

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The text 'BOOK of JOHN' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font. The word 'BOOK' is in a bold, all-caps font, 'of' is in a smaller, elegant script font, and 'JOHN' is in a bold, all-caps font.

BOOK *of* JOHN

# ***BONDAGE OR FREEDOM***

***JOHN 8:31-47***

**Yet another contrast we face, a choice of two realities:**

- Freedom or bondage
- Truth or the lie
- The word of man or the Word of God
- Obedience gives us freedom, disobedience bondage
- Sin or sanctification

# *WHAT IS TRUTH?*

We live in a day and time when it seems as though truth is simply whatever you believe it to be; relativism reigns supreme.

- Jesus was again forcing a choice of sides—His truth or Satan's lies.
- So He warned them that continuance in the Word (dynamic discipleship), obedience to the Word was the best proof of true salvation.

# TRUSTING IN DEAD RELIGION

A person is standing in the center of a cave, looking out through a large opening at a sunset over the ocean. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the orange and yellow glow of the setting sun. The cave walls are dark and textured, and the ocean is visible in the distance under a hazy sky.

- Jesus was speaking about true *spiritual freedom*—freedom from sin—but they were thinking about *political freedom*.
- Their claim that Abraham’s descendants had never been in bondage was completely false.
- The Jews were enslaved by seven mighty nations, as recorded in the Book of Judges.
- The truth was they had mostly been in bondage.

# ***THIS PROBLEM IS ALIVE TODAY***

Many today are blind to this truth: We have failed to keep the **WORD** of the Lord and the **WAYS** of the Lord.

- Many today make up their own truth as they see fit!
- Liberal theology, compromise of God's truth, and complacency toward holiness have born rotten fruit.
- Are you a son of the King or a slave of sin?
- What a contrast! Sin or righteousness, light and dark, heaven and hell.

# ***GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH***

Jesus said, *"The truth shall make you free."* **John 8:32**

- They would not *"make room"* for His Word in their hearts. Then as now, Christians are failing to keep focused and faithful to the truth of the Word.
- In the rest of this passage, the debate centers on the word *"father."*

***What would a spiritual DNA test show?***

***Truth or lies, God or Satan?***

# *HOW CAN YOU SPOT SATAN'S KIDS?*

- For one thing, they rejected the Truth. **v. 40**
- They attempted to kill Jesus because He spoke the Truth, denying Jesus altogether.
- They did not love God's Word, rejecting the Truth of His Word. **v. 42**
- They did not understand what Jesus taught, blind to the Truth revealed by the Spirit. **v. 43-47**

*Sorry, here it is: They reject the truth of God's Word.*

# ***GOD IS NOT A MORAL RELATIVIST***

God has spoken absolute truth in His Word.

- Obedience to the truth—God’s Word—brings freedom.
- Disobedience to the truth brings bondage to sin.
- God’s truth is found in obeying God’s Word; eternal truth, not the existential/relativistic truths taught by the god of this age that are actually lies.

***As we trust the Word of God, the truth sets us free and that is the source of all other true freedom.***