

I believe in God.

“One man’s adventures on the existence of God.”

Copyright © M.A Daniel
2015, First Edition,
All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-0-9549136-8-7

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the author and publisher.

For copies of this book, Seminars, and Workshops,
Contact:

Email: info@madaniel.org.uk

Website: www.madaniel.org

Phone: +447961405851

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 15- Many of my friends have been asking why these series? I decided to state my own side of the case in a world that is increasingly making Christians look like bunch of weirdoes. I am a scientist by training and I believe in God."

"I believe in God 31- Just another reminder as to why I have been writing this series. It's become very clear to me that you can go on to the street butt naked and still not generate enough controversy as to when you call yourself a Christian. I have also noticed a trend among my non- Christian friends suggesting somehow people are brain washed into Christianity. I wanted to shout from the roof top, I'm normal with higher than average I.Q, educated in some of the best schools in the world, led a colourful life with all that goes with that and settled for believing in God with countless reasons I have been writing about. Please take this journey with me with an open mind."

This book is dedicated to anyone who is interested in finding out if there is more to life.

Introduction

My purpose of writing this book is not to persuade you to believe in God. It's a response to a growing cynical society I live in the United Kingdom where I was shocked to discover that quite a high percentage describe themselves as Christians - but very few publicly declare it. I have found myself at different places of work being put in a position of discomfort for being a Christian. Many of the comedians and comedy sketches have a go at Christians almost as routine. In recent times, I have found that it's becoming ridiculous to call yourself a Christian. So I dare to state my side of the matter unequivocally in this book, that, I'm an intelligent, rational, an evidence driven individual trained as a scientist with amassed evidence to believe in the existence of a God. Moreover, I am willing to share this with anyone that cares; if this helps someone on their journey.

Matthew is an Educator who works as a Science, I.T and Maths teacher. He also teaches business and management courses to executives from different parts of the world. He has worked in sales and marketing in many pharmaceutical companies in the UK, leaving as a business development manager at Johnson and Johnson. He has also partnered in a number of business ventures from IT to Infrastructural Maintenance and more

recently in the training industry. An associate of the British Pharmaceutical industries, Matthew is also a qualified teacher and a certified project manager.

1. Prologue

I have heard most of the jokes and insinuations about being a Christian. It got to a point, I had enough of it. Many of these insinuations presupposes that one must be daft to believe in the existence of God I have come to find out that it's easier doing weird things than being a Christian in the UK. I was quite taken aback when I saw a Sikh for the first time. I was more surprised how comfortable they were in this society and yet if you mention the Bible, everybody goes all weird. I have met people who believe in all sorts and yet the society supports them.

I met this woman in Liverpool that believes in the healing powers of some stones and yet she had supporters and some regard in her community. Yet when you mention Jesus, it's as if you have committed a crime. This country has very visible foundations in Christianity and there is a church building in almost every community and yet many are empty. Last Easter, the programme BBC opted to show was one that was trying to cast some doubts on the claims of the Bible.

My opinion is, not only are people moving away from Christianity, but many are trying to discredit it often with no tangible evidence at all - the next easy target for any cynic. The aim of this book is therefore, to state my case for the existence of

God and why I am a Christian. I advise you to read it with an open mind and come to your own conclusion.

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God- "As a kid growing up in Africa, I experienced things both good and bad that all of my science degrees still can't explain. Something inside of me, I discovered that there was more to life than my eyes could see."

"I believe in God 2- Being born with the gift of prophecy helped me bypass the biases. I knew straight away. There was at least one person out there with a keen eye on what's happening here. I didn't know who but I was sure going to find out."

"I believe in God 5- My father was the first to acknowledge my gift. He was intrigued as I told him things I had dreamt about the previous night only to watch them happen a few days later. My siblings thought he favoured me because of my academic prowess but they never knew it was because of my gift. My father always asked my opinion about everything till he died. My life was a big recurring Deja-vu as I watched things unfold that I had fore knowledge about. It was flattering and at the same time scary. I wanted to find out more about this planet, my existence and if there was anybody out there...lots of questions."

"I believe in God 7- As a kid, I didn't know what to do with the gift so I used it carelessly. There are friends connected to me on Facebook now that paid me to make predictions when I was young. I'm embarrassed about those times. My frustration grew as I knew a lot about other people but no clue about me. As I grew, my sense of knowing that there someone greater grew with me. I would look at nature and see the signature of the almighty in beautiful flowers, breath-taking cloud arrangements and astounding landscapes."

2. Growing up

I remember having these dreams vividly as a child; and then witnessing them happen in a few days. I thought something was wrong with me. I did not share this with anyone for a long time. This single gift helped me to bypass many of the bias about the existence of God. I knew early on there had to be more to life than was accounted for. I did not have all the answers but I was so sure there was someone greater than me out there.

I had dreams and sometime had visions which occurred in the day. It felt like daydreaming but the difference was it happened a little while after exactly the way I had seen it. I also discovered something would happen and I will dream about it that night and see how it had happened and who was responsible for what.

As a kid, I did not know what to do with the gift; I knew so much about other people and yet did not have much of a clue about myself. I was very young but carried a lot of burdens on my shoulders. Many of my friends would bribe me to make a prediction and I did. It felt good but very often people got scared of me and would wonder what else I knew that I was not telling.

It was flattering and at the same time scary because when I had foreknowledge, it was cool but when I didn't, I was at a loss at what to do.

I could not explain where all of it was coming from but it made me realise all was not as it seems on this planet. The first person to recognise what I had was my dad. He observed and found out I was right about some things. He got curious and when he probed, I told him the truth. My dad always asked for my advice about things until the day he died.

The gift gave me a head-start for the search of existence of God. I had so many questions on my mind. How did we get here? What is the reason for this existence? Where do we go when we die? But the most important question of all, if I'm able to have these premonitions, then there must be some preordained track. But who is controlling that? Why? The search began early for me.

I became very sensitive to my environment and started to see the image of a creator in the beautiful cloud patterns, the astounding fragrance of the flowers, sunrise on a clear morning and sunset on a quiet day. I had the overwhelming feeling; there was someone greater than me.

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 3- My first search for God was in the Bible. I was taken aback by the first verse of the first chapter- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. This was a major claim; I had to read the rest of this book now."

"I believe in God 4- The Bible made it clear and gave a detailed account of how this planet was populated and what God had in mind when he made it. If these claims were true it was going to be relevant to the rest of my life."

"I believe in God 5- The Bible introduced me to the person of God, history and most profoundly prophecies and how the world will end. I knew the Bible was special when I started to decipher clues in it that answers to life's complication. I have found a gem of inestimable value."

"I believe in God 6- The Bible opened up to me very early as I read about people not too different from me. They had encounters that were very similar to mine. I learnt about people like Daniel that had knowledge of things before it happened and went on to serve four kings in his lifetime. I learnt about how kingdoms were predicted long before they

existed. I learnt about impending doom on this planet and the events that will lead to it. It has been accurate so far. The Bible has 66 books written by various authors over 4000 years and they all tie together. Fancy that being a fluke?"

I believe in God 8- One of the things I observed regularly was how wicked and dishonest humanity was. I was not immune to it myself. I fought with a darker side to me that threatened to destroy me. I struggled with these double sides until the Bible explained it to me. The heart of a man without God is desperately wicked."

"I believe in God 9- The first televangelist I listened to was Rex Humbard. What he said made sense to me. Then I started hearing other Christian's experiences which were different but similar to mine. Think about this, how can millions of people in all the continents of the world say the same thing when all they have in common is a book in a world where they can't agree on anything else?"

"I believe in God 13- Angelic visitations have been reported worldwide and this did not baffle me because the Bible made me aware of the existence of angels and demons. Irrespective of denial by Hollywood, many of their themes still reflect angels and demons. Even some computer games are named

after demonic names like King of Persia. If they don't exist, why are people who don't believe still referring to them?"

I believe in God 14- My most memorable angelic visitation was on a cold night in a town called Suleija in Nigeria in 1993. I had been on a bus for over 14 hours on my way to a Christian conference in Kafachan. The bus broke down and wanted us to move on to another bus for the rest of the journey. I was accosted by a big man with visible tribal marks He introduced himself as John and pleaded with me not to the join the bus. He encouraged me to go across to a church. He told me he worked with the church and showed me an ID. He said the pastor will provide a place for me to sleep. I thanked him and when I got to the church, the pastor welcomed me but had no male employee. I was baffled but when I got to the conference, there were a number of people with similar experiences. I believe in God

3. My first quest

My first attempt at finding God was by reading the Bible. I was exposed to it early on as my parents were Christians. The first line made an audacious claim that in the beginning, God made the Heavens and the Earth, I was taken in by this claim and I knew I would have to read the rest of the book.

The Bible is written in a way that it leaves you with no doubts about its claims; they are either right or are a bunch of lies. In the first chapter, it details how the planet was made over from a state of disjointedness and the order and purpose of why things were made.

The Bible has 66 books written by about 40 Authors from varied backgrounds and times; yet, they had similar things to say. This book was compiled over thousands of years and yet it links into the same thing. What are the chances of that?

The Bible explained and revealed the person of God to me. I started to read a wealth of history that took place and more importantly the stories of individuals and their unique experiences. I started to decipher some of the clues in the book giving me answers to many of my pressing questions.

I was delighted when I discovered individuals that had similar experiences to mine. I read about people who dreamt and had premonitions about the future. I read about the prophecies and their predictions about the future.

My experience with an angelic visitation would have been far-fetched but the Bible has numerous examples of individuals that have experienced the same.

The Bible has many predictions that have come true and some still left to be fulfilled. I was so excited about this. I read about individuals like Daniel that served four kings over several years and was sought after because he had Godly wisdom. I read about many flawed individuals that had varied experiences with God and consequences of decisions taken over time. I'm most excited that an end has been predicted and will be watching closely for the events predicted.

Very early on, I was perplexed at the state of humanity. I was quite surprised how calculating and wicked humans can be to each other. I marvelled at how one side was in abundance while the other side was in perpetual poverty. I could not understand why we have to kill each other to prove a point and we call it war. I don't get what will make one person think they are superior to another based on the colour of their skin. How can

an intelligent being be reduced to a series of bigotry based on some warped perceptions? I was not totally immune because I had my own dark side too that reared its ugly head from time to time. I was really confounded until the Bible explained to me that a heart without God is desperately wicked.

When I watched a televangelist on TV, I was quite surprised to hear things I could relate to. What got me was how can so many people from different continents read one book and reach the same conclusion in a world where we can't agree on anything. There is something about this book.

My suggestion is that everyone should read this book with an open mind before giving up on it.

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 10- I came across evolution teaching when I was twelve. I have since studied and taught it in various institutions. I agree that evolution has some sound observations but the conclusions are deeply flawed. You can find traces of similarities in all the organisms not because they evolved to another but because they were made by the same God. In all the years evolution has been propagated, why don't we have one shred of solid evidence of its continuation in our lifetime? Where is the evolved human, ape, goat....?"

"I believe in God 11- Evolution confirmed to me that all organisms will do everything to survive. Mutation is one of the ways they do that. It was a labour of love by Charles Darwin and his team. What they don't tell you is that Charles Darwin the son of a preacher died denying all of the conclusions now being propagated. He went back to his church and died a creationist. Why is that not being taught?"

"I believe in God 12- I conclude all these creation palaver by saying that men living on one of the tiniest planets in one of the galaxies in the universe cannot definitively state they are

alone nor can they state how it all began. I chose to explore the creation claim further."

"I believe in God 16- As a teenager, I spent a brief period as a medical student. I had the opportunity of seeing the inside of a human. I was astounded at the attention to detail. Everything packed in its proper place in a mixture of fascinating colours. What got me was the band that holds down the tendons in the wrist and the ankles. Without this retinaculum the body would be ugly with tendons sticking out. This is definitely a design not an accident. I believe in God."

4. God and Science

I got into secondary school and had flair for science. I enjoyed it until I came in contact with the teaching of evolution. Here was a celebrated teaching that was meant to have given a believable alternative to how we came here as a specie.

I was excited, I devoured anything I got my hands on and researched in my private time. At the age of twelve, I could pick holes in the claim.

Evolution is very sound in the evidence it presents for how interrelated all organisms are. It also gives plausible explanation for survival of the fittest. Variation and adaptation are wonderful advancements in how we have adapted to our planet.

Evolution is predicated on a meticulous classification of groups of organisms on the island of Galapagos. My submission is, the evidence proves the inter-relativity of organisms and the fact that may have been made by the same being.

Many years after, I became a science teacher and discovered many inexplicable aspects of the teaching. I was surprised when I discovered Charles Darwin recounted the claims before he

died and went back to his father's church in England.

My question to anyone reading this is, if evolution took place in the past, what stopped it? Why have we not witnessed any more in our lifetime? What started it and why have we not evolved to something else?

Evolution is a theory and yet it's been taught in almost all the schools in the world. Many will not be able to discern that it's just a theory.

A little later as a teenager, I spent a few years as a medical student. I saw a lot that convinced me about the existence of a God. One that got my attention was when we had a session in anatomy. We opened up a cadaver. I was fascinated about the arrangement inside of the human body. Every organ fits into each other perfectly and the colour arrangement is breath taking. I saw that the arm and leg muscles end in tendons. These tendons attach to the bones and would have been ugly, but guess what!, a band known as the retinaculum holds them down in a tidy pile. The body is not an accident, it's a design.

I saw people sick unto death make remarkable recoveries and people that were not that sick cave in and died. I noticed that many of the times, the doctors don't really know what is wrong, they

explore until they are able to make an educated guess.

Science has made many excellent contributions to mankind. I'm in full support of that but the problem is it has also made many assumptions that are not true. Science has given some excellent explanations to what is happening and how it happens but never as to how it started and possibly how it may end.

THE BIBLE	SCIENCE THEN	SCIENCE NOW
-The Earth is a Sphere. Isaiah 40:22	-The Earth was a flat disk	-The Earth is a Sphere.
-Innumerable Stars, Jeremiah 33:22	-only 1100 stars	-Innumerable Stars.
-Air Has Weight. Job 28:25	-Air is weightless	-Air Has Weight.
-Each star is different. 1 Corinthians 15:41	-All stars were the same	-Each star is different.
-Light moves. Job 38:19-20	-Light was fixed in place	-Light moves.
-Free float of Earth in space. Job 26:7	-Earth sat on a large animal.	-Free float of Earth in space.
-Winds blow in cyclones. Ecclesiastes 1:6	-Winds blew straight.	-Winds blow in cyclones.
-Ocean floor contains deep valleys and mountains. 2 Samuel 22:16; Jonah 2:6	-The ocean floor was flat.	-Ocean floor contains deep valleys and mountains.
-Blood is the source of life and health. Leviticus 17:11	-Sick people must be bled.	-Blood is the source of life and health.
-Creation made of invisible elements. Hebrews 11:3	-Science is mostly ignorant on the subject.	-Creation made of invisible elements(Atoms)
-Ocean contains springs. Job 38:16	-Ocean fed only by rivers and rain.	-Ocean contains springs.
www.facebook.com/LIVEFORJESUS.DIEFORJESUS		

Culled from Facebook.com

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 17-Every bona fide Christian knows about the guiding voice of God which many have referred to as the inner witness. The Bible alludes to it in many places, the most vivid being in the book of Isaiah where it says we will hear a voice behind us telling us to go right or left. Jesus also stated in many places in the book of John that he constantly followed his father's guide. This has played and continues to play a huge role in my life and in the lives of many Christians I know."

"I believe in God 18-In addition to the accuracy of the Bible, the strange but accurate dreams and visions, I'm very grateful to insightful inner leadings that saved me from very dangerous situations, led me to winning situations and helped me to marry probably the only person in the world that fully understands me."

"I believe in God 19-When I was 10 that voice told me to prepare as I will represent him across the world especially in difficult places and to people nobody will go to. I was very concerned at the time because all the preachers I knew were destitute and there was nothing to suggest I could. Events and half a lifetime later, I look back to the opportunity to have been preaching in the last 19 years-I believe in God."

"I believe in God 20-At some point as a teenager, I went off the rails, hanging out with some tricky bunch. We were in this house doing stuff when that voice told me, leave now! I stepped out a few minutes and when I got back, all the others have been arrested. Till this day, those guys call me "Lucky Luciano" but I know better."

I believe in God 21- I was in a dark place in my life and cut off from anything God. I was constantly drinking and very angry that God would let me be in that situation. For over a year, I was drunk most nights and yet this voice kept telling me 'I love you'. One of those nights, I got very drunk and puked; I hated myself and what I had turned into. I tried to clean up disorientated and disgusted, that voice said 'I still love you'. I broke down and wept till morning.-I believe in God."

"I believe in God 22-After a long time in an angry mode, one event changed my life forever. I slept and heard this voice again saying read Ecclesiastes 9:11. I had not come across it before then, so I woke up and looked for a copy of the Bible. Then I understood. Anyone not dependent on the grace of God is just playing Russian roulette with their life. I have tried my hardest since not to take the grace of God for granted. I sobered up after that."

"I believe in God 23-Eccles 9:11 made me realise nobody has the right to boast about anything; it also made me know that

but for the grace of God, life would be a game of chance. I was born with certain advantages but it was not going to be enough to make me successful. I will need God every step of the way. This has helped me come to this point in my life."

"I believe in God 24- My irresponsible past threatened to catch up with me when I returned to the university after a dramatic break. Some group of people decided to hurt me and a hit was put on me. For a whole year, this voice guided me and helped me escape ambushes planned for me. I later confirmed that one of them became born again and confessed. This voice was my satellite navigator for a whole year. I had to discover this God and worship him."

"I believe in God 25- For anyone still doubting, please read. I became complacent after some time and decided to venture out on a social evening. I was having pepper soup (an African delicacy) in a place called black market in university of Ibadan (Nigeria) around 8PM when I looked up and was surrounded by 10 guys with dangerous weapons. I was so sure it was my last moment, so I muttered some desperate prayers asking God for help. Till this day, I marvel at what happened. People had scurried away at the sight of the guys and I was left alone at this open air restaurant. I got up, calmly walked to my car as these guys followed me, got in, started the engine and drove away. I will worship this God until the day I die."

5. The inner Voice

I have heard the voice of God for as long as I can remember. I call it the voice of God because after over forty years of following this voice, it can only be God. Apart from the dreams and visions, there was this inner voice that has guided me a long time.

Many Christians are familiar with this experience and no matter what side of the discussion you may be, as to whether this voice is audible or not, many Christians agree that this happens regularly.

My earliest recollection was when I was ten. I heard this voice and it told me I was going to preach the gospel around the world. He said I would represent him in difficult places. I was perturbed because it was from the medical doctor my dad had so eagerly suggested to me and far from what I wanted because of the state of the preachers I knew. Many years after, it happened exactly as predicted. I have preached the gospel in Africa, Europe, America and the Far East in the last twenty years in some very difficult situations and to some very hard to reach people.

Many Christians are reluctant to discuss this topic so they are not mistaken for mental patients. This gets more complicated when you add the fact that there is a contrary voice as well that says things

that are not true and tries to intimidate and induce fear as well. Sounds like schizophrenia?

In my teenage years, I started moving with some rough crowd. That voice kept me away from dangerous situations. I was rescued from more tricky situations than I can write about because it will sound like I made it up. My friends called me lucky Luciano but I knew better.

I became worse when I failed medical school. I was one of the highest performing students in my class and suddenly due to some bizarre trend of events; I was advised to quit medical school. I was devastated. I turned to alcohol and quickly became a drunk. Every night I went to bed drunk and that voice told me just before I drifted to sleep, "I love you". One night that I recall vividly, I was so drunk that I threw up. In the middle of that disgusting environment, I heard that voice again, "I still love you". That broke through my erected barrier and I cried till morning.

I blamed God for my situation and was very angry he would allow the situation to happen. I was sleeping one day when that voice told me to read Ecclesiastes 9:11. It was my first time of reading it and after I read it, I finally understood that life is a Russian roulette unless you give God the opportunity to help you. Your talents and capabilities do not matter; life does not follow

expected patterns. That finally cured me of my almost two years of moaning and sulking.

I cleaned up and returned to complete a degree programme and life almost returned to normal. I got into bad crowd again and was forced into a very dangerous cult. I was never comfortable and so I absconded. This was at the risk for my own life. I kept attending lectures but I moved home in order to avoid being killed or maimed. For almost a year, this voice accurately guided me as to how to avoid the traps set for me. A member that became a Christian later confirmed this to me.

I became complacent after a while. I was going to places on the university campus without praying and was pretty much going back to when things were normal. I was coming back from the library one evening with a friend that had absconded from the same cult when we were surrounded by some members. We were accosted by the nearby lawn tennis court where they were holding a meeting. My friend was badly beaten almost immediately and I was asked to inspire them. With my knees shaking I gave some oration but was almost wetting my pants. I was not touched and allowed to go. I was dumbfounded.

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 26- Miraculous healings are nothing new to many Christians. Charlatans and bad press have made it look like it never happens. I'm a living testimony both as a recipient and conduit by which God has healed. I'm also a living witness to many other healings that Science will never be able to explain. - I believe in God."

"I believe in God 27- Have you never wondered why no smart journalist in this cynical world has not been able to expose any wrong doing in Benny Hinn's healing ministry of over 30 years or Gloria Copeland or Oral Roberts, or Kenneth Hagins or Pastor Adeboye and countless others with legitimate healing ministries. More to the point, why are they not covering these healing stories more decidedly so the world can benefit from them if they are true?"

I believe in God 28- Strangely, I am well placed to add an opinion about treatment options having been a medical student, worked extensively in the pharmaceutical industry in the UK and being a pastor. I submit to you with demonstrable evidence that doctors can treat you no doubt but its only God that heals. Many of the medication that people pop into

their system with confidence have serious medical implications that will bewilder an average person. If you have some spare time, open the box of your analgesic tablets (any one) and read the side effect column. My take over the years is different strokes for different folks. Some place their faith in the medical system and some don't. As for me, I have been treated by doctors a number of times but always believed God for my healing.

"I believe in God 29-My first experience with Gods healing was about 30 years ago. I had suffered from severe stomach ulcer from as long as I could remember. I would have bouts of debilitating pain for periods of time. I used Gelusil, watched what I ate without much improvement. One day in frustration, I looked up and said, you will have to heal me, I'm tired of this. That was the end of that! No more pains, no more ulcer. I have eaten some spicy stuff in that time. Still healed. Glory to God!"

"I believe in God 30- I was also a chronic smoker. Those that lived with me in Warri (1992-1993), will remember. I tried to quit but failed miserably. Then I remembered how he healed me of ulcer. I was not attending any church, I was not praying regularly and far from my Christian roots. Again out of

frustration, I said, if you don't help me with this cigarette thing, I can't help myself. I went to bed without any drama, got up the next day and boarded a bus to somewhere. Someone was smoking and I was chocking, then it dawned on me what had happened. 1993 till this day, no urge, no withdrawal symptoms, no craving. Glory to God!"

7. I'm healed

The issue of divine healing has been a thorny one for many Christians. This is further complicated by the divergent teachings in the churches; some believe in healing while others not so sure. I'm a living testimony that God heals. He has healed me several times over the years. The highlight of my healings was from a debilitating ulcer which ruled my life for so long. I cried out in desperation and instantly healed me, over thirty years and still healed. He also cured me from chronic smoking addiction.

Many have also witnessed others healed but not too sure of what to do about it. I decided to do a bit more. I carefully paid attention to those healed around me and over the years I have noted scores of people healed till this day. I am fully persuaded that God heals.

When I became a minister, I discovered that healing virtues usually flow in many of my meetings. I have the privilege of dozens of healings taking place in my meetings with all of the glory going to God. That is why I was taken aback that many of the healing ministries around the world are not publicised more than they are now by many of these nosy investigative journalists. My personal opinion is some of them did but refused

to affirm many of the miracles because they could not explain it.

I worked extensively in the pharmaceuticals and know that many of the tablets people put their trust in have some serious side effects. Even the basic tablet that treats headache has lots of side-effects.

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 33- I want to take some time to talk about the evils perpetrated in the name of God. I will also look at organised crime parading as organised religion. It is important to introduce balance. If you are easily offended, look away now."

"I believe in God 34- A little bit of background. I have been researching in the last 15 years for one of my yet to be published books. This research has taken me back in history and covered over the last 6000 years. I was particularly interested in how did we get here? How did humanity get to this point? The ideas for the book were born when I asked God over 20 years ago, if you are just, why is there so much disparity among the races? Some aspects of my findings will be shared in the next few postings."

"I believe in God 35- From the cave man to the modern man, one thing has remained the same, survival. This has fuelled his decisions and caused so many troubles. If you look at the trend of history, there is one common factor-human being! Man has been shown to commit cannibalism, murder, rape,

bigotry in various ways, manipulation, deceit, slavery, wars.....Man without restraints is basically CRAZY!!!!"

"I believe in God 36- All religion has got something to answer for but for the purpose of this, I will confine myself to Christianity. The trouble escalated when Jesus appeared on the scene around 2(B.C.) He came with a different message and the organised religious organisations got angry. He was not happy with the needless taxing of followers under the guise of the Old Testament and was not happy with religion that lacks real love. The organised religion connived with the Roman occupants in order to silence him. Christianity has never been the same since."

"I believe in God 37- Well learned men who studied the scriptures took it upon themselves to interpret it to others. These religious leaders turned Christianity to business. People were charged different Tithes and Offerings for various things based on a warped interpretation of Levitical laws. Jesus was opposed to this and was very vocal about it. He lived quite simply and liaised with fishermen, tax collectors, ex-prostitutes and people on the fringes of society. The religious leaders eventually plotted and got him killed in about AD 33. My question to you, what has changed?"

"I believe in God 38-The introduction of Tithes and Offerings was to establish a covenant with God, encourage charitable giving and to take care of the affairs of the Church, including the priest, the widows, the strangers and those generally in need. Many churches have failed miserably in this regard."

"I believe in God 39-The best hour of the church so far was when she was persecuted fiercely between AD33-323. Christians were hounded and killed; many of them were killed for entertainment. They met in secret locations and many were forced to flee Jerusalem to the uttermost part of the world taking the gospel with them. Then, the church became mainstream and has been part of the decadence ever since."

"I believe in God 40-From AD 323 Emperor Constantine took a break from persecuting Christians and said he had a dream. He legitimised the church and painted a cross on the shields of his soldiers who went to war and won. Buildings were provided for churches but major compromises were made and the gospel was mixed with pagan practises. That was the rise of pseudo Christianity that has the entire semblance but lacked the soul."

"I believe in God 41- From that emerged the Catholic Church with all the pomp and pageantry and power backed by the authorities. Many things not in the Bible, made their way into the church and for over 1200 years, the church oversaw a period in history known as the dark ages. Characterised by burning suspects as witches or wizards, sexual crimes, debauchery, corruption, blackmail of wealthy, and murder of those that stood in their way. The church was finally in charge and that was what was done?"

"I believe in God 42- A German Monk called Martin Luther got an inspiration in the mid sixteen century and broke away from the Catholic Church to start a reformation collectively known as Protestants. This started a liberated movement that gave freedom to modes of seeking and worshipping God. Great as this was, it gave birth to the trend of people taking one or a few aspect of the doctrine and building a church movement on it; Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists.....The last time I checked, there were 150000 branches of Protestantism."

"I believe in God 43-From late 18th Century to 20th Century, the Church sent missionaries from Europe mainly to the uttermost parts of the Earth. Many of them were

sincere and gave their lives to spread the gospel. Then, some human beings came up with an idea, "if these missionaries can access these new countries, let us see how we can exploit them to our advantage". This became another unfortunate mix up of religion with the intention of state. (the west) Africa was divided up and India and China were looted. Many people out there still blame religion for this. Slavery was born and places like South Africa had some churches justifying inequality between the races using the Bible. Many were strangely quiet but thanks to God for the few that spoke up.

"I believe in God 44- if you have read this far, remember, I'm not an enemy of the church just stating some historical facts that can be verified at the touch of a button or by visiting your local library. These are some of the facts that some educated people are in possession of that makes them doubt the existence of God. My aim is to prove that man may have hinged some unsavoury things in the name of religion - but that does not mean God does not exist."

"I believe in God 45- I have also found out that many Christians struggle to evangelise outside of the scriptures. Once a matter of history or socio-political issues is raised, they are completely lost or unsure. In the days coming, quoting

scriptures will not be enough. It has started in Europe and it will spread. You must be versed in the history of the church, other religions, youth culture and how God fits into it all. That's what I have been trying to do as a pastor and a child of the most high God."

"I believe in God 46- Late 19th century and early 20th century a new movement started in the church. They were collectively known as Pentecostals because of their emphasis on the expressions of the Holy Spirit. They returned a lot of credibility by the public display of Gods power and the supernatural. Notable revivals like the Azusa Street led by an African American, Seymour. There was also the Evan Roberts revival in Wales and the Campbell led revival in Scotland which swept through the world and the church had resurgence. In the 70s, some of the leaders started courting controversies especially in areas of personal remunerations and public display of wealth. This controversy rages on till this day."

"I believe in God 47- Despite over 2000 years of atrocities in the church, there has been a remnant that has been faithful. Many of these individuals have paid a heavy price to preach the gospel and to keep the unadulterated teachings of Jesus.

These people represent the highlights of Christianity. Some groups of people were almost annihilated for guarding the scrolls of the Bible and many were physically killed for not compromising. Many are still being persecuted in pockets all over the world."

"I believe in God 48- All of Jesus disciples were severely persecuted and most of them were cruelly killed. Early Christians were fed to the lions or forced to fight as gladiators in the roman arenas. The most notable were people trying to get the Bible into the hands of ordinary people; The Waldensians and the Lollards, Martin Luther, John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, Ludwig Hetzer and Hans Denck, bonifacio ferrer , Francisco de Enzinas , Juan Perez de pineda , Cassiodoro de reina , Cipriano de valera , jacques Lefevre , Schuch, Peter Chapot , Stephen Polliot , Nicholas Nayle, Dionysius Vayre, Bartholmew Hector, Jacob van Maerlandt, Antonio Brucioli and many nameless individuals who sacrificed to get the Bible into our hands. What is so special about this book?"

8. Colourful Church History

Jesus came and organised church; since then, church has not been the same. He attended the synagogue regularly to show that it was the place to start the debate. He was very active outside of the synagogue and made friends with unusual people.

Jesus was not a friend of the Pharisees and Sadducees and they were in charge of religious matters. This is our first clue not to trust organised religion. They went on to metamorphose into bishops and oversaw some of the worst atrocities in the history of mankind.

The church became very close to the monarchy and was given so much power. Unfortunately, the church used this position of privilege to oppress and acquire enormous wealth especially in landed properties.

The church was behind the crusades that started around the eleventh century. These were masked wars waged under the religious banner. Most of the crusades arose in Europe and culminated in Israel. Lots of people were killed by people who taught they were God's work.

Dissent broke out and the Protestants were born under the leadership of Martin Luther. This

movement was pure at the beginning but very soon started branching out into interest groups and soon lost its potency. Today, we have lost count of branches of these churches across the world giving a confusing picture to those who are not Christians.

In the 16th Century, many Christians from Europe started traveling to the uttermost parts of the Earth; taking the light of the gospel to some dark parts of the globe. The downside of many of these missions was the fact that European governments attached trade off the back of the gains made by these Christians and very soon exploitation took over. The spread of the gospel giving birth to the inhuman slave trade and many of the trading companies that gave strength to colonialism. This made the European countries very rich and by extension countries that sprung from them like America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. I believe very firmly this was not Gods original plan. The gospel was meant to have set these people free and with the help of the west develop to an admirable status.

Towards the end of the 18th Century, fresh impetus broke out on missions and these led to the birth of those that eventually helped to end slavery in Europe. This movement led to revival in Scotland with ripples across mainland Europe. Many giants of the faith were given birth to from the UK. Many

of their works still colour the spiritual landscape till this day.

The positive change had a high point in the USA with the birth of the Azusa street movement which gave birth to the rise of Pentecostal movement, around the same time; the Welsh revival also broke out affecting the globe.

Currently, the gospel has spread across the world in a phenomenal way since the beginning of the 20th century with gospel being preached in many of the hard to reach places in the world. The church has largely become rich and influential in some parts while influence is waning in others. The conclusion of the modern day churches is a very diluted state with personal welfare overtaking the gospel of the kingdom. Many have become efficient business units selling everything apart from the original message it was tasked to; that the kingdom is at hand and making disciples of people.

Africa has made giant strides in the spread of the gospel by becoming the last bastion of upholding the gospel. They are on all continents of the Earth spreading the gospel. It is very important to go back to the original message so that we don't keep giving birth to pseudo Christians who will become bad adverts for our God. The good news in all of these is the fact that God will always have his remnants and that the light will never go out.

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 50-So far I have taken you on my journey as to why I believe in God; starting from being born with a gift to visions, dreams, the Validity of the Bible, The inner guide of the Holy Spirit, Miraculous healings and even taking a short journey into the many foibles of the church and the existence of impostors in the church. Now, I want to give some examples of divine provision, a concept well understood by many Christians but confusing to others. I have been a regular beneficiary of this."

"I believe in God 51-My earliest experience of divine provision was when I lived with my grandmother as my father studied abroad in England. She was owed lots of money in the village in her sleeping mat business. She would wake me up each day to pray before setting out on several miles of debt recovery. I never looked forward to it as a young child but each day without fail, she would be paid something and even given contract for a few more. She told me every day without fail. I have been young and now I'm old. I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor their seed begging bread. I thought my grandmother wrote that phrase until I found it in Psalm 37:25."

"I believe in God 52-Many years later growing up with my parents. I watched as they both prayed and God provided in many difficult circumstances. One that stuck to my mind was one of those lean times, dad called us together and we prayed for provision as things were really down. We were at home watching the television when someone knocked on our door, he had gone to my father's office and traced our home by asking around. He was an old student of his who felt compelled to come and show gratitude for how he was treated as a student. In his car was foodstuffs, chicken, turkey and he handed over a brown envelope with a wad of cash. Call it coincidence- I believe in God."

"I believe in God 53- When I left the university, I decided to follow the slippery road of business. I needed miracles daily to conduct business in the country of my birth Nigeria. I remember running a public transport enterprise when I served. I prayed and got an inspiration. This inspiration netted me revenues in 3 hours that took other drivers all day. Many people in Uyo (Akwa Ibom) will remember in the early 90s the youth corper who brought a different perspective to the Garage. Till this day, I know where that inspiration came from. Definitely not me."

"I believe in God 54- Many years after living in the UK, I was preparing my CV to apply to my first major job in the pharmaceuticals, I did an unusual thing, I wrote under hobbies, that I love reading gospel books and listening to gospel music. I was interviewed by one of the powerful figures in the industry. He took one look at my CV and said are you one of those happy clappy people? I answered in the affirmative. He looked at me and said convince me there is God. I forgot for a moment it was an interview as I stood up and spoke with passion. An hour later, I got the job. My first major interview in the UK for a major pharmaceutical was about talking about God. Anyone that knows anything about this country will understand the proportions of this miracle. There is a God."

"I believe in God 55- A little later, I applied for a more senior role. I was under qualified and did not have enough experience required. I applied anyway. I will always remember that cold day in Cambridge, as I walked into the reception, the receptionist looked at me like I was alien. What can we do for you? She asked and when I said I was there for the interview, blood drained from her face. I was so nervous but kept praying. I met this distinguished gentleman as I sat down, I introduced myself and he told me he was there for the same interview. I asked him his background and he told me he was

Oxford first and second degree. I squirmed. I only had my Nigerian certificate at the time. 4 hours later, I got offered the job. "Some trust in Horses and some in Chariots but I will trust in the name of God".

"I believe in God 56-Over the years, in many difficult situations, God has exceeded my expectations. Always coming through in the most spectacular way. I have been in some tight corners in my life and without exception, something always happens. Even when I was close to bankruptcy, I thought my life was over. Then he started coming through for me; Divine ideas, Debt cancellation, miraculous pay-outs, ridiculous consultancy offers, and unexpected promotion and my life came back. Now, I tell my children " I was young but now old, I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread."

9. Divine Provision

This is one area I'm very qualified to talk about because the sum total of my life has been Gods providence. I have watched my grandmother as a kid and followed the trend of things till this day in my life and in the lives of people around me. I humbly conclude that divine provision exists and is available for those who want it.

I witnessed my grandmother place her trust in God time and time again and her trusts were never put to shame. The same with my father during the days of suddenly running out of money, we would pray as a family and miracles happened time and time again without fail. These helped to develop the faith muscles in me and so as I confronted the vicissitudes of life, I also placed my trust in God. The results are the same; I have never been let down.

Expecting divine provision does not preclude planning and working hard. This is one area that needs clarification in many churches around the world. Sometimes, Christians have been accused of waiting on this pie in the sky as they miss out on countless opportunities available to them and within their reach.

One area of controversy today in the body of Christ is in tithing and I would love to state my own

conclusion about the matter. The first person to tithe as recorded in the Bible was Abraham. He was not mandated, it was voluntary. There was an immediate response to that act as God appeared to him in a vision and reassured him he was his reward. Abraham went on to negotiate a massive covenant with God and prospered in all he did. A little later, it became an ordinance for the children of Israel. This went on till the times of Jesus. Many were still paying it according to the law until Apostle Paul declared it has to be without compulsion.

The biggest controversy has been not just about paying it but the use to which the money is put. Many are shocked at the obvious flaunting of wealth by some pastors and don't understand why many of those churches will not do more for the poor. Some churches have also gone on a massive expansion that needs more money to just keep it in the same place and some are questioning if God had commissioned these projects.

When the tithe was introduced in Leviticus, it was meant to keep the priesthood, the strangers and the widows. It was meant to take care of the priest and the needy. Much of the protest had been about the needy not being catered for as much and the priest taking the big slice. Many have stopped paying altogether.

I pay my tithe like Abraham. I freely choose to honour God and enter into a covenant with him concerning my money. I give my tithe to my high priest Jesus who has replaced the order of Melchizedek and I expect to be blessed by the greater in the process.

I experience divine favour regularly; people bless me with money without me asking, my wife and I constantly get ridiculous bargains on things we need, our money stretches further than their worth, we have ideas that are not usual and see opportunities where many cannot, people invite us to invest regularly to lofty ideas and our children also benefit from divine favour regularly.

We have taught this principle to our children and they have testimonies of their own. When God is part of your income, you travel further than those who consume everything.

Facebook Timeline Quotes

"I believe in God 49-The sum total of my trip through church history has shown that if you put human beings in charge of anything, there will be problems. That does not mean God does not exist. Here is the clincher, all I have written about was predicted in the book of revelation written around AD60. Clues are in the letters to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3. This outlines the 7 different types of churches that will exist. We are now in the Laodicea church era- lukewarm church that thinks they are rich lacking nothing but are actually poor. The Bible is awesome."

"I believe in God 57- I will be exploring the prophetic aspect of the Bible. Looking at the prophecies fulfilled and the ones yet to happen. One of the earliest prophecies was in Genesis 3:15. Predicting the birth of Jesus and how he will crush the head of Satan. That took place over 4000 years after the prediction. That is why we celebrate Easter."

"I believe in God 58-Genesis 2 and 3 gives an accurate description of the beginning as around North Africa. Science only caught up to that fact that civilisation began in Africa. Genesis 3:16-18 gives God's curse on the state of

the earth. The state of the quality has been deteriorating since. All the fertilizers in the world have not greatly improved soil quality all over."

"I believe in God 59-Gen 6:3 states that God stated that the years of men shall be about 120 years. The average age of man has not passed that since. Imagine, how could the writers have guessed that humans will not pass this age when people in their time lived far longer than this?"

"I believe in God 60-Gen 7 states that God declared that there will be a flood. 105 years later this flood happened and recently, the scientists agree that there is evidence that most of the globe was under water for a period of time. There are arguments going on as to whether there are relics of Noah's ark on mountain Ararat (Turkey) or not but they all agree there was a flood of the kind described. The Bible is awesome."

"I believe in God 61-Gen 9:24-26 explains the issue of races. It predicted that the West will be inextricably linked to the Jews and predicted why the Black race will struggle until the finished work of the cross will finally set him free. Tough but true."

"I believe in God 62- Gen 12:1-3 predicted that Abraham will become a great nation, this was fulfilled almost so many years after when the nation of Israel was formed. The prophecy also predicted the fact that the whole world will be blessed through him. This was fulfilled when a descendant of his, Jesus came to bless the entire world."

"I believe in God 63- Gen 15:12-16 God signed a covenant with Abraham. He predicted that his descendants will be slaves in Egypt and that when they leave after 400 years they will have great possession and possess the land of the Amorites. This happened exactly as predicted. God knows the future."

10. Prophecies

The fact that the Bible has so many prophecies is evidence enough that God knows the future. There are many prophecies in the book predicting the future long before they happened.

4000 years before the birth of Jesus, it was predicted in the Garden of Eden. The prediction about his birth and manner of death can be read in the book of Isaiah. The town of his birth was also predicted in the book of Micah. His second coming and judgement also catalogued in the book.

The Jewish nation has also been thoroughly documented in the Bible, with the prediction of their slavery in Africa for over 400 years to the taking ownership of the Promised Land and even the destruction of Jerusalem which eventually took place around AD 70. The Bible accurately predicts the forming of the nation of Israel that took place in 1948.

The empires of this world have also been captured starting from the Babylon Empire, Mede-Persians, Greek, Rome, post Rome till the end. This can be read in the book of Daniel.

Jesus talked about the signs of the end with accuracy. All of what he mentioned is happening now. We await the revelation of the son of

perdition. Other predictions about the end are captured in the book of Revelations.

There are so many other random predictions scattered in the Bible; an allusion to a very fast chariot which many have equated to a car, the mention of the whole world watching something at the same time which now is not far-fetched with the satellite and cable networks, the referral to people being taken in shackles naked across the sea which has translated to the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the mention of Armageddon which many interpreted to be third world war.

I conclude on the fact that I and many others have the privilege of hearing him and have been told things before they happened, there can only be one conclusion, there is a God who oversees the affair of the earth and he knows the future. Anyone who builds a relationship with him can enjoy this privilege.

The End

Other Books by Matthew A. Daniel (Majesty Publishing USA, UK, Nigeria)

1. My first book of Bible stories.
2. My second book of Bible stories.
3. How to prosper in Recession.
4. Effective Prayer Manual.
5. Wisdom for Today: 7th Anniversary Edition.
6. Son, I was a teenager too.
7. Daughter, I was a teenager too.
8. Sons of God.

These are available on madaniel.org, Kindle Edition available on Amazon.

Bibliography

