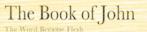
The Purpose of This Book

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

that you may

"The Mystery of Unbelief"

John 12:37-50



I In the beginning was the Word, and the " The true light, which gives light to " And the Word became flesh and dwelt Word was with God, and the Word was everyone, was coming into the world. 10 among us, and we have seen his glory, God. 2 He was in the beginning with He was in the world, and the world was glory as of the only Son from the Father, God. All things were made through made through him, yet the world did not full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore him, and without him was not any thing know him. "He came to his own, and his witness about him, and cried out, "This made that was made. 4 In him was life, own people did not receive him. 12 But to was he of whom I said, 'He who comes and the life was the light of men. 3 The all who did receive him, who believed in after me ranks before me, because he was light shines in the darkness, and the his name, he gave the right to become before me.") 16 For from his fullness we darkness has not overcome it.

"There was a man sent from God, whose the will of man, but of God. name was John. He came as a witness. to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 1 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about

children of God, 13 who were born, not of have all received, grace upon grace. 17 blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of For the law was given through Moses;

grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.



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The Book of John

"Then what <u>sign</u> do you do, that we may see and believe you? What <u>work</u> do you perform?"

5 of 7 Miracles of Jesus Already Performed

- 1. Changing water into wine (John 2:1-11)
- 2. Healing the royal official's son (John 4:46-54)
- 3. Healing the paralytic at the pool (John 5:1-18)

The Book of Id

- 4. Feeding over 5,000 with fish and loaves (John 6:1-14)
- 5. Walking on the water (John 6:15-25)

John 21:25

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Now there are also <u>many other things</u> that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

John 3:8

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The Book of Joh

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

The Flat Earth Society



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"Lord, are there only a *few* being saved?"

The Book of John

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John 12:37-43

(Page 899)

unbelief



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Whoever believes in [Jesus] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because <u>he has not believed</u> in the name of the only Son of God.

> The Book of John Teams Investment of the Internet State of the Int

Belief (or faith) is a hotly-debated topic!

- What is saving faith?
- What enables it?
- Where does it come from?
- What is our faith in?
- How much is enough?
- Are there different kinds of faith?

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- And can one lose his/her faith?



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Though [Jesus] had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,

John 12:38-41

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Less that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

Therefore they <u>could not</u> believe. For again Isaiah said, "<u>He has blinded their eyes and hardened their</u> <u>heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand</u> <u>with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them</u>." Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

? QUESTION ?

Did God foresee the people's unbelief in each case, by passively looking ahead in history, seeing what would happen, and then predict it through Isaiah?

The Book of Id

OR...

Did God actively work to insure the people's unbelief, in order to fulfill the prediction?

John 12:38-41

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The Book of John

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"God's Judicial Hardening"



"I take it that the highest proof of Christ's power is not that he offers salvation, not that he bids you take it if you will, but that when you reject it, when you hate it, when you despise it, he has a power whereby he can change your mind, make you think differently from your former thoughts, and turn you from the error of your ways."



Charles Spurgeon

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The Book of J



The Unpardonable Sin

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The Unpardonable Sin

Mark 3:28-30

"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they were saying, "He [Jesus] has an unclean spirit."

The Unpardonable Sin

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Blaspheming against the Holy Spirit

= an unforgivable sin = an eternal sin



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The Book of I

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

Luke 19:41-42

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36 No.4 The Propose of This fload.
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The Book of Jol

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! <u>But now they are hidden from your eyes</u>. God's judicial hardening is not toward morally neutral beings, but a response to guilty people who are condemned to do and be, what they themselves have chosen.

The Book of J

- I. God's judicial hardening is not toward morally neutral beings, but a response to guilty people who are condemned to do and be, what they themselves have chosen.
- God's sovereignty in these matters does not remove man's responsibility. John 12:48 says that these hardened people are still going to be justly judged.



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- 3. God's sovereignty is not a cause for despair, but for hope. It is the basis for our pleas and prayers. If he is not sovereign, then our prayers make no sense.
- 4. God's charge for Isaiah to fruitlessly preach to the Jews, whose hearts God sovereignly hardened, was part of God's strange work and ultimate redemptive plan.

The Book of J

Romans 11:25

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The Book of I

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this <u>mystery</u>, brothers: <u>a</u> <u>partial hardening</u> has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Matthew 11:25-26

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"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Psalm 118:22-23

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The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. <u>This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes</u>.

Psalm 118:22-23

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1 Peter 2:8

They stumble because they <u>disobey</u> the word, as they were <u>destined</u> to do.



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John 12:42



many even of the authorities believed in Jesus.

...but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

If God became a man, we would expect him to:

- Have an unusual entrance into life
- Demonstrate a completely sinless life
- Manifest the supernatural in the form of miracles
- Speak the greatest words ever spoken
- Have a lasting and universal influence
- Satisfy the spiritual hunger in man
- Exercise power over death
- Demonstrate omniscience (knowing all things)
- Freely accept worship
- Make an unapologetic claim to be the Creator

If God became a man, we would expect him to:

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John 12:44-50

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And Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

John 12:44-50

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The Book of I

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment what to say and what to speak. And I know that his <u>command-ment is eternal life</u>. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

1 John 5:10

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The Book of Jol

Whoever does not believe God <u>has made him a</u> liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

3 Warnings from Today's Passage:

 Don't shy away from those passages about God that are hard to understand or accept. God is who he says he is; not who we think he should be.

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3 Warnings from Today's Passage:

- Don't shy away from those passages about God that are hard to understand or accept. God is who he says he is; not who we think he should be.
- 2. Don't take sin lightly! It always has a hardening effect on the heart even for Christians!

3 Warnings from Today's Passage:

- Don't shy away from those passages about God that are hard to understand or accept. God is who he says he is; not who we think he should be.
- 2. Don't take sin lightly! It always has a hardening effect on the heart even for Christians!
- 3. Don't be a timid "closet Christian" who is ashamed of his beliefs. Deepen your convictions so that you can stand firm, even in the midst of ridicule and opposition.