

Life BALANCE

Finding Peace Amidst Chaos





INTRODUCTION TO THE

HOLY BIBLE

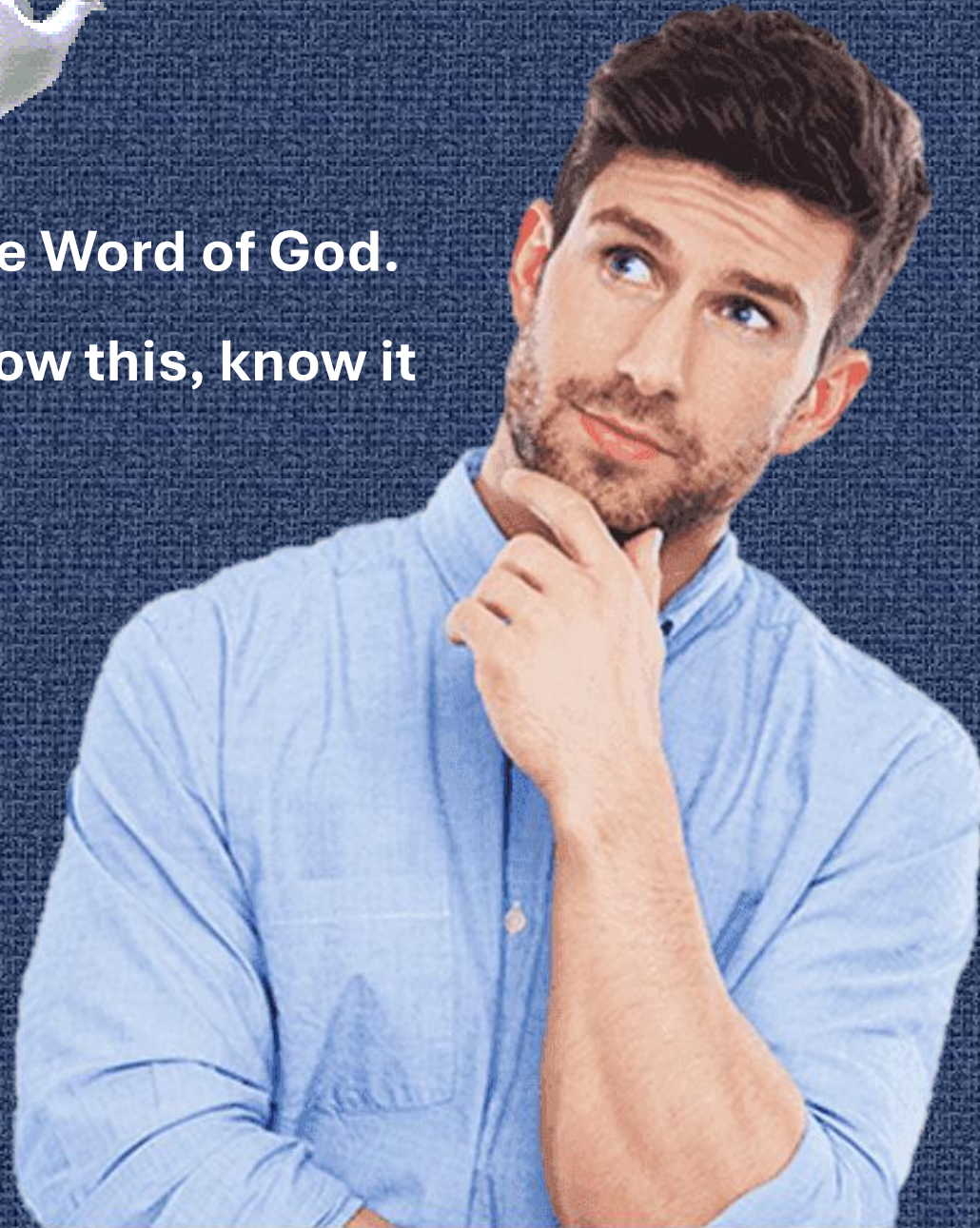
PART 3



INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY




**The Bible is the Word of God.
How do we know this, know it
for sure?**



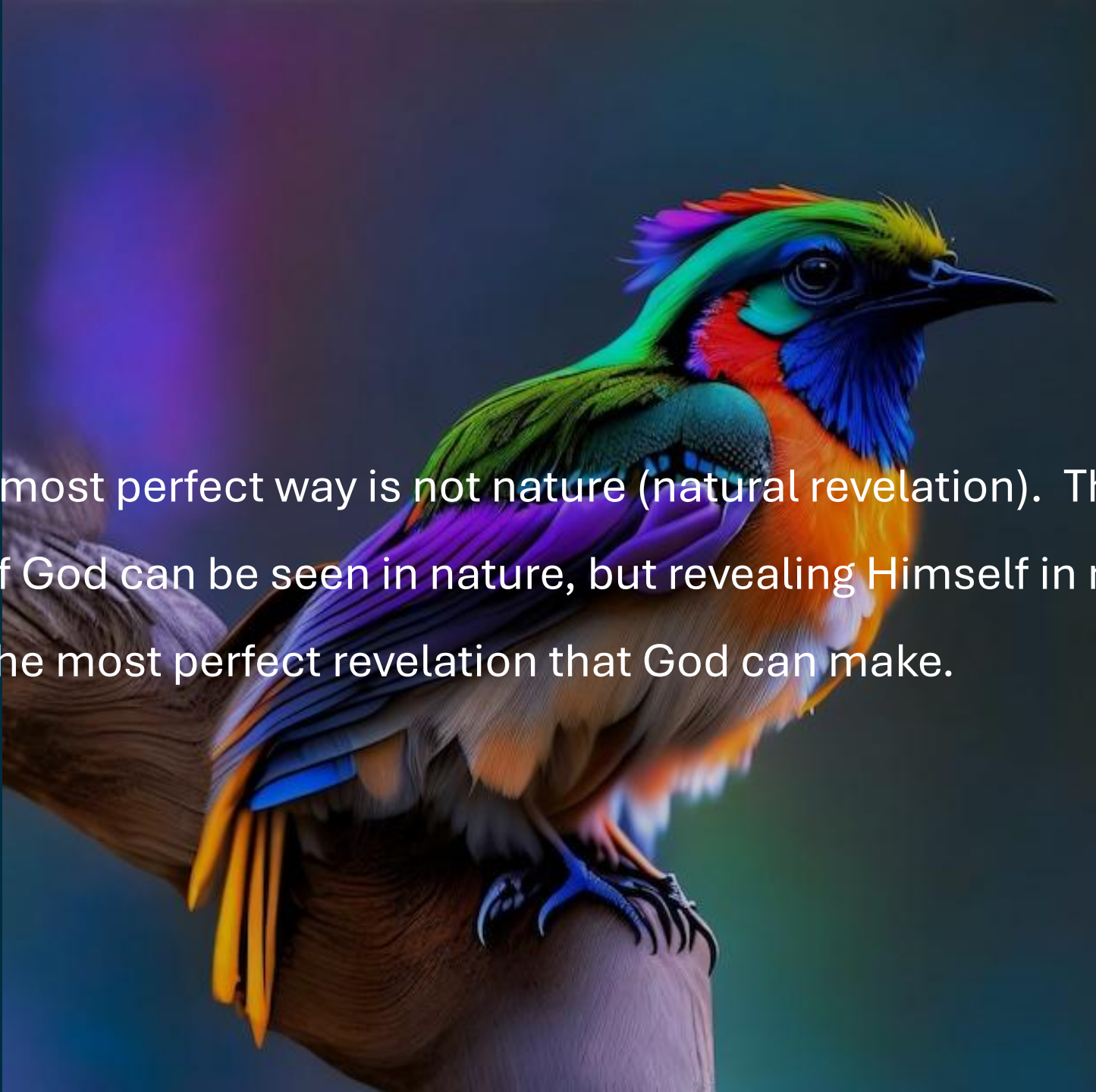


1. *Honest Reason and Logic:*

God is a God of love, not of indifference and hate. A God of love would never leave man in the dark about the truth of life, feeling, searching, grasping, and stumbling about after the truth, ever seeking and never able to come to the truth.

A religious scene set in a village at sunset. Jesus, with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a brown sash, is kneeling on the ground. He is looking up at a young child with curly hair, who is standing and looking down at him. Jesus has his hands near the child's face in a gentle gesture. In the background, a crowd of people in traditional robes is gathered, and a white dove is flying in the upper left. A white lamb is lying on the ground to the right. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

A God of truth is bound to reveal the truth of life in the most perfect way possible. What is the most perfect way?

A vibrant, multi-colored bird, possibly a species of honeycreeper, is perched on a dark, textured branch. The bird's plumage is a mix of bright colors: a rainbow-colored crest (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple), a blue face, a red throat, a blue and white breast, and a blue and white back. Its tail feathers are yellow and blue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of purple and blue.

a. The most perfect way is not nature (natural revelation). The hand of God can be seen in nature, but revealing Himself in nature is not the most perfect revelation that God can make.



b. The most perfect way is not conscience (moral revelation). The righteousness of God can be sensed in conscience, but revealing Himself in conscience is not the most perfect revelation.



The most perfect way to reveal Himself is by doing just what any person does when they wish to communicate some truth:

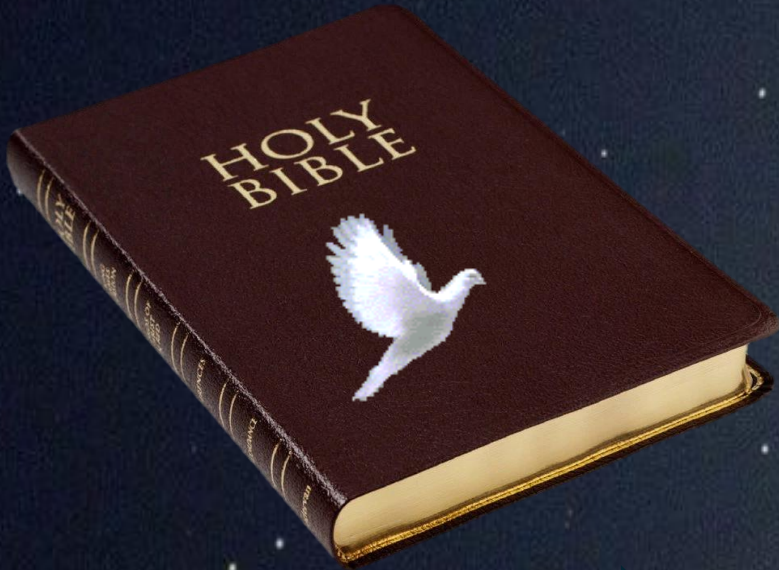


They write the truth down in permanent form.



They present the truth in person (if they are able)

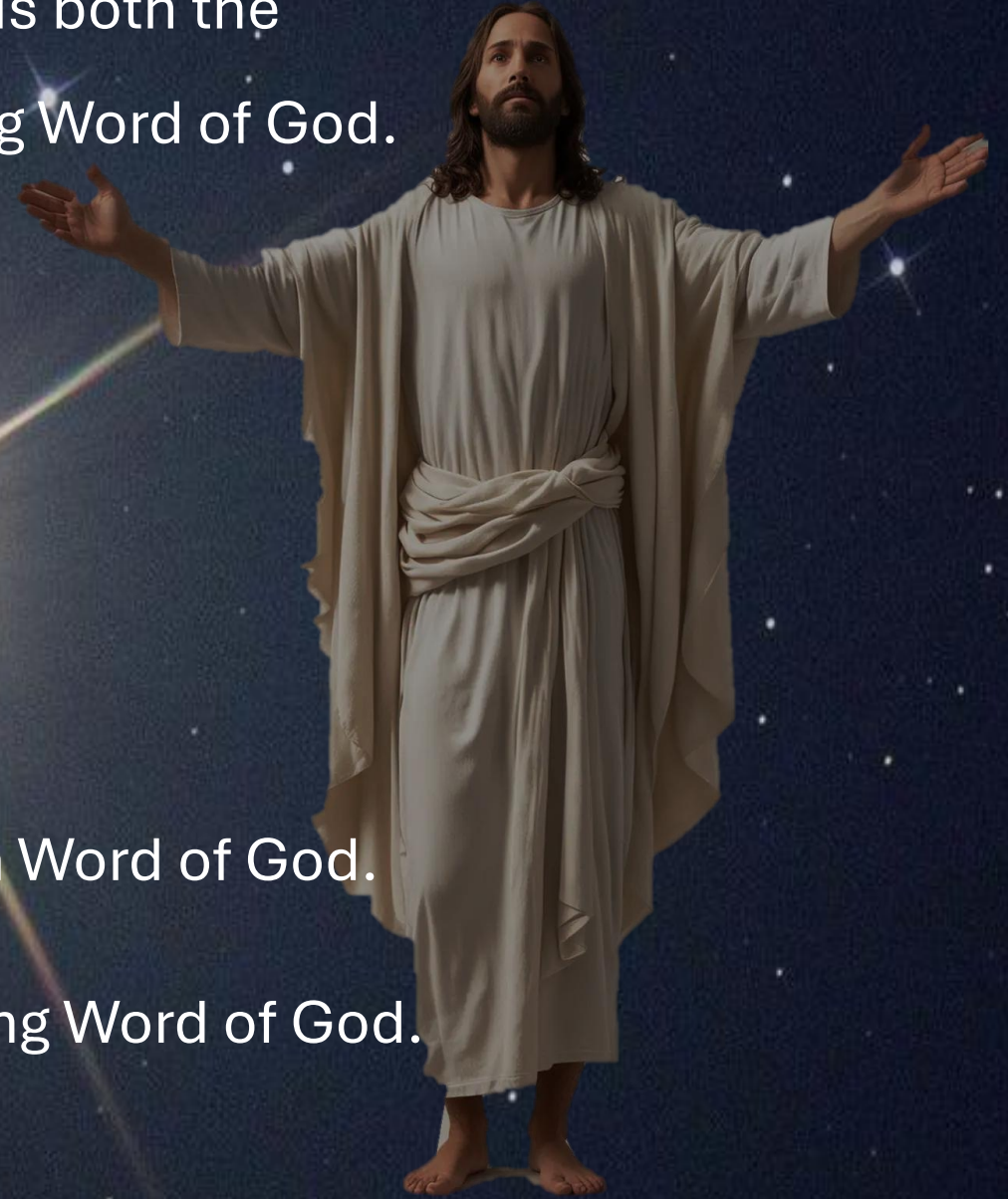
This God has done. He has given us both the
Written Word of God and the Living Word of God.



The Bible is the written Word of God.



Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God.





The Written Word testifies to the Living Word
and the Living Word (Christ Himself) testifies
to the Written Word (Matthew 5:17-18).





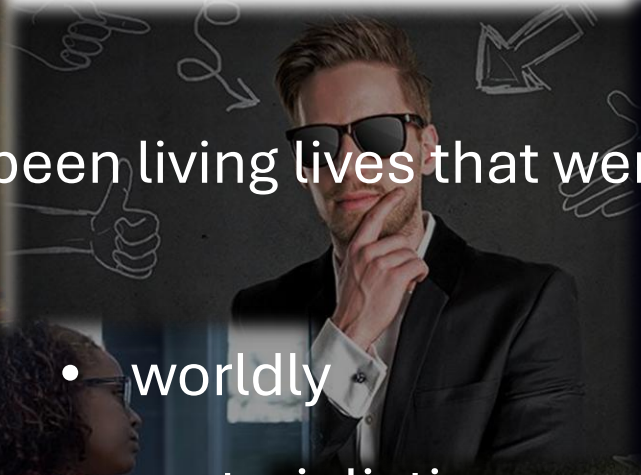



Again, how do we know the Bible is the Word of God?
By logic and reason, *honest logic and honest reason*.
God is bound to reveal the truth to us in the
most perfect way possible, both in writing
and in person.








2. *Changed Lives*: millions of lives have been changed by the Bible down through the centuries. Some persons were changed when they were reading or else being confronted by its message; others were changed when they were hearing the Bible taught or preached.

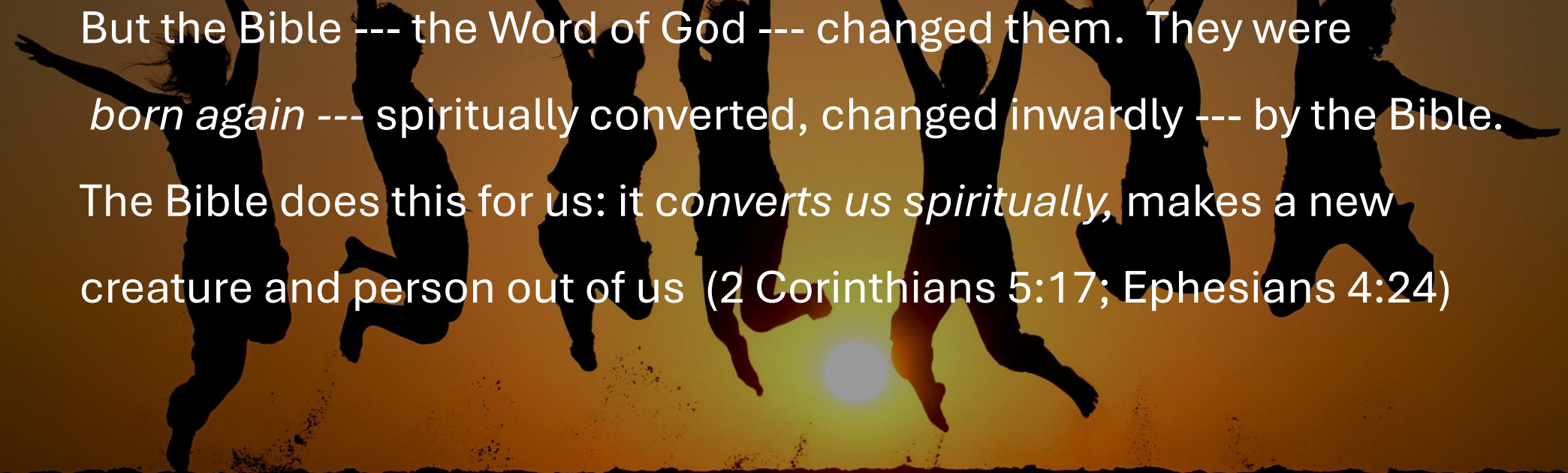




They had been living lives that were:

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- 
- 
- 
- worldly
 - materialistic
 - immoral
 - drunken
 - selfish
 - greedy
 - covetous
 - indulgent

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- secular
 - lonely
 - empty
 - meaningless
 - indifferent
 - wasted
 - agnostic
 - atheist



But the Bible --- the Word of God --- changed them. They were
born again --- spiritually converted, changed inwardly --- by the Bible.
The Bible does this for us: it *converts us spiritually*, makes a new
creature and person out of us (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24)



For you have been *born again*, not of perishable seed,
but of imperishable, through the living and enduring
Word of God.

1 Peter 1:23





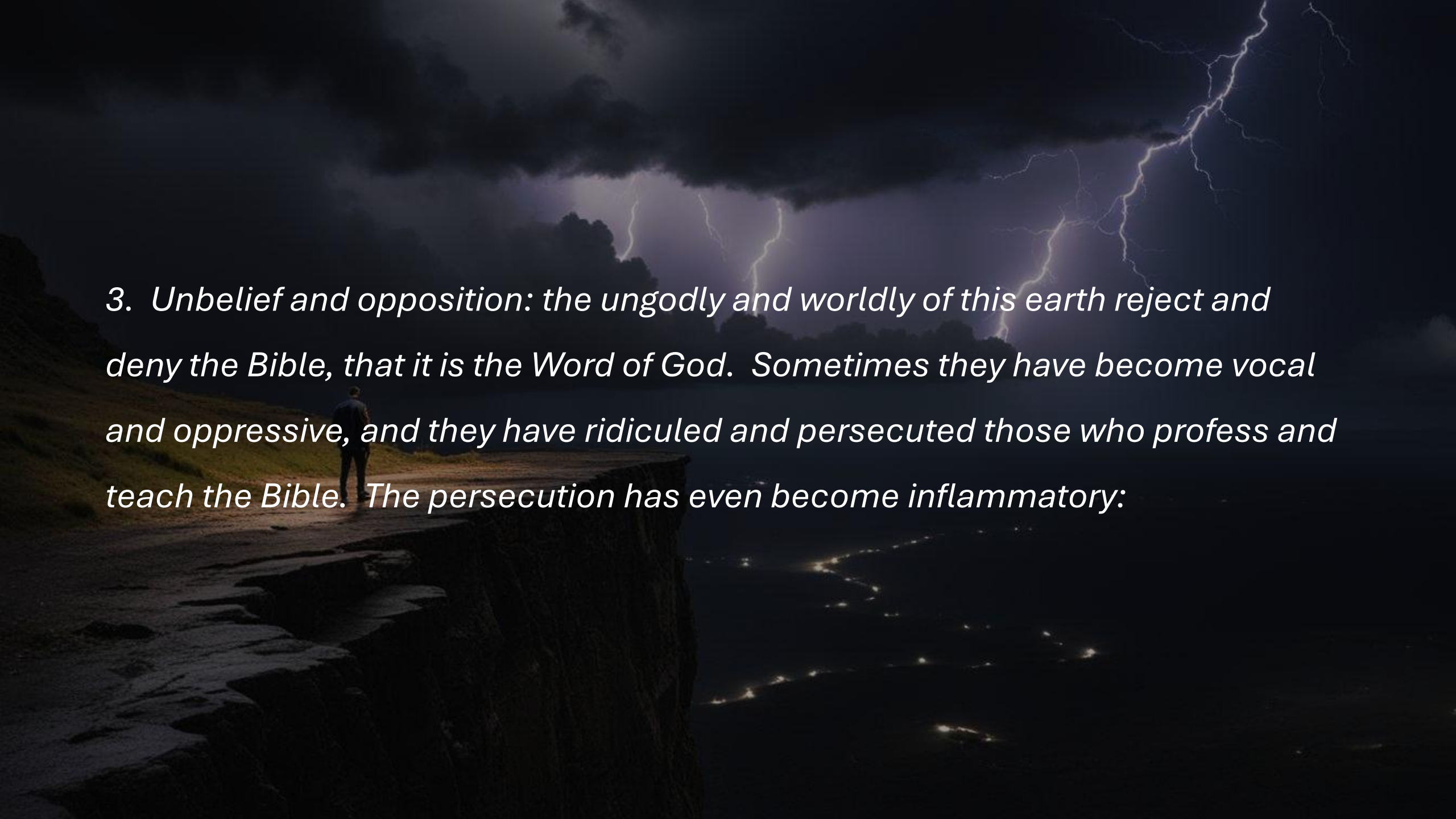
The Bible stirs us to live for God, to live righteous and godly lives. But in return, the Bible gives us the perfect assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are going to live eternally with God. The Bible stirs us to live moral and upright lives, unselfish and giving lives, the kind of lives that make a community and society strong in love and true justice, in joy and peace.



As stated, millions of lives have been changed, and thousands are still being changed every day --- spiritually converted --- by the Bible. This is strong evidence that the Bible is truly the Word of God: it transforms lives.

A black Bible with gold lettering and a gold border is positioned in the lower right corner of the image. The text "HOLY BIBLE" is written in gold capital letters on the front cover.

HOLY BIBLE

A dramatic landscape featuring a person standing on the edge of a dark, rocky cliff. The sky is dark and stormy, with several bright lightning bolts striking down. The ground is dark and uneven, and the overall atmosphere is one of intensity and drama.

3. Unbelief and opposition: the ungodly and worldly of this earth reject and deny the Bible, that it is the Word of God. Sometimes they have become vocal and oppressive, and they have ridiculed and persecuted those who profess and teach the Bible. The persecution has even become inflammatory:



Deliberate plots have been made to stamp out the Bible; even to the point of having community bonfires to burn them.

Governments have outlawed its presence within their lands, actually making it a crime for a citizen to own a Bible.

Worldly scholars attack the Bible, denying that it is the Word of God, attempting to water down its authority and meaningfulness in life.

The worldly and carnal, neglect, reject, and deny the Bible, and often ridicule those who hold its teachings dear to their hearts.

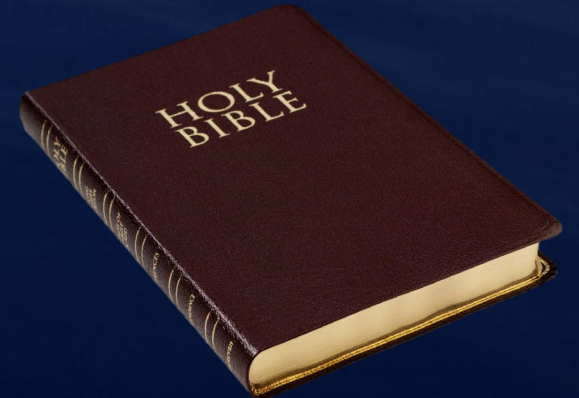


Why? Why do so many of this earth oppose the Bible? Because it tells us the truth about God and ourselves, demanding that we live righteous and godly lives. The Bible demands. . .

- that we live lives that are moral, just, and good
- that we accept, love, and live at peace with all people of all races and nations
- that we sacrificially give to meet the needs of the poor and the spiritually lost.



Very few people are willing to give their lives up to God and to accept and love people as brothers and sisters. And fewer still are willing to give to the point of sacrifice in meeting the needs of the poor and in carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. This is why so many reject the Bible and its followers so much. Very simply, the Bible reminds people that they cannot live lives like they want.



But note, belief in the Bible has always grown when there has been a deliberate attempt made to stamp it out. Persecution stirs the flame of evangelism: it weeds out the weak and carnal --- those who hold to a false profession --- and it strengthens the true believers, making them more courageous and determined to stand true for the Word of God.





How? How could the Bible, the Word of God actually grow and be strengthened when it has been ridiculed and persecuted as it has?

If any other book has been attacked, opposed, and burned as much as the Bible, that book would have disappeared long ago.

