



# Why Christianity? Answer in 3 amazing parallels!

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The present work is a short sermon that I had on the day of my baptism in the "Ekzarh Iosif" church in Sofia where I used to go as a bachelor student. In the sermon I am discussing a few crucial arguments and reasons for me to become a Christian, as well as my personal story of how I heard of the Protestant faith for the first time. More than 10 years have past since this moment during which I have examined and weighted all the evidence and arguments I have been hearing in both directions.

But why should the questions of faith be of such big importance for all of us? Can't we just live without that? I am translating this text from Bulgarian in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis that will perhaps be ever remembered and the current situation reminds everyone that as the wise Solomon said "Death catches up with all of us...Even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!". Of course, we all know that we will die and just because everyone know it, we tend to ignore this fact mainly because nobody could do anything. What Christianity does is to give us some hope! Is this hope negligible or substantial?

The listed arguments and especially parallels in the Biblical text like those in section 2.2, made me to believe that my faith is not blind, but well-grounded and that the hope is substantial! The parallels are something not easily seen, very difficult to embed in the text and as a result - a very strong argument of authenticity! The first parallel also clarifies why Christ should at all die for our sins - a widely misunderstood, but really important concept.

## 1 In the beginning..

First, a couple of words about how I heard of the Protestant faith. Bulgaria is a post-communist Eastern Orthodox country which means that as a kid I have been hearing of Christianity twice a year - on Christmas and on Easter. In addition, neither of my parents or acquaintances really knew a lot about Christianity and the Bible. Then it comes 2004, when I was 14 and started my high school education in the Math high school of my hometown. Back then I was interested in two main things - math and soccer.

On the soccer field, I met another boy, older than me, called Dimitar (Mitko), who was better than me in both soccer and math. Of course, this caught my attention and I started to hang out with him trying to investigate how he does it. His character was also different, because it was impossible for him to get angry or say a bad word to someone. I have not seen such a behaviour prior to that moment. We became friends, we played a lot of soccer together and went to several math competitions. A few years after we met, he explained to me that he is attending a particular Protestant church and that he is reading the Bible, which is very uncommon in Bulgaria and even considered weird. I was quite sceptical as well, but then I heard that the two cousins of Mitko, who were IMO gold and silver medalists (this is the world's most prestigious math high school competition) also attend this church.

This convinced me to try learning more about their faith and I started to study the Bible seriously, initially having a sceptical look on it. The book of Daniel had huge impact on my thinking, because I saw in it some very direct actual prophecies. Of course, I studied the critique for the book, as well, which claims that the whole book was written after the prophesied events, but I found this critique rather weak. Some other amazing arguments I appreciate are discussed next.

## 2 Arguments

First of all - what arguments we are talking about at all when we discuss faith?? Isn't the faith conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1)? For me, even if we cannot prove that something is true, we should still have our reasons and evidence for that. Otherwise, anyone could believe in nonsense! In fact, the verse in Heb. 11:1 is saying: "The faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". If one hopes for something, he usually has his reasons for that and as the verse implies - this is an important part of the faith! Because of that, I will focus on my pre-selected set of reasons.

## 2.1 Pascal's wager

This is a popular argument of Blaise Pascal (1623–1662), implying that a rational person should believe in God. The argument itself is stated in his book "Pensees" ([10]), which I warmly recommend.

	God exists	God does not exist
Wager that God exists	Infinite gain ( $+\infty$ )	Finite lose ( $-c_1$ )
Wager that God does not exists	Infinite loss ( $-\infty$ )	Finite gain ( $c_2$ )

There are exactly two cases - either God exists or not. Let the probability that God exists be  $p > 0$ . Even if it is a very small number, it must be positive. Then, our average gain if we bet that God exists is:

$$p \cdot \infty + (1 - p)(-c_1) = \infty.$$

The average gain if we bet that God does not exist is:

$$p \cdot (-\infty) + (1 - p)(c_2) = -\infty.$$

Conclusion: It is infinitely more profitable to bet that God exists.

This is a very old and relatively simple argument. As such, it was an object of big amount of criticism. The famous atheist Volter, for example, said that the interest he would have if believing in something does not mean that this thing exists. In addition, if the eventual lose  $-c_1$  is huge, then not many people would be willing to play this game at all, despite of the infinitely bigger eventual wins happening with tiny probability. Another interesting critique by the French philosopher Étienne Souriau is that the Pascal makes one big assumption that we cannot be sure whether it is true or not, namely that God accepts our bet and will give to us what is promised, if we believe in him. This is a reasonable counterargument since anybody could claim that he is betting certain tiny amount on something and then Bill Gates or Jeff Bezos will pay him a huge amount of money if he is right even when neither of them knows of such a bet. However, if we read certain verses like John 3:16, John 5:24, Mark 16:16, etc., we will see such promises from the God's side since all of these verses are saying that if one believes, he will have eternal life, i.e., God accepts our bet. But should I believe to the Biblical text? If the answer is "yes", then one could have this infinite gain just by believing. This is the question that we will address with the following unique biblical parallels.

## 2.2 Biblical parallels witnessing authenticity!

The first two parallels are following the sources [1] and [2, 3], respectively.

- Matthew's gospel and the Old Testament book "Exodus".

Old Testament	The book of Matthew (New Testament)
A man called Joseph had dreams and he lead the children of Israel out of Egypt	[Matthew, Chapter 2] A man called Joseph had dreams and he lead the small child Jesus out of Egypt.
After they came out, they crossed the Red sea.	[Matthew, Chapter 3] Jesus was baptized.
After crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel go wondering in the desert for 40 years.	[Matthew, Chapter 4] After the baptism, Jesus is wondering in the desert for 40 days.
The law is given to the mount Sinai.	[Matthew, Chapter 5-6] Jesus is talking about the true meaning of the law, on a mountain.

When I showed this analogy to one non-believer, his first reaction was that obviously one of the books copied from the other one. The parallel is so stunning that this is a normal first reaction, but there is more.. For example, if we look at the original texts, the words of Matthew "He went up on the mountain" in Mat. 5:1 are in direct correspondence with the words in Exodus 19:3 "and Moses went up the mountain to meet with God...". You can read more in the blog post [7].

In fact, what we see in this mysterious parallel is how Christ is tracing the history of Israel. Why does this make sense at all?? What we will show now is not only answering this question but giving meaning to the whole

Bible. Indeed, before hearing the next explanation, it was very hard for me to understand why Jesus should at all die for me and for the sins of all of us? Here is the promised explanation: We are looking for a reason Jesus to follow the history of Israel in this parallel. Below are two interesting verses related to the answer:

”I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.”

**Isaiah 42:6**

”... I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land..”

**Isaiah 49:8**

Both verses tells us something weird. Christ will be a covenant. What does this mean? Let’s focus on the keyword covenant. Where do we have this word in the other places in the Bible? Right in the very beginning, God made a covenant with Adam and Eve. This covenant consisted of 2 parts:

”... and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it...’

**Genesis 1:28**

”You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil..”

**Genesis 2:16-17**

In the first part, God promises to Adam that he will rule over the Earth. However, in the second part requires faithfulness from Adam. The only requirement for Adam is to not do a certain thing, i.e., to eat from a certain tree. My understanding is that the only goal of this commandment is to test faithfulness. God would not suffer much if there is one less fruit of certain kind. Though, we all know what happens next. It turned out that Adam was unfaithful. What does God do? He tries to make a covenant with Noah!

”...But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat..”

**Genesis 6:18**

”...God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”

**Genesis 9:1**

We see the very same promise from God for multiple descendants, as well as the same requirement for faithfulness on the Noah’s side. At the beginning Noah was somewhat faithful when he listens to God despite of being ridiculed by everyone else. Because of his faithfulness, for example, was given the rainbow (Gen. 9:13) which existence itself is indeed amazing! The physical laws could have probably been set up in many other ways without us having the beautiful rainbow. In relation to that, one of verses I find very interesting is the one in Romans 1:20 which says: ”For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. In other words, the surprising way that our world is created should be a strong argument for someone to become a believer, even if this person has never heard any Bible verses or other arguments, even he lives on an isolated island. Those other arguments, though, could be also very important and interesting, so let’s get back to Noah. After being faithful for a while, Noah turned out to be unfaithful, as well, by getting drunk with wine. In some sense, he also decided to try the forbidden fruit, as Adam did. Another similarity is that both of them were farmers. Such parallels uncover a hidden global structure and idea behind the text.

What does God do after Noah failed? He made a covenant with Abram:

”... God made a covenant with Abram: ’I’m giving this land to your children’..”

**Genesis 15:18**

”Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, ’Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!’”

**Genesis 15:5**

Abram (later called Abraham) seems to get closest to the final goal, since he is even willing to sacrifice his own son, which is one of the reasons to be called ”the father of the faith” from both the Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox church. At the end, he turned unfaithful, too, when he decided to listen his wife Sarah and slept with her servant Hagar, in order for them to get children, neglecting the promise of God for many descendants. Despite of the partial unfaithfulness of Abraham, the covenant continues with his descendants - Isaac, Jacob and so on. But among them, no one was faithful enough to fulfil the covenant and the mass distrusts goes on. The next step of God is to give the law to Moses and the people of Israel. Probably, if they have a written law, it will be easier for them to be faithful and to find someone to finally fulfil the covenant. This didn’t help either. All the kings of Israel after Moses - David, Solomon and all those after them are not faithful enough. In this period, we may often see the following words about each of these kings:

”And he did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his predecessors had done.”

**2Kings 23:37**

Finally, God decides to make a radical and surprising step, but probably the only one that leads to a solution. What is this step?? He decides to fulfil both parts of the covenant by himself! How? By sending his only son to the Earth and making a covenant with him! When I heard this short summary of the whole Old Testament for the first time, this story finally started to make some sense to me. Before that, I didn’t quite get why is it needed someone to die for my sins and why we celebrate that every year. This interpretations makes the big picture much more clear! In addition, the well-hidden parallel from the table above is an unequivocal argument for the authenticity and the depth of the Biblical text.

We see that the fact that Jesus is tracing the history of Israel, the God’s nation, in the book of Matthew, is not just a coincidence, but it totally make sense since he is the fulfilment of the covenant that God wants to make with Israel in the whole Old Testament. Even more than that - this covenant itself is the central idea of all these Old Testament books. But why is such a covenant needed at all? We see that its main goal is nothing more than understanding and harmony between the people and God, not a forced one though, but one coming from the humans’ own will. Another thing that can be observed is that seemingly God does not know that each of these people will fail when he tries to establish the covenant with him. It also looks that he does not know that, for example, the written law will not help, when he gives it, but God tries this as a possible remedy. How is this possible, if God knows everything from the very beginning, as many other verses are saying? For me, the answer is that for God, the free will of each of us is of huge importance and he relies on it. Whether he knows what we will choose or not is a complicated question, but regardless of that, we take these decision with our own minds. Otherwise, God’s ultimate goal of friendship and love with the humans will not be achievable. In section 2.4, we will see additional examples of cases where God respects our choices.

- Esther and Christ

We continue with another even more amazing and difficult to notice analogy. We already considered analogies between Jesus and Moses which is more popular. A surprising analogy could be also made between Esther and Jesus! Who is Esther? There is such a short book in the Old Testament dedicated to an important part of the history of Israel. The story happens during the reign of Xerxes over the Persian kingdom (between 473 and 483 BC). The Babylonia captivity of the Jewish nation has ended nearly 100 years before that, but some part of them decided to stay in Persia, in the city of Susa (the place of all the events in the book of Esther), instead of returning back in their land. Esther is the name of a Jewish girl and she is the main protagonist. The narrative of the book of Esther in 3 sentences:

1. The girl Esther became a queen of Persia after winning a contest and after she was raised by her relative Mordecai.
2. An evil character called Haman, who is close to the king, issues a decree for destroying all the Jews at a given date.
3. Esther convinced the king to cancel the decree. Haman is hanged and died.

The book contains several other small details and the significance for most of them is not clear. We will give an explanation for some of them. Below, we give 3 more interesting facts about the book of Esther:

1. God's name is not mentioned even a single time in the book of Esther.

Because of that, even Martin Luther didn't see why is this book part of the Old Testament, even though he was well known to have some antisemitic views.

2. The names Esther, Mordecai and Haman are in striking correspondence with the names of the pagan gods Ishtar, Marduk and Humman.

This is a correspondence I first saw in a book of Donald Knuth - probably the most famous computer scientist who is also a Christian and has some interesting books on Christianity related topics. He cited this correspondence as an argument from some atheists that the book of Esther has pagan origins. We will see that another correspondence is a stronger one, namely Esther-Jesus, Mordecai - the Holy Spirit, Haman - satan and the king - God himself.

3. The Jewish feast Purim commemorates the salvation of Jewish nation, described in the book of Esther.

Every year millions of Jews celebrate the feast doing rituals closely connected to what is written in the book of Esther!

Esther	Jesus
Esther has been raised by a father, who is not her own.	Jesus has been raised by a father, who is not his own.
Esther hides her origins until the right time comes.	Jesus hides his origins until the right time comes.
Esther was fully Jew and fully Queen. Thus, she was the only one able to advocate for her people in front of the King.	Jesus was fully man and fully divine[God]. Thus, he was the only one able to advocate for his people in front of the King[God].
Esther accepts that she could die for her people, at Nisan 14th, when showing up to the King.	Jesus died for his people on Nisan 14th.
Esther has been loved by the king more than any other woman.	God the Father says about Jesus: - "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

But this is not everything here. Let us follow another amusing "coincidence":

On which date was the Haman's decree issued? The 13-th day of Nisan - the first month of the year according to the Hebrew calendar (Esther 3:12). He offered 10000 talents of silver for that. On which day, according to the Hebrew calendar, Judas betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver? There is some disagreement here, but the most popular view is that this has happened again on the 13th day of Nisan, right before the Passover. But what about the amounts of money offered? Aren't they totally different. As we said, Haman offered 10000 talents of silver, in order for the Jews to be destroyed (Esther 3:9). Do we have this same amount of money at some other place in the Bible? In Matthew 18:23-35, we have the parable of the unforgiving servant, who owns exactly the same amount of money - 10000 pieces of silver, to the king. In the parable, they are forgiven to this servant and after

that this servant goes to a fellow servant and demands payment of a debt of 100 denarii. It is easy to find, even at Wikipedia, that during the time of Jesus, 1 denarii /or pence as translated in KJV/ was equal to 3.9 grams of silver. This makes:

$$100 \text{ pence (denarii)} = 100 \times 3.9 \text{ grams} = 390 \text{ grams of silver.}$$

Can we say anything about the actual weight of 30 pieces of silver offered to Judas? In 2008, in Jerusalem, was excavated a silver coin which was massively used during the time of Jesus. The discovery was announced by a serious organization supporting the archaeological discoveries in Jerusalem (Israel Antiquities Authority, [8]). This coin called Tyrian shekel was used for payment of an annual tax owned by everyone and they have not used other silver coins. According to this publication, the weight of the shekel was 13 grams which gives us:

$$30 \text{ pieces of silver} = 30 \times 13 \text{ grams} = 390 \text{ grams of silver.}$$

The very same amount!

The latter parallel is by a person called Roger Sehault and he describes other interesting analogies between the stories of Esther and Jesus Christ. Surprisingly Sehault's sermons are not very popular and thus I am recommending them ([2]). One more small analogy noticed by Sehault are the names of the two eunuchs in Esther who are called Bighan and Teresh, who made a conspiracy against the king. Sehault juxtaposes to them Adam and Eve, noticing a relationship between the translation of the eunuch's names and the words of God towards Adam and Eve in Genesis.

- Man-Woman, Christ-the Church (Ephes. 5:22)

The last of my favorite Biblical analogies is related to the following verses in Ephesians, chapter 5, verses 22-25 and 31-32:

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

<sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church

<sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

.....

<sup>31</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

<sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church

The nature of the man and the woman and the difference between them is something very interesting and even amusing. However, most often these specifics of the two genders are something that is just looked as normal and well-known to look for a deeper meaning in it. But indeed, why are the man and woman created the way they are? The verses above mention some qualities of the good man and the good woman, but these are not just random advises. They are extracted from an analogy between Christ and the church which is explicitly stated to be very deep ('great mystery' or 'profound truth' in some translations). Let us illustrate it with a simple scheme:

This analogy consists of three parts - a parallel between the Man and God (Christ), a parallel between the Woman and the Church and a third parallel between the relations Man-Woman and Christ-Church. Let us first focus on the parallel between the good Man and Christ.

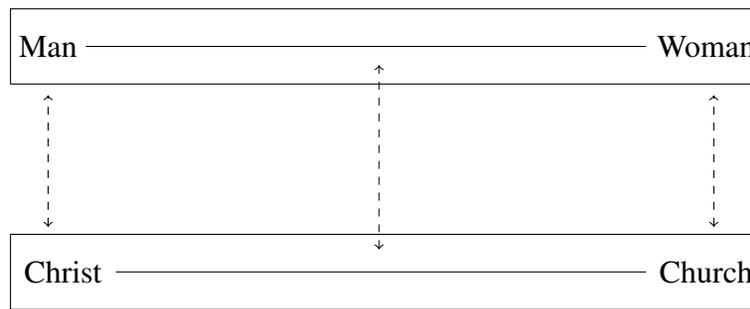


Figure 1: The analogy in Ephesians 5:22

The good Man	God (Christ)
strength and power	"Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit." /Psalm 147:5/
able to predict	"I make known the end from the beginning .." /Isaiah 46:10/
Speaks rarely, but at the right time!	"I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself.." /Isaiah 42:14/

Two of the inarguably most attractive qualities of a man are power and confidence. But aren't these two qualities very well characterizing the God in the Bible? He is described as the most powerful and when he speaks, he does it with great confidence. The reason giving him this confidence is that He is also described as infinitely wise. Intellect and wisdom are key qualities for every man, as well. In order to provide security and to defend his wife and children when needed, in order to provide food and make good long term decisions for the family's future, a man should definitely be able to foresee what will happen next and this ability is of extreme importance. It is not a coincidence that the intellect is always among the first two qualities that a woman choose, when speaking what does she want from a prospective husband, which is far less often the case when a man should point out qualities of his dream wife. Thinking of that from a different perspective - it is interesting to note that a typical man is usually interested in topics like geopolitics, sports and technology. In other words, the typical man is naturally interested in questions like: Who is going to be more powerful and how? What approach would work when trying to solve certain problem or to win against someone? My favorite example to support the idea that men are naturally created to look many steps ahead is the game of chess! In chess, the average rating for the men in top 100 is about 400 higher than the average rating for a woman in top 100, given that the highest rating ever reached is around 2900. Being good at chess boils down to having strong ability to predict what will happen several steps ahead and the big difference in the levels of men and women is an evidence the man was initially created to be good at that. Of course, women have been planned to have obvious advantage in a number of other things. To look at some of them, let us consider the parallel between the good woman and the good church:

The good Woman	The good church (the Earth/the believers)
beautiful	beautiful planet (the 4 season, the rainbow, etc.), the diversity of talents in the church.
better memory	the word "Remember" is mentioned more than 40 times in the Bible, as an appeal to the believers.
emotional, sensitive	church full of life and emotions.

The very first quality associated with the perfect woman is by all means her beauty. In the Bible and in the Ephesians' analogy we consider, the church signifies the whole set of believers on Earth and even the Earth itself. In the same way that the good woman is beautiful, the good church is beautiful with the diversity of talents and characters of the people in it. Making an association with the whole Earth, we know that our planet is also extremely beautiful. Other tasks where the women have indisputable advantage are those related to the

short term memory. I remember that when I was in high school, in my class, as well as in all other classes, the girls were far better when some information was needed to be memorized, which was most clear in classes like Biology, Chemistry, etc. This didn't hold for the Geography classes which requires more orientation and spatial cognition. We all know, for example, that parking is a more difficult task for the women and some other things like learning languages are statistically more difficult for the men. These differences can be explained with the different structure of the male and female brains [11]. Some evolutionary explanations were suggested which I personally do not find very convincing, so the actual reason for the superiority of the two sexes in the different listed tasks compared to the other sex remains unclear. We may find some in our Biblical parallel. Looking at the correspondence between the woman and the church, we often see an appeal to the church, i.e., the believers in the Bible or the people of Israel, to remember certain things. The word "remember" is mentioned more than 40 in the Bible, as such appeal. And indeed, the Bible is also calling the woman "helper" (Genesis 2:18), so it make sense for her to be given the ability to remember stuff more easily. Another obvious specific of women is the fact that they are more emotional, statistically speaking. This naturally corresponds to a church full of life and emotions. Such a church is a desired place for everyone. Those emotions are related to another key ability of the women, namely their ability to communicate easily with children and to feel their needs. Speaking of that, there are very amusing Old Testament verses where we see a strange duality - the church believers are called God's children, but God is also called a husband for them.

"Return, you faithless children—this is the LORD's declaration—for I am your husband ..."

**Jeremiah 3:14**

Last but not least, let us point out that some parallels could be made between the proper relationships *man – woman* and *God – church*. The good communication is crucial in both relationships, as well as having similar goals and beliefs.

### 2.3 Weakness of counter-arguments

Investigating the counter-arguments was also a very important part of my way to the faith. Many people in different churches express the opinion that looking at literature from atheists is even dangerous, because they often make some claims which are actually false, but are very difficult to refute and one could easily fall into these traps and become a nonbeliever. For me, looking at these arguments is far more enriching and useful than dangerous, mainly because the authors of these texts are in most cases quite sincere and genuine truth-seekers. I have read several such arguments from atheists, former Christians and former Adventists. This is a fair approach when making a decision about something as important as your beliefs - to listen to both points of views.

I would not go into details about some concrete arguments, even though a lot could be said here, but I would just cite one response to popular question asked by atheists: "If God is omnipotent, then is God able to make a rock, that He himself cannot lift?". This is a question extracted from the famous "Russell's paradox" in logic over the name of the famous logician and atheist Bertrand Russel. For the people not familiar with it - the question aims to show that God cannot be omnipotent and create anything that he wants, via a simple contradiction. If God can create such a rock, then there is something that he cannot lift. Yet, if he cannot create such a rock, then obviously, there is something he cannot do, too. Thus he is not omnipotent in both cases.

The answer to this question that I am about to cite was given in front of 1300 people by one of the leading researchers in chemistry. His name is Henry Shaefer and he has around 1000 scientific publications in prestigious journals. Going around the world to give research talks, he also often organizes some public lectures and discussions on Christianity that include questions and answers sessions. I can strongly recommend his book "Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence" ([5]) from where the answer to the already mentioned atheistic questions was taken.

"God is indeed omnipotent, but this does not mean that he can literally do everything.

God cannot lie!

God cannot do sin!

God cannot change his identity!

God cannot make a square circle since this not well-defined and controversial concept!

But he can do and will do everything which is in God's will and is promised by Him!"

## 2.4 God takes into account people's opinions and feelings!

Finally, the last central reason for me to become a Christian is that we can find verses in the Bible showing that surprisingly God often treats the people as equal to himself, taking into account their thoughts and feelings. I will give just 2 examples:

- Exodus, chapter 4

<sup>1</sup>Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?"

.....

<sup>5</sup>"This," said the Lord, "is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

.....

<sup>8,9</sup>If they do not pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. <sup>9</sup> But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some ..

.....

<sup>10</sup>Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

.....

<sup>13</sup>But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

<sup>14</sup>Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well..."

This is the moment when Moses has been summoned to go to the Pharaoh and to get Israel out of Egypt. However, Moses expresses doubt several times that he is capable to do that and he keep arguing with God. It is remarkable that God listens to him and suggests actual solutions addressing Moses's concerns, but not just forcing him to execute his orders! We have an actual dialog as one between two friends. My believe is that this was the genuine goal of God from the very beginning in Eden - to establish a real friendship with the people.

Another impressive moment in this passage is that God got angry with Moses at the end of the conversation, due to the stubbornness of Moses. Is it possible for someone to get so angry, if he knows everything, at any given moment, including the number of hairs on everyone's head (Matth. 10:30)? I believe that both are true - God indeed knows everything that is going to happen, but he is also capable to express emotions and be compassionate, understanding, loving and change his opinion depending on our choices. How is this logically consistent is a separate and difficult question for our bounded mind, but it is certainly true that such an interesting duality is demonstrated in the Biblical text.

- Genesis 35:8

<sup>8</sup>Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel.; So it was named "the oak of weeping".

The really amusing thing about this verse is that it is completely OUT OF CONTEXT. The whole chapter 35 and the surrounding chapters trace the struggles of Jacob when he is about to return to Canaan, before the death of his father Isaac. All of a sudden appears this verse speaking of the death of a woman that is not mentioned even a single time both before and after that. Many Biblical scholars have had difficulties figuring out the reason behind the verse existence ([6]). Of course, some critics tried to argue that the verse was added to the original text later, but the syntactical analysis is a strong evidence of the opposite.

For me, the fact that this verse was put at that place shows, first of all, that despite of his infinite knowledge and power, God is able to show compassion and to care deeply even for seemingly not that important and successful people. Second, this weird verse mentions some amazing details like the name of this nurse and the exact place where the people buried her. This is an incredible argument of authenticity of the text! Assume for a moment that this text contains false information and is fake. How could one even think of putting such a verse in the middle of nowhere, containing such elaborate details, if he is trying to corrupt the text and to come up with a version which does not sound suspicious?

### 3 Concluding idea

At the end, let me share another nontrivial reason I find Christianity so appealing. This is actually a reason for me to like mathematics, as well? In general, if I have to point out a single question that mathematics is trying to answer that would be the question: "What is the fair value of something?", or in a more general sense: "What is just?". And conversely, "Wrong calculations lead to sin!". So, one should take mathematics quite seriously :) This is the case with God and the Bible, too - a main topic in the Bible is the topic of justice and one of the main roles and images of God uncovered in the Bible is the one of an infinitely wise judge!

In summary, the fact that two of the crucial ideas in the Bible are the ideas of justice and free will that is taken into account by God is something I find very appealing and attractive. Even if we neglect all the presented evidence, the Christian faith should be a main source of hope, even for the atheist. Otherwise, we must accept mortality and simply wait for a few years till we die. However, I do see in the hidden parallels that were considered, an inarguable evidence for the depth and the authenticity of the Bible giving me the confidence to state that I am a Christian!

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