***Judgment For Tampering with the Word of God

RV254-01***

One final testimony of Jesus Christ at the close of the Book of the Revelation which we are now rapidly approaching, is about the severe divine judgment upon anyone tampering with the contents of this book and by implication, with any part of the Bible. No one is to add to the Book of the Revelation. It is the final Word of God which completes the Bible. There is no more Bible to come.

**Satan Inspires Adding to/Taking Away from Word of God**

Adding to this book by claiming to possess additional revelation from God is a delusion and a work of Satan. One of the all-time great examples of adding to the Word of God is Mormons. The Mormons claim and advertise their book as another testament from Jesus Christ to complete the Bible. You've all probably seen those ads that are run in papers and magazines, "The Final Testament to Complete the Word of God." Joseph Smith, who wrote The Book of Mormon, was a con man. We historically know that from a variety of sources. He simply made up the Book of Mormon. But he claims to have received it from God via a translation from some golden plates which have been hidden in New York State. This is a work of Satan. The core teachings of Mormonism is that we are all potential gods and we are gradually evolving into Godhood.

You see, when I say in our campout, that it is a very serious thinking about evolution with these high school/junior high kids, because that is where the battle is. If you believe in evolution, then you believe that you yourself are a God who is developing and evolving. So, Mormon, since its first printing, has had to be corrected over 4,000 times in order to remove contradictions and errors from it. Joseph Smith also wrote as part of Mormon Scripture what is called "Doctrines and Covenants." These are the 'special revelations which God has given him.' Interestingly enough, the 'special revelations' sometimes contradict the Book of Mormon itself. The Book of Mormon teaches one thing; the 'revelation' will contradict it. The most significant noted of those, of course, is polygamy. The Book of Mormon roundly condemns polygamy. Yet I think it was Revelation number 135 to Joseph Smith that he announced that God told him that any man that does not have several wives will never be able to reach the highest heaven. That's a fun religion.

The Book of Mormon, furthermore, makes no long range predictions which have been fulfilled, as the Bible does, to prove its divine origins. All the religious books of the world avoid all prophecy. Only the Bible will tell you something is going to happen 800 or 1,000 years in the future. And then the time passes, and sure enough, it happens just exactly that way, down to the detail; which tells us that what is yet in the future that has not been fulfilled is going to happen just exactly the same way.

The owner of the Marriott Hotel chain places a Bible and a Book of Mormon in every room because he is a Mormon. Here you have a clear example of a violation of adding to the Word of God. People stay in those rooms, will open that drawer where they usually keep those Bibles, and there's a Bible and a Book of Mormon and the addition of Mormon that this is part of the Word of God.

And as we passed the Marriott, a magnificent comparatively new one in San Antonio, it was an impressive building. I saw the enormous amount of wealth that comes in through that through that hotel chain. And as a faithful Mormon, Marriott gives 10% of it, never a dime less, 10% of it to the Mormon Church. It is a church devised by Satan and proven so by adding to the Word of God. So, the condemnation is severe because the consequences are so terrible.

On one of our morning devotions that with which we would begin the day on our campout, we had this 3 section pavilion that we rented from the park. So it give us a very nice setting in which to operate. The kids would sit down with worksheets that we had worked out for them, and one of the verses they dealt with is the verse in Matthew 7 about the way into salvation being a narrow door and the path being small, and few there be that find it. When I asked them to tell me who's not going to find it, they understood that we were talking about salvation and anybody who has a wrong plan of salvation is not going to find it.

**False Religions/False Doctrines**

It was with some reluctance, because these kids were pretty smart, that finally they began to say Muslims? Right, no Muslim is ever goes to Heaven. They reject Jesus Christ as the God/man Savior. Finally, somebody else said Buddhists. That's right. The Buddhists reject Christ and their writings are false writings. Somebody finally said Mormons. That's right. No Mormon ever goes to Heaven because all Mormons believe that they are evolving gods and Jesus Christ is not just the Savior; they must prove themselves worthy. All Mormons are constantly proving themselves worthy to be saved. Then Roman Catholics, you could see there was little problem here. You've got 900 million Roman Catholics in the world; and not one of them from the pope on down is going to Heaven, not if they're true to their church's doctrine of salvation. I reminded them that the Council of Trent, the most fundamental foundation of the beliefs of Roman Catholicism following the Reformation, took 12 years to hammer out with the Catholic Church what they actually believe. One of the statements is that anybody who says, "He can be justified immediately by faith in Christ is anathema." That means he is condemned, excommunicated to Hell. It's still in there. It's a core doctrine. You must seek salvation through the works of the sacraments and proving your merit. So, consequently, there is no two ways about it.

And finally, somebody said "the Jews?" And I had to point out to them that Jesus said "No man comes unto the Father, but by Me." All those good Jews, sincere religious Jews in Israel, not one of them is going to Heaven.

And then they understood why Jesus said "Few there be that find it." And all of these groups, including Christian Science, have their own special Scriptures that they've added to the completed work of God. That's what's taking people into the Lake of Fire. Islam has its Koran. Hinduism has the Bhagavad Gita. Christian Science has the Keys to the Scriptures. Roman Catholicism has the infallible dogmas proclaimed by the pope. The Jehovah's Witnesses have even created their own translation of the Bible to fit their doctrines.

Well, this, adding to the Word of God, can also be done by twisting the Scriptures that's there. You don't actually change any words. You just twist the Scripture that's there. The most prominent example of this is a New Age Movement. The New Age Movement followers claim to have superior insights to interpreting the Scriptures because they are guided by what they call the Masters of Wisdom, spirit guides which in fact are demons. They accuse the early Christians of deleting from the original Bible, from the original Bible manuscripts, New Age doctrines that they did not approve. The clear meaning of the words of Scripture are symbolized and spiritualized into justifying the false doctrines of the New Age Movement like reincarnation, which is certainly not found in the Bible at all. Yet, reincarnation is very popular in United States. You'd be surprised the high percentage of people who think that they're going to come back in another life form and have another chance to make it.

**Reincarnation is False Teaching**

The doctrine of reincarnation, you'd say 'where in the world would Shirley MacLaine or Oprah Winfrey get such an idea. How would they justify it?' Because they do want to justify it with Scripture. Well, one of them is Matthew 11:13-14. I'll brief you so that you may be prepared for that. Matthew 11:13-14, reincarnation, here it is, "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you care to accept it, he himself is Elijah, who was to come." Wow. The prophets prophesied until John. And if you care to accept it, John is Elijah who was to come. It's true the Bible says Elijah is going to come again. And here we have a Scripture that's telling us that John is Elijah reincarnated. Matthew 17:10-13, "And His disciples asked Him saying, 'Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' And He answered and said, 'Elijah is coming and will restore all things; but I [that is Jesus] say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist."

Now, what they are referring to here, about the return of Elijah, is found in the last book of the Bible, Malachi 4:5-6. These are the verses which closed the Old Testament Scriptures. "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD." You know that the great and terrible day of the Lord is the technical term for the tribulation plus the millennium. (continuing with verse 6)"And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children, to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

What Jesus meant in His statement, (as we know from other Scripture, not the least of which is that everybody dies once) the Bible says, "It is appointed for you to die once, face judgment, and be resurrected either to eternal life in Heaven or to eternal death in Hell. There's no other alternative. Since the Bible teaches resurrection, it could not be teaching reincarnation. What Jesus meant is that John the Baptist had come in the spirit and the power of Elijah of old. This is clarified for us in Luke 1:17, "And it is he [speaking of John the Baptist,] who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

So, the Lord made it very clear that He was speaking of Elijah as a symbol of power and of dedication, and that John the Baptist had shown up on the scene in that kind of power and authority. Elijah, as you know, did not die. He was raptured, alive to Heaven, 2 Kings 2:1 tells us that, he was just suddenly carried away alive into Heaven. Elijah is going to return at the future day of the Lord in his former spirit and power, which was shown in the ministry of John the Baptist. John the Baptist had the same kind of power. He had the same kind of authority. He had the same kind of spiritual understanding that was characterized by Elijah. Elijah was one of the all-time great prophets of Israel; and the Jews, to this day, look for the return of Elijah.

The last time we saw Elijah was on the Mount of Transfiguration, speaking with Jesus along with Moses, because both of them are still alive and they are awaiting their time. Elijah has never died. Elijah is going to come back. And when the Jews commemorate the feast of Purim, commemorating the event that is described in the Book of Esther, they always have that empty chair that sits at the table when the Father reads the Book of Esther, and they always tell one of the children, usually the older son, at a certain point, to go outside and look up and down the street to see if Elijah is coming. Then he comes back and sits down, says, "He is not coming. I don't see him." This is their way of reminding their children and themselves that God says, "Elijah is going to come back." So, Jesus was stressing that John the Baptist was a preview of that, just as the Mount of Transfiguration where Christ's Glory was revealed was a preview of the millennial kingdom. It was not the millennial kingdom, but it was a preview of the power and the glory with which He will rule in that kingdom. So, Elijah is alive in Heaven. What he is doing now is waiting the return for him to execute his mission. Matthew: 17:3: "And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him." That's indicating that Elijah was there on the Mount of Transfiguration.

So, John the Baptist clearly was not literally Elijah. He was not an example of reincarnation.

John 1:21: "And they asked him, "What then, are you Elijah? [Speaking to John the Baptist] And he said, 'I am not' 'Are you the prophet?' And he answered, 'No.'" So, the Bible has said that the great prophet would come, the prophet raised up like unto Moses. Christ is that great prophet. And John the Baptist says 'I'm not the Messiah and I'm not Elijah.' So, this is very clear from Scripture that this is not a case of reincarnation.

But there's another Scripture that Shirley and Oprah like to use, and all of their kind, John 9:1-3, as another evidence for reincarnation in the Bible. You see, they're arguing that the early Christians, and especially under the leadership of the church, discarded some parts of the Bible that they didn't like, and reincarnation was supposed to be one of those doctrines, but they didn't, they missed some passages. John 9:1-3, "And as He passed by, He [Jesus passed by,] saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.'" The disciples are speculating on the reason that this man was born blind. They wanted to know whose sin caused it.

Sin causes disease. Sin causes physical breakdown. Whose sin caused this? The basis for this question was the false belief propagated by some of the rabbis that an unborn child could sin in the mother's womb, and since all sickness comes from sin, some children who are born defective have sinned, or it's a judgment upon their parents who have sinned. They're not talking about the soul of the man sinning in another life here, but about sinning in the womb. These disciples weren't asking about which life, which reincarnation; they were doing this because what they were talking about was this man, himself, now born. He had never been in another life. But you see, reincarnation has this karma thing. You lead a bad life, you come back again in a lower life form.

One of the things we would do at night is take the kids out after we were through with our activities at the pavilion. Before we went to bed, we'd take them out to the Bob Hall Pier, it goes way out in the Gulf, to see if anybody was fishing for sharks and whatever, and see what they had pulled in. One evening we've got out of the bus and there was a crab running around. And the kids were all chasing around trying to catch this crab. I warned some of them not to kill it, it might be one of their relatives. I think one of them said he recognized that particular relative who had become this crab; he knew who would fit that category. But that's the nonsense of reincarnation, you come back in a worse life form than you were before.

So, these disciples are wondering what did this baby do in his mother's womb, not what did he do in a previous life? And Jesus corrected this false notion of the rabbis. He said God permitted this baby to be born blind in order that God would be able to show His glory upon him when Jesus would heal this man.

Another verse for reincarnation is John 3:16, if you'll believe it. John 3:16 is (falsely) interpreted as teaching reincarnation. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." What Jesus is doing in this whole passage is where He goes on and says, to Nicodemus... let's look at verse 7, "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again,'" and then salvation in verse 16 is a result of this being born again. But what Jesus is doing is comparing spiritual salvation to the human birth process. A person must be born spiritually to go to Heaven, just as he must be born physically to enter this world, to be born first physically, and then secondly, to be born spiritually. It takes a complete twisting and distorting of Scripture to try to suggest that what is being implied there is life from a previous existence. Furthermore, this analogy to birth shows, that salvation is irreversible, just as a human birth cannot be reversed. That means that there is eternal security in the new birth.

Psalm 46:10 in the Old Testament, Psalm 46:10 "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Who is speaking here? Well, the reincarnation people say this is the psalmist speaking. And he is saying, you know that I am God. When Shirley MacLaine's spirit guides encouraged her to say in so many words that she is God, her first response was to say, "Oh John, I... I can't say that, I can't say that." And finally, she was able to break the barrier and she tells us she stood there with her hands in the air by the Pacific Ocean, and walked up and down the beach yelling, "I am a god, I am a god."

Where do they get that, ... distorting this psalmist who is quoting God and speaking for God clearly by the context, and saying that the psalmist himself is claiming to be God? This is what I mean by twisting Scripture.

Let's take a look at John 8:58, "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.'" Here they're saying that Jesus was saying that He had been reincarnated. But Jesus is applying the term "I am" to Himself because this is the term for deity and it's a way of expressing eternity, God without beginning, without end. He's saying before Abraham was born, I am. Their idea was that He was now coming back in another life.

Let me read to you again just a paragraph from The Watchmen Examiner, Vol. 12. No. 1 that says, Quote, "Shirley MacLaine writes about the enlightened state in which man is God, saying, when that awareness is achieved, I will be aligned completely with that unseen divine force that we call God. Since I am part of that force, then I am that I am" She is using the very words of God for seeking to honor herself.

I think I told you before that when I was a teenager, I used to read in the Chicago newspapers about the antics and carrying on of a great religious leader who called himself "The Great I Am." He was one of these real popular charismatic figures; "I am 'The Great I Am.'" Well, if you are the "I Am," that means that you are eternal. You are forever. But guess what? One day, "The Great I Am" died and he became "The Great I Ain't" because he wasn't there to begin with. The foolishness of man who is willing to make these preposterous claims of deity and then God cuts them down. But does anybody learn? No, ... the next guy comes right along and says the same thing right after him.

So, Shirley MacLaine... claiming to be the "I Am." The quotation goes on to say, "Unity School of Christianity leader Eric Butterworth writes, 'Praying to God about things is taking the name of the Lord in vain. God is present as a reality of you. There is nowhere to go, no one to reach for, only a presence to experience and feel at one with. The need is to be still and know that I am.'" Here this New Age leader is teaching people that if you pray to God for favors in the name of Jesus, it's an act of blasphemy. You want a better example of twisting Scriptures than that? What he means is 'You are already God. You should not be praying to someone. You should be recognizing your deity. You're blaspheming your own deity when you pray to God in the name of Jesus.' Oprah asked Shirley MacLaine "What you were asking yourself these questions: Who am I? What's the purpose of my life? What happens when I die? The answers that came back were, MacLaine, "First, I had to learn to meditate. I learned to be quiet, to be still. [I wish she had.] I learned to be quiet, to be still inside, to just say, what shall I do about this? And boom, the answer would come." Oprah continued, "And that's the same thing the Bible says, 'Ask him and it shall be given, seek and you shall find.' And when you connect to the higher self, is it what other people call being born again?" Shirley responded, "Yeah, probably, although I don't know what their definition of being born again means." Unquote.

That's not all she doesn't know. How sad to see a person so gifted, wealthy, prominent, an opinion maker, and twisted around the finger of Satan because she has been willing to twist the Word of God.

**Warning Against Distorting the Word of God**

So, it is no wonder that the Book of the Revelation, one of the most twisted and distorted books of the Bible, should close upon this high note of warning against distorting the Word of God. There will be in the end times such as we live in now, great adding by reinterpreting to the Bible and it will come to a head during the Tribulation. It is violating the recorded laws of God by simply reinterpreting them.

A few years ago we had a thing that was called was called conditional morality, Situational Ethics. It was by a former Episcopalian priest, Joseph Fletcher, and he got up in his pulpit one day and said, 'I have had an understanding from God, a reinterpretation of Scripture, a clarification of Scriptures,' is the way he would refer to it. He said, 'I understand now that when one reads the Ten Commandments, you must always add the word "ordinarily" to it. Thou shalt not have false gods before you, ordinarily. Sometimes it's OK to do that.' Israel of old thought that, "Thou does not steal ordinarily, but sometimes it's okay, thou shall not commit adultery ordinarily, but sometimes it's OK." And he went right down through these and wrote a whole book showing how if you obey the moral code of God, you could create a lot of problems sometimes, so that ordinarily you would obey them, but sometimes you would change them.

So, this twisting of the Word of God is here in our days.

**The Penalty for Distorting God's Word**

Now in Revelation 22:18, the last part of the verse says "God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book." God shall add in the future to this person who adds to Scripture, the plagues which are written. These words "which have been written," the word written in the Greek Bible, looks like this: grapho g r a p h o, and that simply means "that which has been recorded on the parchment." It is in the perfect tense, which tells us that it has been written in the past. God's Bible is finished and its consequence of a finished Bible is continuing to this very day. You have nothing to add to it.

It's an important point to note in this passage is that the Bible didn't write itself. God did it by superintending men that he chose to do that.

What it refers to are all these plagues that we've studied in the Book of the Revelation that will take place on humanity in the Tribulation. Any additions to Revelation faces the terrible judgments from God recorded in this book. This book is finished and the warnings in it are going to continue as the book has been completed. There is no change to the very present. The Revelation is in existence. It is a product of human and divine authors. And we have the spiritual principle that what God has written, God will bring to pass "in this book," referring to the Book of the Revelation.

Church history, as we pointed out, has produced many false scriptures to add to the Bible as purported new revelations from God. And untold millions have been led into the Lake of Fire by these editions. These editions lead sinners away from Jesus Christ as their only hope. The Charismatics love to claim that they are making prophetic utterances in an ordinary, charismatic meeting. Not the one that they do on Sunday for the general public, but the one that they do sometime during the week for themselves, where things are jumping and jiving, they will get up and give their prophetic utterances and claim that they have received direct communications from God; that means new revelation. Any addition, the Bible says, made to Revelation distorts the plan of God for mankind.

And those who mutilate this book will suffer the plagues of Revelation, which will come on the unbelievers. It is referring to more than misinterpretation. We're not saying that there are some Christians who misinterpret the Revelation, there's a lot who do that. This does not apply to them. We're talking about people who deliberately are unbelievers and who deliberately add to the book of the Bible. That's something else. Preachers who are indifferent to the Book of the Revelation or who despise it, they indeed do take away from the impact of this book on believers' minds, and they'll be judged for that by Christ. But they are not going to be lost because of that.

To spiritualize Revelation is actually to add something to its meaning. The principle of adding is applied to the whole Bible of course.

And to those who think themselves superior by some intellect or some spiritual gift, that they can separate truth from fiction, they will face the plagues of Revelation. Interestingly enough, they think these plagues are unreasonable and irrational, so they spiritualized them away. But the Bible says, and God could not have made it clearer here at the end of the book, anybody who tampers with the contents of Revelations and by implication the Bible as a whole, by editing or twisting the Scriptures, they are thereby showing their unsafe condition and they will suffer the consequences.

Adding to the Bible is always an act of jaded unbelief, denying that the Bible is the Word of God and not the feelings and opinions of man. And when you confront people with the fact that the Bible is the Word of God, then people are outraged, but they cannot argue with you.

I told our kids on the campout, "don't ever say when you talk about spiritual things with people: 'I believe,' 'my parents have taught me,' 'my church believes,' to never say that. Always say 'this is what the Bible says.'

I told them I was out in a social event one time. And at a dinner at this restaurant, were people who were involved in some of the political activities of the city of Irving and other areas. They were interested in that sort of thing. This was before the previous election for governor of the state of Texas. And suddenly the man across the table from me said, "Dr. Danish, what do you think about the lady we have running for governor of Texas, Ann Richards, and the idea of having her as governor?" And I said, "Well, I have some reservations about that because the Bible forbids women to be in positions of authority over men, certainly in spiritual things, and by implication, the apostle Paul's clarification that the relationship established in the Garden of Eden following sin, was the male, mostly because the woman was deceived which caused the whole problem of sin to begin with, and that this is God's order." To my astonishment and the people at the table, he blew out with an obscenity. For a moment I had to think 'Is that what he said?' and that was what he had said. So, I indicated to him that he had misunderstood me, that I didn't say that's that what I thought. I said I was telling you that this is what God thinks, this is what God says. This is what the Word of God has recorded on this subject. I'm simply reporting this to you. And if God has a problem with that, it makes me very uncomfortable to think that it's OK. And somebody at the table said, 'oh ho, ho, ho.' And what the person meant was 'now, what are you going to do?' Because I said (sarcastically), 'I certainly wouldn't think that way, but God does have this problem.' What I had done was put him face to face with the Bible. What are you going to do now, buddy, thumb your nose at the Bible? And there was silence. Whatever else he may have thought, whatever else he may have changed his mind or not changed his mind, that was the Word of God.

So, when you speak of the Scriptures, when you speak of what God has to say, stick with the words. Don't let people push you in the corner and say that their thinking is as good as your thinking, that their mind is as smart as your mind. That's not the issue. The issue is whether God has spoken. And don't compromise in the fact that God has spoken in language that we can understand. The average person just does not like to think that God has spoken to us. Now if that man did not believe that God is out there and that God had spoken to us in literal fashion, then he had no problem; he can just blow it off. But for those of us who believe that God is out there and that he has spoken to us, we cannot blow off Scriptures that are explicitly clear. We have to relate ourselves to them and say that this is where man's blessing lies. Deviating from this is to bring grief into man's experience.

**Some Will/Some Will Not**

Revelation 22:19 - closing down the Book of the Revelation. "And if" - this "if" is a third class condition in the Greek language, which means that some people will do it and some people won't. "And if anyone takes away from the words" of this prophecy: now taking away potentially from the very words of this prophecy. The Jehovah's Witnesses actually have to take away some words in Scripture to justify some of their doctrines. So, the JW's do that. Anybody who doesn't know what is in the Greek is trapped by their new world translation into English. If anyone takes away from the words of this prophecy, this potential act of removing parts of the text of the Book of the Revelation, what has been recorded is divine prophecy, it is not to be diminished in some way by man's intellect. Do not diminish this book by failing to teach the prophecy either by treating parts of it as untrue or by spiritualizing the literal meaning of this book. This is how you may take away from the prophecy of the Revelation. The message of Revelation is, after all, from Jesus Christ, and it was recorded by John under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. We call that the Doctrine of Inspiration. That preserves the Bible from any error. All Christ wants mankind to know about the end of the world, He has written, and none of it is dispensable. You cannot throw away any part of this book.

Liberal theologians mutilate this Scripture. They dismiss portions for various reasons. They say it conflicts with human viewpoint, wisdom. They recognize it condemns their voluntary presuppositions, which are not true.

Prophecies are staggering to the human imagination. They are. Can you imagine a world where a third of the fresh water gets turned into blood, a third of the sea is turned into literal blood?

I stood on the beach down at Padre Island and I looked out across as the sun was setting across the magnificence of the Gulf, a huge body of water. I thought "all of this as blood!" What's that going to look like?

Somebody had an oil spill in the Gulf the last week or so. All the beaches were contaminated. So, they immediately set people in motion, the cleanup crews, to clean it up. The beaches were exceptionally clean when we got there. But can you imagine what those beaches are going to be like when the dead marine life starts floating in, getting washed up on those beaches, the stench from animals that die in the ocean of blood? When you stop and think about that, that's so staggering to the human imagination that that has to be a symbol for something that can't be real, but it is real, to deny the Doctrine of Divine Inspiration, so they're free to revise and to twist the Scriptures.

The standard warning about the fact that the Bible is the product of God has come down to us from the very first through the ages. And the Jews were particularly warned about that. In Deuteronomy 4:2, Moses says, "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you." Moses is quoting God here saying "You shall not add to the word which I'm commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

**Lest You be Proven a Liar!**

Then, one of the Proverbs, the Book of Wisdom, of which Solomon had a hand in writing, Proverbs 30:5-6 says, "Every Word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar." Don't add to the Word of God or you're going to be proven a liar?

One of the things that Joseph Smith declared to his people as a god was that up on the moon, there are people who are living there and they dressed in the costumes of old Quakers and they're all green in appearance. That suckers thought that nobody's ever going to get to the moon. But sure enough, God in time proved him to be a liar in the most magnificent way because we did get to the moon. I'm sorry to report there are no green Quakers up there.

**High Crime Against God**

But to take away from the Word of God is a high crime and misdemeanors against God and mankind. And the punishment is a God shall take away his part from the tree of life. This passage assumes that a believer would not tamper with the contents of the Word of God. A believer would not remove any part of the written Scriptures. You might misinterpret it, but he's not going to remove any part of it. Only an unbeliever with a spiritually blinded intellect will discard any part of the Word of God.

This verse is not saying that those who are saved, you see, would be lost again, because people who are born again do not take away parts of the Bible. The Christian may not understand part of Revelation or the Bible, but he recognizes it as the inerrant Word of God and it is not to be changed.

The Roman Catholics have taken away from the Bible one of the commandments. As you know, the Roman Catholics in the catechism, do not have the second commandments of Moses, which deals with creating idols and bowing down before idol gods because Roman Catholicism does that all the time. So, they divided the Ten Commandments about coveting. They just they divide that into coveting somebody's wife or husband and then coveting one's material possessions and they simply get sentimental by dividing that one in two. This is a deliberate taking away from the Word of God, a classic example. It gives us a sign that Roman Catholicism is not of God, but it is of Satan: who wants us to take away from the Word of God, and justify his idol worship. The kids on the campout, I can see some of their eyes open when I pointed out to them that Muhammad found the people of some of the Arabic tribes worshiping many idol gods. So he went into the pantheon of the idols and he slashed them left and right and broke up their gods. But there was one God that Muhammad favored and this God's name was Allah. Behind every idol, Paul has taught us, there is a demon spirit which is worshipped. So, when you worship an idol, you're worshiping that idol's spirit god, the demon. Therefore, I pointed out to them that what the Muhammadans worship is a demon God named Allah and they call him the real God. See, this is taking away, twisting, from the clear statement of the Word of God. There is one God and He is the God who is the creator, and He revealed Himself in the Bible, a completed book.

Those who are lost will take away from this book, and the result will be that they shall have their part taken away from the Tree of Life. This is the Doctrine of Unlimited Atonement that gives every human being who is ever conceived a part in salvation. But those who reject Christ the Savior are denied then salvation that is available to all.

Somebody before the service asked me, 'Does propitiation mean that everybody's sins are covered, that God is satisfied for everybody's sin?' And that's exactly what it means; God is satisfied, sin is not the issue. But you have a right to the Tree of Life the moment you are conceived. If you die before the age of accountability, you will enjoy the Tree of Life.

But when you pass the point where you can make a decision for right and wrong, you must decide for Christ or your right of unlimited atonement now is denied to you. That's what this was referring to. Any unbeliever removing the meaning of words of Revelation will be denied his right to the Tree of Life, not because he removed Per Se from Revelation, but because it signaled he was an unbeliever.

Furthermore, it will deny him access to the holy city, the New Jerusalem, and (continuing in Revelation 22:19,) "God will take away his part from the Tree of Life, from the holy city, [the New Jerusalem,] which are written in this book."

And we've been studying about this city. Detractors from the word of Revelation are kept out of the New Jerusalem. This action shows that they are unsaved, so they enter the Lake of Fire as their eternal home.

Christians who revere God and the Holy Spirit will esteem the Bible and they do not take away from it. This book is written as a work of God and is a complete work.

Incidentally, in our previous verse, 18, "adding to the Word of God," the Roman Catholics, as you know, add something like 11 Old Testament books to the Word of God, and they are completely uninspired books, they are not inspired. And the ordinary Christian who knows anything about the Bible only has to read those books and you just sense that they are not books of inspiration, that have been inspired by the Spirit of God. Furthermore, they teach false doctrines like purgatory.

So, the Christians who revere the Word of God will not change anything. The Tree of Life and the Water of Life, the New Jerusalem eternity is theirs. God provides the prophecy. And He gives most solemn warnings to any contamination of it. Those who distort Revelation are the enemies of God, and He will judge them accordingly. The judgment, for example, that we have in the Old Testament upon the wicked king Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim cut out part of the Word of God in Jeremiah 36.

**A Classic Example of Punishment for Distorting God's Word**

Let's close with that this morning: a little review of Jehoiakim, Jeremiah 36, a classic example of taking away from the Word of God. Jeremiah was told to record God's revelation to him concerning the impending Babylonian conquest of Israel. Jeremiah 36:1-4, "And it came about in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, King of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 'Take a scroll and write on it all the words which I have spoken to you concerning Israel, and concerning Judah, and concerning all the nations, from the day I first spoke to you, from the days of Josiah, even to this day. Perhaps the house of Judah will hear all the calamity which I plan to bring on them, in order that every man will turn from his evil way; then I will forgive their iniquity and their sin.' Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which He had spoken to him, on a scroll." The prophets did not make up their own information. God gave them the information. It is interesting that Josiah was one of the good kings of Judah. Yet he had a terrible son in Jehoiakim in spite of that family heritage.

Well, the King's officials read the prophecy. They heard thus about the national doom, and they went and reported this to King Jehoiakim. Jeremiah 36:16, "Now it came about when they had heard all the words, they turn in fear one to another and said to Baruch, 'We will surely report all these words to the king.'" So, they did. And King Jehoiakim asked to hear God's prophecy of Jeremiah and to have it read to him. So, that's what they did. Jeremiah 36:20-21, "So they went to the king in the court, but they had deposited the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and they reported all the words to the king. Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it out of the chamber of Elishama the scribe. And Jehudi read it to the king as well as to all the officials who stood beside the king." So now in the very king's presence, the Word of God recorded by Jeremiah is read. What this Word of God is saying, is if Israel's southern kingdoms, Judah and Benjamin, do not turn from their sins, Babylon is going to come in and conquer them.

So King Jehoiakim reacts this way: he takes out his knife and he angrily cuts off parts of Jeremiah's record of God's Word and he burns it. Jeremiah 36:22-23, "Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning in the brazier before him. And it came about when Jehudi had read three or four columns, the king cut it with a scribe's knife and threw it into the fire that was in the brazier, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier." This king had no fear over this act of insolence toward God's Word.

Jeremiah 23:24-25, "Yet the king and all his servants who heard all these words were not afraid, nor did they rend their garments. Even though Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah entreated the king not to burn the scroll, he would not listen to them." So, here you have this king. Babylon is about to crash in on the country and take them all into slavery for 70 years. And what does the King do? He solved the problem by taking a knife and cutting out that part of the bad testimony, and throwing it on the fire.

Then the end of the story, Jeremiah 36:27, "Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah after the king had burned the scroll and the words which Baruch had written at the dictation of Jeremiah, saying, 'Take again another scroll and write on it all the former words that were on the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah burned. 'And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say, "Thus says the LORD, 'You have burned this scroll, saying, "Why have you written on it that the king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall make man and beast to cease from it?"' "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the King of Judah, 'He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body will be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. I shall also punish him and his descendants and his servants for their iniquity, and I shall bring on them and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the men of Judah all the calamity that I have declared to them - but they did not listen.' Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the son of Neriah, the scribe, and he wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire; and many similar words were added to them." The prophet Jeremiah had no problem, you see, reproducing his Scriptures because God the Holy Spirit Who had guided him in the first place, could guide him to reproduce it in the second place.

So, there you have a great example of blindedness, of thinking that if you can just shove the Word of God out of your mind, you'll have nothing to worry about. Tonight we come to verses 20 and 21. I hope you will be here for the conclusion of our study of the Book of the Revelation.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1984

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