



# ***DISCOVERING THE BIBLE & OUR BIBLICAL HERITAGES***

Providing factual information about the Bibles, beliefs, movements, institutions, events and people of historical Christianity & Judaism.

2015 • NUMBER 5

## **My Journey to Discovering the Real Yeshua**

*By Jim Myers*

My journey to discovering the **Real Yeshua** began in 1980. I believe that if you know more about my journey it will help you understand what I write in our newsletters, blogs, groups, etc. My approach is very different from how others view this subject *ó many are either defending their positions or attacking someone else's*. I completely understand both positions and have engaged in both over the years. The problem, from my point of view, is that either of those options usually polarizes people and creates environments that make cooperation and respect impossible. *My journey has led me to discover ways that brings people together to more accurately understand the past that has produced the present and to include those facts as they consider their future.*

Let me begin by telling you about the two most difficult obstacles that I repeatedly encountered on my journey -- *my subconscious mind and my Belief System*. The subconscious mind acts like a firewall on a computer and screens out information that does not support the information in its memory -- *and we are not even aware of the fact that our subconscious mind is doing it*. As an information processor -- *the subconscious mind is one million times more powerful than the self-conscious mind*.<sup>1</sup> The bottom line is that we are wired to move away from and avoid things that we do not believe or consider to be true *ó even when what we believe to be true is completely false!*

So, when I began this part of my life in 1980, my mind was not a blank slate *ó it was loaded with information, beliefs and truths I had acquired before*. This will give you a quick overview of some of the life experiences that created important memories for me. My father was a nurseryman who loved plants. He was an excellent teacher who taught me how to germinate, cross-pollinate, graft, make cuttings, pot, ball, can and do all sorts of other things with plants and trees. He made me aware of how nature and seasonal cycles affect life. The United States Air Force trained me to be a surgery and radiology technician and was where I witnessed lives being saved and lost. My professional career was in banking and finance. I am a graduate of the *School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University (Graduate School of Banking at LSU today)*. I learned about the power of money, how it is created and how it is used to control lives. And, I was raised as a Baptist, required to attend to church every Sunday (morning and evening services) while I lived with my parents, was saved when I was thirteen and after I graduated from high school no longer attended church. These experiences not only produced lots of memories, they also gave me a unique way of understanding many things in life *ó from the point of view of being an insider ó that most people do not have ó agriculture, military, medical, banking, and as you will see next, religion*. So, as you can see, my mind was not a blank slate in 1980.

**1980** ó I was at a critical juncture in my life, as the result of a personal crisis; I reexamined my life and made the decision to recommit my life to God. I became actively involved in a nondenominational church and soon felt that I was called to go into the ministry. I enrolled in a Bible College and classes were to begin that September. In August, I purchased a new Bible and while sitting at my kitchen table, I opened it and prayed, *“Please show me what I need to know.”* Instantly, this came into my mind:

*“Unless you know how words work you cannot understand one word of the Bible.”*

My first thought was *“What does that mean?”* Then, I brushed it aside.

**1981** ó One of my most important beliefs at that time was this:

*The Bible – meaning an English translation – is the inerrant and infallible Word of God. Every word is the literal Word of God and the Bible has every answer for every question a person could ever face in life.*

This will probably sound strange to those who know me now, but back then I did not know this:

*The original words of the books in my Bible were written in Greek or Hebrew – not English!*

One of the books we were required to purchase for classes was *Strong’s Concordance*. It was then that I remembered -- *“Unless you know how words work you cannot understand one word of the Bible.”* I knew I had to learn more about Greek and Hebrew to understand the words of my Bible. The Bible College didn’t offer any courses, so I enrolled in correspondent courses in Biblical Greek and Hebrew from another Bible school at the same time.

**1982** ó I discovered a set of **interlinear Bibles** at the college bookstore that had the Greek and Hebrew texts with English words beneath them and the *Strong’s Concordance* reference number. It felt like I was in heaven. I love to analyze things. One of my banking skills was analyzing financial statements, so I guess my subconscious mind simply did what it had been trained to do ó *but did it with biblical texts instead of financial statements*. It soon identified a familiar pattern:

*Bible translators often had more than one option for translating Greek and Hebrew words. They chose one and rejected others, which their readers never know. And then, sometimes they translate Greek and Hebrew words one way in one verse and another way in other verses.*

My Belief System did not like what I was discovering and my subconscious mind was trying to filter out a lot of things that were challenging my beliefs. If it hadn’t been for my desire to understand how words work my Belief System might have won.

**1984** ó I was now the minister of a church I founded in my home town. It was affiliated with the Bible College and we were one of the first to use cutting edge satellite technology. People enrolled in the Bible College, but attended classes at my church. The satellite network grew to include over a 1,000 churches spread around the world -- *my church was #20*. Things were going pretty well.

But then I received *“the”* letter and that changed everything. It was an advertisement for a new book -- *Understanding the Difficult Words of Jesus* by David Bivin & Roy Blizzard. Guess which two words in the

title jumped out at me ó *understanding & words*. I immediately ordered it. When it came I finished the entire book the same day and added this to my Belief System:

*Jesus was a Jew. To accurately understand his words we must view them from the perspective of his Jewish culture. I call this "seeing his words through his eyes."*

I was beginning to understand the importance of the answer to my 1980 prayer, but now I knew I had to really focus on finding out how words worked! The closest university library was at a Seventh Day Adventists university and that was where I decided to camp out until I had the answer. I never dreamed it would be three month camping trip. During the first month, I was literally there when the doors opened, and except for a lunch break, I stayed there for the remainder of the work day.

Armed with my new information about the Jewish Jesus, my first goal was to learn as much as possible about his Jewish culture. The very first day I discovered the *Encyclopedia Judaica* -- it was like discovering gold! I spent days studying words like *righteousness, sin, repentance, forgiveness, holy, salvation, God, mashiach (messiah)*, etc. My Belief System was being turned upside down because I believed -- *salvation was based on believing IN Jesus, but I was beginning to realize that the Jesus I believed IN wasn't the Jewish Jesus I was learning about.*

This definitely created a **BS Crisis** ó *BS stands for Belief System*. I now knew there were two different figures named Jesus in my mind -- *one was a Protestant Christian Jesus and the other was the Jewish Jesus*. Later I learned there were many more versions of Jesus out there too. What should I do next? I knew the answer was tied to learning more about *how words work*. So, I moved from the Jewish section of the library to linguistic section and spent a week there. It was then that I formulated what I call *öThe Law of Languageö*:

*A word is a symbol or group of symbols with an attached bundle of associations.  
Those associations are the product of the Source's culture,  
historical time period, geographical location and personal experience.*

There are two parties involved in a communications experience are a **Source & Receptor**.

- (1) **Source** ó the one sending the message (author or speaker).
- (2) **Receptor** ó the one receiving the message (reader or hearer).

In order for them to have a successful communications experience they must both share the same *öbundles of associationsö* (meanings) for the words of the message. When it comes to words written in the Bible, we canø go ask the Source what his words mean. It is the responsibility is on the Receptor to do his or her best to learn as much as possible about the Source's language, culture, geographical location, historical time period, and personal experiences. When I applied this to the Jewish Jesus, this is what I discovered:

- (1) **symbols** -- languages ó Hebrew & Aramaic
- (2) **culture** - Second Temple Jewish culture
- (3) **historical time period** -- 6 BCE ó 30 CE

(4) **geographical locations** -- Galilee, Samaria & Judea

(5) **personal experiences** ó a few childhood experiences recorded in Bible, but most adult experiences are related to his activities as a rabbi and teacher

While working on this, a nagging thought sidetracked me. My church was located in a small town with a population of around 25,000 -- *and it had over 100 churches*. They didn't work together and most seemed to be in competition against each other. The nagging question was this -- *How did the single movement of Jesus produce the hundred churches in my town that never worked together?* This required a move over to the history section in the library. The first things I found were the 38 volumes of the *Ante-Nicene Fathers* (writings of the early church fathers). Reading the writings of Christian leaders from the second through fourth centuries was an eye-opening experience. It didn't take long to realize that two questions caused a great deal of conflict among early Christian groups:

(1) *What was Jesus (God, man or something else)?*

(2) *What was his mission (save the world, create a new religion, etc.)?*

I also discovered Philip Schaff's eight-volume *History of the Christian Church*. Something was becoming very clear:

*Christianity had consisted of groups that disagreed and were in conflict with one another – and with Judaism – beginning just a few years after the crucifixion of Jesus. As the movement spread from Israel to foreign lands, members from those cultures began to interpret the Greek translations of the words of Jesus based on what those words meant to them long before they heard of Jesus. They knew nothing of his Jewish culture, and many looked down on anything Jewish. A group of new Jesus figures emerged that reflected the cultures of Romans, Greeks, Egyptians, Africans, Babylonians, etc.*

**1985** ó I knew that the information I now needed required more than a trip to the library, so I enrolled in the University of Texas at Arlington and completed classes in *Hebrew, Classical Greek, Roman History, Greek History, Linguistics*, and others that I needed to fill in the blanks.

**1987** -- Dr. Ike Tension was my professor for one of the courses in Classical Greek. Ike soon became an important partner in my work and a very good friend. Ike made me aware of something else that would change the way I studied the words of my Bible -- *there are approximately 5,800 Greek New Testament manuscripts that are currently known.*<sup>2</sup>

*Of those 5,800+ Greek New Testament manuscripts, no two are identical. Not only must translators choose which English word they will use as the translation of a Greek on an ancient manuscript – they must decide which Greek word from all of those manuscripts is the one that should be translated.*

I also learned that no original manuscript of any of book of the New Testament or Jewish Scriptures exists. The earliest manuscripts of the New Testament books were copied three hundred years or more after Jesus spoke them. He did not write down his teachings. What we have are copies of copies of copies of accounts made by others of what he said and did ó *thousands of copies!*

In addition to discovering that thousands of ancient manuscripts existed, I also discovered that there were other New Testaments that had different books than mine -- *other Gospels, Epistles and Revelations*. Many had been Scriptures for earlier Christians. My version of the New Testament didn't appear until the middle of the fourth century and wouldn't be translated into English for another thousand years.

**1988** ó Keep in mind that I was still pastoring a church while all of this was going on! It does create a challenge when you are preparing a sermon. It also created some very interesting Bible studies and heated discussions. I realized I needed to come up with a way to defuse these situations and bring people together instead of polarizing them. The first thing realized was that people were not making a distinction between *opinions, beliefs, truths & facts*. Some people get just as mad over their opinion being challenged as they do over a truth being challenged. So, I asked them to let each other know what they were defending:

*An **opinion** is a judgment not founded on certainty or proof.*<sup>3</sup>

*A **belief** is a judgment in which trust or confidence is placed, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so.*<sup>4</sup>

*A **truth** is a judgment, proposition, or idea that, in accordance with a standard, is accepted as real or the state of being the case.*<sup>5</sup>

This was an eye-opener for many people. We soon realized that we all had standards that we were using that determined the above categories. *We also discovered that those standards would produce conflicting truths--two truths could be polar opposites and still be truths!* This is the way the world operated for tens of thousands of years, but things changed when the *Scientific Revolution* introduced a new standard -- *facts*.

*A **fact** has the quality of being actual; something that has actual existence; an actual occurrence*

<sup>6</sup> *A **fact** is verifiable.*<sup>7</sup>

Facts are verifiable by anyone, regardless of their Belief Systems. No matter what one believed about their Bible ó *the facts are that thousands of manuscripts and many canons exist that differ*. This was when I created the **Guiding Principle for Bible Study**:

*My beliefs will be large enough to include all of the **facts**; open enough to be tested; and, flexible enough to change when error or new **facts** are discovered.*

The introduction of facts in our studies and conversations changed things. We all understood these facts:

- (1) *There are hundreds of English translations of Bibles and they differ.*
- (2) *Jewish, Roman Catholic and Protestant Bibles do not contain all of the same books.*
- (3) *There are thousands of ancient Greek and Hebrew manuscripts for the books in the different Bibles and they differ.*

When different positions came forth we identified whether they were *opinions, beliefs, truths* or *facts*. We then searched for facts together that are related to our study. Everyone was prepared to consider whatever answer came forth in light of existing facts. This brought members of the group together to look for facts. We wanted to understand the development of the differing positions, instead of blindly defending whatever we believed .

**1990** ó Shortly after my first grandson was born, I was sitting in my study reading a magazine when I flipped a page and saw this picture:



[SOURCE](#)

My eyes locked on **the soles of the two little tennis shoes** between the two bodies on the left. I assumed the child wearing those shoes was lying between its parents. I couldn't take my eyes off the shoes in the picture and then this thought seemed to explode in my mind:

*What is so powerful that it would cause a loving mother to place a glass of poison to the lips of her baby, look into its eyes, and tell it to drink?*

This answer immediately followed -- *It was her religious belief system!*

*How had a religious belief become more powerful than a mother's instinct to protect the life of her child?*

And then I thought about Jim Jones and me ó *we were both Christians; we were both minister; and, we both used our Bible as the authority for our beliefs*. We both did a lot of things that sounded very much alike. How could I make sure I would never do or teach anything that could cost another child its life ó *like that little child in the picture?*

Facts are important, but most of time we base our decisions on beliefs simply because we don't have the facts. Our minds are belief processing engines that operate most of the time on the powerful subconscious level ó *completely above the level of our conscious awareness*. I knew it was essential for me to become aware of what it was doing, so I began keeping a **BS Log** to record beliefs that were affecting my life. It was an eye-opening experience. It didn't take long to discover exactly how much of my life was controlled by my religious beliefs ó *they affected my relationships with others (believers yes & unbelievers no), how I used my time (going to church, reading my Bible, praying, evangelizing, etc.), how I spent my money (tithing,*

*donating, buying books, etc.) what I believed was right or wrong (according to the unknown standard), and much more. I never realized how powerful my religious beliefs were ó but I placed a picture of those little shoes on the BHC website Homepage to make sure I didn't forget!*

It was during this period that I was asked to become chaplain at the local law enforcement center by the sheriff. This brought me in contact with a world that I was completely unaware of before. It also placed me in an interesting place, when it came to religion. I was in charge of scheduling where visiting ministers and priests would preach every week in the jail. There were three rooms of male inmates and one for female inmates. I quickly discovered that every Monday there were a lot of requests from inmates that were linked to the previous day sermons. Keep in mind that they were hearing different ministers every week -- *Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals, Seventh Day Adventists, Catholic, etc.* The requests were usually questions about which one was right! So, I decided to put the monkey on the visiting ministers' backs. Instead of sending ministers from the same denominations into the same room, I mixed them up. Now, with Pentecostal, Baptist, Methodist and Seventh Day Adventist ministers standing before them, the inmates could ask them their questions instead of me. The sheriff received more than a few complaints from the ministers and a lot of ðthank you notesö from the inmates. He thought it was a good plan, too.

It was also during this period that I co-founded an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program called **Helping Open Peoples Eyes ó HOPE!** Working on this project was very revealing in many ways. One thing I learned through my research was that most of the inmates in the program began taking drugs between the ages of thirteen and seventeen. This has been a strong motivation for me to be involved in youth sports programs ever since. Another factor that affected a lot of the lives of the inmates was their religious beliefs and the related guilt.

**1996** ó I read *The New Science of the Meme* by Richard Brodie and was introduced to ðmemes.ö

*A meme is a unit of information in a mind whose existence influences events such that more copies of it are created in other minds.*

Our brain is like the hardware of a computer and memes are like the software. It is through memes that we assign meaning to things and create strategies and associations related to those meanings. *Opinions, beliefs and truths are memes and just like genes they have histories that can be tracked from one generation to the next.* Just as we have *genealogies*, we also have our *memealogies* too. Understanding this completely changes the way we deal with religious, political and economic conflicts. The first thing everyone around the table must do is ó *show us your memes!*

**2010** ó I became aware of the **TOV Standard**. The Hebrew word **TOV** appears seven times in the first chapter of Genesis ó *the TOV Standard the Creator used to measure His actions*. **TOV** is usually translated ðgoodö in the Bible, but ðgoodö is a very subjective word that can mean different things to different people. Below is the contextual meaning of **TOV**:

*For something to be TOV it must protect life, preserve life, make life more functional and improve the quality of life.*

Once we understand that the above is what ðgoodö meant to the Creator, then we can also understand what **RA**, which is translated ðevilö meant to Him:

*For something to be RA it must destroy or harm life, threaten life, make life less functional and diminish the quality of life.*

2  
Think about that meaning of evil for a moment. I did and that was when I discover the importance of understanding the **Real Yeshua** and his message. The name ōJesusö didn't exist until about the 15<sup>th</sup> century and that Jesus had been completely severed from the life of the **Real Yeshua**. His words were not viewed through **Yeshua's Jewish culture** and he didn't teach **the importance of the TOV Standard**. Religions have been teaching about the other Jesus figures for almost 2,000 years ó **take a hard look at what kind of world we live in**. I believe the time has come for anyone that believes **IN** Jesus to take a hard look at the **Real Yeshua** and consider what would happen if he or she did what he taught and use the **TOV Standard** he used to live by. **BHC**

---

## May Memorials

*In Loving Memory*

**SIDNEY  
PERRY  
DOSH, JR.**

Born: October 18, 1938  
Died: May 17, 2006

*May you dwell under His  
wings in complete  
SHALOM forever!*

### In Their Remembrance

*May their memories inspire us to seek those  
qualities of mind and heart which they  
shared when we walked life's journey  
together. May we help to bring closer to  
fulfillment their highest ideals and noblest  
strivings.*

*May their memories deepen our loyalty to  
those things which we valued and shared --  
faith, love, peace and devotion and our  
biblical heritage. As long as we live, they  
too will live; for they are now a part of us,  
as we remember them.*

(Inspired from prayers found in Yitzhor  
Reflections - The New Mahzor - The Prayer  
Book Press)

*In Loving Memory*

**SIDNEY  
BERRY  
WARD, SR.**

October 3, 1891  
May 27, 1976

*May you dwell under His  
wings in complete  
SHALOM forever!*

Remembering those who came before us is a very important part of the Biblical Heritage Center's mission. It is our privilege to honor them by the BHC Memorial Garden and Memorials which are printed in this newsletter. The Memorial Garden is on the website at <http://www.biblicalheritage.org>. Please visit it the next time you are on the Internet and stop back by often. If you would like to add your loved one to this section, send the information to us. There is no charge, but donations are accepted. Remember those who have meant so much to you with a BHC Memorial.

<sup>1</sup> *Spontaneous Evolution*; p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.csntm.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/opinion?s=t>

<sup>4</sup> <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/believe?s=t>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/truth>

<sup>6</sup> <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/fact?s=t>

<sup>7</sup> <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/co300man/pop12d.cfm>