

HOUSE TO H[^]OUSE

This is a resource for you to take the word God gives us in His house to your house!
A **HELPFUL TIP**: RE-watch the sermon online (*available @ facebook.com/journeychurch.family*) by yourself or with others.

HOW DO I KNOW: THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD?

Sunday, November 24, 2019

This series of talks are a journey through Christian Apologetics. Each message is designed to help you better understand your faith and provide you with some tools to defend it.

BIBLE FACTS

The #1 best-selling book of ALL TIME! It contains 66 individual books penned by 40 different authors over a 1,600 year period of time. It wasn't originally written with verses or chapters.

Chapters was introduced in A.D. 1238 by Cardinal Huge De S. Caro, while verses were defined in 1551 by Robertus Stephanus. It has been translated into 1,200 languages and is distributed literally in every country throughout the world. *#themoreyouknow*

MIND-BLOWING THOUGHT —> We currently DO NOT have originals! Meaning none of the original 66 books that make of the bible have been found. All we have are copies!

HOW CAN YOU TRUST COPIES WITH NO ORIGINALS?

ANSWER —> ALL SIGNIFICANT LITERATURE FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD (we're talking from the ancient greek poet Homer who lived in 800 BC to Shakespeare's playwrights in the 1500's) **CAN EASILY BE reconstructed BACK into its ORIGINAL FORM** by LOOKING AT THEIR...**MANUSCRIPTS** (which are *authenticated handwritten copies of the original* —the word MANUSCRIPT comes from the latin... *manu* meaning hand...and *scriptus* meaning written) The original manuscript (the original parchment the author physically wrote on) is called the "autographa." Which of course is where we get the word AUTOGRAPH.

HOW CAN YOU TRUST MANUSCRIPT COPIES?

TWO QUESTIONS ARE ASKED IN ORDER TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION:

1 - HOW MANY SURVIVING MANUSCRIPTS ARE THERE?

The bible has **14,700** validated manuscripts. It is the most historically validated ancient document that exists. To compare it to other ancient works, the next most historically validated ancient document that exists is 'Iliad' by Homer has **643** validated manuscripts.

2 - WHAT IS THE TIME LINE BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL AND THE COPY?

The bible earliest manuscripts were written 25 years after the original. To compare it to other ancient works, Homer's 'Iliad' has a 500 year time gap between the original and the earliest known manuscript. Plato's work has a 1,200 year time gap!

>>>>!!!THE BIBLE IS FAR AND ABOVE A VALID HISTORICAL DOCUMENT!!!<<<<

'Heaven and Earth will pass away BUT MY WORD WILL REMAIN'

BUT IS THE BIBLE TELLING THE TRUTH?

There are 4 pieces of criteria historians use to determine whether or no to believe a historical document:

DO WE HAVE EARLY TESTIMONY?

In other words, were the books written close to the actual events being described? Our answer to this question is YES! Most, if not all of the books in the N/T were written between 5-30 years of the events described in the New Testament!

DO WE HAVE EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY?

YES! All of the N/T writers routinely mention seeing a Resurrected Jesus! (Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:18-20; 10:39-40). Paul specifically mentions 14 people whose names are known as eyewitness to the resurrection. Collectively there are more than 500 people in the scriptures who say they were eyewitness to a Resurrected Jesus!

IS THERE EMBARRASSING TESTIMONY?

In other words, do the authors include events and testimony that would embarrass themselves? And this is important, because more times than not, this is a huge piece of evidence that determines whether or not the author's claims are fact or fiction. If the work being written does nothing but make the author look good, it's more than likely fiction. Our answer to this question is YES! The bible contains more embarrassing testimony than any other biographical work written in ancient time periods.

IS THERE ENEMY ATTESTATION?

YES! Even opponents of Christianity admit many of the claims in the New Testament, such as Celsus, Tacitus, Josephus and the Jewish Talmud.

POWER THOUGHT —> As we've stated throughout this series, your belief in something doesn't make that something TRUTH—> BELIEF DOESN'T CHANGE TRUTH...BUT...your belief in TRUTH CAN/DOES **CHANGE YOU**.

BELIEF gives you an experience with TRUTH. AND THAT'S OUR GOAL IN THIS SERIES AND THAT'S OUR GOAL FOR YOU —> TO ALLOW YOU AND TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO HAVE AN EXPERIENCE WITH TRUTH.

JOHN 8:32 NIV (Look at the chronological order here...)

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

PRAY: Father, today I choose to live a life embracing your word. May I never hold it in my hands again with complacency in my heart. For You have given me Your holy word to guide and direct the steps of my life. May I never hear it, receive it or speak it in a casual manner, but rather with hunger, respect and passion —> live it out in a way that honors it. This is my prayer today and every day. Thank you for all you do to show your love to me. In Jesus' Name **AMEN**.