

**Sooke
Baptist
Church**

**Sunday, April 3
2022,
10am, in-person**

**also on
Facebook Live Stream
and YouTube**

**WITHOUT
A
DOUBT**

revelation 21

Coffee/Question:
**What is something
which you have no
doubt about?**

03:00

It is very interesting that there are sayings which are attributed to the Bible... which are not found in the Bible... or which take something said in the Bible and modify it significantly enough that the saying ends up being very different from what the Bible actually says.

Aaron Earles on the website Lifeway Research lists a number of these sayings.
<https://research.lifeway.com/2014/08/22/11-things-you-think-are-in-the-bible-but-really-arent/>

Money is the root of all evil

$$\text{\$} = \sqrt[n]{\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e^{V_i} l}$$

What the Bible actually says is...

Money is the root of all evil

$$\text{\$} = \sqrt[n]{\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e^{V_i} l}$$

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

1 Timothy 6:10

When you place the two statements side by side... you can see they are radically different.

It is not money that is the root of all evil, but the love of money.

And the love of money is **a** root, not **the** root, but **a** root... meaning there are other roots from which evil grows.

Here's another one.

**God will not
give you more
than you can handle.**

But this is what the Bible actually says....

~~"GOD WILL NOT GIVE
YOU MORE THAN YOU
CAN HANDLE."~~

We do not want you to be uninformed... about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

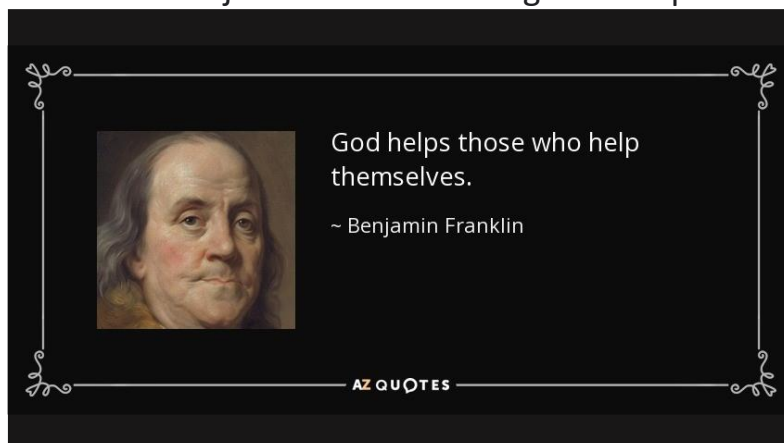
God often gives his followers more than we can handle... to teach us to rely on him... who raises the dead.

Here's another one...

**"GOD HELPS
THOSE WHO HELP
THEMSELVES"**

Variations of this proverb are found in ancient Greek tragedies... as well as the Quran.

But it was Benjamin Franklin's usage of this proverb...



...in Poor Richard's Almanac in 1736 that brought it into popular use.

But what the Bible actually says is...

**But God demonstrates his
own love for us in this:
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.**

Romans 5:8

While we were still sinners... while we were unable and incapable... of helping ourselves, of making things right with God... Jesus Christ... in love and with grace... died for us—in order to reconcile us to God.

We've considered these three sayings that sound like they could have come from the Bible, but actually don't... for a reason.

Let me try and explain.

It is important to recognize that God is a speaking God... who has revealed to us who he is and what he has done... and is doing... and will do.

God also has made known who he created humanity to be and how life is best lived.

But how does God speak?

Hebrew 1 answers that question... in the days of the OT...

Hebrews 1:1-3

In the past **God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways...**

Do you know why God did so?

It had everything to do with what happened at Mt. Sinai when God appeared to and spoke with the nation of Israel.

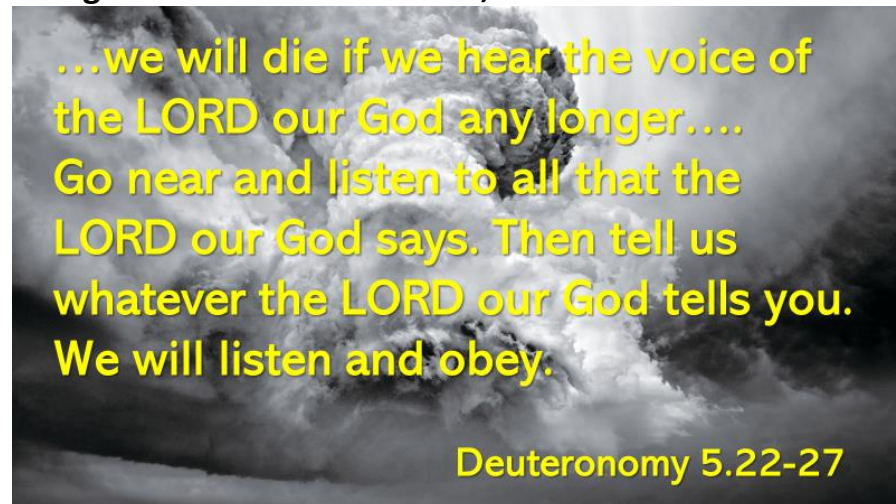
When the Hebrew people saw God come to them... in a dense cloud; when they saw the lightning... and heard the thunder and the trumpet... and saw the mountain in smoke, [and heard the LORD proclaim, from out of the fire, in a loud voice the ten commandments] they trembled with fear and said to Moses....

**“The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty,
and we have heard his voice from the fire.**

Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him.

But now why should we die?

This great fire will consume us, and...



In response to the people's request the LORD said to Moses ... **“I have heard what this people said to you. Everything they said was good.”** Deuteronomy 5.28

Mt Sinai left no question... because of sin, humanity cannot handle a direct, face to face encounter with a holy God.

But God's heart from all eternity was to welcome mankind into the circle of fellowship enjoyed by the Father, Son and Spirit.

The story of the OT is an unfolding story of how God purposed to come near... in order to rescue humanity from the power of sin and death, by paying our sin debt with his own life blood... in order to bring us home to himself.

Before the world was created... God the Son was chosen... to become a man and to make his home with us... and to reveal... in a way that humanity could handle... who God is... full of grace and truth.

Jesus, the Son of God was God's ultimate verbal communication with humanity.
This is why the gospel of John describes him as the Word.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

No one has ever seen God, but the One and Only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 1:1, 14, 18

The passage in Hebrews 1 is a companion passage with John 1.

Hebrews 1:1-3

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but

in these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son,

whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.³ **The Son is the**

radiance of God's glory and the exact representation

of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful

word. After he had provided purification for sins, he

sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Who is the Son? This passage in Hebrews 1 tells us that...

- He is the radiance of God's glory.
- He is the exact representation of God's being.

Who is the Son? This passage in Hebrews 1 tells us that...

He is the One through whom all things were created in the beginning... and the One who right now sustains all things ... by his powerful spoken word.

Who is the Son? This passage in Hebrews 1 tells us that...

He is the One who once for all... provided purification for sins... when he offered his life in sacrifice at Golgotha.

The people of God know these things, because God who spoke through the prophets and through the Son, directed his servants to write down what he said, providing them with his Spirit to enable and empower them to do so with the utmost accuracy and clarity.

This book, the Bible... which is God's spoken word... written down.... is our plumbline.

By this book we know what is true and what is false.

By this book we live and die.

John saw a vision of a new heaven and a new earth and a new city.

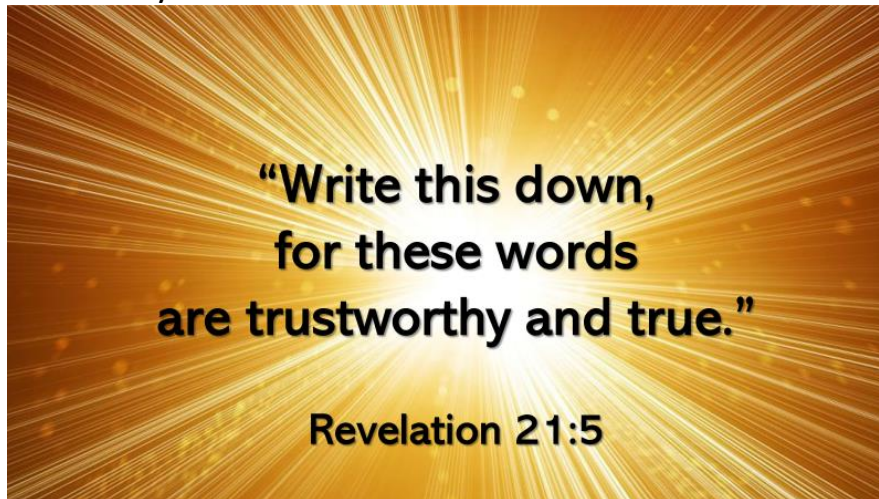
John heard promises made by God that were stunning and breath-taking –

- God will dwell with his people, those he redeemed
- God will tenderly wipe away the tears of his people
- God will act so that death, mourning, crying and pain shall be no more
- God will make everything new

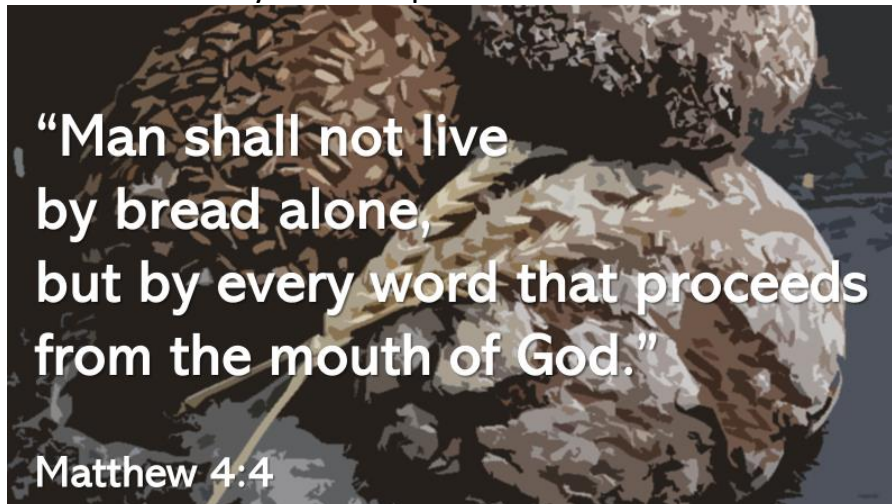
This vision seen by John was not just for John... but for the followers of Jesus in all times and in all generations... because... as John was told in Revelation 1:3 –

Revelation 1:3
Blessed is the one
who reads aloud the words of this prophecy,
and blessed are those
who hear it and take to heart
what is written in it, because
the time is near.

This is why the One who was seated on the throne said to John...



It is of the utmost importance to God that his people know and live by his word. Was this not why Jesus responded to the devil as he did when he was tempted?



The words spoken by the One seated on the throne are our life... they are trustworthy and true because...???... God himself is true and trustworthy.

God is trustworthy.

Whatever he says he will do.... he does... because... God is faithful, he is dependable, he is constant, he is unchanging.

And as is his character, so are the words he speaks.

God's people, wholeheartedly and without reservation, commit themselves to the Father, Son and Spirit... because... the triune God and his word is trustworthy.

God is true.

There is no defect, no flaw, no imperfection in him.

God is not a fraud.

God has no deep dark secrets buried deep within himself.

God is completely perfect in every aspect of his person.

And as is his character, so are the words he speaks...

they are true and trustworthy... and we have them... written down... in this book.

Let me say it one more time...this book, the Bible... is our plumbline.

By this book we know what is true and what is false.

By this book we live and die.

The One seated on the throne had more to say.

John wrote in v.6 – **He said to me, “It is done.”**

Does this particular phrase bring anything to mind?

What were the final words spoken by Jesus from the cross before he bowed his head and gave up his spirit?



- What Jesus finished ... was... the once for all, sufficient for all... payment of humanity's sin debt – Colossians 2:13-14.
- What Jesus finished ... was his disarming of... and triumph over the dark powers and authorities that had taken humanity captive to do their will – Colossians 2:15.
- What Jesus finished ... was ... his defeat of death and Hades.

But what we have learned through our study of the book of Revelation, is that the victory of the cross has two aspects to it – an immediate that impacts the here and now, and a future implementation, yet to be realized, which was declared to John by the One who sat on the throne.



The followers of Jesus, live between these two statements – one made from the cross... "it is finished" and one yet to be made from the throne... "it is done."

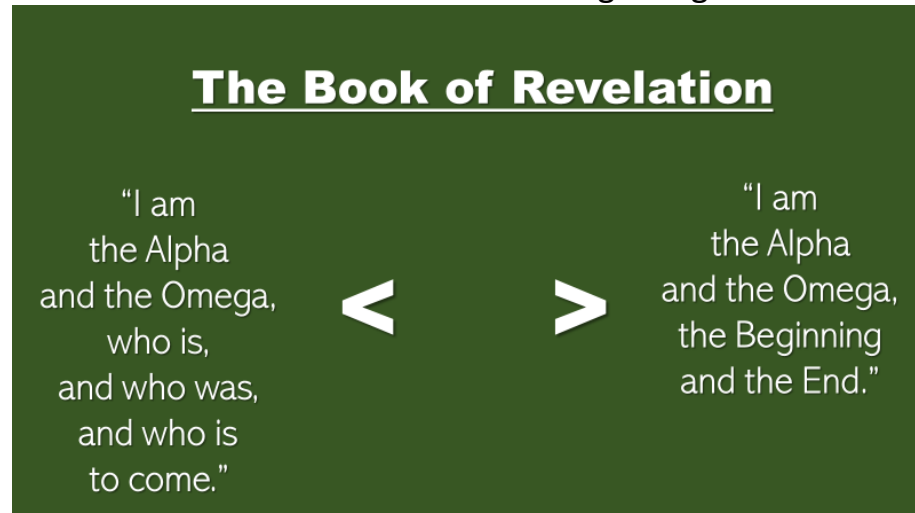
We don't live in a time of uncertainty, but profound confidence.

That said... our adversary will do his very best to destroy this confidence.

When he assails us with doubts, which he will... what is our defense against him?

Our faith in who God is... based on the revelation of himself.

The One on the throne... said at the beginning of this book...



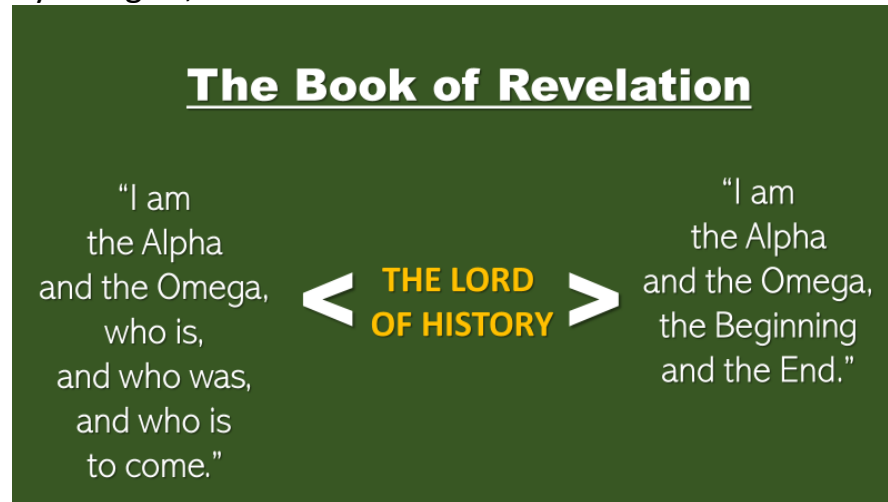
...and now again at the end...

GK Beale explains that the use of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – Alpha and Omega...was an ancient figure of speech. p.471.

It was used to convey the idea of the completeness and entirety of something... from start to finish... including... everything in between.

Do you see that God used this ancient figure of speech, as a name for himself?

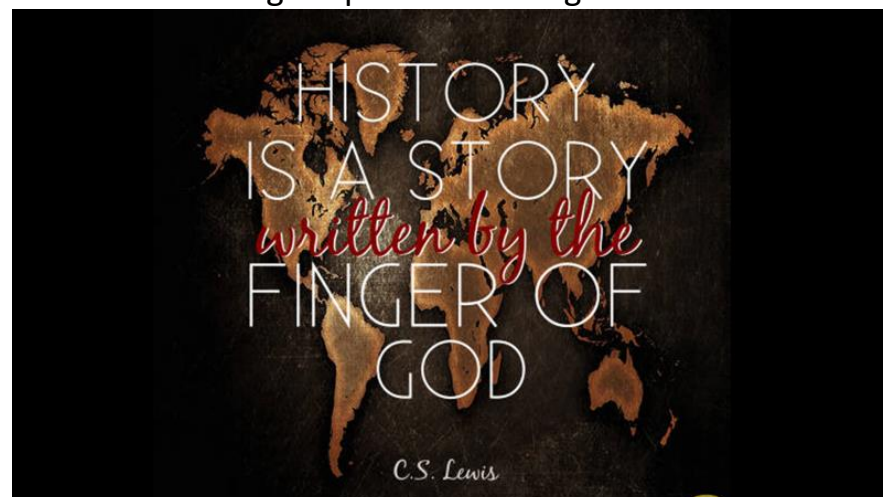
By doing so, God reveals to his church...



... that the totality of the events, shown... and heard... and written down by John, are under his sovereignty... and that he is directing history to accomplish his good will and purposes.

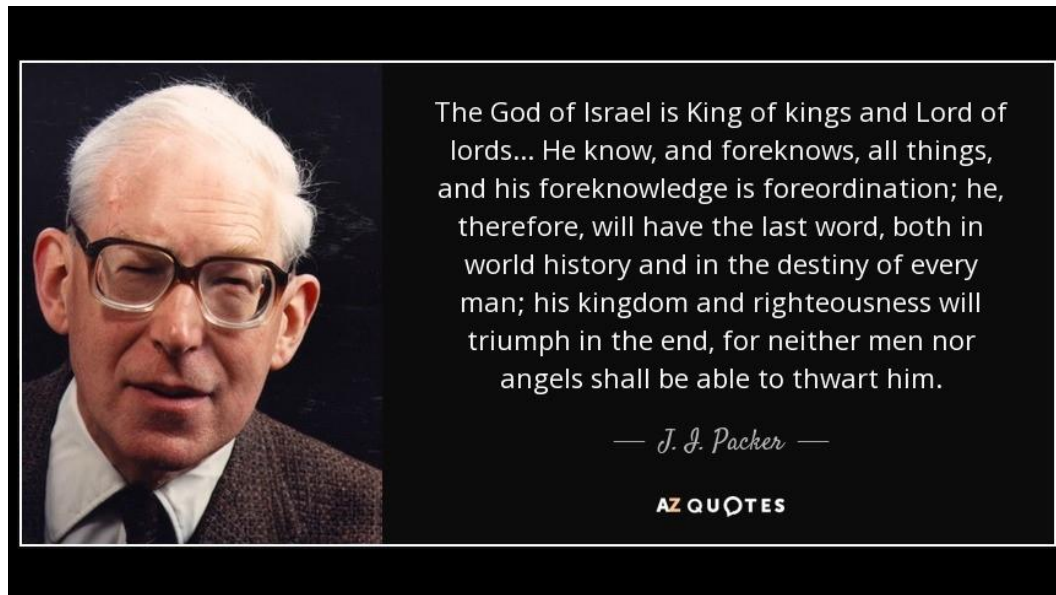
God knows the end from the beginning... and everything in between.... because... ...he is the Lord of History... he is the Alpha and the Omega.

As CS Lewis thought upon these things he wrote...



The wisdom and knowledge of God in doing so... is beyond our understanding.
History is not a series of random events... that unfold at the mercy of chance.
History is being written by the good, kind, holy and sovereign God.

The Lord Jesus has already said from the cross... it is finished.
And soon, the Lord God will say from the throne... it is done.
JI Packer wrote...



This is our God!

The majesty of his person is intended to flood our hearts with awe of him.
When we perceive him as he truly is, all other threats are placed in proper perspective - no one else has power over us!

When the psalmist thought upon the person of God and his knowledge and ability to govern and direct, not only world events, but his own life, in praise he wrote...

“...all the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts God!
How vast is the sum of them!”

Psalms 139:16-17

We too, as followers of Jesus, praise the true and trustworthy God, the Lord of history... who is the Alpha and the Omega.

In him we trust.

What does this mean for our day to day lives?

Corrie ten Boom wrote...

Corrie ten Boom

**“Never be afraid to
trust an unknown
future to a known
God.”**

You and I do not know what the future will bring.

But we know the One who leads our lives – he is true and trustworthy; he is the Alpha and the Omega.

By his word we live.

He was there before the beginning... and is present with us now... and will be there at the end.

All glory be to him who is on the throne and to the Lamb!



KidsZone Children and Teachers



Alex and Judith Gehrer



**Nothing can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**