

# ABCs of Truth

## Authority of God, Bible's Veracity, Christ's Uniqueness

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We humans need truth, love and hope. Without these, our soul withers.

My conviction about the necessity of hope began while watching my vivacious beauty queen mom, Billie Clair, suffer from fighting cancer for six years beginning when I was in high school. Then, seeing her body lying in the coffin, I wondered where her spirit, the real Billie Clair, went. We've all lost loved ones too soon. Our life is short and fragile--why are we alive? What's next? Can we know? Can we have real hope in a suffering world?

The ABCs of Truth is my attempt to clearly, confidently and compellingly communicate that truth, love and hope are real because God is real and wants a loving relationship with us. If God is God, He can clearly communicate with us and has via the Bible, which reveals the uniqueness of Christ.

But evil is also real and desires to drive us away from God and from truth, love and hope. Evil must be confronted and defeated. Accordingly, I'll introduce Professor Bart Ehman at the end who is leading vulnerable people into darkness, which is an anathema for our loving God and for His loving followers.

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## A. Authority of God

- **No eyewitnesses at origin:**
  - Everyone lives by faith regarding life's origin since there were no eyewitnesses.
  - What's more probable: Creator God or random? What's the evidence? Ramifications of each?
- **Creation's Order and Design**
  - *Fine-tuning evidence:*

- Physicists (like Paul Davies and John Polkinghorne and Nobel Laureates) argue the universe's precise constants (e.g., gravity, electromagnetic force) point to intelligent design.
- *DNA as "language"*: Francis Collins (lead scientist of the Human Genome Project) called DNA "the language of God."
- *Earth's orbit*: our Earth is hurtling through space at 66,000 MPH on a 580 million mile orbit spinning at 1,000 MPH perfectly tilted and positioned from our sun that's 93 million miles away—luck?
- *Nature*: Nature's complexly ordered design and ecosystems are evidence of a Creator.
- **Human Moral Awareness**
  - *Moral Law argument*:
    - C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity) and philosopher Immanuel Kant both argued that a universal sense of right and wrong demands a higher moral source. Humans have a conscience.
- **Existence of Absolute Truth**
  - *Cultural consistency*:
    - Anthropologists (like Donald Brown) document moral universals across diverse societies, supporting the existence of objective moral truth from a transcendent authority.
- **Personal Testimony and Changed Lives**
  - *Eyewitness and historical examples*:
    - Augustine (4th century), John Newton (slave trader turned Christian pastor), and countless modern testimonies show lives radically changed after encountering God's authority and Holy Spirit by being born again (John 3).
- **Humans worship**
  - Only humans build places for worship.

## **B. Bible's Veracity**

- **Historical Reliability**
  - *Manuscript evidence*:
    - Over 5,800 Greek New Testament manuscripts (earliest ~within 50-100 years of originals) — vastly more than any ancient text (e.g., Homer's *Iliad* has only ~643 copies).
  - *Archaeology*:

- Dead Sea Scrolls (1947 discovery) confirmed that Old Testament books like Isaiah were transmitted accurately over centuries.
- Excavation of Jericho aligns with the biblical conquest timeline (Kathleen Kenyon, later reevaluated by Bryant Wood).
- **Fulfilled Prophecies**
  - *Messianic Prophecies:*
    - Isaiah 53 (suffering servant) written ~700 BC precisely matches Jesus's life and death.
    - Micah 5:2 (Messiah born in Bethlehem) fulfilled centuries later.
  - *Dead Sea Scrolls:*
    - Prove that Isaiah 53 existed before Christ's birth — not "rewritten" afterward.
- **Internal Consistency**
  - *Scholarly confirmation:*
    - Historians like F.F. Bruce and textual critics like Sir Frederic Kenyon affirm the Bible's remarkable internal coherence despite being written over 1,500 years by 40+ authors.
- **Supernatural Wisdom**
  - *Transformational impact:*
    - The Bible fueled abolition movements (William Wilberforce), civil rights (Martin Luther King Jr.), and countless moral revolutions historically tied to Scripture's supernatural wisdom.
- **One, consistent Biblical theme:**
  - Eternal God – Creation – Sin – Salvation – Judgement determining each person's eternity with or without God

## C. Christ's Uniqueness

- **Historical Existence Confirmed**
  - *Non-Christian historians:*
    - Josephus (*Antiquities of the Jews*, ~93 AD) references Jesus's crucifixion.
    - Tacitus (*Annals*, ~116 AD) records Christ's execution by Pontius Pilate.
    - Pliny the Younger (~112 AD) describes early Christians worshiping Christ as divine.
- **Miracles and Resurrection Evidence**
  - *Eyewitness testimony:*

- 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 records over 500 witnesses to the resurrected Christ — written ~20 years after the event, during the lifetime of many eyewitnesses.
  - *Early creed:*
    - Scholars (even skeptical ones like Bart Ehrman) recognize that 1 Corinthians 15 contains an early Christian creed dating to within 5 years of the resurrection.
- **Exclusive Claims**
  - *Recorded in Gospels:*
    - John 14:6 (“I am the way, the truth, and the life”)
    - Mark 14:61-62 (Jesus claims to be the Messiah and Son of God before the Sanhedrin).
- **Global and Personal Impact**
  - *World history:*
    - Christianity transformed the Roman Empire, led to the founding of hospitals, universities (Oxford, Harvard), and fueled major social reforms.
    - Yale historian Jaroslav Pelikan said, “Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries.”
    - For 2,000 years people have similarly been born again by the Holy Spirit

## **Evidence that Jesus is God, Savior, and Lord**

- **1. Jesus Directly Claimed to Be God.**  
→ “*Before Abraham was, I AM.*” (John 8:58) — Jesus uses God's divine name (Exodus 3:14).
- **2. Jesus Accepted Worship — Only God Can.**  
→ After His resurrection, Thomas calls Jesus “*My Lord and my God!*” (John 20:28) — and Jesus accepts it.
- **3. Jesus Forgave Sins — God's Authority Alone.**  
→ Jesus forgives sins publicly (Mark 2:5-12) — something only God can do according to Jewish belief.
- **4. Jesus Performed Miracles with God's Power.**  
→ Calmed storms (Mark 4:39), raised the dead (John 11), healed incurable diseases — fulfilling messianic prophecies (Isaiah 35:5-6).

- **5. Jesus Fulfilled Ancient Prophecies.**
  - Over 300 Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in His life, death, and resurrection (e.g., Isaiah 53, Micah 5:2).
- **6. Jesus Rose from the Dead — Historical Evidence.**
  - Empty tomb, multiple eyewitness appearances, and the rapid growth of Christianity without military or political force (1 Corinthians 15:3–8).
- **7. Early Christians Proclaimed Him as God Instantly.**
  - Within 5 years of His death, early creeds (Philippians 2:6–11) worship Jesus as Lord and equal with God.
- **8. Jesus Claimed to Be the Only Way to God.**
  - *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (John 14:6)
- **9. Jesus’ Life Matches God’s Character Perfectly.**
  - Sinless, humble, loving, holy, merciful, just — no accusation of sin ever stuck (John 8:46).
- **10. Jesus Will Return as Judge and King.**
  - Jesus said He will return in glory, judge the world, and reign forever (Matthew 25:31-34; Revelation 19:11-16).

# Jesus is God, Savior, and Lord — Flowchart



## Why do we need Jesus as Savior? God's Coming Eternal Judgment (Old & New Testament)

Category	Old Testament	New Testament
1. God's Judgment is Sure	Ecclesiastes 12:14 — "For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every	2 Corinthians 5:10 — "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..."

Category	Old Testament	New Testament
<b>2. God Judges Nations</b>	hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." Joel 3:12 — "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations."	Matthew 25:32 — "All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people..."
<b>3. God Judges the Wicked</b>	Psalm 9:7-8 — "The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment."	Revelation 20:12 — "The dead were judged according to what they had done..."
<b>4. God's Judgment is Final</b>	Daniel 12:2 — "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."	John 5:28-29 — "Those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned."
<b>5. The Day of the Lord is Coming</b>	Zephaniah 1:14-15 — "The great day of the Lord is near — a day of wrath, distress and anguish."	2 Peter 3:10 — "The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar..."
<b>6. God's Justice is Perfect</b>	Deuteronomy 32:4 — "All his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."	Romans 2:5-6 — "God's righteous judgment... will repay each person according to what they have done."
<b>7. God Will Judge Falsehood</b>	Isaiah 5:20-24 — "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil... their root will decay and their flowers blow away like dust."	2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 — "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."
<b>8. God Judges with Fire</b>	Malachi 4:1 — "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble."	Hebrews 10:26-27 — "Only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."
<b>9. Only the Righteous Will Stand</b>	Psalm 1:5 — "Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous."	Matthew 13:41-43 — "The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out... all who do evil."

Category	Old Testament	New Testament
<b>10. God's Mercy and Judgment Together</b>	Isaiah 30:18 — "The Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"	James 2:13 — "Mercy triumphs over judgment."

- **Old Testament and New Testament** both clearly point to a **final, eternal, perfect judgment**.
- The Bible emphasizes **justice, righteousness, punishment of evil, reward of the righteous**, and **God's mercy for the repentant** who have faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. (e.g. John 3:16-21, Ephesians 2:8-9)

## Bible's Triune God: Father, Spirit, and Jesus

Category	Old Testament	New Testament
<b>FATHER</b>	Exodus 34:6 — "The Lord, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."	1 John 4:8 — "God is love."
	Isaiah 40:28 — "The Lord is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth."	Hebrews 13:8 — "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
	Deuteronomy 6:4 — "The Lord our God, the Lord is one."	Revelation 4:8 — "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."
	Psalms 90:2 — "From everlasting to everlasting you are God."	Romans 11:33 — "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"
	Psalms 103:19 — "The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all."	1 Timothy 1:17 — "To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever."
	Isaiah 45:5 — "I am the Lord, and there is no other."	James 1:17 — "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights."



<b>Category</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
	Psalm 145:8-9 — "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love."	Ephesians 4:6 — "One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."
	Jeremiah 10:10 — "But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King."	Matthew 6:9 — "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."
	1 Chronicles 29:11 — "Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory."	2 Peter 3:9 — "The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."
	Isaiah 43:10-11 — "Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the Lord."	John 17:3 — "This is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

<b>Category</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
<b>SPIRIT</b>	Genesis 1:2 — "The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."	John 14:26 — "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things."
	Numbers 11:25 — "When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied."	Acts 1:8 — "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."
	Isaiah 11:2 — "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him."	Romans 8:14 — "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."
	Joel 2:28 — "I will pour out my Spirit on all people."	1 Corinthians 6:19 — "Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit."
	Ezekiel 36:27 — "I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees."	Galatians 5:22-23 — "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance..."
	2 Samuel 23:2 — "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me."	2 Corinthians 3:17 — "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."
	Nehemiah 9:20 — "You gave your good Spirit to instruct them."	Ephesians 1:13 — "You were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit."

<b>Category</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
	Isaiah 63:10 — "They rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit."	John 16:13 — "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth."
	Psalms 139:7 — "Where can I go from your Spirit?"	Titus 3:5 — "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."
	Micah 3:8 — "I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord."	Acts 2:38 — "Repent and be baptized, every one of you... and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

<b>Category</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
<b>JESUS</b>	Genesis 3:15 — "He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."	John 1:1 — "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
	Isaiah 7:14 — "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."	John 1:14 — "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."
	Isaiah 9:6 — "For to us a child is born... Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."	Matthew 1:23 — "They will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us')."
	Micah 5:2 — "Out of Bethlehem will come one who will be ruler over Israel."	Luke 2:11 — "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."
	Zechariah 9:9 — "See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey."	John 14:6 — "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
	Psalms 22:16-18 — "They pierce my hands and my feet... they divide my clothes among them."	1 Corinthians 15:3-4 — "Christ died for our sins... he was buried, and he was raised on the third day."
	Isaiah 53:5 — "He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities."	1 Peter 2:24 — "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross."

Category	Old Testament	New Testament
	Daniel 7:13-14 — "One like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven... he was given authority, glory and sovereign power."	Revelation 1:7 — "Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him."
	Malachi 4:2 — "The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays."	Hebrews 1:3 — "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being."
	Psalms 110:1 — "The Lord says to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"	Matthew 26:64 — "You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

## **“Agnostic Atheist” Professor Bart Ehrman: deceiving people about God’s truth, love and hope**

**Bart Ehrman** is a New Testament scholar and historian who teaches at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- He **specializes** in textual criticism (studying ancient biblical manuscripts) and the **historical development of early Christianity**.
- Ehrman was raised in a Christian environment, became an **evangelical**, then a **liberal Christian**, and eventually a **self-described agnostic**.
- His big focus is pointing out **errors, variants, and human elements** in the Bible’s transmission — sometimes **overstating problems** to skeptical audiences.
- He’s written popular books like *Misquoting Jesus*, *Jesus, Interrupted*, and *How Jesus Became God*, which argue that the Bible was **altered over time** and **that Jesus’ divinity was a later invention** (both of which are heavily challenged by conservative scholars).
- Critics say Ehrman often **exaggerates doubts** that mainstream scholarship has already addressed — making old questions sound like new threats.

## **Timeline of Bart Ehrman’s Faith Shift:**

### **✓ Teen Years — Conservative “Christian”**

- Grew up in a church where the Bible was taught as inerrant (without error).

- Went to Moody Bible Institute (very conservative).

✓ **College Years** — *Still “Christian”, but questions forming.*

- Attended Wheaton College (Christian liberal arts school).
- Started studying Greek and the original biblical texts.

✓ **Graduate School** — *Serious doubts begin.*

- Studied at Princeton Theological Seminary.
- Encountered Bible "variants" (small manuscript differences).
- Professors introduced more critical, non-inerrant views of Scripture.

✓ **Early Career** — *Shift from evangelical to liberal Christian.*

- Believed the Bible had human errors but still followed Christian faith morally/spiritually.

✓ **Later Career (Midlife)** — *Abandoned Christianity altogether.*

- Deeply struggled with the "problem of evil" (suffering in the world).
- Publicly declared himself an **agnostic atheist** — someone who doesn't believe in the Christian God and is unsure if any god exists.

**"Bart Ehrman didn't leave Christianity because the Bible fell apart — he left because he couldn't accept suffering, not because he disproved Scripture."**

Ehrman foolishly denies Satan's existence, ignoring both the Bible's clear teaching and Jesus' direct encounters with him. He argues that either God causes suffering or is powerless to stop it. But Satan's mission has always been to destroy and deceive—using voices like Ehrman's to shift blame from himself to God. God allowed His Son to be tempted, tortured, and crucified—knowing it would bring about ultimate good. Suffering can awaken us to evil's reality and our need for God. Watching my parents suffer and die from cancer and my brother-in-law suffer from depression and end his life deepened my hope for heaven and my hatred for Satan and his workers' destructive work.

## What Bart Ehrman Teaches About Satan:

- **Ehrman believes** Satan is a *literary and theological development* — **not a real personal being**.
- In his book "*God's Problem*" and interviews, he explains that **he sees Satan** as a **human invention to explain evil and suffering**.
- Ehrman argues that in the **Old Testament**, Satan was originally more like a *heavenly accuser* (for example, in **Job 1–2**), not the evil enemy we think of today.
- He says the idea of **Satan as the personal "Prince of Evil" grew over time** — especially between the Old Testament and New Testament (during the "intertestamental period" — 400 silent years).
- Ehrman also teaches that early Christians (including Jesus' followers) **blamed Satan** for the world's brokenness, but he views those beliefs as **cultural explanations** rather than divine revelation.

**Ehrman foolishly denies Satan's reality. He sees Satan as a man-made idea that evolved to explain evil and suffering. Satan is a brilliant deceiver.**

## But Satan is real-10 Verses Describing Satan — Old Testament & New Testament

Category	Old Testament	New Testament
<b>1. Tempts Humanity</b>	Genesis 3:1 — "Now the serpent was more crafty..."	Matthew 4:1 — "Jesus was led... to be tempted by the devil."
<b>2. Roams the Earth</b>	Job 1:6-7 — "Satan... roaming throughout the earth."	1 Peter 5:8 — "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion."
<b>3. Accuses Believers</b>	Zechariah 3:1 — "Satan standing... to accuse him."	Revelation 12:10 — "The accuser of our brothers and sisters..."
<b>4. Incites Rebellion</b>	1 Chronicles 21:1 — "Satan rose up against Israel and incited David..."	2 Corinthians 11:14 — "Satan masquerades as an angel of light."

Category	Old Testament	New Testament
<b>5. Opposes God's Plans</b>	Numbers 22:22 — "The angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him." (linked to opposition forces, traditionally seen as Satan influencing)	Matthew 13:19 — "The evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in the heart."
<b>6. Brings Suffering</b>	Job 2:6-7 — "Satan... struck Job with painful sores."	Luke 13:16 — "Satan has kept this woman bound for eighteen long years."
<b>7. Deceives Nations</b>	Isaiah 14:12 — "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!"	2 Thessalonians 2:9 — "Satan works with all sorts of displays of power, signs and wonders that serve the lie."
<b>8. Filled with Pride</b>	Ezekiel 28:17 — "Your heart became proud on account of your beauty..." (traditional link to Satan's fall)	1 Timothy 3:6 — "He must not be a recent convert... lest he fall into the same condemnation as the devil."
<b>9. Threatens God's People</b>	Psalms 109:6 — "Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy; let an accuser (Satan) stand at his right hand."	Ephesians 6:11 — "Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."
<b>10. Will Be Defeated</b>	Genesis 3:15 — "He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."	Romans 16:20 — "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

- Satan's nature — *deceptive, proud, accusatory, destructive* — is **consistent across both Old and New Testaments**.
- **Jesus interacted with Satan.**
- His **future defeat** is also promised from the beginning!

## Historical Evidence for Satan's Existence

There's no "historical evidence" for Satan the way we find historical evidence for a person like Jesus or Caesar — because Satan is a **spiritual being**. BUT... **serious historical indicators** point to his **real existence**:

## 1. Consistent Ancient Testimony

- Across **cultures and millennia**, people consistently describe encounters with **evil spiritual forces**.
- Ancient Jews (Old Testament), early Christians (New Testament), Egyptians, Mesopotamians, and others wrote about a powerful personal evil being — *not just evil as an idea*.
- These writings (especially Scripture) show a **global, cross-cultural memory** of a personal evil being.

## 2. Jesus' Recorded Testimony

- Jesus repeatedly described Satan as a **real personal being** — *not* a myth or symbol (John 8:44, Luke 10:18).
- If Jesus truly rose from the dead (which history powerfully supports), then **His words about Satan must be taken seriously**.

## 3. Early Church Experience

- Early Christians recorded real **encounters with demonic forces** — casting out demons, resisting Satan's temptations (Acts 16:16-18, Acts 19:11-17).
- These weren't fringe claims — they were **mainstream parts** of early Christianity, verified by many eyewitnesses.

## 4. Continued Modern Testimony

- Across the centuries, credible Christians (including missionaries, pastors, and everyday believers) have reported **consistent experiences with real evil spirits**.
- Modern Christian leaders like Billy Graham, C.S. Lewis (*Screwtape Letters*), and missionaries in Africa and Asia affirm Satan's active presence.

## 5. The Problem of Radical Evil

- History (e.g., genocides, brutal regimes, unimaginable cruelty) shows that **evil is not just ignorance** — it often feels *intelligent, personal, and purposeful*. See below.

- Scripture explains this: *there's a real evil leader — Satan — at work in the world* (Ephesians 6:12).

No physical artifact proves Satan, but the **testimony of Jesus, ancient records, worldwide experiences,** and the **nature of radical evil** all strongly support that Satan is **real and active**.

## **Atrocities That Reveal Satan's Work in History**

- 1. The Holocaust (1941–1945):** 6 million Jews (plus millions of others) systematically murdered by Nazi Germany. Hatred of God's chosen people (Genesis 12:1-3).
- 2. African Slave Trade (1500s–1800s):** Over 12 million Africans kidnapped, trafficked, brutalized, and killed in unspeakable cruelty — all fueled by greed, racism, and dehumanization.
- 3. Cambodian Genocide (1975–1979):** The Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, massacred 2 million of their own citizens — torture, execution, starvation.
- 4. Rwandan Genocide (1994):** In just 100 days, nearly 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by their neighbors — often hacked to death with machetes.
- 5. Stalin's Great Purge (1936–1938):** Millions executed, imprisoned, and tortured in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin — a regime built on terror and lies.
- 6. Mao's Cultural Revolution (1966–1976):** Tens of millions persecuted, tortured, or killed in China to eliminate "counter-revolutionary" thought — including attacks on families and churches.
- 7. Abortion Worldwide (1970s–present):** Over 40 million unborn children aborted globally *each year* — often defended as "choice," revealing a chilling culture of death.
- 8. Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery (ongoing):** Over 27 million people enslaved today — many women and children abused daily in dark, hidden systems of evil.



**9. ISIS Atrocities (2010s):** Public beheadings, mass rapes, genocide of Yazidis and Christians — glorifying death and cruelty under a satanic distortion of religion.

**10. Child Sacrifice in Ancient Cultures (e.g., Canaanites, Aztecs):** Archaeology confirms ancient societies offered children as burnt offerings to false gods — a direct, horrifying mirror of Satan’s hatred for innocence.

Each of these atrocities shows **organized, targeted, destructive evil** — beyond simple human weakness — reflecting **the intelligence and malice of Satan** (John 10:10a: *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy."*).

## 10 Quick Replies to Bart Ehrman's Foolish Claims

**1. "The New Testament is corrupted!"**

→ *"99% of variants are trivial; no doctrine is changed — we can reconstruct the original."*

**2. "The Gospels were anonymous!"**

→ *"Early fathers like Papias named the authors by 100 AD — no rival traditions exist."*

**3. "Jesus never claimed to be God!"**

→ *"Jesus forgave sins and early creeds worship Him as God within years of His death."*

**4. "The resurrection accounts contradict!"**

→ *"Minor details differ, but core facts — empty tomb and appearances — agree perfectly."*

**5. "Constantine changed the Bible!"**

→ *"The Bible’s books were recognized early (by 150 AD), long before Constantine."*

**6. "Early Christians didn’t think Jesus was divine!"**

→ *"Paul and early Christians worshiped Jesus as divine decades before Nicea."*

**7. "Suffering disproves God!"**

→ *"Christianity uniquely claims Jesus entered suffering and redeems it."*

**8. "Oral tradition is unreliable!"**

→ *“Jewish oral culture was precise — Luke relied on living eyewitnesses.”*

**9. "Resurrection was just hallucination!"**

→ *“Hallucinations are private — but Jesus appeared to groups and 500+ people.”*

**10. "Christianity copied pagan myths!"**

→ *“No true parallel — pagan myths are symbolic, not historical bodily resurrections.”*

**10 Times Bart Ehrman Is Wrong (Expanded Version)****1. The New Testament Text Was Radically Corrupted**

Bart Ehrman claims the New Testament was corrupted beyond recognition, but 99% of the textual variants are minor (like spelling or word order). Scholars like Daniel Wallace show that no essential Christian doctrine is affected, and the sheer volume of early manuscripts lets us confidently reconstruct the original text.

**2. The Gospels Were Anonymous and Later Attributed to Apostles**

Ehrman argues that the Gospels were anonymous until the second century, but early church fathers like Papias (early 100s AD) and Irenaeus (180 AD) directly name the authors. No evidence shows competing names — a strong sign that the early church preserved true authorship tied to eyewitnesses.

**3. Jesus Never Claimed to Be God**

Ehrman insists Jesus never claimed divinity, but the earliest Gospel (Mark) shows Jesus forgiving sins (Mark 2) — a divine act. Early Christian hymns (Philippians 2) already describe Jesus as existing “in the form of God,” demonstrating that His followers believed He was divine within years, not centuries. Jesus was killed for blasphemy.

**4. The Resurrection Accounts Are Hopelessly Contradictory**

Ehrman points to minor differences in the resurrection narratives, but small variations are normal among independent eyewitnesses. Importantly, all Gospels agree on the core facts: Jesus' tomb was empty and He appeared alive again. Far

from undermining the accounts, the differences actually strengthen their authenticity.

### **5. The Bible Was Changed by Political Agendas (e.g., Constantine)**

Ehrman suggests that the Bible was politically manipulated, especially during Constantine's era, but historical evidence shows that the New Testament canon was largely recognized by the early 2nd century, based on widespread, organic acceptance — not imperial decree. Early manuscript discoveries confirm this early stability.

### **6. The Early Christians Didn't Believe Jesus Was Divine**

Contrary to Ehrman's claim, the belief in Jesus' divinity was not a later invention. Paul's letters, dated just 15-20 years after Christ's death, worship Jesus as Lord and God (Philippians 2:5-11, 1 Corinthians 8:6). Even hostile pagan sources like Pliny the Younger confirm early Christians worshiped Jesus as divine.

### **7. Suffering Disproves the God of the Bible**

Ehrman abandoned faith mainly over the problem of evil, but Christianity uniquely explains suffering: God Himself entered into human suffering through Christ (Isaiah 53). Unlike distant deities, the Christian God is personal, compassionate, and ultimately redeems suffering through resurrection and restoration.

### **8. Oral Tradition Before the Gospels Makes Them Unreliable**

Ehrman implies that early oral transmission was unreliable, but Jewish oral culture was extremely disciplined. Disciples were trained to memorize large amounts of sacred material accurately. Luke explicitly mentions using eyewitness sources (Luke 1:1-4), and living eyewitnesses would correct distortions.

### **9. Disciples Didn't Truly Believe They Saw a Risen Jesus**

Ehrman speculates that hallucinations explain resurrection appearances, but hallucinations are private, individual phenomena — not shared group experiences. The New Testament records multiple group appearances of the risen Jesus (e.g., to over 500 at once, 1 Corinthians 15:6), which psychological studies find impossible to explain via hallucination.

### **10. Christianity Borrowed Resurrection/Myth Ideas from Pagan Religions**

Ehrman flirts with the idea that Christian resurrection beliefs were borrowed from pagan myths, but serious scholarship shows no real parallel. Pagan myths like Osiris involve spiritual or symbolic returns, not bodily resurrection in history. Christianity's claim — a crucified man rising physically — is unique.

## **Conclusion:**

God's authority, the Bible's truth, Christ's uniqueness, Satan's deception, and coming judgment are all real. So are wolves like Bart Ehrman who work to steal truth, love, and hope from people. Life is brief and fragile—do you want truth, love and hope? If so, what's your relationship with the God of the Bible?

Let's talk: **[Bryce@TruthLoveHope.org](mailto:Bryce@TruthLoveHope.org)**

\*I used Chat GPT 4.0 to help improve this updated version of "ABCs of Truth" modifying its responses as needed.