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## The Book of Jasher ?

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May 2024

### Getting the help we need by staying in the Word of God

There are several uninspired books which certain religious groups have included within the scope of God's Written Word that have added to the confusion of sincere Bible students who seek to know the will of our Heavenly Father. On the other hand we praise God for blessing us with true Christian scholars throughout history who have defended the Scriptures that were inspired by The Holy Spirit. For instance, the Protestant reformers well knew of the corruption of Rome and did their best to apply a scholarly effort in coming to a conclusive decision about what books are really scriptural texts and which are not. They did a pretty good job of organizing the Protestant Bibles that we have all come to love and cherish even though there is always room for a fine scrutiny of improvement. But alas, mystics have sometimes breached the perimeter of God's vineyard thus we have spurious books such as the Book of Enoch and the Apocrypha that are claimed to be inspired writings but contradict basic scriptural doctrine on many levels. ( see ["Enoch book"](#) here) There is also an assortment of "lost Gospel" books written long after the New Testament was completed, most of which are promotions of spiritist orphic beliefs. Usually these were penned by esoteric authors pandering some Eastern philosophical view or another and who have attached some apostles name to the text in order to achieve a semblance of instant credibility; such as The Gospel of Nicodemus, The Book of Adam and Eve, The Shepherd of Hermas, (or others), We won't deal with those particular books at this time, but a similar concept is readily seen with the supposed Book of Jasher. What are the facts surrounding this book?

There are many sound reasons by which we can definitely know that the book referred to as "The Book of Jasher" today is a false literary publication that never existed in the time period claimed by its adherents. That is, no such book was ever written or included in the Old Testament B.C. manuscripts in any area or at any time. There are no ancient scrolls that contain any reference of such a book or even portions of it. There are no books of the Dead Sea Scrolls that contain, in whole or in part, one single salvaged part of a "Book of Jasher". This is astounding considering that there are several different versions of "The Book of Jasher" today that all claim they are derived from ancient Biblical texts. The blunt truth is that this assertion is simply not true. Such claims have never been verified and can't be verified for the simple fact that no such book ever

existed in the years BC to begin with. The same holds true for the statement that “The Book of Jasher was removed from our Bibles.” This never happened because there was never any “Book of Jasher” in the Old Testament to be removed by anybody or by any sect in the first place.

Yet with all the clear evidence that no “Book of Jasher” existed until centuries after the New Testament was written we have people today quoting this book to uphold any number of pet doctrines to “prove from ancient Hebrew” that what they are promoting is valid. It is indeed a travesty that this occurs since there are many sincere people trying to get to the bottom of contested doctrines. It is in hope of Bible truth that this short essay may clear away at least some of the cobwebs that uninspired books have put in the way of a Bible student’s walk on the Godly path and the wisdom He gives us in written form.

Of all the several versions of The Book of Jasher the earliest Hebrew text of the book comes from Venice, Italy, and dated at 1625. There are no Hebrew texts of Jasher prior to this version. Venice itself was inhabited and ruled by a corrupt aristocracy known as the Black Nobility. There was no ambition within the clan of these rulers to establish any type of society based on any sort of Biblical principles. Venice was a mercantile empire entirely focused on being the head of the monetary world system of its day. All manner of religious and economic paraphernalia between the Orient and Europe passed through Venice along with all the mystic philosophy that accompanied it. The Black Nobility brought Khazarian and Spanish Jews into Venice but made them live in separate ghettos, using them to bolster the Venetian economy by having them operate their usury business internationally. Along with these “Jews” came a certain Hebrew language influence by their Talmudic Rabbis. Recognition of The Book of Jasher was just one of the unavoidable influences that Babylonian Judaism had on old Venice.

The 1625 Hebrew version of Jasher was said to be a copy of an earlier Hebrew version from Naples dated at 1522. However since the time of that claim no research by theological historians has ever produced any evidence that any such “earlier copy” ever existed at all. Still, proponents of the validity of The Book of Jasher insist that it is an ancient Hebrew text, regardless of the fact that the earliest text they actually can quote is the one from 1625 which they say was derived from a 1522 A.D. text of which there is no record anywhere. A moral treatise, written in A.D. 1394 by Rabbi Shabbatai Carmuz Levita was for some reason titled The Book of Jasher but was not the book and certainly wasn’t written centuries B.C. No Hebrew texts of Jasher can be pinpointed or located before these dates. The Jewish author, Joseph Ben Samuel who published the 1625 version, contrived stories of how his edition was a copy from earlier Jasher manuscripts, but nothing corroborates anything Ben Samuel purports. He simply made up several

involved colorful stories to “authenticate” his 1625 Venetian version hoping that nobody would be the wiser. Other publications of Jasher have run into the same problem. None can be verified as being derived from an ancient B.C. Hebrew text.

*“In 1751 there appeared a volume which professed to be an English translation of The Book of Jasher, alleged to have been found, but the production was an impudent forgery”*. -- Westminster Dictionary of the Bible, 1944 edition, p. 288.

Another oddity about the Book of Jasher and the belief that the 1625 Venetian Hebrew version was a direct copy from original Hebrew Book of Jasher thousands of years old is that the claimed meticulously copied Hebrew 1625 Venetian Jasher has chapters and verses. But original Hebrew manuscripts never had chapters and verses. Chapters didn't exist in Bibles until the archbishop of Canterbury England by the name of Stephen Langton decided they would help clergy navigate the Holy Bible better so he developed the chapter divisions that we use today. Langton lived 1150 – 1228 A.D. The first use of verses came even later in subsequent Bibles. Any Hebrew Book of Jasher written long ago thousands of years B.C. would not have chapters and verses. Close examinations of all accounts concerning the Book of Jasher tie together plenty of evidence that it is a fraud.

But what about the references to The Book of Jasher in our Christian Bible at Joshua 10:13 and 2 Samuel 1:18? Don't these Bible verses tell us that a Book of Jasher existed in the days of ancient Israel? Let's examine this idea to unravel what we really have concerning the entire matter.

These verses from the KJV read as follows:

Joshua 10

13: “And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.”

2Samuel 1

18: “Also he (David) bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.”

We can examine these two verses separately and discover that neither verse is talking about some Book of Jasher. The comment in Joshua 10:13 about the sun and moon standing still in the sky is in reference to Joshua's army defeating the Amorites in battle.

We need to keep in mind that this miraculous happening is clearly mentioned in the book of Habakkuk:

Habakkuk 3:11 “The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.”

We’ll come back to Habakkuk in just a moment. But first Joshua 10:13:

Let us first take a closer look at the word Jasher itself. We see this word in interlinear Hebrew Bibles as it is clearly shown to be יָשָׁרְהִי. This word does not mean Jasher, but rather *the* jasher. It is not a proper name. It is a descriptive word, an adjective if we like, and it literally means *the upright*. Since it does allude to a person the context is most appropriately translated as *the upright one*. Strong’s Concordance has the word at reference # H3477. Furthermore we note that Strong’s correctly has the root as יָשָׁר (yaw-shawr). But in the Hebrew text of Joshua 10:13 it is יָשָׁרְהִי which literally is *the upright one*. That is “*The jasher one*”, not *Jasher*. Hebrew is written right to left and the letter before this word is הִ -- hay. This is the Hebrew article “the” which means that jasher here is not a proper name but is an adjective in Joshua 10:13 -- “written in the book of the jasher”; that is “written in the book of the upright one”. The phrase is describing somebody but it has nothing to do with an individual named Jasher.

To whom then is Joshua 10 referring? The Bible explains itself. It is directly referring to the upright prophet Habakkuk where we read in that book at 3:11 “The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear.” The book of Joshua is merely citing another inspired book (Habakkuk) and did not go outside of the Bible to quote a false book that we know was published in 1625 AD by a Venetian Jew. The prophet Habakkuk was looked upon as upright in a time when nearly all of Judah was corrupt in the days of King Jehoiakim about 609 to 598 B.C. just before the Babylonian invasion as punishment by Yahweh.

It could be argued that the book of Habakkuk was written *after* the book of Joshua so Joshua could not be quoting Habakkuk. However to the contrary, this does not disqualify Joshua 10:13 from quoting the upright prophet Habakkuk. An elementary Bible literary understanding is in order to see why this is so. The ancient Hebrew scribes were in a continual state of copying and recopying the Scripture texts from one era to another so as to preserve them. The copying ensued from generation to generation. We know that other earlier books contain later events in the encompassing effort to complete God’s inspired Holy Word. The first five books of the Bible are ascribed to Moses as being their author. But in chapter 34 of Deuteronomy we read of the death of Moses. Obviously Moses didn’t write chapter 34 but a later scribe who lived after Moses added

the account without diminishing the inspired text of Deuteronomy in its final compilation. These lawful later additions were to compliment the early books. Deuteronomy chapters 1 – 4 and 29 – 30 are also later additions to serve as an enhanced introduction to Deuteronomy history. In like fashion the Book of Joshua mentions the death of Joshua in 24:29. Therefore we know that a later writer added this comment to complete the book. There are other later added subject matters in the Book of Joshua that we won't go into at this time.

As Hebrew scribal history continued copying the manuscripts comprising Joshua, albeit written centuries earlier, these texts were not finalized as canonized books until during and after the Babylonian captivity, ranging from 540 B.C to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D., according to manuscript scrutiny. Many sources are available to bear witness to this veracity. ( see -- The Canon Debate, McDonald and Sanders, 2002; Joshua, J. Creach, 2003 Westminster John Knox Press; Knight, on 2Sam, 1995; among several others.)

As with the writings of Moses that were amended later, scribe copyists who lived during the Babylonian captivity and those when Ezra and Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem were still in the process of completing and organizing the Old Testament accounts and would have had no problem stating in the recopied manuscripts, including Joshua, that the account of the sun and moon standing still is *also* found in the book of the upright prophet Habakkuk, even though Habakkuk lived at a later time than did Joshua. This was standard operating procedure as far as completing the entire Old Testament Bible goes. It was the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in Israel history. These scribes lived after Joshua and Habakkuk both had passed away, yet were still recopying all the older Hebrew texts. The statement by Habakkuk was “back-filled” into the book of Joshua quite appropriately to show the harmony of the books. But none of the copyists were quoting or copying from a supposed Book of Jasher since they never heard of any such book nor had access to one.

The trouble all began when centuries later English translators mistook the Hebrew letters of Hay – Yaw- Shawr הַיָּשָׁר to mean the name Jasher when the syntax demands it to read The – yawshawr, the upright one with the quote about the sun and moon directly pointing to Habakkuk 3:11 “The sun and moon stood still in their habitation”. That is to conclude, a later copyist quoted Joshua and Habakkuk all in the same finalized completion of these books, *and thus* mentioned Habakkuk's comment adding it to Joshua to elaborate on the event. There is nothing errant with this in the least. It has just been overlooked. But the misunderstanding has led to a flood tide of wild speculations and publishings of numerous versions of the mystic “Book of Jasher” all of which are fraudulent. Ultimately the fake “Book of Jasher” is a favorite of New Agers and sci-fiers to promote all manner of non Scriptural doctrines that amuse and confuse the multitudes as our Christian civilization teeters on the edge of destruction. Have we become such a wayward society that people crave entertainment more than yearning for truth? Has our

professed Christian community become so enamored with amusement that it no longer desires the great upright decree “fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man”. (Ecc. 12:13)? God forbid that we fail to discriminate between Holy Scripture and unholy writings.

In continuing to unravel the “Book of Jasher”, what about the other reference to Jasher in our English Bibles? That of 2Samuel 1: 18 (below)

“Also he (David) bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.”

But the book of Jasher never has any verse that says David issued this instruction for use of a weapon of the bow and arrow. Jasher proponents know this to be the case but try to apply a statement of Jacob’s to that of David in order to side step the dilemma. They quote two verses from Jasher:

56:8,9 “And Jacob said unto Judah, I know my son that thou art a mighty man for thy brethren; reign over them, and thy sons shall reign over their sons forever.

Only teach thy sons the bow and all the weapons of war, in order that they may fight the battles of their brother who will rule over his enemies.”

In Jasher we see this instruction being made by Jacob as he neared his death and blessed his sons. It is not made by David to anybody concerning the use of bow weapons of war. The supporters of the Book of Jasher are tripping all over themselves here as they do not grasp to what 2Samuel 1:18 in the KJV and other English Bibles actually refer.

Again, the true phrase in the Bible in Hebrew is “the jasher” in 2Samuel 1:18, not Jasher. Who is “the upright one” in this instance and what is “the bow”? The jasher here is Samuel and the bow is a lamentation song of David in mourning for the death of Saul and Johnathan.

Explanation:

First we need to read verse 17: “And David lamented *with this lamentation* over Saul and Jonathan his son:”

In the next verse 18 the Hebrew does not say “*the use of* the bow”, rather simply “the bow” the name of the lamentation that immediately follows. Note in the KJV the words “the use of” are in italics which means they were not in the Hebrew text. “The bow” is the name of David’s song about Saul and Jonathan, similar to the many songs David

wrote in the Psalms. KJV footnotes on this verse read that “the bow” is a song. Verse 18 correctly reads: “Also he (David) bade them teach the children of Judah the bow: behold, it is written in the book of the jasher.”

In Hendrickson’s Interlinear Hebrew Bible verse 18 reads thusly: “and he said to teach the sons of Judah the Song of The Bow”. It was called “The Bow” because of Saul’s military exploits. Then verses 19 – 27 recite The Song. These verses are:

2 Samuel 1:19 “The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! 20Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.21Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil. 22From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

23 Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. 24Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. 25How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. 26I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. 27How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”

Therefore, verse 18 did not tell us that we need to go outside the Bible to see what the Book of Jasher says about David instructing the children of Judah in the use of the bow weapon. (Ironically the Book of Jasher never mentions it either). “the jasher” is Samuel, the upright prophet, and the Book of 2 Samuel contains this lamentation song of David’s which is entered precisely after verse 18. “The book of the jasher” in verse 18 is the book of Samuel itself where we find The Bow, David’s lamentation song.

Bible students are cautioned to be very careful of the doctrines of teachers promoting the Book of Jasher and other pseudo books to exploit the sheep who are looking for answers. Such books and doctrines are very much cosmetic in that they can at first sound appealing until the cover is peeled back to expose a hidden agenda.

The Book of Jasher (BJ) is loaded with wild stories and Biblical discrepancies.

BJ reports that strange and mythological creatures existed in the days of Jacob’s and Esau’s sons. In chapter 36 it reads --v31. “And afterward about one hundred and twenty great and terrible animals came out from the wilderness at the other side of the sea, and they all came to the place where the asses were, and they placed themselves there.

32. And those animals, from their middle downward, were in the shape of the children of men, and from their middle upward, some had the likeness of bears, and some the likeness of the keephas, with tails behind them from between their shoulders reaching down to the earth, like the tails of the ducheephath, and these animals came and mounted and rode upon these asses, and led them away, and they went away unto this day.

33. And one of these animals approached Anah and smote him with his tail, and then fled.”

These diabolical creatures are not presented as symbolic dream personifications such as we find in a few Bible narratives as in visions of Ezekiel and Revelation. The Book of Jasher and its supporters view the chapter 36 ghouls as literal, real, and classify them as the Nephilim who they believe were at first offspring of fallen angles who mated with Earth women, then later other Nephilim that were the cross breeding of people with animals after Noah’s flood. Mystic religious promoters have done quite well in building a popular base equal to numbers of church congregations by keeping the Internet supplied with books and videos for their world wide customers. However the Scriptures plainly record that the “Nephilim” translated as the word “giants” in the KJV were merely “mighty men of old, men of renown” (Gen.6:4) The Bible mentions nothing of the Jasher chapter 36 creatures that are a hybrid of men/angels/animals. We should also keep in mind that zoological evidence, archaeology, and long studied fauna classification does not present any credence for the existence of such imaginary creatures either. Similarly we can trust that the two mile high giants or the 450 feet tall giants we read about in the Book of Enoch likewise never existed. These assertions and the ongoing distractions they cause are not helping Christians today who have to contend with the world’s conspiratorial antichrists who are actively working to dispossess Saxons of our lands and enslave the entire planet by enacting evil laws.

Either the Book of Jasher (BJ) is the inspired word of God or our Christian Bible is. They both can’t be and they are in conflict with each other in many places. Some other conflicts of basic primary testimony between these two books include:

BJ at Genesis 1:12 “And the Lord God drove them that day from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which they were taken, and they went and dwelt at the east of the garden of Eden; and Adam knew his wife Eve and she bore two sons and three daughters.” The Bible account of Genesis never declares that Adam and Eve had two sons and three daughters which would only be unsubstantiated speculation.

BJ at 42:30-41 gives an elaborate story of how Rachel speaks to Joseph from the grave. To condense the narrative we have: v35. “Rise, O my mother, rise, awake from thy sleep and see my father how his soul is with me this day, and comfort him and ease his heart.

42:36. And Joseph continued to speak these words, and Joseph cried aloud and wept bitterly upon his mother's grave; and he ceased speaking, and from bitterness of heart he became still as a stone upon the grave.

37. And Joseph heard a voice speaking to him from beneath the ground, which answered him with bitterness of heart, and with a voice of weeping and praying in these words:

38. My son, my son Joseph, I have heard the voice of thy weeping and the voice of thy lamentation; I have seen thy tears; I know thy troubles, my son, and it grieves me for thy sake, and abundant grief is added to my grief.”

This of course leads one into the heresy of Egyptian, Zoroastrian, & Catholic spiritism which is forbidden in Scripture. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned, the penalty is death with no conscious awareness, but Christ will resurrect His chosen believers from death at the last day unto eternal life. (Psalm 146:2-4; Ecc.9:5,10; Ps.115:17; Acts 26:8)

BJ says in 81:3 “And the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in the land of Egypt in hard labor, was two hundred and ten years.”

The Bible tells us in Exodus 12:40 “Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.”

Concerning what happened when Israel left Egypt:

BJ 81:38 — “And the Waters of the sea were divided into twelve parts.”

But Exodus 14:22 “And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left.”

BJ says that Yahweh got the idea to test Abraham’s faith because of the boasting that Ishmael and Isaac were doing between them:

22:42 “And Ishmael boasted of himself to Isaac, saying, I was thirteen years old when the Lord spoke to my father to circumcise us, and I did according to the word of the Lord which he spoke to my father, and I gave my soul unto the Lord, and I did not transgress his word which he commanded my father.

43. And Isaac answered Ishmael, saying, Why dost thou boast to me about this, about a little bit of thy flesh which thou didst take from thy body, concerning which the Lord commanded thee?

44. As the Lord liveth, the God of my father Abraham, if the Lord should say unto my father, Take now thy son Isaac and bring him up an offering before me, I would not refrain but I would joyfully accede to it.

45. And the Lord heard the word that Isaac spoke to Ishmael, and it seemed good in the sight of the Lord, and he thought to try Abraham in this matter.”

This is a complete affront to the sovereignty of Yahweh God with our Bible telling us that Yahweh Himself set about to test Abraham's faith. He didn't get the idea from the two lads.

Genesis 22

1: "And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

2: And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

&

12: And He said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."

There are additional contradictions of events and times in The Book of Jasher versus the Christian Bible but the above mentioned should be enough beginning evidence to see that these books are not compatible as being within the same faith. May our prayers be that Yahweh/Jesus blesses His remnant with wisdom and understanding in these perilous times. Praise be to our King and Savior. As always, comments and input are welcomed.

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