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GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION – Part 1



***Why can you be confident that the Bible is the Word of God?**

1. **Its _____ _____.**

   - The Bible is a collection of _____ (39 in the Old Testament & 27 in the New Testament) written over _____ years by _____different authors (from all walks of life) in ____ different languages (Hebrew; Aramaic; Greek) on ____different continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe) yet _____ _____ when properly understood, which attests to its divine origin and authority.

- What are some verses that make this claim?

2. **Its _____.**

- The Bible (like no other 'holy book') has staked its claim of divine inspiration on the line by making _____of _____ _____ that have exactly been fulfilled as God promised, again supporting its divine origin and authority.

- How does this compare to other religions?
  There are _____ prophecies.

- How many prophesies were fulfilled in Christ's first coming?
  There were over _____ prophecies fulfilled.

- What were some of them? Jesus Christ's predicted …

  1) Jesus Christ's predicted _____.
  2) Jesus Christ's predicted _____.
  3) Jesus Christ's predicted _____.
  4) Jesus Christ's predicted betrayal for _____pieces of _____by a friend.
  5) Jesus Christ's predicted _____.
  6) Jesus Christ's predicted_____ of _____ for His _____.
  7) Jesus Christ's predicted _____ _____.

Key Verses: 2 Timothy 2:7, 15; 3:14-17; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23-25; 2:1; Isaiah 7:14; Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:3; Mark 7:5-9; Psalm 22, 1 Cor. 2:12-13
Key Words: Inspiration, Interpretation, Hermeneutics, Apologetics, Virgin Birth, Archaeology

- Note:
    - All these prophesies were fulfilled using language in a normal, plain, literal way – not with some hidden, allegorical meaning.
    - All of these prophesies were fulfilled in specific detail hundreds of years after their prediction.

- What does this indicate? _____ as only God can predict the future with this kind of amazing accuracy and detail!

3. Its _____ _____.

- The Bible is unique in its _____ to be the very Word of God (over 4,000x),
- in its _____ (1000s of manuscripts and translations),
- in its _____ (salvation by grace vs. works),
- and in its description of its _____(exposing their vices as well as their virtues).

4. _____ _____.



The archaeological spade is a _____ and not a _____ in repeatedly verifying biblical accounts regarding the _____ of biblical _____ groups (like the Hittites), ancient biblical _____ (like Jericho), and ancient biblical _____ (like Abraham).

5. The _____ of _____ _____.

- Jesus Christ called the Bible the '_____ of _____' and _____ and _____the historicity of numerous Biblical _____ and _____ just as they were _____ in plain, normal language hundreds of years earlier.

- Jesus Christ believed _____ part of God's Word would be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)

- Jesus Christ believed the Bible was the product of the _____ _____ using true human prophets. (Mark 12:36)

- Jesus Christ believed that the Scriptures could be _____ and that you are _____ of your ignorance of them. (Matthew 22:29)

- Approximately _____ of the words of Jesus Christ in the New Testament are quotes from the Old Testament which reveal His _____ in the Bible's truthfulness and fulfillment.

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- Jesus Christ believed in the _____ authorship of all the Pentateuch (Genesis – Deuteronomy) as attested in Matthew 19:3, 22:24; Mark 1:44, 7:10, 10:3; Luke 2:22, 24:27, 24:44) and that Isaiah wrote all of Isaiah.

- Jesus Christ believed in the literal Old Testament accounts of ...
  … _____ and _____ and the _____ origin of marriage (Matthew 19:3-4)
  … _____ and the world-wide _____ (Matthew 24:37-38)
  … Abraham, Isaac, and _____ (Matthew 22:32)
  … The _____ of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew10:15)
  … Moses and the _____ bush (Mark 12:26)
  … Moses and the _____ Commandments (John 7:19)
  … King _____ (Matthew 12:3)
  … Queen of _____ & King _____ (Matthew 12:42)
  … Jonah _____by a great _____ (Matthew 12:39-41)

I. EXAMINING A KEY PASSAGE ON BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

A. 2 TIMOTHY 2:15 - "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, NKJV)

1. The *activity* needed for you to communicate accurately God's Word is first of all to _____ the Word of God.

2. The *accountability* of your studying/teaching is seen by the need to "*present yourself* _____ to _____."

3. The *aim* of your studying/teaching involves seeking to be "*a worker who* _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____."

4. The *accuracy* of your studying/teaching is emphasized by the phrase _____ _____.

5. The *authority* for your teaching involves communication of the _____ of _____.

B. 2 TIMOTHY 2:7 - "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things." (2 Timothy 2:7, NKJV)

1. The *human side* of _____ understanding the Scriptures necessitates that you carefully _____ it or _____ it.

2. The *divine side* of correct biblical interpretation requires that "*the* _____ *gives you* _____ *in all these things*."

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* How does the *teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit* play an important role in all this? (1 Cor. 2:12-13)

* How does *prayer* factor into biblical interpretation?

When we study the Bible….

- We want to *interact* with the text,
- pay attention to what is said
- *lay* the context
- *observe* the content
- *interpret* it accurately
- and then make application / illustration.
- Hopefully, rereading that passage of Scripture with *understanding*,
- you can *communicate* it to others
- and *apply* it in your own life.

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