: "His breasts are full of milk." The following versions decided it should read:

"His sides are filled out with fat." NAS

"His body well nourished." NIV

"His body full of fat." RSV

"his loins full of milk." NRSV

"...healthy, wealthy, fat...." TLB

"His pails are full of milk." NKJV

"His pails are full of milk." ASV

"His pails are full of milk." Darby

"His pails are full of milk." WEB World English Bible

"their buckets full of milk." CEB Common English Bible

"His stomach is full of milk." God's Word

"the very picture of good health." NLT New Living Translation

Skipped the verse Good News

"fat and sassy" The Message

This is a good example of the character, ability, and motives, of modern translators compared to the 1611 scholars. These new translations are a fake, a fraud, a farce.

If scholars in various disciplines had believed the KJV, they would not have made decisions that wrought irreparable harm to society. A good example is what has happened in our lifetime regarding what is called vestigial (or useless) organs such as tonsils, adenoids, appendix, etc. Highly intelligent people confused

the words "useless" and "unknown." Those organs are now known to be necessary for the immune system especially in developing children.

However, it was common practice to remove the tonsils and adenoids whether or not they were bad. My wife, her sister and brother all had them removed at the same time even though there was no health problem! Those organs were not needed according to medical professionals. If those physicians had believed the KJV, they would have said, "Wait a minute. It's insane to remove these healthy organs. After all, if God created humans with them, they must be needed. Their purpose may be **unknown** but that does not mean they are **unnecessary.** We must not remove them until they are **unhealthy.**"

Children have died during surgery because of hundreds of thousands of these unnecessary operations all because of a lack of confidence in the validity of the Word of God. Moreover, because of this unhealthy, unscientific, and unscriptural worldview, hundreds of years of research into those organs has not been done. That is one of the tragic results of science so called.

Back to my premise: we must always believe the Bible even when we can't explain it.

Often we can't explain a Bible passage because we don't have complete information. A good example is the two witnesses in Revelation 11. Those two Old Testament prophets will preach the truth during the Tribulation and do many wonders and miracles. When their work is finished, they will be killed by the Anti-Christ. Their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three days and world leaders will observe their bodies and send gifts to each other, rejoicing because of their deaths.

Wait a minute. How could Christians for about 1800 years explain that passage? How could the world know of the incident and "nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half," and send gifts to each other all in three days? Now, with television coverage it is easily understood. In earlier days, the Christians would have to say, "I believe the Bible even if I cannot explain it." Atheist critics would charge that that is foolishness and fanaticism but it is really faith and fidelity.

At times, there is confusion in some Bible passages as to when something happened and one must ascertain how different accounts are reckoned in time. It often depends upon computation. Jewish days started at 6 p.m. while Roman days are same as our day. A good example is how one computes temperature. If the temperature is 212 degrees Fahrenheit, 80 on the Reaumur and 100 degrees Centigrade—all are different but all are correct!

The Jews rounded out their numbers; so, when it says that Adam lived 930 years, it meant that he lived about that length of time since that is the way it was computed in that part of the world at that time. Atheists don't know that people in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley known as the Fertile Crescent considered a child born in the last week of the year to be one year old in January. That could affect how a person's age is computed.

Also, unknown to many Bible readers, such names as "Pharaoh," "Ahasuerus," "Agag," and "Abimeleck" are titles, not names of individuals. That information solves some Bible problems.

There is also misunderstanding because atheists don't know that men often had two or three names. Jacob was also Israel, Gideon was also called Jerubbaal, and Simon was called Peter. These kinds of things are called "kennings" in ancient literature. Many of Bible "contradictions" are very simple to answer with that knowledge.

If highly educated atheists had taken a first year Bible College course usually called, "Customs and Practices in the Holy Land" they would not look so foolish in their charges against the Bible. They would learn that it was common throughout Mesopotamia for a man to be called the "father of" so and so when he was actually the grandfather or great grandfather of so and so. Jews even today recognize Abraham as their "father." So simple.

Some critics, desperate to find a Bible discrepancy, confuse a passage by making two similar events to be identical such as David's sparing Saul's life in a cave. Critics point out the different facts not understanding that there were two similar instances! The same was true with Abraham's lying to save his life. It happened twice, not once. An almost perfect modern example is the case of Jonathan Edwards and his son with the same name. Both were grandsons of clergymen. Both taught the same amount of time in the college where they graduated. Both became pastors in the church of their maternal grandfathers and both were fired from the pulpit over Bible disputes. Each man left his church to become a college president and both died shortly after taking such positions. One died at 56 and the other at 57 and each preached his last sermon before his death on the same text, "This year thou shalt die."

An ignorant critic (Is there any other kind?) would say that there was **one** Jonathan Edwards with minor discrepancies in his life story. Not so. It was the same with some Bible events.

Petty, petulant, and prejudiced New Atheists are modern Visigoths, who, like the originals who invaded Rome in 410 A.D., are violent, angry barbarians who have declared war on God and have grabbed Christians by the throat.

It is not very bright to declare war on God as the New Atheists have done. Yet, they arrogantly called themselves, the "brights" and that makes everyone else, the dims.

Abrasive, angry, asinine atheists ridicule Bible passages because they simply don't read the text carefully. They often make fools of themselves by their carelessness. A good example is Exodus 9 where Pharaoh pursues the Hebrews to the Red Sea and he and his troops and horses are drowned in the collapsing sea walls. New Atheists yell at us asking where Pharaoh got the horses since they were all killed during a plague. They sarcastically asked if God resurrected the dead horses and hitched them to Egyptian chariots.

However, the God haters were careless readers because Ex. 9:3 reveals, "Behold, the hand of the LORD is upon thy cattle **which is in the field**, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain." The cattle and horses died that were "in the field" but those that were stabled did not die. Very simple.

Only a couple of atheists are informed enough to really ask difficult questions, one of the best being the resurrected dead walking the streets of Jerusalem in Matt. 27:52-53. "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

Houston, we have a problem! Many recently dead people walking the streets of Jerusalem and waving to friends who had attended their funeral! I have never heard one preacher deal with this passage or even quote it although many have.

A Christian apologist was in a debate with Christopher Hitchens, a brilliant atheist who died in the last year or two. Christopher asked the Christian who is a good man and very bright if he really believed that recently buried people got up from their graves and walked in the streets of Jerusalem among many friends who had attended their funeral.

The Christian apologist answered, "I absolutely believe it as a Christian but I am not sure I believe it as a historian." Hitchens was shocked at his limp reply. So was I. That apologist would have done our cause less harm had he answered, "I don't know."

Hitchens declared that the incredible incident was not mentioned in any other Bible passage or in any historical record. Impossible! Incredible! Insane! No one can believe it. I do.

God haters tell us the incident simply did not happen. After all, there would be numerous references to it in many famous works and in political reports to Rome. However, let me remind the unbelievers that Jerusalem was totally destroyed in 70 A.D. and a million, one hundred thousand Jews were slaughtered. The city was burned and razed to the ground. It would not surprise me if tomorrow an artifact is found in the Jerusalem area detailing with that very event recorded in Matthew 27.

Alright but what about the political reports sent to Rome by local authorities? They were required to keep Roman officials informed as to what was happening in their jurisdiction. Suppose **you** represented Rome in the Holy Land and you are making your quarterly report. You begin to report about the dead people walking the streets of Jerusalem and you checked it out and know it to be true. Are you sure you want to write that? You can visualize a Roman official reading your report and condensing it for Caesar's daily briefing. You wonder if an accurate report is a good career move.

Even if you sent an accurate report do you think Caesar's representative would take such a report to him? After all, if that resurrection were true it would give added credibility to this new religion that was causing a stir in that region. Whatever the explanation as to why there is no other mention in history or the Bible, it happened because the Final Authority reported it.

III The Final Authority

The King James Bible is the only and final authority upon which we can stand. If we stand on anything else it is sinking sand or a bridge of mist.

Century follows century but the Bible stands Empires rise and fall and are forgotten, yet there it stands. Dynasty succeeds dynasty, there it stands. Kings are crowned and uncrowned, there it stands. Despised and torn to pieces, there it stands—our Final Authority.

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here too, Heaven is opened and the gates of Hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.

It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Long after the illustrious universities and seminaries have been turned into horse stables by modern-day Visigoths, and grass and weeds grow in the streets of our bombed out cities, and snakes, lizards, and poison spiders occupy the White House and the Congress, the Bible will still be the precise, pure, powerful words of a sovereign God. And God Haters and Bible critics will be graveyard dead!

This is the Words of the Living God which will stand forever. If our critics are correct and this is not the available, accurate, and authoritative Word of God then where on the face of the earth is it? It is right here in my hand.

(Dr. Don Boys is a former member of the Indiana House of Representatives, author of 15 books, frequent guest on television and radio talk shows, and wrote columns for *USA Today* for 8 years. His shocking book, *ISLAM: America's Trojan Horse!; Christian Resistance: An Idea Whose Time Has Come—Again!;* and *The God Haters* are all available at Amazon.com. These columns go to newspapers, magazines, television, and radio stations and may be used without change from title through the end tag. His web sites are www.cstnews.com and www.Muslimfact.com and www.thegodhaters.com. Contact Don for an interview or talk show.)

http://bit.ly/liMLVfY
Watch these 8 minute videos of my lecture at the University of North Dakota: "A Christian Challenges New Atheists to Put Up or Shut Up!"

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