

Building Bridges Series III

Tentative Schedule

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The Heart of the Series

2 Timothy 2:15 - Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be **ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Building Bridges III

The Bible vs. Joseph Smith

Produced by Joel Kramer

The Test of a Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:21 - And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’—

Deuteronomy 18:22 - when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

* The Test of a Prophet: Whatever the prophet says must come true.

Introduction Page to the Book of Mormon

“The book was written by many ancient prophets by the spirit of prophecy and revelation.”

Testing the Book of Mormon Prophet Nephi

1 Nephi 13 Chapter Heading - Nephi sees in vision the church of the devil set up among the Gentiles, the discovery and colonizing of America, the loss of many plain and precious parts of the Bible, the resultant state of gentile apostasy, the restoration of the gospel, the coming forth of latter-day scripture, and the building up of Zion. About 600–592 B.C.

* Christianity is based on the Old and New Testament alone as scripture.

* Mormonism is saying, no, there is a problem with the Bible it’s been corrupted, this (the Book of Mormon is the restoration of that corruption. So these books, (the Book of Mormon, Doctrine & Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price) must be taken into account.

2 Nephi 29:6 - Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible. Have ye obtained a Bible save it were by the Jews?

2 Nephi 29 Chapter Heading - Many Gentiles will reject the Book of Mormon—They will say, We need no more Bible—The Lord speaks to many nations—He will judge the world out of the books which will be written. About 559–545 B.C.

1 Nephi 13:26 - And after they go forth by the hand of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, from the Jews unto the Gentiles, thou seest the formation of that great and abominable church, which is most abominable above all other churches; for behold, they have taken away from the gospel of the Lamb many parts which are plain and most precious; and also many covenants of the Lord have they taken away.

* So around 600 B.C Nephi prophesied that after the twelve apostles of Jesus, the abominable church, (early Christian Church), would corrupt the Bible.

1 Nephi 13:28-29 - Wherefore, thou seest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God. 29 And after these plain and precious things were taken away it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles; and after it goeth forth unto all the nations of the Gentiles, yea, even across the many waters

which thou hast seen with the Gentiles which have gone forth out of captivity, thou seest—because of the many plain and precious things which have been taken out of the book, which were plain unto the understanding of the children of men, according to the plainness which is in the Lamb of God—because of these things which are taken away out of the gospel of the Lamb, an exceedingly great many do stumble, yea, insomuch that Satan hath great power over them.

1 Nephi 14:3 - And that great pit, which hath been digged for them by that great and abominable church, which was founded by the devil and his children, that he might lead away the souls of men down to hell—yea, that great pit which hath been digged for the destruction of men shall be filled by those who digged it, unto their utter destruction, saith the Lamb of God; not the destruction of the soul, save it be the casting of it into that hell which hath no end.

* So the Book of Mormon is saying that because of the corruption of the Bible, those who follow this corrupted Bible would end up in hell.

The New Testament

Dr. Christophe Rico, Linguist

- * The first question or demand is to produce a single manuscript of this prophet.
- * There is no manuscript from the middle ages or antiquities that they can produce.
- * This is a text that has been written in modern times.
- * There are no manuscripts that predate Joseph Smith. (1830 A.D.) Not here on earth.
- * Tomorrow anyone can come and say I have had a revelation from heaven, and this is true.

Basic teaching of the LDS Church of How the Corruption of the Bible Occurred

* There was one copy of the scriptures, when it grew old and faded, another monk would recopy it, and this happened over and over. When it faded, they would create a new one, and if they didn't like the way something read, or if they thought it was too controversial, they would just leave it out.

Dr. Christophe Rico, Linguist

- * The church started to spread over the entire Roman Empire. And what they needed were copies. Therefore there were thousands of copies of the New Testament.
- * We have over 6,000 copies that go back to antiquity, either in Hebrew for the Old Testament, or in Greek for the New Testament.
- * If talking about version, we have over 40,000 copies.
- * There is no other single book in antiquity where you have so many texts.
- * The Book of Mormon has ZERO ancient manuscripts to back it up. Yet it is criticizing the Bible of being unreliable, when the Bible has 40,000 ancient manuscripts to support it.
- * With all of the texts, manuscripts, fragments we have, it would be impossible for a monk to leave out or change something in the Bible without being discovered.
- * If a monk wanted to make a change, his change when compared to all the other thousands of copies, would stand out like a sore thumb.

The Old Testament

* This is true for the Old Testament as well. Only these manuscripts are even older than when Nephi prophesied that the corruption took place.

* In Israel you can test the Old Testament with the Dead Sea Scrolls.

* Nephi prophesied that the Bible would be corrupted after the twelve apostles, and because the Dead Sea Scrolls are much older than the predicted corruption we can compare the Dead Sea Scrolls with our modern Bibles to see if any plain or precious portions were missing.

Dr. Randall Price, Archeologist

(Interviewed at Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.)

* The Dead Sea Scrolls predate Jesus birth and the birth of the Church. They were hidden away and not discovered for 2,000 years after. So this gives us an opportunity to look at history before this became a controversy or any changes could be introduced and it tell us that the text remains unchanged.

* There is nothing different from the ancient text to our modern Bibles, so there is nothing missing.

Dr. Christophe Rico, Linguist

* When we are talking about the New Testament, we are talking about the best ever well known book of antiquity. The difference of what we know of the New Testament from any other book in antiquity is amazing.

* Being able to prove that there has been no changes and there are no missing parts nullify the need for a restoration.

* When we compare all the copies of the New Testament that we have, the differences are very small. You cannot show me a single text where this (changing, or removing text) has been done.

* The differences we have are very, very, very tiny. They do not affect the substance of the meaning. It is the difference between saying, “but” and “however.”

Conclusion

* Evidence proves that the prophecy of Nephi did not happen.

* Therefore, because Nephi’s prediction did not happen he fails the Biblical Test of a Prophet and is a False Prophet.

Testing the Prophets in the Bible

* The essential centrality of the Old Testament prophets was the coming of the Messiah.

* The writers of the New Testament believed that Jesus Christ was this Messiah.

Testing of the Biblical Prophet Micah

* Around 700 B.C. prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 - “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

* A fragment of Micah’s prophesy was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls in cave #4, and dates to 100 A.D., making it a century older than the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:1 - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

Matthew 2:5–6 - So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: **6** ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

* So there is a link between the prophesy of Jesus in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New Testament.

* You can go to Bethlehem, to the Church of the Nativity, built over the traditional place of the birth of Jesus, a sight that people have been visiting for almost 2,000 years.

Dr. Gariel Barkay, Archeologist, Not Christian

* Jesus’ birth took place in the caves under the Church of the Nativity, no doubt.

The Book of Alma (Book of Mormon)

Alma 7:10 And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall be overshadowed and conceive by the power of the Holy Ghost, and bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.

Alma Chapter 7 Heading - Christ will be born of Mary—He will loose the bands of death and bear the sins of His people—Those who repent, are baptized, and keep the commandments will have eternal life—Filthiness cannot inherit the kingdom of God—Humility, faith, hope, and charity are required. About 83 B.C.

* The prophet Micah in the Bible says the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the prophet Alma in the Book of Mormon says Jesus would be born in Jerusalem. They cannot both be right.

* LDS scholars try to say the because Bethlehem and Jerusalem were so close, they can be considered the same place.

Daniel Peterson, LDS Scholar

* “Was Bethlehem part of the land of the Bible, well even today, if you go to Bethlehem, you realize it’s essentially a suburb.”

Kenny Shirts, LDS Scholar

* “Bethlehem is how far away from Jerusalem? What 6 miles? Of course it’s going to be in the land of Jerusalem.”

* Historical Geographers have never considered Bethlehem and Jerusalem as basically the same place.

Todd Bolen, Historical Geographer

* “(Bethlehem) is the Jerusalem. It is a city 6 miles south of Jerusalem.”

* Is there any way that you could say that because Bethlehem is so close to Jerusalem that you could basically say they are the same thing? “No, there are cities in between Bethlehem and Jerusalem.”

Conclusion

* Historically, Bethlehem is the correct place of Jesus’ birth.

* There is no other way to look at Alma 7:10 other than a mistake.

- * The New Testament confirms Micah's prophecy that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- * Alma's prophecy that Jesus would be born in Jerusalem was not fulfilled.
- * Therefore Alma fails the Test of a Prophet and is a False Prophet.

Testing of the Biblical Prophet Isaiah

- * Around 700 B.C. Isaiah made several prophecies of the coming Messiah.
- Isaiah 16:5** - In mercy the throne will be established; And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, Judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.”
- * The oldest copy of this prophecy dates to 125 A.D and preserved in the “Great Isaiah Scroll.”
 - * You can see it on display at the Israel Museum.

Dr. David Barclay, Archeologist, Not Christian

- * Do we know that the house of David is real? It is mentioned in the Tel Dan Inscription dating to the 9th century B.C..
- * We have two such inscriptions, both dating back to the 9th century B.C..

Matthew 1:1 - The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Matthew 1:18 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 15:22 - And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

Matthew 20:30 - And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

Matthew 20:31 - Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

Matthew 21:9 - Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

Matthew 22:42 - saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.”

Matthew 21:15 - But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant

Luke 18:38 - And he cried out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

- * “Jesus, the Son of David,” is a Messianic title.
- * Eusebius, an extra-Biblical historian, confirms through Jude, Jesus' brother, that Jesus was from the lineage of David.

Conclusion

- * There is Biblical and extra-Biblical evidence that Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah would come from the house of David.

Testing the Biblical Prophecy of David

Psalm 22:16 - For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

* A fragment of Psalm 22 was found with the Dead Sea Scrolls that has this scripture on it, dating to 100 B.C.

* There is archeological evidence of Roman crucifixion by piercing the hands and the feet.

* Josephus Flavius, 1st century historian, confirms as an eye witness the practice of Roman crucifixion, and the actual crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

John 20:25 - The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

Acts 2:23 - Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified (*nailed to cross*), and put to death;

Conclusion

* David’s prophecy that the Messiah would die by having His hands and feet pierced is preserved in a Dead Sea Scroll fragment that is over 100 years older than when Jesus was nailed to a cross through His hands and His feet.

Testing the Biblical Prophet Daniel

Daniel 9:26 - “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

* So around 538 B.C. Daniel predicted that the Messiah would be killed and then the temple would be destroyed in Jerusalem.

* We know that from the time of Daniel’s prophecy until today, the only time the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed was in 70 A.D.. So in order for Daniel’s prophecy to be full filled the Messiah would have to be killed before 70 A.D..

* This is precisely when Jesus was crucified.

Dr. David Barclay, Archeologist, Not Christian

* The crucifixion took place around the year 33 of the Common Era (C.E.). In the year 70 of the C.E. the temple got burned down by the soldiers of Titus. Titus and his army and his engineering forces intentionally ruined the entire city of Jerusalem as well as the focal point of Jerusalem, that is the temple mount.

Conclusion

* There is no doubt that the writing of Daniel predates those events.

Psalm 16:10–11 - For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Matthew 28:6 - He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Acts 2:23–32 - Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; **24** whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. **25**

For David says concerning Him: *'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'* **29** "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, **31** he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

* The New Testament teachings of the Apostles confirms the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

* Josephus Flavius, 1st century historian, and not a Christian confirmed the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

* The New Testament and extra Biblical evidence confirms David's prophecy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

* By the same way the information on an envelope can find one person in the world, so can the information from Micah, Isaiah, Daniel and David identify one person out of all the people that have ever lived.

* Who else in the world was: 1) Born in Bethlehem, 2) of the house of David, 3) pierced hands and feet, 4) killed before the temple was destroyed, 5) tomb was found empty?

* This is from God. He really did tell us before He sent Jesus. He really did tell us His plan was before it happened.

* After applying the Test of a Prophet to both Bible and Book of Mormon prophets, it becomes clear that the Biblical prophets accurately predicted the future while the prophets of the Book of Mormon failed.

<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Isaiah	Nephi
David	Alma
Daniel	
Micah	

* The Biblical prophets are surrounded by an abundance of historical evidence, while there is no evidence at all for any of the Book of Mormon prophets: Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni, Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, Mormon, Ether, Moroni.

* None of them appear in any written source until the Book of Mormon was published in 1830.

* They prophesied of Joseph Smith, the latter day seer.

2 Nephi 3 Chapter Heading - *Joseph in Egypt saw the Nephites in vision—He prophesied of Joseph Smith, the latter-day seer; of Moses, who would deliver Israel; and of the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. About 588–570 B.C.*

2 Nephi Chapter 27 Chapter Heading - *Darkness and apostasy will cover the earth in the last days—The Book of Mormon will come forth—Three witnesses will testify of the book—The learned man will say he cannot read the sealed book—The Lord will do a marvelous work and a wonder—Compare [Isaiah 29](#). About 559–545 B.C.*

2 Nephi 27:6 - And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book, and they shall be the words of them which have slumbered.

2 Nephi 27:9 - But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book, which are the words of those who have slumbered in the dust, and he shall deliver these words unto another;

* What you have is something written in the 19th century about something that happens in the 19th century and put into print.

Joseph Smith & The Bible

* Joseph Smith claimed that the Bible was not translated correctly, so he did his own translation of the Bible. In it, he inserted prophecies of himself and the coming of the Book of Mormon. (Which is exactly the accusation that the LDS doctrine states about the Bible, that copyists took out, or changed things they didn't agree with.)

* Joseph Smith's translation (JST) is also called the "Inspired Version."

* Joseph Smith's translation contains multiple pages of text that are not found in the Bible.

* Joseph Smith's translation is supposedly restoring the plain and precious things that were lost from the Bible.

* Isaiah Chapter 29 is a good example. Joseph Smith's "Isaiah" has much more text than the modern Bible.

* Joseph Smith inserted verses from the Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 27:6 and 27:9 into his translation of the Bible in the Book of Isaiah Chapter 29:

2 Nephi 27:6 - And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book...

JST/Inspired Version

Isaiah 29:11 - And it shall come to pass, that the Lord God shall bring forth unto you the words of a book...

2 Nephi 27:9 - But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book

JST/Inspired Version

Isaiah 29:14 - But the book shall be delivered unto a man, and he shall deliver the words of the book

2 Nephi 27:12 - Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it save it be that three witnesses shall behold it, by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

JST/Inspired Version

Isaiah 29:17 - Wherefore, at that day when the book shall be delivered unto the man of whom I have spoken, the book shall be hid from the eyes of the world, that the eyes of none shall behold it, save it be that three witnesses shall behold it by the power of God, besides him to whom the book shall be delivered; and they shall testify to the truth of the book and the things therein.

* All you have to do to test JST is compare the JST (1800 A.D.) to the great Isaiah Scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls (100 A.D.).

* The logical conclusion when we compare Joseph Smith's Translation to the Dead Sea Scrolls is that this information is not in the Book of Isaiah in Dead Sea Scrolls and was added by Joseph Smith.

* Joseph Smith also rewrote John 1:1

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

JST/Inspired Version

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the gospel preached through the Son. And the gospel was the word, and the word was with the Son, and the Son was with God, and the Son was of God.

* No Biblical scholar will tell you that this is an accurate translation. The most ancient copy of the Gospel of John we have goes back to approximately 150 A.D. It is called Papyrus 66.

* This is only about 50 years after John wrote his gospel, and was a personal friend of Jesus Christ himself, and is a more dependable witness than Joseph Smith who rewrote John's gospel more than 1,700 years later.

* The Jesus of the Gospel of John and JST are two different Jesus'.

Joseph Smith changed Romans 4:16

Romans 4:16 - Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace...

JST/Inspired Version

Romans 4:16 - Therefore ye are justified of faith and works, through grace,

* This is a different gospel. One of faith only. One of faith and works.

* This is what the Apostle Paul wrote about changing the Gospel:

Galatians 1:8 - But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Doctrine & Covenants

Section 132

Heading - Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Nauvoo, Illinois, recorded July 12, 1843

Summary - Celestial marriage and a continuation of the family unit enable men to become gods

* Apostle Paul preached that by grace God became man to save man from their sin. Joseph Smith said that through works man can become a God.

* LDS doctrine proclaims that corrupting the Bible is a very serious problem. But the evidence shows that Joseph Smith is the one who corrupted the Bible.

* Biblical Christians are criticized because we believe in a Bible that plain and precious things have been taken out of the Bible, and Satan has power over us as the Book of Mormon says, and we are being led to hell.

* Yet the evidence shows that actually the reverse is true and the Joseph Smith is the one that changed the Bible. Then wouldn't it be correct to say that Joseph Smith and his followers and the church that he is associated with are the ones that are in serious eternal trouble.

Conclusion

* That Joseph Smith corrupted the Bible.

Testing Joseph Smith as a Prophet

Doctrine & Covenants

Section 84 Heading - Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, at Kirtland, Ohio, September 22 and 23, 1832

Section 84 Summary - 1–5, The New Jerusalem and the temple will be built in Missouri...

84:4-5 Verily this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation.

5 For verily this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house.

* Just over a year later, the Mormons left the area where the temple was to be built.

* The prophecy was confirmed 38 years later by Orson Pratt, May 5, 1870.

* 'I hope this, because God promised in the year 1832 that we should, before the generation then living had passed away, return and build up the City of Zion in Jackson County; that we should return and build up the temple of the Most High where we formerly laid the corner stone. He promised us that He would manifest Himself on that temple, that the glory of God should be upon it; and not only upon the temple, but within it, even a cloud by day and a flaming fire by night.

We believe in these promises as much as we believe in any promise ever uttered by the mouth of Jehovah. The Latter-day Saints just as much expect to receive a fulfillment of that promise during the generation that was in existence in 1832 as they expect that the sun will rise and set tomorrow. Why? Because God cannot lie. He will fulfil all His promises. He has spoken, it must come to pass. This is our faith." (Orson Pratt, May 5, 1870, Journal of Discourses, Vol 13, pg. 362)

Jesus Prophesied of the Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem

Mark 13:1–2 - Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" **2** And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

* This took place in 70 A.D.

* The archeological evidence is able to be seen today!

Conclusion

* That temple was never built. This is a failed prophecy.

* Therefore Joseph Smith is a false prophet.

So What to do with Joseph Smith?

* Biblically speaking to put to death is to separate oneself.

* So Biblically we are to separate ourselves from Joseph Smith, his prophecies, and teachings, church.

* We are also told to not be afraid of that prophet. So we have no fear of Joseph Smith, his prophecies, teachings, writings, church.

* God made the test of a prophet simple.

* God made the gospel simple.

* We are to come to Him as a little child, not as a scholar.

Conclusion

John 17:17 - Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.**

John 8:31–32 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”