

# Can We Trust the Bible?

## *Part 2: Is the Bible Just Another Book?*

(preached 4/23/23)

Please turn to *John 1:1-5 & Hebrews 1:1-6*.

### **Sermon #1: The Bible was Good Enough for Jesus (and the Apostles).**

- There are 66 books of the Bible and 40 authors.
- There are over 64,000 cross references from Old to New Testaments, where the Bible refers to itself, over the span of thousands of years.
- Jesus used the Bible to, specifically the prophecies of the OT, to: 1) confirm that He was the Messiah, 2) confirm that He was God in the flesh, 3) Confirm that He'd brought God's Kingdom, 4) confirm all His works and 5) to win debates with both the Devil and wicked men who opposed Him.
- His words and actions directly fulfilled the 1<sup>st</sup> coming prophetic verses including dying on the Cross and rising from the dead.
- The Apostles used the Bible to share the Gospel, testify about Jesus, teach, rebuke, correct, and to instruct in righteousness.
- CONCLUSION: *if the Bible was good enough for Jesus, it's good enough for me!*
- If the Apostles relied upon it, especially after Jesus had ascended to Heaven, *then I know I can rely upon it as the Word of God!*

### **TODAY: *is the Bible just another “factual” book like an encyclopedia?***

- Is it in the same class as other religious books like the Quran and the Book of Mormon which also claim to be God's word?
- What, if anything, makes it stand out?

**FACT #1: if the Bible is just another book of knowledge like an encyclopedia, then it's not God's Word and we cannot trust it.**

**FACT #2: if the Bible is like all the other religious books—claiming to be from God, but actually just the opinions of some guy—then it's not God's Word and we cannot trust it.**

**FACT #3: Just as there are many people with different perspectives, there are also many spiritual beings. Therefore if religious authors received revelation from spiritual being(s), then the only way we can trust the Bible is **IF IT CAME FROM THE SPIRITUAL BEING WHO IS ABOVE ALL THE OTHERS—GOD!****

**[John 1:1-5 ESV]** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5 The light shines in the darkness**, and the darkness has not overcome it.

***These verses are talking about Jesus and show us the following:***

- Jesus IS God and was with God [the Father] in the beginning.
- Jesus and Father created everything together.
- Jesus is Light and overcomes darkness (chaos, evil, blindness/ignorance).
- Jesus is “the Word”...HUH? What does this mean?

THE WORD has the following meanings:

- Spoken by a living a voice.
- A decree/commandment made by God.
- Moral sayings of God.
- Speaking in the form of teaching doctrine & wisdom.
- A judgment made, as if by a judge.

JESUS IS THE WORD. John didn’t merely reveal that Jesus had word, but that he WAS/IS the Word. The same John records later that Jesus IS the way, the truth, and the life. Only God, the Being superior to all others, can be these things. Remember the famous quote from Psalms I read to you last week about the Bible:

**[Psa 119:105 ESV]** 105 [Nun] Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

LIGHTS UP OUR WAY. Jesus and the words He speaks light up our way in this dark and wicked world where confusion reigns. We can look to the recorded words of Christ in the Scriptures to help us navigate through life!

JUST A MAN? But wasn’t Jesus just a Man in a human body? He was that and SO much more!

**[Col 2:8-10 ESV]** 8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 **For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily**, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

**Verse 8:** there are plenty of people with their own opinions about truth, and there are lots of spirit beings who have appeared as “gods” for millennia, dispensing their “wisdom” and creating the various religions and religious books of the world.

## **So what about our God, Jesus?**

- Is He just another one of these beings?
- How do you tell which religion is the right one?
- How do you know which religious text has the truth?

**Verse 9:** in Jesus the FULLNESS of deity [God] dwells bodily!!!! This did not dwell within Mohammed, Buddha, Joseph Smith, The Dalai Lama, or CT Russell (JW's).

**Verse 10:** He is the Head of ALL rule and authority, the Paul includes *the spiritual ones along with the human ones.*

## **Jesus isn't just one of the guys, He IS the Guy.**

**[Heb 1:1-6 ESV]** 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

WROTE IT, THEN CAME. These verses are talking about the Bible and how Jesus is the One Who wrote it, and then came to us in Person to continue speaking truth, which we now have in the form of the New Testament. Let's go over these amazing verses.

**Verse 1:** Before Christ, God spoke through the OT prophets like Moses & Isaiah.

**Verse 2:** Then God came here Himself, in bodily form, to speak to us directly!

**Verse 2:** Father God named Jesus as **His sole heir** of "all things" which means ownership and rule over the universe, earth, and all of humanity. Jesus co-created all these things with His Father.

**Verse 3:** Jesus alone IS the shining Light of His Father! The EXACT imprint of Him! Look what it says next: "He upholds the universe by the word of His power." In other words, if Jesus didn't exist or even fell asleep for a moment, the universe would collapse! Why? He IS life!

**Verse 3** also shows He's the divine High Priest Who went to the Cross for the forgiveness of sins, and the throne He sits on is one of ultimate authority and rule over all things, all beings, and all of humanity.

**Verse 4:** He is superior to all other beings, both those of the flesh and those of the spirit! He is above all the angels including Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer!

**Verse 5:** Father has given the angels nothing—He gave **\*\*everything\*\*** to Jesus!

**Verse 6:** all the angels worship Jesus—even Lucifer!

## **Jesus is the Man Who wrote our book, the Bible.**

- He is the Source of all the words you see written within.
- All the commandments, declarations, teachings, judgments, history, wisdom, morality, and everything else.

**The Old Testament was written when God the Holy Spirit would descend from Heaven, temporarily, to inspire the prophets of all.**

**The New Testament was written when the God the Holy Spirit was GIVEN to the Apostles**—a gift that would remain with them, in them, and would inspire the living and active words they wrote down in the 4 Gospels and all the epistles.

GAVE THE SPIRIT. Jesus promised His disciples this would happen, and *assured them the Holy Spirit was God and therefore would deliver truth just as Jesus did:*

**[John 14:16-17 ESV] 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.**

**Verse 16:** the Helper is the Holy Spirit, Who is the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the Godhead.

**Verse 17:** He is the Truth just like Jesus is.

**Verse 17: what makes the Bible different than the other books, both secular and religious?**

- Mohammed didn't receive the Holy Spirit and denies His existence, instead claiming his revelations from another spiritual source.
- Joseph Smith didn't receive the Holy Spirit, but said it was the angel named "Moroni" who have him some golden tablets.
- Buddha claimed to have lived hundreds of lives, reincarnating and therefore accumulating knowledge, and proclaimed himself an "awakened/enlightened one."

- CT (JW's) Russell claimed it was God who spoke with him and told him that only 144,000 people would be Saved and Jesus was returning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century...clearly the spirit he was listening to wasn't the Holy Spirit.

### **Only the OT prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles had God the Holy Spirit.**

- The authors of all other faiths & books in the world, whether religious or secular, did not and therefore neither saw nor knew Him.
- Their beliefs & books were NOT God-breathed, living, inspired, or activated by the Holy Spirit.
- I \*do\* believe that, as far as other religious texts are concerned, they were given by spirit beings, yes.
- But those beings were/are not God.

**[John 14:26 ESV]** 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

APOSTLE WRITE NT. Jesus knew His disciples and the Apostle Paul would write the New Testament Scriptures that you and I read to this day. He promised that, after he ascended to Heaven, He would give them God's Spirit which He did at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit would not only continue to teach them the truth, but bring back their memories of what Jesus did and said—hence we have the Gospels.

**[John 15:26-27 ESV]** 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 **And you also will bear witness,** because you have been with me from the beginning.

**Verse 26:** the Spirit “bears witness” to Jesus. In other words, He continues to point to Jesus as everything Jesus said He was: God in the flesh, the Word, Messiah, Savior, and Lord.

**Verse 27:** the disciples would go on to bear witness to others not just through the preaching of the Gospel, but by writing down the Gospels and epistles with the help of the Helper, the Holy Spirit!

**[John 16:13-15 ESV]** 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth,** for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and **he will declare to you the things that are to come.** 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**Verse 13:** The Holy Spirit guided them to the Truth and repeated only what Jesus said! This is like when you and I quote Scripture. The last part of this verse shows that the HS would also PROPHECY through the disciples, which He did.

**Verse 14:** The Holy Spirit declares the Lordship of Christ, assuring them that His will would be carried out no matter the bad thing they would experience—and those bad things were many. Knowing that Jesus would be victorious no matter what no doubt got them through some difficult moments, including their own martyrdom.

## **OUR BIBLE CAME FROM GOD, THE CREATOR OF EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.**

*Not an angel, not a demon, not the Anunnaki, and not from super-evolved aliens.*

### SHIFTING GEARS

CHARTS. I'm going to show you a series of charts that give interesting probabilities about how Jesus fulfills OT prophecies and the likelihood of them actually being fulfilled in one man. As you can see, the likelihood of 8 prophecies IN A ROW being fulfilled in Christ is  $1 \times 10$  to the 17<sup>th</sup> power. Or  $1 \times 100,000,000,000,000,000$ .

# SHOW CHARTS

DANIEL'S 69 WEEKS. Let me bring you one of the greatest prophecies that begins with the Prophet Daniel about when the Messiah would come. Let's go to Daniel chapter 9 where Daniel is praying to God and pleading for mercy on behalf of the Jewish people. They're still in exile, captive to the Babylonians, as punishment for falling away from the Lord. Daniel is confessing the sins of his people and asking God for forgiveness, wondering how long the period of discipline is going to last. Whilst doing so, the angel Gabriel shows up to deliver a response from the Lord.

**(Daniel 9:21-26)** 21 yes, while I [was] speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. 22 And he informed [me], and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23 "At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell [you], for you [are] greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: 24 "**Seventy weeks are determined For your people** and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy. 25 "Know therefore and understand, **[That] from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince,** [There shall be]

seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. 26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

WEEKS = YEARS. Gabriel gives specific numbers. In this case “weeks” actually means “years” which is a common alliteration in ancient Hebrew society. Remember the famous words of Peter who pointed this out: “a day to the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as a day.” Therefore the “week” Gabriel is giving here is 7 years.

***First: did you know these two mentions of “Messiah” are the ONLY 2 in all of the Old Testament? Pretty weird, eh?***

Verse 25 is astounding because Daniel is being told **when Messiah would arrive**. Like...right down to the year.

DIDN'T KNOW VISITATION. Now do you understand why Jesus openly grieved as He was about to enter Jerusalem for the final time before the Cross, saying that it “didn’t know the time of its visitation”? Wouldn’t you have thought that 1) the people would have known their Christ would die and 2) would have known Who He was by doing the math from Daniel?

So let’s do some math:

- 1 week = 7 years.
- 69 weeks until Messiah is killed.
- 69 weeks = 483 years.
- 483 years = 173,880 days (360 days per year and not 365).

***When does this amazing countdown begin?*** Verse 25: from the day the command to rebuild Jerusalem starts. What day is that? The year of the command is debated...**BUT all of them fall within the public ministry of Christ!**

- One date bring us to His Baptism, another to Palm Sunday, and another to Good Friday!
- Whichever is the right one this we know—they point to Jesus as the Messiah!!!

CUT OFF. Daniel’s book also says that in that same time period (the 69<sup>th</sup> week), Messiah would be “cut off, but not for Himself” which points us to His death on the Cross which was not for Him, but for us!

**The conclusion of today’s message bolsters our confidence that the Bibles we hold, read, and quote were directly inspired by none other than the Lord of all, Christ Jesus. We can and should trust it!**