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# WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE By Jimmy Beck

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# MY ACQUAINTANCE WITH JIMMY BECK -- APPROXIMATE DATE OF PUBLICATION

While I was pastoring the Bible Missionary Church in North Kingstown, Rhode Island (1971-72) Jimmy Beck was pastoring the BMC in Cape May, New Jersey, not a great distance south of North Kingstown. I had him come and hold a short meeting for us in Rhode Island, and this little booklet was then in print, which may have been the occasion when I first purchased one of them. I am not sure how long before this it had been published, but it dates back to at least that time. Thus, the statement below that "Jimmy Beck is a young holiness preacher" would not now be so, for while he was then only 21 to 22 years old, he would now be 51-52 years of age today, in the year 2002. Long ago, my first copy of this little booklet went somewhere, but recently I discovered that a copy of it was available from Bill Snider, a Florida used book dealer, and obtained it. Herewith, it is digitized for the HDM Digital Library. -- DVM

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The idea of this book was born in the mind and heart of Jimmy Beck, after he was asked by a teen-ager "Why believe the Bible?" This book answers that question and gives: (1) scientific proof of the Bible, in everyday language, anyone can understand. (2) Shows how history proves the Bible. (3) Shows how that almost all atheists on their death-beds have come to the realization of God. And (4) The author shows how his personal experiences have proved the Bible.

Jimmy Beck is a young holiness preacher. He preached his first sermon as a 13-year-old boy and since then he has preached hundreds of times.

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#### 01 -- MY SEARCH FOR TRUTH

It was April the 29, 1962, at two o'clock in the morning when I was awakened by the screams of my mother! I heard her yell in a loud clear voice, "Wake up Jimmy, your father is dying!" I rushed into my parents room, and with tears running down my face, I saw the lifeless form of my father laying on the bed. He had had a heart attack and died in the night. That was a very sad day for me as an eleven year old boy. I realized someday I too must face death. I wondered, "Is there really life after death." Somewhere down deep I realized there was and began my search for the truth.

All my life I had attended church regularly, not because I wanted to, but because my parents made me. I was usually bored and could not wait until it was over.

By the time I was in grade school I was already bound by sin. Although my father was a minister and I was raised in a good Christian home I was not a religious kid but to the contrary, I was not interested in religion.

When I was in the fifth grade I was accused of stealing what seemed to me to be a large sum of money. The very next year I was taken to the bank and identified as the writer of a hot check. Only a few months later two police cars zoomed down the street, past my house, and pulled into the driveway of one of my best friends who lived less than a block away. My friend lived with his grandmother in a rather small greenish house. The police had secured a search warrant and searched the house and property of my friend and his grandmother. The next morning the newspaper had the story. My friend had been picked up by the police with a stolen automobile.

For some time now, my parents had been alarmed about the wayward ways of their son. They did not approve of the type of people I was running around with, but I was not interested in the church or religion. Time after time I have awakened in the night and heard my mother weeping over my sinful ways.

I knew my mother lived very close to God, and I believed that my early training influenced me greatly, even though I was rebellious at the time.

Like my brother, I always had to go to Church and I hated the long sermons. In the Sunday School Class I was such a problem that the pastor told my mother I would either have to straighten up or not come any more.

My mother is a woman that knows how to pray! She was raised in a formal Church, but when she was a teen-ager she realized that she needed more than church membership. She was baptized and realized she was still the same. She went from church to church seeking something that would satisfy the inner longing of her heart. One day while walking down the street she saw an evangelistic Street Meeting and heard a boy testify about being saved from sin. My mother realized that this was what her heart was longing for and sometime later she made her way to an altar of prayer in a little holiness church and found Jesus Christ as a reality in her own life.

My mother knew that God could save me, although I went from bad to worse.

Three years before I was born on July 18, my parents were horrified as they heard the news that their first child had been born a cripple. They had long awaited the arrival of their first baby.

They wanted the best for their child. They had hoped their baby would be healthy and strong. As my mother heard the report that her first child had been born a cripple, tears filled her eyes.

The doctor said it was possible that my brother would be a cripple all his life and he would at least have to wear braces for several years.

In a few days my mother, with her new baby, was released from the hospital with doctor's orders to return soon for a check-up on the foot.

When my mother got home she prayed and asked God to touch her baby's foot and God miraculously did. When the doctor examined his feet they were normal and she knew God had touched him. She also knew God could save me.

One Sunday night I attended a Church which was different from anything I had ever attended. I had heard a lot about it. The pastor, Rev. G. S. Rogers, had been criticized for the way he blazed away against sin. We entered and sat near the back. I well remember how they sang that old song, "The Old Account Was Settled Long Ago." I listened spellbound as they sang:

"And the record's clear today For He washed my sins away, When the old account was settled long ago."

Then they sang, "I'm Living On The Hallelujah Side." They sang with zest and enthusiasm like they knew what they were singing about. How the words thrilled me:

"Once a sinner far from Jesus

I was perishing with cold, But the Blessed Savior heard me when I cried. Then He threw His robe around me And He led me to the fold, And I'm living on the hallelujah side."

I was looking into the faces of the happiest group of people I had ever seen in my life. The people laughed, shouted and cried all at the same time.

As soon as I got home I made up my mind I was going there again. Before long we were going there every Sunday.

A few weeks later conviction gripped my soul. I realized I was a lost sinner and headed for hell. I wanted what those people had and made up my mind to get just that.

I remember very well one Sunday night. The preacher was not dignified, but he blazed away against sin. I listened to every word. "If you will confess your sins and forsake them, the Lord will come in and transform your life and give you something worth living for." At the close of his message, he said: "If you want God to save you, step from your seat and make your way to this mourner's bench." God was there. Conviction had gripped my heart. I felt like I was dropping directly into hell. I ran to the altar and began to weep and pray. I reached the point of complete surrender. The struggling ceased, and I said, "Live or die, I am the Lord's." Then, by simple faith, I claimed the promise. The burden rolled away, and I felt as light and free and happy as a bird, I was saved. Thank God, I had found the truth!

Soon after God had miraculously saved me I came to the knowledge that I still had an enemy on the inside, that I could not control. I found I still had a leaning to sin, and a sinful nature, although the sins which I had committed had been forgiven. I had heard about the experience of Holiness which would cleanse the heart and I saw some who impressed me that they had the experience.

My grandfather, who was converted late in life, could not read or write at the time of his conversion, but he had a desire to read the Bible, so my grandmother taught him to read. He attended a church which did not believe in this experience of heart cleansing, but he read about it in the Bible. He read in John, the Seventeenth Chapter, where Jesus prayed for his disciples who were saved, "They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy word is truth."

My grandfather also read about the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. So he got down on his knees and asked God to sanctify his heart, and God did just that. My grandfather testified to this experience to almost everyone he met.

I had sought God many times to sanctify my heart, but finally, at an old-fashioned Holiness Camp Meeting, I got sick of self and reached the place where I wanted the Holy Spirit more than even life itself and the fire fell and the Holy Spirit came.

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#### 02 -- ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE

Until about 3,500 years ago, there appears to have been no written revelation from God. However since the days of Moses, the inspired writings of the Bible were constantly referred to by prophets, priests, and rulers as the final court of appeal (Exodus 32:8; Joshua 1:8, etc.) Jesus often referred to the Old Testament Scriptures as "It is written."

Also remember there have been two separate witnesses for God: (1) nature of God's creation, and (2) conscience.

About five hundreds years after God called Abram out for the idolatrous surroundings of his native home, changed his name to Abraham and made him the head of a people known as the Hebrews, whom God called "His own peculiar possession," God gave him a written revelation. The revelation continued a history of the preceding 2,500 years, including an account of creation, together with God's laws; promises, prophecies, etc.

Moses began God's Book to man; apostles: and other "holy men in the days that followed continued the work as they were inspired by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:21) from time to time, until the volume of the Book was complete.

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# 03 -- SCIENCE PROVES THE BIBLE

The Bible does not need to be defined by any man. The truth between its sacred lids is proof of its authority.

The Bible was not intended to be a scientific text book, but it contains many scientific truths which have been discovered by man only in the last few years.

- 1. For thousands of years before the invention of the telescope, the astronomers believed the stars could be counted. Hippachus (150 B.C.) who lived a few hundreds after Jeremiah, said that there was exactly 1,026 stars in the universe. One hundred and fifty years later Ptolemy, the Roman scientist who lived at the time of Christ, said there were 1,056 stars. Today it is known there are billions of stars in our galaxy and probably billions of other galaxies like our own. Today most astronomers agree it is not possible to count the stars. This would not have been admitted by scientists a few centuries ago, But the Bible said long before that "the host of heaven cannot be counted." (Jeremiah 33:22)
- 2. Early philosophers and scientists had a lot to say about the shape of the world. Anaximines taught that the world was in the shape of a table; Leucippus taught the world was in the shape of a drum. Pinder thought the world would stand on pillars. Plato and Aristotle believed the earth was a living being and that volcanoes were its vomiting. But the Bible taught the world was

round. Isaiah 40:22. "It is God who sitteth upon the circle of the earth." This word "circle" here, in the Hebrew really means 'sphericity" or 'roundness.'

- 3. The Bible knew the earth hangs in space. Job 26:7, "He hangeth the earth upon nothing." (1500 B.C.) Capernicus was the first scientist to discover this fact. All mankind down to this time (1475 A.D.) believed it rested on some solid foundation.
- 4. Jesus knew the shape of the earth. He said in Luke 17:34-36 to His disciples when speaking about His Second coming, which was to be instantaneous and would be seen by all at the same "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; one shall be taken, and the other left."

He said at this one moment it would be night while men sleep, but also morning when women are grinding mill, and also midday, because this is when men are in the field. This is reasonable to us today for we know the earth rotates, but a few hundred years ago this would not have sounded reasonable.

5. In Genesis, Moses wrote, "God said, let the water under the heavens be gathered together unto one place." We know today that all oceans, gulfs, and seas are joined together in one common bed, but how did Moses know this? He knew of the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, these had no visible connections.

The critics of the Bible references such as "the ends of the earth," and "the foundations of the earth," in the Bible and try to say the Bible pictures the earth as the fixed center of the universe. But it should seem clear that these are mere figures of speech. We use very similar expressions today in our speaking and writing, such as "sunrise" and "sunset" but we don't believe the earth is flat or the sun revolves around it.

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were the best teachers before Christ. Yet they taught adultery, homosexuality, divorce and drunkenness. The Bible condemns all sin and demands purity of heart.

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# 04 -- HISTORY PROVES THE BIBLE

The message of the Bible, "The just shall live by faith," transformed Germany. The same message under the leadership of John Wesley completely changed the social, moral, and spiritual complex of England.

Professor Phelps of Yale says about the Bible: "It ought to have written on the cover 'Highly explosive, Handle with care!' It is the Book which, by the dynamite of its message, has lifted empires off their hinges and turned the course of human event."

In the earlier periods of civilization Greece and Rome were familiar with the Jewish religion and laws. Some one rightly said, "Greece has arisen from the dead with a Bible in her hands."

The overthrow of these great nations resulted because the people turned away from the Bible.

It is quite easy to see the influence of the Bible when we stop to notice that all heathen countries which are anti-Biblical in faith and practice, are known to be farther down the ladder of civilization.

The darkness of medieval times came about because of a lapse of Biblical teaching. Diocletian, a Roman emperor in A. D. 303, started the most terrific onslaught that the world has ever known on a book. Almost every Bible was destroyed, but in a short time the Bible was back again.

In the last century and a half such men as Bolingbroke, Hume, and Voltaire were so confident that the Bible would be exterminated they predicted that in a hundred years from their day the Bible would not be found, except as an antiquarian curiosity. Tom Paine thrust his dart at the Bible with his "Age of Reason." Bob Ingersoll spent \$12,000.00 publishing what he called, "The Mistakes of Moses," but long ago it became obsolete.

Over a century ago in France, the Bible was suppressed and as a result Hell broke loose. It is stated, "Half the children born in Paris were illegitimate. 1,022,351 persons were beheaded, shot, drowned, outraged, and stoned to death between September 1792 and December 1795. Since then France has had thirteen revolutions and the republic has been overthrown on an average of once every nine months. Ten thousand newborn infants have been fished out of the outlet of Parish sewers in a single year. One third of the births of Paris have been illegitimate."

No book has ever been fought as hard as the Bible, because it uncovers man's sinful condition. No ordinary book could have ever lived through the onslaughts the Bible has. Yet, the Bible lives on and continues to be the best seller of all books.

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# 05 -- GREAT MEN AND THE BIBLE

The Bible is a display of God's handiwork. It contains the doom of sinners as well as the way of salvation. It also contains the secret of success for all men.

- S. Grant said about the Bible, "To this Book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future."
- G. George Washington was a man of Prayer and he insisted that the Bible was the cornerstone of our nation. He urged that children in the schools be trained in Biblical truth. He insisted before his death, that if religious instructions were not imparted to the youth that

immorality would sweep the land. He also said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

Abraham Lincoln said, "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a better man."

Woodrow Wilson stated when speaking of the Bible, "I have a very simple thing to ask of you. I ask every man and woman in this audience that from this day on they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great Book."

Herbert Hoover said, "The whole of the inspiration of our civilization springs from the teachings of Christ and the lessons of the Prophets. To read the Bible for these fundamentals is a necessity of American life."

General Douglas MacArthur stated, "Believe me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed." J. Edgar Hoover said: "The Bible is the unfailing guide which points the way for men to the perfect life. The lessons of charity, justice, and equality which enrich its pages should be learned well by all men in order that greed, avarice, and iniquity can be blotted out."

Theodore Roosevelt made this statement: "To every man who faces life with real desire to do his part in everything, I appeal for a study of the Bible. No book of any kind, ever written, has so affected the whole life of a people."

Once George Washington Carver was asked where he learned so much, and he pointed to his old worn Bible. They said, in astonishment, "There is nothing about a peanut in the Bible," and he answered, "No, but the God of the peanut is there."

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#### 06 -- DYING MEN AND THE BIBLE

One has said, and I agree, "Nothing is more reliable than Death-Bed testimony. Then even liars are forced to tell the truth."

Sir Thomas Scott cried out on his death-bed, "Until now I thought there was no God or Hell, now I know there is both and I am doomed."

"I am in the flames," cried Hume the infidel as he lay dying.

"I can see the Devil in the room," cried Adamson the infidel as he passed away.

Kay, an infidel, cried while dying, "Hell! Hell! Hell! Hell!" His family fled until he was dead.

Voltaire, the noted French infidel, said to his doctor: "I am abandoned by God and man! I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months life. Then I shall go to Hell, and you will go with me. O Christ, O Jesus Christ!" Voltaire's nurse said, "For all the wealth of Europe I would not see another infidel die."

Thomas Hobbs, a skeptic sighed, "If I had the whole world, I would give it to live one day." M. F. Rich, an atheist, cried, "I would rather lie on a stove and boil for a million years than go into eternity with the eternal horror that hang over my soul! I have given my immortality for gold, and its weight sinks me into an endless, hopeless, helpless Hell!"

John Wesley, the great preacher, said when dying, "The best of all, God is with us."

Moody died gloriously. "This is my coronation day, If this is death it is sweet."

When President McKinley was told he was dying, he said, "All is well. God's will be done."

Mother Cromson said while dying, "Praise God! Oh, I see the angels in the room. Can't you see them?"

"It is all right. My home is over there and my title is clear," -- Bishop Glosbonner.

Luther said while dying, "Into Thy hands I commit my spirit."

Mrs. Catherine Booth, wife of the Salvation Army General, said joyfully, "The waters are rising, but so am I. I am not going under, but over. Do not be concerned about dying, go on living well. The dying will be right."

Samuel Rutherford met death with this attitude, "I am in the happiest pass to which man ever came. Christ is mine and I am His; and there is nothing now between me and resurrection, except Paradise."

What a difference in these last words:

John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son (Jesus Christ) hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

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# 07 -- THE BIBLE INSPIRED

Gladstone, England's "grand old man," said about the Bible: "I have spent seventy years of my life studying that Book to satisfy my heart that it is the Word of God." And holding it up to the graduating class, said, "I bank my life on the statement that I believe this Book to be the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture."

The Bible has inspired writers, historians, poets, and novelist alike. They have gone to the Bible and returned to write of it or from it.

God spoke to man audible. Dr. Simmer states, "I have counted in the Old Testament alone 2,006 different times where the writer says, 'These are the words of God.'"

Dr. Dyson Hague, professor of Liturgies, Wycliffe College, makes the following statement: "Five hundred times in the Pentateuch it prefaces or concludes its declarations with the sublime assertions, 'The Lord said.' or 'The Lord spake! Three hundred times again in the following books it does the same, and in the prophetic books, twelve hundred times with such expressions as, 'Hear the Word of the Lord,' or 'Thus saith the Lord.' No other book dares thus to address itself to the universal conscience of man as man."

The early Fathers believed in verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Dr. Mark A. Matthews said, "I believe just what verbal inspiration means -- words inspired. It is sheer nonsense to talk about Paul's style, or the style of John. It is the style of THE HOLY GHOST: and He tones the style to suit Himself, who is very God. The words in the original are God's words, not the words of man."

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### 08 -- A SUMMARIZATION

Jesus Christ is the main personality of the Bible. The prophecy of the Messiah begins in the book of Genesis and runs throughout the entire Old Testament. In the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah we find a description of Jesus which is so vivid that it reads, as though He had already appeared on the earth, that He had lived his life and gone to the cross.

The four Gospels are literally given over to the life and doings of the Man of Galilee. The New Testament shows Jesus' miraculous power, His flawless life and His ability to transform human lives.

Jesus gave His indorsement of the entire Old Testament and the major port of the New Testament is composed of His life and works.

The ablest leaders of the past of whom history makes record, were students of the Bible. Our country cannot hope to produce able leaders if we bar from our educational doors that influence which made the great men of yesterday, the Bible.

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THE END