

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and the pages are slightly fanned out. A bright, golden light source is positioned behind the book, creating a dramatic lens flare effect with several rays of light extending upwards and outwards. The background is dark, making the light and the book stand out. The overall mood is one of illumination and knowledge.

BOOK *of* JOHN

BELIEVE HIM OR NOT

JOHN 12:37-50

THE KEY WORD IN THIS SECTION IS BELIEVE.

Definition: **BELIEF** is the state of mind in which a person thinks something to be the case with or without there being empirical evidence to prove that something is the case with factual certainty.

- Often people will say, “I believe in God, but this Jesus guy, that born-again thing, that is a bit much!”
- *What you believe matters!*

THE GRAVE DANGER OF UNBELIEF

The three stages of unbelief:

- They ***would not*** believe. **John 12:37-38**
- They ***could not*** believe. **John 12:39; Isa. 53:1**
- They ***should not*** believe. **John 12:40-41; Isa. 6:9-10**

When a person starts to resist the light, something begins to change within them, and he or she comes to the place where they cannot and will not believe.

Matt. 13:14-15; Acts 28:26-27; Rom. 11:8

Ending with Judge-appointed judicial blindness!

WOULD NOT, NOT COULD NOT

There were those who ***would not*** believe, and there were those who ***would not*** openly confess Christ even though they had believed. **John 12:42-43**

- These “*secret believers*” wanted the best of both worlds—fire insurance without a premium to pay of holy living and a faithful witness. **John 5:41-47**
- The very Word that man rejects becomes his judge! **Why?** Because the written Word points to the Living Word, Jesus Christ. **John 1:14**

IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK!

We must remember: Jesus did not come to judge; He came to save. **John 3:18, 8:15**

- But if a sinner will not trust the Savior, the Savior must become the Judge.
- By not listening to the Word of the Lord and failing to see the signs, we become like residents of Pompeii.
- Many today want to take their chances with time and fate! **Eze. 38:19-23**
- They were standing in the presence of the Light of the World; they would not open their eyes. **Isa. 9:1-2**

A SERIOUSLY HARD HEART! v. 40

LISTEN CAREFULLY . . .

- Because they *would not* accept Him, there came the day when they *could not* accept Him.
- My friends, the most dangerous thing in the world is to hear the Gospel and then turn your back on it.
- The classic example of God meeting a hard heart and hardening it further until it is rock hard is that of the Pharaoh of Egypt! **Exodus 8:15, 14:8**

BELIEVE HIM OR NOT

My Friends, Judgment day is coming.

- We will not be judged by our good works.
- We will not be judged by what we think religion is.

No, we will be judged by the Living Word of God—Jesus.

- *Jesus came the first time as the Savior:* “*I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*”
- The next time *He will come as the Judge.*

Rev. 19:11-16

Believe Him or not! . . . I believe Him, do you?