

Can I Trust the Bible? Part 1

- Going to lay down several pieces of evidence... when you add them up we will see why the Bible is true, inspired, God's Word to us from outside of our space and time.
- Going to see why we have exactly what God intended us to have as the Bible
- Going to see that the Bible was not written after a fulfilled prophecy as if it were written before... Example: Moses wrote the first 5 books... Daniels prophecies were written by him
- Going to see that there are NO missing books... we have each and every book God intended

- We have not had to prove the Bible is God's Word... most have accepted that it was because of prophecy and the supernaturalness of the writings.
- There have been very few writings that have come close to the literary level, the timeless structure and content, and the spiritual truths of the Bible
- They stood alone until the invention of the printing press... good: we can print the Bible.... but: writing and literature took off and the Bible in the 20th century and especially the 21st century became another book
- We must now retrace the steps that recognized the Bible as God's Word to man

- Revelation - Inspiration - Transmission - Canonicity - Translation - Application
- Revelation - God's revealing His message to man
- Inspiration - God speaking through a writer/prophet to record His message
- Transmission - How the Bible got from the original writers to us. When they were originally written. The process of accurately copying Hebrew and Greek scriptures for successive generations.
- Canonicity - The recognition that this message is truly from God
- Translation - Translating the Greek and Hebrew original languages into the various languages of the world. This includes "Textual Criticism" - Evaluating the existing manuscripts to discover the original words
- Application - Understanding and applying the Bible to our lives today.

1. Revelation

- How God reveals Himself to man.
- General Revelation & Special Revelation

General Revelation

- General: Available to everyone
 - **Creation.** The universe and world. There must be a creator.
 - A creation presses a Creator... we are not an accident but a planned creation.

Romans 1:20-23 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Psalms 19:1-3 The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.

2 Day unto day utters speech,
And night unto night reveals knowledge.
3 There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.

- **Conscience.** Moral argument. A sense of right and wrong.
- Every society or organized group has rules... written or merely understood

Romans 2:1-3 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 3 And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

Special Revelation

- God revealing something to man that would not otherwise be known and understood.
- **Example:** If I told you about something that is in the backroom in a box... you would not know or could you know what that was unless someone who knows tells you.
- God has revealed information to people in the past through various means: speaking audibly to a person, dreams, angels, Jesus Christ, prophets.
- **Example:** When God appeared to Moses in the wilderness at the burning bush, how many people received that revelation? One person received that revelation. As it gets recorded for us in Scripture, we receive it second hand. But at that moment when God spoke to Moses, that is special revelation to one person at one point in history. It was revelation that hadn't been known before. It was given only to this one person. So it is specialized revelation in scope and also in substance. Moses asks, who shall I say sent me? If he goes back to Israel in the land of Egypt and tells them God appeared to me and he told me to come back and let you know that he was going to deliver you, and they say, who was this God that appeared to you, what shall I tell them? And God says, tell them I AM sent you (Ex 3). So here we have the revelation of God's name, Yahweh. You can't get that from looking at the starry heavens or beautiful scenery. This has to be told to us.
- Moses then goes to his Jewish brethren to tell them of this special message... he does miracles to validate the message.
- The Bible is the written record of special revelation... that God desired man to know.
- The Bible claims to be from God. Internal evidence. Prophecy... statements of writers
- The Bible is declared to be the Word of God. External evidence. (Under Inspiration)

God confirmed His message with signs and miracles

Hebrews 2:3-4 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Hebrews 1:1-2a God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...

- God confirms His Word by miraculous signs and miracles
 - Moses - Giving of the Law
 - Prophets -Elijah and Elisha - Prophetic books
 - Jesus - Claims to be God in the flesh
 - Apostles - New Covenant writings

2. Inspiration

- God spoke through the prophet as he recorded the message God intended man to know.
- Revelation deals with revealing an unknown truth. Making it known.
- Sometimes the prophet understood, other times he merely reported what God wanted written.
- Inspiration is the means by which God works through the prophet to reveal and record the message.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Scriptures: (Greek) graphē - 51 times
- **Matthew 22:29** Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.
- **Acts 17:11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
- **1 Timothy 5:18** For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”
- Deuteronomy 25:4; Luke 10:7
- Inspiration: God breathed... exhaled by God... all Scripture is breathed out by God
- NOT: I was inspired to go start a feeding center. Or, I was inspired to write a story

2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

- God & Human Element. God superintended the writing of men who wrote exactly what God intended. They used their own styles and vocabulary to convey the message that the Holy Spirit purposed.
- Not everything they wrote or spoke was inspired by God. Just the Scriptures that were accepted and identified as from God.

Old Testament claims that the written Scriptures were from God

- Over 3,000 times in the Old Testament various phrases make the claim “The Lord spoke” “the Word of the Lord came to me”

Leviticus 1:1-2 Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When...

Numbers 1:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying:

1 Samuel 3:11 Then the LORD said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

1 Samuel 3:21 Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

- The Jewish leaders and people are distinguishing writings from the Lord from writings or prophecies of false prophets. The proven writings are preserved, read, and studied.
- The “Book of the Covenant” was written down by Moses and stored in the “Ark of the Covenant”.
- Joshua added to the Moses books.

Joshua 24:26 Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

- The books of Moses are recognized by many throughout the Scriptures including Jesus.

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

1 Corinthians 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about?

Daniel 9:13 “As it is written in the Law of Moses...

- Daniel considered Jeremiah’s book to be inspired (Daniel 9:2), Ezra recognized Jeremiah’s book to be inspired (Ezra 1:1), Ezra recognized Haggai and Zechariah to be inspired as well (Ezra 5:1).

Daniel 9:2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

Ezra 5:1 Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.

3. New Testament claims that the written Scriptures were from God

- The New Testament writers understood they were writing Scripture
- They weren’t just writing letters that became Scripture

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

1 Thessalonians 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

Colossians 4:16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

- The Apostles understood that their writings were Scripture along side the Prophets of the Old Testament

Ephesians 2:19-20 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone

2 Peter 3:2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

4. Other evidence that the Scriptures are from God

Archaeology

- Thousands of areological finds are overwhelming evidence that the Bible was factual and truthful in its writing. Also, it was written at the time it claimed to be written.
- **Tel Dan (“David”) Stela.** (Stele or Stela: a monument, marker or sign) The ninth-century B.C. inscription, discovered in 1993 was the first historical evidence of King David outside the Bible. An excavation assistant stumbled upon the stela bearing the inscription in a newly excavated wall.
- **Peter’s House.** More than 25 years ago, archaeologists discovered a simple first-century A.D. home in Capernaum that may have been inhabited by Jesus during his Galilean ministry. According to the excavated material remains, the function of the house appears to have changed dramatically, becoming a place for Christian gatherings. Scholar James F. Strange and Biblical Archaeology Review editor Hershel Shanks present layer upon layer of circumstantial evidence to support the house’s importance in earliest Christianity and its association with Jesus and his foremost disciple, Peter.
- **The Siloam Pool in Jesus’ Time.** In 2004, during construction work to repair a large water pipe south of Jerusalem’s Temple Mount, on the ridge known as the City of David, archaeologists excavated part of a monumental pool where Jesus performed the miracle of restoring sight to a blind man in the Gospel of John.
- **Seal of Baruch**

Jeremiah 36:4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the Lord which He had spoken to him.

- In 1975 approximately 200 clay bullae turned up in the hands of a Palestinian antiquities dealer. One of those bullae (measuring 0.67” x 0.63”) contained an inscription in Paleo-Hebrew on three lines: “Belonging to Berechiah (Baruch) son of Neriah the scribe.” Berechiah

is the name Baruch with the abbreviated divine name (yah) attached at the end. The bulla is dated to the late 7th or early 6th century BC.

- A second bulla with an identical inscription surfaced in 1996. Both were made from the same seal. Interestingly, the second seal contained a fingerprint on the upper left corner. While we cannot be certain, perhaps this is the fingerprint of Baruch himself.

Manuscript Evidence

- The thousands of manuscript copies of Scripture show us what those in Jewish and Christian history considered the writings holy and divine.
- 24,000 manuscripts as witnesses to the New Testament have been found

Early Church Fathers

- The church leaders following the apostles immediately received the Scriptures as authoritative and from God.
- All 27 books of the New Testament were quoted authoritatively by AD 150
- Clement (AD 150-215) Refers to Matthew, Mark and Luke as scripture.
- Ignatius (AD 115), Polycarp (AD 110), The Didache (AD 70-100 teaching of the twelve) quoted NT books as Scripture
- Early church fathers recognized a difference between their writings and the writings of the New Testament

Supernaturally Integrated Message

- **Unity.** Perfect agreement among 40 authors over 1500 years in 3 languages. Various authors from various walks of life. Not the work of one man or woman who produces a sacred writing or religious sect. There were writings (OT) before Christ came. He did not write anything...
- **Honesty.** Truthfulness of characters and message.
- **Durability.** Incredible survival. Preserved through major persecution and attack.
- **Massively influential.** Changes lives. Changed cultures: slaves, women, hospitals, orphanages.
- **Power.** Attested by miracles to its authenticity. God used miracles to confirm and attest to His written word: Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Christ and the Apostles.

Prophecy. The greatest and only attestation man needs.

- Prophecy. God... God's Word predicts the future. No other written document or sacred writing can make that claim... this sets the Bible apart from the rest.
- God claims to be outside of our space-time continuum and He knows what will happen or could happen. This is the greatest authentication of the Bible being divine in nature.

Isaiah 45:21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

Isaiah 44:6-8 "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. 8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.'"

- God is the one who knows what will happen

- Prophecy has always been the one divine and supernatural confirmation of the Bible being God's Word.
- The fulfillment of the prophecies but several old Testament prophets gave their writings immediate divine authority. Examples include the prophecies of judgment and captivity predicted and completed by many of the prophets.
- Daniel's prophecies of the kingdoms, Isaiah's of the temporary delay of the destruction of Jerusalem. Jeremiah's prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem and captivity for 70 years. Ezekiel's prophecies against Tyre, Nahum's prophecies against Nineveh.

5. Inerrancy

- Are there errors in the original writings... is the Bible completely God's Word and truthful?

Example: Adam and Eve good story or true event? Noah's Ark good story or true event? Miracles, really happened or imaginative writers... story built up over time

- The truthfulness and trustworthiness of the Bible
- The authors wrote the exact message God intended mankind to receive.
- God doesn't and cannot lie.
- God's Word is truth.
- God writes/shows us the story/history of mankind to build credibility for the difficult things to believe
- If God tells the truth 1,000 times... 1,001st will be true also...
- Jesus quoted the Scriptures as truth and power over Satan's temptations
- Jesus understood the Scriptures to be from God... He uses them to make a point from present or past tense
- We can trust the inerrancy of Scripture down to the tense used - present, past or future

Matthew 22:29-31 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. 31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

- Paul makes an argument from plurality of a verse in the Scriptures
- We can trust the inerrancy of the Bible down to the plural or singular of a word

Galatians 3:16-17 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect

- Some believed that the Bible was a good book but not God's inspired Word for us to obey and follow
- **The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy...** Bible scholars in 1978 felt the need to distinguish what inerrancy meant to the fundamental Bible believing church.

1. God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself.

2. Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms, obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.

3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine Author, both authenticates it to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning.

4. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.

5. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the Church.

- The Bible is our supreme authority... not a pastor, church or council of men
- Spelling errors and copyist errors (Part 3 manuscripts)
- Apparent contradictions.
 - One or two angels at the tomb of Christ?
- Use of various forms of language
 - Figures of speech
 - Approximations
 - Language of appearance... sunset
 - Popular, not scientific ... mustard seed is the smallest of seeds