

IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD?

Text: 2 Timothy 3:16

INTRO: We will look at some of the evidence that the Bible is a reliable accurate account of the will of God. That is what it claims to be, and if there is sufficient evidence to support that claim, we should make every effort to understand and obey it.

I. DID GOD DICTATE THE BIBLE?

- A. The Bible claim--as originally written in the ancient languages, the Bible was the specific words of God.

The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me & His word was on my tongue. (2 Sam. 23:2).

Then the Lord delivered to me 2 tablets of stone written with the finger of God, & on them were all the words which the Lord had spoken to you on the mountain. (Deut. 9:10).

READ MATTHEW 10:19-20, Acts 1:1-4

Now the Spirit expressly says [explicitly says, NASB; specifically tells us, Phillips]... (1 Tim. 4:1).

READ I CORINTHIANS 2:7-13

- B. What about variety of styles of the different writers. We suggest that the God who made them used them as they were. He spoke thru them in their own languages & with their own vocabulary & style.

II. EVIDENCE THAT THE BIBLE'S CLAIMS ARE TRUE.

- A. There is no other way to account for the ability of Bible writers to foretell future events with complete accuracy.

Thus says the Lord: "Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; & on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you... (1 Kings 13:2) FULFILLED 350

YEARS LATER, 2 Kings 23:15-20.

The prophet Isaiah foretold Persian King Cyrus by name before he was ever born; 175 years before he came to power, Isa. 44:28; 45:1.

Daniel was able to foresee the fall of the Babylonian empire, the rise & fall of Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome--almost 1100 years into the future, Dan. 2:38-45; chapter 7.

The birth, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension and reign of Jesus were all prophesied in the O.T. from 400 to 1,000 years before He was born.

- B. We can be assured of the inspiration of the Bible because there is no other logical explanation for its scientific & historical accuracy.
1. The round earth, Isa. 40:22.
 2. God hung the earth upon nothing, Job. 26:7.
 3. Cycle of evaporation/condensation, Job 36:27-28
 4. Archaeologists are almost constantly finding evidence of the accuracy of the Bible in describing ancient cities & civilizations.
- C. There is no other logical explanation for the harmony of the Bible in light of the fact that it was written by at least 40 different writers over a period of about 1600 years, in 3 different languages--kings, carpenters, fishermen, farmers, preachers, shepherds -- young, old, rich, poor. They quoted from & commended one another's writings, but not once did any writer correct, find fault with, or take issue with the writings of any other.
- D. Another reason for believing the Bible is that it stands to reason that God would reveal Himself to man & there is no other book whose claims to Divine inspiration are nearly as believable as the Bible.

III. HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE ALL OF THE BIBLE?

A. It would be senseless for God to have taken great care in revealing the Bible unless He also took care to preserve its accuracy. JN 14:26; 16:13; 17:20; 20:30-31.

1. The O.T. was intact in the 1st century A.D.
For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven & earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled (MT 5:18).
2. Jesus promised that the N.T. would also endure.
Matt. 24:35; Rev. 14:6; 1 Pet. 1:23
3. Thousands of Greek manuscripts containing all or part of the N.T. text have been discovered & translated. 2,200 lectionaries containing briefer portions of the Scriptures have been found. Several small portions of the text have been found on papyri, some dating back to 125 A.D. There are numerous copies of ancient translations into Latin, Syriac, Coptic, etc. that go back to the 100's. The minor differences that exist in these manuscripts & versions do not call in question even one Biblical doctrine. We have the same message revealed to the apostles & prophets in the first century A.D.!

B. God's protection of His written word is clearly evident
2 O.T. examples.

1. When Moses destroyed the 2 tables of stone on which the 10 commandments were written, God made him go up the mountain again, make two more stone tablets, & allow God to write again the same words He had written on the original stones. EXODUS 32:19; 34:1.

2. Case of King Jehoiakim, Jer. 36.
3. It has been said that if all copies of the Bible itself were lost & destroyed, it would be possible to reconstruct it by gathering all the quotations from it in other writings--in any century all the way back to the first century.

CONCLUSION: All common sense & good judgment urges us to accept the Bible as the Divinely inspired, complete & accurate word of God. Wisdom directs that we seek to understand & obey it in our lives, and embrace its promises of everlasting life in the abode of God. This blessing can be yours.

La Porte, TX, March 22, 1981

Exton, PA, May 5, 1985

Exton, PA, February 25, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, June 11, 1995

Suisquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 22, 2998