

## Luke 24:44

## “Identifying the True Scriptures”

\*Read Jude 3-4

1. The Bible says that in the last days, false teachings will work their way into the church and cause a falling away even among believers.
  - And that is exactly what I am seeing take place right now in the church in America.
  - We **MUST** stay focused on God’s approved and proven Word, or we may be one of those causalities.
2. Describing the Word of God, it says in Psalm 12:6-7
  - “The words of the LORD *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. <sup>7</sup>You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.”
  - Psalm 18:30 – “*As for* God, His way *is* perfect; **The word of the LORD** is proven; He *is* a shield to all who trust in Him.”
3. And because the Bible is so important to the Christian now and in the last days, we have confidence in it as well.

- Which is why it is Satan's number one target.

#### 4. Why?

- Because if God's Word is God instruction and direction for mankind and if Satan can somehow make us believe it is not true or confuse it, he can undermine God and His plan and deceive and mislead us.

5. His undermining started at the very beginning. In the Garden, Eve told Satan they would die spiritually if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

- He immediately brought doubt to God's Word and ADDED to it by saying, "you will not surely die."

6. In other words, God's Word is not true and you can't trust it.

- And Satan has never stopped attacking it.

7. Psalm 138:2 says, "I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name. For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your Name."

- This shows how highly He exalts His Word!
- And also shows why Satan tries so hard to bring it down and bring doubt upon it.

8. Which is all the more reason we must also hold God's Word in high regard.

- With all the attack on God's Word, how do we know the real from the fake?
9. You see, whenever something is genuine, there will always be an imitation or fake that will come along to draw people to it instead.
- And that is exactly what Satan has done.
10. Even as God has written His Word, Satan has written his word and tries to pull man from God's Word to his.
- We have been warned and we must be able to tell the difference between the two
  - The Bible says in the last days doctrines of demons will come into the church and many will fall away.
11. 1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 4:1 says, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..."
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:3 says, "Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition..."
12. Which means in the latter days we should we watching for false demonic teachings to start coming into the church.
- And that is exactly what we are seeing.

13. In Jesus day, they had to deal with the same thing, and it came in through a system called Gnosticism.
  - Which comes from the word “gnosis” and means “knowledge.”
14. Interesting in that even in the Garden, God warned Adam and Eve not to eat from the wrong tree of “knowledge.”
  - It wasn’t that knowledge was bad.
  - As a matter of fact, godly knowledge and truth are wonderful.
15. The warning was concerning demonic or evil knowledge that Satan would use to lead them astray.
  - And this was the so-called knowledge Gnostics used to corrupt the church.
16. They believed they had special knowledge from God more than other Christians. They were learning from books outside of the Bible.
  - These books were called apocryphal books which means, “books of questionable authorship,” and were compiled between 300BC and 400AD.
  - They were in circulation and in existence in the days of Jesus.

17. Once they accepted this special knowledge as legitimate, the pride of Satan set in, and they were firmly deceived.
  - Eating from the false “tree of evil knowledge” rather than God’s Word which is the tree of life.
18. Satan is once again challenging the Scriptures and trying to reintroduce HIS word into the church.
  - And this special knowledge they have comes from writings outside of the Bible.
19. One of the arguments used to introduce these different books is that they were once IN the Bible and have now been removed.
  - These books were never IN the Bible to begin with and were never considered Scripture as we will see shortly.
20. There were many so called spiritual books outside of the Bible these Gnostics read...
  - But one of the main ones I want to reference today is called the Book of Enoch. This seems to be the focal point in our generation.
21. What is the book of Enoch?
  - It is an apocryphal book that claims the authorship of Enoch and was compiled between 300BC and 100 AD.

- The majority of which was completed and in circulation in the days of Jesus.
22. Who was Enoch?
- Enoch was the 7<sup>th</sup> descendant from Adam, and we are told He was so godly that God simply took him to heaven without him even dying!
  - Basically, God raptured him.
23. But there is no evidence that Enoch wrote anything at all -- although he is quoted in Jude which I will explain in a moment.
- But how do we know that this so-called book of Enoch is illegitimate?
24. Well, it has provable errors, and it contradicts information in the Bible.
- And as you know, God's Word will never have errors and contradictions because God doesn't make mistakes.
25. To give you just a couple of examples, the book of Enoch says that all sins of the fallen angels are ascribed to an angel named Azazel.
- However, the Bible clearly ascribes the fall of the fallen angels to Satan who led the rebellion.
26. The book of Enoch also teaches that women who had relations with fallen angels in Noah's day

became Sirens which are mythical creatures that lure ships to dangerous waters by singing.

- They are often portrayed today as mermaids in pirate movies.

27. And as a third example, the book of Enoch declares the giants in Noah's day were 450 feet tall!

- Now the Bible does say that there were giants in Noah's day; there were even giants after flood such as Goliath and his family and Og King of Bashan whose bed was 13 and ½ feet long!

28. But these men were between 9.7 and 13 feet tall, NOT 450!

- And if giants were that large, where are the bones!!!

29. There are other examples I could give.

- But that should be enough to show this book is a fraud and not the Word of God.

30. I have also heard some say, well maybe it's not the Bible, but it IS a spiritual book.

- But if that is true, the next logical question is: which spirit is it?

31. 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:1 says, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

- So is it God's Spirit or Satan's.
32. If it's God's Spirit, then it would be God's Word.
- But we have seen it can't be God's Word because of its errors and Biblical contradictions.
  - Which only leaves Satan's spirit and hence it should be totally rejected.
33. Some will say, "but parts of Enoch were found with the dead sea scrolls."
- That may be true, but so were other writings that are not considered Scripture either.
  - Just because something was found with the dead sea scrolls does not validate it.
34. It was the existing Bible that was confirmed by the Dead Sea Scrolls. The ancient scrolls matched the writings we had, proving it hadn't been changed.
- Not every book found there is a part of the Bible.
35. But what about the quote by Enoch in Jude 14 we mentioned earlier?
- While it is a quote from Enoch, it says nothing about coming from a book.
36. It's simply a quote that could have easily been passed down by oral traditions.

- And what better tactic by Satan to take a legitimate quote from a legitimate person and write it in a false book?
  - Mormons and Muslims do the same thing.
37. This means that even if this quote is found in the current book of Enoch, it does not legitimize the book.
- Satan can quote anyone he wants in any book in order to deceive.
38. In addition, simply using a quote from someone that may even be accurate does not mean it is God's Word.
- Paul quoted from two non-Biblical authors, one a pagan poet in Acts 17 and one a pagan philosopher in Titus 1 to make a point.
  - But it in no way legitimized them as Biblical authors.
39. So how do we know what is true Scripture or "canon" and what is not?
- Canon simply means a "reed or measuring rod."
40. First of all let me ask, do you believe God can write a book to mankind and then preserve it?
- If not, He's not God!
41. Would He not be sure His children can know and confirm the true as opposed to the false so that we are not deceived?

- Of course!
  - And He has done just that.
42. The Jewish historian Josephus, who has proven to be extremely accurate and reliable, wrote that the canon or “completion” of the Old Testament was brought together and finished during the reign of Artaxerxes Longimonus in the days of Ezra from 464 to 424BC.
- And it was these documents that were found and confirmed in the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 going from “Genesis to Malachi” which were the accepted Scriptures from God.
43. The Jews referred to these writings, the accepted Scriptures of God, as the Law of Moses, (which was first 5 books,) the Prophets, (which was all the prophetic and historical books) and the Psalms (referring to the poetic books).
- And in that definition fell all the books from “Genesis to Malachi” and no others.
44. Which brings up another claim by those who try to legitimize the book of Enoch when they say that Enoch and other books were removed at some point from the Bible.
- The problem with that is Josephus and the Dead Sea Scrolls show us these apocryphal

books, including Enoch, were already in existence and circulation in Jesus' day.

- Showing they weren't taken out; they were later added IN!

45. What makes this even more interesting is that knowing that these extra-Biblical or apocryphal books such as the book of Enoch were around and in circulation at the time of Jesus and were never quoted by Him OR the apostles lets us know they were NOT a part of the accepted Canon.

- Their only quotes came from the accepted Old Testament as confirmed by the Dead Sea Scrolls.

46. However, knowing there would be this confusion, Jesus did let us know specifically what was truly Scripture and what pertained to Him.

- And He addressed this in Luke 24:44-45 after His resurrection, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."

47. If you remember, we noted earlier that is what they called the accepted Scriptures from "Genesis to Malachi."

- The Law of Moses, and the prophets, and the Psalms.
48. And notice Jesus said here that the ONLY Scriptures “concerning HIM” were these!
- He ONLY refers to and confirms the accepted Old Testament dating back to the 400’s BC using the terminology the Jews used to identify what HE legitimized as “Scripture.”
  - Conspicuously leaving out the book of Enoch and all the other extra-Biblical books and writings!
49. Hence Jesus just said in regard to the writings of His day, which included Enoch, that concerning Him it was only from “Genesis to Malachi.”
- Aren’t you glad He told us this!
50. That settles it!
- And He did it so we wouldn’t be deceived.
51. But what about the New Testament?
- Jesus also validated what we would know as the New Testament when He told His disciples in John 14:26, “ 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 things that I said to you.”
  - That is it will also be a supernatural work that Jesus Himself will oversee.

52. And it was through His disciples and later visions to Paul that He wrote the New Testament.

- So how did the early church validate the New Testament?

53. By four criteria.

- First, each book was written by an apostle, or one closely associated with an apostle. (Otherwise, it wouldn't be those to which He could "bring it to remembrance")
- Second, the contents of these books were revelatory in nature.
- Third, these books were universally recognized by the church in their teaching and preaching ministry.
- Fourth, these books were considered inspired because they bore the marks of inspiration. (*That is they had true observable Power attributed to them*)

54. And to silence the accusation that things have been changed or removed from the accepted Old Testament in Jesus's day or the New Testament in our day, we can not only look to the Dead Sea Scrolls but also to thousands of New Testament documents that legitimize themselves by overwhelming evidence.

- Which proves you have the exact same Old Testament in your hands that Jesus did, AND

the exact same New Testament the disciples and early church had as well!

55. And like any good Father would do, God has made it clear to His children what is His Word and what is not so that we are not deceived and stay on the true and right path.
- Aren't you thankful!
56. Guys as we finish today just remember this.
- God's Word is not complicated or confusing.
  - He has written it and supernaturally preserved it so that you can be sure of it and not be deceived by Satan's tricks.
57. The Bible says that God is not the author of confusion, but Satan is.
- Which means anytime someone tries to pull you in a direction that confuses you and your understanding of God's Word, run!
  - That is not of God but of the enemy!
58. Jesus said in Mark 9:42, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea."
- And woe to the person who does this to the flock of God.