

For Nonfiction Books – Interview

A Life Through Books

Introduction to book

A brief overview of *Who Is This God? A Handbook for Life with Him* will help add clarity to my responses. The back of the book provides the following information.

There is a pandemic of infectious unbelief in America and the world today!

According to a 2020 survey, ninety-four percent of adult Americans say knowing the God of the Bible is not important. Instead, they have created their own idea of who they want Him to be.

Who Is This God? A Handbook for Life with Him is a Christian non-fiction book about the God of the Bible and experiencing Him in the natural and supernatural worlds in which we live. It helps people unravel the confusion and discover God's nature and character. In so doing, it demonstrates how a person can develop a personal relationship with Him and grow spiritually.

Major themes about God and life with Him include:

- There is one God in three persons: the Father, the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
- God created you to experience His love and know Him personally.
- Everyone needs to be rescued and born-again to enter His Heaven.
- God has a purpose and plans for you (your life is not meaningless).
- The Holy Spirit was sent to dwell within, guide, help, and teach the followers of Jesus.
- Believers must mature spiritually to live an authentic Christian life.
- God is supernatural, and you live in the natural and supernatural realms of this world where miracles and other supernatural interventions by God still occur.

The book ultimately asks the question: "Where have you placed your faith and trust?" Find out if they are firmly rooted in the solid ground of the Bible and God's true nature.

The book is structured for learning (from the book's Introduction)

This 392-page book is for reading, Bible study, and a teaching resource for everyone who wants to know the God of the Bible and to learn to have a living, personal relationship with Him. That's why this book includes the following:

- Scripture quotations – 660
- What Do You Think? questions – 184
- Personal Application questions – 99
- Practice It – 21
- True stories – 70

The *Who Is This God?* paperback and ebook are available for sale through all online book retail outlets, including Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

<https://www.amazon.com/who-is-this-god/dp/1632966085>

- 1.) Can you tell us a little about the process of getting this book published? How did you come up with the idea and how did you start?

Idea for book: The lack of understanding and, therefore, belief in the God of the Bible was the driving force in writing this book. Also, the recognition that many people who go to church do not have a living, experiential relationship with this God. In other words, they do not regularly experience Him, communicate with Him, and interact with Him.

Start: I have been teaching the Bible for many years and have written hundreds of Bible study lessons. Yet, I have never written a book of any kind. I spent many hours on the Internet and reading books on how to write a Christian non-fiction book. The result was a book that the publisher, Lucid Books, said had better composition and continuity within and between chapters (43) than any first-time book they have published by a new author.

Process to publishing: I started thinking about the book in early October 2020 and sent it to the publisher at the end of December 2022. That is twenty-seven months. I wrote over twenty chapters in fifteen months and thought it was completed, so I asked the ten beta reviewers to review it. I soon realized it needed a lot more work, so I spent the next twelve months revising and editing the entire book. It now has forty-three topical chapters with several hundred topics and sub-topics.

My wife and a small core team of three others reviewed chapters as I progressed through their writing. After one year, ten “beta reviewers” reviewed the entire book. The feedback from these individuals was invaluable in ultimately creating a book that was easy to read and accurate in its biblical integrity.

- 2.) What surprised you most about getting your book published?

Lucid Books, our publisher, provided a genuine partnership attitude and work-ethic throughout the eight months of publishing. I wasn’t treated “like a number” as some say, but rather as an individual author they valued and were pleased to publish.

- 3.) Tell us a little about what you do when you aren’t writing

I currently spend many hours a week promoting the book. I research potential influencers, looking for those I think may have an interest in using the book in their ministry or church. I mail these a free paperback or email a free ebook. I follow up with many to see if they have questions about the book and how they might use it. I have been on two Christian radio programs to promote the book and have another talk show I am preparing information for an appearance.

I lead and teach a weekly Christian men’s group, so I have weekly Bible study lessons for which I prepare.

My wife and I enjoy spending time together. For example, we work in the yard and do errands together. We enjoy going to arts and crafts fairs and antique markets and visiting mall towns with their own unique character.

4.) As a published author, what would you say was the most pivotal point of your writing life?

It was two-fold—first, the acceptance by two book publishers. Second, the publisher I chose, Lucid Books, told me the book was one of the best written for a new author they have published.

5.) Where do you get your best ideas and why do you think that is?

Once I knew my overall purpose for the book, I used my knowledge of the Bible, research, and, most importantly, the Holy Spirit to inspire the eventual forty-three topical chapters and many sub-topics within the chapters. I spent time each day asking God to show me what He wanted in this book about Him. He consistently guided me so that people now tell me how much this book has meant to them and how it has changed their lives.

6.) What is the toughest criticism given to you as an author?

My ten beta readers told me that my writing style initially was too stilted. It was not easy to read and did not attract people's attention. I corrected it to be more conversational while paying attention to how readers might respond emotionally to style and content.

7.) What has been your best accomplishment as a writer?

The book has been on the market for two months. I sent many complimentary copies to influencers and friends. People are telling me that the Holy Spirit is changing their lives as they read and study the book. There is no greater accomplishment as a writer than for readers to make these statements. God is doing exactly what He said He would do for the book's readers (first chapter): "Our book will change people's lives."

8.) How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

I have been writing a monthly teaching newsletter for over a year about each chapter in the book. I describe each chapter's key points and provide a story to illustrate its real-life applicability. I also briefly describe another book related to the chapter's main topic for readers to consider. I have tentative plans to write two more books. The potential titles are: *Who Am I? Discovering Who God Created Me to Be* and *The Creator God-From Genesis to Revelation*.