

Understanding Divine Communication

Why Does Our Creator Communicate with Intentional Complexity?

A basic, indisputable fact about the Bible is that it has been written with a great degree of intentional complexity. There are many Bible commentators who recommend we simply ignore the vast quantity of that intentional complexity in order to focus on whatever simple or exclusive message they expect us to want to hear. However, no sane person could possibly suggest that the Bible does not contain a great deal of intentional complexity. There are prophecies with mishapen beasts like lions with wings and dragons with seven heads and ten horns. There are temporary rituals requiring the incineration of specific animals with all kinds of different procedures for different body parts. There are descriptions of cherubim with four faces and wings that hover above wheels within wheels that are covered with eyes. There are laws about not touching dead bodies and yet other laws about burying oneself in water to join themselves into the death of one particular man: Jesus Christ. There are many odd parables, or allegories without any explanations. There are miracles of destruction as well as miracles of salvation. There are commands to annihilate whole communities and there are laws about not participating in the wars of men. There is the message of an eye for an eye as well as the seemingly opposite message to not return evil for evil. There is a great deal of intentional complexity in the Bible.

Most often, this complexity is ignored completely by Bible commentators. We are most frequently faced with either a complete dismissal of any credibility for this huge book or an exclusive focus on what is presumed to be fairly simple, intuitive... isolating one specific 'perceived' message from everything else in the book. Yet this book claims it is absolutely flawless and the only source of truth anywhere in the universe. The treasure that the Bible offers is not simply life eternal, but an unimaginable richness of life along with understanding the secrets of the universe. The pursuit of any great treasure, especially the greatest of all treasures, will always involve significant obstacles. Underestimating the Bible is as common as breathing.

There is great significance to this intentional complexity throughout the Bible. This is not accidental. This intentional complexity acts as a natural filter, preventing understanding and divine access to the self-important, the wise in their own eyes and the self absorbed. The Author of the Bible and His son (Jesus Christ) both explain the importance and purpose of this consistent, intentionally complex divine communication pattern.

A Commination Policy Exception for One Man

There was one man who proved to be an exception to this rule. God spoke to Moses without the intentional complexity that He used with all other prophets and Kings and Judges. Moses was unique. When Aaron and Miriam, the older brother and sister of Moses, began discrediting their younger brother on the basis of his Cushite bride God demanded their presence at His sanctuary to address them. God asked them why they had not been afraid to speak against their younger brother, on the basis of God's totally unique communication avenue with their younger brother. God spoke to Moses like a friend to a friend, unlike everyone else.

Numbers 12:6-9 *And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. 8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? 9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.*

The standard pattern for divine communication was dark speeches, similitudes, visions and dreams. Moses **exclusively** enjoyed clear, simple language from God. This is very significant! What qualified Moses for this exclusive communication pattern was that he already satisfied the purpose for that intentional complexity. Moses was the meekest man in the world.

Numbers 12:3 *Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.*

Meekness is the exclusive path to understanding the intentional complexity of divine communication. It is the natural arrogance of humanity that serves as the impenetrable barrier to understanding the Bible. Jesus employed the same intentionally complex teaching pattern as his Father, to achieve the same goal. Jesus communicated to everyone except his closest disciples with parables, symbolic stories.

Matthew 13:34 *All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them.*

Mark 4:33-34 *And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.*

The disciples did not understand why their Master chose to communicate to the multitude exclusively with stories that he would not explain to anyone but them. They asked him why he did this, His answer is the answer to why the entire Bible is written with intentional complexity.

Matthew 13:10-15 *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

Jesus explained that his teaching procedure would automatically weed out people who were looking for an excuse not to respond properly. His intentional complexity would add understanding to those people who 'had' but subtracting understanding from those people who 'had not.' The 'church' in Christ's day, the Jewish people in covenant relationship with his Father, did not know how to listen. They could not correctly interpret the symbols or unravel the complexity of Christ's addresses.

This anti-instinctive divine teaching procedure will always reinforce a preferred perspective. Those who prefer self-glorifying error will confidently compound that perspective in any portion of scripture. Those who seek the personally humbling absolute truths of divine expressions will be able to draw out unimpeachable truths, witnessing greater levels of the divine hidden in scripture for the very few, those who have circumcised their self-deceiving hearts.

2 Thess 2:10-12 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Our Heavenly Father reinforces a preferred delusion, commisioning a strong delusion against those who resist truth. The unique pattern of divine expressions will reinforce both perspectives: giving to those who pursue truth and taking away from those who prefer self-glorifying delusion.

This is no less true today than it was during the times when the Bible was being written. The huge majority of self-professed 'believers' constantly trip over the intentional complexity of divine teaching and communication. The natural arrogance of human nature reigns supreme throughout most of Christianity, just as it did among the Jews during Christ's ministry. Very few have ears to hear. Very few have circumcised hearts, like Moses. Most Christians paint their self-glorifying misconceptions onto the language of the Bible, redefining words to glorify themselves and make everything exceptionally effortless.

Step No. 1

The first step in any Bible consideration is recognizing that the Creator is always right...without exception. This was the mistake Adam and Eve made in the Garden of Eden. They believed the serpent's testimony that was so

much more personally pleasant and self promoting than God's warning. God had said that disobeying Him (sin) would introduce death. The serpent disagreed with God and reported that all they had to do was disobey God by eating from the forbidden tree and they would become like God. Ever since that failure, the great majority of mankind has believed the serpent's testimony against the Creator's. Every Pagan religion throughout history, all the major religions of the world today, including Christianity, agree with the serpent that we don't really die because of sin. It is presumed no one ever truly dies but that they just transition to a different category of life without ever losing their conscience existence or memories. This arrogant presumption that the Creator lied to Adam and Eve extends from an instinctive set of understandings common to the popular religions of today and all through history. Disregarding instinctive, heart generated thinking is exactly the procedure (defined in scripture as *circumcising the heart*) to begin to understand the intentional complexity of divine communication. The Creator is always right... without exception!

If we will greatly respect the privilege and the responsibility of determining the absolute truths within the Bible, accepting the foundational premise that this greatest of all treasures (absolute truth) is intentionally hidden in a maze of parables, dreams, visions, dark sayings, bloody rituals, cryptic prophesies and difficult language ... questioning every popular presumption ... then we have the opportunity to develop the *seeing eyes* and the *hearing ears* that Jesus Christ promises will be the key to having more as opposed to having what little we have taken away from us.

Ignoring Simple Divine Truths Imperils Our Health and Lives

There is a parade of natural lessons to prove this lesson. Mankind has ignored the claims of the Bible for millenniums to their great embarrassment and misfortune. For countless years the intellectuals and scientists and medical professionals of the world would bleed a person in order to heal them from many diseases. This is exactly the opposite of what the Bible clearly states. In fact the first President of the United States, George Washington, suffering a severe throat infection had more than nine pints of blood removed in a matter of hours. He died. The Bible is absolutely clear that phlebotomy (the medical treatment of bloodletting) cannot possibly serve as a healing procedure. The Bible states repeatedly the the life is in the blood.

Genesis 9:4 *But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.*

Leviticus 17:11,14 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.... For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof.*

Men imperiled their health and lives by ignoring the scientific truth in the Bible that the life of the person is in the blood. If one wants to live and be healthy why would they drain away exactly what their Creator tells them is their life? Refusing the understanding that God is always right is dangerous and embarrassing.

The Bible clearly states that the earth has always been round. For millenniums scientists and politicians and clergy have all believed the earth was flat, refusing to accept the testimony of the Bible.

Isaiah 40:21-22 *Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon **the circle of the earth**, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.*

The common man may chuckle at the thought of their ancestor foolishly presuming the earth was flat, but men today offer no dramatically different respect for Bible truths. Why didn't all these Bible believers and world renowned intellectuals throughout history respect the Bible testimony enough to accept the fact that the world is round? They preferred instinctive conclusions above divine testimony.

It wasn't until the early 20th century that surgeons recognized the value of washing their hands before each surgery. They had no scientific respect for the Bible message that touching unclean things and then touching others has a contaminating effect that requires cleansing to stop the transferring contamination. Divine law demanded that anyone touching a dead body had go through a cleansing procedure, or they had to leave the community

of believers forever (Numbers 19). Another law required anyone touching something or someone that had been touched by anyone having some form of bodily issue also had to go through a cleansing procedure (Leviticus 15). People had to both bathe and wash their clothes. This was not confusing or difficult to understand. The divine lessons and testimony involved were simply ignored until scientists finally realized the Bible had been right all along. However it wasn't the Bible's testimony that convinced them. It was the development of germ theory, microbiology and the surgical success accompanying handwashing that served to finally improve mankind's health and offer extended life terms. If only they had believed the Bible's testimony about halting contact contamination by cleaning.

Underestimating the Bible is as common as breathing on planet Earth. Oversimplification of Bible principles and expressions is the great stumbling block of the natural human thought process that craves simplicity and convenience in everything. Therefore there are two key words to beware if we truly yearn to read our Bibles effectively. These are the words **only** and **if**. The word 'only' is very often not included in a quoted Bible text, but frequently presumed. Scripture will say that faith saves us, but it does not say that 'only' faith saves us. That is the oversimplified presumption by many. We should beware the tendency to insert the understanding of exclusivity indicated by the word 'only' when it is not present in the text. The word 'if' indicates conditions. For example, Paul declares to the Corinthian believers: *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain (1 Corinthians 15:1-2)*. Casual Bible readers love to read that the gospel saves us, but don't seem to hear the conditional 'if' about maintaining the exact gospel Paul preached or their faith is worthless. We have to pay attention to all the 'ifs' and resist the natural tendency to imagine and 'only' where it doesn't exist.

The Mental Tripping Point of the Presumption of Familiarity

Another issue to realize in our pursuit of the absolute truths in the Bible is that the New Testament was written with a presumption of our familiarity with the Old Testament. When the Apostle Peter comforts us by writing that we might be partakers of the divine nature by the great and precious promises that were given us, he doesn't itemize these great and precious promises. He presumes we are familiar with the promises made to Abraham and David in the Old Testament that will benefit believers all through time. When the Apostle Paul declares that we partake of an altar which the Jewish priesthood were denied (Hebrews 13:10) he expects us to be familiar with the sacrificial altar and the offerings within the divine laws given to Moses. If we are unfamiliar with the Old Testament we will not be able to understand the expressions of the New Testament that are dependent on our familiarity with the Old Testament. We will then begin to make improper presumptions on what these New Testament expressions actually indicate, tripping over our own oversimplification tendencies.

Disrespecting the Creator's Biblical instructions is harmful to our health, eventually embarrassing and will result in eternal death. Respecting the fact that God is always right will always put one at odds with the wise-in-their-own-eyes of this world (no matter whether they are focused on religion, science, politics, commerce or humanism) but will improve our lives now and offers the opportunity for an eternal life full of happiness. If we ever expect to understand the Bible we will have to approach it with the understanding that it presents an intentional complexity that intends to strip away our natural arrogance and instinctive self-worshipping ways. Great treasures are never easy to find.