

TOUGH

QUESTIONS OF LIFE

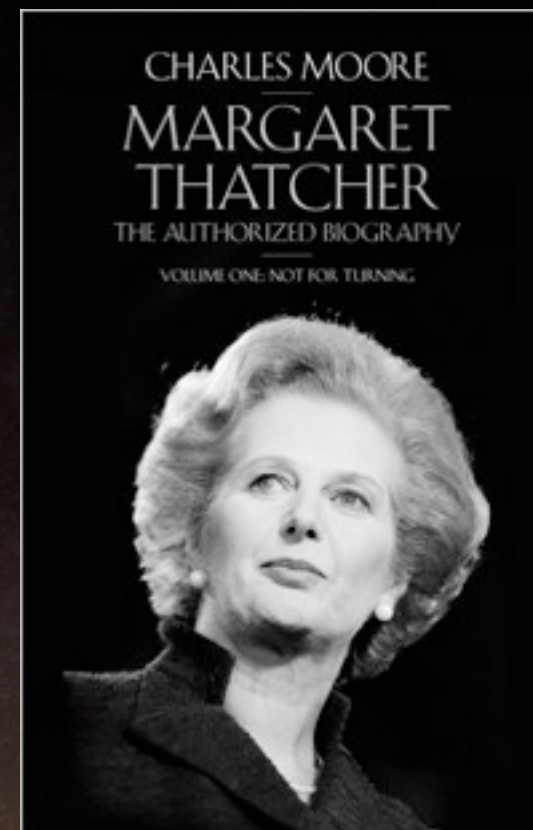
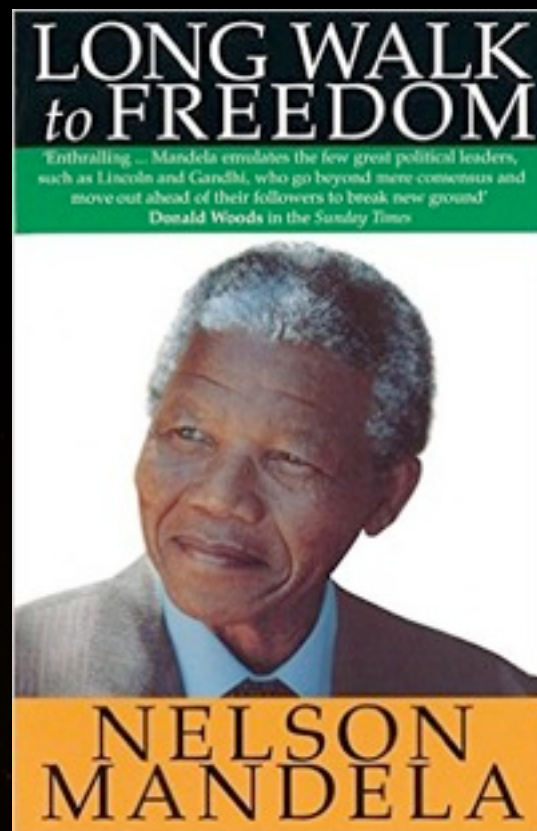


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Can we trust the Bible?

Biographies...



1. What does the Bible claim about itself?



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2 Timothy 3:16

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1 Peter 1:20-21

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

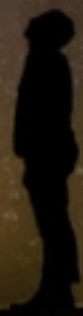
2. Can we trust it?



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Matthew 5:17

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Biography with an outward focus



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Not a book just exalting the main character but a book where the main character reaches out to have relationship with us and show us how to live.



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Teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness... so that we are equipped for every good work



Some of the Bible's guidance



Some of the Bible's guidance

- How to speak to God and hear from Him
- How to deal with anger so it does not consume us
- How to build healthy marriages and families
- How to govern with justice
- How to honour God with our bodies
- How to be generous stewards
- How to show love in action to those around us

Complaint #1:

The Bible is full of contradictions

Context and interpretation



Context and interpretation

“Tell your father; MIH” said Peter.

“That’s NAGI,” said Mark.



He had a wii.

He had a wee?



**That’s thrown a
spanner in the
works.**



**I have not
seen you for
donkey’s
years.**



Q: How do you know he’s coming?

A: He facebooked me.

Seeing the bigger picture



Seeing the bigger picture

Job 22:21-30



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“(God) said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.”

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Correct interpretation = bad stuff happens even to good people

Complaint #2:

**The Bible has been used to
justify all sorts of evil**

Sadly it has



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- Racism
- Sexism
- Child abuse
- Oppressing the poor and marginalised
- Violence
- Hatred and exclusion of certain people

Largely due to taking verses/passages out of context

3. What about the bits that I don't understand?



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I Corinthians 13:12

"Now we see but a poor reflection in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully as I am fully known."

To conclude



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Christianity is different from other religions...

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it's not about having faith in a book (the Bible) but faith in the person of Jesus who is the central character of the book