

What Man May Have Missed In Jesus' Message

This **Weekly Thought** is part of our continuing series covering what man may have missed in **The Holy Bible**. These weekly articles are meant to raise thought provoking questions about what man may have missed, misinterpreted or misunderstood about **The Message of Jesus, The Christ**. For over fifty years I have researched and studied history and I am sharing the results with you. Share with your loves ones.

One of the key things many modern-day Christians have missed is that for the first several hundred years after Christ was crucified there was no Bible. The teachings of Jesus were passed along orally from generation to generation. The Catholic Church calls these oral histories "Traditions". So, when Catholics talk of the Traditions of the Church, they are actually referring to the oral history of the teachings of Jesus.

The Gospels are central to the New Testament and Jesus's Teachings. The earliest copies of the Gospels found so far date from 30-40 years after Christ. Surprising to most Christians is the fact that they were not written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John but by followers of the Apostles who put to paper the oral stories "Traditions" told by them. That's why we say the Gospel "according to" rather than "written by".

Most historians and scholars agree that the authors of the Gospels were not eye witnesses to the ministry of Jesus but rather relied on the oral Traditions passed down from those Apostles who had experienced direct personal contact with Jesus. There may exist a so called "Q" Source which predates the known Gospels, and there are Gospel fragments, notably those discovered near Naq Hammadi, that may have been written by Peter and Mary Magdalene, but the Church has rejected these Gospels. Therefore, to date man has not discovered any Gospels written by someone who actually knew or met Jesus in person.

And the Gospels are just four of the many books comprising the Bible. In fact, the various Christian Religions can't even agree on how many separate books make up the Bible. The books comprising the Bible also include books from the Old Testament, plus the Acts and Letters of the Apostles. Protestant Bibles generally contain 66 Books, Catholic Bibles 73, while the Ethiopian Orthodox Bible has 81 books.

Along with the different numbers of books, there exist many different translations. Many agree that Jesus most likely spoke and taught in Aramaic. Scholars believe when the "oral traditions" of the New Testament were finally written down they were most likely written in Greek. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. These versions were translated into Latin by the 4th century which was called the Vulgate. The Wycliffe Bible is a translation from Vulgate to English, which wasn't available until the 14th Century. For centuries, until printed Bibles became widely available during the Renaissance, most Christians could only rely on "Tradition" as taught by their priest or pastor. It is a modern luxury to have a Bible by your bedside.

We tend to think of the Bible as "One Book" containing **The Word of God** which has been with us since the time of Christ. In fact, The Bible is many books which have been translated many times and its contents differ even among Christian Religions. Is it not possible that man may have missed part of **Jesus' Message?**

Explore with me ***What Man May Have Missed In Jesus' Message*** in my upcoming **Weekly Thoughts**.

God Bless!

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